



# The Potomac Appalachian

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

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## In our 75th Year!

### Sawyers Battle Nature at Blackburn Trail Center

#### (Or a Report About Manly Men and their Saws)

Saturday, Jan. 12, dawned cold and clear. The driveway was bright with the oranges and whites of Stihl saws and weeders, along with the red and blue of thick ropes and the galvanized silver glint of winches. The young sawyers donned their chaps and bibs, their heads covered in hardhats and their eyes magnified through safety glasses. The women, children, and men not yet initiated in the art of sawing gathered their work gloves and prepared to help where they could.

The task at hand was to remove dead and hazard trees that threatened the integrity of the Blackburn structures. The trees ranged in size from 12 to 110 feet in height, with the thickest more than 25 inches in diameter. Bobby “Treeslayer” Lowery, the elder sawyer of the clan, would first cut the notch on the front side of each tree. After visualiz-

ing the fall, he then proceeded to cut through on the backside, felling the tree in one fell swoop. Before each cut Fran “Spiderman” Keenan climbed high into the canopy and proceeded to rig a variety of ropes and chains that then, through the use of winches and bare human strength, ensured that each tree fell precisely between the buildings and surrounding trees and fauna. Mother Nature would not be in control this day.

Once the giant, woody perennial plants hit terra firma, the ground crew (Steve Pebley, Phil Abruzzese, Kurt Fisher, Philippe Pierre, and Suds, to name a few) took over, cutting the massive trunks into manageable lengths while the swamper cleared away a multitude of branches and leaves.



Photo by Chris Brunton

*See Sawyers, page 5* Crew guides fall of 240-year-old hollow oak tree.

### Thurston Griggs Trail Dedicated



Photo by Helen Hamilton

*Thurston Griggs with a sign commemorating his namesake trail.*

At the January Council meeting, PATC resolved to honor one of its stalwarts, Thurston Griggs, by naming a trail after him. The Thurston Griggs Trail, formerly known as Bagtown Rd., connects the Pogo Campsite along the Appalachian Trail in Maryland with the access at White Oak Rd.

A dedication took place on Jan. 20 at City Buffet, a Chinese-American restaurant in Frederick, Md. The many attendees had worked with Mr. Griggs over a volunteer career currently in its fourth decade. The dedication was a complete surprise to Mr. Griggs, who walked into a room full of his family, friends, and collaborators – 36 all told. Trail signs and a cake were on display, each reading “Thurston Griggs Trail.”

Mr. Griggs remains active with various trail interests in the Mid-Atlantic region. He is a

*See Griggs, page 7*

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## Council Fire

At its Jan. 8 meeting, the PATC Council adopted a land-management policy to cover the nearly 2,000 acres that the Club owns and the 1,700 acres on which it has leases or easements.

The policy establishes a Land Management Committee, a Chairman, a procedure for appointing tract Managers, and duties and responsibilities for all Club volunteers involved in land-management activities. Some of the smallest tracts do not have Managers, but are managed by the respective cabin Overseer or by the Tract Management Committee as a whole.

Consideration will be given to developing default guidelines for tracts without individual management plans to cover such issues as policy on timbering and identification of archeological relics.

### Computers

Upon recommendation of the Communications Advisory Team, the Council decided that the Club will enter into a 36-month lease arrangement with the CIT Group to provide equipment, installation, and maintenance. The contract is for five new computers and four printers, a local area network system, system software, and Office 2000 software. This is intended to provide an easily-maintained and stable working environment for the Club's book-keeping and for the membership, trails, and cabins databases. The cost of the "turnkey" lease is just under \$900 per month.



### Trails

The Council received a revised draft of "General Goals and Standards for the Development, Maintenance, and Protection of the Tuscarora Trail," which resulted from discussion at the Dec. 8 planning session for the portion of the trail north of the Potomac. A subsequent meeting will be held, perhaps on March 2, to discuss the trail south of the Potomac. Attendees will discuss the role of Overseers and District Managers in protecting and promoting the Tuscarora Trail at the March 20 District Managers' meeting. The Club is developing pamphlets about the trail for landowners and the public.

*See Council Fire, page 7*

### HEADQUARTERS

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

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**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.

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

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

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

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

## Walt's Notes

### Enjoying Metro Opportunities

Not all PATC activities are held in the mountains. While perusing back issues of this newsletter, I noted that many maintenance and hiking activities had been conducted within or near the Beltway. Local trails were being maintained in the District of Columbia under the leadership of District Manager Mark Anderson, in suburban Maryland under the direction of District Manager Liles Creighton, and in suburban Virginia where Mike Fleming continues on as the District Manager (see the directory at right for current contact information for all trail districts).

There were many hiking opportunities on local trails last year. I noted some Family Hikes, held normally on Saturdays or Mondays; In-Between Hikes on Thursdays; and Easy Hikes on Wednesdays. Many of these events were held at a convenient location for Club members who live within the Beltway. The many activities held by the Club sections at the Headquarters were available for members with or without cars (*Metro/bus directions for reaching the Headquarters in Vienna are printed on page 2*).

Is there interest in attending additional membership activities in the Metro area? Well, we are planning on finding out. Beginning in April we will have an occasional lunch-time event that will be designed to accommodate working members as well as those who may be able to combine hiking or trail maintenance with a lunch-time break. These happenings will be held near bus/Metro stops. Past President Phil Barringer is organizing the first event.

### Gail Spilsbury to Speak in Rock Creek Park

The first activity will be held on Tuesday, April 16, at 12:30 p.m. at the Rock Creek Nature Center Auditorium. Phil Barringer will begin the meeting by reviewing how the Club became involved in Rock Creek Park, an appropriate topic as we approach our 75th Anniversary! The guest speaker will be Gail Spilsbury, who will soon publish a picture book on Rock Creek Park and the Olmsted Brothers. Her book will cover the park's history as well as contain information on hiking, biking, horseback riding, tennis, and nature programs that are available within the park. During her talk, Ms. Spilsbury will show some of the many photographs oriented toward the park's history. She will also speak about the role of the Olmsted family in landscaping and preserving the nation's largest urban park, which was founded in 1890.

Members planning on attending the event should bring a lunch if they wish to eat at the Nature Center. There will be a morning hike in the park led by the Easy Hikers. Hikers will take a lunch break before the program. There will be further details on the hike in the next newsletter.

### Other Metro Events in the Future

There are many possibilities for other happenings in the future: for example, lunches or suppers with slide presentations, scheduled in combination with other hikes and/or trail maintenance activities. Perhaps a simple "chat group" could be formed that might focus on trail subjects. However, such planning takes leadership. We will see whether the turnout may prompt some members to assist in organizing such opportunities in the future. Who knows, we could end up with a "Metro Group" or possibly even a formal chapter.

See you on the trail – a Metro trail in April,



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*continued on page 4*

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**Trail Work Report Form**  
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**PATC Web Page:**  
[www.patc.net](http://www.patc.net)

**Trails Web Page:**  
<http://members.telocity.com/~kerrysnow/patc/contacts.html>

## Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Spring Rain

While March can still bring snow and cold temperatures, it will also provide the first rites of spring. When the air temperature first rises above 40 degrees F. and an extended rain begins in the afternoon and continues into the evening, it's time to put on your raingear and visit the vernal pools in search of the spotted salamanders. In the course of one evening, a good rain event in early March can result in hundreds, even thousands, of these large, yellow-spotted mole salamanders traveling from the upland woods to these ephemeral water-filled basins for one night of mating frenzy. Males will arrive hours before the females, writhing in masses of four to six or more, known as congresses. With the arrival of the females, the congresses break up, and the actual mating and egg laying will occur. Often the rain event is not continuous over the evening, and the mating activities will halt, with the adults hiding under leaves until the next rain event occurs. Two years ago, this event occurred Feb. 26, while last year, with many vernal pools remaining dry from the winter's drought, the event never occurred. The reason salamanders breed so early in the season is to enable the eggs to hatch, mature, and metamorphose into terrestrial juveniles before the vernal pools dry up. This normally takes about three months.



*The salamander needs the wet weather for successful breeding.*

About this same time, the wood frogs emerge and congregate in massive numbers at local pools and wetlands and will fill the air for several days with their duck-like calls. Both spotted salamanders and wood frogs are known as explosive breeders, due to their massive, short-term breeding period. Look for their tennis-ball-shaped egg masses underwater. The spotted salamander egg mass is firm in the hand, contains about 250 eggs, and is often white-cloudy (not always), with the peripheral individual eggs somewhat flattened, while the wood frog egg mass is more gelatinous, contains 500 or more eggs (more often clear), and with the peripheral eggs retaining their spherical shape.

As the calls of the wood frogs near their end, the spring peeper will begin its serenade. Unlike the wood frog, the spring peeper is not an explosive breeder, with its mating call being heard over the next six or so weeks.

One can't talk about March without commenting on the first spring ephemeral flowers. I like to hike on my birthday (March 2) and search warm, southwestern-facing slopes in search of the first blooms of hepatica, bloodroot, spring beauties, and trout lilies.

Look out! Spring is arriving. ☐

—Bob Pickett

*Sawyers, from page 1*

A total of 12 trees were cut that day. The rings of one—a large, hollow, dangerously leaning oak—told us it was more than 240 years old.

Not all present supported the sawyers' efforts. Becky "Butterfly" Hunter attempted to stop the effort through the time-honored tradition of creative nonviolence by chaining herself to one of the trees. As the photos accompanying this article attest, her efforts were for naught.



*Bobby "Treeslayer" Lowrey getting ready to work.*

While the focus of the weekend was on the trees, other work was accomplished as well, including the building of additional stone steps on the Blue Blaze Trail leading up to the campground.

Before the evening breaking of bread, some of the more "new age" members of the group joined hands in a circle around one of the large tree stumps. A candle was lit, bells were rung, and a thanksgiving to Mother Nature and the Tree Spirits was given so that equilibrium could be returned to Blackburn's spirit.

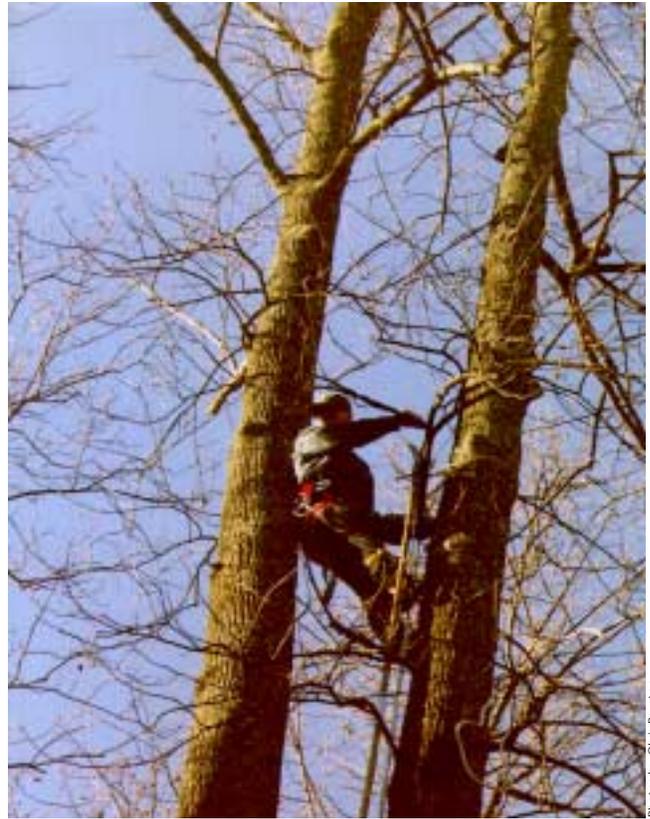
All in all it was another wonderful weekend at the Blackburn Trail Center. □

*—Sandi Marra*

*Sawyers complete their job despite the (weak) opposition.*



*Potomac Appalachian*



*Fran "Spiderman" Keenan*

*Becky "Butterfly" Hunter chains self to tree.*



Photos by Chris Buntton

## Place Names Tell the History of the Mountains

Dear Ellen:

*Linda Shamon-Beaver, the Editor of the Potomac Appalachian newsletter, forwarded me your query regarding place names. Glad you liked the article – it was fun to do. Following is more information on place names.*

—Jack Reeder

I'm actually not a genealogist or geologist, so I'm unqualified to answer your queries about local names near the Park adjoining the area Free Union. Take everything I say with a degree of doubt!

I AM rather familiar with the area in SNP (east side, at least) between Pocasin Hollow and Simmons Gap, and Carolyn, my wife, and I have walked (bushwhacked) those woods numerous times. There's a fabulous amount of history there, and we've only just scratched the surface. You live not too far from the Moormans River, so you are close by that area. I'll tell you what little I know about it.

Place names in the area in SNP are, for the most part, named after families that originally inhabited those spots and, in many cases, are still living in the hollows below. Those ought to be obvious: Morris, Roach (a corruption of the French, Roché), Weaver, Simmons, Eppert, Jones, etc. Most are Scot-Irish in origin; some few are German-derived, their owners probable spillovers from the Valley.

Other names are, as Miss Stephenson said, geographic in origin, such as Cedar Mountain, Rocky Knob, Middle Mountain, etc. (Often the mountains and roads were named differently by the people living on the east side than by those living on the west side!) And others are named, no doubt, after the wildlife of the area: Wildcat Ridge, Beaver Creek, etc.

Names are intriguing, and one can make risky assumptions about their origin (the old adage "to assume makes an ASS out of U and Me" applies). Speculation is dangerous in trying to document history. Still, what else do we have to go on? Solid evidence is hard to come by!

For example, "Rip Rap" River and Falls (and shelter) were possibly named due to mining of gravel from the river (rip-rap is still a common term used in the business today). Wildcat Ridge is another easy one. I will give you one tip, though, not well known: "Loft Mountain" originally was "Lost Mountain" in the colonial style of handwriting where an "s" looks like an "f." Someone misinterpreted the deed of that era, perhaps, and thus it became "Loft." The name "Lost" is even more intriguing. Was it possibly named after some hunting party that didn't make it back before nightfall? Who knows?

Furnace mountain is aptly named because it sits above the old Mt. Vernon furnace off Madison Run Road. (You ought to visit it--it's still in splendid, massive shape.) The entire mountain to its east was timbered to feed its fires. I know, because I have discovered on it numerous charcoal hearths (circles) and their roads leading down to the furnace.

Brown's Gap, Cove, and all the other "Brown" sites originated from Brightberry Brown, the first settler in the area (1805). He actually settled first near Gordonsville and gradually moved west, possibly because he sold tobacco (transported in hogsheads) to England and the land where he first toiled gradually gave out. His records are extant, having been found in an old family descendant's barn. They

are now in the Alderman Archives at the University of Virginia and worth the trip. (See *Shenandoah Secrets*, page 76.)

Smith Roach Gap, Powell Gap, and Simmons Gap, as I recall, are all derived from families once living on or near the area. Some descendants may still live in the hollows below.

Crimora Lake (and Overlook) was named by the engineer who determined to make a manganese mine at the site. It was one of his daughters' names. (Now don't ask me for the origin of HER name!)

Pocasin (sometimes spelled "Pocosan"), we all now know, is named from the Indian term meaning "wet place." If you have ever hiked in the "real" Pocasin area, you will find it quite a wet place, still passable on foot if you are careful. It's a plethora of springs, but not boggy. Obviously, the early settlers found it passable – they built houses and roads there. One house sat right at the junction of two forks of the Upper Pocasin River. You wonder what they did during flood season – and how they ever escaped mold and mildew!

Some place names were unfortunately misplaced on maps or never got listed at all. Originally "Peters Point" is the outcrop that splits two forks and their beautiful waterfalls of Big Creek (south of MP 54). PATC had it on the Park boundary, a mile or more away. Locals knew of the site well and told me of it. On other earlier editions of PATC maps, Dean Mountain was shown as a knoll well to the west of the actual peak. (Locals were unhappy about that! There are possibly several hundred Deans living below.) Both tags subsequently were moved to their proper location. The Deans also told me about the "Lost Cliffs" that adjoins Dry Run Road, which I

had, out of sheer curiosity, climbed to find one of the most beautiful views in the Park I had ever seen. This never had a tag on maps before, although it was a well-known landmark. The Victorians rode their horses up the adjoining mountainside to reach its heights for Sunday picnics.

Some place names have disappeared from maps altogether, usually due to administrative decisions by authorities unconcerned about historic preservation. Butternut Branch and Jenny Gray's Road are long gone on Pass Mountain. Many others have disappeared by fiat, also. Some roads were abandoned; others moved. The Weakley Hollow Road today, for example, parallels but does not resemble the original on the other side of the Hughes River.

And this is unrelated to your quest: Fort Wyndham Rocks, near the Dickey Ridge Trail in the north section, has no known historic derivation but is certainly one of the most intriguing names in the Park!

But I wander off your topic. Your best sources of place names in SNP are still Jean Stephenson, who apparently made a life-long study of the subject, and Egbert Walker, who himself, as one of PATC's foremost early mapmakers, kept records of such names. PATC has all their materials in Archives, but I would avoid going there for a few months. Club HQs just had its second-floor renovation completed and as such much of the Archive material is still in boxes. And the Archivist, Carol Niedzialek, is up to her ears in resorting files.

***In Celebration  
of PATC's  
History***

See *Place Names*, page 13

*Potomac Appalachian*

## Thurston Griggs Trail Dedication in January

*Griggs, from page 1*

PATC Overseer and has been a member of the Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee since its inception. He had been the Appalachian Trail ridgerunner in Maryland for several years, serves on the ATC Board of Directors, and is an ATC honorary life member. Additionally, Mr. Griggs has twice been the President of the Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) and has also been MCM's Archivist and Supervisor of Trails. His work continues, primarily as a coordinator for the Appalachian Trail Land Trust, where he is protecting the endangered access of his namesake trail. While Thurston Griggs' past accomplishments have been many, we continue to benefit from his body of work and always will. □

—Rick Canter/PATC Maryland District Trails Manager



*Thurston with Paul Ives and Bob Williams*



*Above, Thurston talks with fellow members at the dedication.*

Photos by Helen Hamilton

*Council Fire, from page 2*

The Council approved a resolution to rename the Bagtown Road Trail in Maryland the “Thurston Griggs Trail” to honor Mr. Griggs, who has been an active and enthusiastic volunteer in PATC and ATC for over 30 years. As AT Land Trust coordinator in Maryland, he was able to establish the protected status of the Bagtown Road trailhead.

### Facilities

A potential crew leader has been found to restore the Eaton Hollow Cabin on the Firestone Tract in the Southern District of Shenandoah National Park. The Club has received a donation of \$5,000 to stabilize the cabin's foundation.

Eagle Scouts have finished construction of a cooking pavilion at the camping area near Blackburn Trail Center to honor the memory of long-time PATC leader Edward Garvey. A spring dedication is planned.

At headquarters, the lighting system has been corrected following the end-of-construction meeting with the architect and contractor. Arrangements were made to clean out one of the temporary storage containers used in the parking lot during construction.

### Membership

The January membership report showed a total of 6,513 (including 107 new members), compared with 6,569 the previous month.

*Potomac Appalachian*

However, it was reported that the database is still not reliable and is not showing the date members joined.

### Other Business

The Club's new Business Manager, Monica Clark, was introduced to the Council. With her in place, it was hoped that financial reports could be back on schedule in February.

The Council noted the death of John Oliphant, former PATC President, who was active in land acquisitions.

President Smith said he will plan a series of lunches, with speakers, near Metro stops as part of the Club's 75th anniversary observance. He suggested that PATC include a historical perspective on all events this year.

The Mountaineering Section reported that the United Nations has designated 2002 the “Year of the Mountain,” and the section is preparing a slide show depicting people who live near mountains.

Eight club officers, 11 committee chairs, two chapter representatives, two section representatives, two staff members, and one Club member attended the January Council meeting. □

—George Meek, Recording Secretary

## A Thru-Hike: One Experience Some Just Can't Pass Up

A few months ago, I stood on top of Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park, and I had walked 2,168 miles to reach it. My fingers traced the carved letters of the sign at the peak, "Northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail." I could hardly believe the journey of a lifetime was complete.

My first introduction to the Appalachian Trail came five years ago in Shenandoah National Park. My husband and I had recently moved to the area and were out camping for a weekend. At the Pinnacles picnic area, I remember reading a sign about this "footpath," over 2,000 miles from Georgia to Maine. I was surprised, amazed, and intrigued by the very thought. I loved to hike, and the idea of traversing the Appalachian range was terribly exciting. Little did I know where that thought would bring me!

After two years of planning, I joined several dozen anxious, hopeful thru-hikers on Springer Mountain last April first. I was so excited to be there, I had to pinch myself constantly to be sure I was not dreaming. Or perhaps I was trying to verify that my skin was not yet frost-bitten. My first night was the coldest of any I spent on the Trail. My body was not yet acclimated to cooler outdoor temperatures, and I shivered all night long, listening to the symphony of snoring all around me in the shelter. Was this what my next six months would be like? Yikes!

That first week was a full palette of typical AT experiences. I struggled up steep, slippery mountainsides through two straight days of rain, began suffering knee pain by day three, had mice build nests in my pack, and outgrew my boots after four days of hiking. But I also had made at least a dozen new friends. I had watched the sun set from atop Blood Mountain, the highest peak in Georgia, one of only four hikers that week to see the view from on top due to constant fog. That night, we rigged a tarp over the damaged windows of the shelter (really a cabin) to keep the hurricane-force wind out and slept comfortably side by side on the wooden floor. I saw the earliest signs of spring as delicate, five-petaled white flowers began to bloom along the Trail. I was simply glad to be alive.

### Getting Into a Routine

It did not take long to develop my routine as a thru-hiker. Each morning began between 5 and 6 a.m. As I packed, I ate pop tarts or cereal bars, washing them down with my morning ration of Gatorade. Every item of my pack had a specific place, and I often



The first white blaze, Springer Mountain, Ga.



*Making the final climb up Mt. Katahdin in Maine.*

packed more by feel than by sight in the pre-dawn darkness. An hour later, I was again heading north, watching the sun rise and listening to animals scurry in fright as I crunched through the leaves on the Trail.

My daily mileage goals had to be flexible, and I relied heavily on my maps to plan each day's hiking. I recall a day in northern Virginia, where I hiked 14 fairly flat miles with relative ease, hitched into town for a two-hour restaurant lunch, and then hiked six more miles to a shelter for the evening. On another day in New Hampshire, I started climbing from the base of Wildcat Mountain at 7:00 a.m. For an unknown reason, nausea and vertigo slammed me with every step, and it took me over four hours to make the steepest two-mile climb I had ever seen. After eight hours, I reached Carter Notch Hut, where I stayed the night. Though I had planned to hike 13 miles that day, I had to be satisfied with six.

No matter what kind of hiking day I had, my evening ritual was the same. Set up camp, in the shelter if there was a chance of rain, otherwise in my tent. Get water unless I was making a "dry camp." Cook supper. Clean pot. Write in my journal. Massage my swollen feet and knees for a few minutes while reviewing the map and guidebook for tomorrow. Crawl into my sleeping bag and read a chapter of my book before falling asleep.

Gradually, I made my way north. The highlights were frequent and exciting. I camped by myself for the first time on the Trail in Plumorchard Gap, Ga. I crossed my first state line at the gnarled oak tree. As I crossed from Tennessee into Virginia, I set my daily mileage record at 26 miles. Almost by accident, I hiked the "Damasca-thon," the 26-mile stretch between Iron Mountain shelter and Damascus, Va. It was not the first time the lure of showers, food, and a bed induced a high-mileage day!

Trail towns seemed to come and go in rapid succession, with picturesque names like Hiawasse, Montebello, Delaware Water Gap, Caratunk, and many others. Each time my first priority was the post office. Always a mail drop awaited me, with food and supplies carefully packed and sent by my husband, who served as "ground control" for the entire hike. His excellent packages, in addition to frequent

*See Thru-Hike, page 9*

*Thru-Hike, from page 9*

treats sent by family and friends, made me the envy of many of my fellow hikers. It was exhilarating and sometimes painful to briefly reconnect with loved ones while I was in town, but it was their constant support and encouragement that gave me strength always to keep going.

### **The 'Hiking-Solo' Experience**

"Are you hiking alone?" Over six months, this was the most frequent question I heard, the tone of the asker ranging from surprise to admiration to fear. Many people, friends from home, residents of trail towns, and even some fellow hikers admitted they would never attempt this journey alone. They perhaps felt safer with a companion or feared loneliness or weren't comfortable enough with their backpacking skills to go solo. Hiking with a partner can be great fun, and I sometimes wished I had a little more company along the way. However, thru-hiking north during peak season, as I did, meant I was surrounded by fellow hikers. Particularly in the evenings, we congregated at shelters, comparing our suppers of pasta and rice, and sharing news of the day. In towns, we all gravitated to the same hiker-friendly places. It actually required a bit of effort to be alone.

But solo hiking allowed me greater freedom and solitude, which I preferred. I loved being able to spend an extra hour at lunch if I felt like it. I could be sick or have a bad day without bothering someone else. I could follow a whim, take an unplanned day off, or push a high-mileage day without the worries of a partner's time constraints or pace. I also encountered far more wildlife than my friends who hiked together down the Trail.

Some people also wondered if I had additional worries as a woman hiking solo. The simple answer is no. I always tried to "hike smart," keeping in touch with hikers around me and choosing not to spend time around anyone who made me uncomfortable. I also avoided unnecessary risks, such as camping alone near busy roads. Overall, I found danger is no more prevalent on the AT than in any urban area. In fact, much less so. The Appalachian Trail Conference estimates 3 to 4 million people use the Trail each year. However, since the 1970s, when such record keeping began, there have been only seven murders linked to the Trail. By comparison, I live and work near Washington, D.C., a population of just over half a million. In the year 2000 alone, 233 people were murdered in the District.

In short, I felt completely safe on the Trail. And I was among many other like-minded women. In 2000, ATC statistics show that of hikers who completed the Trail (officially known as 2,000-milers, to include thru-hikers and section hikers), 23 percent were women. Though it is too early to draw firm conclusions, the 2001 reports indicate 29 percent of thru-hikers were women.

Even families have hiked the Trail together. In the past two years, two families, each with five children, completed the Trail. The youngest of these was two years old; needless to say, she "rode" with her mother more than she walked.

### **The Kindness of Strangers**

One of the greatest joys of thru-hiking was experiencing the generosity of strangers, a phenomenon known as "trail magic" with the providers known as "trail angels." These acts of kindness were often simple: A stranger stopped to give me a ride into town; a family living near the Trail put out a cooler of sodas on a hot summer day. There were also tremendous gifts, such as the time I received a free night's stay and meal in the home of a family near the Trail in



*Fellow hikers on McAfee Knob, Va.*



*Trail Angels Don and Judy Williams, providing breakfast along the trail.*

Virginia. Another time, I reached the summit of Mt. Moosilauke in the White Mountains without a drop of water left. I had refilled at the last stream, but an intestinal infection made me hike far too slowly and forced me to drink more than usual to avoid dehydration. Though it hurt my supposed self-sufficient ego, I asked a nearby day hiker if he carried spare water. He was better prepared than I was and insisted on giving me an entire liter of water so that I would not run out before the next source. Such kindness from total strangers was overwhelming! My faith in the goodness of humankind was renewed.

It was also very rewarding to meet many of the selfless volunteers who donate their time to maintain the Trail and shelters. Whenever possible, I stopped to shake the hands of those whose labor made my journey a reality. Records from ATC show that 4,629 volunteers contributed 201,466 hours in the year 2000. I was especially proud to hike through PATC territory, where 435 volunteers contributed 15,918 of those hours.

### **Difficulty Escalates**

By the time I reached Hanover, N.H., my guidebook stated that I had covered 80 percent of the miles, but that I had 50 percent of the work left. The first southbounders were also joining us at shelters, and they attested to the tremendous difficulty of the terrain ahead. I

*See Thru-Hike, page 10*

*Thru-Hike, from page 9*

quickly found out that they were right, but even such difficulty was not able to dissuade many northbounders who had come this far. We were in the minority. Of an estimated 2,375 thru-hikers who began at Springer Mountain, only 10 to 15 percent of us arrived at Katahdin. (As of November 2001, 260 northbounders had reported their hike completions to ATC, though more reports will continue to arrive daily.) My daily expectation dropped quickly from at least 15 to no more than 10 miles. My knees, which had hurt since Georgia, suddenly exploded with pain from the steep ascents and, worse, even steeper descents. Falls, cuts, and bruises became commonplace.

Despite the difficulty, hiking above tree line was suddenly providing views that made the entire journey worthwhile! My favorite day on the Trail was when I crossed the Franconia Ridge in the Whites. The temperature hovered around 40 degrees, and the winds gusted to 30 m.p.h. that day, but the cold could not hamper my absolute thrill of being “on top of the world” for seven miles. The clouds blew through in waves, allowing views of the massive mountain ranges around me to come into focus. The beauty was utterly breathtaking.

### The Final Challenge

And then I reached Maine, the most beautiful state of all. One of Maine’s gems is the “100-mile Wilderness,” the most remote section of the AT. For 100 miles, I did not cross a single paved road nor encounter any towns. Still, the Wilderness is not as remote as it once was. A lodge has opened near its northern end and is quickly becoming a

Mecca for hikers and snowmobilers. While still isolated – arrival is via boat, which you must summon by air horn – it offers a chance to resupply, get clean, and eat massive cheeseburgers and pizzas.

Maine also enjoys its status as the most difficult state. The so-called “hardest mile of the Trail” is the Mahoosuc Notch in southern Maine. The Notch is a boulder field, left by retreating glaciers of long ago. For three hours, I clambered over the car-sized and house-sized boulders, crawled under the caves beneath them while pushing my pack ahead, and straddled crevasses between them. All to get through a single mile of Trail.

Finally, in the early days of October, Katahdin drew near enough that I could see it at least once a day. A massive table-top shaped peak, it rose out of the distance like a myth, with nothing else on the horizon to obscure it. Each time I saw it, I could do nothing but stare, open-mouthed. Could it be that I was finally reaching the goal? So many mixed feelings flooded my insides. Physically, I knew my body was exhausted and could not push on much farther. Mentally, I felt hardened to Trail life and knew I would miss the freedom of “hiking for a living.” Emotionally, I was excited about summiting this grand peak, but even more excited to spend time with my husband after such a long absence. Missing him was unquestionably the most difficult part of the entire trip.

And so I found myself on Oct. 4, standing on the windy summit of Mount Katahdin, “greatest mountain” in the native tongue.



*Triumph: the summit and finale of 2,168 miles on the Appalachian Trail.*

Unbidden tears poured as I touched that famous wooden sign. I had begun this trip because I loved to hike, and because it was there. By the time I finished it, I had been deeply touched by the goodness of others. I learned that life is too short to waste time. I found a mental strength that brought me past every boundary I had previously known. I re-affirmed the most important things in my life: God, my family, and my friends. My life can never be the same. □

—Julie Crawford

*Web sites of interest: patc.net, atconf.org, my personal Web site where my daily journals and photos are logged – zulie.com*

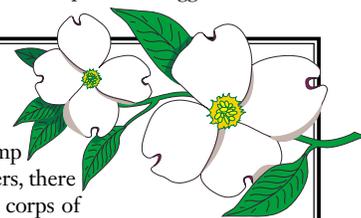
## Dogwood Half Hundred: Call for Volunteers

The Dogwood Half Hundred will celebrate its 17th running on Saturday, April 20, at Powells Fort Camp in the area of Massanutten Mountain of Virginia. Did you realize that, in addition to the marathon hikers, there is another group equally engaged in the Dogwood and essential to its success? That “other” group is the corps of volunteers – more than 35 in all – who man checkpoints, assist in the preparation and serving of breakfast, serve as course monitors, run the finish-line table, assist in the Saturday morning check-in and registration process . . . and have a great time in the woods!



If you would like to spend a day or even just a morning on the beautiful Massanutten, please consider contributing your energy and spirit to the Dogwood. If you are a veteran Dogwood participant and would like to give back something to the event, volunteering will prove to be equally as satisfying as hiking the course. If you have a truck, SUV, or minivan, you can make an invaluable contribution by helping transport water and food to Powells Fort Camp.

To learn more about volunteering for this adventure, please contact Ric Francke, the Dogwood Director, at 703/356-2106 (evenings before 10:00 p.m.) or by e-mail at fbfrancke@aol.com. □



## Survivor 5 in Shenandoah National Park!

No, the hit CBS TV show isn't coming to Virginia, but something is occurring that is potentially much more useful to PATC members. We've probably all heard of the 10 Backpacking Essentials lists, those things that we should never be without when we go into the woods for any length of time. While having such items is certainly a good idea, the thought may have crossed your mind at some point, say after taking a dunking in a fast rushing mountain stream with all of your gear, "What would I do if I were out in the woods miles from any civilization and didn't have my equipment, or I lost it?" After all, equipment can fail, packs can fall over cliffs or be carried away by bears. "How would I survive?"

This two-day introductory class is intended to help you answer those questions. Members of the Mid-Atlantic Primitive Skills Group will teach you how to survive in the woods with no modern tools or manufactured supplies whatsoever. Specifically, you will learn how to:

- Maintain the positive mental attitude that is the most important factor in survival
- Identify the priorities of survival in a given situation

- Construct a primitive survival shelter that will keep you warm and dry out of whatever natural materials are at hand

- Make a fire by friction using an apparatus called a bow drill

- Make bowls, cups, and other utensils and tools by using fire

- Make cordage and primitive fishing and emergency trapping gear out of natural materials

- Identify and prepare various wild edible plants found in our region

- Make basic tools out of rock and wood

- Attain a deeper state of awareness while in the wilderness

This class, growing out of a movement known as primitive skills, primitive technology, or earth skills, will be taught not from the perspective of the modern-day "survivalist," that holdover from Y2K that borrows their exploitive philosophy and dependency on man-made supplies from the heyday of the Western continental land rush. Rather, the guiding principals will come from the Native American philosophy of living gently with the land while cultivating a respectful attitude of being able to use the gifts of

nature to survive, while at the same time having an overall positive impact on the natural world. This aboriginal way of life is where "Leave No Trace" had its roots.

These topics will be approached through both lectures and a lot of hands-on learning. If you've taken classes of this sort before, this one will probably be too elementary for you, but if you are a confirmed gearhead who fears that you may be becoming overly dependent on all of that expensive, high-tech backpacking gear, this course may be just the thing to start you on the path of reform and help you simplify your interactions with nature!

The class will be held at the Schairer Trail Center just off Skyline Drive. It will run from 9 a.m. Saturday, April 27, until 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 28. The class will be for adults only, and the registration fee is \$40 for PATC members and \$55 for nonmembers (food, lodging, and instructional materials are included). Pre-registration is required, and the enrollment will be limited to 20 participants. More information on the class and instructions on how to register can be found on the Mid-Atlantic Primitive Skills Group Web site located at [www.mapsgroup.org](http://www.mapsgroup.org) (click on the Schedule of Events button, then look for the April 27-28 class), or you may call Kevin Haney at 301/271-5023. □

—Kevin Haney

## PATC and SNP Sponsor Chainsaw Workshop, April 20-21

PATC and SNP will sponsor the 2002 Chainsaw workshop at the Pinnacles Research Station in the Central District of Shenandoah National Park. The weekend workshop is intended to train new sawyers and recertify sawyers whose cards expire in 2002. Certification is required for all sawyers who operate chainsaws on public lands. The certification, offered by this workshop, is recognized by both the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service. Sawyers needing recertification will have first priority for this workshop. Interested volunteers should anticipate routine use of the saw as a prerequisite for inclusion in this workshop.

Overnight accommodations are available at the Pinnacles, including food for the weekend (lunch and dinner on Saturday, breakfast and lunch on Sunday). The expected cost for meals is \$20 for the weekend (accommodations and meals are optional).

Interested volunteers should contact Kerry Snow, PATC Supervisor of Trails: [kerrysnow@telocity.com](mailto:kerrysnow@telocity.com), 301/570-0596. □

## National Park Service Web site Back Online; Public Access to 'PARKNET' Restored

The National Park Service (NPS) announced that, effective Feb. 12, 2002, all NPS Internet connections have been restored. The NPS' Web site "PARKNET" is located at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). You may access SNP at [www.nps.gov/shen](http://www.nps.gov/shen).

The reconnection of the NPS Web site was done with permission of the special master for the court who has been working with the Department of the Interior on information technology (IT) security. In accordance with a U.S. District Court order related to IT weaknesses found in the management of the Indian trust system, Internet access was disconnected on Dec. 5, 2001.

PARKNET provides information on travel, recreation, and education opportunities within the National Park System's 385 sites. Additionally, Web surfers will discover information on historic preservation, grants, tax incentives, natural resource planning and preservation, science and research, and Park-planning documents. Employment, volunteer, and public/private partnership opportunities can also be found on the site. □

—Lyn Rothgeb

## Trail House to Continue Trails Day Sponsorship in 2002



For the second consecutive year, the Trail House of Frederick, Md., will sponsor the South Mountaineers' National Trails Day event.

Proprietors Clyde and Gerry Hicks are proud to announce their support of the South Mountaineers and hope to continue their involvement with this PATC work crew in the future.

Volunteers interested in this June 1 event should contact Mark Mitchell at 301/461-7048 or mdtrail@yahoo.com.

The Trail House is the Frederick area's premier outfitter. You can visit them online at [www.trailhouse.com](http://www.trailhouse.com) or in person at 17 South Market St. in downtown Frederick, Md. □

—Rick Canter, PATC Maryland District Trails Manager

## A New Hikers' Challenge

Hikers in the Northeastern United States who like challenges – such as hiking the whole AT, climbing all 46 peaks over 5000' in the Adirondacks, etc. – have a new challenge issued by the Glens Falls-Saratoga chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK): Climb any 23 of the 28 fire towers in the Adirondacks and Catskills and document the ascents, submit the documentation to the chapter, and become eligible to wear the special embroidered patch (\$3 for adults).

Climbing the fire tower is not required, nor is it recommended for those towers that have not been restored for safe public use. The newest ADK guide book, "Views from the High Fire Towers of the Adirondacks and Catskills" (160 p.), gives all the information needed for ascent as well as other information and may be obtained from ADK headquarters at: 814 Goggins Road, Lake George, NY 12845, or at [www.adk.org](http://www.adk.org). □

—Paula Strain

## EPA Captures Maryland Environmental Permits Process

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken over all Clean Air Permit authority for industry requests in Maryland for new permits. Why? Because Maryland failed to comply with an EPA order to allow greater public participation in the industrial permitting process. The date for compliance was Dec. 1, 2001.

EPA immediately took control of the process, and industries probably are now going to face a higher standard for compliance. Not only that, Maryland loses more than \$4 million in federal monies.



The impact on hikers may be beneficial: No longer will permits be issued that degrade air quality with impunity, including that over the Appalachian Trail. Industrial development will have to proceed more cautiously. Or so we can hope. □

—Jack Reeder

## Park Headquarters for the C&O Canal Moves

The new location in Hagerstown of the C&O Canal Park Headquarters was scheduled to occur at the end of January, moving from historic Ferry Hill, the old headquarters, near Williamsport. The latter is planned to become a newly renovated interpretive center. The new HQ location, about halfway between Georgetown and Cumberland, which mark the opposite ends of the Canal, was required due to increased need for office space and to be closer to the National Capital Regional office in Washington, D.C., lessening staff business commuting time. The new HQ, however, is in rented space, not on Park lands, and thus increases NPS expenses.

PATC officers and committee chairmen make frequent trips to the C&O Park HQ. Thus, perhaps their commuting will be lessened also.

The old Ferry Hill site is a historic building, and this, too, led to the rationale for the Park HQ moving out – lessening wear and tear of this lovely facility. The intent is for the building to house temperature- and humidity-controlled historic artifacts and documents. Researchers may delight in the final result. □

—Jack Reeder

***www.patc.net  
is full of  
scheduled activities  
and insight into  
the experiences  
of other members***

## Volunteers – Appointed in January

### Trail Overseers

Joe Leahy

Kathy Momot

Dave House

Bob and Lisa Rainey

Jeremys Run – 8<sup>th</sup> Ford of Jeremy's Run to Park boundary

Lower Buck Hollow Trail

AT – Monument Knob to Crampton Gap

AT – Weverton Road to Weverton RR

Place Names, from page 6

One of the more fascinating parts of my life was my personal dealings with Egbert. He got me really psyched on the subject of old home sites, bushwhacking, and such, and to some degree, he is responsible for the Reeder writings on SNP as a result. I have a collection of old maps now, some of which he gave me instead of throwing out, that still keep my fires burning! It was from Egbert that Carolyn and I learned to love exploring the origins of the mountain people and their culture, both on foot and on paper.

Someday I will turn back to writing on the subject of place names for the PA. It fascinates me, and I'm glad you found it interesting, also.

Hope this has been helpful. ☐

—Jack Reeder

## Natural Heritage Plant Monitors Needed

PATC is cooperating with the National Park Service in watching rare plants that exist along our Appalachian Trail corridor. Some plants, like nodding trillium, are not common, and require our attention to assure these populations are not negatively affected by the trail users. Would you be willing to "adopt a site?" If you are, we need you to check a site of your choice once a year to verify the conditions of your population. Training will be provided, and no plant knowledge is required. We will want to accomplish this site selection and training by mid-April in order to visit the sites while the plants are in flower. Please call Bob Pickett to volunteer or for further information at 301/681-1511, or email at pickett@usna.edu. ☐

## Are You Moving?!!

Did you know that the Post Office charges PATC 60 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 this form and mail it to 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna VA 22180-4609. You can also call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, ext. 17, or e-mail at pfankh@erols.com.

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

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10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)			
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address		
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Full Name	Complete Mailing Address		
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# 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. Our Chapter hikes are posted at <http://www.patc.net/chapters/char/hikes.html>. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bncfirme@innernet.net)) 717/765-4833. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Pete Brown or visit the North Chapter home page ([www.patc.net/chapters/north/](http://www.patc.net/chapters/north/)).

### Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the Forecast. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Gerry Boyd ([gerryb@compuserve.com](mailto:gerryb@compuserve.com)) 703/281-7216.

### 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 are on the second Wednesday of Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., and Dec. See Forecast for upcoming activities. For information about the chapter or to receive the newsletter, contact Judy Smoot 540/667-2036 or e-mail [wvpatc@hotmail.com](mailto:wvpatc@hotmail.com).

### Ski Touring Section

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

### Mountaineering Section

We're a diverse group of local Washington, DC area climbers. Young and old, male and female, crag rat, sport climber, and alpinist, active and armchair types - we all enjoy climbing in its many varieties. We also share common interest in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those wanting to learn the basics - we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice climbers. For further information contact Mack Muir 703/768-5724 ([MackMuir@edisaurus.com](mailto:MackMuir@edisaurus.com)).

### PATC Midweek Hikes

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

### Other Clubs' Hikes

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

## KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

## Meetings

### Meetings

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

### Trail Patrol - First Tuesday

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

### New Members (PATC) - First Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Curious about the Club? Want to learn more? The best way is to attend a new Members meeting (but you don't have to be new to qualify). Attend the meeting and find the mysteries of PATC revealed in full. Refreshments will be served. Directions to PATC: Take Rt. 23 into Vienna, Va. and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

### Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

(New Members meeting) - Second Monday 7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Martin Juenge ([mjuenge@rpihq.com](mailto:mjuenge@rpihq.com)) 703/255-5034, then press #5.

### PATC Council - Second Tuesday

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

### Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Mack Muir at 703/768-5724 or ([MackMuir@edisaurus.com](mailto:MackMuir@edisaurus.com)) or PATC's website: ([www.patc.net/chapters/mtn\\_sect](http://www.patc.net/chapters/mtn_sect)).

### The Futures Group - Third Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Meets to develop a Vision for the Club for the year 2027, the Club's One-Hundredth Anniversary. PATC members welcomed. INFO: Gerhard Salinge ([evger@erols.com](mailto:evger@erols.com)) or Walt Smith ([wsmith@visuallink.com](mailto: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](mailto:mjuenge@rpihq.com)) 703/255-5034 then press #5.

## March

### 1 (Friday)

#### DEADLINE - April Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter must be submitted electronically, if possible, to headquarters, or by e-mail to PA@patc.net. Allow one week for postal service delivery. Please e-mail Forecast events directly to the Forecast Editor at PA-Forecast@patc.net.

### 2 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew 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 or Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

### 2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Alexandria, VA

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

### 2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join the Crew on our first full group trip of 2002. We'll use the weekend for our Annual AT Sweep, attempting to cover the entire length of the SNP Central District AT in one weekend! Weekend accommodations are at Cliff's House (cozy, in case of brisk March winds). We'll host the traditional, expansive B&W pot-lucks for dinner and breakfast. If you need some OJT for chain-saw certification, this is the perfect opportunity. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysnow@telocity.com) 301/570-0596.

### 4 (Monday)

#### HIKE - Family Hike

**Manassas Battlefield-Stone Bridge, Centreville, VA**  
This hike features a long boardwalk, open meadows, and hiking along a stream. The hike is about 2 miles long. After the hike we'll have lunch at a nearby kid-friendly restaurant. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278. E-mail preferred.

### 5 (Tuesday)

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

### 5 (Tuesday)

#### HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

**Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
Old Rag and Robertson. Two tough climbs with great views make this classic an ideal Dogwood conditioning hike. Total is 16 miles and 4000 feet. Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

### 6 (Wednesday)

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

### 6 (Wednesday)

#### HIKE - Easy Hikers

**Wheaton Regional Park, MD**  
Meet in the parking lot for about a two hour hike and visit at the fabulous greenhouse. Bring lunch. Call for details and directions. Cancelled if schools are closed. INFO: John Giblin 301/585-5172.

### 6 (Wednesday)

#### CLASS - Hiking VA Through the Seasons (REI) REI, Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Come learn about the best hiking spots in Virginia, and the best time to travel there. Bill and Mary Burnham, authors of *Hike America Virginia* will present an evening's tour of some of Virginia's best trails and spots for energetic outdoor fun. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

### 7, 9 - 10 (Thursday, Saturday - Sunday)

#### CLASS - Leave No Trace Trainers Course PATC Headquarters, Vienna, VA

Interested in becoming a certified LNT Trainer? Trail Patrol LNT Masters are conducting a two-part LNT Trainers course. Thursday evening will be classroom instruction and Saturday/Sunday will be field instruction (backpacking in SNP). The emphasis will be on better understanding LNT and developing your skills for teaching others about LNT ethics and practices. \$20 fee and space is limited to 8. INFO: Annie Miller (amill1@yahoo.com) 703/250-8113 (before 10 p.m.).

### 8 - 10 (Friday - Sunday)

#### CABIN WORK TRIP - Highacre House Harpers Ferry, MD

Join us as we continue to spruce up this beautiful old Victorian house. There's a lot of work to be done including painting, cleaning, carpentry, yard work, and furniture repair. INFO: Ben Mayock (bmayock@yahoo.com) 410/461-1327 or Pat Fankhauser (pfankh@erols.com) 703/242-0693, Ext. 17.

### 9 (Saturday)

#### CLASS - Managing Outdoor Overuse Injuries (REI) REI, Bailey's Crossroads, VA

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. This four hour class/interactive lab consists of defining "overuse injuries," those at risk, prevention, assessment, treatment, and management. Taught by Cathie Cummins, a licensed physical therapist and (WSC) Wilderness First Aid Instructor. Class fee \$35 (includes class materials and lab). Excellent for outdoor enthusiasts and trip leaders. Received rave reviews at ATC Conference, July, 2001. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

### 9 (Saturday)

#### HIKE - PATC/K9TBs C & O Canal, MD

Pennyfield Lock just off River Road. Join us for a moderately strenuous 8-10 mile hike along the scenic and historic C & O Canal. We will hike at a moderate pace along the canal and climb up to the cliffs on wooded trails which are rocky and steep. Spectacular views of the Potomac River, horse farms, and bird watching. This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well-behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on leash and scoop after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead, but bring lunch/snacks/water for you and your dog. INFO: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org) 301/482-2468 or Jeff Bolognese (jbolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

### 9 (Saturday)

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

Exercise, fresh air, and the camaraderie of your fellow hikers, it just doesn't get any better than this! Join us as we rebuild tread and waterbars on Massanutten Mountain. Work with us and take pride in the support you give to the trail community! INFO: Mike Sutherland (msutherland@cox.rr.com) 703/591-8330.

### 9 (Saturday)

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

The South Mountaineers kick off another year of stewardship, the first of 19 events this year. Get out and enjoy the woods, novices welcome! Bring lunch, water, boots, and gloves. INFO: Mark Mitchel (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

### 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Meadows Cabin, Madison, VA

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

### 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Great North Mountain Trail George Washington National Forest, VA

Join us for a little exercise in cleaning up a 2.1 mile section of the Great North Mountain Trail in the George Washington National Forest. Overnight at Glass House with limited space available. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319 after 7:00 p.m. on weeknights.

### 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew Lydia, VA

The Vining Tract crew meets once a month to work on cabin and land management projects on the beautiful Vining property. We are now building a small cabin using logs from an old barn, as well as projects at Conley and Wineberry cabins and around the property to keep everything in top shape. Come join us and raise a hammer, a paintbrush, or a log in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Larry Lang 703/631-9278 or Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

### 9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The way the weather has been going we may have warm spring breezes or be buried under 3 feet of snow. Whatever the weather the Tulip Tree Crew will be hard at work in Shaver Hollow. The cabin is far enough along now that we can be warm and dry and continue to work in comfort whatever the situation. There is still plenty of interesting and challenging work to do to complete this outstanding labor of love. Join our hard-working but fun-loving crew for a fun weekend in the mountains. Info: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

### 11 (Monday)

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

### 11 (Monday)

#### HIKE - Family Hike

#### Theodore Roosevelt Island, Rosslyn, VA

Come join us for a stroller-friendly 2 mile hike. There is a great wide, long boardwalk for the kids to walk along part of the way; a wide gravel path the rest of the way. We'll picnic near the monument. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278. E-mail preferred.

# FORECAST

12 (Tuesday)

■ MEETING - PATC Council, 7:00 p.m.

12 (Tuesday)

† HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Fairfax Cross County Trail (CCT), Fairfax, VA

Thirty plus miles with minimal elevation changes. Good trainer for Brandywine/Dogwood/100K hikes. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181. Before 9:00 p.m.

13 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Wednesday)

† HIKE - Easy Hikers

Ft. Washington National Park, MD

About 4.5 miles on perimeter trail plus 1/2 hour or so exploring ruined fort. Meet at visitor center, overlooking fort at 10:15 a.m. Some parts of trail not well maintained. Call for directions. INFO: Henry Shryock 202/479-4130 or Pauline LeMarie 202/484-2966.

13 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Running (Fast Hiking) Local Trails (REI) REI, Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Veteran trail runner Ed Schultz will discuss the similarities and differences of road running and hiking and the gear that will allow you to move fast, light, and safe. Ed will also cover trail injuries, trail etiquette, local and regional destinations, trail clubs, organized runs and races, as well as longer adventures and night hiking. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

14 (Thursday)

† HIKE - In-Between Hikers

Key Chain Circuit, Washington, DC

The In-Between Hikers will hike up the Potomac Heritage Trail to Chain Bridge, across the bridge, down the C&O Canal Towpath, and across Key Bridge to the departure point. About 9 miles. Some rocky sections and a few minor stream crossings. Stretches will be muddy if weather has been wet. Meet at 10:00 a.m. on the Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot, immediately off the northbound George Washington Parkway just north of the Theodore Roosevelt bridge (there is no access from the parkway southbound). Bring lunch and water. INFO: Gary Abrecht (GAbrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

16 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew Tuscarora Trail, PA

Call for meeting place and other details. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

16 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade Shenandoah County, VA

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at Wolf Gap Recreation Area at 9:00 a.m. to get tools then work on a trail in the nearby area. This popular venue offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley. We will remove and break up rocks in the tread and work on waterbars. RSVP by Wednesday. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, seasonal clothing, and hiking shoes. INFO: Hop Long (mgrgnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

16 (Saturday)

† HIKE - Massanutten Mountain Series Luray, VA

This third hike of the series will be 17 miles on the Massanutten East Trail from Habron Gap to Edith Gap and the Habron Gap and Stephens Trails. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Oakton Shopping Center

parking lot. Contact leaders for requirements and details. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The North District Hoodlums kick off their trail year with the traditional St. Patrick's Day work trip. We build rock steps, log waterbars, drainage devices and engage in similar other down-and-dirty activities by day, but after a good day's work, the crew enjoys the fruits of their labor in grand fashion via the theme meal and festivities at a facility within the park. No trail work experience is necessary and newcomers are always welcome. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, camp out overnight in SNP. Lots of options, details at [www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/hoodlums/hoodlums.html](http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/hoodlums/hoodlums.html). Meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. RSVP by mid-week prior. INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ BACKPACK TRIP - Maryland AT II (South Half) Appalachian Trail, MD

The second of two outings to backpack the Appalachian Trail across Maryland. Trek from Washington Monument State Park to Harpers Ferry, WV, a distance of 19.5 miles in 2 days. We will visit the sites of several Civil War skirmishes and enjoy the views from White Rocks and Weverton Cliffs. This trip is moderately strenuous. Participants should be prepared for a variety of weather conditions. Meet in Germantown at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning and return late Sunday afternoon. Group limit 8. INFO: Bryon Lawrence (blawrenc@msn.com) 301/916-2188.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Trail Patrol Training Glass House, Fort Valley, VA

This two-day course teaches the fundamental skills you need to become a member of the team that patrols, monitors and helps hikers along 1,000 miles of PATC trails. Training topics include land navigation, Leave No Trace, equipment and clothing, radio communications, how to communicate with hikers, and scenario-based training. INFO: Chris Logan (loganj@erols.com) 301/774-2949. Evenings 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. or weekends.

18 (Monday)

† HIKE - Family Hike

Elanor C. Lawrence Park, Centreville, VA

Join us for a 2-3 mile hike through the woods and down to a pond. This path is jogging stroller passable-barely. There is a nature center with some snakes, turtles, frogs, and kid friendly exhibits. Designed for the under 5 crowd, all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278. E-mail preferred.

19 (Tuesday)

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

19 (Tuesday)

† HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Massanutten Figure Eight, GW National Forest, VA

Starting at Elizabeth Furnace we will climb to Signal Knob, loop around on the Tuscarora Trail crossing our start to climb Sherman Gap, then north on the Massanutten to Shawl Gap and down the Tuscarora. Get familiar with the Dogwood route. About 17 miles and 3600 feet. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

20 (Wednesday)

† HIKE - Easy Hikers

Leesylvania State Park, VA

We will go about five miles on trails in this park south of Woodbridge. Meet at 10:15 a.m. in main parking lot adjacent to boat ramps. Bring lunch. Call for directions. INFO: Bill and Helen Bryant 703/789-1888.

20 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Waterfalls of Virginia (REI) REI, Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Join Ed Neville on a visual tour of the hidden jewels awaiting the backcountry hiker deep in the mountain hollows of Virginia's Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains. Learn about some of the best waterfall photography opportunities for hikers. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

23 (Saturday)

† HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Appalachian Trail, VA

Manassas Gap to Sky Meadows. Come join the NSVC as we hike the AT between Linden and the Sky Meadows area. Approximately 7 miles and 1,250 feet elevation gain. INFO: Gerry Boyd (gerryb@compuserve.com) 703/281-7216.

23 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

We are close to finishing a great wintertime project of relocating the Appalachian Trail in Maryland. Be a part of the action as we move rocks and dirt to create the new tread. Bring water, lunch, boots and gloves. INFO: Mark Mitchel (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

23 (Saturday)

CLASS - Basic GPS (REI) REI, Bailey's Crossroads, VA

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Buttons and Screens: What They Mean to You. Class fee \$20, includes all course materials. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

This first work trip of 2002 begins our 6th year of the Blackburn Renovation Project where club volunteers have put in a total of over 10,000 hours! Work that has to be finished include installing a steel support beam in the basement, raising and replacing the Carriage House roof, painting the Hikers Hostel and the Carriage House, building a new picnic table and much work getting the Blackburn grounds cleared and ready for the new season. Come out for a day or the whole weekend. Community meal on Saturday evening. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ CABIN WORK TRIP - Rosser-Lamb Cabin Per-Lee Tract, Stanardsville, VA

The Per-Lee/Rosser Lamb "work party" is renovating the old Rosser Lamb farm house, located on the 104 acre tract donated by the Per-Lee family in 1995. Work on this property has been an on-again/off-again thing. We are now calling on the reservoir of skilled, and not so skilled, PATC talents to help us speedup the process of moving this wonderful facility into the rental system. Variety of skills needed. Overnight available but limited to 12. INFO: Peg Manuel (parkplva@yahoo.com) 540/972-7093.

**23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)**

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**  
Massanutten Trails, Front Royal, VA

Join the crew as we help prepare for the Dogwood Half Hundred by clearing blowdowns along the intended route. Lots of trails to cover so the crew will be working in small groups. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Glass House. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

**23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)**

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

We have an outstanding landscaping plan designed by Christine Sauer. When we are done the cabin grounds and the surrounding edges of the woods will be beautifully landscaped with native plants. Around the cabin there will also be traditional mountain homestead flowers and plants which are not necessarily native but traditional in the decoration of the environs of remote pioneer cabins. Join us in implementing Christine's plan. There once was a mountain cabin near where Tulip Tree Cabin now stands. When we are done the site may once again look as it did long ago. There is a lot of work involved and hopefully some fun as well. In addition we will continue our work to complete the cabin. Info: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

**24 (Sunday)**

✂ **HIKE - Natural History Geology Hike**

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Tim Rose, mineralogist with the Smithsonian Institution, joins Bob Pickett for an informative hike in the Big Meadows area of the Park. In addition to the geological emphasis, we'll visit the Big Meadows swamp in search of egg masses from wood frogs, Jefferson and spotted salamanders. Nearby, we might find the marsh marigold or the American hazelnut in bloom. Starting from Fisher's Gap, we'll hike the AT to David's Spring and into the swamp area. Then, we'll take the Dark Hollow Falls trail and loop around on the Rose River fire road to make a circuit hike of approximately five miles. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

**25 (Monday)**

✂ **HIKE - Family Hike**

Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park, McLean, VA

Get out and enjoy the Spring weather on this stroller friendly 3 mile hike. The park is beautiful with several ponds and beautiful gardens. The path is hilly, but the footing is smooth. Bring a picnic lunch. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278. E-mail preferred.

**26 (Tuesday)**

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

**26 (Tuesday)**

✂ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

Leading Ridge, Shenandoah National Park VA

Begin with 2,000 ft. ascent of Leading Ridge to the AT, South to Corbin Cutoff, climbing Indian Run Trail to Corbin Mountain, continuing on the Old Rag fire road., then White Oak Canyon Trail to Skyland and the AT north to Crusher Ridge. 18 miles with 4,000 ft. elevation gain. Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

**27 (Wednesday)**

✂ **HIKE - Easy Hikers**  
Turkey Run, VA

We will do an up and back hike of about 5 miles in this walk north along the Potomac River. Maybe we'll be lucky and the red trillium will be in full bloom. If it's not too cold, bring a lunch and water. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at Turkey Run Park off the GW Parkway. INFO: Carol Niedzialek (niedze@erols.com) 301/949-9729.

**27 (Wednesday)**

**CLASS - The Beauty Under Your Feet (REI)**  
REI, Bailey's Cross Roads, VA

7:30 p.m. Nature photographer David Lambert will detail the habitats of species, discuss identification and macro-photography of Mid-Atlantic Wildflowers. Take a visual hike through areas where you can find stunning examples of native wildflowers, from Great Falls and Shenandoah Park to the Great Smokies. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

**28 (Thursday)**

✂ **HIKE - In-between Hikers**

Fountainhead Regional Park, Fairfax, VA

A moderate to fast 9 mile, variable terrain hike on the Bull Run - Occoquan and White blazed loop trails. An out-and-back event. Bring water and snack for a short lunch break. Meet at first parking lot on the right off park entrance road. Hike starts at 10:00 a.m. No pets. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

**30 (Saturday)**

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew**  
Tuscarora Trail, PA.

Call for meeting place and other details. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

## April

**1 (Monday)**

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

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter must be submitted electronically, if possible, to headquarters, or by e-mail to PA@patc.net. Allow one week for postal service delivery. Please e-mail Forecast events directly to the Forecast Editor at PA-Forecast@patc.net.

**2 (Tuesday)**

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



**2 (Tuesday)**

✂ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

Roller Coaster, Appalachian Trail, VA

Starting at Snickers Gap each person will hike at his own pace on the AT roller coaster south for 3.5 hours and then turn around to return in 7 hours total. Worthless prizes might even be awarded for the longest distance hiked. A great way to train for the Dogwood. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

**3 (Wednesday)**

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

**3 (Wednesday)**

✂ **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Cedarville State Forest, MD

Easy 4-mile circuit hike with optional 2-mile extension. Bring lunch and water. Park entrance fee \$2.00 per car. Call for directions. INFO: Paul Van Order 703/536-4378.

**6 (Saturday)**

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew**  
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 or Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

**6 (Saturday)**

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

Join this work event as the weather gets nicer. The South Mountaineers always have a good time "working" along the Appalachian Trail in Maryland. We meet at 9 a.m. in Frederick County. INFO: Mark Mitchel (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

**6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)**

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew**  
Shenandoah National Park, VA

The Blue and White welcomes spring in Shenandoah. We'll return to the Park to tackle one of the major projects on our schedule (either the rehab of the Pocosin Hollow Trail or the continuation of the Entry Run Trail). Overnight accommodations will be at the Pocosin Cabin (probably). Pot-lucks for Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysnow@telocity.com) 301/570-0596.

**6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)**

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

April Showers bring May flowers and maybe even some early April wildflowers. No matter what the season or weather Shaver Hollow is a beautiful and magical place. Imagine yourself an early settler in the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains. You are living in the Virgin forest with the abundance of wild game and myriad of lush vegetation. This is an opening in the forest that you have created with your own 2 hands, using only a few basic hand tools that you were able to carry with you from Pennsylvania. You have built your home with the materials provided to you by the abundant forest. Your landscape consists of what nature provided and a few revered plants that you were able to bring with you. This is what we are attempting to recreate here in Shaver Hollow. If this sounds like your dream give me a call. Info: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

# FORECAST

**6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)**  
**Alexandria, VA**

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

**7 (Sunday)**  
**HIKE - Natural History Hike**  
**Potomac Heritage Trail, VA**

Here's a chance to do the whole 9.7-mile Potomac Heritage trail from the Beltway to Roosevelt Island. Early wildflowers will be emerging and we should be able to find the rare white trout lily and harbinger of spring. If you want to do a good hike without a long drive, this hike can't be beat! Let's look for waterbirds, snakes and wildflowers together! For those who would rather do just the northern five miles, a drop-off point at Fort Marcy can be made. Make sure you move your clocks forward! INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

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

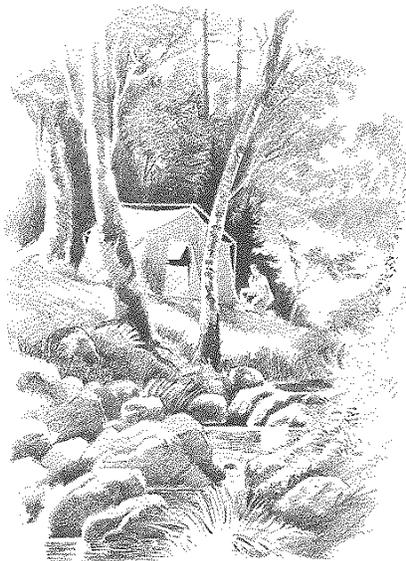
**8 (Monday)**  
**CLASS - Trail Patrol Backpacking 101**  
**PATC Headquarters, Vienna, VA**  
 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Trail Patrol presents an introductory class on backpacking. Topics include equipment selection and use; techniques to enhance safety and comfort; and Leave No Trace methods to protect our fragile backcountry. The class is also suitable for more experienced backpackers who want to hone their skills or adapt their experience to the Leave No Trace ethic. The session is followed by an instructional weekend and an overnight backpacking trip (see ad, page 20). INFO: Larry Marcoux ([nolsintmaster@aol.com](mailto:nolsintmaster@aol.com)) 703/979-1066 or 703/402-5441.

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

**9 (Tuesday)**  
**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**  
**Appalachian Trail, Northern VA**  
 16 mile circuit hike with views from Loudon Heights, Maryland Heights, and Jefferson Rock in Harpers Ferry. 2000 ft. elevation gain. Trailhead where AT crosses RT 9 on VA/WVA line. INFO: Cliff Noyes ([cliff.noyes@juno.com](mailto:cliff.noyes@juno.com)) 703/451-5181. Before 9:00 p.m.

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

**13 (Saturday)**  
**HIKE - Natural History Wildflower Hike**  
**Turkey Run Park, VA**  
 This is the annual wildflower hike Bob Pickett has lead for the past 15 years. This traditional PATC hike takes us about two miles down Turkey Run to the Potomac River where we'll have lunch and make a small loop in search of the beautiful twin-leaf before retracing our route back up the stream for a total hike of about five miles. We will be stopping to identify 30 or more different species, there are numerous rock hops over the small Turkey Run, and some steep slopes to climb, so hiking boots are highly recommended. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.



**13 (Saturday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
 8:15 a.m. to noon. This is the moment you've been waiting for, the first work trip of the year in Rock Creek Park. As usual, we expect to get dirty this year with a series of targeted treadway and stream-crossing projects. Come find out just how easy manual labor can be. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson ([mhacca@starpower.net](mailto:mhacca@starpower.net)) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 ext. 31.

**13 (Saturday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew**  
**Massanutten Mountain, VA**  
 Enjoy spring with exercise, fresh air, and the camaraderie of your fellow hikers. Join us as we rebuild tread and waterbars on Massanutten Mountain. Work with us and take pride in the support you give to the trail community! INFO: Mike Sutherland ([msutherland@cox.rr.com](mailto:msutherland@cox.rr.com)) 703/591-8330.

**13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center**  
**Round Hill, VA**  
 Join us in our 6th year of the Blackburn Renovation Project where club volunteers have put in a total of over 10,000 hours! Work that has to be finished include installing a steel support beam in the basement, raising and replacing the Carriage House roof, painting the Hikers Hostel and the Carriage House, building a new picnic table and much work getting the Blackburn grounds cleared and ready for the new season. Come out for a day or the whole weekend. Community meal on Saturday evening. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

**13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**  
**Piney Ridge Trail, North District SNP, VA**  
 The crew will be building turnpike tread for a chronically wet section of the Piney Ridge Trail near Range View Cabin. Bring lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night and Sunday breakfast. Overnight at Rindt's house. INFO: Fran Keenan ([outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com](mailto:outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com)) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt ([jkrindt@erols.com](mailto:jkrindt@erols.com)) 540/635-6351.

**13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew**  
**Lydia, Virginia**  
 The Vining Tract crew meets once a month to work on cabin and land management projects on the beautiful Vining property. We are now building a small cabin using logs from an old barn, as well as projects at Conley and Wineberry cabins and around the property to keep everything in top shape. Come join us and raise a hammer, a paintbrush, or a log in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Larry Lang 703/631-9278 or Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

**13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CLASS - Trail Patrol Backpacking 101**  
**Prince William Forest Park, VA**  
 Trail Patrol presents a two day of hands-on instructional weekend at Prince William Forest Park, in the second session of its introductory class on backpacking (see ad, page 20). INFO: Larry Marcoux ([nolsintmaster@aol.com](mailto:nolsintmaster@aol.com)) 703/979-1066 or 703/402-5441.

**16 (Tuesday)**  
**MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.**

**16 (Tuesday)**  
**SPECIAL EVENT**  
**Rock Creek Nature Center Auditorium**  
 See Walt's Notes, page 3.

**16 (Tuesday)**  
**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**  
**Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
 Stoney Man to Hawksbill, about 12 miles and 2800 ft. View from the two highest peaks in the Shenandoah. Hike south on the AT from Little Stoney Man to Hawksbill returning via upper Whiteoak Canyon Trail and Passamaquoddy Trail. INFO: Chris Nolen ([chrishiker@erols.com](mailto:chrishiker@erols.com)) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer ([dkennamr@yahoo.com](mailto:dkennamr@yahoo.com)) 301/299-9563.

**20 (Saturday)**  
**HIKE - In-between Hikers**  
**Great Falls, VA**  
 A moderate to fast 9 to 10 miles over variable terrain. There is a five mile hike option after the first half which is along the Difficult Run loop. \$4 vehicle fee. Bring water and lunch. No pets. Hike starts at Great Falls Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. Henri Comeau ([henricomeau@aol.com](mailto:henricomeau@aol.com)) 703/451-7965.

**20 (Saturday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew**  
**Tuscarora Trail, PA**  
 Call for meeting place and other details. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

**20 (Saturday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade**  
**Shenandoah County, VA**  
 Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at Wolf Gap Recreation Area at 9:00 a.m. to get tools then work on a trail in the nearby area. Enjoy panoramic views of Trout Run Valley from the mountain crest. We will remove and break up rocks in the tread and work on waterbars. RSVP by Wednesday. Bring lunch, work gloves, wiper, seasonal clothing, and hiking shoes. INFO: Hop Long ([mrgmnd@hotmail.com](mailto:mrgmnd@hotmail.com)) 301/942-6177.

20 - 21 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Have you met the Lamberts or read their books? Do you even know who the Lamberts are? They are wonderful people who live what some would consider a utopian life in a rustic log cabin far up a hollow on the western slope of the Blue Ridge. They have given the PATC a piece of land near their cabin for us to build a PATC rental cabin. Their hope is that PATC members renting the cabin will have the opportunity to experience nature as they have and learn some of what they have learned. We are working hard to fulfill that hope. Would you like to learn more? Info: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

20 - 21 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Chain Saw Weekend Workshop**  
Shenandoah National Park, VA

The PATC and Shenandoah National Park will host the weekend workshop, intended to train new sawyers and recertify sawyers whose cards expire in 2002. Recertifications will receive first priority. Overnight accommodations, including meals, are available (\$20 for lunch and dinner Saturday, breakfast and lunch on Sunday). The workshop is expected to fill quickly. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysnow@telocity.com) 301/570-0596.

23 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**  
Waites Run, GW National Forest, VA

From Waites Run north on County Line Trail to shelter, down to Wilson Cove Trail looping around via Old Mail Path, Tuscarora Trail and Pond Run Trail. 16 miles and 3600 ft. climb. Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kenamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

27 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park,**  
Washington, D.C.

8:15 a.m. to noon. Springtime in the woods might help you overlook the fact you have a shovel in your hand. Come work in the beauty of Rock Creek Park as we continue tidying up the trails. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 ext. 31.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Come and help us make 2002 the last year of the project, as we would like to go hiking again! Work that has to be finished include installing a steel support beam in the basement, raising and replacing the Carriage House roof, painting the Hikers Hostel and the Carriage House, building a new picnic table and much work getting the Blackburn grounds cleared and ready for the new season. Come out for a day or the whole weekend. Community meal on Saturday evening. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Primitive Wilderness Survival Skills (Intro)**  
Schaier Trail Center, Shenandoah National Park, VA

An introduction on how to survive in the woods without any modern tools or supplies. Taught by members of the Mid-Atlantic Primitive Skills Group. The class is for adults only. Registration fee \$40 for PATC members, \$55 for non-members (food, lodging, and instructional materials are included). Pre-registration is required and the enrollment will be limited to 20 participants. Details at [www.mapsgroup.org](http://www.mapsgroup.org) (Schedule of Events). INFO: Kevin Haney 301/271-5023.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**  
Sugarloaf Mountain, MD

Enjoy early spring on Northern Peaks Trail on unique Sugarloaf Mountain. The crew will rehab eroded sections on the trail. Water bars and tread improvement are the name of the game. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night and Sunday breakfast. Overnight at Thompson's House near Leesburg. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

30 (Tuesday)

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

30 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**  
Rose River, Shenandoah National Park, VA

18 miles 4300 ft climb. Up Rose River fire road to unmarked Cutoff Trail connecting to Rose River Loop Trail. Climb to drive and go south on AT to the Lewis Fall Trail. Return via Rapidan fire road and Dark Hollow Falls Trail. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kenamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563. □



Photo by Michael Karpie

## Mike Karpie's Photo Tips: High-Resolution Photography

For most practical purposes, normal camera equipment and handling techniques will yield excellent results. However, sometimes the situation might call for severe cropping or extreme enlargements. Special attention, in these cases, is required to achieve the resolution necessary. Extreme close-ups of minute insects or flowers or shots of nesting birds in the distance are some examples of situations where clarity and definition can be critical. Extreme enlargements for signs, murals, or projection are some other possible instances.

The amount of motion in a single-lens reflex camera during the picture-taking process is incredible. The internal mirror must flip up out of the way, and then the shutter, much like window blinds, must snap from side-to-side. Both of these motions come to an abrupt stop, causing a considerable amount of vibration as the photo is being taken.

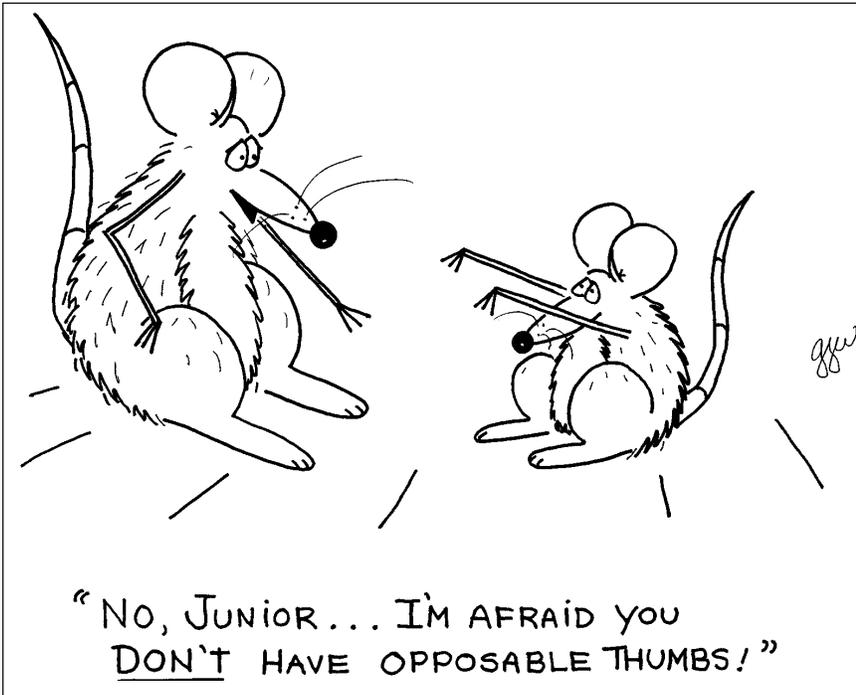
Photo enthusiasts are quick to say, "That's simple, just use a tripod and cable release!" and this is valid. But even the best tripods, while useful for preventing movement due to handling, do little to dampen camera vibration. To minimize camera vibration it is good to use a relatively fast shutter speed, above 1/15th of a second. But instead of tightening the head of the tripod, leave the tilt and pan features loose. This enables you to follow the subject if it is in motion. Hold the camera firmly with both hands, using the fleshy part of your fingers to dampen as much vibration as possible.

Next Month: High-Resolution Photography With Long Telephoto Lenses.

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

—Michael Karpie

## Tails from the Woods by George Walters



*Trailhead, from page 23*

sing so well. Those of you who've never heard a big crosscut saw sing should consider joining a wilderness crew some weekend – but be ready to face the music.

### Hoodlums Breakout

The North District Hoodlums will be starting up another year of monthly trail work trips beginning with their traditional “Irish” work trip this month. Trips usually (but not always) fall on the third weekend of each month and feature a “theme” meal. See the Forecast section for more details. CT Campbell of the Park Service in SNP has promised to provide some of his famous chili for the Hoodlums’ April “Southwestern” work trip. Stay tuned!

### More Than Expected

Taking a chance on the weather, the Cadillac Crew scheduled two work trips in January that proved to be very successful due to unseasonably warm, dry weekends. Thirty-plus showed up at Blackburn Trail Center in early January to remove some large trees that threatened some of the buildings. Thanks to some truly professional work by Bobby Lowery and Fran Keenan, the trees were removed without incident. However it was touch and go on a couple dead trees that were hollow. Hollow trees don't provide the luxury of a hinge to control the direction of fall. The crew had ini-



tially planned just to take care of the trees, but with such a large turnout we were able to continue work rebuilding the side trail to the AT. Led by Pat Morrow, Keith Tondrick, Vic Fickes, Robert Fina, Murat Tandirc, Suds Suddarth, and Bill Ford, large stubborn rocks were maneuvered into some fine steps.

Later in January the crew revisited Cliff's House to cut stubborn Ailanthus sprouts from stumps of previously cut trees and clear brush around the cabin. Newcomers Ed and Jan Driscoll helped scout a potential trail from the cabin to a ridge that provides a great view of the surrounding mountains and valleys.

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

## Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol presents **BACKPACKING 101** An Introductory Course

The BP101 class provides those persons, 18 years and older, who have moderate or no backpacking experience with the opportunity to expand their enjoyment of the outdoors through the practice of backpacking. The class provides basic instruction in equipment selection and use; information and techniques to enhance safety and comfort; and Leave No Trace methods to protect our fragile backcountry environment. It also provides more experienced backpackers an opportunity to hone or renew their skills and adapt their backpacking techniques to the Leave No Trace wilderness ethic. The students will then use their new skills on an overnight backpacking trip accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors.

### Introduction Class:

Monday, April 8, 2002  
from 7:30-9:30  
PATC Headquarters  
Vienna, Virginia

### Instructional Weekend:

April 13-14, 2002  
Prince William Forest Park  
Triangle, Virginia

### Backpacking Trip:

May 4-5, 2002

Fee: \$60.00 for PATC  
Members;  
\$75.00 for non-members

To receive a registration form and all other information, please call: Larry at: 703/979-1066 or 703/402-5441 or nolslntmaster@aol.com  
<http://trailpatrol.patc.net>

## NOTICES

### NEW NOTICES

**LOST GLASSES:** Between Meadow Spring trailhead and Mary's Rock: lady's glasses with light brown frames. If you have any information please call Jennifer at 202/362-8137.

**DOWNEAST MAINE COTTAGE FOR RENT:** perched on a seaside granite ledge, superb views of the ocean, sunsets, great blue herons, lobster boats. Large, comfortable kitchen/living area, 2 bedrooms, bath, sun porch, big deck, solar power. Near the town of Milbridge. Available June-August 2002, rates vary depending on month and length of stay. Call Lara at 202-547-5413 (h).

**FOR SALE: GRUMMAN CANOE** - 16' - aluminum - not damaged. With two paddles, clip-in seat backs, carrying yoke (for shoulders), foam blocks for car top. Make offer. Call John, 301/593-1458 or jfa@erols.com.

**HOUSE ON SNP BORDER FOR SALE** with 26.5 acres with waterfalls, private trails. Stunning mountain views, secluded site, southern exposure with 16 windows in living/dining area. Three bedrooms with room for expansion, two decks including roof deck. Easy 25 min. walk from doorstep up Park fire road to AT. On state road for year-round access, about 2 hours from Beltway and only 35 min. to Charlottesville, rated "one of top 10 places to retire." More info: 434/985-7167 or hollowfolk@nexus.net.

### FOR SALE

**FOR SALE - LIMMER "LIGHT WEIGHT"** Hiking boots. Size: Mens 10.5 Medium. Worn 3 times (day hikes) before realizing they were the wrong size for me. Bought them in Colorado, can't return them. \$175.00 (includes a conditioning kit). Contact: Wilfred Burr 703/351-2599 (home) 202/720-8647 (work) jwburr1@juno.com or wburr@ars.usda.gov

**FOR SALE COZY COTTAGE** in Shenandoah Valley, large living room with stone fireplace, 2-3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, laundryroom and carport located on 4+ acres in lovely secluded setting for artist/writer or couple looking for weekend retreat. Less than 1 1/2 hours from Capital Beltway, near major hiking trails. Contact Elizabeth Cook, evenings at 202/265-0747.

### DONATIONS WANTED.

**LAPTOP AND COMPUTER PROJECTOR NEEDED:** The PATC Officers, Staff and Committee Chairpersons need a laptop computer and computer projector which can be used to make presentations at conferences, meetings, and community presentations. Projection at 1024 X 768 desired. If you work for a corporation which might make such a donation, contact Mike Sutherland at msutherland@cox.ir.com or 703/591-8330.

### HIKING OPPORTUNITIES

**HIKE TOKYO, BIKE KYOTO, AND OTHER** bizarre experiences; in 2002 PATC will run its third-ever trip to Japan. Departure will be October 30 for 14 days. Costs should run around \$3,000 per person. This is a hiking trip with intercultural interest, limited to 15 people. Obtain details from trip leader Tom Johnson, 703/281-0798, johnts3@juno.com.

**JOIN IN ON A PATC IRELAND HIKING TOUR ADVENTURE:** Aug. 29 - Sep. 8/9, 2002 (dates may vary slightly). See the magnificent landscape of western Ireland on a 10/11 day hiking tour to "the most Irish" part of Ireland. The tour offers spectacular walking in ancient and unspoiled landscapes in the most fascinating and beautiful areas of County Clare and Galway. Destinations to be visited offer a chance to experience the people, culture, music, and landscape and include such

gems as the mountains of Connemara, the stunning Cliffs of Moher, enchanting Inishboffin Island, the Aran Islands, the dramatic Burren region and much more. Walk rugged mountains that soar above majestic coastlines, tread softly on orchid rich bogs, visit Celtic ruins with expert guides with an in-depth knowledge of Ireland's history, archeology, and culture. (See pictures and Bob Berney's Ireland article in July & Aug 2001 PA about our Apr.-May 2001 Ireland adventure). Price (\$1,600-\$1,800 estimated) to include r/t airfare, ground transfers, guided hikes with included lunches, accommodations with breakfast at guesthouses, most evening meals, and transfer to and from hiking locations. Call or e-mail the PATC trip leader, Joan Burg, 5904 Mount Eagle Drive #1215, Alexandria, VA 22303, 703/960-1026 (joanburg@gis.net) for more details as they firm up. Initial deposit of \$350 to trip leader is required to reserve your space.

**HIKE PATAGONIA!** Join us in an incredible, two week journey to Chile's Torres del Paine National Park and the Lake District. Experience one of the most astounding places on earth. Discover snow-covered peaks, glacial lakes framed by near-vertical granite wall, glaciers, golden grasslands and unbelievable scenery. Itinerary includes 5 days of trekking deep into Torres del Paine staying in double occupancy yurts. In the Lake District we'll stay in lakeside lodges and hike up and explore Osorno Volcano and hike a number of lakes. Two nights in Santiago are included. Estimated cost is \$3,500 for 14 days beginning in late March 2002. Fee covers international and in-country flights, lodging, all meals except for lunch and dinner in Santiago, English-speaking guides, land transfers, park entrance fees and permits, and medical/evacuation insurance. Call Donna Brother 703/435-8315 or Eric Welch at 410/573-9010 or wcsi@erols.com for additional information.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**PROJECT LEADERS/CONSTRUCTION FOREMEN** needed to plan, organize and supervise several restoration projects. The Club owns 2 old (historic?) log cabins that need to be restored so that they can be placed in the Club's cabin rental system. There is also the possibility of the Club obtaining permission from the National Park Service to restore a stone lock house on the C&O Canal to be used for a rental cabin. You don't need to be a construction professional but good building skills and knowledge are desirable. Good management skills are also desirable. What we are looking for is the will and the courage to try. Some help is available in all aspects of the jobs. For info call Charlie Graf at: 410/757-6053 or e-mail cagraf@aol.com.



**PUBLICATIONS CHAIR NEEDS HELP** on a book celebrating the 75th anniversary of PATC. One, two or three people are needed to interview a handful of members who joined the club in the 30s and 40s. Please contact Aaron Watkins at 410/740-7082 or publications@patc.net.

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

**NEEDED: PEOPLE TO HELP PLAN** and conduct our Club events. We are planning a number of events, such as a picnic in SNP summer 2002. We receive many invitations to provide a Club display at other people's activities. Often we just don't have members to attend. If you are willing, please contact Liles Creighton, Membership Secretary at 410/573-0067, lcrei@aol.com or Pat Fankhauser at Club headquarters.

**HELP PATC CELEBRATE ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY** in 2002. Larry Rockwell, Public Affairs, is in charge of planning. INFO: rockwell@usa.redcross.org.

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

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

**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.

**NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT 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, wiley1226@aol.com or 703/242-0693, ext.11.

*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.* ☐

## Trailhead

So far it has been a non-winter this year. A few cold snaps and a lot of above-average temperatures have made for some delightful days and weekends in January. One keeps looking over their shoulder expecting the real winter to show up. Normally trail work in winter is a hit-and-miss affair, but this year, if you are so inclined, has afforded people some real opportunities to enjoy hiking and working on the trails. By March Overseers will be excited about seeing how their trails have fared and begin planning what needs to be done in the coming season.

### Challenge; Suburban Trails

As public interest grows in “getting away from the commercial congestion,” simple outdoor activities such as hiking are becoming more appealing. Local suburban governmental agencies are beginning to recognize and respond to the public’s interest. For example, the Fairfax Cross County Trail and the Potomac Heritage Trail are receiving increased governmental support. Although PATC focuses on trails outside of the suburban area, we have historically maintained a number within it such as the trails in Rock Creek Park, the Bull Run-Occoquan Trail, and the Cabin John Trail. PATC is being approached by these local organizations for advice on trail building and, because of limited resources, asking for volunteer support.



Photos by George Walters

*On to the next one.....*

PATC may decide to become more active in the development of suburban trails. The challenge will involve recruiting additional volunteers, trainers, and crew leaders when we are already in need of trail Overseers and volunteers for our current commitments. A lot of suburban trails are, or will be, located on narrow public greenways along creeks closed to development because of flooding and used for utility right-of-way. This represents a technical challenge for trail design, construction, and maintenance, especially for multi-use trails. As PATC addresses future involvement in suburban trails, think about how you can contribute.

### Annual SNP-PATC Trails Meeting

On Jan. 26, the Shenandoah National Park (SNP) and PATC trails communities met to discuss last year’s accomplishments and plan for the coming year. Shawn Green, SNP Trails Coordinator and recipient of a Special Commendation from PATC last November, was absent due to a sledding accident and is recuperating after surgery to repair vertebral damage. SNP’s Steve Bair reported that Shawn is in good spirits and that his doctors are optimistic for a full recovery. Steve Paull was welcomed as the new District Manager for SNP Central District Side Trails (southern section).

Steve Bair provided an update on Backcountry/Wilderness Management. He and Frank Turk, PATC’s Shelters Chairman, will inspect AT huts this year and develop a joint plan for hut repair where needed. Newly built campsites near the huts have been very popular, and the NPS will be discussing campsite maintenance. It was suggested that the PATC Trail Patrol might be useful as campsite maintainers. The new computerized backcountry reservation system is working well and has proved very useful to the Park Service. Steve also reported that the Park Service will not seek a “chain saw window” this season to allow use of chain saws in designated wilderness areas of the Park.



*Charles Hillon considers getting a bigger saw.*

*See Trailhead, page 23*

*Potomac Appalachian*

*Trailhead, from page 22*

The final dates for the 2002 summer crews and workshops were selected:

Chain Saw Workshop, April 20-21:  
Central District Overseer Workshop,  
June 1-2  
Crew #1 South District, Aug. 4-9  
Crew #2 South District, Aug. 11-16  
Crew #3 Central District, Aug. 19-23  
Crew #4 Central District, Aug. 25-30  
Crew #5 North District, Sept. 2-6  
Crew #6 North District, Sept. 8-13  
North District Overseer Workshop,  
Sept. 14-15

Kerry Snow, PATC Supervisor Of Trails, announced a generous grant from the Appalachian Trail Conference to purchase GripHoist high-line hardware. Kerry also appointed Tool Custodians for the SNP tool caches (got a complaint—contact your favorite custodian):

Front Royal: Bernie Stalman  
Piney River: John McCrea  
Thornton Gap: Dan Dueweke  
Old Rag: Charles Hillon and Dan Dueweke  
Big Meadows: Hal Hallett and Kerry Snow  
Swift Run: Michael Karpie  
Ivy Creek: Michael Karpie  
Simmons Gap: Michael Karpie  
Rockfish: Pete Gatje

PATC District Managers and Crew Leaders and SNP Trails Supervisors reported successful workshops, numerous completed projects, and a generally successful 2001 season of trail work. District Managers were reminded to regularly check cumulative work reports for their districts and to report their own inspection trips.

## Spotsylvania Report

Frank Haas, District Manager for Spotsylvania Battlefield Park trails, reports all is well on the front lines. The trails are frequently used during the spring, summer, and fall and during his inspections Frank has noticed that they are popular during the winter as well. Steve Davis, NPS, reported a number of blowdowns that have kept Frank busy recently. Frank reminds us that they are easier to cut if the saw chain is sharp!

The Lee Drive Trail is flat, has a number of drainage ditches, and has chronically wet spots. In the past, PATC has installed some 20 footbridges over the ditches and wet spots. Overseer Gregg Kanipe has continued these efforts with the help of Boy Scouts working on Merit Badge projects. They recently completed a project that involved linking together about a hundred feet of



*Dan and Hal keepin' rhythm.*

footbridges over a wet section eroded primarily by heavy bicycle traffic. We have been impressed with the help provided by the Scouts and are looking for more projects, says Frank.

## Singing the Saw Song

Question: How does a trail maintainer stay warm in January? Answer: With a melodious crosscut saw. The first Saturday of the New Year found the Blue and White winter crew clearing blowdowns in the Central District wilderness. Tipped off to several recently fallen trees on Corbin Hollow and Cedar Run trails by perennial timber cruiser Mike Dyas, a crew consisting of Dan Dueweke, Alexandra Lampros, Hal Hallett, and Charles Hillon went looking for big wood on a frosty trail.

Unlike the noise and fury of a chainsaw, a large two-person crosscut is almost whisper-quiet. In time, the sawyers develop a rhythmic stroke and the chisel-sharp teeth begin to sing. The song is different for each saw and is probably a function of tooth length and the grain and condition of the wood. To keep that rhythm, some sawyers have been known to break into their own song ("I've been workin' on the railroad"). Before long, a pile of sawdust has collected beneath the kerf and you're through the log. Just for the record, Dan and Hal timed their cut through a solid seasoned oak 26" in diame-

ter – five minutes. Mostly though, a crosscut saw is a shared tool, and everybody had an opportunity to keep warm.

Crosscut saws have also been responsible for a lot of bad memories. Just ask any sawyer who's ever used a dull one. Although it's supposed to remove sawdust by cutting, many trail maintainers have tried to use saws as a friction device and got blistered hands into the bargain. Enter Charles Rudicille, SNP South District Ranger, who was trained by the Forest Service to sharpen saws and is currently honing PATC's collection of crosscut saws. He's an artist with a saw file and can tune a crosscut saw like it was a Stradivarius. Which is maybe why our saws

*See Trailhead, page 20*

### POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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# TRAIL, SHELTER and CORRIDOR OVERSEERS/MONITORS WANTED

WANTED 2/4/2002

**DISTRICT MANAGER**

**CONTACT KERRY SNOW, 301/295-5084**

**Email: KerrySnow@telocity.com**

**DISTRICT MANAGER, MASSANUTTEN SOUTH**

**TRAIL OVERSEERS**

**Trail Overseer Openings.**

**Contact the District Manager for the section that interests you.**

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

CALL ED MCKNEW, 540/622-6004

E-mail: emcknew@aol.com

**Manassas Gap Shelter Trail**

AT to Manassas Gap Shelter (0.10 miles)

**ASHBY GAP /SNP AT & BB – MAP 8, 9 (RTE. 638 TO SNP)**

CALL LLOYD PARRIOTT, 540/622-2743

E-mail: laparriott@hotmail.com

**Appalachian Trail**

Denton Shelter to Powerline (1.2 miles)

**SNP NORTH AT - MAP 9**

CALL JOHN MCCREA AT, 610/352-9287

E-mail: mcreajf@aol.com

**Appalachian Trail**

Beahms Gap to Pass Mountain Trail (1.9 miles)

**SNP NORTH BLUE-BLAZED - MAP 9**

CALL BERNIE STALMANN, 301/725-8876

Email: Bstalmann@aol.com

**Pass Mountain Hut Trail**

AT to hut (.2 mile)

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

CALL DAN DUEWEKE AT 703/266-3248

E-mail: danjan@fcc.net

**Corbin Mt. Trail [co-overseer]**

Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fire Road (4.40 miles)

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

CALL STEVE PAULL AT 703/830-2986

E-mail: Steve.paull@herndon.ocs-us.com

**Bearfence Loop [Scramble]**

Skyline drive to AT (.8 mile)

**Staunton River (upper)**

Fork Mt. Fireroad to Jones Mt. Trail (1.5 miles)

**McDaniel Hollow Trail**

Staunton River Trail to Jones Mt. Trail (.4 mile)

**SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZED (MAP #11)**

CALL PETE GATJE, 434/361-1309

Email: pjgatje@aol.com

**Rocky Mount Trail**

Intersection of Gap Run [upper] to summit (1.2 miles)

**Rocky Mount Trail**

Summit of Gap Run [lower](2 miles)

**Trayfoot Trail [Co-overseer]**

Skyline Drive to summit (1.8 mile)

**Trayfoot Trail**

Second summit to Paine Run Trail (2.6 miles)

**TUSCARORA SOUTH – MAP F, G, 9**

CALL RICK RHOADES, 540/477-3247

E-mail: RRhoades@shentel.net

**Tuscarora Trail**

Mill Mountain Trail to White Rocks Trail (2.90 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail**

Sherman Gap Trail to Veach Gap (3.10 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail**

Rock marker to Massanutten West Trail (1.5 miles)

**MASSANUTTEN SOUTH – MAP #H**

CALL BILL SCHMIDT, 301/585-2477

E-mail: wmschmidt@aol.com

**Massanutten Mt. South Trail**

TV Tower to Pitt Spring (3.40 miles)

**Massanutten Mt. South Trail**

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (3.3 miles)

**Fridley Gap Trail**

VA 868 to Cub Run (2.60 miles)

**GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN – MAP F**

CALL HOP LONG, 301/942-6177

E-mail: mgrgnmd@hotmail.com

**Mill Mountain Trail**

Big Schloss Cutoff Trail to the Tuscarora Trail (3.3 miles)

**SUBURBAN MARYLAND – MAP D**

CALL LILES CREIGHTON, 410/573-0067

E-mail: lcrei@aol.com

**Northern Peaks West Trail**

Picnic area of Sugar Loaf to 1020 Elevation Marker

**Ford Mine Trail**

Maintenance area to maintenance area (.5 mile)

**Cabin John Trail**

River road to Bradley Blvd. (1.5 miles)



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