



# The Potomac Appalachian

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

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## 76 Years of Service

### The AT: Born of National and Personal Despair

Sometimes people aren't motivated to improve themselves until they hit rock bottom. The same might be said for societies and countries. A case in point is found in the story behind the creation of the Appalachian Trail.

It's hard to find a thru-hiker or friend of the trail who doesn't know that a forester named Benton MacKaye is credited with originating the idea of a national trail along the ridges of the Appalachians. His article, *An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning*, published in the October 1921 issue of the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, is recognized today as the seed from which the trail we now hike slowly grew.

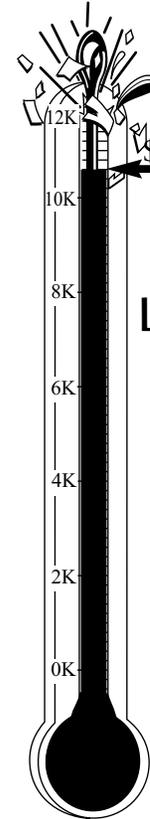
But what isn't so well known is what prompted MacKaye to write. Sure, he loved the outdoors in general and hiking in particular, but a reading of MacKaye's article shows that he had more in mind than just proposing a way for his countrymen to get out and get some fresh air and sunshine – his proposal was made in response to a national sense of dismay, malaise, and despair.

"The problem of living is at bottom an economic one," MacKaye wrote in his article. "And this alone is bad enough, even in a period of so-called 'normalcy.' But living has been considerably complicated of late in various ways – by war, by questions of personal liberty, and by 'menaces' of one kind or another. There have been created bitter antagonisms. We are undergoing also the bad combination of high prices and unemployment. This situation is worldwide – the result of a worldwide war."

It's easy to read these words and miss their full meaning. In fact, in our modern and comfortable world it is difficult to imagine the hopelessness of 1921, a sense of defeat that touched every aspect of American society.

Just two years earlier American doughboys returned triumphant from the trenches of France, having beaten Germany's war machine and deposed Kaiser Bill. But the flush of victory turned sour. The war that started in 1914 devastated all of Europe. Germany, which had been unable even to

See MacKaye, page 8



\$10,875 - Feb. 4

**Land Acquisition  
Fund  
Exceeds  
\$10,000**

*For more information on  
this drive, please see the  
article on page 4.*

### K9 Trailblazers Tackle Tough Great Falls Trails

We wondered if people would bail when they saw the weather forecast, but all 12 hardy hikers and their dogs came well prepared and eager to hike on Jan. 17.

Hike leaders for the day were Jeff with Katy and Pat with Mickey. We welcomed newcomers Ruth and Mike with Shu who came dressed for the weather! Lisa and Chuck brought Jester in his winter coat; and Sarah and Eric came with Toby and Poppy, who wore their winter coats as well. Also joining us today were Mary with Casper; Alice with Diva; Karen with Loki; and Shirley with Princess. We braced ourselves against the stiff winds as we did the meet and greet. We all drank water and stashed Alice's Dove chocolates and the K9TB Tootsie Pops (to keep our inner furnaces going against the 19-degree temperature) in our pockets and packs before

setting out on the River Trail along the Potomac.

We hiked up and over the icy rocks along the cliff above Mather Gorge to Cow Hoof Rock, where we took a water break and watched kayakers threading their way through the ice on the Potomac. We continued on to the Difficult Run trail where we took a side trip to see the small frozen falls and where Sarah shared homemade peanut butter cookies with everyone, including a couple of dogs whose owners just couldn't refuse their pleading eyes. After everyone was fed and hydrated, and getting cold again, we started back up the icy rocks to the trail and then set out at a brisk pace for Matildaville, which had been a very busy town until the canal closed. Built in 1790 under the guidance of Washington's friend

See K9, page 5

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## Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

### Officers

**President:** Tom Johnson (johns3@juno.com)  
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Weekends, Front Royal, ph. 540/622-6422  
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**VP Operations:** Fred "Hop" Long  
**Treasurer:** Gerhard Salinger  
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**Supervisor of Membership:** Susan Nelson  
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**Supervisor of Facilities:** Larry Marcoux  
**Supervisor of Education, Information, and Activities:** Lisa Still

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**SMRG:** Christopher Smith  
**Ski Touring Section:** Bert Finkelstein  
**North Chapter:** Pete Brown  
**N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** Lee Sheaffer  
**S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** John Held  
**Charlottesville Chapter:** John Shannon  
**West Virginia Chapter:** Judy Smoot

### Standing Committee Chairs

#### (Council Members)

**AT Corridor Monitoring:** Tom Lupp  
**Blackburn Trail Center:** Chris Brunton  
**Budget:** David White  
**Cabins Operations:** Mel Merritt  
**Cabin Construction:** Charlie Graf  
**Conservation:** Jeff Pearcy  
**Grants & Donations:** Susan Nelson  
**Endowment:** Don Price  
**Finance:** Gerhard Salinger  
**Hikes:** Karen Brown & Lee Sheaffer  
**Internet Services:** Stephen Raia  
**Land Management:** Chris Mangold, csm5749@yahoo.com  
**Legal:** Charles Sloan  
**Maps:** Dave Pierce  
**Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee:** Charlie Graf  
**Potomac Appalachian:** Linda Shannon-Beaver  
**Public Affairs:** George Still  
**Publications:** George Meek  
**Sales:** Vacant  
**Shelters:** Frank Turk  
**Trail Lands Acquisition:** Phil Paschall  
**Trail Patrol:** Holly Wheeler  
**Tuscarora Trail Land Management:** Vacant

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**Archives & Library:** Carol Niedzialek  
**Cabin Reservations:** Shakuntala Ghare  
**Communications Team:** Vacant  
**Deputy Finance Committee Chair:** John Ferguson  
**Deputy Supervisor of Trails:** Jon Rindt  
**Headquarters Facility:** Orron Kee  
**Information/Sales Desks:** Annetta DePompa  
**Medical:** Vacant  
**Shelters, Cabins, & Cabins Land Fund:** Larry Marcoux  
**SNP Boundary Trailheads Study Group:** Mark Holland  
**Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project:** Phoebe Kilby & Larry Bradford

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**Chief Editor:** Linda Shannon-Beaver  
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**Features Editor:** Joanne Erickson  
**Forecast Editor:** Suzie Shannon  
PA-Forecast@patc.net

## Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council Meeting was held at club headquarters on Jan. 13, 2004. President Tom Johnson noted the passing of Phil Barringer, former PATC president, on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2004, after a long illness. Tom remarked that Phil Barringer gets a large part of the credit for PATC's involvement in urban Washington trails, including the hiking trails in Rock Creek and the Potomac Heritage Trail. Phil leaves a legacy that continues to shape much of what the club does today.

Administrator Wilson Riley noted two recent donations to the club. The Sons of Norway granted \$250 to PATC for unrestricted use. The Sons of Norway, through the good offices of our mutual member Richard Nelson, recycles the stamps removed from envelopes sent to headquarters for resale to stamp collectors. Allan Gould donated \$500 to PATC for use on the Tuscarora Trail. Mr. Gould is a resident of the UK and worked on the Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew in the summer. At Pete Brown's suggestion, Mr. Gould hiked the Tuscarora Trail and submitted a report on conditions he found. Wilson also noted the Land Acquisition Fund Drive had received donations from 89 persons totaling \$9,775. Donors from Virginia (including the District) and Maryland accounted for 53 and 27 percent of the total, respectively. The remaining 20 percent came from donors in 10 states, some as far away as Wyoming, Arizona, and Texas.

Wilson announced that a power failure caused heat loss throughout the headquarters building on Jan. 9. The power was restored later the same night and the furnace restarted for the second floor. The furnace for the first floor remains out of service. It will require replacement of the heat exchanger at a cost of \$4,000.

### Trails and Lands

Supervisor of trails Liles Creighton reported two instances of vandalism to checkdams and waterbars along the AT in Maryland. In some better news, PATC's Maryland district manager Rick Cantor obtained a donation of \$400 for tools. And Liles reported a general need for trail crew leaders.

### Finance

Treasurer Salinger distributed the monthly budget report for December 2003, announcing some relatively good news: The deficit for 2003 amounted to \$15,540, not the \$64,000 as projected at the start of the year. Gerhard briefly reviewed details for 2003 revenue and expenses. Regarding the audit, he would be meeting with the auditor shortly, work on the audit in February, and report to the Council in March.

### Other Business

*Hikes Committee:* Karen Brown has submitted an incident report form for PATC hikes

*See Council Fire, page 3*

### HEADQUARTERS

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

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

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

**Phone #:** 703/242-0315 24-hr. Activities Tape #: 703/242-0965

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

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

**Club e-mail:** info@patc.net

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

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

### STAFF

#### DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

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

**Trails Management Coordinator:** Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) e-mail: hforrest@patc.net

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

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

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

**Bus/Metro Directions to Headquarters:** For more information about Metrobus routes or Metrorail lines, schedules, fares, and parking fees, call the Metro at 202/637-7000. The TDD number is 202/638-3780.

## Tom's Trail Talk

### Too Fancy?

You have been backpacking for 15 miles over rough terrain. It is drawing toward twilight but your PATC map says that a shelter is just up ahead. What does your mind see when you try to conjure up this as-yet-unseen shelter?

The AT has been defined as a "primitive foot-path." Just how primitive do we want it to be? There isn't much you can do about the steepness of the path, the rocks and brambles, or the weather. Just about the only thing PATC can control is the sleeping accommodations.

Over the years the club has gradually improved on its "accommodations." Originally the only standard was a roof over your head that didn't leak too badly. But as the years went by, the club shelter crew slowly improved on its offerings. I'm told that the shelter that broke the mold was the Jim and Molly Denton Shelter (pictured at right - top), completed in 1988, which introduced new luxuries. A large deck, a relatively comfortable bench for lounging, a covered eating pavilion, even a cold-water shower! It has been named the PATC Hilton, and with good reason. Hikers try to end their daily walk at the Denton Shelter if they can. It has become a destination of sorts.

Also pictured (at right, bottom) is another shelter, built to a different standard. The Gravel Springs hut in Shenandoah National Park is the type of shelter preferred by ATC. It provides the basics - a roof over your head in a three-sided lean-to type of structure. Considerable dispute has arisen between ATC and some of the trail-maintaining clubs regarding shelter standards. I need your vote. Which direction do you want the club to go? Contact me at [president@patc.net](mailto:president@patc.net). A short, pithy answer is better than a long-winded tome. (I expect to have to read a lot of e-mails.) □

—Tom



*Jim and Molly Denton Shelter, completed in 1988, is considered the PATC Hilton.*



*The Gravel Springs hut in Shenandoah National Park is the type of shelter preferred by ATC.*

### **Council Fire, from page 2**

to legal counsel Chuck Sloan for review. If approved, the form may be suitable for other PATC activities and events as well.

**Cabins:** Mel Merritt reported the Johnson cabin would be in the rental system soon; completion of work was delayed by snow. He briefly noted some of the renovations the National Park Service would undertake, at a cost of \$80,000, to the Rock Spring Cabin. Much of the cost is due to historical and conservation considerations for the CCC-built structure. A cabin overseers meeting is scheduled for April 3 at Blackburn Center.

**SMRG:** John Luck reported that SMRG participated in a search over New Years Day and the following two days for a missing five-year-old boy, whose body was recovered. Critical stress debriefing was available to participating SMRG members.

**Blackburn Center:** Chris Brunton announced the caretakers planned to continue for another year.

**Maps:** Dave Pierce advised Council he had revised graphics in the following publications: the Western MD guidebook, the Cabins booklet, and the Four State Circuit Hikes book. □

—Georgeann Smale, Secretary



## PATC's Volunteer of the Year: Bob Pickett

Last November PATC's Bob Pickett was honored for his longstanding contributions to the club. His resumé is so long that our newsletter doesn't have room for it. But those who know Bob are well acquainted with his many club activities.

Bob Pickett is PATC's informally designated naturalist. He writes a monthly column in the *PA* discussing natural phenomena of every sort that a hiker might experience in the Midatlantic States. He has written a publication about the geological development of the central Appalachians. But the activity that most people recognize as uniquely Bob's is his many natural history hikes. These include topics on geology, biology, botany, birding, and in fact almost anything to do with nature. His herpetological bent has driven him to pick up timber rattlers by the tail. He can be seen breaking rotten logs apart to find insects in various stages of development. He has been known to scoop up frog egg masses from stagnant swamp water (the finest kind of water) to

find future tadpoles. He zigs and zags off the trail in search of a spring wildflower of a certain type. He bushwhacks off the beaten path to discover rare and crowd-pleasing geologic formations, or world-record mountain laurels. When he finds what he is looking for, he turns to his assembled hikers with a pleased grin. Bob has been doing this for many years.

More recently, he has headed up a committee that is planning for natural history programs for the Lambert Tract, which is owned by Darwin and Eileen Lambert. Darwin Lambert, who was the first employee of Shenandoah National Park, and his wife Eileen own a 60-acre tract abutting the park. They have asked PATC to develop the property to demonstrate the kind of "forest camp" activities that Benton MacKaye advocated when he first planned the AT. This major undertaking has already resulted in the beginnings of forest agriculture, and Bob has begun leading, on the property, nature expeditions

that demonstrate man's relationship with the natural world.

Bob Pickett brings expertise to PATC. A Smithsonian Zoo employee, he calls on his extensive contacts in the scientific community to bring expertise to the club's natural and environmental activities. He is increasingly called upon to evaluate the club's activities as they affect the ecology of trail lands and the tracts owned by the club. His selection as Volunteer of the Year underlines PATC's growing concern with preservation of the environment. Bob will help us be more conscious of our impact on the land and the living things on the land. It is a role that the club's founders envisioned 76 years ago. Only now are we returning to the roots of our existence, the careful education of hikers, trail maintainers, and the general public about our natural heritage. □

—Tom Johnson



*Ice on the Potomac.*

*K9, from page 1*

"Lighthorse Harry" Lee, also a hero of the Revolutionary War, Matildaville died after the B&O Railroad replaced the canal as the means of moving people and goods West, and now only a few foundations remain.

After walking around the area of the town, we visited Lock #1 of the old canal, and then headed back to the Visitor Center to see the Great Falls, which were thick with ice. We also saw the totem pole showing the dates and levels reached by various floods. We were disappointed

that our recent storm, Isabel, was not listed. But when we saw the levels reached by the really BIG floods we understood.

This was a challenging hike! Thanks, Mike, for stepping forward to offer a hand to those of us who found maneuvering down a steep step, from one icy rock to another with a leashed dog, was easier with a helping hand. And thanks to everyone who kept us laughing with silly sayings and silly songs. We saw very few people on the trails, but we were glad to be there, and the dogs loved it, too. □

—Pat Fuhrer



*Hiking along Mather Gorge.*

## In Memoriam, Philip E. Barringer

*PATC Member 1972 to Jan. 11, 2004*

Phil, president of the club from 1990 to 1991, died Jan. 11, at age 87, from complications of a series of pulmonary embolisms. Phil was introduced to PATC by his son who had a three-mile section of trail from VA55/725 to Manassas Gap Shelter, but eventually didn't have time to take care of it. Phil took it over and became very active in the club's trail work and soon came to the forefront in leading trail restoration and construction in Archbald-Glover, then on to Rock Creek Park. PATC's first work trip in Rock Creek Park was in 1977. Phil developed a wide following of crew members and soon had the trails in Rock Creek Park turned into a first-class trail system. That was quite a feat considering the many miles of trails there. From there he went after the Potomac Heritage Trail, then Cabin John Creek Trail, then the Bull Run-Occoquan Creek Trails. During those years he was appointed assistant supervisor of trails for D.C. His work caught the attention of PATC officers and he was named

2nd vice president in 1986 and 1st vice president in 1987 for three years and, following that, as club president. When his term expired he was named to the ATC Board of Managers where he took on corridor monitoring, as well as his section, and in 2000, Phil was awarded Honorary Life Membership. It was during Phil's term as president that PATC was searching for a new location for headquarters, and he played a significant role in locating the headquarters in Vienna. Phil also had a role in giving the Cadillac Crew its name. In the '90s, the Supervisor of trails led a relocation work-trip on Phil's section of trail. Phil wanted first to blaze it for the thru-hikers soon to come and go back later to do the treadwork but Don said that was not the best thing to do. With a little frustration, he said, "Don, you all are building this to Cadillac standards." And the crew name stuck.

After graduating from Princeton, Phil served in the Army during WWII and, after receiving his law degree, as a very high-ranking military officer on various negotiating teams

overseas and in the Allied occupation of Germany. Besides PATC, other interests included a chamber music group where he was an accomplished musician, playing bassoon; and serving as director of The Barringer Crater Co. in Flagstaff, Ariz., established after a meteor crater was discovered by his father. □

—Carol Niedzialek

A memorial service for Phil will be at River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, 6301 River Road, at 2 p.m., March 19.

His wife Bettyann Rusen died on Jan. 27. There will be a memorial service for her on March 20, 2 p.m., at Tenley Library, 4450 Wisconsin Avenue, corner of Albermarle and Wisconsin Avenues, Washington, D.C.

Both Phil and Betty had deep roots in the trail club, and any and all PATC members are invited. □

### Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol

Presents

## Hike Leadership Training

May 22 and 23, 2004

The Trail Patrol is hosting a Hike Leadership Training course on May 22 and 23 at Prince William Forest Park. The two-day course uses classroom and hands-on instruction to teach participants the essential skills for leading safe, enjoyable hikes with minimal environmental impact.

The topics to be covered include: **Medical Emergencies, Planning, Personal Equipment, Leave No Trace, Leadership Skills, Standard Procedures, Emergency Procedures, and Navigation and Map Reading.**

For more information contact Ben Fernandez at 703/327-9788 or 3ferns@adelphia.net. □

### Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol presents

## BACKPACKING 101

An Introductory Backpacking 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. 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.

**INTRODUCTION NIGHT:** April 12, 2004 (Monday), 7:30-9:30, PATC Headquarters, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Va.

**INSTRUCTIONAL WEEKEND:** April 17 - 18, 2003, 8:00 a.m. Sat. - 4:00 p.m. Sun. Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, Va. (Sat. overnight car camping in group campground is encouraged but not required.)

**OVERNIGHT BACKPACKING TRIP:** May 1 - 2, 2004 (Sat. - Sun.) Trip destination and times TBD.

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

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact John Browne: 703/425-5645, e-mail: back2\_packing@cox.net. □

### Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol

Presents

## Leave No Trace Trainers Course

March 29 and April 3 - 4, 2004

This course is designed for those who want to better understand Leave No Trace (LNT) skills and ethics and help others understand their impact on the backcountry.

You will have opportunities to learn about the impact of your choices in the backcountry, to practice minimizing your impact, and to gain confidence in helping others understand LNT skills and ethics.

After completing the course you will be a certified LNT trainer. It is our hope that you will be willing to give LNT presentations to community groups if your schedule permits.

#### Indoor classroom instruction:

Mon., March 29, 7:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

#### Outdoor Instruction:

(low-mileage backpacking weekend):

Sat. - Sun. April 3 - 4, SNP

**Fee: \$30 (non-refundable)**

Includes course material

For more information or to register

(required), please e-mail

Anniell Miller at amill1@yahoo.com

or call 703/250-8113 (before 11p.m.) □

## A Tribute to Ruth E. Blackburn

*PATC Member 1940 to Jan. 12, 2004*

Ruth, whose contributions to the club for over half a century will forever be remembered, died in Prescott, Ariz., at the age of 97. Her son, who lives in Prescott, brought her there in 1996 to recuperate from a broken hip, a result of being knocked down a year earlier by a bicyclist on the Capital Crescent Trail. She spent a long time recovering from that accident.

Both Ruth and her husband Fred had been very active in PATC, Fred since 1929. They were married in 1930. Both served as presidents of the club, Ruth from 1965 to 1967, but this was only one of the many leadership positions she held in the club. Ruth's contributions to PATC, ATC, and the AT spanned more than half a century. Ruth's life illustrated the changing role of women in the last century. She was a housewife and mother for many years, and during this time she supported Fred in his activities for PATC. When her children were well into school, she began participating more in PATC activities. After Fred retired, Ruth increased her activities and became active in national issues, with Fred's support.

Among her early activities was participation in cabin work trips, leading excursions, the Program Committee, checking trail data for guidebooks, and serving as general secretary from 1959 to 1963.

About 1953, the issue came up of turning the C&O Towpath into a highway. Fred was closely involved in opposing this project and most likely Ruth involved herself on this issue. She worked tirelessly on many other issues; one was establishing wilderness areas in SNP. Another was researching courthouse records in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, as to who owned land next to the AT in PATC's region. Much of the AT was forced onto the road for long distances, and shelters were forced to be removed. The records she collected were most helpful in the land acquisition project. She was very good at including others in activities and getting them involved.

Relocations around the Mt. Weather area were particularly bad, and Project 601 was created. In the 1980s, Bear Den property became available, and again it was through her diligence that this property was acquired.

Ruth spent an enormous amount of time and legwork on Project 601, reflecting her concern for the AT and her strong feelings about trail issues. During Council discussions of trail issues she frequently reminded Council members that they had to do what was best for the AT.

During Ruth's presidency, PATC Council endorsed the National Trails Bill in 1967, and PATC's past presidents testified before Congress. The bill, which was passed in 1968, provided for federal protection of the AT. After her term as president, Ruth was elected to the ATC Board of Managers, and she became an activist in that capacity. Later she was elected chairman of ATC.

In 1967, because of landowner problems in Pennsylvania, ATC approved creation of an alternate route for the AT. Fred and Ruth together scouted for a new trail route in the 1970s. This evolved into the Big Blue Trail that later was renamed the Tuscarora Trail. The section between SNP and the Potomac was completed in 1981, the last blaze being painted by Fred.

During Ruth's term as president, Sexton Cabin burned for the second time, and both Ruth and Fred participated in reconstruction. Ruth's persistence with Maryland DNR officials brought about the creation of the Maryland AT Management Committee; from 1984 to 1990 Ruth served either as chair or secretary.

In the mid-1980s, the U.S. secretary of the interior cited Ruth for being the single most influential volunteer in shaping the successful National Park Service trail protection program.

After Fred's death in 1990, Ruth's activities slowed down a good bit. In 1994, the National Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails nominated her to the Honor Roll of people essential to the creation of the National Trails System.

Besides her dynamic work for the AT, she also had a warm and friendly personality that endeared her to members of the club. □

—Carol Niedzialek



### *Hiker's Notebook*

**Common Name:** ground pine, club moss.

**Scientific Name:** *Lycopodium obscurum* (from Greek *lukos* meaning wolf and *podos* meaning foot as the branch tips look like a wolf's paw; *obscurum* is Latin for dark and shady, which refers to the wooded areas where it grows).

The *Lycopodium* or ground pine is a small terrestrial evergreen that looks like a miniature pine tree with small scaly leaves and grows in patches in shady areas.

**Potpourri:** The spores of the ground pine give off a flash when ignited. They were therefore used in early photography as a means to create the intense light flash needed for film exposure. The spores were also used in the pharmaceutical industry as an ingredient in soothing powders for wounds and as a coating to keep pills from sticking together.

*Lycopodium* spores are very small and remarkably uniform in size. They are available in tablets containing about 14,000 spores each. They are used as a known volumetric quantity in aqueous solutions as a means to calculate pollen concentration by counting the number of pollen grains relative to the number of spores in a given area.

The genus *Lycopodium* and its relatives in the division Lycopodiophyta or club mosses (such as *Diphysiatum complanatum* or ground cedar) represent one of the most ancient classes of vascular land plants, which evolved about 380 million years ago. Members of this group of plants included giant trees that, along with ferns, were deposited during the Carboniferous Period to form the basis for much of the coal and oil fields that provide most of the energy being consumed in the current Quaternary Period. □

—William Needham

Visit the *Hiker's Notebook* Web site at:  
[mwrop.org/W\\_Needham/h\\_notebook.html](http://mwrop.org/W_Needham/h_notebook.html)

*MacKaye, from page 1*

feed its people in the war, now found itself dismembered and saddled with crushing reparations. England and France exhausted their treasuries in the fight and had survived economically only through American loans – loans that ended with the armistice. Now they discovered that their harsh revenge rendered their foe unable to pay them so that they were unable to repay the United States. To common Americans, this meant a 40 percent drop in foreign trade between 1920 and 1921.

### **The American Plight**

But this wasn't the worst of the news. The homegrown economy was also in the tank. Never before in the 20th century had Americans seen a depression as deep as the one that struck in 1921. National debt that was a scandalous \$1.2 billion in 1914 had risen to \$24 billion that year.

Out in the American heartland, disaster settled in. Using 1914 farm prices as an index of 100, net farm income fell from a 1919 high of 219 to just 185 in 1920, and then sank like a stone to a mere 85 in 1921. Cotton that sold for 40 cents per pound in 1920 fetched only 10 cents per pound at the 1921 market. Farm journals of that year frequently served their rural audience a literary diet of articles on how to file and deal with the trauma of bankruptcy.

Things were no better in the city, where (according to the 1920 census) a majority of the nation now lived. Non-farm unemployment rose from 2.3 percent in 1919 to 11.9 percent in 1921. Americans who kept their jobs found their real wages depressed by as much as 20 percent.

Even when wages didn't fall, inflation lowered their worth. Henry Ford made history in 1914 by offering his factory workers wages of \$5 per day. By 1921, that same wage was worth only \$2.40 in real money. In that same period, a pound of bread rose in price from 7 cents to 11.5 cents; 10 pounds of potatoes that had cost 15 cents now cost 63 cents. Overall, prices across the economy had doubled between 1914 and 1920. Factory wages didn't.

Life expectancy was only 54 years for Americans, perhaps due to the poor living conditions found in their newly urbanized environment. More than a million children between ages 10 and 15 worked full time, often in dangerous factories. According to government studies, as many as a third of all Americans lived in substandard housing – and this was as judged against the primitive housing standards of that day. Industrial pollution was found to have reduced sunlight reaching New York City residents by some 20 percent. Smokestack-rich Cleveland received 50 percent less sunlight.

MacKaye's fellow prophet of "regional planning," Lewis Mumford, wrote of this period that "we have the alternative of humanizing the

industrial city or dehumanizing the population. So far, we have dehumanized the population."

Americans in 1921 were polarized by race, class, and religion to a degree that is unimaginable today. Socially, the Ku Klux Klan was a newly resurgent and influential force. More than 300 black Americans were killed in a single race riot in Oklahoma City. Lynchings were neither uncommon nor universally condemned. An anti-lynching law passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in 1922 died in the Senate.

Perhaps because of the economic downturn, Americans were opposed to immigration as they had not been since the anti-Chinese feelings of the late 19th century. The golden age of Ellis Island came to an abrupt end in 1920 as Congress in 1921 passed anti-immigration legislation to protect the country against "aliens and alien philosophies."

Militant unionism was on the rise, even after the virtual destruction of the Industrial Workers of the World by the federal government only two years before, and both strikers and strike breakers used violence to reach their aims. In 1921 two Italian-born anarchists, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were convicted in a still-controversial trial for the robbery and murder of a South Braintree, Mass., shoe factory paymaster and guard. Ultimately executed for the crime, opinions over the two men's fate represented the deep divide in the country. Novelist John Dos Passos noted this schism when he angrily wrote of the trial and sentence: "All right, now we are two nations."

### **Planners are Concerned**

Even after decades of social, economic, and political reform movements in the United States, things obviously were not turning out the way Americans had hoped. Architects, landscape engineers, social workers, and societal critics had been trying in earnest to make American cities more livable since the 1902 publication of "Garden Cities of Tomorrow," by England's Ebenezer Howard, which gave new life to City Planning.

Despite the official and unofficial planners' best efforts, American cities did not improve so much as they merely spread – both outward into suburbs and upward in skyscrapers that topped 600 feet in New York. The men and women who were trying to improve the quality of American life slowly recognized that a more comprehensive approach was needed. It is to MacKaye's credit that he was among the first to give voice to this realization and blazed a trail, so to speak, in regional planning.

In his article, MacKaye urged the trail project not so much to provide a place for hikers to enjoy natural beauty, but as an antidote to the dismal state of urban society. He believed this trail would act as a magnet for reversing the rural-to-urban population flow so that some

40,000 over-burdened city residents would be persuaded to create small self-sufficient communities connected by the common thread of a ridge crest trail from Mt. Mitchell, N.C., to Mt. Washington, N.H.

Regardless of the original intent, the result of "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning," was to spur trails and hiking clubs in New England and the Mid-atlantic states to coordinate their diverse efforts into a "master trail" that brought MacKaye's vision into reality. Population trends in the Eastern United States did not reverse, and no chain of communal trail communities ever developed as he envisioned; but within two years, the first stretch of footpath designated as part of this new Appalachian Trail was opened in southern New York state. By the summer of 1937 there was a continuous trail linked together from Maine to Georgia.

### **MacKaye Receives Solace**

As much as publishing his article helped the trail, it did at least as much for MacKaye. He was quickly vaulted from obscurity in the U.S. Forest Service to the forefront of what came to be known as the Regional Planning movement. He solidified his reputation with a 1928 book, "The New Exploration: The Philosophy of Regional Planning." MacKaye was appointed in the 1930s to serve on the Regional Planning Commission for the Tennessee Valley Authority, and in the 1940s served on a similar board for the Rural Electrification Administration.

Reading MacKaye's words, it becomes apparent that he would not have formulated his idea had social and economic conditions been better. Not so well known is the fact that MacKaye's friends (including the publisher of the magazine that carried his article) had urged him as a form of therapy to put on paper the ideas he discussed with them. They wanted to help him recover from a deep personal depression that had dogged him since his wife leapt from a bridge to a watery death in New York's East River.

It is odd to think today that this granddaddy of long-distance hiking trails that have proven a source of pleasure and inspiration for so many was started in response to national depression and personal tragedy. The Trail we hike may not have developed as MacKaye had planned, and it may not have come into being for the reasons he espoused, but it did come into being.

The AT continues to capture the national imagination in ways MacKaye may never have imagined, and all because when things looked thoroughly bleak for himself and his society one person had the courage and vision to tell us all that things could get better. □

—George Still

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# Protecting PATC Volunteers Under Federal Law

The primary purpose of this article is to highlight major protections for volunteers in connection with all club activities. Federal laws provide protection for volunteers working on projects on federal lands and immunize volunteers from all but the most egregious forms of negligence. PATC volunteers should have no liability concerns with honest mistakes and reasonable judgments they make.

## VIP, VIF, and VPA Acts

Virtually identical, the first two laws address when PATC volunteers can be considered “federal employees.” The Volunteers in the Parks Act (VIP) covers PATC activities in areas administered by the National Park Service (Shenandoah National Park, Great Falls, Catoctin, C&O Canal, and along sections of the AT, among others); and the Volunteers in the Forests Act (VIF) covers PATC activities in the George Washington National Forest. The third law, the Volunteer Protection Act (VPA) overrides state law and limits volunteer liability and damages.

## VIP And VIF: Volunteers as Federal Employees

These statutes authorize the secretary of the interior (Park Service) and the secretary of agriculture (Forest Service) to accept “the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers.” These laws, therefore, cover PATC volunteer activities, such as trail and shelter work trips, on federally owned or protected lands.

Volunteers are obviously not regular federal employees. However, under these laws, they are federal employees for three purposes.

*1. Injuries.* Volunteers are employees for purposes of the federal Worker’s Compensation Act and can receive compensation for work injuries. While claims by the trail community have been limited, this coverage is clearly valuable for emergency medical expenses and for persons without adequate health insurance.

*2. Tort liability.* Volunteers are also federal employees for purposes of the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA). The United States normally cannot be sued for damages caused by the negligence of its employees. However, under the FTCA, the U.S. has waived its immunity. Civil actions can be filed in federal court for damages “caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the government while acting within the scope of his office or employment;” and the “law of the place where the act or omission occurred” is applied (e.g. Virginia law applies in Virginia, etc.).

If a lawsuit were filed based on volunteer negligence, the United States would defend it just as it would defend suits involving regular federal employees. Moreover, because PATC volunteers are also often “government entity” volunteers under the VPA (discussed below) and because the VPA limits a volunteer’s liability under state law, the VPA would affect and likely limit any volunteer exposure under the FTCA.

*3. Personal property.* Claims can be filed for “damage to, or loss of, personal property of a volunteer incident to volunteer service” where the claim is substantiated, possession of the property was reasonable or useful, and the loss was not caused by any negligent or wrongful act of the employee. For example, recovery may be warranted if a tree fell on a volunteer’s vehicle during a work trip. While recovery is discretionary

with the federal agency, recovery would presumably be approved where a regular federal employee would be compensated for a similar loss.

## VPA: Limiting Volunteer Liability Under State Laws

According to the VPA’s legislative history, one of every six volunteers declined to provide services because of potential exposure to liability suits; and nonprofit organizations had eliminated programs or had volunteers resign for that reason. These concerns certainly apply to PATC.

The VPA encourages volunteering by immunizing persons from liability in connection with volunteer work and also limiting their exposure to damages. The VPA does this primarily by preempting or overriding state laws to the contrary and applies equally to nonprofit organizations like PATC and government entities. The three sections that follow address the scope of the VPA’s liability protection, the fourth section discusses state law preemption, and the last section concerns damages.

*1. Volunteer liability protection.* Subject to conditions (discussed in sections 2 and 3 below), “no volunteer of a nonprofit organization or governmental entity shall be liable for harm caused by an act or omission of the volunteer” if four criteria are met. They are:

\* *The volunteer was acting within the “scope of the volunteer’s responsibilities in the nonprofit organization or governmental entity.”* Note that this requirement echoes language in the FTCA.

\* *If appropriate or required, the volunteer “was properly licensed, certified, or authorized by the appropriate authorities” in the state where the harm occurred.* This would cover chainsaw training.

\* *The “harm was not caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or a conscious indifference to the rights or safety of the individual harmed by the volunteer.”* This requires an explanation.

Stated affirmatively, volunteers have no liability for “ordinary” negligence. Ordinary negligence would, for example, include harm to others caused by reasonable volunteer judgments in PATC construction or maintenance work trips or mistakes in incorrectly filling sales orders.

Volunteers, however, remain liable for harm caused by the four types of serious misconduct listed above, all of which involve gross, reckless, or willful/criminal volunteer actions. Examples would include harm caused by stringing concertina wire on a steeply sloped trail or leaving a tree partially sawed through near a trailhead.

\* *The “harm was not caused by the volunteer operating a motor vehicle” for which the state requires an operator’s license or insurance.* Again, stated affirmatively, there is no liability protection for vehicle-caused harm.

*2. PATC rights and obligations.* Under the VPA, only the volunteer’s liability to others is limited. PATC’s liability for the harm caused to any person by a volunteer is not affected, and PATC may also bring an action against a volunteer. These provisions do not create a right to file suit, they only indicate that if there is such a right, it is unaffected by the VPA.

*See Protection, page 10*

**Protection, from page 9**

3. *State laws conditionally limiting volunteer liability.* If “the laws of the state limit volunteer liability subject to one or more of the following conditions,” these conditions are not inconsistent with the volunteer liability protection and should be considered. What are these state laws conditionally affecting volunteer liability? The important ones: (a) impose requirements on the organization to adhere to risk management procedures and mandatory training for volunteers, (b) make the organization liable for its volunteers to the same extent that an employer is liable for its employees, and (c) require the organization to provide a financially secure source of funds (e.g. insurance) for individuals who suffer harm due to volunteer actions. Because of these state laws, a volunteer’s liability protection under the VPA could be affected. However, taken together, these state laws provide strong incentives for the organization to prudently operate and manage its activities, limit its exposure, and supervise and train its volunteers.

4. *State laws providing a greater level of volunteer liability protection are not affected.* The VPA overrides state laws providing lesser volunteer liability protection and greater punitive damage exposure. However, the VPA doesn’t affect state laws that provide “addi-

tional protection from liability relating to volunteers” or which “further limit the award of punitive damages.”

5. *Damage provisions.* The VPA affects a volunteer’s liability for damages in two areas: punitive damages and non-economic losses.

Under the VPA, punitive damages, sometimes called “exemplary” damages, may only be assessed against volunteers acting within the scope of their responsibilities where a claimant establishes by “clear and convincing evidence” that the harm was caused by an action that “constitutes willful or criminal misconduct or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights and safety of the individual harmed.” Under this test, harm caused by stringing concertina wire along a steeply sloped trail would likely justify an award for punitive damages. However, punitive damages may not be assessed for volunteer “gross negligence” or “reckless misconduct” (see section 1 above).

For non-economic losses (e.g. pain and suffering), the volunteer is liable only for “non-economic loss allocable to that defendant in direct proportion to the percentage of responsibility of that defendant,” and the “trier of fact” (usually a judge or jury) determines that percentage. The volunteer cannot be found

“jointly and severally” liable, which means potentially being required to pay the full amount.

**The Bottom Line**

The VIP and VIF provide certain “federal employee” benefits to PATC volunteers for work on federally owned or protected lands. The VPA augments that by immunizing PATC volunteers from ordinary negligence and limiting their liability for punitive damages and non-economic losses where they are held liable. The bottom line is that PATC volunteers enjoy some strong protections under federal law, and potential liability concerns should not deter them from volunteering. □

—Robert Nelson

*“Climb the mountains and  
get their good tidings. Nature’s  
peace will flow into you  
as sunshine flows into trees.  
The winds will blow their  
own freshness into you, and  
the storms their energy,  
while cares will drop off like  
autumn leaves.”*

—John Muir (1838-1914)



**‘Hikes in Western Maryland’**

Second Edition, 2004

To broaden your hiking horizon and escape crowded trails in other parks, explore western Maryland. Jean Golightly’s popular guide to hikes in Maryland’s panhandle has been updated with current trail data and maps. It presents two dozen hikes of varying degrees of difficulty, ranging in distance from one mile to 50 miles. One hike is wheelchair- and infant stroller-accessible.

Areas covered are Savage River, Green Ridge, and Potomac state forests; Deep Creek, Rocky Gap, Swallow Falls, Herrington Manor, and Gambrill state parks; and Catocin Mountain and C&O Canal national parks.

“Hikes in Western Maryland,” in handy pocket format, offers travel directions, detailed trail descriptions, and maps for each hike, along with information on camping, permits, addresses, and phone numbers. Backpackers ready for rugged terrain will enjoy the Big Savage, Green Ridge, and Catocin trails. For those who prefer shorter hikes on level terrain, the guide introduces hikes along three scenic and historic sections of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

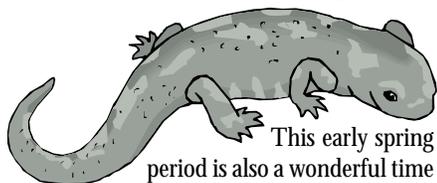
The previous (1997) edition of this guide is obsolete. Users should pick up a new one.

Retail Price \$7.00. Member Price \$5.60

FROM THE PATC STORE

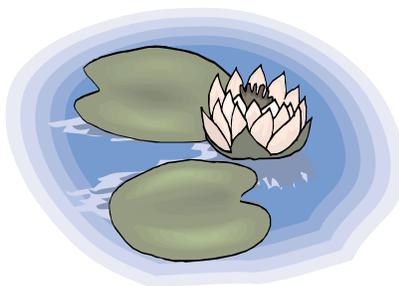
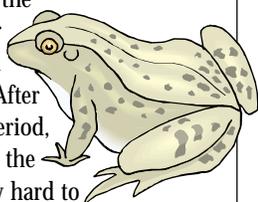
## Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Here Comes the Heat!

With the increasing sunlight of March, a new season is beginning. Before the end of the month, the various plants, animals, and fungi that have been dormant for the last three to four months will be actively engaged in the annual cycle of events that will enable them to eat, survive, and reproduce. It's truly a time of great transition within the natural communities of our latitudes. During the months of March and April, prior to the foliation of our forests, more energy, or heat, will be absorbed by the soils than at any other time of the year. Within this eight-week period, the spring ephemeral wildflowers will emerge, flower, produce fruit, and store enough solar energy in their roots for next year's plant. The true spring ephemerals will then wither away, having completed all of their visible life processes, not to be seen again until next spring.



This early spring period is also a wonderful time for visiting vernal pools. These seasonal ponds, which will routinely dry up by late summer, are the breeding grounds for many of our frog and toad friends, or anurans. Vernal pools are chosen over permanent bodies of water due to the lack of predaceous fish, which would prey on the tadpoles. With three months often necessary for the eggs to hatch into tadpoles and then to metamorphose into the terrestrial adult forms, the overwintering adults must reach the pools early in the season to mate and lay eggs. In our region, this will normally occur sometime in March, in concert with a good afternoon and evening rain.

However, as with most early spring events, the timing is greatly influenced by the weather. For example, I recall one winter hike that I took with Len Wheat in the southern district of the park. It was after a warm spell with about five days in the fifties. Even though it was Feb. 22, the ridge pond was swarming with hundreds of calling, sex-crazed wood frogs. The same scenario applies to the spotted salamanders. These "explosive breeders" can only be found at the vernal pools for two or three days under ideal breeding conditions. After this quick mating period, they escape back into the woods and will be very hard to find for the rest of the year.



### Heat Generating Plants

But the true harbinger of spring goes to the skunk cabbage. In fact, these plants bloom so early in the season, there isn't enough of the sun's energy to facilitate the plant's functions. So, the skunk cabbage produces its own energy. It produces sufficient heat to melt through the frozen soil and overlying snow. It does this through metabolism, in which the flower consumes oxygen as a fuel, burning starch stored in the thick rhizome. In experiments, it has been found that skunk cabbage flowers could be 36 to 63 degrees F higher than the ambient air temperature. At air temperatures around 58 degrees F, the air temperatures inside the floral spathe can average some 9 degrees F higher. When the ambient air temperature dropped to about 5 degrees F, the inside air reached temperatures 30 or more degrees. Studies conducted by Roger Knutson found that as temperatures dropped from 63 to 45 degrees F, the plants nearly doubled their oxygen consumption.

The Eastern skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is a native member of the arum family (Araceae), which includes calla lilies, green dragon, golden club, water arum, and jacks-in-the-pulpit. The flowers of the arums are similar in form, consisting of a central roundish flower head, enveloped by a protective spathe. The spongy spathe enhances the heat retention, which is excellent insulation around the heat-producing spadix, and its dark color also absorbs heat energy from the sun. Most arums, like jack-in-the-pulpit, do not produce measurable spikes in temperature, basically because the production is not necessary.

Heat generation by plants is shared by a group of several hundred species in 10 families, including certain philodendron, the Asian water lotus, and the famous Amazon water lily, (*Victoria amazonica*), the favorite of 19th century aquatic gardens. Self-heating appears to sprout from ancient lineages at the base of the botanical family tree. For example, heat generation has turned up in early magnolias,

Dutchman's pipes, star anises, custard apples, and water lilies. However, thermogenesis has tended to be dropped along the evolutionary trail. Dr. Roger Seymour, zoologist with the University of Adelaide in Australia, suggests that heat-generating flowers "are like nightclubs for beetles," in that insects would crawl into the spathe and often be trapped until the next day by erect spines that would eventually wilt, allowing the beetle to exit. Through the evolution of flowers, insects have been able to visit a flower and quickly take a sip of nectar or a snack of pollen before moving off, while still serving the pollinating purposes of the flowering plant. As Dr. Seymour likes to put it, heat rewards died out because "nightclubs were replaced by fast food."

### Real Stinkers

You might recall just last summer the media frenzy surrounding the flowering of the U.S. Botanical Garden's own Titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*), another heat producer. It is on record for having the largest flower of all flowering plants. The five- to 12-foot size of the flower, however, is normally not the first thing visitors notice about the Titan arum. This plant is also known as the corpse flower, due to its fragrance, which is likened to rotting flesh, or warm, mellow road kill. In fact, this noticeable odor is quite common among the heat-generators. The skunky odor of the spadix and rotten meat color of the spathe attract carrion flies and other pollinators to the flower. In the case of the skunk cabbages, this is extremely important in a season of few pollinators. In fact, dominant compounds, called oligosulfides, have been found in both the scent of the flowers and that of a dead seagull. Some of the typical volatile organic compounds released by the decomposing carcass and arum flowers go by graphic names like putrescine and cadavarine.

As you go hiking through some wet lowlands this month, you might recognize the musky odor of the skunk cabbage. Follow the odors lofted through the air by the heat produced within the spadix (principally by sterile male flowers found among the less pungent fertile male and female flowers), and notice the party going on inside the warm spathe. It's truly a unique and happening place to be this time of the year. □

—Bob Pickett

# FORECAST

## Chapters

### Charlottesville Chapter

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

### North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the AT and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays – contact Nancy Hammond ([mdtrail@yahoo.com](mailto:mdtrail@yahoo.com)) 301/739-0442 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday – contact Pete Brown ([peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net](mailto:peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net)) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday evening dinner at the Gypsy Spring cabin. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme ([bncfirme@innet.net](mailto:bncfirme@innet.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 Lee Sheaffer, ([thumpers@visuallink.com](mailto:thumpers@visuallink.com)) 540/955-0736.

### Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

### West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meetings at Highacre are on the second Wednesday of Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., and Dec. See Forecast for upcoming activities. For information about the chapter or to receive the newsletter, contact Judy Smoot 540/667-2036 or e-mail [wvpatc@hotmail.com](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: Bert Finkelstein ([bertf@erols.com](mailto:bertf@erols.com)) 703/715-8534.

### Mountaineering Section

We're a diverse group of local Washington, DC area climbers. Young and old, male and female, crag rat, sport climber, and alpinist, active and armchair types – we all enjoy climbing in its many varieties. We also share common interests in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those wanting to learn the basics – we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice

climbers. For further information contact Andy Britton, ([tallandyb@aol.com](mailto:tallandyb@aol.com)) 703/622-1920, or Mack Muir ([MackMuir@edisaurus.com](mailto:MackMuir@edisaurus.com)).

### PATC Hikes

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

### Other Clubs' Hikes

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

## KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

## Meetings

### Meetings

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

### New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

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

### Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

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

### Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

### PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

### Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's goodwill trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, educating the public on good hiking practices, minimum impact hiking, and camping ethics. Patrol members are trained in land navigation, emergency procedures, radio communications, and personal equipment. All patrol volunteers are also expected to become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: Holly Wheeler ([hwwheeler@yahoo.com](mailto:hwwheeler@yahoo.com)) 301/486-1598, or see our section in PATC's Web site: [www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol](http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol).

## MARCH

## 1 (Monday)

**DEADLINE - April Potomac Appalachian****Material due to editors by 5:00 p.m.**

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

## 2 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Family Hike  
Springfield, VA**

Pohick Stream Valley. We will hike about 3 miles past Hidden Pond and along Pohick Creek. The hike is jogging-stroller passable, with some rocks, roots, and bog bridges. We will enjoy the Hidden Pond Nature Center after the hike, which has lots of animals and some activities. We will meet at the playground next to the parking lot. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

## 2 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers****North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Join us to redo an original Terwilliger vigorous hike. Beahm's Gap to the AT north, returning on Knob and Neighbor Mts. About 17 miles, 4000 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

## 2 (Tuesday)

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

## 3 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Practical Uses of GPS (REI)  
Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. O.K., now that you have a GPS receiver, how does it work? What's it good for? Why do you sometimes receive different location information, and other times get no data at all? What are the real, practical outdoor navigation uses of this device? REI Gear Specialist, Jim Ammons, will discuss the how and why of the ground control segment, space segment, and user segment of the GPS system. Jim will demonstrate ways to enhance the uses of your GPS receiver, and how to interface the data it provides with map and compass. By reviewing some basic map reading skills, we will see how to interface the GPS data with current paper maps, and some of the new electronic mapping systems. This presentation will assist anyone who wants to become proficient at GPS-assisted outdoor navigation. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

## 3 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy Hikers  
Burke Lake Park, VA**

Five level miles around Burke Lake. Meet at 10:15 a.m. From the Beltway, exit West onto Braddock Road. At your leisure, move into the left-hand lane (excluding left turn lanes) and stay in this lane. In 1.9 miles from the Beltway, the lane you are in becomes one of a pair of left-turn lanes onto Burke Lake Road (Rt. 645). Stay with it and make the turn. (Don't worry about the misleading sign before the preceding left.) Go 4.9 miles, then turn left onto Ox Road (Rt. 123). In 0.5 mi. (passing the Golf Center), turn left into Burke Lake Park. Follow signs to the marina. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Sue King 703/356-6659.

## 3 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Midweek Hikers  
Location to be determined**

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to trailheads. Hikes are at a moderate pace and about 8 to 12 miles in length with varied elevations. Current information, including meeting place and time, leader's name and phone number, in addition to a detailed description of the hike are available on the PATC Activities Recording: 703/242-0965.

## 3 (Wednesday)

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

## 4 - 7 (Thursday - Sunday)

**XC SKI TRIP - Tug Hill Region (STS)  
Pulaski, NY**

Mini-Week #4 Join a dozen XC skiers and enjoy the expected heavy lake-effect snowfall prevalent in this area. We will stay at the 1880 Lodge in Pulaski (close to Lake Ontario). Options include favorite trails at Winona St. Forest, Barnes Corner, Salmon Hills, and Osceola STCs. Estimated cost is \$140/person for 3-nights which includes semi-private lodging plus continental breakfasts. INFO: Bozena Sarnecka-Crouch (bsar@loc.gov) 202/707-9851.

## 6 (Saturday)

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

The first of 23 work events in 2004, why not join us? We meet near Frederick, MD at 9:00 a.m. Please bring lunch, water, gloves, and layers for cool air. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

## 6 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers  
Appalachian Trail, PA**

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 intersection, in the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

## 6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The March weather may be sunny and warm or we could be having a blizzard but the trip will go on as long as the roads are passable. If there is no snow on the ground we may be clearing and raking the yard around the house and planting grass seed. If the ground is covered with snow we may work inside. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

## 6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Navigation (REI)  
Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This comprehensive two-day course teaches all skills necessary to use map and compass in an integrated land navigation system. The first day is spent in intensive classroom exercises concentrating on topographic map reading and interpretation, position plotting, compass fundamentals, declination, and azimuth. The second day is spent in Prince William Forest Park, primarily off-trail, engaging in practical navigation exercises of increasing complexity. The course fee is \$85 and includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map, grid reader, and lunch on Saturday. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

## 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 \$160. Registration is limited to 25 people. INFO/Registration: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

## 6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)

**SPECIAL EVENT - Snow Camping  
Canaan Valley, WV**

We will set up our snow camp in the Dolly Sods Wilderness area. INFO: Gus Anderson (gusanderson@aol.com) 703/903-9736.

## 9 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Family Hike  
Great Falls, VA**

Riverbend Park. Come join us for a 2.5 mile kid-friendly circuit hike. We will start behind the Visitor's Center, hike up to the nature center where we will pick up the Paw Paw Passage Trail. We will pass a pond and continue down to the Potomac River where we will hike along the Potomac Heritage Trail back to the Visitor's Center. After the hike we will check out the animals and activities inside the visitor's center. Designed for the 5-and-under crowd, all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

## 9 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers  
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Ascend Little Devil's Stairs up to Keyser Run Road, to AT south over Hogback for views, then descend Piney Ridge Trail to return on Hull School Trail. About 13 miles and 4100 foot climb. Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

## 9 (Tuesday)

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

## 10 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Women's Backpacking (REI)  
Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m., Getting Technical: Stoves, Cooking and Nutrition. Food never tastes so good as when you're out on the trail, hungry and tired after a long day's hike. Get tips on planning backcountry menus; which offer the best nutrition, taste and calorie content, and lowest packed weight. Talk "tech" about stoves: how to choose one, and how to operate the different models, without having men take over the discussion! REI's resident Appalachian Trail thru-hiker, Julie Crawford will offer women the opportunity to ask questions and get hands-on experience with backpacking stoves, and learn more about what to eat when out in the woods. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

## 10 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy Hikers  
Blockhouse Point, VA**

We will do a circuit hike of about 4 miles; we should have good views with the leaves down. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the River Road parking lot -2 miles beyond Pennyfield Lock on the left. INFO: Carol Niedzialek (niedze@erols.com) 301/949-9729.

## 10 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Midweek Hikers  
Location to be determined**

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to trailheads. Hikes are at a moderate pace and about 8 to 12 miles in length with varied elevations. Current information, including meeting place and time, leader's name and phone number, in addition to a detailed description of the hike are available on the PATC Activities Recording: 703/242-0965.

## 10 (Wednesday)

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

## 13 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Hidden Waterfalls of SNP  
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

This is hike number 5 in the series. Spring is just around the corner! Join us as we ascend the East Branch of Naked Creek in Falls Hollow. We'll lunch at Huckleberry Cliff and return to our starting point. This hike is approximately 6-8 miles with a 1000 foot elevation gain/loss. This series utilizes PATC Map 10. Experienced hikers only. Strenuous. INFO: Susan By (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 (day) or 304/258-3319 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

# FORECAST

13 (Saturday)

**SPECIAL EVENT - Geology Field Day**  
Shaver Hollow, VA

Our second season of educational programs at Darwin and Eileen Lambert's property is initiated with a geological presentation by Tim Rose, mineralogist for the Smithsonian Institution. Tim has taught local geology for the USDA graduate program for many years and is intimately familiar with the region's geology. Participants will receive a two-hour program on the geology of eastern North America, followed by an afternoon hike into the Park to identify some of the common rock formations of this area. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**  
Appalachian Trail, VA

Between I-66 and Rte. 50. Join the Crew as we begin work on the Ovoka Farms AT relocation project. The relocation, on land recently purchased by the ATPO, will provide open areas and views to the east. Overnight at Rindt's house in Front Royal or at project site depending on weather conditions. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders**  
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Old Rag Mountain. One day for work, one day for play. We'll be clearing damage wrought by Old Man Winter on Saturday, then bushwhacking in Weakly Hollow in search of history on Sunday. Join us for an overnight backpack, or come either day. INFO: Cathie Cummins (Cathie@wfa.net) 703/631-7421

13 - 16 (Saturday - Tuesday)

**XC SKI TRIP - Adirondack Mountains (STS)**  
Lake Placid, NY

Stay for half a week at the Adirondack Loj set five miles south of Lake Placid in the foothills of the High Peaks area of the Adirondacks. Historic Adirondack Loj sits on the shores of Heart Lake, nestled close to the summit of Mt. Jo and on the doorstep of the High Peaks Wilderness Area. The Loj property is a great place to ski, snowshoe, and climb right-out-the-door, or just relax by the stone fireplace. Ski trails available for all XC ski abilities. Olympic-class groomed trails at Mt. Van Hovenburg to backcountry descents of Mt. Marcy and Avalanche Pass are within your grasp. There is great hiking and resort skiing (Whiteface Mt.) if natural snow is bad. Price for four nights will be \$136/person which includes lodging and breakfasts. Convenient trail lunches and dinners are available at the Loj. INFO: Dave Battista (shasta1@nauticom.net) 724/443-1174.

14 (Sunday)

**HIKE - Civil War History**  
Harpers Ferry, WV

Up Maryland Heights, and to Loudoun Heights, all in one day. This moderate circuit of approximately 11 miles will include spectacular views as well as Civil War history. From Harpers Ferry, we'll follow the AT, past Jefferson Rock, and across the Shenandoah River, then climb up to Split Rock using the Loudoun Heights Trail. Then, after crossing over the Potomac, we'll hike down the C&O towpath to the Maryland Heights trail, and climb up for more views and history, followed by a descent back into town. PATC Map 7. INFO: Vince Ferrari (ferrari3@ix.netcom.com) 301/249-2210.

14 (Sunday)

**HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter**  
Appalachian Trail, VA

Near Snicker's Gap. This is the first in a series of Sunday Coffee hikes where we will meet in a coffee shop for coffee and snacks and then go on an easy to moderate hike nearby. The pace will be more relaxed as we spend more time just enjoying the outdoors in the waning days of winter. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visualink.com) 540/955-0736.

16 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Family Hike**  
Centreville, VA

Bull Run Occoquan Trail at Route 28. Follow the blue blazes on this kid-paced hike along the scenic Bull Run. We will hike about 2-3 miles on this out-and-back hike. This trail is a little rugged in places, with a few short, but steep ups and downs. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

16 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Long Distance Hike**  
Fairfax County, VA

CCT-III - The Third Annual Cross County Trail Hike. This one-way, 30+ mile hike along the stream banks and through the woods of Fairfax County will require an early meet time to allow us to ford Difficult Run at the end of the hike and be off the trail by sunset. Run jointly with Sierra Club's MWROP. Great training for the big hikes coming up — The Brandywine, The Redbud (see Apr. 13 listing), and Sierra Club's 100 K. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

17 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy Hikers**  
Capitol Mall Tidal Basin, DC

Wear some green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Washington. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Mall Exit of the Metro Smithsonian Station for the start of a 4.5-mile hike. Proceeding through the Enid Haupt Garden next to the Smithsonian Castle, we will climb up the L'Enfant Plaza Promenade and go down Banneker Hill to the Southwest Waterfront and Fish Market. After circling the Tidal Basin passing by the Jefferson Memorial, we will return to the Capitol Mall and proceed to the U.S. Capitol and Union Station. Lunch in the food court at Union Station. After lunch the group will disperse from the Union Station Metro. INFO: Jim Flanigan (jflanigan@aol.com) 202/554-3775.

17 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Midweek Hikers**  
Location to be determined

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to trailheads. Hikes are at a moderate pace and about 8 to 12 miles in length with varied elevations. Current information, including meeting place and time, leader's name and phone number, in addition to a detailed description of the hike are available on the PATC Activities Recording: 703/242-0965.

18 (Thursday)

**HIKE - In-Between Hikers**  
Arlington, VA

Key Chain Circuit. We'll 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. At the end there will be an optional foray into Georgetown to see if the St. Patrick's Day revelers left any beverages behind. 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. Joint hike with Sierra Club MWROP. INFO: Gary Abrecht (GAbrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

20 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Civil War History (REI)**  
Montgomery County, MD

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Seneca Creek Greenway Trail Hike # 2. Hike one of the most beautiful sections of this trail. On this 5.4-mile leisurely-paced hike, we'll explore Civil War history and industrial history at Black Rock Mill. We'll enjoy lunch atop a bluff overlooking the creek, and spend time looking for early wildflowers and wildlife, and perhaps try calling owls and turkeys. INFO/RSVP: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

20 (Saturday)

**HIKE - K9Trailblazers**  
Dickerson, MD

We're going to Sugar Loaf Mountain to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of K9Trailblazers at the scene of their first hike. We'll hike at a moderate pace for a ~5 mile loop around the 4 smaller peaks, with a brief stop at White Rocks, and return to the picnic area for lunch. There will be an optional 1/2 mile round trip to the main peak following lunch. This hike will be on rocky trails and will include a few steep climbs (~500 ft total elevation change) and shallow water crossings. Sturdy hiking boots with good ankle support are required. We'll enjoy several good views before the foliage obscures them and probably see some wildlife and wild flowers. This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on a leash and scoop up after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead, and birthday cake will be served at lunch! Bring lunch, snacks, and water for you and your dog. Visit [www.K9Trailblazers.org](http://www.K9Trailblazers.org) for more details. INFO: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org) 301/482-2468 or Jeff Bolognese (jabolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

20 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Natural History**  
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Bob Pickett takes us into the Hazel Mountain area to do some hiking both on and off trail. We'll hike about six miles and do a little bushwhacking in search of several home sites just off White Rocks trail. As always, we'll talk a little geology, animals, plants, and Park history. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

20 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Waterfall**  
South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The tenth hike of the Waterfall and Wild Flower Series will be a 15-mile circuit with a total elevation gain of 3200 feet to the falls on the Jones and Doyle Rivers. No bush whacking. PATC Map 11. INFO: Jack Thorsen, (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

20 (Saturday)

**HIKE - WV Chapter**  
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Meet at 10 a.m. at the AT near Front Royal, VA. Section 2, Gravel Springs to Thornton Gap, 14 miles. WV Chapter of PATC. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729.

20 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade**  
Great North Mountain, VA/WV

Meet at the Wolf Gap Recreation Area campground parking lot (PATC Map F coordinates E19) at 9:00 a.m. This trip is subject to prevailing or forecast weather. Check with Hop Long before going to the meeting site. Hop Long (thefSLongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177 or Jim Tomlin (jtomlin@helix.nih.gov).

20 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers**  
Tuscarora Trail, PA

INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

20 - 21 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The ground should be clear of snow by now and the weather warming a little. Only a few more work trips to finish and dedicate this beautiful cabin. We may still be building bunks and cabinets or even installing some trim. There is a lot of landscaping work left to do. Who knows! We may be working on a solar heated shower. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

## 20 - 21 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP – North District Hoodlums North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
St. Patrick's Day Celebration! Come and enjoy the Hoodlums' traditional Irish worktrip! We will dance a jig and get a jump on spring-clearing to get the trails ready for the hiking season! Overnight stay at Range View Cabin. The Hoodlums Trail Crew works on the AT and Blue-Blazed trails in the North District of SNP. We work hard and enjoy the fruits of our labor afterwards via the theme meal and good company at a facility within the park. Newcomers are always welcome. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, camp out overnight in SNP – lots of options. Not a bad way to spend a weekend! We meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. INFO/RSVP: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

## 21 (Sunday)

### ✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - WV Chapter Frederick, MD

Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. Gambrill State Park. WV Chapter of PATC. Continuation of ongoing trail maintenance projects on the Black Locust trail. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729; 301/293-4170.

## 23 (Tuesday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Family Hike Potomac, MD

Burma Road and the C & O Canal Towpath. Come on out for a 3-4 mile, kid-friendly hike along Burma Road and the C&O Canal Towpath. The trail is mostly jogging-stroller friendly except a set of stairs and one very rocky section on the towpath. We'll meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Cropley parking lot. Take 495 to the Clara Barton Parkway West. Turn left onto MacArthur Boulevard and follow it west to the Cropley parking area on the left, across the street from the Old Angler's Inn. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpcjkck1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

## 23 (Tuesday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

**Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
Train for upcoming long hikes. Leading Ridge Trail to the AT south to Corbin Cutoff, climb Indian Run Trail to return via Crusher Ridge. 18 miles with 4,000 ft elevation gain. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

## 24 (Wednesday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Midweek Hikers

#### Location to be determined

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to trailheads. Hikes are at a moderate pace and about 8 to 12 miles in length with varied elevations. Current information, including meeting place and time, leaders name and phone number, in addition to a detailed description of the hike are available on the PATC Activities Recording: 703/242-0965.

## 26 - 27 (Friday - Saturday)

### 🏕️ SPECIAL EVENT - N. Shen Valley Chapter Retreat Massanutten Mountain, VA

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter will meet for its quarterly retreat at Glass House Cabin at Massanutten Mountain. Come join our chapter for two relaxing nights in the lovely Fort Valley, far from crowds and the bustle of the city. Activities will include a pot luck dinner, at least one hike, and a lot of good company. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

## 27 (Sunday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Appalachian Trail, Front Royal, VA

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter will be hiking the AT in sections between Harpers Ferry and Shenandoah National Park for the next year. This is

one in the series of hikes. In this one we will tackle some of the trail between Front Royal and Linden, VA. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

## 27 (Saturday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Shenandoah Waterfall Hike (REI) Catoctin Greenstone, VA

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. From Catoctin Greenstone to Tuscarora Sandstone, to Old Rag Granite, the rocks of Virginia's Shenandoah National Park hold a rich geologic history and create ecological differences. And tumbling over those rocks in the dark hollows of the Blue Ridge are beautiful waterfalls. Hike the trails and steep hollows of Shenandoah National Park to two of its most beautiful waterfalls: Dark Hollow and Rose River. Local photographer, Ed Neville, will provide commentary on the geology of Shenandoah and its waterfalls, as well as the natural history of the park and tips for taking great waterfall photographs. This 6-mile, circuit hike follows the Dark Hollow, Rose River Loop, Skyland-Big Meadows Horse Trail and the Rose River Fire Road and has a total elevation change of approximately 900 feet. Registration is limited and necessary. INFO: Mark Nelson, (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

## 27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

### ✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Potomac Heritage Trail, DC

Inside Beltway. A wet year has caused erosion and chronic wet areas on the PHT. The Crew will be working with DM Bruce Glendening to improve tread conditions on this popular trail on the south bank of the Potomac River. Overnight arrangements are TBD. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

## 28 (Sunday)

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

We provide trail work on Sundays now ... six Sunday trips in 2004. Why not join us? We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. Please bring water, lunch, and gloves; expect to work into the afternoon and hike 1-4 miles. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

## 29 & 3 - 4 (Monday, Saturday - Sunday)

### 🏕️ CLASS - Leave No Trace

#### PATC Headquarters and SNP, VA

This fun Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainers Course will be held in two parts. The classroom instruction (introduction and planning) will be held Monday evening 7:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. The field experience will be a backpacking trip in the SNP. Instructors will be LNT Masters from Trail Patrol. The goal will be to enhance LNT skills and ethics and to gain confidence in teaching LNT to others. Pre-registration required, space is limited. Fee: \$30. See ad on page 6. INFO: Anniell Miller (amiill1@yahoo.com) 703/250-8113 (before 11:00 p.m.).

## 30 (Tuesday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Family Hike Oakton, VA

Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park. Come enjoy the Spring weather at this beautiful park. We'll hike about 3 miles on stroller-friendly trails. There is a fun spiral trail to the top of a small hill and several gazebos and fountains. We will have lunch under their picnic trellis just outside the park. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

## 30 (Tuesday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

#### Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

From Meadows Cabin parking area climb to Doubletop for views, scramble up the rocks and descend to the Rapidan to tour reopened Hoover Camp. Then climb Mill Prong Trail to AT to enjoy Dark Hollow Falls, returning via Stony Mountain Trail, 16 miles, 4000 foot climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

## 30 (Tuesday)

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

## 31 (Wednesday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Easy Hikers

#### Germantown, MD

10:15 a.m. Schaeffer Farm. Directions: 270 N to Clopper Rd. W (aka RT 117). Go past the intersection with RT 118. Next left on Schaeffer Road. Go about 2.5 miles, going straight through the circle, to a left at the sharp right bend in Schaeffer Road. Signs for Grey Rock Ranch and Organic Composting mark the entrance. Take the left fork of the driveway which leads to the trail (and trailer) parking area. Description: A rolling woodland hike of about 4 miles. Bring a light snack, such as a banana. We will have lunch after the hike at the King China Buffet. INFO: Margaret Chapman (home) 301/977-8988 M, Tu. and Th. 301/869-9291.

## 31 (Wednesday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Midweek Hikers

#### Location to be determined

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to trailheads. Hikes are at a moderate pace and about 8 to 12 miles in length with varied elevations. Current information, including meeting place and time, leader's name and phone number, in addition to a detailed description of the hike are available on the PATC Activities Recording: 703/242-0965.

# APRIL

## 1 (Thursday)

### DEADLINE - (No Foolin'!)

#### January Potomac Appalachian

#### Material due to editors by 5:00 p.m.

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

## 3 (Saturday)

### 🚶 HIKE - Pre-Park History

#### Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Jack Reeder once again leads us to a secret location within the park for a look at life as it was before the park existed. INFO: Betsy Fowler (efowler@shentel.net) or (betsy.fowler@ngc.com) 703/356-8336 or 540/933-6136.

## 3 (Saturday)

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

The South Mountaineers Trail Crew has been working on the Appalachian and Catoctin Trails in Maryland since 1993. We are always happy to see new faces. Please bring lunch, water, and gloves and meet us near Frederick, MD at 9:00 a.m. (call or e-mail for specific directions.) Expect to work into the afternoon and hike from one to four miles. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

## 3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The crew is rushing now to finish by the May 30 deadline. Don't miss your chance to take part in finishing this Historic endeavor. The opportunity to participate in the construction of a rustic log house, built from the ground up using indigenous materials and primitive hand tools. This just might never happen again. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

# FORECAST

6 (Tuesday)

🚰 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

George Washington National Forest, VA  
Great North Mountain. Climb for views from Half Moon Lookout then on to White Rock Lookout returning on the Old Mail Path. About 13 miles and 3000 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

6 (Tuesday)

🚰 MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

7 (Wednesday)

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

7 (Wednesday)

🚰 HIKE - Easy Hikers

Rock Creek Park, DC  
An easy to moderate, approximately 4.5 mile, variable terrain loop hike in the northern section of Rock Creek Park in DC. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot off Glover Road in Rock Creek Park. Bring lunch and water. Hiking boots strongly recommended. No pets. INFO: Alec McRae (admcr@erols.com) 202/686-1788.

10 (Saturday)

🚰 HIKE - Natural History and Wildflowers

Turkey Run Park, VA  
Come celebrate the annual rite of spring as Bob Pickett takes his traditional five-mile hike along the Potomac Heritage Trail starting at the American Legion Bridge and turns upstream along the fabulous Turkey Run tributary. More than thirty native wildflowers are routinely found in bloom, including trillium, Virginia bluebells, dwarf ginseng, wild ginger, twinleaf, trout lily, and many more. Snakes, birds, geology, and the beauty of springtime add to the special nature of this favorite hike. Stream crossings (rock-hopping) and some muddy conditions can be expected. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

April 12, (Monday)

🚰 CLASS - Backpacking 101 - Intro Night  
Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. 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. After classroom instruction the class will take their new skills out in the field. Instructional Weekend: April 12 - 13. Backpacking trip: May 3 - 4 accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors. Fee: \$60.00 for PATC Members; \$75.00 for non-members. INFO: John Browne (back2\_packing@cox.net) 703/425-5645 or see ad page 6.

13 (Tuesday)

🚰 HIKE - Long Distance Hike

Mauertown, VA  
REDBUD-II. The Second Annual Dogwood Memorial Hike. This hike on the Tuscarora Trail follows the Big Blue Trail route of PATC's 4th, 5th, and 6th long distance Dogwood hikes of a dozen years ago. On this 30+ mile, self-supported reprise we will hike west beginning off Rt 11 south of Strausburg and then north through the mountains generally following the VA/WVA border to Hawk Campground (just north of RT 55). INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 or Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

13 (Tuesday)

🚰 MEETING - PATC Council, 7:00 p.m.

14 (Wednesday)

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

14 (Wednesday)

🚰 MEETING - West Virginia Chapter, 7:00 p.m.  
Highacre Cabin, Harpers Ferry, VA

14 (Wednesday)

🚰 HIKE - Easy Hikers

National Arboretum, DC  
The Easy Hikers will hike about 4 easy miles through the Arboretum. Meet at 10:15 a.m. on the main parking lot immediately inside the R Street entrance. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take Baltimore-Washington Parkway south from the Beltway. At split with I-295, bear right on New York Avenue toward Washington. Continue 2 miles to Bladensburg Road at a major intersection. Turn left and go .4 miles on Bladensburg Road to R Street, NE. Turn left on R Street .3 miles to the park entrance. INFO: Gary Abrecht (Gabrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

15 (Thursday)

🚰 HIKE - In-Between Hikers

Great Falls, VA  
A scenic 10 miles over variable terrain at a moderate/fast pace. Five mile option. Meet in lot in front of Park Visitor Center. Entrance fee, \$5.00 per vehicle or pass. Bring lunch/water. No pets. Joint hike with Sierra Club MWROP. From I-495, exit 44 West on Georgetown Pike for 4 miles to Old Dominion Drive. Turn right to Park entrance. Starts at 10:00 a.m. Info: Nena Ewing 301/652-9147 or Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com).

17 (Saturday)

🚰 HIKE - The Hidden Waterfalls of SNP

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA  
This is hike number 6 of the series. Rose River. Envision roses blooming as we ascend Rose River to view these beautiful falls. Hurry before the copperheads and stinging nettles announce the beginning of summer. This will end our series for this season, but we hope to recommence in the fall. This hike is approximately 10 miles with a 1500 foot elevation gain/loss. This series utilizes PATC Map 10. Experienced hikers only. Strenuous. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 (day) or 304/258-3319 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).

17 (Saturday)

🚰 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade

Great North Mountain, VA/WV  
Meet at the Wolf Gap Recreation Area campground parking lot (PATC Map F coordinates E19) at 9:00 a.m. This trip is subject to prevailing or forecast weather. Check with Hop Long before going to the meeting site. Hop Long (thefslongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177 or Jim Tomlin (jtomlin@helix.nih.gov).

17 (Saturday)

🚰 TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD  
Another great event in MD, moving rocks and dirt around and being happy it wasn't your lawn! We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. Bring lunch, water, and gloves; expect to hike 1-4 miles and work into the afternoon. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

🚰 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin

Shaver Hollow, VA  
The crew is rushing now to finish by the May 30 deadline. Don't miss your chance to take part in finishing this Historic endeavor. The opportunity to participate in the construction of a rustic log house, built from the ground up using indigenous materials and primitive hand tools. May never happen again. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

17 - 18, (Saturday - Sunday)

🚰 CLASS - Backpacking 101

Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, VA  
This instructional weekend follows the introductory night (see April 12 event listing). The BP101 Introductory Backpacking Course 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 students will then use their new skills on an overnight backpacking trip May 1 - 2 accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors. INFO: John Browne (back2\_packing@cox.net) 703/425-5645 or see ad page 6.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

🚰 CLASS - Primitive Tools Workshop

Blackburn Trail Center, VA  
PATC will be holding a primitive tools workshop to familiarize overseers with proper crosscut saw and ax techniques. Learn how to safely clear a blow-down with hand tools, when and how to use a wedge, swing an ax, and perform a single under-buck. The workshop will include classroom discussion and field exercises using various tools. Note that this is a workshop only and will not result in a certification. Cost is \$20.00 to cover course materials, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Blackburn will be open to anyone wishing to arrive the Friday night before the class. INFO: Dan Dueueke (danjan3@cox.net) 703/266-3248.

18 (Sunday)

🚰 HIKE - Green Ridge State Forest-Town Hill  
Flintstone, MD

Join us for this real out-of-towner on a circuit hike that will take us to the summit of Town Hill, the highest point in the Green Ridge State Forest. We'll car-pool to the trailhead for this moderate 8.9-mile circuit, with a total elevation gain of a little over 1000 feet. You'll see spectacular views of three states, and even of Town Hill itself. Beware, there are several stream crossings. USGS Quads: Paw Paw, WVVA-Md, Oldtown, Md-WVA. INFO: Vince Ferrari (ferrari3@ix.netcom.com) 301/249-2210.

20 (Tuesday)

🚰 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

George Washington National Forest, VA  
Camp Roosevelt. Enjoy Kennedy Peak, loop back on Stephen's Trail to Duncan Knob rock scramble; 15 miles and 3300 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

24 (Saturday)

🚰 TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD  
Another good day of getting dirty and being happy it wasn't your lawn! Newcomers welcomed. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. Bring lunch, water and gloves; expect to hike 1-4 miles and work into the afternoon. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

24 - 25 (Saturday - Sunday)

🚰 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders  
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Old Rag Mountain. We need volunteers to help get this popular hiking trail in tip top shape. No experience necessary. We'll teach you how erosion is minimized on a trail that sees thousands of people every year. Come for just a day or enjoy a primitive backpack camp with experienced hikers. INFO: Cathie Cummins (Cathie@wfa.net) 703/631-7421

27 (Tuesday)

🚰 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA  
Follow the Hazel River, circle Hazel Mountain to descend Hannah Run, returning on the Hot-Short and Sam's Ridge Trails. Then rest up for the 100K on Saturday. About 13 miles and 3000 foot climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

27 (Tuesday)

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

# NOTICES

## NEW NOTICES

**CAMP TRAILS BACKPACK.** Barely used, approx 3500 cubic inches, with external frame, six large outside pockets. Just the thing for extended trips ... room for all your gear. Great value. \$35 obo. Contact John Moore, 703/368-1952 (jtmoores20112@comcast.net).

**FOUND IN MID-DECEMBER AT HIGHACRE,** possible gifts to someone were found in two plain brown handled bags. Please contact Pat at PATC at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 during the day.

**FOUND AT MUTTON TOP CABIN** in early December, boots and glasses. Contact Ballard Troy at 301/864-3878.

## LAND MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Land Management Committee is looking for volunteers with various skills to help out on several important projects. We are hoping to find members with the following professional skills that they can apply at PATC.

**GIS Specialist** - Help start and develop the clubs GIS capabilities.

**Forester** - Assist committee in developing Forestry Plans for club lands. We have a process and existing leadership but have a lot of land to cover.

**Surveyor** - Assist committee members in identifying boundaries on our existing properties. Assist in purchasing of new properties identified for cabins and trail protection.

**Land Appraiser** - Assist the club in determining values of potential land purchases and conservation easements. Efforts are targeted in the VA, PA, MD and WV areas.

If you're interested in helping out in any of the above areas please contact Chris Mangold at csm5749@yahoo.com.

## LOST AND FOUND

**FOUND - LEKI WALKING STICK** - November 11, 2003 at intersection of U.S. 17 and VA 688, near Sky Meadows State Park. Contact Richard Stromberg (arbiess@rmaonline.net) 540/631-0212.

**FOUND ON NOVEMBER 14-15** worktrip at Hermitage Cabin: Large jacket, T-shirt, and ditty bag. Contact Bob Oliver, 301/474-6548.

## HIKING PARTNERS

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

## FOR SALE

**FORD 250 SUPERVAN** Custom Conversion Camper for sale. All its 115,000 miles have been on long-distance trips. 5.8 liter V-8 engine with 4 speed/overdrive gives 16 mpg on the highway and has ample power for mountain travel. Want to sell because my wife's handicap and I want to get a passenger vehicle for shuttling hikers. Available for trial use before April in VA. References offered. If interested, contact Dave and Julia Appel (jsappel@netnet.net) or 715/253-2687.

## HELP WANTED

**REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS:** Trail Crew Maintenance, DC-Based. Want some trail maintenance experience and exercise, but still sleep in your own bed? Is Shenandoah National Park just too

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

**WE NEED SOMEONE TO HELP POUR PAINT** for trails and corridor workers. Contact Heidi Forrest (hforrest@patc.net) 703/242-0315 x12.

**DO YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR HANGING TOOLS?** We could use your help in the HQ Tool Room. Contact Liles Creighton (lcrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

## DONATIONS WANTED

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

## **NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS?**

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

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

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

far a drive? I've got all these problems and will try to fill a need by building a local-based trail crew. The Potomac River Trail Crew will work one day a month, mostly just 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The crew would begin its focus on the Potomac Heritage Trail on the VA side of the river, but the crew could also help in Rock Creek and Great Falls; both MD and VA sides. Any takers? INFO: Bruce Glendening (bglendening@yahoo.com) 703/532-9093 (night).

**C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK** is seeking volunteers for the Williamsport Visitor Center. The positions involve staffing the visitor center and bookstore, and can include informal interpretation. We are looking for people who can volunteer as part of a regular schedule. INFO: Gloria Updyke (Gloria\_Updyke@nps.gov) 301/582-0813.

**CALLING ALL LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND TAX ATTORNEYS.** Virginia has enacted a new law that permits donors of conservation easements to sell the tax credit and reap a substantial cash infusion. PATC owns property in Virginia that would be eligible for such a rebate. The club needs you to help write the proposals that would help the club save thousands of dollars. Contact: Phil Paschall (bettycox@erols.com), 540/882-3027. But hurry - before the state changes its mind.

## CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

## TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

## TRAILHEAD

A few warm days in early January gave way to snow, ice, and some brutal cold weather later in the month, reducing trail activity to a crawl. Access to some trails has been difficult, and even doing minor work on frozen tread is impossible. Recalling the President's Day snowstorm in February last year reminds us the worst may be yet to come. But spring is around the corner and all good overseers and DMs have used this time at home to plan all kinds of exciting projects for the new season.

### AT In SNP South District

Dennis DeSilvey, DM for the district, reports the big news is the planning for the relocation of the AT near Simmons Gap. Isabel left about 200 feet of the trail impassable, and even after a noble cutting and clearing operation, the AT twists and turns around large rootballs and broken trail. Shawn Green of the Park Service has drawn up a relocation that will take the AT lower on the slope and require only about 90 feet of new trail cutting. They will be scouting this section with the overseer in the near future but it looks like a major work project for the spring. The new section is on a 40-degree slope so the trail will need to be cut in. Dennis cannot thank those enough who worked so hard to reopen the trail in the southern district, where there were some of the largest and most interesting blowdowns he had ever seen, even comparing to some in the White Mountains in his early days of trail work.



Photo by Vic Fikes

*Cadillac Crewmembers assist Chris Brunton (in tree) to set up a line to control felling of a tree threatening the Carriage House at Blackburn.*



Photo by Richard Stromberg

*Members of Cadillac Crew have a view of Potomac River while raking leaves at Highacre.*

### Annual SNP/PATC Trails Meeting

Liles Creighton, PATC SOT, and Steve Bair, SNP backcountry manager, led their respective organizations in discussions of last year's progress and plans for the coming year at PATC Headquarters on Jan. 24. Some of the discussion items that may be of interest to the trails community include the following:

- SNP is installing a more secure lock system for its gated access to the drive and administrative areas. Keep your old keys for now. New keys will be provided to PATC for distribution to those who need them.

- Tuscarora Trail at the park boundary is now closed by the new owner. Steve Bair said the park was unaware of the closure but will research the issue.

- Use of power equipment on wilderness trails in SNP is decided on a case-by-case basis. A more detailed statement of policy will be provided to SNP DMs and crew leaders by SOT.

### Removal of SNP Low-Use Trail Blowdowns Delayed Until Spring

Mal Fordham reported the Ridge Runner Program in SNP worked better in 2003 than in the previous two or three years. Mal reminded the group that the primary purpose of Ridge Runners and Trail Patrol is to help hikers, not to assess trail conditions. But, reports on trail conditions are useful to DMs and the SOT. So those wanting coverage of particular trails should ask the Trail Patrol.

Karen Lutz, ATC Mid-Atlantic Office, reports volunteers will not be qualified as chainsaw operator instructors because ATC liability insur-

*See Trailhead, page 19*

**Trailhead, from page 18**

ers refuse to issue liability insurance to other than professionals. ATC has contracted with two professionals and is now seeking others.

Chainsaw operators must be certified under a new curriculum per the 2003 MOU among Forest Service, Park Service, and ATC. Last year's classes taught by SNP and ATC (in Pennsylvania) were the first group to be so certified. As old certifications are up, the new class must be attended. SNP is considering teaching two classes, one in the park (currently scheduled for April 24-25) and one farther north. There will be room for 15-18 participants per class. All PATC chainsaw operators, except those working in the National Forest, will be trained by SNP personnel. The first re-certification class should be in 2006; how that will be done has yet to be determined.

ATC and SNP will not conduct crosscut saw certification training. But, PATC will conduct Primitive Tools Workshops. Steve Bair will ask that PATC training enable protection under VIP for crosscut saw operators in the park. Dan Dueweke has scheduled the first workshop for April 17-18 at Blackburn.

SNP future budget for trails is uncertain and may result in the loss of trail personnel. SNP may need PATC co-overseers to help on blue-blazed trails that SNP maintains.

SNP reported a number of trail projects were held up due to lack of an archeologist to complete compliance reviews. Steve Bair reports that Don Owens from the AT Park Office has agreed to do the assessments – good news.

“What’s a Trail Crew” brochure, done by Don White, won an award from the Society for Technical Communication. Nice brochure.

SNP/PATC 2004 summer crew weeks remain as previously scheduled - three each in May and August.

**Trailhead Parking Lot Closed**

AT access parking south of Linden, Va., off Rte. 638 has been closed. Repeated problems over the past few years involving vandalism, drinking, drugs, and the increased dumping of trash have made it necessary to close the parking lot. Trailhead parking nearby off Rte. 725 is an alternative.

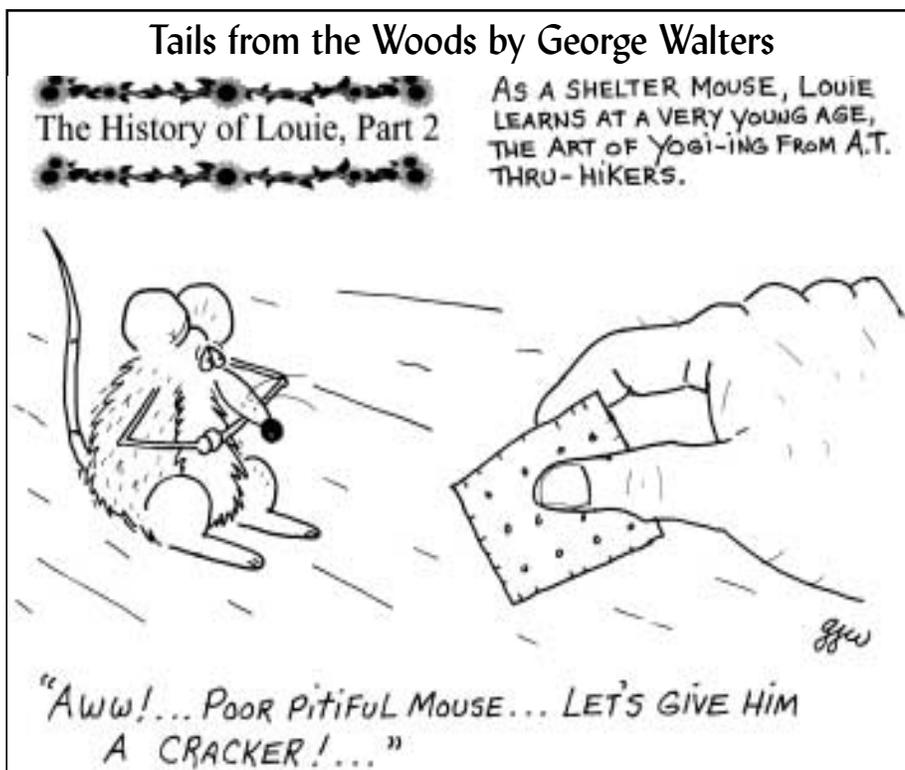
**No Longer a Threat**

It was dead quiet, a small cracking sound, then the command “keep cranking Jack,” a loud cracking noise, and then the crashing thud as the oak hit the ground. Cheers arose as the oak landed as planned, missing the recently remodeled Carriage House. So began the Cadillac Crew work trip on Jan. 24 at Blackburn Trail Center. Chris Brunton, Blackburn’s manager, had asked the crew to help remove a large, recently dead oak that was threatening the Carriage House. The

felling cut was expertly done by Bobby Lowery – best let a professional do that - while the crew rigged a grip hoist line to help control the fall. With four saws humming away in harmony, the oak was quickly reduced to next year’s firewood and the blocked trail to the privy cleared. What was predicted to be a reasonable January day with a high of 38 degrees turned out to be snowy with a high reaching only in the low 20s. But a little snow and cold weather didn’t deter the crew so with that job finished, additional firewood was cut, collected, and hauled to the storage area as winter reserves were getting low. Got to keep Caretakers Bill, Sarah, and two-year-old Kai warm for the rest of winter. Especially since they have volunteered to stay for another year, making Chris and those who use Blackburn extremely happy.

Led by Chris, the crew finished the day with a toast to Ruth Blackburn, who recently passed away. The Trail Center is named for Ruth and her husband Fred for their many years of service to PATC.

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



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# Trail, Shelter and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

**SHELTER OVERSEER OPENING**  
**David Lesser Shelter – Northern VA – Map 7**  
 Frank Turk, 301/249-8243  
 FrankTurk@aol.com

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**Co - District Manager for SNP North AT - Map 9**

Front Royal to US Rte. 211  
 John McCrea, 610/352-9287  
 mcreajf@aol.com

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**Trail overseer openings. Contact the district manager for the section that interests you.**

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**Tuscarora Pennsylvania Maps J & K**

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

Pete Brown, 410/343-1140  
 peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

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**SNP North AT – Map 9**

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

**Appalachian Trail – Co-overseer**

Beahms Gap to Pass Mt. Hut Trail (1.9 miles)

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**SNP North District Blue-Blazed – Map 9**

Dick Dugan, 703/836-0391  
 rdugan@bellatlantic.net

**Piney Branch Trail [upper]**

Powerline to AT (2.2 miles)

**Piney Branch Trail [lower] – Co-overseer**  
 Powerline to Hull School Trail (2.2 miles)  
**Thornton River [lower] – Co-overseer**  
 Skyline Drive to Hull School Trail (2.9 miles)

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**SNP Central AT – Map 10**

Kerry Snow, 240/535-8621  
 kerry@trailercrews.net

**Appalachian Trail**

Fishers Gap to Big Meadows Amphitheater (1.5 miles)

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**SNP Central Blue-Blazed [north end] – Map 10**

Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248  
 danjan3@cox.net

**Corbin Mountain Trail – Co-overseer**

Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fireroad (4.4 miles)

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**SNP Central Blue-Blazed [south end] – Map 10**

Steve Paull, 703/361-3869  
 stevepaull@yahoo.com

**Hawksbill Trail [upper]**

Upper Hawksbill Parking Area to Hawksbill Mt. (0.6 miles)

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**SNP South Blue-Blazed – Map 11**

Pete Gatje, 434/361-1309  
 pjgatje@aol.com

**Rocky Mt. -Brown Mountain Trail - Co-overseers**

Skyline Drive to Big Run Portal Trail (5.3 miles)

**Jones Run Trail**

Jones Run Parking Area to Doyles River/Jones Run Junction (2.5 miles)

**Tuscarora Central – Map L**

Walt Smith, 540/678-0423

wsmith@visuallink.com.

**High Rock Trail**

Packhorse Trail Road to Tuscarora Trail (2.3 miles)

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**Tuscarora South – Map F, G, 9**

Rick Rhoades, 540/477-3247

rrhoades@shentel.net

**Tuscarora Trail**

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail**

Rock marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail**

Shawl Gap to Sherman Gap (2.5 miles)

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**Great North Mountain – Map F**

Hop Long, 301/942-6177

theFSLongs@comcast.net

**Gerhard Shelter Trail**

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

**Tibbet Knob Trail**

Wolf Gap Campground to SR 691 (2.4 miles)

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**Suburban Maryland – Map D**

Liles Creighton, 410/573-0067

lcrei@aol.com

**Cabin John Trail**

Goya to Tuckerman (1.5 miles)

**Cabin John Trail**

River to Seven Locks (0.5 miles)

**Ford Mine Trail**

Maintenance Area to mine (0.5 miles)

## Volunteers - Appointed in January

Co-District Manager

Melvin Ellis

SNP Central Side Trails [North]

Trail Overseers

Bruce Prickett

Jones Mountain Trail - Bear Church Rock to Cat Knob Trail

Donna Swanson

AT - Pocosin Fire Road to Dean Mt. Road

Pat Hallinan, Co-overseer

Rose River Loop Trail



**The Potomac Appalachian**

118 Park Street  
 Vienna, VA 22180-4609

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