



# The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 34, Number 3  
March 2005

## The Appalachian Mountains and Plate Tectonics

The cataclysms that are manifest in earthquakes, eruptions, and tsunamis are testimony to the power of geologic forces. As we seek to understand the vastness of the cosmos and the minutiae of genetic processes, we are humbled by the inexorable passage of geologic time and the occasion of geological events. Understanding the phenomenology of these events has been the quest of mankind for millennia. But it wasn't until the late 18th century that Scotsman James Hutton made the seemingly innocuous observation that what was then occurring had always occurred. This first principle of geology, known as uniformitarianism, provides the basis for such observable features as rock strata that are similar in structure and composition to sediments collecting in streambeds and, by association, the notion of sedimentary rocks. But uniformitarianism does not adequately account for earthquakes.

See *Tectonics*, page 6



*An Old Rag formation is pictured above, which aptly demonstrates the conundrum posed by our Appalachian geological processes.*

## Winter Road Dangers: Renters Beware

The use of mountain roads during the winter can present potentially dangerous situations. Most of our cabin renters use these unfamiliar byways to access a cabin, often in the late day hours when ice can be at its worst. In most instances, having a four-wheeled drive vehicle is necessary. Yet having four-wheeled drive vehicles does not protect one from sliding on roads with extreme uphill or downhill gradients. Renters should realize that there are many local folks who also travel these roads, and those residents should not be subjected to reckless driving from those who take slippery roads for granted.

So, if you are coming downhill on a snowy or icy road, GO SLOWLY, so as not to need to swerve or make an oncoming car swerve, or worse yet, leave the roadway. Travel these roads with the anticipation that there will be someone coming up or down the road and

will need all of the room they are allowed to proceed without incident. PATC thanks you for your cooperation, as do the many people who call that place home. □

—Pat Fankhauser  
PATC Cabins Committee

## Book Sale

Great bargains on trail construction/design, trails in U.S. and Europe, hiking, backpacking, Western birds, maps of Europe and Austrian Alps, ferns, botany in winter, wilderness medicine, photography, rock climbing.

Evenings in HQ reception room  
beginning March 1.

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## Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council meeting was held at Club Headquarters on Jan. 11, 2005. President Tom Johnson announced that the ExCom had appointed several committees and chairs: Larry Marcoux has been appointed as the risk management chair; a constitutional revision committee was appointed with chair Bob Nelson and five other people – whose recommendations will be brought before Council; Gerhard Salinger is chair of Bears Den Management committee; Lloyd MacAskill will chair a new (as yet unnamed) trail that will run 2,000 miles north and south; Mickey McDermott is the new treasurer with Tim Hanlon appointed as vice treasurer. Tom also said that PATC will have 27 votes at the upcoming ATC General Member meeting and asked that PATC members planning to attend the conference let him know so that they can be declared as official club voting members.

### Finance

Treasurer Mickey McDermott said that due to computer problems, he didn't have a current monthly report and would be mailing out one when the computers were back up. Then Mickey made, and the Council approved, a motion to appoint Gerhard Salinger to the Endowment Committee for the remaining portion of Bob Patelunas' term until June. Council also approved Mickey's motion that PATC check-signing authority be authorized for five members: Tom Johnson, Bruce Glendening, Lee



Sheaffer, Gerhard Salinger, and Mickey McDermott. The expectation is that checks could then be signed within 72 hours.

### Trails and Lands

Council approved a motion submitted by Walt Smith establishing the Tuscarora Trail Goals and Standards. Walt said this would be the basis of a management plan – to be brought before Council – similar to the AT plan. Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton pointed out that the Tuscarora Trail is a major commitment for PATC; Tom said Tuscarora Trail will be part of the new unnamed trail.

The Council approved a motion authorizing membership in the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. Of the organizations considered, this was found to most closely mirror PATC's objectives. The treasurer had been asked to come up with a list of organizations PATC belongs to and a proposed criteria for such memberships.

Liles reported that the Outdoor and District Manager Potomac Heritage Trail – George Washington Memorial Park meeting was well run by Overseer Bruce Glendening (the new vice president of operations.)

*Chainsaw training classes:* SNP will hold chainsaw training classes, with 15 people per class. Greenbrier State Park ATC will schedule one in the fall with five slots for PATC. Liles said that recertification is PATC's highest priority (SNP now requires all chainsaw operators to be certified). District managers, crew leaders, tract managers, and shelter overseers will all be required to have certification in order to use chainsaws on their PATC territories.

Liles said there is a need for a clubwide chainsaw policy to reduce club liability and volunteered to draft such a policy. PATC will meet with the SNP district managers on Jan. 29 and GWNF personnel on Feb. 26.

*Supervisor of Land Management:* Chris Mangold reported there would be a tract management meeting Jan. 22 at PATC Headquarters. There is a conservation easement available in Madison County for \$80K.

Karen Brown reported on the Hauvermale timber cutting: She was waiting for a timber company to respond. Chris reported on the Aughwick Creek Cabin in West Carlisle, Pa., Rte. 30 rerouting effort and received the

*See Council, page 9*

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

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

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

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

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

**Club President (leave a message), Tom Johnson:** Extension 40

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.

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

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

**World Wide Web URL:** 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

### *Potomac Appalachian*

**Chief Editor:** Linda Shannon-Beaver, PA@patc.net

**Features Editor:** Joanne Erickson

**Forecast Editor:** Vince Ferrari, PA-Forecast@patc.net

### Club Officers and chairs contact info:

www.patc.net/about/contact.html

or call the main club phone number.

Contact list published twice annually in the PA.

# Tom's Trail Talk - Go Out and Recruit Someone!

## Dear Volunteers:

Last December we realized that the current (2004) year was running a substantial deficit, and we had projected an even larger deficit for 2005. So we did something that we had never done before: we mailed a Christmas appeal to volunteers who had given money in the past. Within a month a hasty mailing to about 400 volunteers had already netted over \$14,000, an unexpectedly generous outpouring. Thanks to everyone who contributed. (Had we known that PATC members felt so strongly about the club's financial solvency, we would have contacted a larger group.)

Let me explain why this is important to hikers. PATC has embarked on a long-term project to protect the Tuscarora Trail. About 1/6 of the Tuscarora crosses private land, and the club must either obtain easements for permission to cross, or purchase the land. Further, another 1/6 is on roads, and we are trying to relocate those portions to nearby land parcels. We will be allocating a portion of the profits from our endowment each year to buy land (either easements or fee simple) for the Tuscarora protection project. Whenever we draw money from the endowment to pay the light bill, that money cannot go toward trail protection. So your contributions are critical to our forward momentum.

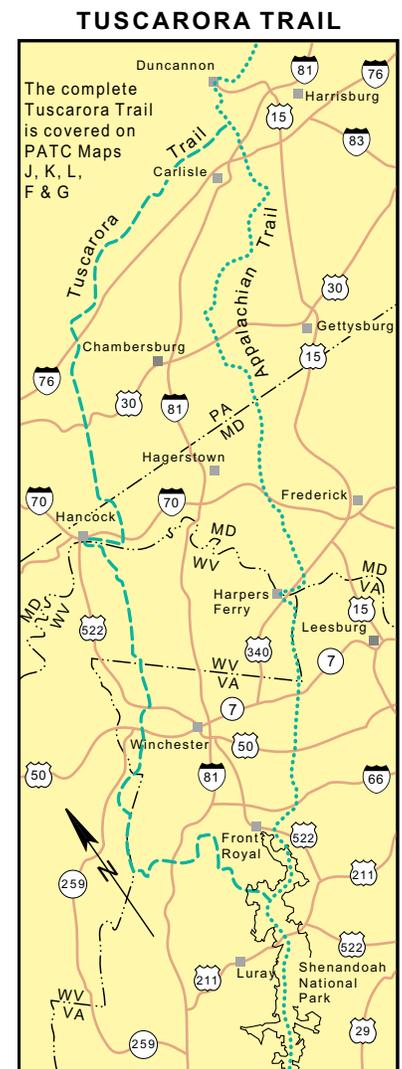
What have we been doing with our acquisition money? Much of the effort has been concentrated in Pennsylvania. Over the past year

the North Chapter has embarked on a major land-acquisition effort to protect the Tuscarora. The most recent acquisition was a magnificent 54-acre tract north of Cowans Gap in Pennsylvania. We plan to build a cabin on the tract to provide the chapter with a trail center. The North Chapter land committee, headed by Jim Peterson, has also acquired land farther south in the area where U.S. 30 crosses Tuscarora Mountain, and the chapter has already rerouted large portions of the trail off of roads. Volunteers have also built a new shelter in that immediate vicinity. Farther south in West Virginia and Virginia, former president Walt Smith is working on some easements and potential purchases that will protect the trail and get it off roads.

Back to our budget deficit. The best solution for budget deficits is membership growth. This fuels everything the club does, and is the key to success. So what can you do? Can you convince someone to join PATC? Can you give a membership to someone every year? If every active volunteer brought one person into the club each year, we would begin growing again.

Become an advocate for the club, and recruit as many people as you can. Keep a club membership brochure in your pack. This is a great club. It is doing good work. Go out and recruit people to the cause. I will thank you, and so will the Tuscarora Trail. □

—Tom Johnson



## Seasonal Trail Crews

PATC provides six one-week sessions for trail work in SNP and four one-week work sessions for trail work to the Forest Service. These seasonal work periods are challenging, but result in friendships and gratification to those who take part. If you are up to it, this is just the thing for you.

The first three SNP sessions will be in May, during the first three weeks of the month. The first two for the Forest Service (Massarock Crew) will be in the first two weeks of June. You are encouraged to sign up and get involved. For an application, go to [www.patc.net/volunteer/crew05.html](http://www.patc.net/volunteer/crew05.html). There is additional information at this Web site or call Heidi Forrest, Trail Coordinator, 703/242-0315, ext 12.

## Volunteers - Appointed in January

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Andy Rivers                   | Robertson Mountain Trail  |
| John Hayward                  | Massanutten Trail - 7-Bar-None Trail to Bear Trap Trail               |
| Hop Long                      | Ford Mine Trail   |
| John Hedrick, Co-overseer     | AT - Jenkins Gap to Hogwallow Gap                                     |
| Frank Lilley, Co-overseer     | Rocky Mt. Run Trail - Big Run Portal Trail to Rocky Mt.-Brown Mt. Tr. |
| Patrick Laughner, Co-overseer | Tuscarora Trail - C&O to Ruth Morris Forest                           |
| Melodie O Hanlon, Co-overseer | Tuscarora Trail - C&O to Ruth Morris Forest                           |
| Bette Dzamba, Co-overseer     | Wildcat Ridge Trail   |
| David Sellers, Co-overseer    | Wildcat Ridge Trail   |
| Mike Capraro, Co-overseer     | Dickey Ridge Trail - Front Royal Entrance Station to MP 2.1           |
| Susan Musante, Co-overseer    | Dickey Ridge Trail - Front Royal Entrance Station to MP 2.1           |

## Would You Like YOUR Photo on PATC's New Membership Brochure?

The Membership Committee is in need of photos to use in the development of our new membership brochure. This is the perfect opportunity for YOU to showcase your talent. We are looking for photos encompassing the diversity of PATC activities and volunteerism such as: 1.) trail crew action photos, 2.) hikers along the AT, 3.) shelter crew action photos, 4.) cabin crew action photos, or 5.) family hiking/cabining photos.

Selected photos will be displayed at our annual meeting this November, AND the individual who took any of the photos chosen will get a gift certificate redeemable in the PATC Store.

You can scan an old photo or get out and produce something brand new. Qualifications are that they have to be digital photos and delivered on CD to PATC Headquarters no later than April 1, 2005. Indicate on the CD or in a note which category the photo is in. And if the participants are smiling, that's a good thing.

Our deadline for the brochure is April 1, 2005; however, the club will continue to welcome photos from members to build up a cache of photos for future use. Send the CD to Pat Fankhauser c/o PATC, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, VA 22180 as soon as you can. □

*Pat Fankhauser*

## Thank You PATC From an Honorary Life Member

Thank You PATC for recognizing me at the annual meeting this year (2004) as an Honorary Life Member. The best part was being included with Gerhard Salinger as an Honorary Life Member, as well as with Jon and Katherine Rindt as the Volunteers of the Year. It is a recognition that will always remind me of the many years of good deeds with so many volunteers that I had the pleasure to work with in the SNP. Thanks Shawn, CT, Don, Pete, George, Kerry, John, Jon, and Dick. You taught me lots that I will now use to build and maintain trails forever in Arizona. □

*—Bernie Stalman*

## MUDDY BRANCH TRAIL

The Maryland National Park and Planning Commission will be constructing the Muddy Branch Trail from Rte. 28 to Quince Orchard Rd. in Montgomery County, on March 12, April 23, and May 14. Any PATC takers?

If interested please contact Liles Creighton  
(Lcrei@aol.com), 410/573-0067

## PATC Trail Patrol

Presents

# Hike Leadership Training

March 5 and 6, 2005

The Trail Patrol is hosting a Hike Leadership Training course on March 5 and 6 at PATC HQ. 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 Greg Howell  
(TPHLT@patc.net) 571/215-1412.

## Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol

Presents

# Leave No Trace Trainers Course

April 11

This combination indoor classroom and outdoor field course is designed to enhance your understanding of Leave No Trace practices and ethics and to develop your confidence in teaching others about Leave No Trace. Through activities, field/classroom experience, and both formal and informal discussions, you will be challenged to develop your LNT skills and ethics. This is a fun class where all have a part in demonstrating the choices that can be made to minimize our impact on the land and our resources. It is hoped that graduates of this class will be willing to make LNT presentations to community groups when and if their schedules permit.

**Classroom:** Mon., April 11 - 7:30 p.m., PATC Headquarters, Vienna, Va.

**Weekend Field Program:** Sat. - Sun., April 16-17, SNP

**Cost:** \$35.00 for PATC Members, \$50.00 for Non-Members (Join PATC at the time of registration and get the member price!)

**Registration:** Send payment to PATC, LNT Trainers Course, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, VA 22180-4609.

**Information:** Mark Holland (TPLNT@patc.net) 540/636-3639 (mornings only).

## National Symphony Orchestra Musicians to the Rescue

After reading Steve Weiss' account of an Old Rag rescue in the January issue, I would like to share a similar, but less serious, occurrence with an unusual twist (no pun intended). We have a cabin near the base of Old Rag in Nethers, Va., and often host groups of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Alexandria school students for one or more days of outdoor experience – always including a hike of Old Rag. Our most recent event was in November when a group of ninth grade students from Minnie Howard School in Alexandria came out on a Wednesday to hike Old Rag. The group included 32 students, four teachers, and their school bus driver. The teachers, having had an earlier very positive Old Rag bonding experience with a group of ESL (English as a Second Language) students, decided to bring together a group of ESL and JNHS (Junior National Honor Society) students to see if these students who normally did not interact much at school could be brought closer together.

The day started out uneventfully, but at mid-afternoon I got a call from our son-in-law, Dean Munson, a math teacher who was part of the group, telling me that one of the students had sprained her ankle as she joined her classmates in enjoying the vistas from the summit.



Photo by Patty and Dean Munson

*This group of ninth grade students from Minnie Howard School in Alexandria, who ventured out to Old Rag, got more of an experience than they expected.*

Dean said that she could not walk and that they were coming down via the Saddle Trail and fire road. Luckily, I had stocked several flashlights with fresh batteries so I told him I would start up the fire road to meet them since I knew it would be dark before they would make it back if they had to carry the injured student. I started out and had almost reached the Saddle Trail when I met up with the group. I was pleased to see they were making good time and observed that the student was being carried on the back of a strapping young hiker. Soon afterward he traded off with a young woman, and not long after, with my son-in-law. They were using a fanny pack as a seat/saddle, rotating the carries, and it seemed to be working very well. Fortunately, the student had a slight build.

As we proceeded down the fire road and exchanged names, I was surprised to learn that the good Samaritans who had pitched in to help out were Tony Manzo and Rachel Young, a relatively newlywed couple. They are both musicians with the National Symphony Orchestra who share a love of the outdoors and of music. He plays the bass and she the cello.

The entire group proceeded to our cabin for a pre-planned but now delayed evening meal. The musicians and the students hit it off very well. Students called home to let their parents know that they would be late, and the students and teachers were soon back on the bus for the trip home. Son-in-law Dean later reported that the students were very excited about their trip, but that his most positive feedback came the following week during a parent-teacher conference when a parent said that a reluctant OK would be the usual response to "How did it go today?" The parent reported that the response to a query about the Old Rag trip brought out an extended and enthusiastic tale about all the interesting and unique experiences.

This PATC member would like to add his thanks to the PATC volunteers who contribute so much to Shenandoah National Park and the many trails in our region. □

—Kevin Heanue

*Musicians to the rescue! Tony Manzo and Rachel Young helped carry a young woman, who had sprained her ankle, out of the area.*



That the continents may have a relationship to each other was likely first manifest when accurate maps became available in the 18th century and the striking similarity between the east coast of South America and the west coast of Africa was first noted. Alfred Wegener, a German meteorologist, first introduced the theory of continental drift in an article published in 1912. By reassembling the continents that contained similar glacial striations and similar assemblages of fossil plants (*Glossopteris flora*), he posited that South America, Africa, India, Australia, and Antarctica were at one time a single landmass he named Gondwanaland (from a region in central India, which gave its name to Gondwana sedimentary rocks that were found to exist on other continents, thus supporting the theory).

By the middle of the 20th century, the theory of independent floating continental landmasses was supplanted by the theory of plate tectonics; the continents being higher elevation portions of their respective plates. This was precipitated by several antecedent observations. Oceanographers had determined that the ocean ridges are connected in a worldwide system and that the ridges were actually areas where the crust was being pulled apart and new crust was forming. At about the same time, it was noted that earthquakes occurred in areas where the ocean basin trenches dip beneath the edge of a continent like South America or an island arc, like Japan. These zones were named subduction zones to account for the resorption of the continental crust into the mantle, thus maintaining a geologic balance for the crust created in the expanding ocean ridges. In 1968, three American geophysicists named Isacks, Oliver, and Sykes originated the theory of plate tectonics, with the earth divided into about 12 major plates and several minor ones separated by oceanic ridges and subduction zones.

### **How the Appalachians Came to Be**

The story of the Appalachian Mountains begins where the Eurasian Plate and the North American Plate come together. It is a complicated story with a global scale, a continental scale, and a local (Blue Ridge) scale. It is now theorized that the continents have come together through plate movements as many as six times in the last 3 billion years, about once every 500 million years. However, it is only the last three that are of direct concern to explain the geologic history of the Appalachians. About 1.2 billion years ago, the Grenville orogeny (from the Greek *oros* meaning mountain – the formation of mountains through structural disturbance of the earth's crust) occurred as the plates came together to form a single large landmass named Rodinia.

The crust at the interface buckled and formed the Grenville Mountains, believed to have been as high as the Rocky Mountains are today, as they were formed by a similar process. The temperatures and pressures that were generated within the mountains by the grinding plates were such that the crustal rocks melted to form magma. This magma slowly cooled, forming the backbone of the current Appalachian Mountains, most visible as Old Rag Granite at Old Rag Mountain and as granodiorite of the Pedlar Formation at Mary's Rock. As the Grenville Mountains eroded during this early period, the coarse grained, conglomerate Swift Run Formation was formed.

According to the plate tectonic model, the super-continent Rodinia broke up about 750 million years ago, resulting in the formation of the Iapetus Ocean, the proto-Atlantic. (Iapetus was one of the 12 titans of Greek mythology and was the father of the god Atlas, for whom the Atlantic is named). It is theorized that these breakups occur because the large continental mass acts as an insulator over the molten magma

underneath. The magma eventually heats up to the point that it rises to the surface and drives the continents apart. In the case of the Blue Ridge, the magma flowed out onto the surface and covered the Old Rag Granite, the Pedlar, and the Swift Run Formations with thick layers of extrusive, volcanic igneous rock which we know as the Catoclin "greenstone" Formation.

### **Theories on How Continents Form**

One of the dilemmas facing geophysicists is whether the formation of supercontinents always occurs in the same direction: that the Atlantic keeps opening and closing (the so-called accordion or introversion theory). The other alternative is that the continents break up and continue to move apart until they form a new supercontinent at the antipodes of the first (the exterior ocean or extroversion theory). Recent research to resolve this dilemma uses the amounts of the "rare earth" elements Samarium (Sm) and Neodymium (Nd). Samarium is smaller than Neodymium and will stay in the solid mantle, whereas the larger Neodymium will migrate to the liquid melted magma. The crux of the argument is that the Sm/Nd ratio (which is 0.32 for the earth as a whole) is 0.2 in crustal rocks (more Nd, less Sm) and 0.5 in mantle rocks (more Sm, less Nd).

Using this ratio, geophysicists can determine when a crystallized rock left the mantle, and thus whether a specimen from the earth's crust is younger or older than one from the continental landmass. In the exterior ocean model, the ocean will be older than the continent. Based on this theory, the continent Pannotia formed after the breakup of Rodinia due to extroversion, as the continents now known as Australia, Antarctica, and the amalgamation of South America and Africa collided about 550 million years ago. This had no appreciable effect on the Appalachians, however, and will no longer concern us here.

What does concern us is what happened to the Grenville Mountains. They eroded, probably much more rapidly than uniformitarianism might indicate, as there was no vegetation to check the flow. This occurred for hundreds of millions of years, depositing layers of sediments up to 60,000 feet in depth on top of the Swift Run and Catoclin Formations. Sand particles were deposited and gradually compressed into the quartzite of the Weverton Formation. As the Iapetus Ocean widened and became deeper, finer grained sediments formed the Harpers (Hampton) Formation and the succeeding Antietam (or Erwin) Formation. Trace fossils of the burrowing of marine worms are evidence of the tidal basin paleoenvironment of these formations.

### **Appalachians Make a Second Appearance**

In keeping with the theory that supercontinents must eventually break up due to the magma heating effect, Pannotia broke up and set in motion the movement of the tectonic plates that ultimately resulted in the closure of the Iapetus Ocean and the creation of Pangea (from the Greek *pan* meaning all and *ge*, earth). This process started in the Ordovician Period, about 450 million years ago. As the Eurasian plate descended under the North American plate, the hardened sediments that had been formed by the erosion of the earlier Grenville Mountains were uplifted in what is known as the Taconic orogeny, affecting primarily the northern Appalachians. As the subduction of the Eurasian plate continued, the continental landmasses moved closer and closer until they collided in the Devonian Period, about 400 million years ago. This second event, known as the Acadian orogeny, thrust up the northern Appalachians a second time.

*See Tectonics, page 18*

# Blackburn Center Family Weekend – April 16-17 – Rain or Shine

When was the last time you had an outing with your family to relax and enjoy time together? Trail Patrol and Shenandoah Mountain Rescue (SMRG) will lead activities on hiking safety and Leave No Trace. Hikes, games, arts and crafts, and other activities will involve nature and outdoor education. Groups will be broken up by age, enabling everyone to have a good time. Night hikes and a campfire will end Saturday's events.

Blackburn is located just outside of Round Hill, Va., near the AT, about an hour from DC. Come for the weekend or the day! Food will be pro-

vided Saturday (lunch and dinner) and Sunday (breakfast and lunch). There are a limited number of beds and mattresses, but plenty of camping spaces lie just up the hill. Blackburn has running water, but no flush toilets – three privies are available.

Sign up early to ensure there is room! Fill out the form below, and mail it with your check today! There is no cost for the use of Blackburn, but we do need to clean up – your help is appreciated. For more information contact Jane Thompson, (jayteehike@yahoo.com) 301/349-2496. □

—Jane Thompson

## PATC Family Weekend Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meals** (ages 3 and under are free) **Sat. lunch/dinner, Sun. Breakfast/lunch**

\_\_\_\_\_ people over 10 years of age x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ people ages 4-9 x \$9.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ people ages 10 and over x \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday only** people ages 4-9 x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost for Meals:** \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirts: forest green heavyweight 50/50 shirts, supplies provided to make nature silhouette prints on shirts during the weekend

	Adult	Youth	Toddler
Please indicate quantity next to each size	S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____	S (6-8) _____ M (10-12) _____ L (14-16) _____	2T _____ 3T _____ 4T _____
	<b>Total number of shirts</b> _____		<b>x \$3.50 = \$</b> _____

**HOW I WILL HELP:** Indicate 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ bring 2 dozen brownies, cookies, rice crispie treats, or similar.

\_\_\_\_\_ Help prepare a meal: \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. lunch \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. dinner \_\_\_\_\_ Sun. breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Sun. lunch

\_\_\_\_\_ Help clean up after a meal: \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. lunch \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. dinner \_\_\_\_\_ Sun. breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Sun. lunch

\_\_\_\_\_ Help clean up before leaving on Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ We would like to sleep inside if accommodations are available.

Please send completed form and check for total amount to: Jane Thompson, PO Box 82, Barnesville, MD 20838 by April 9, 2005. Due to limited space, reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. An e-mail will be sent to you when your reservation is received.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club — Trail Patrol presents

## BACKPACKING 101 An Introductory Backpacking Course

Expand your enjoyment of the outdoors through the practice of backpacking. 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. Includes an overnight backpacking trip accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors. Designed for persons 18 years and older who have no prior backpacking experience, as well as former backpackers seeking to update their skills.

### Introduction Night

Mon., April 4, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Headquarters, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Va.

### Instructional Weekend

April 9-10: 8:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. Sat., 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sun.

Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, Va.

(Sat. overnight car camping in campground encouraged but not required)

### Overnight Backpacking Trip

April 30 – May 1 (Sat.– Sun.), Trip destination and times TBD

Fee: \$75.00 for PATC Members; \$95.00 for Non-Members

For more information, contact John Browne

(TPBackpack@patc.net) 703/425-5645

## PATC Trail Patrol

Presents

## Lighter Weight Backpacking

Seeking ways to reduce your pack weight? This one-day workshop provides tips and techniques for developing a weight-conscious mindset when choosing and using equipment. Students will be encouraged to bring their packs fully loaded for a multi-day trip – for evaluation by instructors.

Sat., May 21, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

PATC Headquarters,

118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Va.

Fee: \$30 PATC Members; \$40 Non-Members

For more information, contact John Browne

(TPBackpack@patc.net) 703/425-5645

## Book Review: 'In the Shadow of Ragged Mountain'

"In the Shadow of Ragged Mountain," by Audrey Horning, Shenandoah National Park Association, 115 pages, soft cover, \$16.95

In the Shadow of Ragged Mountain is the third "photo album"-styled document published by the Shenandoah National Park Association. The subjects of the first two, written by park Cultural Resources Specialist Reed Engle, were the Civilian Conservation Corps ("*Everything Was Wonderful*") and the Skyland resort ("*In the Light of the Mountain Moon*"). This third book has been prepared by Audrey Horning, a Ph.D student from the College of William and Mary. Based on a grant from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, it chronicles her archeological survey of 15 sites in Weakley, Nicholson, and Corbin Hollows conducted over three years and completed in 1997.

What is presented is a thorough discussion of three different mountain communities, each defined by the geography of the region. Horning's documented land deeds, wills, and bankruptcy and residential auctions, augmented by her archeological team's collections, provide tremendous insight into the lifestyles of these families.

### The First Settlers

As might be expected, Weakley Hollow, situated at the bottom of the mountain, was first settled in the 1770s. Its residents included farmers, carpenters, a stonemason, a blacksmith, and a sawmill operator, among others, and included the community of Old Rag, consisting of a post office, two stores, a church, and a school. Further upstream, Nicholson Hollow, settled in the early 1800s, became a small farming community with one church, which was later used as a school, while the steep and rocky Corbin Hollow, not settled until the last decade of the 19th century, offered little to support the residents.

Perhaps most telling is the Corbin Hollow story. Finnell Corbin, grandson of the first Corbins who had settled in Weakley Hollow, was the first to reside in the upper Corbin Hollow, circa 1893. Initially a squatter, by 1930 the entire upper part of Corbin Hollow was populated by Finnell's blood relatives. Unlike the many substantial homes found in Weakley and Nicholson Hollows, many of the Corbin Hollow homes had only loosely coursed stone stacks for chimneys, or no stone chimneys at all, relying on terra cotta or metal

elbow pipe instead. Not surprisingly, Horning found that Corbin Hollow, situated just over the ridge from Skyland, contained the highest percentages of costume jewelry and recreational items found in all three hollows. It is well documented that the Skyland guests regularly provided food, clothing, toys, and medical attention to these residents. They even provided homes, the first school, and a teacher for Corbin Hollow.

Another measure of the lifestyles of these families is provided in the genealogies of the Nicholsons and Corbins, prepared by the SNP staff for this publication. Incredibly, it is shown that, of the last three generations to live in the park, 45 out of 53 Nicholsons married Nicholsons or Corbins, while 27 of 30 Corbins married Corbins or Nicholsons! This includes three siblings of one Nicholson family marrying four siblings of a second cousin Nicholson family (one male married two sisters) and another case involving the first cousin marriages of three Corbin siblings to three Nicholson siblings.

Any casual reader can find a plethora of books that document the demise of the mountain residents' way of life by the beginning of the 20th century. Loss of farmable land, timber, wildlife, the American chestnut tree, local mills, the use of bark by tanneries, and the ability to distill their own fruits, all conspired with an increasing population to reduce the opportunity for these people to sustain their inherited lifestyle. However, Horning chooses not to address the implication of these issues to the well-being of the mountain residents.

### Author Has Opinions

"*The Survey of Rural Mountain Settlement*" is Horning's contribution to "aid the goals of presenting mountain life in a positive light." She portrays these three hollows as "self-contained communities living in perfect harmony with their local environment and with each other." She proceeds to construct a revisionist analysis that all too often relies on self-serving emotional opinions that condemn outsiders and praise the mountain residents.

For example, she asserts that the poverty in Corbin Hollow is "linked in large part to the exploitation of hollow residents by George Freeman Pollock," founder of Skyland. Following the precedent established by Engle in his book on Skyland, Horning demonizes Pollock in 19 specific references in the first 73

pages. I was particularly amused by her explanation of how Skyland dishes came to be found in the Corbin Hollow homes. Despite many possible scenarios, she prefers the notion that it is most likely "the notoriously cash-impaired Pollock may have paid his employees with items such as tableware and perhaps even records and costume jewelry."

It is distracting to have to continually overlook Horning's slanted interpretations of actions and artifacts for which no one can know the actual truth. In this function, she fails to reach the goal of providing an interpretive history of the park's residents devoid of emotional bias. In her defense, she does make it clear that it is her desire to provide a counterbalance to the generally perceived negative image of the mountain people as displayed in historic documents, specifically, Sherman and Henry's 1933 study "*Hollow Folk*." This social study of the same three hollows provided fuel to the generally accepted belief that removal of the mountain residents for the establishment of the Shenandoah National Park would result in a marked improvement of their lives. Perhaps it is just a case of the pendulum swinging to the other extreme, where current political correctness dictates honoring these now-gone lifestyles. Just as PATC was requested by SNP back in the 1950s to comb the park and pick up mountain resident trash that still remained, we are now told that we must leave every item untouched, even the Coca Cola bottled smashed against a rock in the 1930s, for fear of destroying its "cultural context."

It is difficult for us today to interpret actions and motives of a people who lived in such a different world than we are familiar with. For example, Horning discusses the "unusual" layout of two upstairs rooms that have no door connecting them. It is her interpretation that the reason that the upstairs rooms could only be reached by their own ground level staircases was due to family disputes. However, I've learned from Darwin and Eileen Lambert, who live in an 1850s log cabin that also had unconnected upstairs bedrooms, that this was not an uncommon practice, required "on account of morality."

### A Common Depression Experience

Ultimately, Horning does provide some excellent insight to the plight of the mountain residents. In her epilogue, she provides evidence

See Book, page 16

## Groups Unite to Designate New Wilderness Areas, Part III

This is the conclusion of a series of three articles about the new wave of wilderness proposals developed by citizen groups in PATC's region as a means of protecting roadless areas of the national forests. The current protection is by management prescription in land use plans, which can be changed by administrators. The designation of an area as wilderness is done by Act of Congress, and can be changed only by another Act of Congress.

### Pennsylvania

The Allegheny National Forest, in the northwest corner of Pennsylvania, is the home of two existing wilderness areas totaling 9,000 acres: Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands. When they were designated by Congress in 1984, other proposed areas were omitted.

Pennsylvania citizen groups have re-studied the roadless areas of the Allegheny and concluded that 54,000 acres in eight units meet the standards of the Wilderness Act. The Forest Service is currently revising its Forest Plan, and citizen groups are urging the agency to include these proposals in the revision.

To help support this wilderness proposal, you can write to: Kevin Elliott, Forest Supervisor, Allegheny National Forest (Attn: Forest Plan Revision), PO Box 847, Warren, PA 16365 (or by e-mail to [r9\\_allegheny\\_nf@fs.fed.us](mailto:r9_allegheny_nf@fs.fed.us)). No deadline has been set.

The wilderness designations would protect the wild setting of the North Country Trail as it passes through the Tionesta, Morrison Run, and Tracy Ridge units. The Tanbark Trail passes through the Allegheny Front and Hickory Creek Addition units.

Maps of the proposed wilderness areas can be viewed on the website of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness ([www.pawild.org](http://www.pawild.org)). All the details appear in a 64-page booklet published by the Friends, entitled "A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest," available upon request.

### Virginia

In 1965, PATC took the lead in a citizens' wilderness study of SNP. As a result, Congress designated 80,000 acres of the park as wilderness in 1976. With the SNP study completed, attention shifted to the national forests.

Citizens' efforts led Congress to designate 15 wilderness areas in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in the 1970s and 1980s.

Many other roadless areas in the two national forests remain without the protection of wilderness designation. The Virginia Wilderness Committee (VWC), organized in 1969, is coordinating efforts by many groups. (Among its longtime leaders was the late Ernie Dickerman, known to many in PATC.) In the past VWC assisted PATC with the Shenandoah wilderness legislation, and they currently focus on the national forests.

In the Jefferson National Forest in southwest Virginia, VWC and cooperating groups have re-studied the roadless areas and developed a citizens' proposal. Legislation was introduced on Earth Day 2004 by Sen. John Warner and Rep. Rick Boucher. The bill has been endorsed by county governments and businesses in southwest Virginia.

The Ridge and Valley Wilderness and National Scenic Area Act (S. 2342 and H.R. 4202) proposes 29,000 acres for designation as wilderness, including four new wilderness areas in the Jefferson and expansions of five existing wilderness areas. The new wilderness areas would be Brush Mountain, Brush Mountain East, Stone Mountain, and Raccoon Branch. The additions would enlarge the existing Mountain Lake, Shawvers Run, Peters Mountain, Little Wilson Creek, and Lewis Fork wilderness areas. The bill also creates two national scenic areas totaling 12,000 acres: Crawfish Valley and Seng Mountain.

VWC is currently approaching other members of Virginia's congressional delegation to co-sponsor the bills introduced by Warner and Boucher. Co-sponsors to date include Reps. Tom Davis, Jim Moran, and Robert Scott. The proposal will soon be reintroduced in 2005 with new bill numbers.

VWC volunteers are also re-studying roadless areas in the George Washington National Forest with a view to developing wilderness proposals at a later date. To participate in this study, contact Don Giecek ([GIECEK@aol.com](mailto:GIECEK@aol.com), phone 804/749-1992).

For further information contact the Virginia Wilderness Committee, [www.vawilderness.org](http://www.vawilderness.org). □

—George Alderson,  
[george7096@comcast.net](mailto:george7096@comcast.net)

### Council, from page 2

deeds. Jim Peterson has organized a tract open house on April 10.

*Supervisor of Facilities:* Mel Merritt reported the status of the cabins reservation policy – it was scheduled to be mailed out by Pat Fankhauser by Jan. 12.

Comments will be presented to ExCom in February to be voted on at the March Council meeting (the budget won't be firmed up until this issue is resolved.) Cabin overseers are urged to pre-empt use of cabins available for

rental no more than four to six times a year and will have to submit a report on the work trip when they take a cabin out of the rental system. Comments will be presented at the February ExCom meeting and voted on at the March Council meeting.

Chris also indicated that the club needs to identify a location for the new storage area (previously approved.) Cabin construction was going back in action for 2005 this week-end; alternating between Rosser Lamb Cabin on the Per-Lee tract and John's Rest on the West tract. PATC has lost the use of

the field in Bowie used for shelter pre-fabrication. Rocky Run Shelter is in bad shape; Mel will come up with a new shelter plan. He intends to schedule a planning meeting prior to the March 8 Council meeting; a Cabin Overseers meeting is scheduled at Blackburn for April 9.

Ten club officers, 10 committee chairs, two chapter representatives, four section representatives, one staff member, and one other club member attended the January Council meeting. □

—Alan Day, Secretary

## 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 9:00 a.m., with food and water for the day. The majority of hikes are in the south and central districts of SNP, 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

See [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.

### West Virginia Chapter

The West Virginia Chapter meets twice a year in March and September. The Chapter maintains a section of the Black Locust circuit trail in Gambrill State Park near Frederick, Md. Work trips and hikes are usually scheduled monthly from March through December. We also lead overnight weekend trips for day hikes or backpacking. All activities are listed in the PA Forecast. For further information contact Dave Jordahl ([wvpatc@hotmail.com](mailto:wvpatc@hotmail.com)) 304/876-7062 (evenings) or 240/777-7741 (days).

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

## KEY to Forecast Activities

All events are marked for easy identification. Late changes or cancellations are listed on the weekly information tape (703/242-0965), which is updated on Sunday evening for the following seven days. The Forecast can also be found on PATC's Web site at [www.patc.net/activities/forecast.html](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 301/349-2496.

### 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

The council meets at 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 always welcome. Come see how we make decisions about your club. INFO: Wilson Riley ([wriley@patc.net](mailto:wriley@patc.net)) 703/242-0693 x11.

### Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's good-will trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, and strive to educate 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 Trail 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 ([trailpatrol@patc.net](mailto:trailpatrol@patc.net)) 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 (Tuesday)

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

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

1 (Tuesday)

**CLASS - Intro to Backpacking (REI)**

Fairfax, VA

7:00 p.m. Join REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) for a clinic covering the essentials - packs, tents, clothing, footwear, sleep systems, cookware, and safety information, with a few tips for fun. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

1 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Family Hike**

Sterling, VA

Kid-friendly hike in Claude Moore Park, along the white-blazed Little Stony Mountain Trail. This circuit trail is 3 miles long, but can easily be shortened. We will meet in the Vestal's Gap Road Parking lot by the Visitor's Center. After the hike we'll check out the turtles, puzzles, and learning activities in their great Visitor's Center. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

1 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Climb Rose, or Rowes River Fire Rd., connecting to Rose River Loop Trail. Climb to AT south to Lewis Falls. Return via Rapidan Fire Rd. and Dark Hollow Falls Trail. 18 miles and a 4300 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

1 (Tuesday)

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

2 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Hiking the AT (REI)**

Rockville, MD

7:00 p.m. Included in the presentation will be hike preparations, cost, the equipment needed (and not needed), trail shelters, hostels, the people on and around the trail, and all aspects of an AT thru-hike. We will also discuss many of the unique trail "traditions". Q & A will follow. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

2 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Brookeville, MD

We'll meet at 10:15 a.m., and hike 5 easy miles in Blue Mash Park, in Montgomery Co., MD. Bring lunch and water. Restaurant option if the weather warrants it. Directions: Follow Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97) north through Brookeville. Turn left to remain on 97 at the stop sign in Brookeville. Shortly after the stop sign, turn left on Brookeville Road. Turn right on Zion Road at another stop sign. Turn left at the Blue Mash Park entrance and park on the right hand side. INFO: Margaret Chapman (MargtChapm@aol.com) 301/977-8988.

2 (Wednesday)

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

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington, DC area to various trailheads. Hikes are at a moderate pace and about 8 to 12 miles in length with varied elevations. Current information, including meeting place, time, leader's name and phone number, and a detailed descrip-

tion of the hike are available on the PATC Activities Recording: 703/242-0965.

2 (Wednesday)

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

5 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers**

Appalachian Trail, MD

The South Mountaineers work trip schedule for 2005 begins! Meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County, Maryland. Bring water, gloves, boots and lunch. Hike 2-5 miles. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

5 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers**

Fayetteville, PA

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

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

2005 - a new work season with some new and several leftover jobs. Tasks include painting, installing new flooring in carriage house, basement digging and lots of landscaping and roadwork. No special skills required. Community meal on Saturday evening. INFO: Chris Brunton (trailbossbtc@msn.com) 703/924-0406.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Hiker Leadership Training**

Vienna, VA

The Trail Patrol is hosting this two-day course (see ad page 4), which 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. INFO: Greg Howell (TPHLT@patc.net) 571/215-1412.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)**

Alexandria, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this 18-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$160. INFO: Christopher Tate (www.wfa.net) 703/836-8905.

8 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Family Hike**

Arlington, VA

Come join us for a kid-friendly hike along a short section of the Potomac Heritage Trail, starting at Gulf Branch in Arlington. We will also visit the Gulf Branch Nature Center, which has great exhibits including a live owl. This out-and-back hike will be about 2 miles long. INFO: Anne Regan (anne.c.regan@verizon.net) 703/689-3883.

8 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Family Hike**

Bluemont, VA

Come on out for some beautiful views from Bear Den Rocks, near Snickers Gap, Route 7 and 601. This kid-paced hike is very rocky, and NOT jogging-stroller passable. We will hike up to Bear Den Rocks, over to Bear's Den Hostel, along their historical trail and back down. The complete hike will be about 2.5 to 3 miles, but can easily be shortened to about 1.5 miles. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

8 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Long Distance Hike**

Lorton, VA

The Fourth Annual Cross County Trail Hike. This one-way 32-mile hike along the stream banks and through the woods of Fairfax County will meet at "first light" to allow us to ford Difficult Run before sunset at the end of the hike. Held jointly with the Sierra Club's MWROP. Great training for the big hikes coming up: the Brandywine, the Hike Across Maryland, the Redbud, and the Sierra Club's 100K. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931, or Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 540/373-8267.

8 (Tuesday)

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

9 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Burke, VA

Five level miles around Burke Lake. Meet at 10:15 a.m. From the Beltway, exit west onto Braddock Rd. At your leisure, move into the left-hand lane (excluding left turn lanes) and stay in this lane. In 1.9 mi. from the Beltway, the lane you are in becomes one of a pair of left-turn lanes onto Burke Lake Rd (Rt. 645). Stay with it and make the turn (don't worry about the misleading sign before the preceding left). Go 4.7 mi., then turn left onto Ox Rd. (Rt. 123). In 0.5 mi. (after passing the Golf Center), turn left into Burke Lake Park. Follow signs to the marina. Bring lunch and water. Phone leader if weather is questionable. INFO: Sue King 703/356-6659.

9 (Wednesday)

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

See Mar. 2 event for more information.

9 (Wednesday)

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

12 (Saturday)

**CLASS - Intro to Kayak Navigation (REI)**

College Park, MD

1:00 p.m. Learn chart and compass reading skills, how to plot courses and plan trips. Class is beneficial for any small craft, especially kayak and canoe. Fee: \$25/\$40. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

12 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**

Linden, VA

The Crew will open the Ovoka Farms AT relocation, between I-66 and Rt. 50. Activities will include finishing trail junction, reblazing old AT, and installing signs. The new trail network will provide open areas and views to the east. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Should only take a day so there are no overnight plans. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CABIN WORK TRIP - Rosser Lamb Stanardsville, VA**

We may be trying to restore the indoor paneling that was removed during the renovation. There is work to be done in the kitchen and lots of other little tasks that Park and Peg will come up with. INFO: Charlie Graf at (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

# FORECAST

12 – 13 (Saturday – Sunday)

📖 CLASS – Land Navigation (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

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 \$95 and includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map, grid reader, and lunch on Saturday. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

13 (Sunday)

👣 HIKE - Civil War History

Sharpsburg, MD

We'll do a moderate 10.5-mile hike on the historic Antietam Battlefield. The hike will feature all of the major points of the battle that took place here on September 17, 1862, known as the bloodiest single-day battle in American history. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

13 (Sunday)

👣 HIKE - North Chapter

Boonesboro, MD

Washington Monument/Lambs Knoll section. We'll hike from I-70/Rt. 40 to Crampton Gap/Gathland State Park, a distance of 12.3 miles. This is a difficult hike, with an elevation change of 800 feet. This section has the first monument built in honor of George Washington, our first president. We will also climb around Lambs Knoll with a view to the east of the Middletown Valley and the little town of Burkittsville to the southeast. We will hike south to Gathland State Park, home of a famous Civil War correspondent. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855 (after 6:00 p.m.).

15 (Tuesday)

👣 HIKE – Family Hike

Great Falls, VA

This is a 2.5-mile kid-friendly hike along the Paw Paw Passage Trail in Riverbend Park, down to a pond, then along the Potomac River via the Potomac Heritage Trail. The trail is jogging-stroller passable with several hills. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

15 (Tuesday)

👣 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Ascend the Jones Mountain Trail to Bear Church Rock, continuing to Cat Knob, returning on the Fork Mountain, Staunton River Trail with options up to 18 miles and 4300 ft. of elevation gain. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931

15 (Tuesday)

📖 SPECIAL EVENT – Classic Hikes (REI)

Fairfax, VA

7:00 p.m. REI is pleased to announce a special presentation, with adventure writer Peter Potterfield, award winning author, editor and publisher of MountainZone.com. Join us for an extraordinary slideshow based on his latest book. All guests are eligible to enter our sweepstakes for an REI Adventure trip to Mount Rainier and other prize packages from our sponsors. Mr. Potterfield will answer questions, followed by a book signing. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.



16 (Wednesday)

📖 CLASS – Wildlife Observation (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Spring is a great time to observe nature. Birds and wildlife, both migrant and resident are preparing to raise young. This is a great time to look for prints and practice wildlife identification by sight and sound. Local naturalist Ed Neville will discuss habitat and the best local areas to find and observe wildlife. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

16 (Wednesday)

👣 HIKE – Easy Hikers

Washington, DC

This 4.5 mile urban walk introduces you to the newly established Southwest Heritage Trail. We pass by 17 landmark sites including Southwest Waterfront (featuring Titanic Memorial and Maine lobster-man statue), and Fort McNair. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at DOT courtyard just outside L'Enfant Plaza Metro. We'll lunch at a Capitol Hill restaurant. No pets. INFO: Jim Flanigan (jflanigan@aol.com) 202/554-3775.

16 (Wednesday)

👣 HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See Mar. 2 event for more information.

16 (Wednesday)

📖 MEETING - West Virginia Chapter, 7:00 p.m.

Gambrill State Park, Frederick, MD

17 (Thursday)

👣 HIKE - In-Between Hikers

Key Chain Circuit VA/DC

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by hiking 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 nine 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. 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). Easy walk from Rosslyn Metro station. Bring lunch and water. Joint hike with Sierra Club MWROP. INFO: Gary Abrecht (GAbrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

19 (Saturday)

👣 HIKE - K9Trailblazers

Great Falls, VA

We'll hike at a moderate pace for an approx. 5-mile loop through Great Falls National Park. The hike will take us along Mather Gorge for some spectacular views of the Potomac, and then along wooded trails past other natural and historic sites. Trails are rocky at times, and the hike will include some moderate, short climbs (about 200 ft. elevation change). This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well-behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on leash and scoop after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead. Bring snacks, and water for you and your dog. Visit [www.k9trailblazers.org](http://www.k9trailblazers.org) for more details. INFO: Jeff Bolognese (jabolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

19 (Saturday)

👣 HIKE - Natural/Cultural History Hike

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join Walt Smith and Bob Pickett to visit the home sites near Dickey Ridge Visitor's Center. We will hike the 1.5-mile (300 ft. elevation change) Fox Hollow Loop interpretive circuit of the former Fox family homestead. After a lunch, we'll hike the three-mile Snead Farm/Dickey Hill loop (500 ft. elevation change). Walt is the author of *The Last Orchard*, the story of the people who lived on Snead Farm. INFO: Bob Pickett (pickett@us.net) 301/681-1511.

19 (Saturday)

👣 HIKE – Waterfall and Wildflower Series

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A hike down to Big Fill Falls of about 14 miles with 3100 ft. elevation gain to include about a mile of bushwhacking starting at Red Gate Fire Road. PATC Map 10. Park entry fee \$10.00 per car. Meet at the Oakton Shopping Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

19 (Saturday)

👣 TRAIL WORK TRIP – Maryland Metrolites

Great Falls, MD

Join the Maryland Metrolites to work on the Overlook Trail in C&O Canal Park, Great Falls, Maryland. We will rebuild some steps and repair tread. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in front of Great Falls Tavern. INFO: Liles Creighton (Lcrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

19 (Saturday)

👣 TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

Spring officially arrives this week! Come celebrate with a South Mountaineers trail work trip. No experience necessary. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County, Maryland. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

19 (Saturday)

👣 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers

Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

19 – 20 (Saturday – Sunday)

📖 CABIN WORK TRIP – Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

2005 - a new work season with some new and several leftover jobs. Tasks include painting, installing new flooring in carriage house, basement digging and lots of landscaping and roadwork. No special skills required. Community meal on Saturday evening. INFO: Chris Brunton (trailbossbtc@msn.com) 703/924-0406.

22 (Tuesday)

👣 HIKE – Family Hike

Carderock, MD

Join us at 10:00 a.m. for a kid-friendly 2-mile hike on the Billy Goat Trail, Part B, along the Potomac River. This is not a jogging-stroller friendly hike. The kids will enjoy a lot of rock scrambling along this trail. Pack a lunch to eat by the river after the hike. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpckjkkc1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

22 (Tuesday)

👣 HIKE – Family Hike

Leesburg, VA

Come explore the beautiful Rust Wildlife Sanctuary. We will hike down to a pond, through the woods and an open meadow. This kid-paced circuit hike will be about 1.5 miles long. The trail is jogging-stroller passable. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

## 22 (Tuesday)

### HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

**North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
Recall those Terwilliger vigorous hikes from the '90s? Here's your chance to repeat one. This loop starts on AT north to Elkwallow, then to Mathews Arm and looping south on the Knob Mountain Trail to climb Neighbor Mountain. About 18.5 miles and 4000 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

## 23 (Wednesday)

### CLASS - Backpacking 101 (REI)

#### Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. REI will take the mystery out of Backpacking as we share our knowledge in this show and tell session. We will cover backpacking essentials: choosing an internal or external-frame pack; selecting proper clothing; and the right footwear; and understanding the basic gear you need to reach your destination. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

## 23 (Wednesday)

### HIKE - Easy Hikers

#### McLean, VA

The Easy Hikers will hike 4-5 miles in Turkey Run Park. There are some hilly stretches and a minor stream crossing. Meet at 10:15 a.m. in parking lot C-1, immediately to the left upon entering the park. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From the Beltway, take exit 14, the George Washington Parkway about two miles to the exit for Turkey Run Park. Also accessible from GW Parkway northbound. INFO: Gary Abrecht (Gabrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089. Cell on day of hike: 202/365-2921

## 23 (Wednesday)

### HIKE - Midweek Hikers

#### Location to be determined

See Mar. 2 event for more information.

## 23 (Wednesday)

### MEETING - District Managers, 6:00 p.m.

## 26 (Saturday)

### HIKE - Shenandoah History

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

Join Jack Reeder as he takes you back into some of the early history of the mountain people before there was a Shenandoah National Park. Some off trail bushwhacking required. Limited to the first 15 callers. INFO: Betsy Fowler (betsy.fowler@ngc.com) 703/556-3655.

## 26 (Saturday)

### HIKE - West Virginia Chapter

#### North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Section 2, Gravel Springs Gap to Thornton Gap, 14.5 miles (23.5 km). INFO: Dave Jordahl (wvpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741.

## 26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

### CABIN WORK TRIP - Johns Rest

#### Stanardsville, VA

More trim work this weekend and varnishing, and finishing work of all sorts. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

## 26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

#### Front Royal, VA

The Crew will be repairing the tread and adding erosion control to a popular trail on the north end of East Massanutten Mountain. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Rindt's house. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

## 26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums

#### North District, Shenandoah National Park

Come and join the Hoodlums on their annual "Irish" work trip. We'll be doing some spring clearing on various trail sections in the North District where work may still be needed; some clearing of limbs and hand sawing as well as chain saw work. Newcomers are always welcome. This work trip will be based at Range View Cabin. 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 will meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

## 27 (Sunday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - West Virginia Chapter

#### Frederick, MD

Meet 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center of Gambrill State Park. INFO: Dave Jordahl (wvpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741.

## 29 (Tuesday)

### CLASS - Intro to Map and Compass (REI)

#### Fairfax, VA

7:00 p.m. Join REI as we cover the basics such as symbols, triangulation, declination, and how to read terrain features. Participants are encouraged to bring their own compasses. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

## 29 (Tuesday)

### HIKE - Family Hike

#### Centreville, VA

Come join us for a kid-friendly two-mile loop at Manassas Battlefield, Stone Bridge. This trail is jogging-stroller passable with a few log stairs. It includes fun boardwalks and a stretch along Bull Run. INFO: Anne Regan (anne.c.regan@verizon.net) 703/689-3883.

## 29 (Tuesday)

### HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

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

From VA 600 follow the Hughes and Hannah Run to the AT south to the Cutoff to Corbin Cabin. Return via Indian Run and Corbin Mountain Trail. About 16 miles and 3500 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

## 29 (Tuesday)

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

## 30 (Wednesday)

### HIKE - Easy Hikers

#### Arlington, VA

The Easy Hikers will hike from Barcroft Park to Bluemont Park on the Four Mile Run Trail and return by the W&OD Trail. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Barcroft Recreation and Fitness Center parking lot. Directions: Take I-395 to the Shirlington exit, take S. Arlington Mill Dr. until ends at Walter Reed Dr., turn right onto Walter Reed Dr., go



1 short block, turn left onto S. Four Mile Run Dr. At second light turn left into parking lot at Barcroft Recreation Center. INFO: Dick Rogers (rogersrw@aol.com) 703/979-1270

## 30 (Wednesday)

### HIKE - Midweek Hikers

#### Location to be determined

See Mar. 2 event for more information.

## 31 (Thursday)

### CLASS - GPS 101 (REI)

#### College Park, MD

7:00 p.m. This is a high level view of how GPS (Global Positioning System) receivers work and the things that affect their accuracy. We will review the features available in consumer GPS receivers and how to choose a model based on your intended activities. We will also discuss batteries, water resistance, shock resistance and accessories. We will discuss software that is available to supplement GPS receivers, with an emphasis on mapping and waypoint management software. We will include software demonstrations. Finally, we will include a brief overview of online resources available to assist you in exploring this topic further. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

# APRIL

## 1 (Friday) (No fooling!)

### DEADLINE - (May) Potomac Appalachian Material due to editors 5:00 p.m.

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

## 2 (Saturday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - K9Trailblazers

#### McLean, VA

K9Trailblazers has adopted Turkey Run Park ([www.nps.gov/gwmp/vapa/turkey.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/vapa/turkey.htm)) for our 4th year of participation in the Annual Potomac Watershed Clean up Day. It's our way of thanking the National Park Service for being so dog-friendly, and an opportunity to give something back to the environment. K9Trailblazers and their family and friends will clean up about 4 miles of trails and roads in Turkey Run Park, and about 2 miles of shoreline trail along the Potomac. Newcomers are welcome! Wear sturdy hiking boots with good ankle support, old clothes and bring work gloves, water and snacks/lunch. No children under 12, and children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Your well-behaved dog is welcome if you keep it with you, on leash, and scoop after it. However, past experience has been that most active dogs do not enjoy this event very much! But some dogs will do anything to be with their owners! If your dog is one of those, be sure to bring water, snacks and an extra leash so you can tie him to the tree. 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.

## 2 (Saturday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers

#### Fayetteville, PA

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

# FORECAST

**4 (Monday)**

**CLASS – Backpacking 101**

**Vienna, VA**

See ad on page 7 of this issue. 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The BP101 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. Includes an overnight backpacking trip accompanied by experienced instructors. Designed for persons 18 years and older who have no prior backpacking experience, as well as former backpackers seeking to update their skills. Instructional Weekend: Apr 9 - 10. Backpacking trip: Apr 30 - May 1. Fee: \$75.00 for PATC Members; \$95.00 for non-members. INFO: John Browne (TPBackpack@patc.net) 703/425-5645.

**5 (Tuesday)**

**HIKE – Family Hike**

**Dickerson, MD**

Join us on Sugarloaf Mountain at 12:00 p.m. for a 2-mile kid-friendly hike on the White and Blue Trails and then up to the summit of Sugarloaf. This is not a jogging-stroller passable hike. Please expect some steep climbs to the summit. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy before the hike at the East View picnic area. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jckkjkk1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

**5 (Tuesday)**

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

**North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

A training hike takes the AT from Rt. 522 via Possums Rest then veers west to descend Lands Run Gap Trail for a 2-mile road walk and a climb to Jenkins Gap returning on the AT, 20 miles and 3500 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

**5 (Tuesday)**

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

**6 (Wednesday)**

**HIKE - Midweek Hikers**

**Location to be determined**

See Mar. 2 event for more information.

**6 (Wednesday)**

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

**9 (Saturday)**

**HIKE – North Chapter**

**Burkittsville, MD**

Appalachian Trail Hike IX-Weverton Cliffs/Potomac section. We'll hike from Crampton Gap/Gathland State Park to the Harpers Ferry, WV ATC headquarters, a distance of 10 miles. This is a moderate hike, with an elevation change of 900 feet. This section of the AT is relatively flat on the ridge. After the view of the Potomac River from Weverton Cliffs we will descend off of the mountain and onto the C&O Canal Towpath, which will take us to the railroad/footbridge to get us across the river into Harpers Ferry. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855, after 6:00 p.m.

**9 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP – Rock Creek Park**

**Washington, DC**

It is that time of year again. Join us for the first of many exciting trail work trips in Rock Creek Park. You won't believe what we're going to do this year. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. 8:15 a.m. to Noon. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee at 202/895-6221.

**9 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers**

**Appalachian Trail, MD**

Nature is waking up, and that means trail work is needed. Come join the South Mountaineers as we work on the AT and associated trails in Maryland. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

**9 – 10 (Saturday – Sunday)**

**CLASS – Backpacking 101**

**Triangle, VA**

This instructional weekend in Prince William Forest follows the introductory night (see Apr. 4 event listing). INFO: John Browne (TPBackpack@patc.net) 703/425-5645.

**9 – 10 (Saturday – Sunday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew**

**Gainesboro, VA**

The Crew will begin building a new trail that connects the Tuscarora Trail to the old Packhorse Road Trail through Sleepy Creek WMA. This new trail will ultimately be part of a loop trail including Shockey Knob Shelter and High Rocks Trail. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Brill cabin. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

**11 (Monday)**

**CLASS – Leave No Trace**

**Vienna, VA**

See ad on page 4 of this issue. This indoor classroom course, combined with the later outdoor classroom (backpacking weekend) course is designed to enhance your understanding of Leave No Trace practices and ethics and to develop your confidence in teaching others about Leave No Trace. Through activities, field/classroom experience, and both formal and informal discussions, you will be challenged to develop your LNT skills and ethics. This is a fun class where all have a part in demonstrating the choices that can be made to minimize our impact on the land and our resources. It is hoped that graduates of this class will be willing to make LNT presentations to community groups when and if your schedule permits. INFO: Mark Holland (TPLNT@patc.net) 540/636-3639 (morning only).

**12 (Tuesday)**

**HIKE – Family Hike**

**Centreville, VA**

Come out and see bluebells in full bloom. Bull Run Park has acres and acres of them and it is a real treat. We'll do a two-mile kid-paced hike on the Bull Run/Occoquan Trail. This hike is jogging-stroller passable, but there is usually some mud. INFO: Anne Regan (anne.c.regan@verizon.net) 703/689-3883.

**12 (Tuesday)**

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

**Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Stony Man to Hawksbill loop of about 14 miles and 2800 ft. climb. View from the two highest peaks in the Shenandoah. Hike AT and scenic upper Whiteoak Canyon Trail and Passamaquoddy Trail. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

**12 (Tuesday)**

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

**13 (Wednesday)**

**HIKE – Easy Hikers**

**Great Falls, VA**

The Easy Hikers will hike 4-5 moderate miles in Great Falls Park, VA. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Visitor Center and bring lunch and water. Directions: Exit 44 from the Beltway, go west on Georgetown Pike (VA 193) 4.1 miles to light at park entrance. Turn right 1.1 miles to parking lot just past the Visitor Center. Sometimes an admission fee is charged. INFO: Shirley Rettig (shirley\_rettig@yahoo.com) 703/836-0147.

**13 (Wednesday)**

**HIKE - Midweek Hikers**

**Location to be determined**

See Mar. 2 event for more information.

**13 (Wednesday)**

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

**16 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP – Maryland Metrolites**

**Bethesda, MD**

The Maryland Metrolites will work on the Cabin John Trail. We intend to rework some sidehill, which is too steep, and to fix some other trail conditions. Meet at the Cabin John Tennis Courts off Democracy Blvd at 9:30 a.m. INFO: Liles Creighton (Lcrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

**16 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers**

**Appalachian Trail, MD**

Quench your spring fever with a South Mountaineers trail work trip! We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County, Maryland. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

**16 (Saturday)**

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers**

**Tuscarora Trail, PA**

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

**16 – 17 (Saturday – Sunday)**

**CLASS – Leave No Trace**

**Shenandoah National Park, VA**

See ad on page 4 of this issue. This outdoor classroom (backpacking weekend) course, combined with the indoor course (see April 11), is designed to enhance your understanding of Leave No Trace practices and ethics and to develop your confidence in teaching others about Leave No Trace. INFO: Mark Holland (TPLNT@patc.net) 540/636-3639 (morning only).

**16 – 17 (Saturday – Sunday)**

**SPECIAL EVENT – Family Weekend at**

**Blackburn**

**Round Hill, VA**

See article on page 7 of this issue. Join us this weekend for a gathering of PATC members – young and old alike. Send in your registration today. INFO: Jane Thompson (jayteehike@yahoo.com) 301/349-2496.

**17 (Sunday)**

**HIKE – Sunday Hikers**

**Harpers Ferry, WV**

This is an ambitious hike of some 12.5 miles, with a total elevation gain of about 1,400 ft. Starting in Harpers Ferry, we'll head south, climbing Loudoun Heights and continuing to the Blackburn Trail Center. PATC Map 7. Volunteers will be needed to position cars at each end of the hike. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

## FORECAST

19 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Long Distance Hike

Front Royal, VA

REDBUD-III. The Third Annual Dogwood Memorial Hike, a 30-plus-mile loop around the Massanutten Mountains in George Washington National Forest, following the route of PATC's long distance hikes of a dozen years ago. This self-supported reprise will take us along the Massanutten East Trail, the Massanutten West Trail and the Tuscarora Trail to Elizabeth Furnace. The exact route is to be determined. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 540/373-8267.

20 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers

Dickerson, MD

We'll meet at 10:15 a.m. for this 5-mile hike with hills. Directions: I-270 north one exit beyond Father Hurley. Exit on Route 121. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp. Turn left onto Rt. 355 (Frederick Road) at the first light. Look carefully for the next turn left onto Comus Road. Follow Comus Road to the base of Sugarloaf Mountain where we will meet. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Margaret Chapman (MargtChapm@aol.com) 301/977-8988.

20 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See Mar. 2 event for more information.

23 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park

Washington, DC

Have you wanted to try out a trail work trip but didn't want to commit a whole weekend? Then come to Rock Creek Park. Our work trips are local and only last a half-day, leaving time to spend 3 hours picking up toilet paper at the local store. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462.7718, or Ranger Ken Ferebee at 202/895.6221.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center

Round Hill, VA

2005 - a new work season with some new and several leftover jobs. Tasks include painting, installing new flooring in carriage house, basement digging and lots of landscaping and roadwork. No special skills required. Community meal on Saturday evening. INFO: Chris Brunton (trailbossbtc@msn.com) 703/924-0406.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 CLASS - Chainsaw

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Chainsaw Class at Pinnacles in SNP. 15-student limit. Priority is being given to those who need to renew certification. INFO: Liles Creighton (Lcrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

26 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Family Hike

Laurel, MD

Join us at 10:00 a.m. for a kid-friendly 2-mile hike in the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, a bird's paradise. We will hike the Cash Lake, Valley, and Fire Road Trail, which are jogging-stroller passable. After the hike, we can enjoy the National Wildlife Visitor Center. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpckjck1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

## Bill, Thanks for the Memories

I would like to add to Roy Newsome's fine biography of Bill Wilcox published in a recent issue of the *Potomac Appalachian*. In addition to his distinguished career in government, Bill Wilcox was one of PATC's great trail leaders of past years, participating in the club's trail-expansion era of the 1970s as well as Massarock and the summer work camps.

An avid backpacker in his early years in Pennsylvania, Bill joined PATC after he moved to Washington. He continued to hike and camp in the forests and on the AT. In 1978 he attended a weekend workshop and planning session at Elizabeth Furnace co-sponsored by PATC and the George Washington National Forest. Bill was active on work trips during the historic era of trail construction under club Presidents Ray Fadner and Scott Johnson, when the club expanded from 405 miles of trails to 816 miles. Bill was elected to the club Council, but in 1983 he left PATC temporarily to serve two years in the Peace Corps.

Back in Washington, and now retired from government, Bill again took up trail work in PATC and served as manager of club-maintained trails in the Lee District of George Washington National Forest. In 1988, at another meeting at Elizabeth Furnace, Bill proposed the summer work projects lasting one and two weeks, called Massarock, which the club adopted in the national forest and later in SNP. With U.S. District Ranger John Coleman, he inaugurated the club's summer projects that built the 73-mile-loop Massanutten Trail. Bill helped re-fit the Northern Virginia Trail Center and con-

tributed its furnishings, envisioning it as a work camp for projects in the national forests.

Around the campfires, Bill gained a reputation as a storyteller, drawing from his sometimes comical experiences along the trails and among government leaders. When the trail crews stayed at Highacre and Glass House, friends recalled recently, he was always an early riser, taking to the trails or skiing past a window while others slept.

Bill served on the board of the American Hiking Society in Washington. During this period, he testified before congressional committees in support of funding for trails in SNP and the Western public lands. After moving to Arizona in 1991, he hiked and camped frequently in Mexico's rugged Pinacate Mountains and on remote desert ranges of the Southwest. In addition to the trail guide to Jamaica's Blue Mountains, he wrote a guide to pre-historic Indian sites in Arizona and a history of the Morman Lake Lodge. Recently, he gathered data on invasive plants of Arizona and was writing a guide to rail journeys in Mexico.

A memorial service was held in Scottsdale, Ariz., in which the club was represented. Friends recounted his varied accomplishments. As part of the "Greatest Generation of Americans," he came out of the Depression years of the 1930s and then flew 53 dangerous missions as a bombardier in World War II. He advanced to the highest ranks of government service, but always his best times were on the trails. □

—Tom Floyd

## Correction

In the February PA we listed Susan Nelson as Supervisor of Membership. As of January 2005 Georgeann Smale has held that title. We regret that error. □

### CLUB 2005 CLOSING DATES

*Memorial Day . . . . Mon., 5/30*  
*Independence Day Mon., 7/04*  
*Labor Day . . . . . Mon., 9/05*  
*Columbus Day . . Mon., 10/10*  
*Vienna Parade . . . Wed., 10/26*  
*Veterans Day . . . . . Fri., 11/11*  
*Thanksgiving . . . . . 11/24-25*  
*Christmas . . . . . Fri., 12/23-31*

## Big Mountain Shelter: A Well-Kept Secret

A well-kept secret is the new shelter on the Tuscarora Trail. The shelter is located on Big Mountain thus Big Mountain Shelter was born. It is recently completed and useable. The shelter is located in the Cowans Gap area of the Buchanan State Forest. The shelter has a spring-fed pond about 100 yards west. Straying from the traditional log structure, it's fabricated using post-and-beam construction with wood siding and standing-seam roofing.

I'd like to relate one special weekend, Labor Day weekend. It started out slowly with Jim Peterson and I unloading all the framing lumber. With the aid of a grip hoist we unloaded two 500-lb. beams and the rest of the framing materials. If you have never experienced the use of a grip hoist, locate one and enjoy. Saturday, Sept. 4, Chris and Becky Miller, Jim Peterson and I cut tenons and chiseled out mortises all day long. Thought we'd never finish; 42 in all. I told Becky, we have a few more mortises to cut – if looks could kill; well, you know the rest. Then Sunday came and rein-



forcements arrived – Jim Stauch and Peter Brown. We finished the mortises and tenons. With the help of the grip hoist we got the post-and-beams in place. Monday the crew framed and sheathed the roof. With the help of felt paper the shelter was dry. Essentially, you could sleep in the shelter without getting wet. A few more weekends and the shelter was completed in October. Chris and Becky will take over as overseers. A dedication is planned for early spring.

I would like to thank Jim Smith and Buchanan Forestry for making this project possible. Thanks to the Buchanan Forestry maintenance personnel, Paul Carper and Trevor for digging the

shelter footers and the privy vault, for leveling the site, and for removing all the brush and debris. I'd like to thank the Yankee Clipper Work Crew for cleaning the site, Ann Rochelle, Bob Creter, and Gene Lease. A special thanks to Scott Miller, Ken Mosbrook, and Merl Waltz for work done on the metal roof – looks great, guys. Thank you Earl Brown of Mercury Metal for supplying the roof at a reduced cost. Many thanks to Jim Peterson for the hours of paperwork and getting all the permits, as well as his help in construction. Many thanks to Chris and Becky Miller, Jim Stauch, Peter Brown, Corey Wenger, Chip Baker, and Peter Muscamp. I'd like to thank anyone that I may have forgotten. A special thanks to Jim Stauch, whom I met on the way to Quarry Gap Shelter, for encouraging me to join PATC and to give something back. THANK YOU, JIM. □

—Al Black



Photos by Jim Peterson

*Volunteers working on mortising and tenons are front Al Black, left to right Becky Miller, Jim Stauch, Chris Miller, and back Peter Brown.*

### *Book, from page 8*

supporting the assumption that living conditions of the Blue Ridge in the 1930s were no different than those throughout the depression-era Virginia or southern United States in general. In fact, Corbin Hollow, the unfortunate “poster child,” resembles numerous poverty-stricken communities of the time.

She also points out that other communities were forced to leave their homelands. The Tennessee Valley Authority, Fort A.P. Hill, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park are just three of the larger projects that caused similar personal turmoil.

The fact is, about 465 families were displaced by the establishment of the SNP. Among these families were nearly 465 different situations, desires, and attitudes. Some loved the opportunity to move into their first home with electricity and running water, while others hated leaving their homeland, and many others fell somewhere in between. In the same context, some residents were relatively rich, while others were relatively poor. Horning provides a tremendous wealth of information that enables the reader to better understand the lifestyles of these people and adds color to their lives, beyond the stones that are all that is left of the many generations of people who made the lands of the park their home and their lives. □

—Bob Pickett

## TRAILHEAD

As expected, due to weather and other factors, trail work in January was very limited. It is difficult to work frozen ground, and access is questionable at times. However, there are always a few dedicated volunteers who brave the conditions to clear blowdowns and other reported problems on PATC trails. A special thanks to those who ventured out while the rest of us stayed warm.

### Annual SNP/PATC Trails Meeting

The SNP and PATC trails managers held their annual coordination meeting on Jan. 29 at PATC Headquarters. The meeting was co-chaired by SNP's Shawn Green and PATC's Supervisor of Trails, Liles Creighton. Some of the items of discussion follow.

Steve Bair, SNP backcountry manager, presented award plaques to a number of PATC volunteers who have made considerable contributions to trails, shelters, and cabins in SNP over the years. Those volunteers were Kerry Snow, Cliff Willey, Frank Turk, George Walters, Dick Dugan, Larry Linebrink, Pete Gatje, and Dan Dueweke. These awards are well deserved considering the dedication, management expertise, and many hours of effort they have spent helping maintain trails, shelters, and cabins.

A major trail project that will connect the new Old Rag Mountain parking lot to the Old Rag Ridge Trail is scheduled to start in spring 2006. The trail, 0.8 miles in length, follows some difficult terrain and will require heavy-duty construction due to the number of hikers who use the trail at this popular location. Dan Dueweke, district manager (DM) for this section, will be in charge of planning for this project. The trail construction may involve SNP trail summer crews, regular PATC trail crews, and special crews. This should be an interesting challenge, so look for announcements in the future.

The National Park Service, which includes SNP and ATPO/ATC, is required to record all projects requiring funding to be entered into a NPS standard database. Both SNP and ATPO/ATC have been working to come up with a suitable system that applies to trails. ATC surveyed 20 percent of the AT this year as part of a five-year plan. One of the difficulties is identifying what constitutes a trail deficiency and how it will be recorded and tracked as a funded project. Did you know that a waterbar is worth \$199? SNP staff will survey the side trails in the park. The information SNP and ATC collect has the potential for use by trail managers and overseers in planning and tracking future trail repairs, improvements, and relocations.

The National Park Service, National Forest Service, and ATC signed a memo of understanding (MOU) concerning chainsaw certification for use on Park Service, Forest Service, and AT lands. The MOU is an attempt to standardize certification and training requirements. SNP chainsaw trainers will use the standardized course for the April 23/24 class. Sawyers needing recertification will have to attend the full course. Certification information will be sent to ATC's Mid-Atlantic office which will issue cards. Under the MOU, sawyers are required to be trained in first aid and CPR. PATC, as well as other maintaining clubs, are working with ATC to address these new training requirements to minimize time and cost to volunteers. PATC is also working on a policy that applies to chainsaw use on PATC lands and trails other than that on Park Service, Forest Service, or AT trails which are covered by the MOU.



*Hillary Nebhut and Emily Cook show older generation trail maintainers how to use a crosscut saw to remove a blowdown on Tuscarora-Overall Run Trail in SNP North District on a fine day in late December.*

### Younger Generation Is Ready

As a follow up to "Year End Trip" in last month's Trailhead, Jim Tomlin was apprehensive about how much work would be accomplished when told two teenagers would be coming. He says he was completely off-base as Dave Nebhut's daughter Hillary and her friend Emily Cook did a TON of work all day with lots of energy and enthusiasm. Jim joked to Hillary and Emily that if the photo makes it into the *PA*, there will be at least 40 teenage guys volunteering for the next North District work trip.

### District Manager Changes

SNP North District trail managers have changed. Dick Dugan, North District side trails, is taking over for John McCrea as the DM for the AT in the North District. Peter Harris is replacing Dick as the DM for North District side trails. John says he will still be working in the district but work (day job) has limited the time available to manage the AT in the district. Thanks, John, for a job well done.

### New Trail Ideas

While some of us are just waiting for better weather, others are thinking about new trails and trail relocations. Walt Smith, Tuscarora Central DM, is working with landowners and others to move the Tuscarora Trail off the road through Gore, Va., and along Route 50. He is also investigating a trail relocation on the north end of Sleepy Creek WMA due to problems with a new property owner on an old section of the trail.

Meanwhile, Jim Tomlin is contemplating a trail scouting trip on Great North Mountain, where the potential exists for a new 3-mile trail between the Halfmoon Trail trailhead and Long Mountain Trail. Since it would include a spectacular view from the white cliffs of Long Mountain and offer a wide-vista viewpoint for hikers camping at Trout Pond Recreation Area, he thinks it would become a circuit hike along Halfmoon-Bucktail Cutoff-Long Mountain Trail. However, Jim says it is still in the "pipe dream" category, but fun to think about.

*See Trailhead, page 18*

### Blue and White Ready to Break Out

The Blue and White Crew will begin its 2005 season on March 5-6. The crew hopes to schedule the Annual SNP Central District AT "Sweep," if weather and Skyline Drive conditions permit. The crew schedule is posted at [www.blueandwhitecrew.org](http://www.blueandwhitecrew.org). In a break from tradition, the crew will not sponsor the annual Trails Day Overseer Workshop this season. They'll be back in 2006 in grander fashion.

### Join a Trail Crew!

PATC members wishing to find out what volunteer trail work is about should consider joining a trail crew on a work trip. Why volunteer? You will learn about how trails you enjoy hiking are built and maintained. You will also meet others who enjoy the outdoors and, hopefully, get satisfaction from contributing your time and effort to a worthwhile cause.

In addition to the weeklong SNP and Massarock summer crews, PATC has a number of regular trail crews who schedule monthly or twice-monthly work trips usually March through October. Some crews work

on Saturdays while others work both Saturday and Sunday and stay overnight near the work site. Each crew is unique in terms of its social structure, management style, and organization. You may want to work with several crews to find one that you feel most comfortable with. Below is a list of some of the PATC trail crews and their areas of interest. Work trips are announced in the Forecast section of this monthly publication. Pick a crew, contact the person listed for information, and enjoy the opportunity.

- Yankee Clippers: Pennsylvania trails
- South Mountaineers : Maryland trails
- Blue and White Crew: SNP Central District trails
- Hoodlums: SNP North District trails
- Acme Treadway Co.: Roving trail crew
- Cadillac Crew: Roving trail crew
- Stonewall Brigade: Great North Mountain trails
- Rock Creek Filibusters: D.C. Rock Creek Park trails

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](mailto:jkrindt@shentel.net). □

### Tectonics, from page 6

The central and southern Appalachians were formed by the collision of the African plate with the combined Eurasian and North American plates in the Allegheny orogeny in the Permian period, about 250 million years ago. This was the final uplift of the Blue Ridge Province. The supercontinent Pangea did not stay together long, by geologic standards. Northern and southern continental landmass groupings first opened to create the Sea of Tethys about 200 million years ago (Tethys was the sister and consort of Oceanus, the Greek

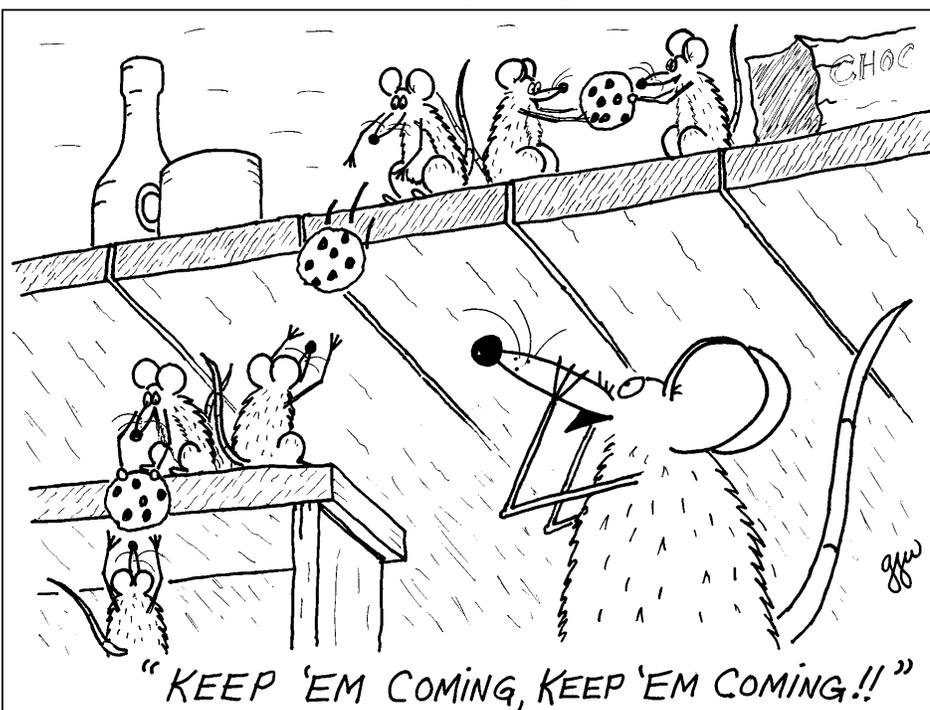
god of the ocean; in keeping with the Iapetus tradition, both were titans.) With Europe and North America formed the northern Laurasia, and South America, Africa, India, Australia, and Antarctica formed the southern Gondwanaland (remember Wegener). And then the erosion began yet again, ultimately revealing what we now see, the 1.2 billion-year-old plutonic core surrounded by the magmas and sediments that are the inferred evidence of a complex history.

It is beyond our capacity as ephemeral transients to truly comprehend the time frames

that encompass the geologic events that have created our small corner of the earth. It is only when an irresistible geologic force meets an immovable geologic object and cataclysm results that we take note. But one can stand atop Old Rag Mountain and imagine what has happened and seek to understand where we may fit in. Or maybe we have it all wrong and there is something obvious that we have missed. Only geologic time will tell. And we will therefore never really know. □

—William Needham

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



### POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE

**WANTED: CHAIR AND MEMBERS FOR HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE.** Ideal candidates include people with experience in commercial construction, office planning, or building maintenance. Contact Mel Merritt, PATC Supervisor of Facilities, (nan-melmerritt@comcast.net) 410/703-6372.

## WATER-QUALITY MONITORING PROJECT

PATC owns 35 parcels of land that are five acres or larger in size. As part of the Forest Management Plans for these tracts, biological inventories are being conducted. Such inventories will include water-quality monitoring of the perennial streams. This monitoring will consist of netting bottom-dwelling larvae and insects and using standard field guides to determine their identity. From this, water quality can easily be deduced.

The club needs volunteer monitors interested in participating in these studies. Training will be provided through the Audubon Naturalist Society, and all materials will be supplied. It is anticipated that volunteers will be organized in teams and should expect to spend two days in each the spring and summer conducting the stream collections and identification.

If you are interested in learning about the water-quality monitoring program, training can be undertaken at various times during the late winter months. You are welcome to participate in the training and then decide if you want to join the monitoring team. For more information, please contact Bob Pickett, club naturalist, (pickett@us.net) 301/681-1511.

## TRAIL OVERSEER DISCOUNTS

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

## LOST AND FOUND

### **FOUND:**

Black Deutschland running shoes found at Highacre in October 2004.

Thin frame eyeglasses found at Michener Cabin November 2004.

Winnie the Pooh satchel, Fabiano hiking boots, and Timberland hiking boots found at Cliff's House January 2005.

These items can be claimed at PATC headquarters. Please call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 to identify them.

# PATC Swap Meet

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

## FOR SALE

BICYCLE TRAILER, Burley D'Lite, in good condition. \$175 OBO. Located in Rockville, MD. Contact Al Taylor (alt@ieee.org).

## FREE TO GOOD HOME

Need some boots? Have an extra tent? Looking for a hiking buddy? The Swap Meet might be just the place to start your search. Send your queries to PA@PATC.net.

## HIKING PARTNERSHIPS

**LOOKING FOR SOME WOMEN TO HIKE WITH:** Are you interested in hiking sections of the AT – mostly by slackpacking, dayhiking, and occasional overnight? I've finished about half. Let's compare notes. INFO: Stacy (dslabare@corlink.com) 304/358-3154.

# Trail, Shelter, and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

## CORRIDOR MONITOR OPENINGS

Tom Lupp, 301/271-7340  
tlupp@erols.com

**Wilson Gap - VA - PATC Map 7**  
**Ashby Gap South -VA - PATC Map 8**

## Trail Overseer Openings

Contact the District Manager for the section that interests you.

## Tuscarora Pennsylvania Maps J & K

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

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

## HARPERS FERRY / ASHBY GAP AT & BB - MAP 7 & 8

Chris Brunton, 703/924-0406  
trailbossbtc@msn.com

### Appalachian Trail

Loudoun Heights Trail to Powerline  
(2.3 miles)

Ashby/Possums AT/BB [Rte. 50 to SNP]  
- Map 8, 9

Lloyd Parriott, 540/622-2743  
laparriott@hotmail.com

New AT trail sections being developed near Ashby Gap, Va., Hwy# 50. Some open meadow, some wooded.

Available soon.

### Appalachian Trail

Dicks Dome Shelter Rd. to Parking lot  
#8 (0.43 mile)

## Barking Dog Trail

AT to Barking Dog Spring/Rte 604  
(0.34 mile)

## SNP NORTH DISTRICT BLUE-BLAZED - MAP 9

Peter Harris, 540/349-2595  
peter.harris@lmco.com

## Knob Mountain Cutoff Trail

Knob Mountain Trail to Jeremys Run  
Trail (0.5 mile)

## Dickey Ridge Trail

Snead Farm Road to Low Gap  
(2.5 miles)

## SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [NORTH END] - MAP 10

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

New overseer opportunities coming available soon. Choice trails rich in Shenandoah history.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to stake your claim.

# Volunteers!



## SNP SOUTH AT - MAP 11

Dennis DeSilvey, 540/463-2655  
dldesilvey@pcvmed.com

## Appalachian Trail

Riprap Trail Parking Area to Hairpin  
Switchback (1.5 miles)

## TUSCARORA CENTRAL - MAP L

Walt Smith 540/678-0423  
wsmith@visuallink.com

## Tuscarora Trail

Yellow Spring Road to Capon  
Springs Road

## TUSCARORA SOUTH - MAP F, G, 9

Rick Rhoades, 540/477-3247  
rrhoades@shentel.net

## Tuscarora Trail

Fetzer Gap to Mauretown (5.7 miles)

## Tuscarora Trail

Cedar Creek to Ridge Crest (2.8 miles)

## Tuscarora Trail

Ridge Crest to Fetzer Gap (3.1 miles)

## GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN - MAP F

Hop Long, 301/942-6177  
theFSLongs@comcast.net

## Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove  
(1.5 miles)

## SUBURBAN MARYLAND - MAP D

Liles Creighton, 410/573-0067  
lcrei@aol.com

## Gold Mine Trail

Tavern to Tavern Gap (3.2 miles)

## Billy Goat Trail - B

Cropley to Carderock (2.2 miles)



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