



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 30, Number 4
April 2001

Young Hikers in Training, Part I

Do people with young kids hike? Why not? Kids are curious, love to get dirty, and have lots of energy – all the important elements of a good hiker. Babies love the muted sounds and colors of the woods as they bounce along snuggled close to mom or dad.

If you were a hiker before you had children, you don't have to give up hiking completely, but you may need to alter your definition of hiking.

Hiking with small children changes everything ...

Hiking is no longer a process of walking in one direction along a trail – it involves trips round and round a tree, stops to throw rocks into streams and lakes, and forays into the brush – in search of the perfect toddler sized shelter. Sometimes it seems you make negative progress towards your destination – but it's amazing what interesting things you see when you take the time to look.

Provisions no longer consist of a Nalgene water bottle and some trailmix – replaced with sippy cups, cheerios, and the dreaded diapers.

Hiking no longer means carrying a hiking stick. Your hands need to be free to give snacks, wipe a nose, and pick up important treasures along the way. Rocks, sticks, and acorns (preferably with "hats") are great cures for a fussy kid. It's amazing what makes a toddler happy.

Hiking is no longer a quiet affair – giggles, shouts and (usually) happy cries greet every new discovery.

See Hiking, page 4

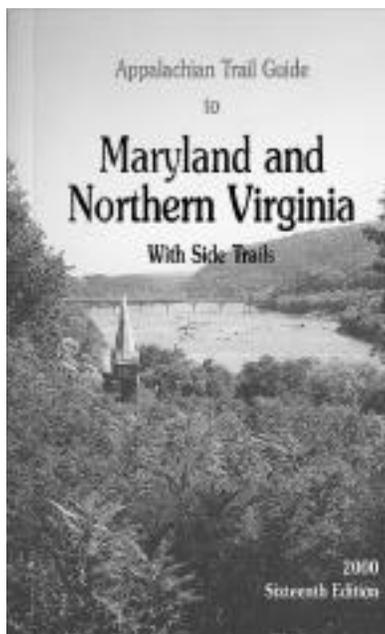


Lydia Eisenberg and Jason Lang watch as Justin Plocki and Emily Cervarich cool off during a hike in Riverbend Park.



Diehard hikers on a frigid December hike to Scotts Run. L to R: Justin & Merry Plocki, Sophia and Marilyn Mense, Jason Lang in the foreground.

Photos by Lauren Lang



New Trail Guide

The sixteenth edition of the Appalachian Trail Guide to Maryland and Northern Virginia was published in December. The guide covers 98.4 miles of the AT from Pen Mar at the borders of Maryland and Pennsylvania to the northern point of Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

The location of the Ed Garvey Memorial Shelter, which will be dedicated on April 29 at 1 p.m., is included in the guide. Ed Garvey, an AT thru-hiker and author of the 1971 book *Appalachian Hiker: Adventure of a Lifetime*, passed away in September 2000.

The 27-mile Catoctin Trail that links Maryland's Gambrill State Park to the AT is now included among the side trails in the guide. Members of

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Supervisor of Corridor Management:
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Membership Secretary: Liles Creighton
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N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Martha Clark
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Charlottesville Chapter: John Shannon
West Virginia Chapter: Judy Smoot

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Cabins Operations: Mel Merritt
Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf
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Grants & Donations: Tom Madden
Endowment: Don Price
Finance: Gerhard Salinger
Hikes: Karen Brown
Internet Services: Stephen Raia
Land Management: Tom Johnson
Legal: Vacant
Maps: Dave Pierce
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Potomac Appalachian: Linda Shannon-Beaver
Public Affairs: Vacant
Publications: Aaron Watkins
Shelters: Frank Turk
Trail Lands Acquisition: Phil Paschall & Eric Olson
Trail Patrol: Kumait Jawdat
Tuscarora Trail Land Management:
Lloyd MacAskill

Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

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Cabin Reservations: Darlene Wall
Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Hop Long
Headquarters Facility: Orron Kee
Information/Sales Desks: Marguerite Schneeberger
Medical: John McNamara
Shelters, Cabins, & Cabins Land Fund: Jon Rindt
SNP Boundary Trailheads Study Group:
Mark Holland
Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project:
Phoebe Kilby & Larry Bradford

Potomac Appalachian

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PA-Forecast@home.com

Council Fire

At its regular monthly meeting on February 13 at headquarters, the PATC Council heard a report on the annual consultation with Shenandoah National Park on trail maintenance, which was held on January 27, 2001. The Park Service will share maintenance responsibility for high-use trails, such as White Oak Canyon. There was preliminary discussion of developing a trail between Per-Lee and Pocosin, which would be the first new access to park trails in 40 years. Member Mark Holland will help work on protection of threatened boundary trailheads.

In other trail developments, the Council learned that a new lease for access to the Jeremy's Run Trail through private property for five years had been signed with Mr. William Morehead for \$1. The Club is considering protection of 1.25 miles of the Tuscarora Trail by means of an easement near the Colonel Denning State Park in Pennsylvania. Relocations of the Tuscarora are being undertaken at the Brill Tract and Shockeyville.

Anniversary Plans

The Council heard that initial planning for the observance of the PATC's 75th anniversary at the end of this year and early next year has generated many ideas, among them:

Interviews with elder members for a video and Internet presentation.
Special articles by Archivist Carol Niedzialek and Publications Chair Aaron Watkins.
A time capsule to be sealed until the 100th anniversary.

A patch with rockers for each PATC trail hiked within two years of anniversary.
A square dance.
A skit on the early days of the Club.
A summer picnic.
Volunteer awards for each 25-year segment of the Club's history.

Goals

The Council approved the Club's Goals for 2001, organized in four categories: facilities; finance; membership, volunteerism, training, and communications; and trails and lands. The document (available from Club headquarters) also contains five-year goals.

The Futures Group reported working on a document setting forth the vision for the PATC in 2010, as well as updates on the PATC Constitution to reflect current duties of officers, and a clarification of representation on the Executive Committee. Any member may attend meetings of the Futures Group.

Financial Management

The pre-audit report for December, approved by the Council, shows net income for the year 2000 to be about \$94,000, slightly less than was contemplated when calculating the carryover for the 2001 budget. This may require some adjustments.

The Council voted to grant authority to President Walter M. Smith, Treasurer Gerhard L. Salinger, Vice President Joseph T. McDermott, and Thomas R. Johnson, individually, to sign checks on the PATC checking account at Sun Trust Bank. The Council specified that checks for \$10,000 or

See Council Fire, page 4

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

Address: 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180
Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.
Phone #: 703/242-0315
To receive an information packet: Extension 10
To leave a message for the Club President Walt Smith: Extension 40
24-hr. Activities Tape #: 703/242-0965
Facsimile #: 703/242-0968
Club Email: Wriley1226@aol.com
World Wide Web URL: <http://www.patc.net>

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) Email: Wriley1226@aol.com
Trails Management Coordinator: Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) Email: heidif@erols.com
Business Manager: Regina Garnett (Ext. 15) Email: rgarnett@erols.com
Membership/Cabin Coordinator: Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) Email: pfankh@erols.com
Sales Coordinator: Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) Email: patcsales@erols.com

Walt's Notes

It's Report Card Time

The Futures Group is developing a Club Vision for the year 2027, the year of our one-hundredth anniversary. The group plans to complete the project in time for our 75th anniversary next year. A part of this activity of projecting the future entails reviewing our past accomplishments. In other words, how are we doing? Are we achieving progress in all of the objectives that we established in the Constitution?

The Futures Group is canvassing various committees on the subject but they would also like to know what you think. Would you take just a minute please and complete the report card below and email or mail your response to Wilson Riley at the Club Headquarters! The group would like to receive any comments as well. And, of course, you are always welcome to attend one of the Futures Group monthly meetings, as scheduled in the Forecast Section.

See you on the trail (after filling in the report card please),

Walt



Wild for Wildlife Days

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is conducting its second annual "Wild for Wildlife Days" in Front Royal, Virginia on June 23 and 24. The family-oriented event involves sessions on wildlife watching, bird and butterfly identification, wildlife gardening, and hiking to name a few.

Many sessions are outdoors and live animals will be shown. INFO: Mike Pinder, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, at mpinder@dgif.state.va.us, or 540/552-6992.



REPORT CARD ON ACHIEVING CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

(Please mark: A - Outstanding, C - doing ok, or F - too little effort)

	A	C	F
1.) Supporting & encouraging the permanent protection, conservation, and proper recreational use of the AT:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.) Supporting & encouraging the permanent protection, conservation, and proper recreational use of other trails:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.) Building & maintaining trails for the use and enjoyment of walkers, rock and mountain climbers, cross-country skiers, & other non-mechanized activities:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.) Furthering preservation of land for open space, conservation, and recreation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.) Constructing & maintaining shelters, cabins, & camp sites along trails for the use of hikers:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.) Encouraging careful use & conservation of trails and surrounding lands/resources by organizations & individuals:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.) Collecting data about trails & surrounding lands & resources concerning scenery, history, geology, botany, forestry, and wildlife:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.) Preparing & publishing maps & guidebooks, and camping data:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.) Educating the public on matters including protecting trails & related lands and resources, proper skills related to the construction & maintenance of trails and related structures, and camping methods:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.) Fostering public appreciation and use of parks, forest, and other natural areas:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.) Assisting, advising & cooperating with private land owners & governments to achieve these corporate objectives:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: _____

Please email responses to Wilson Riley at wriley122@aol.com, or mail to PATC, Attn: Wilson Riley, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180.

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more require the signature of the president or the treasurer. The Executive Committee will review procedures for vouchering and check signing.

Membership

PATC membership in February showed an apparent decline to 6,800 (compared with 7,011 in January) because it is based on the new membership access database. However, this reports as "dropped" some active members who have not received dues notices, so it should not be regarded as an accurate reflection of actual membership. The new format of the report shows activity, section, and chapter interests of the new members, and should be used by the Club for tapping new volunteers.

Other Business

A new cabins book with many updates has been released.

The Appalachian Trail Park Office is seeking nominees of volunteers with 25 or 50 years of service for awards at the Biennial Conference. Suggestions should be given to Wilson Riley by April 15.

This year's annual meeting of the PATC will be held on November 13, again at the Elks Club.

The Maps Committee is still waiting for member suggestions of outstanding permanent views that should be indicated on the Club maps. Those submitting views, or corrections, receive a free copy of the revised map.

The Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group reported it has assisted in two crime cases and has had many false starts with supposedly missing persons being found before the search could begin.

The Ski Section reported there have been some successful ski trips and progress on trail maintenance.

The February Council meeting was attended by eight Club officers, eight committee chairs, two chapter representatives, three section representatives, two other members, and one staff member. □

—George Meek
Recording Secretary

Hikers, from page 1

Your whole perspective changes when young children are in your midst. You may not go as fast or as far, but you're sure to see a whole lot more. A better playground could never be built than the one mother nature has already provided.

I lead hikes designed for the under-5 crowd every Monday. I try to schedule stroller friendly hikes periodically. This allows people with multi-age kids, twins, and pregnant moms to get out and hike. Beginning in March, I will lead a weekend hike once a month, usually on the last Saturday of the month.

So ... don't laugh when you see a notice in the forecast for a 2 mile hike - we're train-

ing the next generation of hikers. One day my family will be hiking the Dogwood Half Hundred again. And my husband and I will be the ones trying to catch up with our son as he disappears down the Massanutten ridge ahead of us. □

—Lauren Lang

(Editor's note: This is part one of a three-part series about hiking with kids. Do you have an interesting story to share? A good photo? Please send any of your outdoor experiences with children to lindashannonb@mac.com for inclusion.)

Pictured at right: Merry Plocki helps Justin across a fair weather crossing along the Difficult Run Trail.



Photo by Lauren Lang

Volunteers Do Make a Difference at Bears Den Hostel

If you would like to volunteer your time at Bears Den Hostel but are afraid you will just be washing windows, the following recap of last year's projects may change your mind.

One of the masonry towers at the hostel that was used by the original owners of the property to collect fees from visitors to Bears Den Rocks was converted into a Nature Exhibit. Volunteers did masonry work to stop leaks and to stabilize the walls, make and fit non-standard windows and a door, and paint the interior of the exhibit. Melody and Patti, hostel managers, prepared displays on environmental and wildlife information and paintings of local flora and fauna.

A cottage, which is in a remote site on the property, was renovated last year by volunteers, and this year the work continued. A new deck was built at the upper floor level providing a wonderful sense of being in a tree house as all around are big oak and tulip poplar trees. A front-opening fireplace insert was installed and with the addition of a privy, the cottage is now available for volunteers at the hostel. After steel roofing is installed this summer it will provide a semi-primitive facility for group use.

A new storage shed for outdoor equipment was built on an existing foundation of an old spring house, and a wood shed was added at the primitive campsite.

The hostel received help from 85 volunteers contributing over 600 hours of work to maintain the hostel and build its new facilities. Free use of the hostel is offered to volunteers. Anyone who would like to participate is asked to phone the hostel at 540/554-8708 during the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., or email us at bearden@crosslink.net. By the way, if you REALLY do like to wash windows, there is always one of the 38 windows located in the hostel that could use a cleaning.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time last year and we look forward to seeing them, and a few *new* hands at the hostel this year. □

—Melody Blaney and
Patti Landovek, Managers
David Appel, Volunteer Coordinator
Potomac Appalachian

Farewell from the Chief Editor

I am pleased to introduce the *PA*'s new Chief Editor, Linda Shannon-Beaver. She has been doing the design and layout of the *PA* for the last several months and took over as Chief Editor beginning with the March issue. As you can see by her fine work on that issue and this one, she will make a wonderful Chief Editor with the continued help of the *PA*'s other dedicated volunteers.

I have felt very privileged these past two and a half years to be involved in one of the PATC's most important communications media. It's been a wonderful experience. I'd like to especially thank Pat Fankhauser, one of whose many duties includes helping carry out many of the details of getting the *PA* proofed, printed, and in our mailboxes. I've also had a wonderful editing staff,

and I could not have done this without the support of Joe O'Neill, who prepares the Forecast each month and who has a much bigger job than most people know. The number of volunteers who have worked on the *PA* is rather too high to thank everyone individually, but you know most of their names from reading the articles, photos, cartoons, poems, and stories they share with you each month.

I hope you continue to enjoy the *PA* each month and urge you to contact Linda Shannon-Beaver at lindashannonb@mac.com if you have any suggestions or contributions. □

—Bianca Menendez

It'll be a Tough Act to Follow

(Editor's note: Our thanks to Bianca Menendez for many, many hours of carrying this load. We thank you for your outstanding volunteerism and wish you well in your new job.)

When I first volunteered to "help out" with the newsletter, little did I know what I was getting myself into. Not to say that I'm unhappy about the changes, but I can't say that I proceed here with "undaunted courage" either. This is a serious project for me. My desire is that the *PA* be the conduit of accurate, timely material that most interests you.

If I had been a long-time member of this Club, or had thousands of AT miles under my belt I would at least feel adequately experienced to shoulder this responsibility. But I can count my days listening to my (external frame, yes!) pack squeak under its load in about the same number as my years on this earth, and I have been a PATC member for only a couple of years. Still, I have had many years experience producing all types of publications, and many miles traipsing the woods. I love all that has to do with putting on my boots. And, I am fortunate enough to be at home full-time now, and although I "work", I don't get paid, don't commute, and no longer own a decent business suit. Everything came together at the right time.

So when this opportunity came along I felt as if all my experience and training had led me at last the job for which I am most suited. At last I have found a way to start to repay all the people and resources which have gone into the trails I've taken advantage of over the years.

But this is your voice, I simply assemble it and deliver it back to you. I hope that I hear from many of you, telling me what you like and what you don't like; what you want and

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what you don't want; and of all of your tales and experiences "on the trail". There are so many wonderful opportunities made possible because of our Club of people. We have incredible facilities, trails, lands and voices. Let's share those kernels of life that make it all worthwhile.

O.K. I'm begging for submissions. (I can never have too many.) And when the truckloads come in, I won't promise that there will be room for everything. But, I'll do my best to fit as much as possible so that this will continue to be a powerful forum for the Club.

Please consider sending art as well. I've said before that many a gifted artist has been published in trail and cabin logs, and a few, unfortunately, even in carved wood. A lot more people can appreciate your skill if you'll allow it to be included in this medium.

In our Club many individuals spend countless hours volunteering. Here is a plea to anyone who has benefitted from that effort. Spend 1/2 hour writing about a hiking/backpacking/climbing/skiing/worktrip/memory. Or put your pencil or charcoal to paper and repeat some of the lovely landscapes and wildlife scenes so everyone can enjoy them. Then actually send it. You might be amazed at how many people would truly enjoy your stories and art. I have yet to meet anyone who doesn't spend a substantial amount of time reading the cabin/trail logs. Why? It's fun and interesting. So do share.

The nuts and bolts of submissions: I am most happy with email submissions with little or no formatting, as a text-only file. The less you

fancy it up the better. If you don't like the net, a letter is fine. Art, either line art (a drawing) or a photo can be sent via email if it's already scanned, or if you prefer via letter. It's up to you. Just remember the first of the month deadline, and don't hesitate to send it earlier. Letters should be sent to headquarters, Attn: *PA* editor. And my email address is: lindashannonb@mac.com. Make sure all submissions have your name, phone number and email address if you have one.

And if it's not a submission, but an opinion – good or bad, I'd love to hear that as well. While I'm sure I can't please everyone, it's valuable to know what makes you happy or ruffles your feathers.

I look forward to this challenge and I ask that you assist in continuing to make this an excited voice of the Club. □

—Linda Shannon-Beaver
PA Chief Editor

Trail Guide, from page 1

PATC constructed the Catoctin Trail between 1979 and 1982. With numerous access points, the trail can be hiked in a series of day hikes or in a two-day backpack. Additional side trails add more than 50 miles of trail to the guide.

Melissa Lanning, a former Peace Corps volunteer and area hiker, edited this edition of the guide. Dave Pierce, cartographer of PATC maps, assisted with the Maryland section and provided maps. The book may be ordered individually or as part of a set including PATC maps 5-6, 7, and 8 for a complete source of information regarding the trails. Orders may be made by mail or by visiting the PATC web site. □

—Aaron Watkins
Publications Chair

FORECAST

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays—contact Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com), 301/461-7048 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday—contact Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848 or Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Spring cabin. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855. For general chapter information contact chapter president Steve Koeppen (patcnorth@mail.com) 410/756-2916 or visit the North Chapter home page (www.patc.net/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 Martha Clark (mclark@visalink.com) 540/665-2101.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre on the first Wednesday of the month. See Forecast for upcoming activities. For information about the chapter or to receive the newsletter, contact Judy Smoot at 540/667-2036 or wvpatc@hotmail.com.

Ski Touring Section

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

Mountaineering Section

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

PATC Midweek Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

Trail Patrol - First Tuesday

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

New Members (PATC) - First Wednesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

PATC Council - Second Tuesday

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

Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Greg Christopoulos (greg.christopoulos@do.treas.gov) or see PATC's website (www.patc.net/chapters/mtn_sect).

The Futures Group — Third Tuesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

(Business meeting) - Last Tuesday

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

APRIL

1 (Sunday)

DEADLINE – May Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

2 (Monday)

HIKE – Family Hike Riverbend Park, VA

2.5 mile kid-friendly hike. We will hike along the Paw Paw Passage Trail, past a pond and down to the Potomac. The hike continues on the Potomac Heritage Trail right along the river. We will meet in the visitor center by the turtles. We will end the hike with a picnic lunch on the Visitor's Center deck. Babies and toddlers on up — all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

2 (Monday)

CLASS – Trail Patrol's Backpacking 101 PATC, Vienna, VA

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. The class allows those with moderate or no backpacking experience to expand their enjoyment of the outdoors through backpacking. First meeting introduces students and instructors to each other and begins with introductory material. See boxed ad on page 15. INFO: Larry Marcoux 703/968-4771.

3 (Tuesday)

MEETING – Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

3 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers Massanutten Mountain, VA

Elizabeth Furnace Figure 8. Dogwood training hike of 16 or 21 miles beginning at the Signal Knob Trail. Climbing to Meneka Peak, on to the Tuscarora to the Sidewinder to Mudhole Gap to Powell's Fort for lunch. Continue up the Massanutten to the Tuscarora to Signal Knob, then back over Meneka Peak, down the Tuscarora to Elizabeth Furnace. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

4 (Wednesday)

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

4 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Turkey Run, Langley, VA

4-5 miles over hilly terrain with a couple of stream crossings. Boots or sturdy shoes recommended. From I-495 Beltway, Exit 43 (old # 14), go east on George Washington Memorial Parkway for about 1 – 2 miles to Turkey Run sign. From DC, over Rosslyn Bridge, immediate right, west to GW Parkway for about 6 miles to the Turkey Run sign. Meet at parking area A. Bring water, lunch and a spring poem you've written or enjoy. Starts at 10:15 a.m. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

Potomac Appalachian

7 (Saturday)

HIKE – Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Did you know that PATC hikers picked apples in the mountains as part of the W.W.II effort? Explore the now-forgotten Apple Industry at Hogwallow Flats with Jack Reeder, in a crawl through Shenandoah National Park's brush and history. While we're at it, we'll look for traces of the original Appalachian Trail and also the famous PATC "Applesauce House", the original party place used by our hiking ancestors. From the Hogwallow Flats Parking Overlook we'll descend into chaos, briars, storm-tossed trees, and history, including the "h'ants" of the original mountain people. This is a strenuous and definitely non-routine bush-whack, not for the faint of heart. Reservations required; limited to the first 15 callers. Bring lunch, sturdy raingear, water, and wear hiking boots. INFO: Martha Clark (mclark@visuallink.com) 540/665-2101.

7 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Potomac Heritage Trail Arlington, VA

9:00 a.m. – noon. It's Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day! Join us as we combine forces with volunteers from the Potomac Conservancy for a cleanup along the Virginia bank of the Potomac River. Equipment should be provided, but feel free to bring your own trash bags and gloves. Meet at Gulf Branch Trail off N. 36th Road in Arlington. INFO: e-mail (potomacheritagetrail@hotmail.com) or call Tricia Meeks 703/979-2174, Dan Radke 703/528-2870 or Jim Egenrieder 703/527-3643.

7 (Saturday) Rain date: April 8

HIKE – Natural History Wildflower Hike Turkey Run Park, VA

This is the annual 6 mile hike along Turkey Run going from Langley High School to the Potomac River and back. Spring beauties, trillium, blood-root, bluebells, and all the other wonderful spring ephemera! We're going a week earlier this year with hopes of finding the white trout lily and harbinger of spring still in bloom. Another possible early beauty is the twinleaf, with blooms that last for only a few days. While this is a relatively easy hike, we will be crossing Turkey Run a total of eight times, so bring shoes you don't mind getting wet, in case you miss the rocks. Reservations/INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

7 (Saturday)

CLIMB – 12th Annual Cathedral Crank Climbing Competition (REI)

St. Albans School, Washington, DC
9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Pump some iron and work on your moves! Get ready for the longest running, best climbers' competition/rendezvous in the Mid-Atlantic! Men and women's' competition classes from 6 to 60. Pick up a registration blank at your favorite climbing gym or REI! INFO: REI (ask for Climbing) 703/379-9400 or 301/982-9681.

7 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Rock Creek Park Crew Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15 – 11:30 a.m. This is the kickoff work trip for the 2001 season. Come get your hands dirty as we prep the trails for spring. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

7 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Maryland Metrolites Cabin John Park, MD

Join the Maryland Metrolites for a work trip on the Cabin John Trail in Montgomery County. We meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot off Democracy Blvd. (also site of enclosed tennis courts). Bring gloves, lunch, water, and high spirits. INFO: Liles Creighton (Lcrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

7 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Join this work event as the weather gets nicer. The South Mountaineers always have a good time "playing" along the Appalachian Trail in Maryland. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

7 – 8 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Trail Patrol's Backpacking 101 Prince William Forest Park, VA

Weekend of instruction allows students to study and practice in a familiar, controlled environment. See boxed ad on page 15. INFO: Larry Marcoux 703/968-4771.

7 – 8 (Saturday – Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP – Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

We're back! See the article in this issue for details on our upcoming work season. Jobs include finishing dormers and gable ends as well as painting, both inside and outside. We will be building an insulated pump room in the basement, which will include pouring a concrete foundation. In addition we will be installing a 32-foot long steel support beam, also in the basement. Other jobs include refinishing some of our wood furniture and replacing the roof of the Carriage house with a new standing-seam steel roof. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

7 – 8 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – North Chapter Pa. Trail Crew Appalachian Trail, PA

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

7 – 8 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Alexandria, VA

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

7 – 8 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Abominable Trail Crew Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Have you hibernated a tad overmuch? Has the spousal unit groaned loudly because of your winter-long breath-without-a-mint? Are you about to succumb to cabin fever? There's a simple remedy to this condition: Come out and join the Abominable Trail Crew as we stir from our lairs for the first time. Be with us as we lift our McLeods, pick mattocks, and rock bars for the first time in a Millennium!!! This is, or promises to be, an historic moment. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning and stay overnight at Pocosin Cabin. Reserve your spot by April 4th. INFO: Don White (whitedh@hotmail.com) 804/270-3116.

FORECAST

7 – 8 (Saturday – Sunday)

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

Hopefully the weather has warmed up by now and we have a few spring wildflowers. Work proceeds on the cabin at a frantic pace trying to get it chinked and doors and windows installed. We still have the summer kitchen enclosed so that we can keep warm in an unexpected spring cold spell. People have been sleeping in the unfinished cabin for several months now, even though it may still be breezy inside without being fully chinked, it is dry. Join us in the completion of this beautiful new cabin and become a part of our outstanding crew. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

9 (Monday)

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

10 (Tuesday)

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

10 (Tuesday)

 **HIKE – Vigorous Hikers**

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Leading Ridge. Dogwood training hike beginning with the 2000 foot ascent of Leading Ridge to the AT, South to Corbin Cutoff, climbing the Indian Run Trail to Corbin Mountain, continuing on the Old Rag Fire Rd. to the White Oak Canyon Trail to Skyland and the AT north to Crusher Ridge and descending. About 18 miles with 4000 feet of elevation gain. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

11 (Wednesday)

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

11 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE – Easy Hikers**

Fort Circle Trail

The Easy Hikers will hike about 5 moderate miles, visiting Fort Dupont and Fort Davis on the Anacostia Heights. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Fort Dupont Activity Center. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From downtown or I-295 or I-395: Follow Pennsylvania Avenue east across the Anacostia River. At second traffic light turn left on Minnesota Avenue and follow it 0.5 miles to Randle Circle. Go about 180 degrees around the circle and enter Fort Dupont Park. Follow Fort Dupont Drive 0.2 miles to Activity Center parking lot on left. From Beltway in MD, take exit 11B to Route 4/Pennsylvania Avenue west towards Washington. Once inside the District line, turn right on Branch Avenue to Randle Circle. INFO: Gary Abrecht (Gabrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

11 (Wednesday)

CLASS – Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic (REI)
REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Get outside NOW! The woods are about to burst with spring color. Red bud, bluebells, spring beauties, trillium, and showy lady slipper will bloom during April, and May will bring out azalea and rhododendron. Wildflower photographer, David Lambert, will detail the areas and habitats of each species, discuss identification and photography, and lead you on a visual hike through his stunning images of native wildflowers. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

14 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP – North Chapter Pa. Trail Crew**
Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

14 (Saturday)

 **HIKE – Tuscarora Trail IV**

Colonel Denning State Park, PA

Blue Mountain Section-Colonel Denning State Park Section (Pa. Rte 233) to Cowpens Rd. 8.6 mile with 1,000 foot elevation gain. We will climb out of Colonel Denning State Park to the top of Blue Mountain and hike south atop the ridge to Cowpens Rd. Some decent views at pipeline crossings on the trail. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

14 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP – Massanutten Crew**

George Washington National Forest, VA

Join the crew for our first outing in 2001. Massanutten Crew will be starting another season of hard work on Massanutten Mountain trails. Reserve this date. INFO: Mike Sutherland (msutherland@cox.rr.com) 703/591-8330.

14 – 15 (Saturday – Sunday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew**

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A challenge with a view. Creeping sidehill tread on a series of switchbacks on the AT over Hogback Mountain need some attention. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Rindts House near Front Royal. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

16 (Monday)

 **HIKE – Family Hike**

Potomac Overlook Regional Park, VA

Join us for a 4 – 5 mile hike down Donaldson Run to the Potomac Heritage Trail along the Potomac River. Baby backpacks or front carriers required; not stroller friendly. Third time's a charm; this hike has been canceled twice due to weather, so hopefully we will make it there this time. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

17 (Futures)

 **MEETING – The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.**

17 (Tuesday)

 **HIKE – Vigorous Hikers**

Old Rag, VA

Old Rag Plus. One of SNP's premier routes beginning with a climb up Old Rag descending to retest the legs for an ascent up Robertson in one of the most challenging routes on the schedule. 17 miles and 4000-plus feet of exercise. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

21 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP – Stonewall Brigade**

Shenandoah County, VA

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at Wolf Gap Recreation Area at 9:00 a.m. to work on a trail in the nearby area. This popular venue offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley from the mountain crest. We will remove and break up rocks in the tread and work on waterbars. Please contact me by Wednesday. RSVP/INFO: Hop Long (mgrgnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

21 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP – Rock Creek Park Crew**

Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15 – 11:30 a.m. Have you ever wanted to use a sledgehammer to work your frustrations out? You just might get that chance on one of our work trips. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

21 (Saturday)

 **HIKE – WV Chapter**

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Big Devil's Stairs: See the Stairs like you've not seen it before, from the bottom of the gorge going up. The hike will start at Skyline Drive, go down the trail to the foot of the Stairs, and return up the gorge to the top. This will be approximately a 6 mile round trip hike. Climbing over boulders and up waterfalls will make this hike on the strenuous side. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

21 (Saturday)

 **HIKE – Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter**
Tuscarora Trail, Fetzer Gap to Cedar Creek

Come join the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter as we continue our year-long exploration of the Tuscarora Trail. This time we will proceed to the west side of the Shenandoah Valley and explore Little North Mountain area. Come enjoy the wonders of early spring, as we explore both ridge and stream valley on this moderate 6-mile hike. INFO: Larry and Rita Bradford (bradford@shentel.net) 540/459-3571.

21 – 22 (Saturday – Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP – Vining Tract Crew**
Lydia, VA

The Vining Tract Crew meets the second week-end of every month to work on various projects, ranging from cabin repairs on any of the rental cabins on the property, to land management projects, to shoring up historic structures around the property. We've started constructing a small cabin using logs from an old barn; the cabin will be used as a base for future worktrips. Come join us and hoist a log or a hammer, as well as a beer or two, in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry cabins. INFO: Larry Lang 703/631-9278 or Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

21 – 22 (Saturday – Sunday)

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

We're back! See the article in this issue for details on our upcoming work season. Jobs include finishing dormers and gable ends as well as painting, both inside and outside. We will be building an insulated pump room in the basement, which will include pouring a concrete foundation. In addition we will be installing a 32-foot long steel support beam, also in the basement. Other jobs include refinishing some of our wood furniture and replacing the roof of the Carriage house with a new standing-seam steel roof. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

21 – 22 (Saturday – Sunday)

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

There should be plenty of wildflowers in evidence now and leaves on trees and bushes. It should be warm enough to work outside comfortably, but not hot enough to cause a lot of sweat. We will still be chinking and installing doors and windows but should have made significant progress on these projects by now. Who knows what else we may be doing! We may be painting the roof if that hasn't been done yet. There is no lack of work to do to finish the cabin, and there is something that almost anyone can do. Whether you think you have any skill or not come on out and we will find something for you to do. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

21 – 22 (Saturday – Sunday)
 ✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP – Mediterranean TRAIL WORK TRIP – North District Hoodlums**

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
 Come work on the Appalachian Trail in the north district of the park building and repairing drainage devices and/or rock steps. What's the reward for a good day of hard work? How about an evening around the campfire enjoying a culinary feast from the Mediterranean region! No experience necessary — tools provided. Bring work gloves, lunch and a smile. Overnight stay at a facility in the park. Come for the day, stay for the evening feast, or spend the entire weekend. The crew meets at 10:00 a.m. at Piney River Ranger Station, milepost 22 on Skyline Drive. RSVP/INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@erols.com) 410/426-2724.

23 (Monday)

👤 **HIKE – Family Hike**

Bull Run/Occoquan Trail, VA

2-mile toddler friendly hike. We will follow the Blue Trail down to Cub Run to the largest stand of Bluebells on the east coast (the park has 75 acres of Bluebells!). There is a great playground nearby where we will go to play and have a picnic afterwards. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

24 (Tuesday)

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

24 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE – Vigorous Hikers**

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Rose River. Warm up with a walk up the Rose River Fire Rd. to the unmarked Rose River Cutoff Trail connecting to the Rose River Loop Trail. Climb to the drive continuing south on the AT to the Lewis Fall Trail returning to Big Meadows to return via the Rapidan Fire Rd. and the Dark Hollow Falls Trail. A total of 18 miles and 4300-plus feet should be an adequate final test for the Dogwood. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

24 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Women's Backpacking Clinic (REI) REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. Learn to enjoy the outdoors on your terms. Come together with REI's skilled backpacking women to discuss gear and skills with a female focus. Identify how your pack should fit for comfort, and how to pack it, and how to select the best lightweight sleeping bag to keep your feet warm. We'll discuss finding a great destination, planning your trip, and more essentials for feeling comfortable in camp and on the trail. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

25 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE – Easy Hikers**

Wheaton Regional Park, Wheaton, MD

Enjoy a 5-mile hike through Wheaton Regional Park. Meet at 10:15 a.m. near the miniature train station. Bring lunch and water. Directions: exit the beltway (I-495) at Georgia Avenue, north. Go about 3 miles to a right turn (traffic light, shopping center on right) on Shorefield Road. Take a right turn as you enter the Park and see the train station. INFO: John Gibling 301/585-5172.

Potomac Appalachian

28 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE – Family Hike**

Catoctin Mountain Park, MD

Catoctin Mountain Park (about 20 minutes from Frederick, Maryland). 4.5 mile hike to the tallest waterfall in Maryland, Cunningham Falls, then a climb up to Hog Rock for some incredible views. Designed for the under-5 crowd, but all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

28 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE – Spring Day Hike (REI/WSC)**

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join REI and the Wilderness Safety Council for a moderate to strenuous circuit hike in the Shenandoah National Park Central Section Wilderness Area. We'll cover 12 miles with 2,000 feet of elevation gain. Recommended for experienced hikers, the hike includes Corbin Mountain, Indian Run and Nicholson Hollow Trails, featuring waterfalls, historic cabin remains, great views, and a visit to a PATC cabin. Participants should be in good physical condition and be prepared with water, lunch, snacks, rain gear, and tevas or old sneakers for a few challenging stream crossings. Space is limited. Reservations/INFO: Cathie Cummins 703/631-7421, weekdays 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

28 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE – Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Tuscarora Trail/Sherman Gap**

Enjoy an 8-mile hike with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter on the Tuscarora and Sherman Gap trails. We'll have a good climb from the trailhead, then hike along the ridge of Massanutten Mountain on this circuit hike. INFO: Gerry Boyd (geryb@compuserve.com) 703/281-7216.

28 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE – PATC/K9Trailblazers**

Turkey Run Park, VA

Distance: 2.5 or 7.5 miles. This will be a K9Trailblazers joint hike, so well-behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on leash and scoop after them. Meet at Ft. Marcy and hike 2.5 miles on the Potomac Heritage Trail to Turkey Run, or go directly to Turkey Run where the park ranger will lead us on a guided 2.5 mile hike, after which the more vigorous hikers will retrace their steps to Ft. Marcy. You will need sturdy hiking boots for rough trails, and water and snacks for yourself and your dog. Maps, chocolate for people and biscuits for dogs will be provided at the trailhead. INFO: Pat Fuhrer at 301/482-2468 or Jeff Bolognese (jbolo@gateway.net) 410/247-4434.

28 (Saturday)

✂️ **TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers**

Appalachian Trail, MD

Everyone goes home happy and a bit tired from South Mountaineers events. Why not join us? INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

28 – 29 (Saturday – Sunday)

✂️ **TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew**

Northern Peaks Trail, Sugarloaf Mountain, MD

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

28 – 29 (Saturday – Sunday)

✂️ **TRAIL WORK TRIP – Blue & White Crew**

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join us for trail projects in the Central District of SNP. INFO: Charles Hillon (charleshillon@earthlink.net) 703/754-7388.

28 – 29 (Saturday – Sunday)

👤 **BACKPACKING TRIP – Judy Springs**

Monongahela National Forest, WV

Moderate point-to-point backpack (about 10 miles total) to a pretty area in the Seneca Creek backcountry of the Monongahela National Forest. Departing Saturday, we will hike about 7 miles to our campsite on Seneca Creek; we will hike out on Sunday. Trip is suitable for beginners. Limit 10. INFO: Dave Wilcox (davewillcox@worldnet.att.net) 703/212-0991.

30 (Monday)

👤 **HIKE – Family Hike**

Great Falls Park, VA

Join us for a 3.8 mile hike. Backpacks and front-packs only; trail is not stroller friendly. We will hike along both sections of the Matildaville Trail, then we will follow the Ridge Trail to the Swamp Trail. This is the best place to spot wildlife in the park, as it is a seldom used trail. The Swamp Trail ends at the Carriage Road which will lead us back to the visitors center. Some sections will be rugged and hilly. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

MAY

1 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE – June Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

1 (Tuesday)

🗳️ **MEETING – Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.**

2 (Wednesday)

🗳️ **MEETING – New Members (PATC), 7:30 p.m. Postponed until Thursday, May 10th.**

5 (Saturday)

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

Another great event in Maryland, moving rocks and dirt around and being happy it wasn't on your lawn! We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

5 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE – Natural History Trillium Hike G. Richard Thompson WMA, VA**

The tradition lives on! Join Bob Pickett on this annual trek to the trillium fields along the Appalachian Trail in northern Virginia. After a moderately difficult mile hike up to the ridge line, we'll spend the afternoon hiking through some of the densest stands of trillium known on the east coast. Yellow lady's slippers and a small patch of nodding trillium are also highlights of this trip. And if flowers aren't enough, we'll identify the spring migrant and nesting birds. For the last four years we've enjoyed a blue-winged warbler, and we always see some scarlet tanagers. If you want to enjoy spring in Virginia, this is it! Reservations/INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

FORECAST

5 (Saturday)

HIKE – West Virginia Chapter Tuscarora Trail/County Line Trail, VA/WV

This part of the Tuscarora Trail runs along the ridge of Great North Mountain on the border of Virginia and West Virginia. The trail also runs along the border of Frederick and Hampshire Counties, hence the name County Line Trail. This 8.6-mile hike is of moderate difficulty, but does not contain a lot of elevation change and offers good views of both the Shenandoah and Capon Valleys. Leader/INFO: Judy Smoot (jasmoot@hotmail.com) 540/667-2036.

5 (Saturday)

HIKE – 100K/50K One-day (Sierra/MWROP) Washington, DC

28th Annual 100K/50K One-day Hike is sponsored by the Sierra Club's Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program. The hike starts at 3:00 a.m. at the Thompson Boat Center (near the Watergate) and ends — much later — at the American Youth Hostel at Sandy Hook (near Harpers Ferry, WV). Get into training now, and register by April 30. For more information on the 100K/50K and the training hikes check www.onedayhike.org or call the tape recorded hot line 202/547-2326. INFO: Paul Elliott 703/256-6351.

5 – 6 (Saturday – Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP – Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

If you like gnats and mosquitoes and other creepy crawly creatures this is the time of year to come out to Tulip Tree Cabin and have a good time. While you are enjoying yourself you might even give us a hand with finishing the cabin. We have such a good time and get so wrapped up in our work that we don't even notice the minor irritation of the airborne bloodsuckers. The smell of Avon Skin So Soft adds to the ambiance of working on a primitive cabin in the woods. Sign up before it's too late to miss the fun. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

5 – 6 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – North Chapter Pa. Trail Crew Appalachian Trail, PA

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

5 – 6 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Trail Patrol Backpacking 101 Trip Locations to be determined

Students try out their new skills on an overnight backpacking trip accompanied by experienced instructors. INFO: Larry Marcoux 703/968-4771.

5 – 6 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Mountaineering Section Seneca Rocks, WV

Seneca Work Days. Trail work to be done in the north slab area to provide better access. Free camping at the Seneca Shadows campground, site D for trail workers on Friday and Saturday nights. Meet in the old parking lot near the footbridge at 8:00 a.m. sharp. A Forest Service Ranger will be present for sign in, which is important for insurance reasons, so come early. INFO: Greg Christopoulos (Greg.Christopoulos@do.treas.gov) 703/876-0957 or Bill Wright (william.wright@uspto.gov) 703/860-3752 or 703/305-7792.

5 – 6 (Saturday – Sunday)

CLASS – Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Alexandria, VA

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

5 – 6 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Abominable Trail Crew Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Do you aspire to curmudgeonosity? Do you balk at your own visage in the mirror in the morning? Do your friends pass you by without so much as a nod of the head? Well, you might as well come out and do some trail rehab work with the Abominable Trail Crew; you're abominable enough, already! We meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning to plot our pernicious plans for the day, before we charge off into the woods with tools in our hands and gleams in our eyes (okay, so we drink a lot of coffee) for another weekend of fun and frolic moving dirt and stone, for the good of all. If you need help losing weight, you'll get all the help you need when you see what the chef has planned for supper! RSVP by 5/2. INFO: Don White (whitedh@hotmail.com) 804/270-3116.

7 (Monday)

HIKE – Family Hike Fairfax County, VA

3 mile hike along Pohick Creek beginning at the Hidden Pond Nature Center. The trail is a little rugged and muddy. Jogging stroller passable (barely). After the hike we will picnic near the pond and enjoy their great playground. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

8 (Tuesday)

MEETING – PATC Council, 7:00 p.m. sharp.

9 (Wednesday)

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

10 (Thursday)

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

10 – 11 (Thursday – Friday)

CONFERENCE – Universal Trail Assessment Process (NOVACC) Easter Seals Camp, Salem, VA

The Recreation and Parks Society of NOVACC is co-hosting the UTAP conference with Beneficial Designs and Easter Seals of Virginia to train individuals in the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP). This means recording trail data such as length, width, grade, cross-slope, and surface type. The data collection is easy, and when complete, will be available to people of all abilities. The trail data will allow users to choose their level of challenge, which is the alternative to paving our beautiful trails. INFO: Ryan Brookes (rpkkid@yahoo.com) 703/560-4610.

11 (Friday)

MEETING – Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Winchester, VA

Join the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter for our spring chapter meeting. Lee Sheaffer will present a slide show and talk on backpacking in Wyoming's Wind River Range. Reservations/INFO: Gerry Boyd (gerryb@compuserve.com) 703/281-7216.

12 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Rock Creek Park Crew Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15 – 11:30 a.m. Make your Mother proud. Give something back to the hiking trails you traverse by helping out the D.C. trail crew before Mother's Day. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

12 (Saturday)

HIKE – Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Wardensville, WV

George Washington National Forest: Tuscarora Trail/Half Moon Mt/Old Mine Rd circuit hike. 8 miles at a slow pace with an elevation change of 1200 feet through varied terrain and to great views. We begin at the intersection of Old Mine Road and Waites Run Road (south of Wardensville, WV), and hike on the forest road until we reach Waites Run. We will then climb the Tuscarora Trail through lots of hemlocks (enjoy them while they last), crossing the run eight times. We'll enjoy a great view at Half Moon Hollow Overlook, and hike on Half Moon Trail until we reach the remains of the old fire lookout tower on ledges of Half Moon Peak. After stopping for five different views, we'll take the German Wilson Trail and hike north down the ravine to the Old Mine Road, returning through beautiful woods to our cars. INFO: Wait Smith (wsmith@visuallink.com) 540/678-0423.

12 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Massanutten Crew George Washington National Forest, VA

Join the Massanutten Crew as we rebuild creeping, side-hill tread on the Signal Knob Trail, the most popular trail in the Massanutten North district. RSVP/INFO: Mike Sutherland (msutherland@cox.r.com) 703/591-8330.

12 (Saturday)

CLASS – Outdoor Leadership & Wilderness Risk Management (REI)

REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA
10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Much has been written about wilderness survival skills. Comparatively little attention has been given to avoiding Wilderness survival situations. This class covers prevention, planning, preparation, safety management and risk assessment. Taught by Christopher Tate, Director, Wilderness Safety Council. The class fee is \$75, and includes the course, text and materials, and a copy of Outdoor Leadership, by John Graham. Registration/INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

12 – 13 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Blue & White Crew Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join us for trail projects in the Central District of SNP. INFO: Charles Hillon (CharlesHillon@earthlink.net) 703/754-7388.

12 – 13 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew Blackburn Trail Center near Round Hill, VA

Join the Crew as we return to the project started in March to rehab the side trail from Blackburn Trail Center to the AT. It should be interesting to see how this project progresses as we try to make headway through the rocks. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.r.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

14 (Monday)

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

15 (Tuesday)

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

19 (Saturday)

HIKE – Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Bear Wallow, Fort Valley, VA

Our hike is moderately strenuous. We will ascend from near the Elizabeth Furnace Campground to the top of Green Mountain on the Bear Wallow Trail, a favorite hiking and mountain bike trail in the northern George Washington National Forest. From Green Mountain there are great vistas of the mountains that enclose the northern end of the Fort Valley and of the Blue Ridge of the northern Shenandoah National Park. We will ascend about 1000 feet, and will return along the Bear Wallow Trail and a short stretch of the Rattlesnake Trail. The Hike will take about 5 hours. Smithsonian geologist Bill Melson will be along for short comments and for fielding questions you may have about the spectacular geology of the trail and surrounding mountains. Leader/INFO: Betsy Fowler (efowler@logicon.com) 540/933-6136 or 703/356-8336 and leave message.

19 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – North Chapter Pa. Trail Crew Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

19 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Stonewall Brigade Shenandoah County, VA

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

19 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

The weather is so nice this time of year, the woods beckon. Have fun “working” with a jovial group of trail stewards known as the South Mountaineers. Close to home yet away-from-it-all. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

19 (Saturday)

HIKE – 2001 Canal Odyssey Hancock, MD

The fourth mission of the C&O Canal Odyssey will be from Hancock to Williamsport, MD, 17 miles. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Roy Rogers located on MD 85 in Frederick, MD. A car shuttle is required. RSVP/INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

19 – 20 (Saturday – Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP – Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

The weather should be very warm by now, but it is always a little cooler in the woods. We will be working on any number of projects to try to bring the cabin to completion. We will probably still be chinking and various other things. Whatever we are doing, we will be having fun. RSVP/INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

19 – 20 (Saturday – Sunday)

HIKE/Camp – PATC/Susquehanna ATC Tuscarora Trail, PA

We'll hike on Saturday and Sunday and camp at Cowans Gap State Park. Both hikes are moderate to fast pace with some road walking, and are shown on PATC Map K. Saturday's hike of 21.2 miles is from PA State Highway 16 to Camp Harding County Park in Maryland. It includes 3.7 miles of road walking and two stream crossings. Sunday's hike is 10.25 miles, beginning at Camp Harding and ending at Hancock MD, with 1.5 miles of road walking. Bring extra footwear for fording streams on Saturday. Meet at Camp Harding County Park at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. These are joint hikes with the Susquehanna AT Club. INFO: Mark Press 717/367-2763.

25 – 28 (Memorial Day Weekend)

SPECIAL EVENT – Family Hiking/Cabin Weekend

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come join us for a kid-friendly weekend at Schairer Cabin. We will be hiking about 3 miles near Ivy Creek on Saturday. On Sunday we will hike 6.5 miles along Doyle River and Jones Run, passing by 3 waterfalls. We will have family-style community dinners and breakfasts. Designed for families with young children. Sign up early — space is very limited! INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278.

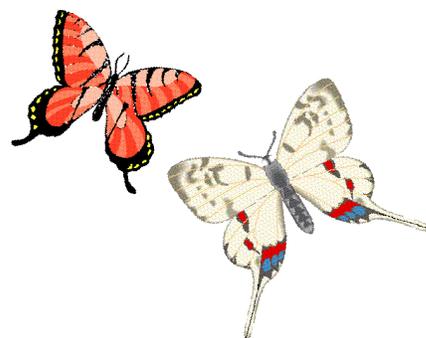
26 – 27 (Saturday – Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew Vining Tract near Stanardsville, VA

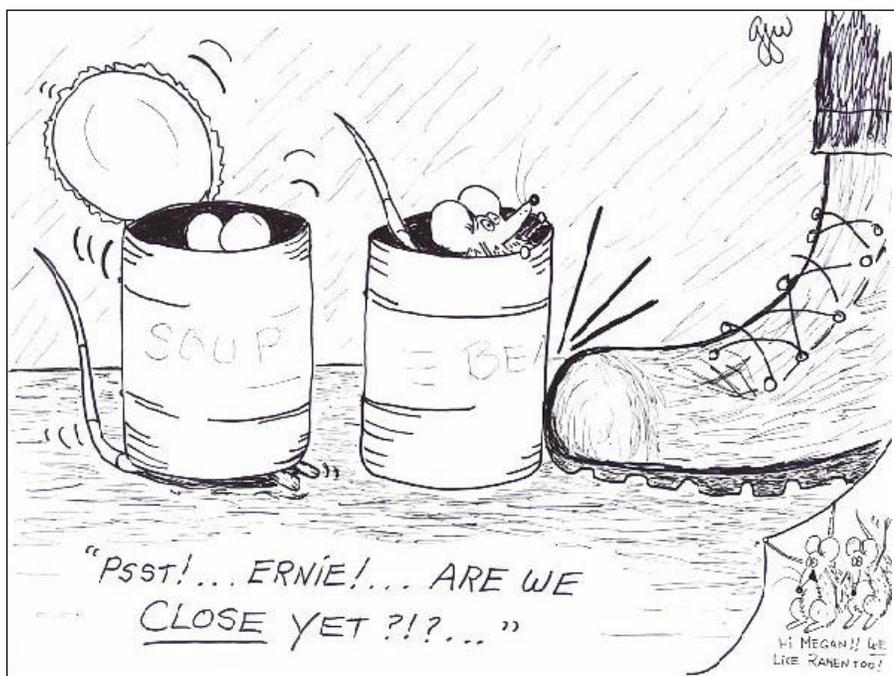
Have a need for some extensive yard work on one of the most popular and scenic PATC Tracts? Join us for a little tree work, brush clearing, and trail development. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at PATC's Mutton Top Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

29 (Tuesday)

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



Tails from the Woods by George Walters



Potomac Appalachian

Dogwood 2001

The Dogwood Half Hundred, to be held on Saturday, April 21, requires enthusiastic volunteers to ensure its successful operation.

While we have already filled most of the checkpoint positions, we continue to need more people to assist at breakfast at Powell's Fort Camp on Saturday morning; to man critical trail junctions on the Dogwood route; and to transport water and other supplies by truck or SUV from northern Virginia to the Base Camp.

Please consider contributing your time and enthusiasm. You will have a great experience and will help to maintain a renowned PATC tradition.

Prospective volunteers should contact Ric Francke, the Dogwood director, either at 703/356-2106 (evenings until 10:00) or at fbfrancke@aol.com. □

—Ric Francke

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

FREE QUAD MAPS PATC received a donation of quad maps of various places in rural VA & WV. Most are dated in the late 1960s but some have been photo revised in 1978. The box is in the reception area for perusing during evening office hours and you may take any that you wish.

BARGAIN FOR A BACKPACKER: Scarcely used copy of *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes* by Clem Lindemayor (Lonely Planet, 1998, \$17.98) offered for \$10.00 plus delivery costs. Patagonia is a spectacular backpacking area much used by South Americans and Europeans, but seldom by North Americans. Paula Strain, 301/340-6895.

HIKE LEADERS WANTED: The ATC biennial conference for 2001 will be held on July 14-20 at Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, Pa. Katie Jones, the hikes committee chair, needs hike leaders. To find out more, access the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club website at www.libertynet.org/susqatc, or the ATC website at www.appalachiantrail.org/about/biennial.html. Or you can reach Katie at jonesk@dickinson.edu, 717/249-6727. Tom Johnson

THE POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB is a participant in the prestigious Mobil/Exxon award for an 8-week non-profit paid college intern (we hire) who is to work on something related in his/her major field. If you have a candidate, please tell Wilson immediately. They must be hired by May 1. We, of course, would like them to be doing something useful, like data-base management, for PATC. Email Wilson Riley at WRiley1226@AOL.com. PATC is one of only 50 recipients nationally.

WALKING HOLIDAYS. This is an invitation for you to join a small party and enjoy a week 'Exploring the Lake District' or 'Discovering the History of Northumbria' in England. The holiday dates are August 18-25 and September 8-15 for the Lake District, and June 30-July 7 for Northumbria. INFO: Derek Teasdale 0044/191-2520752; DTeasdale1@aol.com, or <http://members.aol.com/DTeasdale1/>

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY - The Tuscarora Trail Project: The Tuscarora Trail, a 260 mile long hiking trail, traverses the scenic Shenandoah Valley near Tom's Brook, Va. Since its establishment in the early 1970s, PATC has been working in partnership with local communities, land management agencies, and property owners to monitor and maintain the trail. Unlike trail systems on public park or forest lands, the Tuscarora Trail traverses a mix of both public and private lands. In some areas the trail is routed along VDOT right-of-way. A steering committee has formed to assess options for rerouting the trail, linking historic sites and community facilities through an off-road alternative.

The steering committee has requested the assistance of a summer intern to help with base mapping and corridor assessment work this summer. The position will be located at the Town of Woodstock, Va. The committee is looking for a commitment of 10 - 20 hours per week for the months of June - August 2001. Hours are flexible. A stipend of \$1,000 is available to cover expenses. Please send letter of interest that includes a summary of GIS mapping skills and experience to: Larry Bradford, 135 North Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664, prior to May 1, 2001. For more information contact: Ursula Lemanski at 304/535-4018.

HIKES

LOOKING FOR HIKING PARTNER: I'm planning to hike the Virginia portion of the AT this May. Looking to hook up with willing hiking partner on this excursion. Call Mark B. Hampshire at 303/770-2082.

28th ANNUAL 100 KILOMETER ONE-DAY HIKE, Washington, D.C. to Harpers Ferry, W. VA., Saturday, May 5, 2001. Sponsored by the Sierra Club's Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program. The hike starts at 3 a.m. at the Thompson Boat Center (near the Watergate) and ends — much later — at the American Youth Hostel at Sandy Hook (near Harpers Ferry). Along the trail, you'll get food, drink, and first aid at manned stations, along with wildlife sightings, the company of fellow trekkers, and visits from bike patrols. At the hotel, you'll get a warm welcome, dinner, and some rest. If you're not sure you can manage the full 100K, sign up instead for the Semi-100K and do just the second half of the hike. You'll start 31.25 miles from the hostel (near Edwards Ferry Lock across the Potomac from Leesburg) at 10:30 a.m. and join the 100K-ers en route. The key to success with either hike will be pre-hike preparation. Get into training now — and register by April 30. For more information on the 100K/50K and the training hikes check the web: www.onedayhike.org or call the Sierra Club's tape recorded hotline: 202/547-2326

HIKE FRANCE - Fall 2001: Hike memorable segments of approx. 90 kilometer foothill, country roads, forests, on East side of historic WW I German-French "front". RON in villages. Begin o/a September 23, 2001, in Bescanson (Doubs Province). From high-detail maps, identify and reach various firing locations of a specific USA artillery unit, cited for effectiveness, and inspect, up-close, firing targets, some on mounts. Conclude with renowned battlefield overview-exhibits and preserved French and German "impregnable" fortifications, e.g., Hindenburg line, near Verdun. Small support-vehicle always to accompany. Max three senior-age men to join jogging, upper-senior man. Contact Stu Harbour at 703/280-5215.

FOR SALE

THE FIRST ISSUE OF FLORIDA HIKER, a full-color quarterly magazine for hiking enthusiasts of the state, has been on sale since January at \$5.95. Copies and subscriptions (at \$23.60) available from Florida Hiker Magazine, Box 3212-NP, Geneva, FL 32732. Collectors of hiking memorabilia may want to get the first issue before it becomes a rarity.

FOR SALE. Walrus Rapeede XV two-person, four-season backpacking tent, with "foot print." Used only one week, but we found our original tent mislaid in moving and don't need this one. Originally \$259 including the groundcloth, now \$150. INFO: Mike Field at 301/644-1445, or field3@worldnet.att.net

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL COUNSEL. Due to unexpected resignation, seeking volunteer attorney to serve two-year term (2001-2002) as General Counsel for the Club. As member of the Executive Committee, provides general legal affairs advice to the President, Officers, Council, and Standing Committees on an as-needed basis; coordinates with other volunteer attorneys on Trail Lands Acquisition and Land Management committees concerning acquisition of fee simple and easement interest property rights and other land issues; maintains roster of legally trained Club members to constitute a legal committee for special projects, as necessary. INFO: Walt Smith at 703/242-0693, or wsmith@visuallink.com

HELP PATC CELEBRATE ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2002. Vice President Mickey McDermott is in charge of planning. INFO: mcdermottj.aimd@gao.gov

LIBRARY HELP WANTED. Some of the call labels on books are loose or falling off. I would like to get them covered with clear, sticky, adhesive labels before the renovation work starts and the books are handled a lot. Easy but labor intensive; can be done evenings 7-9 p.m. INFO: Carol Niedzialek at 301/949-9729, or niedze@erols.com.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIR. Seeking person to oversee the Club's public relations and information programs. Coordinates with the VP Volunteerism & President when issuing official Club statements to the media and appropriate government agencies. Assists Sections and Chapters with public relations activities and coordinates official Club participation in public events of special interest to the Club. INFO: contact Walt Smith: wsmith@visuallink.com or 703/242-0693

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

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

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

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS? PATC has a continuous need for Headquarters Volunteers willing to help out with a variety of tasks — from manning the sales desk in the evening, to providing typing or office support. It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the Club going! INFO: Wilson Riley, wiley1226@aol.com or 703/242-0693, ext.11.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

"As a public service to its members and partners, PATC provides the following list of upcoming projects which offer volunteer opportunities. Because these are not PATC projects, PATC urges you to contact the individual(s) listed below to obtain more information about the project, the project leader qualifications, and the sponsoring organizations policies and procedures (including training and insurance coverage), to determine whether it is appropriate for you."

SENECA CREEK BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL PROJECT—see above article for more details.

THE JAPANESE WALKING ASSOCIATION and the Yomiuri Shimbun are preparing for "Trans-America 2001". Hoping to promote better cultural and international understandings between

See Notices, page 13

Seneca Creek Backcountry Trail Maintenance Project

The West Virginia Trails Coalition, in coordination with the Monongahela National Forest, is organizing a trail maintenance project in the Seneca Creek Backcountry area. A crew of 15 Americorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) volunteers will be housed in the Shot Cherry cabin and will work on the project for three weeks, beginning May 20. Volunteers from the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy will also help for parts of the project.

Work will take place with some Forest Service direction on many of the trails in the area that are in need of improvement. Two of the more well known trails are the Seneca Creek and Allegheny Mountain trails, but there are many side trails as well. Work will include waterbar construction and replacement, blowdown removal, cleaning diversion ditches, stoning wet areas and stream crossings, and signage improvements. There have been footbridges that have been washed out in past floods and some of these may be replaced if there is adequate funding. With many volunteers, there may be work going on in more than one location on a given day.

PATC volunteers can come for any part of the duration of the project. Volunteers will need to camp if staying for more than one day, as the cabin will be filled by the Americorps members. Spruce Knob Lake is a developed campground nearby with water, electric hookup, and pit restroom facilities. Also nearby is the Gatewood group campground. In addition there are many dispersed primitive sites found along the roads and especially along the trails in the area. Though not required, volunteers may want to bring along any kind of trail maintenance tools they may have, in case of large numbers.

There will be a posting outside of Shot Cherry Cabin, during the project duration, explaining what trail the work is taking place on for each day. Shot Cherry cabin is located on FR 112. If coming from Spruce Knob Lake, turn right at the first intersection. (Bearing left will lead to the Seneca Creek trailhead and the road to Spruce Knob.) This is FR 112. The cabin will be seen on the left a short way down the road.

For more information please contact: Justin Thaine, WV Trails Coalition Field Coordinator, Potomac Headwaters region 304/267-8953, ext. 3321 or email jthaine@hotmail.com. □

SNP and JMU Join Forces in Earth Science Project

Shenandoah National Park, VA—Shenandoah National Park Superintendent Douglas K. Morris announced that James Madison University (JMU) and Shenandoah National Park have received a \$40,000 grant under the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program through the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia. The grant will fund a project called "Great Outdoors, Digital Indoors."

Through the grant, JMU will host a two-week summer institute during which middle and high school earth science teachers will visit four locations in Shenandoah National Park. There Park education staff members will instruct teachers in using lessons from Exploring Earth Science in Shenandoah National Park - An Integrated Curriculum for Grades 7-12. Teachers will take data collected in the Park and learn how to analyze it using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology and computer software at JMU. Teachers will return to their classroom with both data and software to bring these new ideas and techniques to their students.

Shenandoah National Park - with its deciduous forests, craggy peaks, and mountain streams - is an ideal outdoor classroom for the study of earth science. As Lee Norford from Pence Middle School states, "It's a

classroom without walls, a place where students are challenged and encouraged. I come here year after year and never cease to be amazed by what the students gain from this field experience." Students themselves find that the field work and hands-on science allows them to directly apply what they have learned in the classroom towards real life situations. By linking field science and computer technology, this project builds upon the strengths of the two partners to enhance science education for Virginia students. The program supports the Virginia Science Standards of Learning and National Science Education Standards.

For further information call Kathleen Harter at Shenandoah National Park 540/999-3489 or Bob Kolvoord at JMU 540/568-2752. □

—Jack Reeder

Notices, from page 12

the United States and Japan, a group of 14 young Japanese will walk 5000 kilometers across the US. The group will begin on March 30 at Mount Vernon, making stops in cities and towns throughout the country. The group will conclude "Trans-America 2001" on September 8 in San Francisco by celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, when Japan officially returned to the



Fifth Year of Keystone Trail Crew Set

Keystone Trail Crew, sponsored by KTA, will have three weeks of trail maintenance in the month of June. The work week this year will run from Wednesday through Sunday. The dates are June 6 through June 10, Terrance Mountain Trail; June 13 through June 17, Chuck Keiper Trail; and June 20 through June 24, Mid State Trail. Meals and lodging/campsites will be provided. If you can spare a week, volunteer a weekend, or come for just a day or two, please think about signing up. No volunteer will be turned away. Forward all inquiries to Joe Healey, 93 Cedarwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702, e-mail jnlhealey@aol.com or feel free to call at 570/655-4979. Detailed information and a map directing you to the respective lodging/campsite will then be forwarded.

international community. For more information on "Trans-America 2001" visit: www.yomiuri.co.jp/inpaku/english.htm

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



Trailhead

February featured cycles of a few warm days followed by a few cold days with some snow. A number of overseers have taken advantage of the warm days to visit their trails and clear the normal winter residue. Hopefully we may escape a major ice storm this year with memories of February 1998 lingering in the back of everybody's mind. Precipitation has been below normal but who knows what the spring months will bring.

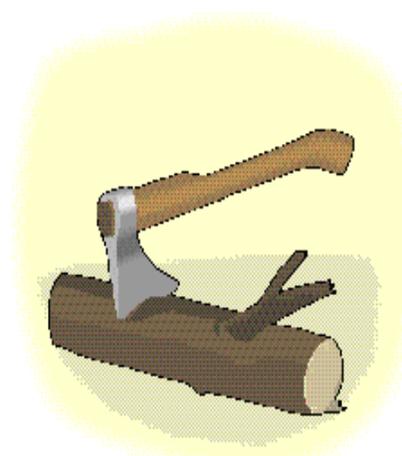
New Trailhead Proposed

In early February, a number of PATCers met with President Walt Smith to walk over the Per-Lee/West Tract near Madison, Va. and discuss land/forest management and potential trails. The tract borders the SNP and will contain the John's Rest and Rosser-Lamb cabins that are currently under construction. Kerry Snow (SOT) and Shawn Green (Park Service) led one group that flagged a potential trail route from Rosser-Lamb into the Park where it joined the Pocosin Fire Road and thus would link with the Park trails system. The ultimate plan is to establish a new public access trailhead near John's Rest with a trail that crosses PATC property and enters the Park. This is a cooperative effort with the Park Service and represents an exciting development since we have been losing trailheads into the Park in recent years due to problems with landowners and property development. The project will take several years to complete and require a lot of trail crew sweat.

Annual Trails/Forest Service Meeting

On February 24, the PATC held its annual planning meeting with the representatives of the Lee District of the U.S. Forest Service. The Club maintains trails in the Great North Mountain area, and along the Massanutten ridge. The meeting was attended by the SOT, Trails Coordinator Heidi Forrest, PATC District Managers Bill Schmidt, Hop Long, and Mike Sutherland, and Forest Service representatives Don Sawyer, Wade Bushong, and Dean Kelley.

Among topics of discussion was this year's Massarock Trail Crew. The dates for this year's crew will be June 10-15, June 17-22, September 9-14 and September 16-21. With some luck (and a load of sweat), this year's crew will complete the Massanutten West Trail, a long trail began in the late 1980s that will serve to create a very long loop trail along the high ridges. Don Sawyer expressed his gratitude with the efforts of



the PATC crews, and hopes to plan a dedication ceremony that will honor the Club and the Massarock Crew members. PATC members who are interested in joining the crew this year, should contact Heidi Forrest. The Crew always fills early, so reserve a spot as soon as possible. The Supervisor of Trails offers his thanks to the Lee District for hosting a very productive meeting (and great lunch) at their Edinburg headquarters.

SNP North District Saws At Work

On February 3, overseers Dick Dugan, Tom Ryan and Bill Spach along with DM's John McCrea and Bernie Stalman came out of winter hibernation and went to work. Bill and Bernie cleared the upper Piney Branch, Pole Bridge Link and Sugarloaf trails while John, Dick and Tom worked on the AT from the Thornton River Trail north to Elkwallow and from Hogback overlook south to Rattlesnake Point. Because of impending darkness, they all then teamed up to work near the Drive on the Elkwallow Trail. Approximately 60 trees were removed in this effort.

The next weekend overseer Liles Creighton and John McCrea worked the section from Compton Gap north toward the Park boundary at Possums Rest. They spent Sunday removing 17 trees obstructing the AT.

Pick Your Theme

North District Hoodlums are planning another year of "theme" work trips on the third weekend of each month. The work trips will involve treadwork on the AT followed by feasts from around-the-world at the "Hoodlum's Hacienda", Indian Run Hut. Look for Mediterranean, Mexican, French, and Cajun work trips, to name a few!

New Caretakers At Blackburn

This year's caretakers, Terry Shaw and Amber Grunau, will move into the Blackburn Trail Center in early March. They are both thru-hikers and actually met on the AT during their hike! Their job at Blackburn is to meet and greet hikers, keep the Center, grounds and campground clean and tidy and do small jobs as needed. They will be happy to meet Club members and give them a tour of the property.

Blowdowns For President's Day

The Blue and White weekday crew found some winter sunshine on President's Day with a trip up Cedar Run. Searching for the never elusive Blowdowns Shenandous, the team of Dueweke, Hallet, and Hillon cleared several mighty oaks from the upper reaches of the trail. Determined to make as few handsaw cuts as possible on this wilderness trail, the crew applied the timeworn lessons of Archimedes and levered the large logs off the treadway. Finishing up at a still daylight 5:30 p.m., we couldn't help but notice that the days are getting longer.

Tuscarora Relos

During the last weekend of February, the Cadillac Crew made very good progress on what it expects will be a couple of short Tuscarora Trail relocations to be completed this year. The first of these, south of Gore, Va., and US 50, will move the trail uphill on Great North Mountain into a legally protected route. This route follows along the northern end of PATC's Haynes easement and then turns downhill into a wooded 23+ acre lot that PATC already owns on the outskirts of Gore.

The second relocation is expected to be a quarter-mile extension from the southern end of the 12.6 mile Shockey's Knob relocation that was opened last July, over to Little Brush Creek. Although quite scenic, this segment is still awaiting approval from the two landowners involved. PATC still hopes for an additional relocation of the trail along Little Brush Creek down to the Siler Country Store.

Since the Cadillac Crew does not have additional work trips scheduled on the Tuscarora Trail before July, overseers and other volunteers who are interested in working on either of these relocation projects before then are encouraged to contact

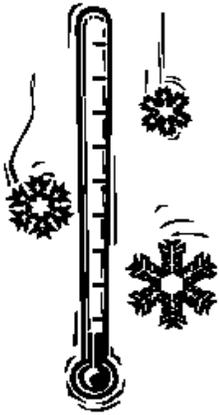
See Trailhead, page 15

Potomac Appalachian

Mike Karpie's Photo Tips: Some Inclement Weather Tips

Late winter and early spring bring with them a myriad of challenging weather conditions in the higher elevations. Even in April it is quite possible to wake up to a blanket of snow.

There are two very basic precautions I recommend when the weather is questionable. First, be sure to keep your camera batteries close to your body. You can do this by wearing your camera under your parka or jacket or by removing the batteries when not in use. Batteries store well in cold temperatures, but they perform poorly when cold. It is a good idea to bring a spare set.



Second, always carry enough resealable plastic bags to hold your cameras and lenses. Even though most camera bags will shed water for a while, it is good to have the added protection the plastic bags afford.

Next Month: Photographing Flowers

The archive of Photo Tips and sample photos can be found at:

<http://www.geocities.com/mkarpie/tips.html>

—Mike Karpie

Trailhead, from page 14

the Tuscarora Trail manager, Lloyd MacAskill at 703/978-4070 or LloydMacA@aol.com.

Tool Stuff

Metal left in the weather rusts. Rusty tools are not good. Wood handles left in the weather spall and can put splinters in your hands. Fixing tools left in the weather is a pain and costs you and me money. Recently, two pick-mattocks that had been left for some time in the weather were returned by unknowns to the tool room. Their handles require replacement, and getting the rust off and sharpening them will require several hours. Not good. A lopper left in the weather had frozen shut with rust. It has to be replaced. When you check out a tool, you are responsible for its care. After you turn it in, someone has to fix it. Someone else will use it also. Please be considerate and act responsibly. Thanks, The Tool Gang.

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

Potomac Appalachian

EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS

CLUB DAY

EMS Club Day
**Saturday,
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As a member of an outdoor organization, we know you love the outdoors as much as we do—and Club Day is our way to thank you for your contribution to the outdoor community. Stop by on Saturday, April 28 and gear up for another great season of fun in the outdoors.

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WILDLANDS CONFERENCE

April 7, 2001

The Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement and Conservation (MAGIC) will host a Wildlands Conference on April 7 at the NIH campus, Natcher Bld Auditorium, in Bethesda. The objective is to kick off the Appalachian Wildland Preservation — Maryland Project, an attempt to restore the ecological biodiversity of Appalachian forests by reconnecting forests along the mountain chain.

For more information, contact Doris Fausey at 301/949-5057, doris719@aol.com, or Bob DeGroot at 301/340-8348, BobDeGroot1@cs.com.

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TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings. Contact the District Manager for the section that interests you.

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

CALL ED MCKNEW AT 540/622-6004
or E-mail: emcknew@aol.com

Trico Tower Trail

AT to Trico Tower (0.50 miles)

Manassas Gap Shelter Trail

AT to Manassas Gap Shelter (0.10 miles)

**RTE. 638/POSSUMS REST AT & BB - MAP #8 & 9
(RTE. 638 TO SNP)**

CALL LLOYD PARRIOTT AT 540/622-2743
or E-mail: Blumount1@aol.com

Appalachian Trail

Denton Shelter to the powerline (1.20 miles)

Appalachian Trail

South end of the waterline to Bear Hollow Creek (.90 mile)

SNP NORTH & CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZE MAP #9 & 10

CALL BERNIE STALMANN AT 301/725-8876
or E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com

Tuscarora/Overall Run Trail

Mathews Arm Trail to AT (1.70 miles)

Jeremys Run Trail

AT to the 8th Ford of Jeremys Run (2.70 miles)

SNP SOUTH AT - MAP #11

CALL MIKE KARPIE AT 540/899-2649
or E-mail: BKPKR@erols.com

Appalachian Trail

Riprap Parking Area to Hairpin Switchback (1.50 miles)

Appalachian Trail

Hairpin Switchback to Crimora Lake (1.50 miles)

SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZE MAP #11

CALL LOIS MANSFIELD AT 804/973-7184
or Email; lem@Virginia.edu

Rocky Mount Trail

Intersection of Gap Run Trail to summit of Rocky Mt. (1.2 miles)

Rockytop Trail [Co-overseer]

Big Run Portal Trail to Big Run Loop Trail (5.70 miles)

TUSCARORA SOUTH - MAP E, G, 9

Call Rick Rhoades at 703/239-0965
or E-mail: RTRhoades@aol.com

Tuscarora Trail

Mill Mountain Trail to White Rocks Trail (2.90 miles)

MASSANUTTEN NORTH - MAP #G

CALL MIKE SUTHERLAND AT 703/591-8330
or E-mail: csutherland@cox.rr.com

Massanutten Mt. North Trail

Kennedy Peak Trail to Camp Roosevelt (3.30 miles)

Massanutten Mt. North Trail

Gap Creek Trail to Scothorn Gap Trail (2.70 miles)

Massanutten Mt. West Trail

Tuscarora Trail [Doll Ridge] to VA 758 (4.70 miles)

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH - MAP #H

CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477
or E-mail: weschmidt@aol.com

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (3.3 miles)

Fridley Gap Trail

VA 868 to Cub Run (2.60 miles)

Volunteers - Appointed Feb. 28, 2001

Trail Overseers

Jeffery Walker

AT - South River Maint. Hut Road to the Saddleback Trail

Richard Bilby
Co-Overseer

Thorton River Trail

Thomas Price

Leading Ridge Trail

Karl Wilkerson

BROT - Wolf Run Shoals Road to Fountain Head Park

Mike Reese
Co-Overseer

AT - Mount Marshall saddle to Hogwallow Flats

Walter Krohn

Rocky Mountain Run Trail

Jonathan Judith Knight

AT - Verlin Smith Trail to Manassas Gap Shelter

Mike Evans

AT - Ashby Gap to Second Logging Road



The Potomac Appalachian

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