



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 32, Number 4
April 2003

75 Years of Service

PATC Receives Gift of New Fire Extinguishers

Badger Fire Protection, a worldwide leader in the fire suppression industry, has just provided thousands of dollars of commercial fire extinguishers to PATC. These are commercial-grade, refillable extinguishers.

Residential fire extinguishers malfunction more frequently as they age and are exposed to varying temperatures (which is why we presently have several small extinguishers in each cabin), and the chemical spray time varies (depending on age since manufactured) from 19 seconds to a full 1 minute 10 seconds.

Badger has determined that one five-pound extinguisher is adequate for a cabin. This five-pound extinguisher is able to extinguish a blaze made by a six-foot by six-foot by six-foot cube of wooden pallets after it has been burning for 20 minutes (called the height of the blaze). The extinguishers can be partially discharged and still be effective. They carry a 12-year guarantee and are designed to withstand varying temperatures.

Badger Fire has provided extinguishers not only for the cabins that are being rented, but also for our maintenance huts where work trips are held and for cabins under construction that are not yet in the rental system. Even Headquarters will be mounting one on the wall.

At the annual cabin meeting Badger handed out fire extinguishers to each cabin Overseer. Badger also had a staff member demonstrated use of the extinguisher, required maintenance, proper placement, and answered any safety questions brought forward.

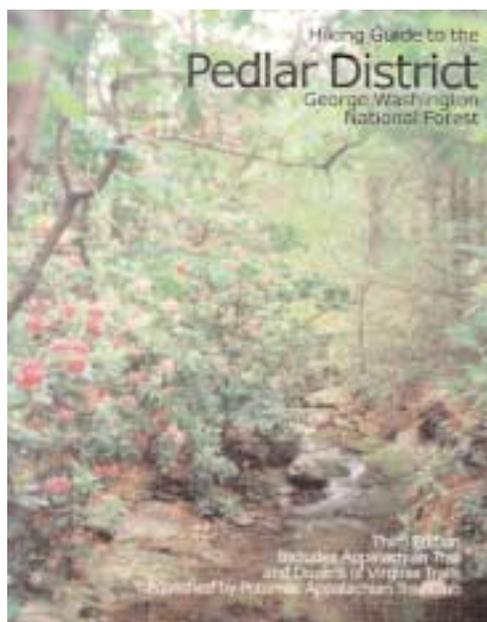
Badger Fire Protection has its commercial fire extinguisher manufacturing facility in Charlottesville, Va. Several employees of the company are PATC members, including the President and the Human Resources Manager of the division.

Although this is a great donation, I hope no one ever needs to use one. □

—Thomas C. Jorgensen
Southern Regional Cabins Supervisor



Newly Updated Pedlar Guide Available



Newly updated

“Hiking Guide to the Pedlar District - George Washington National Forest”

For Sale Now!

Get your copy in time for the spring flowers blooming along your favorite mountain trails in GWNF's Pedlar District. Copies are in stock and on sale for \$7.00 retail or \$5.60 member price. Add 4.5 percent Virginia sales tax for deliveries to Virginia, and \$2.00 postage and handling (\$4.00 for purchases over \$10.00).

Winter won't last forever – get your hiking guide today by mail or by calling Maureen Estes at 703/242-0693 Ext. 19 during the day. □

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Supervisor of Membership: Susan Nelson
Supervisor of Land Management: Chris Mangold
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Mountaineering Section: Mack Muir
SMRG: Peter Pennington
Ski Touring Section: Steve Brickel
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N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Gerry Boyd
S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: John Held
Charlottesville Chapter: John Shannon
West Virginia Chapter: Judy Smoot

Standing Committee Chairs (Council Members)

AT Corridor Monitoring: Tom Lupp
Blackburn Trail Center: Chris Brunton
Budget: David White
Cabins Operations: Mel Merritt
Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf
Conservation: Mary Margaret Sloan
Grants & Donations: Susan Nelson
Endowment: Don Price
Finance: Gerhard Salinger
Hikes: Karen Brown & Lee Sheaffer
Internet Services: Stephen Raia
Land Management: Chris Mangold
Legal: Charles Sloan
Maps: Dave Pierce
Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee: Charlie Graf
Potomac Appalachian: Linda Shannon-Beaver
Public Affairs: Vacant
Publications: Laura Starling
Sales: Paul Dery
Shelters: Frank Turk
Trail Lands Acquisition: Phil Paschall
Trail Patrol: Kumait Jawdat
Tuscarora Trail Land Management: Lloyd MacAskill

Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

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

Potomac Appalachian

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Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council Meeting was held Feb. 11, 2003, at Club Headquarters. President Tom Johnson exhibited photos sent to him by Club member Mr. Pulley, showing aerial views of the Vining Tract, taken this winter. The photos will be put in the Archives. Tom also announced a desire to form a Club History Committee, an idea suggested by Phil Paschall and endorsed by Tom. Interested members please contact Tom. He also reported progress in seeking National Recreation Trail designation for the Massanutten Trail; the process may be completed as early as the end of 2003.

Administrator Wilson Riley reported that Pamela Underhill, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Park Manager, would present awards at the Park's biennial conference for 25- and 50-year active volunteer service by an individual. Please submit eligible member names to Wilson. Wilson also gave an update on the President's Ranger Corps. Twenty individuals in PATC are eligible for the 4,000-hour corps. He announced educational opportunities are available with the Center for Nonprofits. Opportunities are available to learn advocacy, board management, public relations, and numerous other topics. Please contact him if interested.

Grants and Donations

The Club received the final award from the Phillip Stone estate, in the amount of

\$6,448.26. The Club also received a check for \$500 from ExxonMobil, as a matching grant for volunteer work with PATC by ExxonMobil employee Michael Wilson.

Trails and Lands

Vice President-Operations Hop Long reported he will reconstitute the dormant committee for the Tuscarora Trail. He announced two chainsaw classes to be held in April. See page 15 for more information on these classes.

Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton spoke on the proposed Forest Service safety training requirements. He informed Council of some of the details and the difficulties these standards could impose on Overseers. He will keep Council posted on developments.

AT Corridor Manager Tom Lupp reported that he and Wilson Riley are working on the local management plan update. It was last revised in 1999. He also announced there would be an advanced corridor monitor training session in November, led by Chris Florak, of the ATC boundary maintenance program.

Facilities

Supervisor of Facilities Larry Marcoux notified Council that a committee would be formed to examine the potential sale of the Headquarters property. He asked for volunteers with experience in commercial real estate. Interested members can contact Larry.

See Council Fire, page 3

HEADQUARTERS

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

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

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) e-mail: Wrlley@patc.net
Trails Management Coordinator: Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) e-mail: hforrest@patc.net
Business Manager: Monica Clark (Ext. 15) e-mail: mclark@patc.net
Membership/Cabin Coordinator: Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) e-mail: pfankhauser@patc.net
Sales Coordinator: Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) e-mail: mestes@patc.net

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

Tom's Trail Talk

PATC and Corporate America

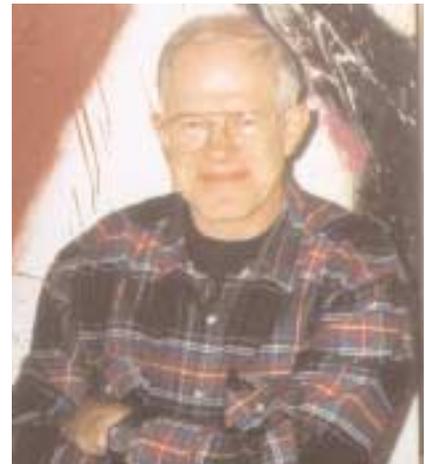
Many trail workers do not have a warm, fuzzy feeling for corporate America. The closer our affinity for wilderness protection, the further we are from American businesses that are sometimes viewed as despoilers of the environment. There is a strong preservationist streak in our history that does not make us instinctively sympathetic to the business of business in America.

There are, of course, "friendly" corporations. REI comes immediately to mind - a large company selling outdoor products with whom PATC has had a long and close association. There are a few others, similarly located in the outdoor retail industry. But controversy inevitably arises when companies try to get too friendly with trail groups. Organizations like ATC and American Hiking Society try to keep corporate influence at arm's length while accepting grants and donations from same. PATC, the purest of the pure, does not permit its membership list to be given out to anyone and does not accept advertisements in its newsletter.

Recently I learned of a program in corporate largesse that is directly benefitting PATC. ExxonMobil has a grant program that gives money to nonprofits like PATC for hours of volunteer service rendered by its employees. Case in point is PATC'er Michael Wilson, who earned \$500 for the Club by putting in trail maintenance time on the Buck Hollow Trail in SNP. I asked Michael what the deal was, and he said that ExxonMobil gives employees \$500 for each 20 volunteer hours, up to a maximum of \$2,000 for a year. Volunteer hours by family members count, too. That is pretty generous, and the money goes straight into the PATC treasury.

I understand that the outdoor provider Patagonia gives its staff members up to six weeks sabbatical to work for nonprofits. Are there any other companies with similar programs? I don't know, but it would be interesting to find out. Perhaps other PATC members who work for corporations will be stimulated to find out if their company has a program that would benefit the Club.

PATC's funding sources have traditionally come from membership dues; cabin rentals; and sales of maps, guidebooks, and the like. In recent years the endowment has become



a significant contributor, too. But the Club plans major efforts in trail protection that will far exceed our ability to find the money from within. We will have to pay more attention to external sources. I think Mike Wilson has found one, and I hope that you can, too.

You know what I used to think of when I thought ExxonMobil? Exxon Valdez. But now I realize that life isn't so simple. □

—Tom Johnson

Council Fire, from page 2

Funds have been obtained from the Schairer Trail Center Fund for planned repairs to the roof. The repair will proceed as scheduled. Council was updated on the water problem at Blackburn Trail Center. The water is currently turned off, but should be on in March.

Volunteerism, Training, and Communication

Club membership, as of February 2003, totaled 7,049 members.

□ *Computer Committee Report:* Supervisor of Information, Education, and Activities Mal Fordham was able to report significant progress on the Club's computer problem. The Trails reporting problems have been fixed.

□ *New Excursion Rules:* The Council approved a motion updating PATC Excursion rules. Hikes Committee Co-Chair Lee Shaeffer submitted the motion and explained the details. Excursions are defined as any hiking event outside PATC's jurisdiction. According to the new policy, excursion leaders must submit a proposal to

the Hikes Committee for approval six months in advance of the trip. Included in the new rules: All participants must be PATC members, and participants of overseas excursions must obtain comprehensive travel insurance.

□ *Club Officer Duties and Responsibilities:* The Council approved an updated version of "A Guide to the Duties and Responsibilities of PATC Officers, Committee and Section Chairs, and Chapter Presidents."

□ *Trail Patrol - National Trails Day Event:* Trail Patrol is planning a family-oriented education and activity event on National Trails Day, June 6, 2003. Trail Patrol President Kumait Jawdat explained that the event is intended to encourage safe hiking, promote Leave No Trace practices, and foster PATC volunteerism. Kumait invited volunteers from the entire Club to participate. For more information contact Kumait at kumait@jawsdat.com.

□ *SMRG:* The new SMRG President, Chris Smith, was introduced to Council. Chris reported SMRG had participated in a search for a Columbia, Md., resident. The search

team led by Peter Pennington, the former President of SMRG, found the man.

The February Council meeting was attended by 10 Club officers, nine standing committee chairs, three chapter representatives, two section representatives, three other members, and one staff member. □

—Georgeann Smale, Secretary

Server Problems

Prior to and during the production of this issue we experienced problems with receiving e-mail. Because the mail was never received we have no idea what might be missing. Please understand if something you sent was not included. You may send me your missed file at PA@PATC.net and I will do my best to include it in a future issue. If the problem was with an event please send any events which can still be included in either the Web site or the voice tape to PA-Forecast@PATC.net. Thanks for understanding. We apologize for any inconvenience.

—Linda Shannon-Beaver, Editor

Tales of a Happy Hillwalker in Scotland

“Walk America first!” is a fine motto, and I tip my trail hat to it. Since I began day trips and backpacking in northern Vermont some 50 years ago, I’ve hiked in Colorado, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. That’s America.

Fifteen years ago I hiked some of the best mountains in Ireland: the Twelve Bens in Connemara, MacGillacuddies Reeks in County Kerry, the Wicklow Mountains and Donegal. As you well know, we hikers look out for each other, and the kind man who gave me a ride from the southern end of MacGillacuddies Reeks back to Killarney mentioned that “the best hillwalking is on the Isle of Skye.” Four years later I was in the Highlands of Scotland on the Isle of Skye. That trip hooked me. There is plenty of hillwalking – as hiking is called in Scotland – in that country: more than 280 Munros (mountains 3,000 feet or higher), more than 250 Corbetts (between 2,500 and 3,000 feet), and many, many peaks in between.

In this globalized world, I now tip my hat to the motto “Walk the globe first!” In the summer of 2002, I returned to the Highlands for two and a half weeks of hillwalking, this time in the spirit of globalization.

Hiking in Scotland

The bus took me from Inverness along part of Loch Ness, down Glen Shiel to its embouchure into Loch Duich. I like to stay in hostels where I meet fellow hillwalkers and staff who are not only good, interesting, international company but also full of experience, excellent advice, and rides. I chose three hostels with access to several walks to Munros. (The name “Munro” commemorates Sir Edward Munro, an original member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, who, in 1891, listed 236 Scottish mountains he determined to be “separate” peaks at least 3,000 feet high.) Munro routes are worn enough that even I can follow them easily, and there are usually others on these routes to keep me company. The hostels in Ratagan and Glen Affric looked like excellent bases for day trips to a total of 20 Munros.

Day 1 included The Saddle (3,314’) and Sgurr na Sgine (Peak of the Knife, 3,100’), with a challenging scramble, the Forcan Ridge. Scrambling is when the hillwalker shifts from two to three or four points of contact with the ground, that is, feet and hands. At first, there was a bit of mist up high, but by the time I was scrambling along the Forcan the clouds lifted to above the summits and the views of the Highland were superb.



Views northwest from Mam Sodhail.



Looking up Glen Affric past the birch of Alltbeithe to the east shoulder of Beinn Fhada (also called Ben Attow).

This part of the Highlands was once a plateau. Today it shows the marks of several ice ages and years of erosion. There were mountains as far as I could see, ridges rising to summits and falling to bealachs (cols or saddles). The ridges either slope gently in broad shoulders or fall precipitously in cliffs and corries (cirques or bowls) into glens (valleys), which are either broad and rounded or steep-sided. There are roaring burns and allts (streams) rushing down the mountainsides into the rivers in the glens. High on the ridges or deep in the corries there are lochans (small lakes). Down below are the lochs, either landlocked lakes or long, narrow arms of the sea. There are very few trees except in the glens. Earlier, when Scottish wool was the cash product, the sheep (and now the red deer) nibbled any accessible shoots before they became trees. Where the ground is not too rocky, there are grass, bracken fern, and heather up to the snow line of about 2,000 feet. For some this terrain is too stark, for others it is an intriguing revelation of the very earth itself.

My first day’s hike up the Saddle, down to a bealach with its pocket-sized lochan, up Sgurr na Sgine, then back to the broad ridge of an outlayer called Faochag (no idea what this means), and down its shoulder to the road at the bottom of Glen Shiel was less than five miles, with a total ascent of 4,070 feet. It was an excellent first day’s welcome back to the Highlands.

An extra advantage of this route is that one of its Munros has an English name. Ninety-nine percent of the Highland mountains have awesome names derived from any of five different source-languages: Pictish and Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Old Norse, and Old English. Out of respect, I did my best to pronounce these names correctly, only to find that there was enough disagreement among hillwalkers to cover my ineptness.

New Vistas

With such a good day behind me I was ready for Day 2 on the South Ridge of Glen Shiel, “one of the best Scottish mountain ranges.” This stretch was a magnificent ridge walk, with precipitous corries to the north and long grassy slopes to the south, but no scrambling. There are seven Munros on this walk: Creag a’ Mhaim (Rock of the Large Rounded Hill, 3,106’), Druim Shionnach (Ridge of the Fox, 3,237’), Aonach Air Chrith

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Scotland, from page 4

(Trembling Hill, 3,349'), Maol Chinn-dearg (Bald Red Head, 3,218'), Sgurr an Doire Leathain (Peak of the Broad Thicket, 3,313'), Sgurr an Lochain (Peak of the Little Loch, 3,293'), and Creag nan Damh (Rock of the Stags, 3,011'). You can see that the Highlanders have as many names for "summit" as we do. Until the very last Munro, the clouds were high enough so that I had views as varied and magnificent as on Day 1. I started at 656 feet for a total ascent of 5,150 feet; the total mileage was just over 11 miles.

Life in the Ratagan hostel was pleasant. Its size – 44 beds – made for a congeniality lacking in larger hostels. Most of us cooked in the communal kitchen. We took our cooking seriously whether it was a fancy chicken dish with multiple vegetables, oriental sauces, and herbs or out-of-the-can baked beans on toast. It was there in those close quarters that I could make conversation and contact. We were hillwalkers, cyclists, motorcyclists, bird-watchers, and tourists of all ages and genders. I was the only American among Scots, English, French, Germans, Spaniards, and Dutch. Some were solo like myself, others were twosomes or four-somes of friends, families, or members of rambling (read "hiking") clubs. I did not hesitate to speak to the others or ask about routes and rides. I always got friendly and helpful replies.

Days 3 and 4 were spent on the north ridge of Glen Shiel walking first the Three Brothers and then four of the Five



Photo by Madison Brown

The track to Druim Shionnach on the South Glen Shiel Ridge, also called the South Cluanie Ridge.

Sisters. The weather for the former was "a wee bit blowy and damp" to employ the mighty power of understatement. My feet never quite left the ground, so it wasn't really dangerous. Inspired by Highland weather, I made up a saying: "If you wait, it will rain; if you wait longer the sun may break through." The Three Brothers go by the names of Saileag (Little Heel, 3,146'), Sgurr a' Bhealaich Dheirg (Peak of the Red Pass, 3,405'), and Aonach Meadhion (Middle Hill, 3,290'). The route was about 5.2 miles long with a total ascent of about 4,008 feet. Hostels, of necessity and convenience, have drying rooms.

The Five Sisters is the best known route of the area, and a fine one it is – about eight miles with a total ascent of almost 4,900

feet along a rugged ridge with three Munros: Sgurr na Ciste Duibhe (Peak of the Black Chest, 3,287'), Sgurr na Carnach (Peak of the Cairns, 3,370'), and Sgurr Fhuaran (meaning is obscure, 3,500') plus four "Tops" (peaks over 3,000 feet but not "separate" enough from Munros to claim that title). I was on this ridge with four other hillwalkers from a rambling club in Newcastle, who were most friendly and looked out for me. They go to the Highlands three or four times a year, each time in a different season.

History of the Land

Alltbeithe (Birch Run) Hostel in Glen Affric (Ford of the Boar) is remote (five miles from the nearest parking place) and surrounded by Munros. The remains of a prehistoric round-house settlement two glens to the north hint that Glen Affric might have been on an early route from the interior to the sea. The glen was forested until 300 or 400 years ago. Tree stumps and roots from this time show up in some places where the peat has subsided. This area had been used for summer pastures and then was settled in the 17th century. By the mid-19th century, like most of the Highlands, Glen Affric was cleared of these residents in favor of sheep, and within 25 years had been cleared of sheep and rented out to a rich American railroad baron for his hunting preserve. After World War I sheep were reintroduced, but these were cleared again in the mid-1980s. I saw the small resident flock of nine sheep and several herds of red deer ranging in number from eight to more than 20.

—Madison Brown

Next month - Part II: The hostel at Glen Affric, the return of the sun, and Web site references.



Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan from An Socach. The Cuillins of Skye are in the far background.

'The Appalachian Trail: Calling Me Back to the Hills'

"*The Appalachian Trail: Calling Me Back to the Hills.*" Text and poetry by Earl Shaffer, photography by Bart Smith. Englewood, Col. Westcliffe Publishers, 2001, hardcover, \$45.

This is a beautiful tribute to the Appalachian Trail in coffee-table book format. Earl Shaffer provides the narrative of his thru-hike of the AT in 1998 at the age of 79. He was the first person to thru-hike the trail in one season in 1948, and this was his 50th anniversary, farewell hike. His text is a simple narration of where he hiked, what he saw, and some of his impressions of the current Trail versus the one he hiked in 1948. He recounts the forests of chestnut trees, of open fields now overgrown, and long-gone fire towers and shelters. He feels that the Trail reroutes deliberately take you over the most difficult terrain.

He rarely discusses the emotional and physical challenges of hiking 2,160 miles. This amazing man hiked without a tent or stove and kept his WWII rucksack down to 35 pounds. During periods of wet and cold, with fires not permitted, he wishes he had a tent. But that kind of hardship creates strength of character, of which he had plenty. Many people asked him about the dangers of hiking alone, but Mr. Shaffer always replied that the most dangerous part is crossing four-lane highways.

He freely acknowledges all the generous "trail angels" who helped make the trip possible. He also remembers some of the historical figures from AT history as he passed landmarks named after them. One such person is A. Rufus Morgan, the "Flying Parson," a circuit rider to many mountain churches and a longtime trail worker. A shelter in North Carolina commemorates his dedication.

Earl Shaffer's poetry captures the hiker's delight in being outdoors. Get to know a true hiking legend through his own words. The photography by Bart "Paparazzi" Smith will tempt you to quit your job and go hike the AT. Bart Smith has always had an interest in the outdoors, and in 1998 was able to combine his photographic talents with backpacking and publish his first book of his hike on the Pacific Crest Trail. In 1998, he was ready for another long trail and decided to tackle the AT. From grand vistas to flower close-ups, the photos are beautifully reproduced to correspond to the narrative.

This book is for any thru-hikers wishing to remember their hike, any friend of the AT, and for those of us dreaming of thru-hiking the AT. □

—Cheryl Zebrowski

Girl Scouts Tackle the Bull Run-Occoquan Trail for a Badge

Members of Junior Girl Scout Troop 150 of Woodbridge are working on their Hiker badges. After having to cancel a number of the scheduled all-day hikes due to weather and having cabin fever from a week of snow days, they set out to do the Bull Run-Occoquan Trail on Sunday, Feb. 23. They started at the Kincheloe fields; however, because of the flooding, they had to do quite a bit of cross-country bushwhacking (in knee-deep snow, with their obligatory backpacks). They were grateful for the excellent blazing job that helped them find and keep the trail.

The trek had taken longer than anyone had thought, so it was closing in on dusk as they were making the trudge toward Wolf Run Shoals Rd. They came upon the flood-swollen Wolf Run Creek. Leader Barb Fraze was instantly aware that this stream crossing would be dangerous, perhaps even too dangerous to attempt. Barb had walked this trail a number of times, but not in the past four months. It was then that she spotted the new bridge put in place by the trail Overseers. She was elated! The scouts easily crossed the stream and made it up to Wolf Run Shoals, where a kindly soul ferried one of the adults to the awaiting cars at Fountainhead Regional Park. The troop expressed their gratitude to Dave Fellers and the BROT Overseers for the great blazing job and the providential bridge placement! □

—Kristi O. Smedley and Bill Olson



Massanutten Mountain: Geology and Iron

If Katherine Lee Bates had climbed Signal Knob instead of Pike's Peak, the purple mountain majesty may well have been blue and the amber waves of grain may have been the serpentine bends of the Shenandoah River. John Denver got it almost right, but it is in Virginia and not West Virginia that one finds the geography of "Country Roads."

Standing on one of the many jagged peaks that pass for hiking trails along the ridges of Massanutten Mountain, one cannot help but marvel at the environs. It rises up in the center of the Shenandoah Valley, the Valley and Ridge Province of the Appalachian Mountains to the west and the Blue Ridge Province to the east. Like broken pottery shards, the rocks along the Massanutten Mountain ridges appear to have been shattered by irresistible and almost unimaginable force. And, if you believe the plate tectonic theory of geology, they were.

The Beginning

According to this theory, the Grenville Orogeny (which means the formation of mountains by folding and is not etymologically related to "erogenous") occurred about 1 billion years ago. The North American and Eurasian plates collided and formed the ancestral Appalachians. The plates opened up about 600 million years ago, forming the proto-Atlantic Ocean named Iapetus (one of the Titans, sons of Gaea and Uranus in Greek mythology). During this period, the mountains eroded for millions of years, depositing sediments to the east and west, forming the Appalachian geosynclines.

The plates stopped opening and started closing in the Ordovician Period, 500 million years ago. The Taconic Orogeny resulted from the collision of the continental shelves of the plates, causing huge mountains to be formed from the sediments of the Iapetus. The erosion of these "Taconic Mountains" in the Silurian period formed the sediments of the Massanutten sandstone. Iron-rich deposits were formed late in the period from the final erosion of the Taconic Mountains.

The uplifting of Massanutten Mountain occurred when the African continental plate collided with the North American plate in what is called either the Appalachian or the Allegheny Orogeny, depending on the text (recall that this is a



Photo by Stephen Osbrach

PATC hikers at Catherine Furnace in Massanutten Mountain.

theory). This cataclysm at the end of the Paleozoic Era about 270 million years ago caused the buckling of the rock strata, forming the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Plateau formations, in addition to Massanutten Mountain between them. At this point, all land mass was consolidated into a single continent called Pangaea (remember the mother of Iapetus?), which, to make matters more complicated, broke apart to form the current Atlantic Ocean about 180 million years ago. According to Occam's razor, the simplest theory is the best, which must give rise to some skepticism about plate tectonics.

Massanutten Mountain is largely Silurian sandstone with patches of iron ore, a fact not lost on the early settlers of the area, who set about building four iron furnaces to process it. Elizabeth Furnace at the north end of Fort Valley, Caroline Furnace near Camp Roosevelt, and Catherine Furnace on Cub Run Road were named for the three daughters of the original owner named Blackford. The fourth furnace was built by William Boyer in 1872 near Mine Gap Trail.

Iron Furnaces Flourish

Iron furnaces were located in Massanutten Mountain for a very good reason; it had the raw materials needed for an economic operation. In addition to a source of iron ore of sufficient quality, extensive woodlands, limestone, and water were necessary. From the vantage of our mechanized society, it is

difficult to imagine the magnitude of the human labor involved in running a Massanutten iron furnace, which operated around the clock for months at a time.

The basic iron-making process is fairly simple. Iron ore, limestone, and charcoal are loaded into the furnace. The charcoal burns to provide heat and to produce carbon monoxide, which reacts with the iron oxide in the ore to remove the oxygen, producing pure iron and carbon dioxide in the process. Limestone combines with impurities in the iron ore to form a byproduct called slag. A flowing water source (Passage Creek) was needed to provide a power source for the bellows to blow air into the furnace to keep it hot enough to form molten iron. Every twelve hours or so, the founder man opened a tap hole to allow the molten iron to flow into trenches arranged in a manner resembling a sow feeding her piglets, thereby producing the aptly named pig iron.

According to S. H. Munch in his book "The History of the Fort," each furnace produced three tons of pig iron a day, requiring 200 bushels of charcoal for each ton. Extensive woodlands were needed to produce the charcoal, a prodigious task in and of itself. Colliers built hearths some 30 to 40 feet in diameter consisting of logs stacked against a central pole and covered with damp earth. The pile was lit with hot coals and had to be tended constantly to ensure that the fire didn't reach the surface and that adequate vent holes were opened so that the whole thing didn't explode. Although this may sound grim, it was probably not much worse than farming with a mule team and an iron plow.

The Elizabeth, Caroline, and Catherine Furnaces were operated from the late 1840s until the Civil War, when the Federals burned them as part of the scorched earth program of 1864. Although Elizabeth Furnace was rebuilt in the 1880s, it could not compete with the coal-fired furnaces of Pennsylvania and was shut down. The Mine Run Furnace, on the other hand, was not built until 1872 to take advantage of the manganese-rich ore at this location. Manganese had been found to improve the strength of the iron, but it usually had to be mined separately and subsequently added at a smelter. The furnace was initially profitable because the manganese-rich iron ore could be sold for \$60 per ton, but the financial panic of 1873 ended the steel market

See Geology, page 16

SNP Summer Field Seminars

Shenandoah National Park, VA – The park is pleased to announce the 2003 Field Seminar Schedule. Each year, park employees team with local scientists, researchers, educators, and members of the neighboring community to explore topics of mutual interest through park Field Seminars, which provide an opportunity to explore the park with those who work, study, and teach here.

It's About Trout, May 24

Learn about environmental factors affecting stream health as well as techniques for tying flies, casting, and identifying good trout habitat. Cost: \$30

Focus and Frame, June 7-8

Join professional photographers Rob and Ann Simpson to learn the artistic and technical aspects of capturing nature on film during this two-day event. \$70

Stories in the Rock, July 12

Join Robert Badger, author of *Geology Along Skyline Drive*, for a day spent discovering the geological story of Shenandoah National Park. Learn the volcanic history of the Blue Ridge Mountains and see how geology affects more than the scenery. \$35

Air Quality, August 9

Join park scientists and members of the neighboring community to learn about an issue that touches everyone. \$30

Preserving Nature's Wealth, August 23

Spend the day with park rangers and scientists to see how they meet the challenges of preserving the diversity of native flora and fauna. Learn tips for making your backyard a haven for native plants and wildlife. \$30

Wilderness Challenge, September 6

Learn about the challenges individuals have faced in preserving wild places. This strenuous 12-mile hike will explore the heart of the park's largest wilderness area. \$30

The Art of Wilderness, October 18

Throughout history, artists and writers have interpreted the meaning of wilderness. Express your own perceptions on this moderate 6-mile hike through Shenandoah's wilderness. \$40

Registration includes the one-day entrance fee to the Park, course instruction, and educational materials. Advance registration is required. Contact SNP's Education Office at 540/999-3482 or go on-line at <http://www.nps.gov/shen/2h5.htm>. Shenandoah National Park Association members receive a 20 percent discount. For additional information contact Lorrie Knies at 540/999-3489. □

PATC Cabin Book Back on the Shelves!!

We know you've missed the chance to purchase one in the last few months so we printed more and they reflect the new cabin fee prices. Spring is here and the cabins await you.

Call, click, or come in to place an order. Contact Maureen Estes at 703/242-0693, Ext. 19; or place an order online at www.patc.net, or come on by the Headquarters sales office at 118 Park Street in Vienna, Va., to get yours.

The Single Copy Retail Price is \$5.50 (\$4.40 for PATC members). Add 4.5 percent tax for shipments to Virginia, and \$2.00 for mailings under \$10.00 or \$4.00 for mailings over \$10.00.

Calling all Editors - April 15

Are you ready to put on the green eye shades and pick up the red pen? PATC publishes a variety of books on hiking, local history, and trail guides. Putting these out is the job of the Publications Committee. The committee needs new blood – maybe your blood. Do you think you can put out a book? You'll never know if you don't try.

Join the ranks of the editors. The job of publications chair is open. To give it a whirl, come to our initial organizing meeting, April 15, 7 p.m. at the Club Headquarters in Vienna. If you just want to find out more, contact Tom Johnson (540/622-6422) johnhs3@juno.com.

In Memoriam

Jay Shaw Smith

PATC member and AT thru-hiker, Jay Shaw Smith, 84, of Mercersburg, Pa., died Feb. 7, 2003, in the emergency room of Chambersburg Hospital.

Born April 16, 1918, in Memphis, Tenn., he was a son of the late Alexander Veitch and Dovie Mangrum Smith. Mr. Smith was a member of St. John's Church, Washington, DC. He spent his early life in Memphis and graduated in 1937 from Blytheville (Ark.) High School. He was a cotton broker in Memphis and later a stockbroker in Covina, Calif.

After early retirement, he hiked the Appalachian Trail from end to end, canoed the length of the Mississippi River, and traveled and camped extensively throughout the United States.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in the Aleutian Islands, and in June 2002, he was elected Republican committee representative for the 4th District, Montgomery Township. He was a passionate gardener, an avid reader, a Civil War expert, and a gifted storyteller.

He and his wife, Ellen McPeake, were married in 1983. They had lived in the Mercersburg area since 1979. In addition to his wife, surviving are a daughter, Mary S. Hall of Washington, DC; a son, Jay Shaw "Nick" Jr. of Glendale, Ariz.; a granddaughter, Katharine Rhodes Hall of Washington, DC; his first wife, Mary Edson of Duluth, Minn.; a sister, Marjorie Smith Harris of Bloomfield, N.M.; and nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to PATC, 118 Park St. SE, Vienna, VA 22180-4609.

(From Gene Leese, Publisher, The Mercersburg Journal)

David A. Ritchie

David A. Ritchie, 70, died on December 20 at his home in Hampstead, NC. He had been a manager of the AT project office at NPS in Harpers Ferry from 1975 until his retirement in 1987. In this position he had overall responsibility for protection of the AT; through his work, he saw to it that the AT remained a community of Conference, Club, and volunteer effort, working in close cooperation with government partners. He was also instrumental in formulating the delegation agreement. He worked closely with PATC officers over the years in purchasing land for protection of the AT. An obituary appeared in the *New York Times*. □

Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: A Biological Explosion

Seek Out the Wonders of April

April is upon us, and what a change! Just last month we had snow on the ground, and nature was still in its winter mode. The rule of the woods was to save your energy and make yourself scarce. And now, we are witnessing the biological explosion of spring! Taking its name from the Latin, *aperire*, meaning to open, April certainly is the month when nature opens its doors.

With the increasing day length and the absence of the leaf canopy, our forest soils will be receiving more energy input from solar radiation this month than at any other time of the year. Thus, it's no surprise that more change occurs in our forest ecosystems in April than in any other month of the year.

The Wildflowers of Spring

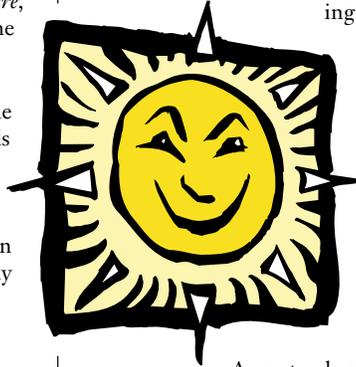
The most obvious and anticipated benefactors of this energy are our spring wildflowers. While the actual bloom date of these early flowers may vary by 10 to 14 days, there is a natural constant that determines this date. This constant is the cumulative total of energy, or heat, absorbed by the ground since the beginning of spring. We can compute this date by adding the high temperature for each day. Referred to as "degree days," these spring ephemerals will break dormancy and initiate their annual growth cycle only after the required amount of energy has been supplied to the soil.

A number of wildflowers, known as spring ephemerals, will go through their entire above-ground life cycle in about two months. They will emerge, flower, and develop fruit, while simultaneously gathering up enough stored solar energy in the form of carbohydrate sugars before allowing their above-ground parts to die back. Some of these spring ephemerals include spring beauty, Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, trout lily, wood anemone, and bloodroot. Other spring wildflowers will flower along with these spring ephemerals in our April forests, but will maintain their leaf foliage throughout most of the growing season. Some of these wildflowers include violets, bloodroot, hepatica, trillium, and Jack-in-the-pulpit.

Plants Lure Insects

While there are many herbaceous flowering plants competing for pollinating insects during this short period of bloom,

the number of insects is still limited due to the marginal temperatures found in April. So plants have come up with a variety of ways to induce insects to visit them. For example, nectar is produced by the plant solely for the benefit of the pollinating insect. In spring when the most flowers are in bloom, plants compete for pollinators by producing the highest quality nectar.



As the summer progresses and the number of insects increases, nectar quality falls. By

August, when there is little competition and the number of insects is enormous, nectar quality is at its lowest. Other rewards offered to insects include pollen and fruit pulp (foods, as is nectar), substances used in courtship rituals (oily waxes and resins), protection, and nesting sites.

Many of these spring wildflowers also have evolved a unique way to elicit the insects' help in dispersing their seeds. Little packages of food, called eliosomes, grow on the seeds, encouraging ants to collect the seeds and store them in their colonies as a future food source. While the eliosomes produce a food to the ants, the ants serve the flowers well by distributing the still-viable seed throughout the soil. This is called "myrmechochory," which literally means "ant farming." Wild ginger flowers are found at ground level where the ants have easy access, and bloom in April and May. Other spring bloomers assisted by ants are violets, bloodroot, anemones, hepaticas, and trillium.

To find some great wildflower spots, try areas with rich, undisturbed soils, such as the many parks with floodplains, especially along the Potomac River on either the Virginia or Maryland side. The one spot visited by a majority of the wildflower clubs and classes is Turkey Run Park along the GW Parkway between Rte. 123 and the beltway. Park in the first parking lot on your left, and take the trail that leads down to the river. Thirty to 40 species of wildflowers can routinely be found in an afternoon's hike.

Other Spring Pleasures

But so much more is happening. Take the birds. Be prepared to hear warblers you will not hear any other time of the year except now, as they pass through our region to their Northern breeding grounds. And don't expect to hear them only in the habitats in which the books say you will find them. Anywhere along the C & O Canal is a great place for birding.

If you notice a large solitary bumblebee flying erratically close to the ground, it's safe to say you've spotted a queen bee, fresh from her over-wintering hibernacula, looking for a good spot to start a new colony. Before long, she will find a cavity, like an abandoned mouse hole, and lay her eggs in a nest made from the abandoned mouse nest. She will collect both pollen and nectar to feed the eggs as well as herself. When the eggs hatch into the female worker bees, the queen will not be seen again until fall, spending the season producing all of the workers of the colony. Like many aphids and ants, only nonfertile females are produced throughout the growing season, with the males and new fertile queen females produced only in the fall.

And, yes, the snakes are back! While garter snakes can be found any month of the year, April is the month that snakes come out of their winter hibernation. For me, one of nature's most memorable sights can be found in late April in our Blue Ridge Mountains. For about a 10-day period, rattlesnakes will emerge from their wintering dens (often shared with copperheads and black rat snakes) and can be found absorbing the sun's energy, often in large numbers. Your best bet is to go out on a sunny day, with temperatures in the upper 70s, and explore rocky talus slopes with a southern or western exposure. If you hit the emergence right, you can find 20 or more rather lethargic snakes that will soon disperse to summer grounds up to two miles away.

Black bear cubs are introduced to the outside world by their mothers in April, as are the young of gray and red foxes, squirrels, and many rodents. However, many mammals are just now being born, or, like deer, will not be born until May. But, more on them next month.

This is it! Spring is here! Get out and enjoy! We've all earned it. □

—Bob Pickett

FORECAST

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the AT and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays – contact 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 Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Spring cabin. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Pete Brown 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 Gerry Boyd (gerryb@compuserve.com) 703/281-7216.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meetings at Highacre are on the second Wednesday of Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., and Dec. See Forecast for upcoming activities. For information about the chapter or to receive the newsletter, contact Judy Smoot 540/667-2036 or e-mail wvpatc@hotmail.com.

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 interests in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those wanting to learn the basics – we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice climbers. For further information contact Mack Muir 703/960-1697 (MackMuir@edisaurus.com).

PATC Midweek Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Curious about the Club? Want to learn more? The best way is to attend a New Members meeting (but you don't have to be new to qualify). Attend the meeting and find the mysteries of PATC revealed in full. Refreshments will be served. Directions to PATC: Take Rt. 23 into Vienna, Va. and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Jane Thompson 301/565-6704 x208.

Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Business meeting – Last Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. INFO: Zeb Whitaker (zw@tdcarchitects.com) 703/255-5034, then press #5.

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

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

APRIL

1 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE - May Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

By 5:00 p.m. all items for the next issue of the newsletter due to editors. Send all Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to PA@patc.net.

1 (Tuesday)

CLASS - Leave No Trace - Trainers Course Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. Indoor classroom instruction. If you are interested in learning more about Leave No Trace (LNT) and want to help others better understand their impact in the backcountry, then join us for this Trainers Course. See page 16 in this issue. Info: Anniell Miller (amill1@yahoo.com) 703/250-8113.

1 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Another long hilly hike. Climb Sam's Ridge to AT on Hazel Mountain and Meadow Springs Trails, then south to Corbin Cabin to descend Nicholson Hollow, ascend Hot Short and return down the Hazel River Trail. About 18 miles and 4000 foot climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

1 (Tuesday)

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

2 (Wednesday)

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

5 (Saturday)

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

8:15 a.m. to noon - We couldn't wait and are starting a week early this year. Hope the snow's melted by now. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. Contact: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

5 (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.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

Yes we are still at it! Probably still working on the floor and baseboards and that ever present landscaping. Join us while you still can. Our work trips can't last much longer. We have milked this job about as long as we can. There will not be many more chances to get in on this outstanding work of love. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Alexandria, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this eighteen-hour class includes room 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>. Contact: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Leave No Trace - Trainers Course Shenandoah National Park, VA

This is the low-mileage backpacking weekend following the classroom instruction on April 1. For more information see page 16 in this issue. Info: Anniell Miller (amill1@yahoo.com) 703/250-8113.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Forest Service Trail Maintenance George Washington National Forest, VA

The Forest Service will demonstrate the correct techniques for maintaining & building multi-use trails in the GWNF. The class will start at the Forest Service Work Center [new white building at the Depot] in Edinburg, Va. at 9 a.m. Be prepared to bring a bag lunch, water, rain gear, and appropriate clothing for fieldwork. Work will be demonstrated on the Sidewinder Trail with possible overnight at Glass House. RSVP to: Wade Bushong of the Forest Service 540/984-4101.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

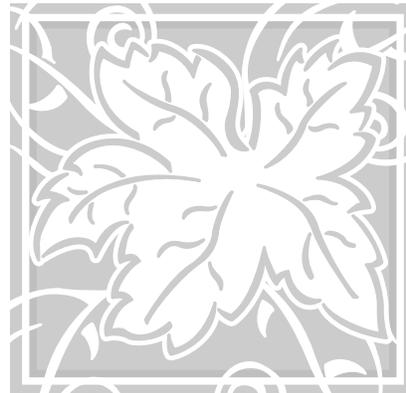
SHELTER WORK TRIP - New Construction Bowie, MD

The logs have arrived at the worksite near Bowie, Md., where we will construct a new shelter. When completed it will be disassembled and moved to Shockey's Knob on the Tuscarora Trail west of Winchester, Va. PATC provides tools. Bring your lunch, water, and personal first aid kit. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The Blue and White Crew kicks off its 2003 season in April, this year. We'll attack all of the blowdowns on the SNP Central District AT with chain saws, Monster Coronas, and Stalman's dentures. Weekend lodging will be at the Muttontop Cabin on the PATC Vining Tract. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysnow@comcast.net) 301/570-0596.



7 (Monday)

CLASS - Backpacking 101 - Intro Night PATC HQ, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The BP101 class provides those persons, 18 years and older, who have moderate or no backpacking experience with the opportunity to expand their enjoyment of the outdoors through the practice of backpacking. The class provides basic instruction in equipment selection and use; information and techniques to enhance safety and comfort; and Leave No Trace methods to protect our fragile backcountry environment. It also provides more experienced backpackers an opportunity to hone or renew their skills, and adapt their backpacking techniques to the Leave No Trace wilderness ethic. After classroom instruction the class will take their new skills out in the field. Instructional Weekend: April 12 - 13. Backpacking trip: May 3 - 4 accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors. Fee: \$60.00 for PATC Members; \$75.00 for non-members. INFO: John Browne (jbrowne11@cox.net) 703/425-5645 or see ad on page 16.

7 (Monday)

HIKE - (Family) - Huntley Meadows Park Alexandria, VA

Pack up the little ones, and come check out the largest of Fairfax County's parks. There is a network of boardwalks and an observation tower. We hope the timing will be right to hear the spring peepers. We will hike about 2 miles and visit the nature center after the hike. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) or 703/631-9278.

8 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Catoctin Trail, MD

20+ miles down the Catoctin Trail in MD from the Park Visitor Center to Gambrill State Park. Enjoy beautiful Cunningham Falls, invigorating climb of Bob's Hill, fording Hunting Creek, and on and on with fun stuff 'round every bend in the trail. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

8 (Tuesday)

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

9 (Wednesday)

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

9 (Wednesday)

MEETING - West Virginia Chapter Highacre House, Harpers Ferry, WV

7:00 p.m. An overview of this spring's trail work trips at Gambrill SP (near Frederick, Md.) will be given. The WV Chapter oversees the Black Locust circuit trail. Judy Smoot (wvpatc@hotmail.com) 540/667-2036 or Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729

11 - 13 (Friday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Eaton Hollow South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come out and join in the fun. It is the Southern Region's spring-type trip. Eaton is scheduled for completion in 2008, so we sure need the help. Overnight at Schairer, community meals. See the 3-story log cabin as it was found. INFO: Thomas Jorgensen (Hairatheart@aol.com) or 540/456-4760.

FORECAST

12 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Reforestation Project (REI) Falls Church, VA

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Plant trees to celebrate Virginia's Arbor Day! Join the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and REI for a reforestation project on an NVCT-protected property in Falls Church. Learn about conservation easements and how you can help preserve and protect Northern Virginia's natural resources, and have a great time with fellow conservationists! The event will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 7545 Idylwood Road, Falls Church, VA 22043. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please bring a shovel if you have one. Wear tennis shoes or boots, pants and a comfortable shirt. Park on Dunford Road and enter the property through the gate at the end of the road. INFO: www.nvct.org. Please RSVP to Jeannie McPherson (jmcperson@nvct.org) 703/354-5093 or Mark Nelson, 703/379-9400.

12 (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.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

Continuing to build-out the inside of the carriage house. The long-range plan is to turn this space into a caretaker's apartment. Need help with drywall, finishing, electrical, plumbing and painting. Also need lots of unskilled labor with strong backs. We'll finish up Saturday evening and share in a group meal. Sunday breakfast will be provided for those spending the night. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Backpacking Instructional Weekend Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, VA

This weekend follows the introductory night (see April 7 event listing). The BP101 Introductory Backpacking Course provides those persons, 18 years and older, who have moderate or no backpacking experience with the opportunity to expand their enjoyment of the outdoors through the practice of backpacking. The students will then use their new skills on an overnight backpacking trip May 3 - 4 accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors. INFO: John Browne (jbrowne11@cox.net) 703/425-5645 or see ad on page 16.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Appalachian Trail, VA

The Crew plans to work on the AT north of Blackburn Trail center. Erosion control and tread work are needed. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.



14 (Monday)

HIKE - Family Hike - Riverbend Park Great Falls, VA

Come search for Easter eggs along this kid friendly trail. Please register in advance so we will have enough eggs. We will hike 2 miles along the Paw Paw Passage Trail. The trail will take us down to a pond, and back along the Potomac River via the Potomac Heritage Trail. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

15 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Massanutten Mountain, VA

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

16 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Wilderness Survival Seminar (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. - Have you ever been seriously lost in the backcountry? Or slid off an icy road in a remote area? What would you do to survive in such a situation? Byron Kerns, founder and Chief Instructor of Mountain Shepherd Wilderness School of Outdoors Survival will answer those and other questions. As a former US Air Force Survival Instructor and graduate of the prestigious USAF Survival Instructor School at Fairchild AFB, Spokane, Washington, Byron has distilled the welter of knowledge, skill and sometimes conflicting "expert" advice into seven wilderness survival priorities which are the fundamental necessities in the survival situation. Byron will discuss these and other considerations to reduce panic and stress and increase your chances of survival in unpleasant and life threatening outdoor situations. INFO: Mark Nelson 703/379-9400.

17 (Thursday)

HIKE - In-Between Hike Fraser Preserve, Great Falls, VA

Joint hike with Sierra Club MWROP. A moderate to fast 10 miles over variable terrain. From I-495, exit 44 west on Va. 193 (Georgetown Pike) for 7.5 mi. to Springvale Rd. Go right for 2.5 mi. to arrow, turn left then immediate right. At Allenwood Lane turn left and park. Bring water/lunch. Starts at 10:00 a.m. No pets. Rain/shine. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

19 (Saturday)

CLASS - Mapping Software (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This five hour lecture, demonstration and exercise class will introduce participants to the features, benefits and operation of various mapping software systems. Instructor, Dimitri Tundra, will discuss the comparative advantages of the various systems for particular applications and teach participants to use the Topo! Mid-Atlantic software created by National Geographic. The second half of the class will include a field exercise. The class fee of \$75 includes all course materials and TOPO Interactive Mapping CD: Washington, DC/Shenandoah National Park. Registration is limited. INFO: Mark Nelson, 703/379-9400.

19 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - The Road Team Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come join the Backpacker Magazine Get Out More Road Team at work with Central District trail overseers. The Road Team, Amy and Brent Anslinger, are Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trail veterans, now eager to learn about trail maintenance. Location to be announced. INFO: Cathie Cummins (cumminsr@cox.net) 703/631-7421.

19 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - WV Chapter Gambrell State Park, WV

Continuation of ongoing trail maintenance and relocation projects from last year on the Black Locust trail. Also, correction labels need to be placed onto hiking trail maps. Free trail maps to those who participate in putting labels on the maps. Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

Even though we are nearing the end of this project I promise that there will be plenty of interesting and rewarding work to do. You will be proud to have contributed to this beautiful, outstanding example of Primitive American architecture. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

SHELTER WORK TRIP - New Construction Bowie, MD

The logs have arrived at the worksite near Bowie, MD where we will construct a new shelter. When completed it will be disassembled and moved to Shockey's Knob on the Tuscarora Trail west of Winchester, Va. PATC provides tools. Bring your lunch, water, and personal first aid kit. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

20 (Sunday)

HIKE - WV Chapter Appalachian Trail, Northern VA

Second section of the northern Virginia series hikes. Keys Gap to Snickers Gap, approximately 13.5 miles. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Snickers Gap, along Route 7 to set up shuttles. Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729.

21 (Monday)

**HIKE - Family Hike - Bull Run Park
Centreville, VA**

We hope the timing will be right to enjoy the largest stand of Bluebells in Virginia. The trail is jogging-stroller friendly – just a few bog boards to bump over and a little mud. We will hike about 3 miles, about 1 mile is along Bull Run. After the hike, we will picnic near the sand-filled playground. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

22 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Old Dogwood Route, Appalachian Trail, VA
A really tough 35.7 miles down the AT from Snickers Gap (Rt 7) to the 4-H Center just north of SNP. This will be a dawn to dusk hike and requires an "oh-dark-hundred" meeting time to set up car shuttles and a couple of enroute water caches. When "The Dogwood" was inaugurated in 1986 fewer than half the starters finished, the median enroute time exceeded 12 hours, and most of us were younger then. We will pick up any tired, cold, discouraged dropouts at designated road crossing, but it may be late. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

23 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Visions of Tibet (REI)
Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. - Even now, in our era of satellite phones and routine, globe-spanning air travel, Tibet remains a place apart. On a high, arid plateau behind the Great Himalaya, time still moves to the old rhythms in ancient towns like Shigatse, Zhangmu and Ronbuk Monastery. Join Marjorie Richman, veteran adventure traveler and trip leader for the Sierra Club, on an evening's adventure over high mountain passes, through high deserts, visiting rural villages and ancient towns on the way to Everest Base Camp, and the silent expanses of this high, remote corner of the planet. INFO: Mark Nelson, 703-379-9400.

26 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Jogging Stroller Run - Lake Accotink
Springfield, VA**

The runners will go 2-6 miles, depending on the desires of each runner and passenger. The runners will meet the hikers at the halfway point for lunch and to play on the playground. I'm looking for someone to lead the hiking part. If no one volunteers, we will do only the run. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

26 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Crew
Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC**

8:15 a.m. to noon - Did we mention that we are calling this crew the Rock Creek Fill-Busters? Come let us know what you think of the name before we go crazy and order a bunch of T-shirts. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. Contact: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Crosscut Saw Workshop
Blackburn Trail Center, Round Hill, VA**

Join SOT Liles Creighton and PATC district manager Dan Dueweke for a weekend of hands-on instruction in the proper use and care of one- and two-man crosscut saws and single-bit axes. You will have ample opportunity to practice your skills on an AT section. INFO: Dan Dueweke (danjan@fcc.net) 703/266-3248.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Shaver Hollow, VA**

Tulip Tree Cabin is scheduled to enter the system this year. In preparation the Crew is building a trail that connects to the SNP Crusher Ridge trailhead. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Tulip Tree Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

27 (Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - WV Chapter
Gambrill State Park, VA**

Continuation of ongoing trail maintenance and relocation projects from last year on the Black Locust trail. Also, correction labels need to be placed onto hiking trail maps. Free trail maps to those that participate in putting labels on the maps. Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729.

28 (Monday)

HIKE - (Family Hike)

Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, DC
Get away from it all and come enjoy the Spring weather on this little island oasis. We will hike along the perimeter of the island, about 2 miles. The trail is jogging-stroller friendly, regular stroller passable. We will picnic near the monument after the hike. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

29 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers
Appalachian Trail, WV**

Out and back from Keyes Gap (Rt 9) to PATC's Blackburn Trail Center. Let's take it easier this week - 12 miles and 2000' elevation gain - resting from the "Old Dogwood" last week and the upcoming Hike Across Md. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.



29 (Tuesday)

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

30 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Adventure Travel for Women (REI)
Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. - It's dusk in a small village in the fjord region of Chile. You just exited a dusty bus, have no local currency and your travel guide neglected to update itself vis-à-vis lodging options. It starts to rain as you see a man cycling a block down the street. What ever do you do? REI's veteran world traveler, Megan Owens, has tasted the dust and the rain from Jamaica to Jerusalem, and will discuss security, safety, travel health, packing, planning, preparation, and tips for enjoyable adventure travel, so you can Get Outside Yourself! INFO: Mark Nelson, 703/379-9400.

MAY

1 (Thursday)

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

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to PA@patc.net.

1 (Thursday)

**HIKE - In-Between
Great Falls, MD**

Moderate 8-9 mile hike over varied terrain to include Billy Goat, Gold Mine, and River trails. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot across from Old Anglers Inn on MacArthur Blvd. INFO: Nena Ewing 301/652-9147.

2 - 4 (Friday - Sunday)

**BACKPACKING TRIP - Canyon Rim Trip
Roaring Plains Canyon, WV**

Come enjoy a trail that is steadily on its way to being a star attraction in Roaring Plains. We will base camp and day hike to various overlooks of plentiful panoramic views of WV. Bring your love of the outdoors and a sense of adventure as this is not an established trail. Moderate. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319 between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

3 (Saturday)

HIKE - In-Between hikers

Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

Please join us for a closed circuit, 12 mile hike in Rock Creek Park in Washington, D. C. at a time when the wild flowers will be at their best. We will visit Fort DeRussy (Civil War Fort), Pulpit Rock, Jusserand Memorial, Pierce Mill, and, of course, Rock Creek. Bring water and lunch. INFO: Don Titus (donalddtitus@earthlink.net) home 301/652-6806 or office 301/688-0135.

3 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Natural History Trillium Hike
Linden, VA**

G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area. Be a part of PATC history! Starting as far back as the late 1920's, PATC members have hiked along this stretch of the AT at this time of the year to revel in the beauty of the literally millions of

FORECAST

large-flowered trilliums. Led for many years by trail overseer Herman Nolte, then by Paula Strain, Bob Pickett now hosts this famous hike for his 13th year. After a moderately difficult one-mile hike up to the AT, we'll spend the afternoon hiking through some of the densest stands of trillium known on the east coast. Yellow lady's slipper orchids, nodding trillium, and occasionally, showy orchis orchids, are among the many wildflowers seen along this trail. And as if flowers weren't enough, this is a great place for warblers and scarlet tanagers. Morels, snakes and common loons have also been found on this hike. Reservations: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

3 (Saturday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Frederick County Appalachian Trail, MD

Another great event in MD, 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.

3 - 4 (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. Registration required. INFO: Christopher Tate (wfa.net) 703/836-8905.

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)
CLASS - Backpacking 101 - Weekend Trip Location to be announced

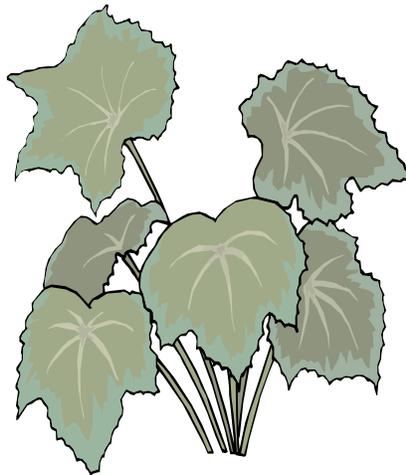
The class provides basic instruction in equipment selection and use; information and techniques to enhance safety and comfort; and Leave No Trace methods to protect our fragile backcountry environment. It also provides more experienced backpackers an opportunity to hone or renew their skills, and adapt their backpacking techniques to the Leave No Trace wilderness ethic. INFO: John Browne (jbrowne11@cox.net) 703/425-5645. For more information see ad on page 16 of this issue.

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join the Blue and White Crew as we warm up for our Annual Overseer Workshop (scheduled in June). We'll be working on a project in the SNP Central District. Weekend accommodations are at the Pinnacles Research Center. Meals are pot luck. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysnow@comcast.net) 301/570-0596.

5 (Monday)
HIKE - Family Hike - Manassas Battlefield Manassas, VA

Come join us for a kid-friendly 2 mile loop. The path is jogging-stroller-passable. There are a few short steep up and downs and some roots and log stairs. The trail has a neat long boardwalk section, then goes up into an open meadow, then back into the woods and along the stream. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.



6 (Tuesday)
MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

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

10 (Saturday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. to noon. Maybe the snow wasn't off the ground in April, but surely it is gone by now. Come help prepare the trails for the long-hot-summer. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Per Lee Tract, Madison, VA

Entry Run Trail on Work continues on the Entry Run Trail that will be a new access trail into the SNP connecting to the Pocosin Fire Road. We hope to complete this multi-year project this year. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at PATC's Rosser Lamb Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

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

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

17 (Saturday)
HIKE - Waterfall and Wild Flower Series Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The second hike of the Waterfall and Wild Flower Series will be 16-mile hike starting at the Bluff trail to include about 4 miles of bushwhacking. Elevation gain is 3300 feet. Waterfalls to be visited are Big Devil Stairs, Jordan River Waterfall, and Lands Run. A side trip to see the columnar jointing is optional. There will be a 6-mile shuttle along Skyline Drive. Shorter distances are options. PATC Map 9. Meet at the Oakton Shopping Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack Thorsen, (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127.

17 (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.

17 (Saturday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade Shenandoah County, VA

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade on Waites Run Road at 9:00 am to get tools then work on the Capon Trail. This trail is near the road parking area. Please let me know by Wednesday evening if you plan to attend. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, seasonal clothing, and hiking shoes. RSVP/INFO: Hop Long (theFSLongs@erols.com) 301/942-6177.

24 - 26 (Saturday - Monday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Vining Tract near Stanardsville, VA

Trail work/Clearing on Vining Tract near Stanardsville, Va. Always a great place to do trail work. The Crew will work on some of the Tract Trails and clear around Mutton Top Cabin. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Mutton Top Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

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

Wilderness First Aid Classes: 2003

March 1-2: Alexandria, VA
 April 5-6: Alexandria, VA
 May 3-4: Alexandria, VA
 May 24-25: Alexandria, VA
 May 31-June 1: Alexandria, VA
 July 12-13: Alexandria, VA
 Wilderness First Aid is a program of the Wilderness Safety Council and meets ACA standards for 60 minutes or more from definitive medical treatment. The cost of all classes in 2003 is \$140. Please call us with any questions at: 703/836-8905 or e-mail chris@wfa.net.

Just In

Following the North Country National Scenic Trail, by Wes Boyd, 96 p., 63 photographs, 1999, North Country Trail Association. This book has a chapter on each state the trail goes through with informative details for each state. □

—Carol Niedzialek

CALLING ALL SAWYERS

Circle the weekend of April 26-27 and make time for the axe and crosscut saw techniques workshop at Blackburn Trail Center. This course is intended for Overseers who have wilderness trail sections or those who prefer the cold steel of a "singing saw" to a Stihl. We will cover crosscut saw basics, safe saw handling, and the proper use of a single-bit axe. We'll also discuss the many associated tools that will make your sawing safer and easier. All participants will have an opportunity to spend a day in the woods practicing their skills on an AT section. For further information, contact Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248 or e-mail danjan@fcc.net. □

April 26 and 27 Chain Saw Certification Class

There will be a chainsaw certification class on April 26 and 27. Accommodations will be your tent in the Pinnacles Research Center at MP 37.3 on the Skyline Drive in SNP. Instruction, beginning at 9 a.m. on April 26, will be in the basement conference room in the Park Headquarters on Route 211 and a field location nearby. Bring a bag lunch for Saturday, and meals will be provided at a nominal cost for Saturday evening, Sunday morning, and Sunday lunch.

Priority will be given to those whose certifications expire in 2003, and class size is limited to 25. Please contact Bernie Stalman at 301/725-8876 or bstalman@aol.com to reserve your space and for more information. □

Complete Guide to Trail Building

"The Complete Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance," 3rd ed., by Carl Demrow & David Salisbury, Appalachian Mountain Club, 1998, soft cover, 246p., many photographs and drawings. \$14.95.

This manual, used by both U.S. Forest and Park Services, has been updated and expanded. The book was written by AMC's Director of Trails and White Mountains Trails Supervisor. Besides the usual topics on trail maintenance, the book covers planning and designing, tools, bridges, drainage, erosion control, moving rocks, creating signs, styles of stiles, and lots more. For anyone who works on trails, this is an excellent book to read to improve your knowledge about tending trails. □

—Carol Niedzialek

PATC Receives Award From SNP

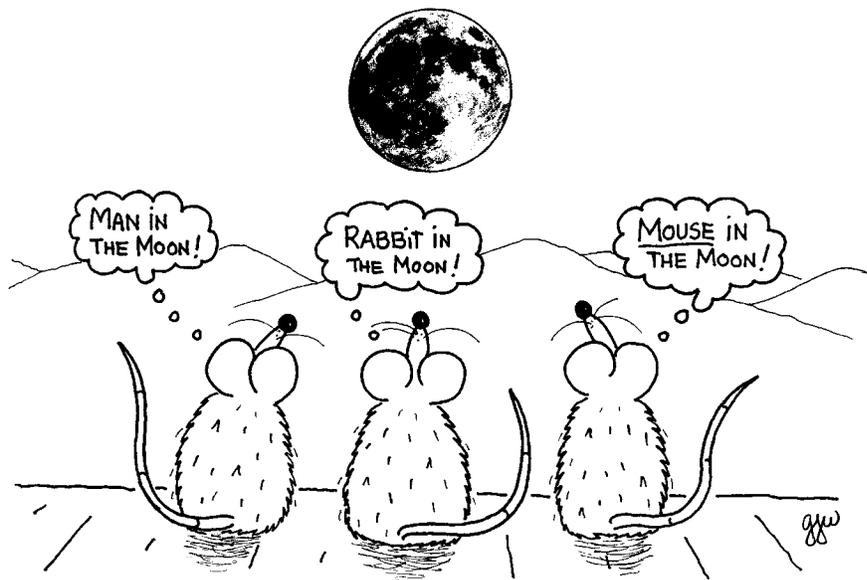
Congratulations to PATC are in order! In recognition and appreciation for all that PATC has contributed to the Shenandoah National Park and region through the past three years, SNP has nominated PATC for the 2003 NPS Northeast Region Conservation Partnership Award. The decision turnaround time for the award at Region was very quick, and PATC was declared the 2003 winner! There were five other strong competitors nominated for the award, and the NE Regional Director, Marie Rust, agrees that PATC is a great choice for this prestigious award.

The award ceremony with a plaque presentation was to be held on March 19 in Philadelphia, at a Superintendents conference at the Independence Visitor Center.



The Regional Office was to fund the travel of a PATC member to accept the award on behalf of the Club. More about this award and the ceremony in the May *Potomac Appalachian*.

Tails from the Woods by George Walters THE MICE CONTEMPLATE THE UNIVERSE BETWEEN CABIN VISITS



WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER'S WEB SITE IS UP AND RUNNING

www.patc-wv.org is up and running!
You can now view the Jan.-Feb.
newsletter at our new Web site.

—John Powers, ed.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Trail Patrol

presents

BACKPACKING 101

An Introductory BACKPACKING Course

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

INTRODUCTION NIGHT:

Monday, April 7, 2003,
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

PATC Headquarters, Vienna, Va.

INSTRUCTIONAL WEEKEND:

April 12-13, 2003

Prince William Forest Park
Triangle, Va.

BACKPACKING TRIP:

May 3-4, 2003

Fee: \$60.00 for PATC Members;
75.00 for Non-Members

For more information, please contact:
John Browne, 703/425-5645,
e-mail: jrbrowne11@cox.net

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Trail Patrol

presents

Leave No Trace TRAINERS COURSE

April 1 (classroom) and
April 5-6 (backpacking)

If you are interested in learning more about Leave No Trace (LNT) and want to help others better understand their impact in the backcountry, then join us for this Trainers Course. You will have opportunities in the indoor and the outdoor classrooms to learn more about LNT skills and ethics, to practice your LNT skills, to gain confidence in your ability to help others understand LNT, and to develop and practice your teaching style.

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

Indoor Classroom Instruction:

Monday, April 1, 2003
7:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Outdoor Instruction

(low-mileage backpacking weekend):

Sat. - Sun., April 5-6, 2003

Shenandoah National Park

Fee: \$20.

For more information or to register (required), please e-mail Anniell Miller at amill1@yahoo.com or call 703/250-8113 (before 11 p.m.)

30th Annual 100-Kilometer One-Day Hike

Washington, D.C. to Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

Saturday, May 3, 2003

Sponsored by the Sierra Club's
Metropolitan Washington Regional
Outings Program

Hiking 62.5 miles in a single day is a challenge, even for people in good physical condition. It means having to cover a distance that's 10 miles longer than two back-to-back marathons. It means having to average three miles an hour (including rest stops) just to finish by midnight.

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) via the C&O Canal. On the trail, you'll get food, drinks, and first aid at manned stations, along with wildlife sightings, spectacular views of the Potomac River, the company of fellow trekkers, and visits from bike patrols. At the hostel, you'll get a warm welcome, dinner, and some rest.

If the 100-K seems too daunting, consider one of the two alternatives:

- The 80-K or 50 miles starting at 6:00 a.m. from Carderock, or
- The 50-K or 31.25 miles starting at 10:00 a.m. from Edwards Ferry Lock (across the Potomac from Leesburg).

With either of these alternatives you will join the 100Kers en route and end up at Sandy Hook.

The key to success will be pre-hike preparation. People of all ages (late teens to eighties) have gone the distance. You can too. Get into training now – and register by April 28.

Call the Sierra Club's tape-recorded hotline: 202/547-2326 for training hike details.

For more information on the 100K/80K/50K, the training hikes and registration, see <http://onedayhike.tripod.com/> or call Carol 703/476-8730 or Paul 703/256-6351. □

BP101 Registration:

Please return with check payable to:
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
PATC Trail Patrol, 118 Park Street, SE,
Vienna, VA 22180

Name: _____

PATC Member? No Yes

(Member # _____)

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Backpacking experience/related out-
doors experience: (hiking, camping, etc.)

What do you expect from this course?

Geology, from page 7

boom, and it was shut down in 1874. The manganese iron mine was operated by the National Carbon Company for the government during World War I.

In our struggle to cope with the crowds and confusion of the modern world, it is instructive and humbling, I think, to look back. It was the Grenville Orogeny that started it all, resulting ultimately in the iron deposits that led to the iron furnaces that led to the iron to build the cars that cause the crowds and confusion we live with. But, as the Desiderata so aptly states, "For all its sham and drudgery, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy." So when you stand on the uplifted Silurian sandstone and look down on the remnants of the Elizabeth Furnace, you can appreciate the roots, but also appreciate the branches. After all, it's better than being a collier waiting for the charcoal pile to explode. □

—William Needham and Jack Thorsen

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

TERRAPIN STATION HOSTEL IS OPEN
May 1-Sept 1, 2003. Located at 304 Chester Gap Road, Chester VA, Near AT going north, just before exiting SNP. Showers, laundry, morning shuttle to Front Royal. Call Mike Evans (gratefullgg@hotmail.com) 540/631-0777 or 540/539-0505 for more information.

HELP WANTED

CALLING ALL LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND TAX ATTORNEYS. Want to give something of value to the Club, but don't want to swing a Pulaski? Virginia has enacted a new law that permits donors of conservation easements to sell the tax credit and reap a substantial cash infusion. PATC owns property in Virginia that would be eligible for such a cash rebate. The Club needs you to help write the proposals that would bring the Club tens of thousands of dollars that could be plowed back into our land acquisition fund for trail protection, cabin construction, or general expenses. Contact: Phil Paschall (bettycox@erols.com), or phone 540/882-3027. But hurry – before the State changes its mind.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Peter Limmer Backpacking Boots, size 9.5, excellent condition, best offer. Also, REI Goretex Rain pants, size M, Brand new condition, best offer. Call Howard Cohn at (w) 202/307-4363 or (h) 410/381-2436.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND CAMERA – Oct. 17, 2002, at Myron Glaser cabin, disposable camera with family pictures (including dog). Contact Stephanie at 301/270-5713 or georgeandsteph@erols.com.

FOUND – MOTOROLA TALKABOUT T6220 on Pond Run Section, Tuscarora Trail. Contact Glenn at 703/448-0140 or gpalatini@erols.com.

HIKING EXCURSIONS

HIKE IN SWITZERLAND'S BERNISSE REGION. Five hiking days in Murren, four hiking days in Grindelwald and two days in Zurich are included in this ten day trip which begins on Sep. 4, 2003. Approximate cost is \$2,000 and includes air, most of the ground transportation, lodging in 3 star hotels, half board for most days, breakfast every day, and travel insurance. For additional information call Donna Brother, 703/435-8315.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PA HELP WANTED: A volunteer is needed to attend monthly Council meetings and report via e-mail on the meeting. Please contact Linda at PA@patc.net.

EVENING DESK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to work the Sales or Information desks once or twice a month 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. We will train you. Call Sales and Information Coordinator Annetta DePompa at 410/535-5171.

SALES DESK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED every Thursday and/or Friday at the PATC Headquarters between Noon and 2 p.m. We will train you. Once or twice per month. If interested call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17, or e-mail at pfankhauser@patc.net or Maureen Estes at Ext. 19, or at mestes@patc.net.

ALSO NEEDED:

NEED TO HIRE – PLUMBER. Need help at a PATC Cabin over a work weekend this summer. No pay, use your own tools, supply your own transportation, and bring money for your meals. If you finish the job on Saturday you will be allowed to use the commode and shower on Sunday. Contact Thomas C. Jorgensen (hairtheart@aol.com) 540/456-4760.

DESPERATE - NEED A COOK for weekend work trips. We slackers will eat anything. Your duties are to buy food (we'll reimburse you), cook, take pictures at the site, clean up after meals. Sat. evening, Sun. morning, Sun. lunch. If you can take this job for one weekend, it would be a big help. It pays as all other volunteers on a worktrip, but I don't tongue-lash the cook the way I do laborers. Contact Thomas C. Jorgensen at hairtheart@aol.com or call 540/456-4760.

PROJECT LEADERS / CONSTRUCTION Foremen, for info call Charlie Graf at: 410/757-6053 or e-mail cagraf@aol.com.

MEDICAL CHAIR VACANCY: If interested please contact Mickey McDermott at patcvolunteer@patc.net.

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS?

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

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

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

DONATIONS WANTED

LAPTOP AND COMPUTER PROJECTOR NEEDED: PATC HQ needs a laptop computer and computer projector for presentations at conferences, meetings, and community presentations. Projection at 1024 X 768 desired. If you work for a corporation which might make such a donation, contact Mike Sutherland at msutherland@cox.rr.com or 703/591-8330.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Trailhead

The reports are in. Nobody did much in February. There was snow, snow, and more snow, each storm adding to what was there before. So if you haven't been able to check your trail lately, you have a lot of company. We hope by the time the April *PA* hits the streets, spring will really have arrived and the thoughts of this brutal winter will have become history. One still wonders what is waiting for us on that first trip after this winter. Oh, the joy of getting back on the trail for whatever reason!

Irish Snow

At press-time, it is not known if the North District Hoodlums were able to get into SNP for their March Irish worktrip. Even the leprechauns may not be able to deal with all this snow on the ground. Hopefully, all will be thawed out in time for the crew's April South-of-the-Border worktrip. It's kinda' hard to think Tex-Mex when the mountains are still covered with the white stuff.

PHT – Winter Excitement

Winter on the Potomac Heritage Trail continues to excite. Sections of the PHT flooded twice, prompting Overseers to consider requesting scuba gear as trail maintenance equipment. Overseer Ric Francke discovered old blazes for a rough high-water trail that may date to the early '80s when the trail was first rebuilt.

The deep snow from the President's Day storm stopped all but deer, foxes, and snowshoers dead in their tracks. Up to 24 inches of snow can be used for some cross-country skiing fun, but the Park Service didn't plow out the parking lots, so access was difficult.

Just before the big storm, PATC and co-sponsor American Hiking Society led an early-February hike with the House (of Representatives) Trails Caucus. Twenty-eight hearty souls hiked the five miles in six-inch snow. The only casualties from this urban, casual hiker group were that five only wore sneakers. They must have had cold feet!

Chainsaw Workshop

Plans are being made for a chainsaw workshop on April 26 and 27. A number of PATC sawyers need recertification. Contact Heidi Forrest or Bernie Stalman for more details. Since Esther, our normal cook for these affairs, is not available, Bernie and John McCrea will do a barbecue for Saturday night.

Blue & White Plans

The Blue and White Crew was snowed out in March. The annual trip to clear the SNP Central District AT of winter blowdowns had to be postponed until April. The crew is planning a busy year, including the Annual SNP Overseer Workshop in June, a PATC Trail Crew Olympics in July, and the Annual B&W Crew Chili Fest in August. Check the crew calendar at <http://www.blueandwhitecrew.org> for our calendar.

ExxonMobil Grant

In January, PATC received a grant from the ExxonMobile foundation, in the sum of \$500. The money was a matching grant that was issued in recognition of the volunteer work performed by Michael Wilson, an ExxonMobil employee and PATC volunteer. Michael works with his brother, Patrick Wilson, on the Buck Hollow Trail. The Wilsons have made significant improvements

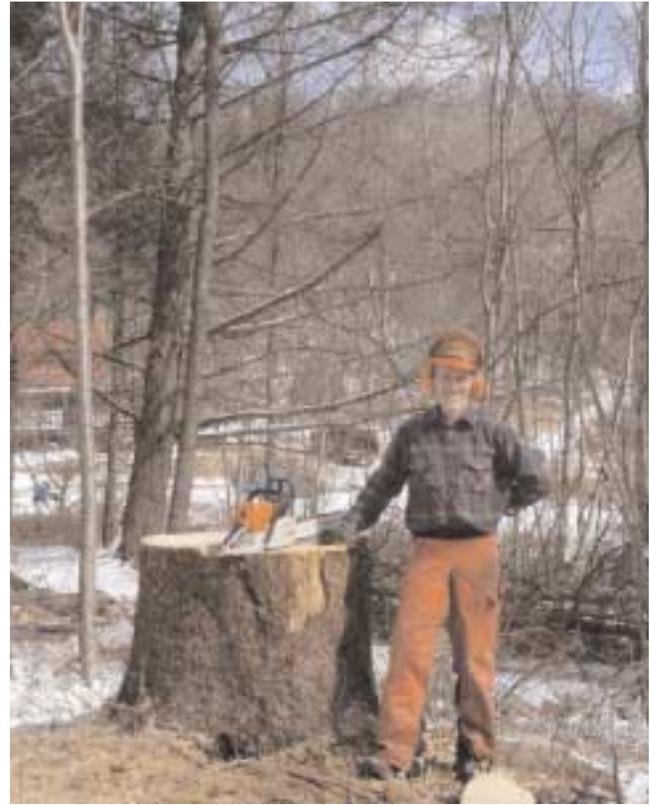


Photo by Jim Richardson

Fran Keenan stands by after felling a dead Hemlock at Meadows Cabin.

to the trail and lead frequent crew trips to their trail section. Other PATC volunteers might want to ask their employers about similar matching grant programs. Many thanks to Michael Wilson and to the ExxonMobil Foundation.

Cabin Fever

Skyline Drive was closed, the stream crossings were all but impassable, and the trails were buried under FEET of snow, so what's a trail maintainer to do? Prepare for that bumper crop of blowdowns certain to have fallen on the backcountry trails. And what better way for a District Manager to prepare for all that lumber than to recondition his or her growing collection of crosscut saws and make them available to wilderness Overseers. Dan Dueweke has been frequenting yard sales and antique stores buying up all the one-man crosscut saws he could find. Their names are familiar to anyone who's worked with hand tools: Disston, Simonds, Atkins, Fulton, Lakeside, and others with trademarks long since worn away. Despite their age, most of the old saws he finds are in pretty good shape, just dull and a little rusty from many years of hanging in a barn or garage. So what brings them back to life? WD-40, some sandpaper, and a couple hours of careful filing and setting. Once finished and fitted with a supplemental handle, they are ready for their first taste of sawdust in 50 or more years. Now if some of that snow would just melt a little.

See Trailhead, page 19

Trailhead, from page 18

Those wishing to brush up on their sawyer skills are welcome to join Dan at Blackburn Trail Center the last weekend in April for a course in crosscut saw techniques. Contact Dan Dueweke at danjan@fcc.net or 703/266-3248 for further details.

Massanutten Reroute

The Massanutten Crew is trying to build a short section of the Massanutten Trail to go around a section that is currently shared with ATVs (yecccc!). Ed Brimberg and Wil Kohlbrenner flagged it in December. Planned work trips in January and February were cancelled due to weather. Stay tuned, it will happen.

March, Maybe

Dick Dugan says it will be well into March before we can get out to remove blowdowns on SNP North District side trails. Even then, there will still be snow to trudge through. Trail Patrol reports indicate lots of blowdowns. We will be plenty busy once we can get back on the trails.

Snowbound

Mosby District AT Manager Ed McKnew reports there was little activity on the AT during February. The 50 to 60 inches of snow that fell over the High Knob-Linden-Blue Mountain area during the month kept Overseers and hikers pretty much at fireside.

Crew Information and Overseer Guide

While some of us wait for the snow to melt, others are more compulsive. Don White, Massanutten South District Manager, has developed a brochure titled "What's A Trail Crew?" The Supervisor of Trails plans to get it printed in the near future and available for the new members meetings and other interested volunteers. Don is also collaborating with the SOT and others to produce a new Overseers guide. The proposed title for this document is "Trail Stewardship: A Handbook for Overseers, Trail Crews, and Crew Leaders." Don says he hopes to replace the proscriptive stuff from the current Handbook (the "Thou Shalt Not's"), making it more in line with the SCC guide, "Lightly on the Land." There will be sections, with steps and pictures, for routine types of maintenance as well as construction (side-hill - full- and half-bench) and rehabilitation, trail design, erosion

control, tool use and maintenance, and power tools. He intends to include topics such as leadership, recruiting, planning, and management. It is a long-term project, and Don welcomes contributions and ideas from the Trail community.

Meadows in the Snow

The Cadillac Crew managed one work trip in February to work around Meadows Cabin and tract loop trail. Thanks to cabin Overseer Kim Mathews, the Thursday snow (not the three-footer but the eight inches the week before) on the access road had been plowed. Fran Keenan dispatched a couple of large dead Hemlocks whose falling limbs endangered renters at the spring and along the access road. You know the technique - climb them, rope them, tie them to a truck loaded with firewood for grip, cut a correct notch (critical), then the back cut, and a tug from the truck. Weather in the teens and snow-covered ground required numerous warm-up breaks as the crew cleared brush and ailanthus sprouts from previous clearing. You can't underestimate the value of a good wood stove on very cold days.

Western Access

Pete Gatje reports from the SNP South side trails that he has cancelled three work trips already due to snow and that very little trail work has been accomplished since December. Pete says he has a severe case of cabin fever. Don't we all? However, there is one accomplishment; thanks to an Overseer who lives close to Big Run, we now have PATC trail Overseer access to the Brown Mountain and Rockytop Trails from the SNP western boundary.

New Hampshire-Bound

And there is Mike Sutherland, last year's Volunteer of the Year, who is planning to move to New Hampshire. Mike sold his cabin and property in Fort Valley between the Massanutten. Some say there isn't enough snow to his liking in northern Virginia. Come back Mike: I think we have solved the problem.

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

Volunteers Appointed - February

Shelter Overseers

Ned & Arlene Hoover Wagon Wheel Shelter

Trail Overseers

Donna & Donald Kline Tuscarora Trail - Shelter to Hemlock Road

Don & Lana Hockenberry Tuscarora Trail - Cranes Gap to PA Rte. 74

Mark Rietman Massanutten Trail - Peters Mill Run to Bear Trap Trail

Dale Wilson Morgan Run Trail

David Erdman Sugarloaf Trail - MD

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TRAIL, SHELTER and CORRIDOR OVERSEERS/MONITORS WANTED

SHELTER OVERSEERS

CALL FRANK TURK, 301/249-8243

E-mail: frankturk@aol.com

DEVIL'S RACECOURSE SHELTER – NORTHERN VA

ROD HOLLOW SHELTER – NORTHERN VA

DICKS DOME SHELTER – NORTHERN VA

**TOM FLOYD WAYSIDE – NORTHERN VA
[CO-OVERSEER]**

**ANNAPOLIS ROCKS CAMPGROUND
MONITOR – MD**

POGO CAMPGROUND MONITOR – MD

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

HARPERS FERRY / ASHBY GAP AT & BB – MAP 7 & 8

CALL CHRIS BRUNTON, 703/560-8070

E-mail: trailbossbtc@msn.com

Loudoun Heights Blue Trail [lower]

Loudoun Heights Orange Trail to Rte. 340
(2.6 miles)

Rod Hollow Shelter Trails

AT to Rod Hollow Shelter (0.2 mile)

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

CALL ED MCKNEW, 540/622-6004

E-mail: emcknew@aol.com

Dicks Dome Shelter Trail

AT to shelter (0.2 miles)

SNP NORTH DISTRICT APPALACHIAN TRAIL – MAP 9

CALL JOHN MCCREA, 610/352-9287

E-mail: mcreajf@aol.com

CO-OVERSEERS NEEDED ON AT SECTIONS

SNP NORTH BB – MAP 9

CALL DICK DUGAN, 703/836-0391

E-mail: rdugan@bellatlantic.net

Snead Farm Loop Trail

Dickey Ridge Trail to Snead Farm Road
(0.7 miles)

Thompson Hollow Trail

Tuscarora Trail to West Park Boundary -
VA 630 (0.5 miles)

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

CALL DAN DUEWEKE, 703/266-3248

E-mail: danjan@fcc.net

WILDERNESS OVERSEERS NEEDED – ADVENTURE GUARANTEED.

Catlett Mountain Trail

Hannah Run Trail to Hazel Mountain Trail
(1.2 miles)

SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZED – MAP 11

CALL PETE GATJE, 434/361-1309

E-mail: pjgatje@aol.com

Rocky Mountain Run

Big Run Portal Trail to Rocky Mt.-Brown
Mt. Tr. (2.7 miles)

Rockytop Trail [upper] – Co-Overseer

Big Run Loop Trail to Lewis Peak Trail
(2.2 miles)

Doyles River & Cabin Trail – Co- Overseer

Parking to trail junction and cabin
(0.1 & 2.2 miles)

TUSCARORA SOUTH – MAP F, G, 9

CALL RICK RHOADES, 540/477-3247

E-mail: Rrhoades@shentel.net

Tuscarora Trail

Rock marker to Massanutten Trail
(1.5 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

MASSANUTTEN NORTH – MAP G

CALL ED BRIMBERG, 703/430-6481

E-mail: brimberg@cox.net

Massanutten Trail

Kennedy Peak Trail to Camp Roosevelt
(3.3 miles)

Massanutten Connector Trail

Massanutten Trail to US 211 (1.8 miles)

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH – MAP H

CALL DON WHITE, 804/795-2914

E-mail: whitedh@attbi.com

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

TV Tower to Pitt Spring (3.40 miles)

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (3.3 miles)

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN – MAP F

CALL HOP LONG, 301/942-6177

E-mail: theFSLongs@erols.com

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

BULL RUN OCCOQUAN TRAIL

CALL DAVE FELLERS, 703/560-2171

E-mail: Fellers_2000@excite.com

Bull Run Occoquan Trail

Route 28 to Little Rocky Run (1.5 miles)



The Potomac Appalachian

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Vienna, VA 22180-4609

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