



The Potomac Appalachian

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

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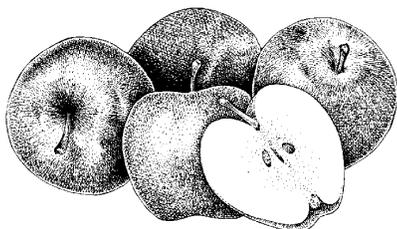
76 Years of Service

Milam Apples to be Planted in Shaver Hollow

The weekend of April 24 – 25 marks a major event at the Shaver Hollow property. The legacy of the Milam apple continues as PATC plants nearly two dozen Milam apple trees at this site. All are invited to spend the weekend planting and protecting these recently grafted trees. Even though it's not officially open, overnight guests will get to spend the night in Tulip Tree Cabin, located within the Shaver Hollow tract. Those who can only come for a day are also welcome to join in on this special event.

What makes this weekend so special is the opportunity to meet Darwin and Eileen Lambert. Many of our PATC audience know Darwin by his numerous publications about our Shenandoah National Park; most notably, "The Undying Past of Shenandoah National Park." He has also written "Herbert Hoover's Hideaway" and "The Earth-Man Story." Eileen is also an accomplished writer, with many articles published in various books and publications, including *Reader's Digest*.

What many of our members don't know is that Darwin Lambert was the first employee of Shenandoah National Park. Darwin was already more knowledgeable than perhaps anyone about the land that was to become the national park. Taking the advice of his botany advisor at George Washington University, he spent much of his summer of 1935 making over 1,000 presses of plants he found in the proposed parkland. On the day before the park was to start staffing, Darwin traveled to Luray, allowing him to show up as the officials opened the doors on the designated spring day in 1936.



* See page 11 for more on the apple.

Darwin purchased the 60-acre Shaver Hollow property in 1945, which included an uninhabitable log cabin, built sometime in the mid 1800s. It was his dream to someday make this his home.

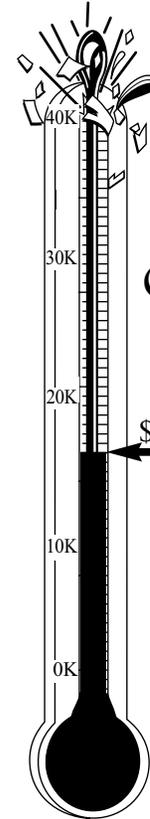
The Lamberts Come Home

Many adventures and years later, Darwin brought his new wife, Eileen, back to Shaver Hollow in 1964. With a great deal of effort and love, they have created a unique oasis on this tract of land adjoining Shenandoah National Park. A variety of flowering plants overflow beds throughout the yard, while the summer garden is rich in vegetables and berries that are made into homemade delicacies. Numerous fruit trees have been carefully pruned over the years, including various apple, pear, cherry, plum, and grape varieties. A nearby pond supports many species of frogs and salamanders (and snakes), while the summer hummingbirds feed on the many feeders, and the rare Baltimore checkerspot butterflies feed on the turtlehead plants.

Darwin and Eileen have given PATC a five-acre tract of land for the construction of the Tulip Tree Cabin, unique in itself, being constructed from logs cut on the site and transformed into a log cabin using the same handtools that were available to the former mountain residents. It is also the desire of Darwin and Eileen to donate their homestead to the club for the purposes of environmental education.

On the Shaver Hollow property are several very old Milam apple trees, which were growing on the site when Darwin purchased the property. We took cuttings from one of these trees last spring and grafted them on rootstock. These are the young trees we will be planting. As coincidence would have it, this aged, nearly 100-year old tree fell to the ground in a storm only a month after the cuttings were made.

See Apples, page 6



Donations Pass
 \$12,000
 Challenge Match

\$16,790 - March 16

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

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VP Operations: Fred "Hop" Long
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Supervisor of Membership: Susan Nelson
Supervisor of Land Management: Chris Mangold, csm5749@yahoo.com
Supervisor of Facilities: Larry Marcoux
Supervisor of Education, Information, and Activities: Lisa Still

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

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(Council Members)

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Blackburn Trail Center: Chris Brunton
Budget: David White
Cabins Operations: Mel Merritt
Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf
Conservation: Jeff Pearcy
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Endowment: Don Price
Finance: Gerhard Salinger
Hikes: Karen Brown & Lee Sheaffer
Internet Services: Stephen Raia
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Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee: Charlie Graf
Potomac Appalachian: Linda Shannon-Beaver
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Publications: George Meek
Sales: Vacant
Shelters: Frank Turk
Trail Lands Acquisition: Phil Paschall
Trail Patrol: Holly Wheeler
Tuscarora Trail Land Management: Vacant

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

Potomac Appalachian

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Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council Meeting was held at club headquarters on Feb. 10, 2004. President Tom Johnson announced the donation of a laptop to the club, a result of efforts of Susan Nelson's Grants and Donations Committee. The club plans to buy a Power Point projector, so club members will be able to give Power Point presentations. Tom also announced the expected implementation date to computerize the cabins reservation system as May 15, 2004.

Administrator Wilson Riley informed Council members of several items regarding headquarters. Heating in the building was lost on Jan. 9 and Jan. 28. To address the problems, the heat exchanger will be replaced after Feb. 15, phase monitors will be installed, and a maintenance contract will be signed. Regarding parking, Wilson warned Council members that neighbors were enforcing their parking policies with towing. He advised members to park only at HQ or in public parking at the community center down the street.

Finance

Treasurer Salinger distributed the monthly budget report for January 2004, noting several points of interest. Cabin rentals are as expected, sales are low. And according to a new procedure, to receive brief monthly reports, from the three restricted accounts, Council heard a quarterly review of the Trail Lands Fund.

Phil Paschall introduced the topic of a land acquisition in Green County to provide parking above the flood level for the Rosser Lamb home place and John's Rest Cabin. Council approved the acquisition two years ago; however, the land was taken off the market. It is now available again; Phil will present a proposal for the acquisition.

Council addressed two action items introduced by the treasurer. In the first, Council approved three motions to change club policy regarding check-signing authority, to comply with recommendations made during the recent audit. In the second action item, Council approved two motions, identifying by name the current club officers who hold check-signing authority and safety deposit box access.

Trails and Lands

Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton announced a closure of the Tuscarora Trail near the park boundary at Rte. 340. The landowner has closed the area to public access. Liles reported attending an award ceremony on Jan. 17 in Williamsburg to accept a plaque honoring PATC's Don White. Don won an award from the Society for Technical Communication, as author of the club's new brochure, "What's a Trail Crew?"

See Council Fire, page 3

HEADQUARTERS

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

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

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

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

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

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

Club e-mail: info@patc.net

Facsimile #: 703/242-0968

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

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tom's Trail Talk

Trail Patrol

Trail Patrol, I am reliably informed, originated in 1973 in an informal conversation between Ruth Blackburn and Ray Fadner, both of whom served as PATC president (although not at the same time). The purpose was to be educational, and the model followed an existing program by AMC. Our first trail patroller, Keith Conover, was out on the trail by June of that year.

Our current Trail Patrol contingent consists of about 60 active and fully qualified volunteers and approximately 20 others who have attended meetings or are in some form of training to become Trail Patrol members. Each member volunteers to perform patrols in order to educate hikers and help them with any problems. They place great emphasis on Leave No Trace principles and try to educate those who are "off the reservation" to understand the environmental impact of their activities. They help lost hikers to find their way back. They destroy fire rings that appear periodically along heavily used trails. They carry first aid kits in case of need. (And they know how to use them.) They provide hikers with information on trail conditions, give water to dehydrated hikers, and perform light trail maintenance like picking up litter and throwing downed tree limbs off the trail. They do not practice law enforcement and they avoid confrontational situations. And when there is a situation that can't wait, they know whom to call to get action.



Holly Wheeler and Jen Hulseley (at right) lead a fall 2003 backpacking class at Dolly Sods Wilderness Area, one of the products of the Trail Patrol.

All 1,000 miles of PATC trails fall within the responsibility of Trail Patrol. Patrols are reported to the club via a reporting form on the Web site. And the reports are not confined to where they hiked and to whom they talked. They are also supposed to include trail conditions, and these reports are designed to go to the district managers. The connection between Trail Patrol and the trail maintainers is very important.

Trail Patrol plays a huge role in PATC's educational activities. In addition to helping out on

the trail, they run the club's hike leader training and backpacking programs. They offer Leave No Trace classes and seminars. And, they run PATC's Ridge Runner program. (More about that in a later column.) But trail patrollers themselves have to go through considerable education to get the badge. Like SMRG (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group), a lot of what they do is getting ready to do it.

Holly Wheeler is the current head of Trail Patrol. Say hello to Holly, folks.

—Tom

Council Fire, from page 2

Other Business

Cabins: Mel Merritt reported the Gypsy Spring Cabin work was progressing; the cabin would be in the rental system perhaps by the summer. The National Park Service would begin the \$80,000 Rock Spring Cabin restoration April 19. A masonry restoration workshop, open to registration by interested club members, will be held during the restoration, on May 11, 12, and 13. And a cabin overseers' meeting is scheduled for the morning of April 3 at Blackburn Center; the Cabins Committee meeting will follow in the afternoon.

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Lee Sheaffer distributed the Winter 2004 issue of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter newsletter.

North Chapter: Pete Brown plans to publish an announcement in the *Potomac Appalachian* of a temporary detour of the Tuscarora in Pennsylvania, due to pipeline work in the spring.

SMRG: John Luck reported that SMRG took part in a successful search in Shenandoah National Park, in relatively severe cold, for a disturbed individual reportedly without clothes. The individual was found alive at 2:30 a.m.

AT Corridor Management: Tom Lupp completed the revisions to the local Appalachian Trail Management Plan. The changes will be distributed to 44 trail partners, and 20 PATC members, and a master copy will be available for review at HQ. He thanked Dave Pierce and Warren Sharp for their help. Tom Johnson thanked Tom Lupp for his work on the update.

Mountaineering Section: Andy Britton reported the mountaineering section is monitoring the development of the Great Falls Park, Va., management plan. The climbers are interested in the plan as it affects access and use of the climbing areas.

The February Council meeting was attended by six club officers, 12 committee chairs, three chapter representatives, two section representatives, one staff member, and four other club members. □

—Georgeann Smale, Secretary

Thank You, Thank You!

Many thanks to the 150 contributors who have donated to our Land Acquisition Fund Drive. As of March 16, halfway through the drive, nearly \$17,000 has been donated to help replenish the funds that permit PATC to purchase and conserve lands that support trails and cabins. These contributions also permit the club to receive an additional \$12,000 from members who challenged the membership to match donations up to that amount. There has also been a payment of \$5,000 from an anonymous donor partially paying the original \$12,000 matching fund.

With three months left in the drive, we hope to achieve an additional \$14,000 in donations for a total of \$40,000; 10 percent of the \$400,000 paid for lands in 2003. (See the article on page 7 in this issue announcing the addition of the Johnson Cabin to the cabin rental system. The

70 acres that contain this cabin and several trails was one of the purchases made in 2003.)

All contributors of \$25.00 or more will receive a copy of the revised cabins booklet due for publication this year. Other rewards for higher contributions are indicated on the contribution form.

Please send your generous check and the form (located on page 9) to: Tom Johnson, President, PATC; 118 Park Street, S.E.; Vienna, VA 22180-4609. Help PATC achieve its mission of conserving wilderness for the enjoyment of its members and the public. □

—Hugh Robinson

Land Acquisition Fund Donor List

George & Frances Alderson
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Pierce Beij
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Charles & Margaret Wettling
John & Val Wheeler
Ken & Pam Williams
Dean Worcester

An additional 42 donors wished to remain anonymous

Protections for Landowners Who Allow Recreational Use

This article highlights protections for landowners who allow hikers access to their land under state “recreational use” statutes. We will discuss the laws of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

While the context is different, just as PATC volunteers are protected for the service they render, landowners are protected from all but the most egregious forms of negligence when they allow access to hikers or grant easements for trails. The protection is lost, however, if the landowner assesses a fee or charge.

Landowners Have Limited Liability to Hikers

1. Landowners are not Liable for Ordinary Negligence. The state laws provide that landowners who allow access generally owe no “duty of care” to keep their land safe for entry or use or “duty to warn” of hazardous conditions when others use their land for recreational purposes. In all three states, “recreational use” is broadly defined and includes hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing. (The Maryland statute also defines “educational purpose,” to include nature study and observing historical, archaeological, or scientific sites.)

What does the absence of these duties mean for hikers? The laws all state that the landowner does not represent that any trails are safe, hikers are not considered “invitees” (like a guest you might invite for dinner) to whom a higher duty of care is owed, and the landowner assumes no liability for the intentional or negligent acts of hikers.

In other words, like the PATC volunteer, the landowner is immune from liability to hikers for ordinary negligence. Examples would include most cases involving injuries to hikers from trail conditions (rain, snow, and ice; falling trees and limbs; use of streams and other bodies of water), and the cases support that.

2. Broad Definition of Landowner. All statutes define landowner broadly to include holders of title; lessees; occupants; or others in control of, or holding an interest in, the property. For example, in Maryland a contract “property manager” of a fitness trail was found to have a sufficient property interest to qualify for liability protection, and in Virginia a city that maintained stairs for public access to a beach, but neither owned nor leased the land, likewise qualified for liability protection. The

‘landowners who allow access generally owe no “duty of care” to keep their land safe for entry or use or “duty to warn” of hazardous conditions when others use their land for recreational purposes.’

principles of these cases would arguably give the PATC landowner status and the benefit of immunity from ordinary negligence for hiker injuries on trails it maintains. The state, or any city, subdivision, or agency of the state, is also considered a landowner entitled to liability protection; and the Virginia case applies that principle.

3. Landowners are Liable for Gross Negligence. The landowner remains liable for gross negligence or willful or malicious failure to guard or warn of a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity. Landowners, thus, do have a limited “duty of care” and “duty to warn” of dangerous conditions, which are not obvious and of which they have actual knowledge; know that an injury could result; and fail to act given that knowledge. Of these elements, showing that the landowner had actual knowledge is often the most difficult to prove. Examples of willful or malicious landowner conduct would include spring guns set by the landowner, leaving trees half sawed through near trails, and failure to warn of sinkholes or surface mines.

4. Hiker Access and Permission. Landowners can deny access and post “Private” and/or “No Trespassing” signs. But what is the situation if no signs are posted? Obviously, unless there is a recognized trail or other evidence that the landowner allows hiking (posted signs to that effect), the best course is to seek and obtain permission.

The statutes do refer to landowners “directly or indirectly” permitting (Maryland) or giving permission “express or implied” to recreational users (Pennsylvania and Virginia). The Maryland statute, however, also contains provisions where landowners “may grant permission” by written consent and authorizes the secretary of natural resources to distribute “permission cards” to facilitate obtaining written consent. While the Maryland statute does not indicate that written consent is required, a

hiker in Maryland is well advised to obtain landowner consent to use trails not shown as open to hikers on maps or in guide books.

Landowner Charges

Landowners lose their negligence liability protection if they assess a “charge” or “fee.” The liability protection is lost precisely because fee-paying recreational users are being invited and charged for the privilege.

In situations where fees are charged, generally the liability protection is lost only if the injury resulted from an activity for which a fee was charged. To illustrate, a charge for camping or parking may not cause the loss of liability protection if an injury occurs while hiking on trails for free. Of course, most landowners allowing access are unlikely to charge hikers, and the loss of liability protection is a good reason not to charge them.

There are also some significant exclusions from the definition of fee or charge. All three states exclude rentals paid to landowners for leases or easements by government agencies in determining whether a fee or charge is being assessed. Virginia goes further and excludes payments from incidental sales of forest products and amounts to “improve the land or access to it” for recreational purposes or “remedy damages caused by such uses.”

Leases of Land to the State

All three states encourage landowners to make land available to the state (or any subdivision of the state) for recreational purposes by specifying that lease payments do not count as a fee or charge. In addition, the Maryland and Pennsylvania statutes provide that the landowner liability protections are applicable to land leased to the state unless “otherwise agreed in writing.” Presumably, a landowner leasing land to the state should not, and would not, agree in writing to any lesser protection.

Virginia takes a different approach. In Virginia, when a person grants an easement to the state, that person shall be held “harmless from all liability.” Moreover, the state shall provide and pay the cost of “all reasonable legal services required by any person . . . as a result of a claim or suit attempting to impose liability.” Finally, any provision of a lease or other agreement that purports to “waive the benefits of this section shall be invalid . . .”

See Protections, page 6

Apples, from page 1

There's one more tree that we will be planting. In the summer of 1935, when Darwin was inventorying plants, he befriended a family that lived in the upper limits of the Thornton River watershed, close to the newly opened Skyline Drive. He ended up spending his summer living with Newt Sisk and his family, learning much about the mountain residents and their way of life. Unfortunately, it would be a matter of only a few years before the Sisks had to abandon their land, and the home was ultimately destroyed. But even now, on this site grows one of the tallest pear trees in the state. While the variety of the tree is unknown, it is known as the Sisk pear. A cutting from this tree has been taken to make a new grafted Sisk tree. An appropriate place of honor will have to be found for this special tree.

Please consider joining Darwin and Eileen and friends as we celebrate the next generation of Milam apples on their homestead. See the April 24-25 Forecast event for details on the weekend. □

—Bob Pickett

Protections, from page 5

In Virginia, the state assumes the landowner's responsibility and cannot deny a person leasing land to it the benefits of these provisions (no liability, state provides and pays reasonable costs of required legal services). These provisions provide significant incentives for landowners to lease land to the state for recreational purposes, while also ensuring that the state carefully evaluates its need for the leased land.

Conclusion

Recreational use statutes protect landowners who allow access to their land for hiking, from liability for ordinary negligence where no charge is assessed. These statutes do this by modifying the landowner's duty of care and duty to warn users of unsafe or hazardous conditions. In short, the hiker assumes the risk, and the landowner is only responsible for injuries to hikers resulting from willful or malicious actions. Landowner is broadly defined in all three states, but the statutes differ in how they define and what they exclude from fees/charges, when access for hikers is considered authorized, and how they treat landowners who lease land to the state. □

—Bob Nelson

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Trail Patrol Presents
**Hike
Leadership
Training**

May 22 and 23, 2004

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

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

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

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol
presents
BACKPACKING 101
An Introductory Backpacking Course

The BP101 class provides those persons, 18 years and older, who have moderate or no backpacking experience with the opportunity to expand their enjoyment of the outdoors through the practice of backpacking. The class provides basic instruction in equipment selection and use, information and techniques to enhance safety and comfort, and Leave No Trace methods. It also provides more experienced backpackers an opportunity to hone or renew their skills and adapt their backpacking techniques to the Leave No Trace wilderness ethic.

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

INSTRUCTIONAL WEEKEND: April 17 - 18, 2004, 8:00 a.m. Sat. - 4:00 p.m. Sun. Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, Va. (Sat. overnight car camping in group campground is encouraged but not required.)

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact John Browne: 703/425-5645, e-mail: back2_packing@cox.net. □

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Trail Patrol
Presents
**Leave No Trace
Trainers Course**

June 7 and 19-20, 2004

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

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

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

Indoor classroom instruction:

Mon., June 7, 7:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Outdoor Instruction:

(low-mileage backpacking weekend):

Sat. - Sun. June 19-20, SNP

Fee: \$30 (non-refundable)

Includes course material

For more information or to register

(required), please e-mail

Anniell Miller at amill1@yahoo.com

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

Historic Rock Masonry Class Offered by SNP

The course will be a hands-on instruction in rock masonry work, with emphasis on repair of historic rock masonry construction. The course will be instructed by the NPS National Historic Preservation Training Center in conjunction with the Rock Spring Cabin rehabilitation and restoration project in Shenandoah National Park. There is no cost to volunteers for the course. Participants can reserve a space to stay at the Pocasin Cabin at no cost, or folks can make arrangements to stay in one of ARAMARK's lodging facilities at the Government per diem rate of \$55 plus tax per night. The course will be conducted in the park on May 11, 12, and a half day on the 13th.

The course is offered to PATC with the expectation of developing volunteer workers trained in rock masonry skills who will perform structural repairs of PATC-managed facilities within and outside of the park. Potential participants interested in this offer please contact Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17.

Johnson Cabin Enters Rental System

The Johnson Cabin, introduced to PATC members in the August 2003 *PA*, has been added to the cabin rental system. Built as a hunting cabin in the early 1990s by Andrew and William Johnson, it is well constructed and needed only minor work to make it ready for the rental system. This “cozy” 7' x 15' cabin was modified to include two 48”-wide stacked bunks, providing very comfortable accommodations for two or a maximum of four compatible friends or family. Features include an easy-starting, small heat- and cooking-stove with fine draw, a Hoosier cabinet, and a drop-down table with a view out the window. Four folding chairs stow away easily when not in use.

This is the fifth functioning cabin on the Vining Tract and is located an 0.8-mile hike from the upper parking area, about 0.3 miles west of the Morris Cabin. Trails abound in the Vining Tract, and the acquisition of the 70-acre Johnson property has added the potential for extended hiking. Of historical significance is the adjacent (uninhabitable) Louraine Morris house, featuring a back kitchen building with a dog trot.

The rental fee will be comparable to the other six-and-under capacity cabins; \$25 on weekend nights and \$15 on weekday nights. □

—Ken Lyons



Hiker's Notebook

Common Name: Partridgeberry, squaw-vine, checkerberry, twinberry, deer berry, winter clover, two-eyed berry, running-fox.

Scientific Name: *Mitchella repens* (genus named for John Mitchell, a physician who developed a treatment method for victims of the 1742 Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic, *repens* refers to its low, creeping, ground-cover growth). Partridgeberry is a diminutive, evergreen, ground-hugging vine that forms a dense mat from rooting stems. It has a spring-green color with bright red berries.

Potpourri: The name squaw-vine derives from its use in Native American herbal medicine. It was made into a tea that was used in the last several weeks of pregnancy to promote easy childbirth. It was once widely used by white women settlers and was listed as a drug in the 1927 “U.S. National Formulary.” It was removed in 1947 as parturition came to be a matter for hospitals and approved and tested drug therapies. The tea was also used to treat coughs and colds.

The name twinberry is due to the peculiar manner in which the partridgeberry produces fruit. Flowers are scattered along the individual stems in pairs that are joined at the base, sharing a single ovary. It therefore takes two flowers to make one “twinberry.”

The fruit of the partridgeberry is eaten by ruffed grouse, raccoons, and red fox (running-fox) and is estimated to make up about 3 percent of the dry weight of the summer and fall diets of white-tailed deer (deer berry). □

—William Needham

Visit the *Hiker's Notebook* Web site at:
mwrap.org/W_Needham/h_notebook.html



Shenandoah National Park Association's 2004 Field Seminars

A Learning Experience in Shenandoah National Park

Each year, Shenandoah National Park staff team with local scientists, researchers, educators, and members of the neighboring community to explore topics of mutual interest through Shenandoah National Park's Field Seminars. Whether you're interested in preserving native plants, exploring wilderness, or capturing the beauty of this region through photographs, art, or writing, Field Seminars provide an opportunity to explore the park with those who work, study, and teach here.

Spaces for each Field Seminar are limited, so register well in advance. Registration includes entrance fee to Shenandoah National Park, course instruction, and educational materials.

Family Field Seminars

Shenandoah National Park will host two family-oriented Field Seminars in 2004. These events are designed for adults and children 10 and over.

The Basics of Family Camping July 24 & 25, 2004

Family camping is an American tradition. Join park rangers for a night under the stars in Shenandoah National Park. Gain hands-on experience in the basics of cooking, setting up a tent, and applying Leave No Trace techniques. Park staff and outdoor professionals from Rockfish Gap Outfitters will demonstrate a variety of gear and answer questions about getting started in camping. Tents and cooking equipment will be provided. - Cost: \$45 for one adult & child, each additional family member \$15

From Dusk to Dark Aug. 14, 2004

When the sun sets in Shenandoah National Park, a whole new world comes to life. Join park staff and local naturalists for a close-up look at Shenandoah's night life. From nocturnal animals to constellations that stretch across the sky, explore a world that often goes unnoticed. Discover the park's role in protecting this experience and learn techniques for observing the night in your own backyard. - Cost: \$35 for one adult and child, each additional family member \$10

The following Field Seminars are designed for adults ages 18 and over. Participants 15-18 years of age may attend but must be accompanied by a paying adult.

History Revealed May 8, 2004

Human history is never black and white, but new research is adding depth to the cultural history story of Shenandoah National Park. Tour historic Massanutten Lodge, visit a research site, and spend time with authors Reed Engle and Audrey Horning to discover how new information adds perspective to the park's story. - Cost: \$45

It's About Trout May 22, 2004

Shenandoah National Park's mountain streams provide some of the most enjoyable fly fishing in Virginia. Spend a day with instructors from Trout Unlimited fishing one of the park's outstanding trout streams. Learn about environmental factors affecting stream health as well as techniques for tying flies, casting, and identifying good trout habitat. Come with a current Virginia fishing license and your own gear. All fishing will be catch-and-release. - Cost: \$35

Birds in Your Backyard June 12, 2004

Roger Tory Peterson called birds an "environmental litmus-paper." Join park scientists for a look at how Shenandoah National Park monitors this park resource and how a local partnership is returning peregrine falcons to the ecosystem. Learn what you can do at home to monitor bird species and improve backyard habitat for these animals. - Cost: \$40

Focus and Frame July 31 and Aug. 1, 2004

Shenandoah National Park, with its panoramic vistas, abundant wildlife, and diverse forests, is a photographer's paradise. Join professional photographers Rob and Ann Simpson and learn the artistic and technical aspects of capturing nature on film. This two-day Field Seminar is geared for beginners and allows time for indoor instruction, field experience, and individual feedback from instructors. Participants will need to provide their own cameras. - Cost: \$70

Plants Out of Control Sept. 18, 2004

That beautiful plant with the bright, yellow flower may be an enemy in disguise. Join park staff and scientists for a look at how some plants are forever changing the world around us. Discover how park staff work to preserve the diversity of plant species in the park and learn ways to promote good habitat for native plants in your own backyard. - Cost: \$30

Celebrate Wilderness

2004 marks the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. To celebrate this milestone, Shenandoah National Park will conduct three Wilderness Field Seminars. Each seminar provides an opportunity to experience a different aspect of the wilderness story.

Voice of the Wilderness Aug. 4, 2004

Throughout history, artists and writers have interpreted the meaning of wilderness and in their own ways have contributed to the passing of the Wilderness Act. Experience the wilderness they worked to preserve on a moderately strenuous, six-mile hike. Discover how artists became a voice for preservation as you write, draw and dream in Shenandoah's wilderness. - Cost: \$40

Wilderness Legacy Aug. 21, 2004

The story of wilderness is about individuals who turned passion for the outdoors into a law that preserves land "forever wild." That law is the Wilderness Act, and it established a National Wilderness Preservation System. Experience part of that system on a moderately strenuous, eight-mile hike in Shenandoah's wilderness and discover your role in the continuation of the wilderness legacy. - Cost: \$35

An Enduring Resource Sept. 4, 2004

Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964 to preserve "the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." But what is the resource of wilderness, and how is it beneficial? Join park rangers for a moderately strenuous, five-mile hike in Shenandoah's wilderness. - Cost: \$35

See Seminars, page 9

What's New in PATC Lands?

In February, after a decade of negotiations, PATC inked the closing documents on the Hauvermale property, a 67-acre tract in West Virginia close to the Potomac River. Why is this tract so important, and why did we persist so long to acquire it?

As it wends its way north toward Maryland, the Tuscarora Trail leaves public land at the northern boundary of Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area. It meanders down a dirt road and traverses two small PATC properties until it gets to a Morgan County park. At WVA Rte. 9 it leaves this park and is once again on roads. It dodges various private tracts and stays pretty much on public roads until it gets to Ruth Morris Forest, a 129-acre tract owned by PATC that stretches north all the way to the Potomac.

Just south of Ruth Morris lies the former property of Amy Hauvermale, a magnificent 67-acre tract of heavily wooded rolling hills. It has a spring, and a creek lies at the bottom of a ravine along its eastern border. The land in this region is almost uninhabited except for the odd residence and trailers that sit in the forest, obviously used exclusively by hunters.



Photo by Walt Smith

The hiking group: Jason Rainville, Tom Johnson, Chris Mongold, Karen Brown, George Starzmann, and John Brown.

With its acquisition, PATC will be able to route the Tuscarora Trail off public roads. The club plans a shelter near the spring so that tired backpackers can rest overnight.

On Feb. 14, after a week's delay for snow and ice, several PATC members decided to hike a 4.5-mile stretch of the trail that is partly on public roads and partly on private property. The existing trail skirts the Hauvermale Tract which we viewed from across the ravine. The last por-

tion goes across the center of the Ruth Morris Forest and ends at the Potomac.

Hiking was unexpectedly difficult. The snow was 12 - 18" deep and the thin line of hikers struggled, without snowshoes, through the drifts of the forests in that area. It was cold and it was wet, but it was worth seeing the Hauvermale Tract and the potential for improving the Tuscarora Trail. □

—Tom Johnson

Seminars, from page 8

Field Seminar Registration

Space for each seminar is limited, so register well in advance. Registration includes entrance fee to Shenandoah National Park, course instruction, and educational materials. To register or to get more information, contact Shenandoah National Park's Education Office at 540/999-3489. Field Seminars (as opposed to Family Field Seminars) are designed for adults ages 18 and over. Participants 15-18 years of age may attend but must be accompanied by a paying adult. Registration occurs upon payment. Refunds will be made for cancellations received 10 days prior to the Field Seminar.

SNPA (Shenandoah National Park Association) is a nonprofit organization that supports educational and interpretive activities of Shenandoah National Park. SNPA co-sponsors the Field Seminars, and members receive a 20 percent discount to the events. Show your support for the park by becoming a member of SNPA. Call 540/999-3582 or go online at www.snpabooks.org for more information. □

—Lorrie Knies
SNP Education Specialist

LAND ACQUISITION CONTRIBUTION

(Name) _____ (Telephone) (____) _____

(Address) _____

(City) _____ (State) ____ (Zip) _____ (e-mail) _____

Yes, Tom, I support PATC's conservation efforts and want to help replenish the fund that finances the purchase of cabin and trail lands. Enclosed is my check to help meet the \$12,000 matching funds challenge.

() \$25.00 () \$100.00 — short-sleeve t-shirt size: ()

() \$50.00 () \$200.00 — long-sleeve t-shirt size: ()

I have contributed the following amount and would like to use the cabin designated on the date(s) I have indicated. Date(s) must be at least six weeks after the date contribution is received by PATC.

(An earlier date may be available but will require a call to the Cabin Reservation Desk.) NOTE: The Blackburn Trail Center is not included in this program.

() \$500.00 - Cabin: _____ Date: _____

() \$1,000 or more - Cabin: _____ Dates: _____

(Dates must be for two consecutive nights)

Make checks payable to: "PATC" and designate them for "Land Acquisition Fund"

Please indicate if you would like your name listed in the PA as having contributed to the Land

Acquisition Fund Campaign: (yes) _____ (no) _____

Signature Date

Send form to: Tom Johnson, President, PATC; 118 Park Street, S.E.; Vienna, VA 22180-4609

PATC Distributes Update for its Local Management Plan for the AT

Pages containing revisions and updates to the Local Management Plan (LMP) for the AT were distributed to trail partners and club members in February. The original plan, dated March 1999, was the sixth edition of the LMP and was compiled by Warren Sharp and approved by ATC Board of Managers. The document was formatted so revised pages could be easily inserted.

The plan contains information about the trail section maintained by PATC and is intended as a reference source for club officers and members to ascertain club and partners' roles and policies relating to the management and maintenance of the AT and its corridor lands.

The updated pages contain changes to the description of the trail route, changes in policies by trail partners and changes in the Executive Committee and the council. The main change for the club was the addition of the covered cooking area for new shelter construction policy. The appendices contain updated names of trail part-

ners and their contact information, maps, and list of ATPO tracts assigned to the club. Several new memos of understanding and agreements were also added.

The revised pages were sent to 44 trail partners, and 20 copies were distributed to club officers, council members, and staff. If you have a copy of the plan but did not receive the packet of revised pages, please let Wilson know. Likewise, if you got a packet of revised pages but do not have a copy of the original plan, please check with the person who previously held your position.

Copies of the revised document are available for viewing at headquarters. If you do work on the AT it is well worth your time to review this document. □

—Tom Lupp, Chair
AT Corridor Management Committee

Luxurious Just Got Better!



According to the historic architects, Weaver Cabin was built between 1780 and 1800. Sam Weaver used the cabin to homestead the property it currently sits on in 1860. Cliff Firestone gave the cabin to PATC in 1980. This cabin was put into the rental system in 1996.

This cabin just became unbelievably posh. Yes, the swing that is guaranteed to hold you and a rum and coke is still there. Yes, you can still do dishes in the big sink on the front porch like real red-necks do. Yes, there is no worry about getting to the privy – the railings of the bridges are still sturdy. And yes, “Old Smoky” still heats the cabin.

The Posh, you ask? ELECTRICITY. Yes, there is now an electric light to illuminate those 70-degree stairs leading to the second floor. Yes, the “popping/smoker” propane light has been replaced with an electric one (that doesn't pop, spit, or throw fire) to play cards by. Weaver even has a couple of electrical outlets to plug in the fan on hot summer nights. The cabin has electric burners to cook on, and (get this) the oven works and it DOES NOT explode in your face like the old gas one. OK, I don't want to hear that my 18-inch stove/oven is smaller than your microwave. Remember you are roughing it. Come on out and flick a switch – they really work! □

—Thomas C. Jorgensen

1932 Films Now on VHS

The Archives of PATC have contained about 50 reels of 8mm and 16mm films taken by PATC members in 1932. At last, after several years of trying to get this done, those films have been transferred onto VHS tapes.

These films are really quite interesting. On the first one you can see what Shenandoah National Park looked like before it became a park. You can see what the CCC camps looked like and how some people dressed up for a hiking trip to the mountains. Other scenes include an airplane gliding at Big Meadows where you can see the style of cars and clothing for that event, including an old rumble seat car driving down a rocky trail at Black Rock. Myron Avery appears in several scenes, as does Frank Schairer and Benton MacKaye. You get to see Meadow Springs Cabin before it burned down and the first Sexton Cabin. There are views of mountain residents and their homes, a train with a steam engine traveling through Shenandoah Valley, and George Pollock and his snake dance with violin accompaniment. And, of course, there are lots of scenes of hikes, hikers, work trips, and mountain scenery in both summer and winter when there was a lot of snow in Shenandoah National Park.

The first video is being made available to members at a cost of \$20, \$25 for nonmembers. Add \$5 for S&H. The VHS has no sound effects, but a two-page description sheet of the scenes was prepared as best could be discerned. You can also order by phone during evening office hours at the Sales Desk (703/242-0315). If anyone who orders a copy recognizes people or places after viewing, please let me know (niedze@erols.com) so I can update our records. □

—Carol Niedzialek
Archivist

Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Apples, Their Time Has Come

Author's Note: This article celebrates the planting of Milam apple trees, which will occur April 24-25 on the Shaver Hollow property. Please consider spending the day with Darwin and Eileen Lambert and help plant these heirloom varieties. Look for details on page 1 of this issue.

April is here and with it are the blossoms of spring. The beginning of a new season; the renewal of life's annual cycle. Early in the month, before any of the trees begin to leaf out, the first blooming trees proudly express their glee to be awakened by the sun's warmth. These are the native plum and shadbush species. They are ephemeral at best; you may only have four to six days to find these harbingers of spring in their finest floral displays.

These bloomers are members of the *Rosaceae*, or rose family. This means, for one thing, that the flowers have five petals. Members of this very large family include strawberries; pears; and the stone fruits, such as plums, cherries, and apricots. Other members of this family include blackberries, crabapples, quince, spireas, potentillas, hawthorns, cotoneasters, and pyracanthas, among many others.

The rose family also includes another famous April bloomer, one that figures prominently in our American history. That would be the domesticated apple. No other plant in the world has the fabled and rich history of the apple. From Adam and Eve, Isaac Newton, and William Tell, to our own Johnny Appleseed, the apple looms large in human lore, legend, and literature. Apples have been associated with human consumption as far as human records can reveal, dating back over 8,000 years to Stone Age villages.

Where Apples Come From

It is believed that the birthplace of our domestic eating apples is in the high-altitude forests of Kazakhstan, in central Asia. This region is home to the *Malus sieversii*, a tree with no common name. The original *Malus sieversii* trees are thorny, showing their relationship to roses. The center of diversity of the genus *Malus* is the eastern Turkey, southwestern-Russia region of Asia Minor. This region includes the historic Silk Road, linking Europe to central Asia and China. Thus, it is understandable that seeds were dropped along the way, with seedlings hybridizing freely with related *Malus* species, such as the European crab apples, eventually producing millions of novel apple types.

Apples were probably improved through selection over a period of thousands of years. In the 13th century BC, the Egyptian King Ramses II ordered cultivated varieties of apples planted in the Nile delta. Alexander the Great found dwarfed apples in Asia Minor in 300 BC and brought them to Greece. Pliny the Elder, a Roman statesman, circa 23 AD, described 37 different varieties of cultivated apples in his *Historia naturalis*. By the first century AD, apples were being cultivated in every region throughout the Rhine Valley. Apple cultivation was gathering momentum. By the year 1640, horticulturist Parkinson noted 60 varieties, by 1669 the count was up to 92 varieties, and by 1866 *Downing's Fruits* notes 643 different cultivars.

Regular apples are not native to North America, although several crabapple species are indigenous. Apples were brought to North America with Columbus in the 1490s and moved to the Western U.S. with settlers and enterprising individuals like John Chapman.

Colonial Apple Use

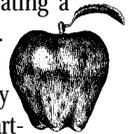
Apples (along with peaches) played a major role in the economies of colonial America. However, it was not as one might imagine. Fresh fruits were rarely grown for the markets of the 18th and early 19th centuries. In fact, up until the Prohibition, an apple grown in America was far less likely to be eaten than to wind up in a barrel of cider.

Market reports often noted prices for dried fruits, but consistently reported the price of hard cider and brandy. Virtually every farmer had an orchard, and nearly every fifth or sixth farm had a copper still. In fact, distilled liquors, including apple (and peach) brandy and the small grain whiskeys (corn, wheat, rye, and barley), were the only farm products that it would pay to transport over the Alleghenies to Philadelphia and Baltimore. A horse- or mule-drawn farm wagon typically held 30 bushels of apples, weighing 1,440 pounds and occupying 141 cubic feet of space. Pressed as cider, the weight was reduced to 502 pounds, the volume to 7.6 cubic feet. As distilled applejack, the original wagonload yielded 11.4 gallons weighing about 100 pounds, a reduction to 1.1 percent of the original space and seven percent of the original weight. The "wasted" mash was fed to the hogs.

Apples were grown for other reasons as well. The sweetness afforded by the cider was basically the only source of sugar for the early farmers. While honeybees were introduced by Europeans, they were not common throughout the frontier, leaving only the native maple trees as an alternative source of sugar. Under such circumstances, cider was clearly the sugar source of choice.

Furthermore, many settlers avoided drinking water for fear of its ill effects – a holdover from their European origins. Indeed, in many places cider was consumed more freely than water, even by children, since it was arguably the healthier and more sanitary beverage. Family consumption of fermented cider was on the order of from 10 to 50 (31.5-gallon) barrels a year. (Without refrigeration, all cider was "hard," but with fermentation limited to only a few weeks, the hard cider was only half the strength of wine.)

With the fear of the temperance movement in the early 1900s, apple growers created the marketing slogan, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away," in hopes of creating a market for a fresh eating apple.



John Chapman, a.k.a. Johnny Appleseed, made a career of starting apple orchards along the Ohio River in the first half of the 19th century. Although his appearance may have been odd (barefoot, with his coffee-bean burlap shirt and metal pot for a hat) his vision was profoundly correct. His strategy was to go out ahead of the settlers moving west, establish apple orchards, and have locals maintain the trees, sell them to the settlers, and share the profits.

The fact was, during this period of Western expansion, the government gave homesteading rights to new settlers in the Northwest Territory if they met certain criteria. To ensure that homesteaders were not just speculators, settlers had to plant at least 50 apple or pear trees within three years to hold their homestead. By 1830, John Chapman was operating a chain of nurseries that reached all the way from western Pennsylvania through central Ohio and into Indiana. He spent his adult life traveling back and forth among the nurseries. Not only did having the orchards appeal to the settlers for reasons of affirming their land ownership, but also the fruits were bringing sweetness and

See *Appalachian Nature*, page 12

Honoring Our WWII Veterans

The National WWII Memorial being built on the National Mall, will be officially dedicated on May 29. This monument honors those men and women who helped win WWII whether in uniform or on the home front. As part of this memorial, the Memorial Commission is maintaining a WWII Registry of Remembrance.

The WWII Registry of Remembrances contains more than 1.3 million names of those who served this county during the war. Although the list contains names from various agencies, including the National Archives and the American Battle Monuments Commission, many names have not been included. Checking the registry myself I found only one family member was listed.

To access the registry, go to www.wwii-memorial.com and click on the "WWII Registry" link. From there you can query the registry to see if family or friends are listed. If not, you can sign in and register any person not on the list. You will then receive a confirmation that the name has been accepted and is now listed on the registry. The registry will also be available for viewing on site at the memorial dedication.

Many of our club members or members of our families should be honored for their sacrifices during the war. Please honor them now by entering their names on the WWII Registry of Remembrance. □

—Tom Lupp

In Memoriam

Rita Cloutier
PATC Member

1969 to December 29, 2003

Ruth was very active in the club – she was general secretary, chair of headquarters staff – (both at the same time) substitute on sales and information desks and member of the search and rescue group and Excursions Committee. She was treasurer from 1983-1988. She was also on the committee that scouted the trail that is now the Massanutten Mountain Trail.

Bill Schorr
PATC Member

1948 to December 25, 2003

For several years Bill maintained 3.7 miles of the AT that ended at Caledonia Park. He served the club as a councilor and as a member of the Excursions Committee. Between 1952 and 1956, Bill initiated a series of hikes on the C&O Canal Towpath to acquaint PATC with the towpath as a place to hike. That interest, along with that of an Audubon Society committee, spawned the famous Justice Douglas hike of 1954 (see page 15 of this issue). □



Viva Vienna Volunteers Needed

The club is again participating in the annual Viva Vienna Festival, which runs for two days on May 30 and 31. We desperately need volunteers who can greet the public at our booth and tell people who we are and what we do. There will be entertainment, carnival rides, food vendors (just smell that fresh

kettle-popped corn), arts and crafts vendors, and over 50,000 people attending. We have a prime location where our canopy is set up every year. I can't make it this year, so I'm sending out a plea for help in keeping our club visible at this event (and I certainly don't want to give up that prime spot!). If we can get multiple volunteers to work in shifts, the task is more enjoyable. Please call me, Pat Fankhauser, during the day at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 to tell me the good news. And THANKS in advance to those who do. □

Appalachian Nature, from page 11

the gift of alcohol to the frontier. Since his apple trees were grown from discarded seeds from cider mills, the fruits were random, unknown spitters, or pippins. (Apple trees grown from seed will not be the same variety as the tree from which the seed developed. Therefore, to produce more trees of the same variety, the trees must be budded or grafted onto the rootstock of an apple tree.) However, such small and variable fruits were capable of making quite adequate cider and brandy.

John Chapman made no money from his efforts. However, he died a rich man, leaving an estate that included some 1,200 acres of prime real estate. A decaying trunk of what is believed to be the last surviving tree planted by Chapman stands on a farm in Nova, Ohio. Cuttings from this sole survivor are being propagated under the name "Johnny Appleseed Rambo."

Just south of Big Meadows in the Shenandoah National Park, the Appalachian Trail crosses the Skyline Drive at Milam Gap. On the east side of the drive, the wonderful Milam apple still exists and can be enjoyed every fall.

Two stories exist that explain the origin of the Milam apple and the naming of the gap. The earliest reference states that the apple's name comes from Thomas Milum, who received a grant of 203 acres in Madison County from Lord Fairfax in 1749. The Milam apple originated on this farm and eventually was planted at the gap, where Thomas Milum opened a passage to the Shenandoah Valley. The second story says that the apple and gap were named for Joseph Milum, who found a seedling in his yard located near this gap.

The Milam apple is medium in size, with large speckled areas of red and green-yellow. It has a sweet taste similar to the Red Delicious, but with an added touch of tartness. The combination of sweetness and tartness makes it very tasty. It is reported to also be a fine cooking apple and, if stored well, a good keeper. It ripens from late September to early October.

Because it has a trait of sprouting new shoots from the roots of older trees, it continues to grow wild in Milam Gap and a few other areas within the park. □

—Bob Pickett

K9 Trailblazers Almost Threw in the Towel at Patapsco Valley State Park

This is the hike that almost made history. K9Trailblazers have never canceled a hike for bad weather. But it looked for a while as though we might be forced to do that. First we limited the number of hikers and increased the difficulty rating. Then when we alerted everyone about the possibility the hike would be canceled because of unremitting icy conditions, some folks chose to bail. But others hung in there, and a couple of wait-listed folks bravely signed on.

And, as luck would have it, Sunday morning was sunny with a temperature in the mid-30s when we all gathered at the trailhead. Our hike leaders today were Jeff, with Katy, and Pat, with Rory. Joining us for the first time was Gigi, recently adopted by Jenifer, a regular participant who also earned her official K9TB hike leader hat in December. Also hiking with us today were Karen with Loki, and Lisa and Chuck with Jester. After sign-ins, introductions, and the routine pre-hike discussion about safety and courtesy on the trails, we provisioned ourselves with maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits, and headed into the forest.



Photos by Jeff Blongase

Chuck helps Karen across and icy patch of trail.

Today's hike was cobbled together during the previous two weeks when Jeff and Pat discovered locked gates, impassible icy trails, and too-deep water crossings. Jeff returned a couple of days before the hike, found considerable ice still on the trails,

and determined that reversing direction would allow the most difficult parts of the trail to be uphill.

Fortunately, on the last two afternoons before the hike, the temperature hit mid-40s. One last preview on Saturday showed the trail in better shape, and by Sunday, except for a couple of notable places, there were ways around whatever icy patches remained on the muddy trails. When we came to "the rock," Chuck held dogs, or people's hands, as one at a time we worked our way around a rock by traversing a 10-foot stretch of ice. Several folks noted that hiking with a leashed dog is much harder than hiking with two hiking sticks. Yeah, but it's nowhere NEAR as exciting or as much FUN!

We started out along "Morning Choice" trail, which traverses woods and fields on the upper lip of the valley. We saw the remains of some old homes as we traversed the tract of land purchased by Caleb Dorsey Jr. in 1755, on which he built one of the first Iron Furnaces on the Patapsco. We also passed a large stand of bamboo, but couldn't see any pandas.

See K9, page 14



Resting by the ruins of an old farmhouse.

K9, from page 13

From there we hiked along Ridge Trail taking in the natural and historic sites, including a couple of ancient comfort stations. We stopped at a scenic overlook of the Patapsco River for a rest and water break. With the leaves off the trees, we could make out, but not quite see, the Patapsco River winding toward Elkrigde Landing and on to Baltimore. After Jester and Rory entertained with a couple of tricks, we hit the trail again and followed it down into the valley. We hiked back out of the valley along Cascade Falls Trail to view one of the largest waterfalls in this part of Patapsco Valley State Park.

We did see more ice as we climbed back up to our cars parked along Landing Road. We met very few hikers on the trails, and those with dogs had them on leash. We met a few cyclists. They yielded, and we yielded. And, except for one fast bike passing us from behind, which set off a round of frustrated shrieking from the little herder in our midst, it was a very quiet hike. After so many weeks of bad weather it felt great to be out. Dogs and people were in good spirits, and Gigi's long, plumed tail never stopped wagging. Before heading home we warmed up with hot apple cider. And, this being George Washington's birthday, we also shared cherry pies.

We all agreed we'd like to return to this beautiful area and try to do the hike as originally planned. □

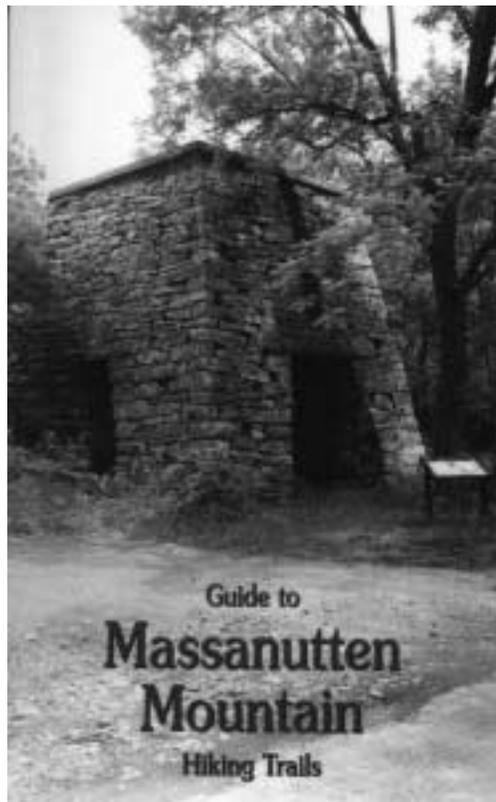
—Pat Fuhrer

K9 Trailblazers Dog Hiking Club
<http://www.k9trailblazers.org>



Photo by Jeff Bochnase

A thawed-out Cascade Falls.



Guide to Massanutten Mountain Hiking Trails

Every hiker in the PATC area needs this complete guide to the official Forest Service trails in the Massanutten Mountain Section of the George Washington National Forest. Escape the crowds in Shenandoah National Park by instead visiting the Massanutten area, with more than 50 hikes of varying difficulty, from the 71-mile Massanutten Trail circuit (described both clockwise and counterclockwise), to easy walks of less than one-half mile. One universally accessible trail (the Lion's Tale) is actually rope-guided for the visually impaired, with Braille signs.

Wil Kohlbrenner's third edition of the Guide to Massanutten Mountain Hiking Trails is completely revised with all the information you need to safely enjoy these hikes. There are new diagrams showing mileage between trail intersections, and photographs of the scenery and wildlife by the author and Lee Sheaffer. A special chapter relates the colorful history of the area.

Previous editions of this guide should not be used because trails in the area have been extensively restructured. You need the 2004 edition.

PC 160

Member price: \$5.60

Nonmember price: \$7.00

FROM THE PATC STORE

Book Review: In the Light of the Mountain Moon: An Illustrated History of Skyland

This Shenandoah National Park Association publication is not only a delightful exploration of the history of the mid-19th century resort, Skyland, but also a thorough overview of the social climate of the times in which the resort had its beginnings. Skyland is still visited by many thousands every year. Visitors stay in rustic lodgings or cabins and dine in the restaurant with its views of the Shenandoah Valley. Few visitors, however, know of Skyland's start as a way of defraying losses from a copper mining business venture. Over the 100-plus years since the Pollock family envisioned a middle-class retreat for family, friends, and investors, Skyland has evolved and changed with advances in technology, shifts in common values and lifestyles, and changes in occupations.

The author, Reed L. Engle, has provided us with a wonderfully illustrated text, filled

with copies of such historical documents as survey plans of "Skyland Park," stock certificates for Skyland investors, photographs of early Pollock family members, and special program announcements. Early photos also show guests and residents gathered together for masquerade balls, for games of tennis on clay courts, and simply to enjoy the mountain air and quiet that drew many city dwellers to Skyland. The resources of the Shenandoah National Park Archives provided more recent photographs as well. Some show the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers of the 1930s repairing historic cabins, and others are views of privately owned bark-clad cabins and buildings such as Skyland's Souvenir Shop and Recreation Hall.

The volume, designed to look like a photo album, is very readable in its descriptions of

the lives of the families who regularly made their summer homes at Skyland. It also tells of the trials of the colorful George Freeman Pollock and his efforts to keep Skyland going through daunting economic struggles. The book ends with numerous hand-colored postcards from the 1930s and '40s, which seem rather innocent in their romantic vistas showing sweeping views of the valley.

As a social historian, Reed gets high marks for his thorough look at a part of American life that was created by a vast number of social issues coming together out of the Industrial Revolution. His broad view and the context in which he describes Skyland's history enriched this reader's understanding of a way of life that supported such early vacation getaways as Skyland and, in many respects, continue to attract visitors to Skyland today. □

—Maureen Lauran

50th Anniversary of the Justice Douglas Hike on the C&O Towpath

Fifty years ago, the National Park Service had it in mind to build a highway along the C&O Canal and had several influential supporters, including some editors at the *Washington Post*. Fortunately, there was also some stiff opposition to the proposal, including that of PATC, which was pushing to develop the towpath for recreational uses. But perhaps the player who tipped the balance in favor of maintaining the path for hikers, fishers, and ornithologists was Supreme Court Justice William Douglas, who challenged editors at the *Washington Post* to hike the entire 184.5 miles of the path from Cumberland, Md., to Washington, D.C.

After the *Post* ran an editorial in favor of turning the towpath into a highway, Justice Douglas responded with a letter to the editor: The towpath is "a refuge, a place of retreat, a long stretch of quiet and peace at the Capitol's back door," he wrote in a letter that appeared in the paper Jan. 19, 1954. "I wish the man who wrote that editorial ... would take time off and come with me" and hike the 185 miles to Cumberland, he said. Obliging, the *Post* responded with another editorial on Jan. 21 that said, "We should not want it to be supposed that we are insensitive to the call of a warbler, the blush of buds in late winter, the crunch of autumn leaves under hiking boots ... We are pleased to accept Justice Douglas' invitation to walk the towpath."

The Famous Hike

The hike took place March 20-28, 1954, and nine people participated, including Justice Douglas and an editor from the *Washington Post*. And when Douglas began planning for the hike, he called on PATC to help. Responding to the call were Fred Blackburn, Bill Schorr, and others. Fred helped arrange transportation for the duffels, studied maps, and estimated the days' mileage. Jack Durham of the Wilderness Society also deserves a lot of credit for his hike coordination efforts.

In Celebration of PATC's History

Once the hike began, other PATC members acted as concessionaires – they cooked the food and washed the dishes on the days the hikers were not guests at homes along the way. The PATC volunteers also attended to loading, unloading, and driving the truck. At lunchtime, their "chuck wagon" set up shop along the trail to welcome the hikers.

These hikers were a singing bunch of trekkers, and each day the group would create a new verse to the tune of "The Erie Canal." The end of the hike inspired the following verse: "The spires of Woodmont beckoned / And flagging spirits soared / We were treated like the Prince of Wales / And for that we thank the Lord."

Making History

A C&O Canal Committee was formed on the last night of the hike, with Justice Douglas as chairman. Each participant was asked to submit recommendations for the future use of the C&O Canal. A composite report was then submitted to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The report urged the secretary to develop a parkway system following existing state, county, and federal roads, and the canal route as a recreational area.

After receiving the committee's recommendations, the Secretary of the Interior pledged to preserve the natural beauty of the canal area.

The "Justice Douglas hike" became a yearly event, drawing more and more people, until the C&O Canal National Historic Park was created in 1971.

A hike to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Douglas hike will be held April 18-May 1. □

—Carol Niedzialek and Joanne Erickson

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 Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday – contact Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday evening dinner at the Gypsy Spring cabin. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/765-4833. 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 Lee Sheaffer, (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

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

Ski Touring Section

The Ski Touring Section has served since 1974 to introduce Washington area residents to cross-country skiing and to provide cross-country skiing opportunities to experienced skiers. The Section sponsors winter weekend ski trips for all levels of skiers to nearby mountains in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as periodic social events year round. INFO: Bert Finkelstein (bertf@erols.com) 703/715-8534.

Mountaineering Section

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

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

PATC Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

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
-  Ski Trips
-  Special Events
-  Meetings
-  Classes
-  K9 Trail Blazers (dogs permitted)

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

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

Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

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

APRIL

1 (Thursday)

DEADLINE - (No fooling!) Jan. Potomac Appalachian Material due to editors by 5:00 p.m.

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

3 (Saturday)

HIKE - Pre-Park History

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

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

3 (Saturday)

HIKE - West Virginia Chapter

Appalachian Trail, PA

Southern Pennsylvania (near Waynesboro, PA). Section 14, Caledonia State Park to Pen Mar, 16 miles. WV Chapter of PATC. Meet 9:00 a.m. to set up shuttles. Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729.

3 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - K9Trailblazers

Turkey Run Park in McLean, MD

K9Trailblazers has adopted Turkey Run Park for our 3rd year of participation in the Annual Potomac Watershed Clean up Day. It's our way of thanking the National Park Service for being so dog-friendly, and an opportunity to give something back to the environment. K9Trailblazers and their family and friends will clean up about 4 miles of trails and roads in Turkey Run Park, and about 2 miles of shoreline trail along the Potomac. Your well-behaved dog is welcome if you keep it with you, on leash, and scoop after it. However, past experience has been that most active dogs do not enjoy this event very much! But some dogs will do anything to be with their owners! If your dog is one of those, be sure to bring water, snacks and an extra leash so you can tie him to the tree next to where you are working so you'll have both hands free. Visit www.k9trailblazers.org for more details. INFO: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org) 301/482-2468 or Jeff Bolognese (jbolognese@k9trailblazers.org).

3 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Crew

Rock Creek Park, DC

(8:15-Noon). No this isn't an April Fool's joke, we're really going to work the first Saturday in April so we can get the 2004 season started right. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or ranger Ken Ferebee at 202/895-6221.

3 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

The South Mountaineers Trail Crew has been working on the Appalachian and Catoctin Trails in Maryland since 1993. We are always happy to see new faces. Please bring lunch, water, and gloves and meet us near Frederick, MD at 9:00 a.m. Expect to work into the afternoon and hike 1-4 miles. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin

Shaver Hollow, VA

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

4 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - West Virginia Chapter

Gambrill State Park, MD

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

6 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike

Cabin John Stream Valley, MD

Come join us for a 2.5- to 3-mile, kid-friendly hike on the Cabin John Trail. This trail is not a jogging-stroller passable. We will enjoy a quiet, up and down trail along the Cabin John Stream with opportunities to throw rocks. After the hike we'll eat lunch and enjoy the playground. Bring your favorite gorp item (ie. dried fruit, nuts, m&m's, etc.) and a plastic bag to make a group gorp mix at the beginning of the hike. Directions: 495 to Cabin John Pkwy. towards DC. Take the Glen Echo/MacArther Blvd. (left) exit. Follow MacArther Blvd. past Glen Echo. The park will be on your right after the one-lane bridge. Meet in the parking lot. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpcjkkc1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

6 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

George Washington National Forest, VA

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

6 (Tuesday)

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

7 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

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

7 (Wednesday)

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

7 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Rock Creek Park, DC

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

10 (Saturday)

HIKE - Natural History and Wildflowers

Turkey Run Park, VA

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

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

Madison, VA

Work continues on the Entry Run Trail that will be a new access trail into the SNP connecting to the Pocosin Fire Road. We plan to clear winter damage and prepare the trail for a dedication in the near future. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at PATC's Rosser Lamb Cabin. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

12 (Monday)

CLASS - Backpacking 101 - Intro Night

Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. See ad page 6 for more information. After classroom instruction the class will take their new skills out in the field. Instructional Weekend: April 17-18. Backpacking trip: May 1-2 accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors. INFO: John Browne (back2_packing@cox.net) 703/425-5645.

13 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike

Bull Run Regional Park, Near Centreville, VA

Come check out the largest stand of Bluebells on the East Coast! Join us for a 2.5-mile, kid-friendly circuit hike. We will follow the Blue Trail down to Cub Run, follow the stream, and circle back along the utility cut. The trail is jogging-stroller passable, with a few bog bridges and roots along the way. There is a great sand filled playground nearby where we will go to play and have a picnic afterwards. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

13 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Long Distance Hike

Maurertown, VA

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

13 (Tuesday)

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

14 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

National Arboretum, DC

The Easy Hikers will hike about 4 easy miles through the Arboretum. Meet at 10:15 a.m. on the main parking lot immediately inside the R Street entrance. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take Baltimore-Washington Parkway south from the Beltway. At split with I-295, bear right on New York Avenue toward

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Washington. Continue 2 miles to Bladensburg Road at a major intersection. Turn left and go .4 miles on Bladensburg Road to R Street, NE. Turn left on R Street 0.3 miles to the park entrance. INFO: Gary Abrecht (Gabrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

14 (WEDNESDAY)

📍 HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

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

14 (Wednesday)

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

14 (Wednesday)

📍 MEETING - West Virginia Chapter, 7:00 p.m. Highacre House, Harpers Ferry, WV

15 (Thursday)

📍 HIKE - In-Between Hikers

Great Falls, VA

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

17 (Saturday)

📍 HIKE - The Hidden Waterfalls of SNP

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

17 (Saturday)

📍 HIKE - Waterfall and Wild Flower Series

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The eleventh hike of the Waterfall and Wild Flower Series will be 13 miles with a 5-mile shuttle. There will be a scenic but very challenging 1-mile, 1,900-foot climb over rocks up to Skyline Drive from Greasy Falls. If height bothers you don't consider coming. After the climb the hike will be on the AT and Jenkins Gap Trail. A 10-mile option without the shuttle is possible. PATC Map 9. Meet at the Oakton Shopping Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack Thorsen, (thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/39-6716 or William Needham, (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127.

17 (Saturday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

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

17 (Saturday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade

Great North Mountain, VA/WV

Meet at the Wolf Gap Recreation Area campground parking lot (PATC Map F coordinates E-19) at 9:00 a.m. This trip is subject to prevailing or forecast weather. Check with Hop Long before going to the meeting site. Hop Long (thefSLongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177 or Jim Tomlin (jtomlin@helix.nih.gov).

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

📍 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin

Shaver Hollow, VA

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

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

📍 CLASS - Backpacking 101

Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, VA

This instructional weekend follows the introductory night (see April 12 event listing). The BP101 Introductory Backpacking Course provides those persons, 18 years and older, who have moderate or no backpacking experience with the opportunity to expand their enjoyment of the outdoors through the practice of backpacking. The students will then use their new skills on an overnight backpacking trip May 1 - 2 accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors. INFO: John Browne (back2_pack-ing@cox.net) 703/425-5645 or see ad page 6.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

📍 CLASS - Primitive Tools Workshop

Blackburn Trail Center, VA

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

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Co.

Woodstock, VA

OH, Spring! The joys of the forest reborn! The Acme Treadway Company invites you to this Bacchanalia in the sylvan fields west of Woodstock, VA. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the restaurant of the Ramada Inn by the Woodstock exit off of I-81 on Saturday, April 17th before proceeding to the work site (OOPS!) Sylvan Fields where, as part of our celebration of Bacchus, we will continue construction of a short relocation of the Tuscarora Trail. We will stay overnight at a nearby Forest Service campground, so be sure to pack your tent. And sleeping bag. If you want to participate and (ever more important) EAT. INFO: Don White (jamesriver.com@comcast.net) by Wednesday, April 14.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Aye Chihuahua! Trail work followed by Tex-Mex fare for gringos and banditos! The Hoodlums Trail Crew works on the AT and Blue-Blazed Trails in the North District of SNP. We work hard and enjoy the fruits of

our labor afterwards via the theme meal and good company at a facility within the park. Newcomers are always welcome. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, camp out overnight in SNP - lots of options. Not a bad way to spend a weekend! We meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. INFO/RSVP: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) or 410/426-2724.

18 (Sunday)

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

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

18 (Sunday)

📍 HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Appalachian Trail, VA

This is the second of NSVC's Sunday coffee hikes. We will meet at a nearby coffee shop for coffee and conversation and then take a short to moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail. Bring lunch for the trail and plenty of water. INFO: Lee Shaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

18 (Sunday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - West Virginia Chapter Gambrell State Park, MD

Continuation of ongoing trail maintenance projects on the Black Locust trail. Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729 or Eric Creter 301/293-4170.

20 (Tuesday)

📍 HIKE - Family Hike

Arlington, VA

Potomac Heritage Trail, Southern Section. Come enjoy Spring on a 3.4 mile kid-paced hike along the Potomac River. We will begin at the Roosevelt Island parking lot and hike up 1.7 miles to the waterfall at Windy Run. We'll picnic along the way, weather permitting. This trail is not jogging-stroller passable. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

20 (Tuesday)

📍 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

George Washington National Forest, VA

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

21 (Wednesday)

📍 HIKE - Easy Hikers

River Bend Park, VA

We will hike about 5 miles along the Potomac from River Bend Park to Great Falls Park on the Heritage Trail and return via the Upland Trail. Meet at 10:15 a.m. Some moderate hills and a couple of rocky areas. Bring water and lunch. Directions: Take Beltway to exit 44, Georgetown Pike/Great Falls. Take Georgetown Pike towards Great Falls for 4.4 miles and turn right on River Bend Rd. This is the first right after the stoplight at Great Falls Park. Continue on River Bend Rd. for 2.1 miles to Jeffery Rd, right on Jeffery Rd. for 0.9 miles to River Bend Park entrance. Meet in right hand parking lot below Visitors Center. INFO: Sigrid Crane (ntroibo@worldnet.att.net) 703/938-0954.

21 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

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

22 (Thursday)

HIKE - Celebrate Earth Day

Great Falls, VA

A 6 mile hike at Great Falls and River Bend Park. Additional miles an option. See Mather Gorge and the mighty falls of the Potomac. A joint hike with Sierra Club MWRP. Meet at 9 a.m. at parking lot off of Georgetown Pike near Difficult Run. Directions I-495, Exit 44 west on Georgetown Pike for about 03.5 miles to the parking lot on left, (shortly after crossing the Difficult Run Bridge.) INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

24 (Saturday)

HIKE - K9Trailblazers

Catoctin Mountain, Thurmont, MD

We'll hike at a moderate pace for a ~8 mile loop through Catoctin Mountain Park. Along the way we'll take in the scenic vistas at Chimney, Wolf, and Hog Rocks. This hike will be on rocky trails and will include some steep climbs (~700 ft total elevation change). Sturdy hiking boots with good ankle support are required. This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well-behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on a leash and scoop up after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead! Bring lunch, snacks, and water for you and your dog. Visit www.k9trailblazers.org for more details. INFO: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org) 301/482-2468 or Jeff Bolognese (jabolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

24 (Saturday)

HIKE - North Chapter

Annapolis Rock, MD

AT Hike VII - Black Rock section. Wolfsville Rd. to I-70/Rte 40-8.5 miles-moderate hike, elevation 400 ft. We will be hiking the crest of a portion of the South Mountain in Maryland. After leaving Wolfsville Rd. We will be on a newly built section of the AT. We will see views at Black Rock/Annapolis Rocks on this hike. INFO: Christopher Firme (bcnfirm@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

24 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Crew

Rock Creek Park, DC

8:15 a.m. -Noon. On this work trip we'll hold the first annual dirt shoveling contest if we get enough contestants. Please come and help make this work trip a success. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

24 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

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

24 - 25 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

Appalachian Trail, VA

AT between I-66 and Rte. 50. Join the Crew as we continue work on the Ovoka Farms AT relocation project. The relocation, on land recently purchased by the ATPO, will provide open areas and views to the east. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at project site depending on weather conditions. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

24-25 (Saturday - Sunday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Milam Apple Planting

Shaver Hollow, VA

Come spend Saturday, Sunday, or the whole weekend as we plant Milam apple trees on the land tract that includes the Tulip Tree Cabin. This is the heirloom variety for which Milam Gap gets its name! See story on page one of this issue. Overnight accommodations will be at the brand new Tulip Tree Cabin, and will include breakfast. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

24 - 25 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

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

27 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike

Great Falls, VA

Difficult Run Trail. Come check out the trails and the cascading water on this three-mile circuit hike. We will hike along beautiful Difficult Run to its mouth at the Potomac River, and return on the Ridge Trail in Great Falls Park. The trail is jogging-stroller passable, with some mud, rocks, and blowdowns to navigate. We will picnic along the way. Designed for families with young children, but everyone welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

27 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

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

27 (Tuesday)

MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue

Group (Business meeting), 7:30 p.m.

28 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Vienna, VA

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. Five miles on dirt and paved trails. We start outside of the Park, about one mile from the entrance. From the Beltway/I-495, exit 47A west onto route 7. Drive 4.5 miles through Tysons Corner, turn left onto Beulah Rd and drive 2 miles to Meadowlark Rd (pass the Park entrance parking lot.) Turn right at Meadowlark Rd and go less than 1 mile to Abbey Oak Drive, a residential area. Bring lunch, water and a poem or other interest to share. Fee: 60 and over, \$2, 18-59, \$4. Starts at 10:15 a.m. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

28 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

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

28 & May 1 (Wednesday and Saturday)

CLASS - Spring on the AT (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Bears Den Trail Center Caretaker, Rob Carey, will visit REI to tell stories about this secret spot on the Blue Ridge Mountains. Learn about the "Castle in the Woods" and the Appalachian Trail Roller Coaster. Discover The Appalachian Trail, the special mountain retreat that Benton MacKaye envisioned over eighty years ago. Then join the Bears Den Outdoor Club for a guided hike on the AT, Saturday, May 1. Just an hour's drive from REI, come experience the forest's spring renewal. Lodging and camping accommodations are available by calling 540/554-8708, or on the Web site: www.bearsden-center.org. Space limited. INFO/RSPV (required): Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

MAY

1 (Saturday)

DEADLINE - June Potomac Appalachian

Material due to editors 5:00 p.m.

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

1 (Saturday)

HIKE - Natural History Trillium Hike

Linden, VA

G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area. This is Bob Pickett's traditional 8 mile hike through one of the most beautiful forests in our region during this period of the trillium bloom. An outstanding display of over 20 million white-flowered trillium will greet us in shades of pink and white. Also, the yellow lady slippers are always a highlight, as are the often found morel mushrooms, migrating birds (including the scarlet tanager and cerulean warblers), and occasional snake. A moderately difficult hike, with a 1,000 foot elevation ascent, this is Bob Pickett's favorite hike of the year! Reserve early; it will fill up. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

1 (Saturday)

HIKE - Pine Grove Furnace

Appalachian Trail, PA

Section 13, State Park to Caledonia State Park, 19 miles. WV Chapter of PATC. Meet 9:00 a.m. to set up shuttles. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin

Shaver Hollow, VA

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

FORECAST

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)
🔪 CLASS - Backpacking 101
Location: TBD

Overnight Backpacking Trip. For students enrolled in the class, trip destination and times TBD. INFO: John Browne (back2_packing@cox.net) 703/425-5645 or see ad in this issue on page 6.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)
🔪 CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)
Alexandria, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this eighteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$160. Registration is limited to 25 people. More information and registration at: www.wfa.net. Contact: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

2 (Sunday)
🔪 TRAIL WORK TRIP - West Virginia Chapter
Gambrill State Park, MD

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

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

5 (Wednesday)
👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers
Great Falls, VA

We will hike about 4.5 moderate miles through Great Falls Park in VA. Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:15 a.m. and bring lunch and water. Directions: Exit the Beltway at Exit 13 and go west on Georgetown Pike (VA 193) 4.1 miles to light at Old Dominion Dr. Turn right and go 1.1 miles to parking lot. An admission fee might be charged. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

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

6 (Thursday)
👤 HIKE - In-Between Hikers
Seneca Creek State Park, MD

Moderately paced eight-mile circuit hike in Seneca Creek State Park along a stream and around Clopper Lake. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Park Visitor's Center. Directions: Take I-270 north towards Frederick to exit 10, Clopper Rd/West Diamond Ave., Rt. 117. After exiting, go right (west) on Rt. 117. Proceed approximately 2 miles on Rt. 117 to the Park entrance on left. You will see brown signs on Rt. 117 directing you to the Park. After turning into the Park, turn right at the sign pointing to the Visitor's Center. Park in the Visitor's Center parking lot. Bring lunch, water, no pets. Joint hike with Sierra Club. INFO: Marjorie Richman (mar0522@aol.com) 301/320-5509.

8 (Saturday)
👤 HIKE - Shockey's Knob Circuit
Shockey's Knob, VA

Enjoy a 6.5 mile, 800 ft. elevation gain, circuit hike that takes in great views at High Rock and Caskeys Cliff and a stop enroute to attend the dedication of the new Shockey's Knob Shelter. We will be hiking on the Tuscarora, Packhorse, High Rock, and Mini Knife Edge trails. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visuallink.com) 540/678-0423.

8 (Saturday)
👤 SPECIAL EVENT - Shelter Dedication
Shockey's Knob, VA

2:00 p.m. Dedication of Shockey's Knob Shelter adjacent to the Tuscarora Trail on Shockey's Knob in VA. Guest speaker is Harry Thompson who was

Shelters Committee Chair when the Pinnacle Shelter was dedicated on Great North Mountain in 1990. INFO: Frank Turk, (frankturk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

8 (Saturday)
🔪 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Crew
Washington, DC

8:15-Noon. Make your mother proud by volunteering on the trails of Rock Creek Park. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. Contact: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

8 (Saturday)
🔪 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders
Appalachian Trail, VA

Stony Man, Meet at Skyland Lodge for breakfast, then work on grooming the AT trail section from the stables to Little Stony Man cliffs. With the Lodge close by, this easy section of trail offers breathtaking views. This is the perfect opportunity for first timers to get involved with trail maintenance. INFO: Cathie Cummins (Cathie@wfa.net) 703/631-7421.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)
🔪 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Potomac, MD

C&O Canal. The Crew will assist overseer Georgeann Smale in trail repairs on the popular Billy Goat Trail. Always an adventure, the trail provides a challenge and many views of the Potomac River Gorge. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at nearby C&O Camp site. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

9 (Sunday)
👤 HIKE - Strenuous
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come and hike one of the most popular loops in the park, Cedar Run/White Oak Canyon, with an extension up to Hawksbill Summit. You'll see spectacular waterfalls with springtime flows, and beautiful views at the summit. Approximately 9.5 miles, with a total elevation gain of over 3,000 feet. PATC map 10. INFO: Vince Ferrari (ferrari3@ix.netcom.com) 301/249-2210.

10 (Monday)
🔪 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders
Old Rag Mountain, VA

Weather permitting, a quiet weekday will allow touch up of paint blazes on the Ridge Trail. It's always nice to hike Old Rag without the crowds, even with a paint cup in hand! No spilling! INFO: Cathie Cummins (Cathie@wfa.net) 703 631-7421.

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

12 (Wednesday)
👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers
Wheaton Regional Park, MD

Meet at 10:15 a.m. near the miniature train station in Wheaton Regional Park. From the Capital Beltway (I-495) take exit 31, Georgia Avenue, North. Travel north about 2 or 3 miles on Georgia to Shorefield Road (traffic light and small shopping center). Turn right on Shorefield and turn right at the park entrance to the parking lot near the train station. Bring lunch and water. INFO: John Giblin 301/585-5172.

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

15 (Saturday)
🔪 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade

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

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)
🔪 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Co.
Woodstock, VA

Okay, just in case you weren't able to work with us on the Tuscarora Trail relocation in April, here's the answer to your dreams: we're going back out in May to finish the project! We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Ramada Inn restaurant in Woodstock immediately by the exit for that town off of I-81 and we shall (again) camp overnight at a forest service campground near the work site. If you wish to be a part of this Very Important Project, e-mail Don White (jamesriver-com@comcast.net) by Wednesday, May 13.

22 (Saturday)
👤 HIKE - North Chapter
Clarks Valley, PA

Appalachian Trail Hike II-Susquehanna River to Clarks Valley Pa (Rte 325) 16.6 miles in length. Excellent view's of the Susquehanna River and the valley below as we hike north on the trail. We will be stopping at the Peters Mtn. Shelter. We will be crossing PA Rte 225 on the newly constructed foot-bridge on this hike. So come on out on this hike. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)
🔪 CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (ATC)
Carlisle, PA

This is a bargain rate for a top-rate class, held at ATC's Scott Farm. The fee is \$93. You must sign-up by April 17. A maximum of 25 students will be accepted. INFO Pete Brown (peter.brown4@world-net.att.net) 410/343-1140 or ATC's Ian Nelson, 717/258-5571.

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

29 - 31 (Saturday - Monday)
🔪 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Stanardsville, VA

PATC Vining Tract. Memorial Day weekend is a great time to join the Crew as we maintain some tract trails and clear around cabins. Vining Tract provides a lot of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Mutton Top Cabin - great views. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

30 (Sunday)
👤 SPECIAL EVENT - Tulip Tree Cabin Dedication
Shaver Hollow, VA

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

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

LOOKING FOR SOME WOMEN TO HIKE WITH: Any of you ladies interested in hiking sections of the AT - mostly by slackpacking, dayhiking and occasional overnight? I've finished about 1/2. Let's compare notes. INFO: Stacy (dslabare@corlink.com.) 304/358-3154

ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET AWAY to the mountains for the day or weekend, have fun and meet new people all while doing something worthwhile? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you. We are forming a new crew to work on and around the Blackburn Trail Center. Meeting on a monthly basis, we will carry out work projects at the Center and along the AT in the Northern Virginia/West Virginia District. Work at the Blackburn Center will include new construction, day-to-day maintenance and painting, and grounds and road upkeep. Trail projects will be at the request of the trail volunteers as needed. We are looking for a few good members willing to put a good day or a weekend worth of work and we welcome all skill levels. Each trip will end with a community meal made up of good food and good company. INFO: Chris (trailbossbtc@msn.com) 703/924-0406.

DAYTIME RESERVATIONISTS NEEDED If you are available during the day to work a busy reservation desk, I've got an opening for you on alternate Thursdays. I really need to secure a volunteer every other Thursday afternoon between 12 noon and 2 p.m. Will train. No pressure calls. Please call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 if you can help us out.

BEARS DEN TRAIL CENTER is in need of immediate part-time assistant managers and has openings for two summer internships that include on-site housing. Bears Den is located right on the A.T. near Bluemont, Virginia and offers accommodations to A.T. hikers, hostellers, families, youth groups and other organizations. The primary responsibility is to welcome guests and provide them with a pleasant and comfortable visit. Guest registration, house keeping, and store sales are some basic roles. For more information, please email info@bearsdencenter.org or call 540/554-8708.

TREKKERS WANTED to round out a group trekking in **Nepal** for 3 weeks from Oct. 14 to Nov. 7. This will be in the Annapurna region of Nepal, moderate to strenuous hiking. The highest pass will be ca. 17,000 ft. INFO: David (dsaah@cox.net) 703/352-4685.

VACATION RENTAL: NEW HOME on 45 acres near the Tuscarora Trail in Gore, VA. 3 br/2ba fully equipped home with central heat/air, woodstove, satellite TV, stereo, fenced yard, BBQ grill and much more. \$350 per weekend (three nights) or \$700 per week. Please see VRBO.com for more info and pictures. Pets welcome. Call Tyler at 276/523-3796.

FRIENDS OF CUNNINGHAM FALLS AND GAMBRILL PARKS NEEDS YOUR HELP: The volunteer organization coordinating activities in support of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks in Maryland welcomes the involvement of motivated "new blood". Traditionally, the Friends group has done tremendous work in support of the park and its current viability is in question. New volunteers have the opportunity to make a major, positive impact on this organization. For details contact Rick Canter (southmountaineers@yahoo.com) 301/594-4379.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS: Trail Crew Maintenance, DC-Based. Want some trail maintenance experience and exercise, but still sleep in your own bed? Is Shenandoah National Park just too far a drive? I've got all these problems and will try to fill a need by building a local-based trail crew. The Potomac River Trail Crew will work one day a month, mostly just 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The crew would begin its focus on the Potomac Heritage Trail on the VA side of the river, but the crew could also help in Rock Creek and Great Falls; both MD and VA sides. Any takers? INFO: Bruce Glendening (bglendening@yahoo.com) 703/532-9093 (night).

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

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

CAMP TRAILS BACKPACK. Barely used, approx 3500 cubic inches, with external frame, six large outside pockets. Just the thing for extended trips ... room for all your gear. Great value. \$35 obo. Contact John Moore, 703/368-1952 (jtmoore20112@comcast.net).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE

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

TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

TRAILHEAD

By the time the April *PA* is distributed, most overseers will have visited their trails and assessed winter damage from blowdowns and frost heave, and are making plans for the coming season. After last year's abundance of rain and hurricane Isabel, memories of excessive weeds and trails littered with blowdowns and broken limbs are strong on our minds. Will the loss of canopy have an impact on weed growth? Do I need to add a few new waterbars this year? Yes, there is a lot that needs to be done but it is a chore to enjoy. As you will read below, plans are being made.

PATC/USFS Meeting

USFS's Don Sawyer and PATC's Liles Creighton led a meeting of their respective trail managers at PATC Headquarters on Feb. 21 to discuss plans for this year's activities. The dates for the Massarock Crew's work weeks have been set for June 6-11, 13-18, and Sept. 12-17, 19-24. This year the crews will assemble at Trout Pond on Sunday afternoon for each work week and on Monday morning drive to Hunkerson Gap in Forest Service vehicles. From the gap they will hike to their "spike camp" (meaning a primitive site with no facilities) in the work area, not returning to Trout Pond until Thursday evening. Plan to bring a small tent, pad, sleeping bag, and suitable clothing and



Just another Isabel mess to be dealt with. What would we do without our valiant overseers? Hope the trails are looking better than this in your neck of the woods.

personal gear. ATVs will be used to haul gear and supplies from Hunkerson Gap to the spike camp. In order to keep the crew sociable, the USFS will provide bag showers.

As usual, the subject of chainsaw certification was discussed. USFS will continue to train sawyers for certification using their guidelines. They will only recertify those sawyers they initially trained and certified. Park Service or ATC certification will be honored while working on USFS trails as long as sawyers have USFS-required protective gear.

The USFS/PATC Visitor in the Forest agreement needs to be renewed. The USFS will update the agreement prior to circulating it for approval. It was agreed that next year's meeting will be held at USFS Headquarters in Edinburg. The meeting closed with a round of pizza.

Hoodlums are Ready to Go

Hoodlums Crew Chief George Walters and District Managers John McCrea and Dick Dugan will welcome in spring in the North District of SNP via a work trip with a group from the George Washington University's outdoors program scheduled for early April, followed by the Hoodlums' southwestern work trip on the third weekend of the month. *Hola de los Hoodlums! – Somos los banditos del norte!*

New Rock Creek Season

The Rock Creek Park Trail Crew will kick off the 2004 season with a special April Fool's work trip on Saturday April 3. The new season promises to be action-packed. Already, District Manager Mark Anderson and Ranger Ken Ferebee have discussed several projects to mitigate erosion problems made worse by hurricane Isabel last year. A trail reroute, the rebuilding of stream crossings on the infamous Soapstone Valley Trail, and other projects are on tap. Ten trips are on the schedule this year, including a finale picnic in October that is being made into an annual event. Last year's appreciation picnic - the first ever for the Rock Creek crew - featured BBQ from Rocklands in Glover Park and was attended by a dozen crew regulars and a couple newcomers. Volunteer T-shirts being distributed to repeat trip workers have been a big hit, and the D.C. crew will be on the lookout for new people to give T-shirts to in 2004.

Overseer Training Ground in Rock Creek Park

Rock Creek Park's Saturday work trips have been a fertile recruiting ground for new trail overseers over the past year or so, as six trail sections have been filled with regular work trip attendees. Most recently, Christine Plepys, Linda Rowan, and Gabrielle Czaja all took on sections of trail after spending time toiling on Saturdays with the crew. Donald Titus, John Hampton, and Dave Holton are also among those who regularly come out on Saturdays and have additionally taken on a section of trail. Mark Anderson, the Rock Creek district manager, is pleased so many people who volunteered on Saturdays are willing to extend their duties. Recruiting from the Saturday work crew is ideal, as it allows the opportunity to fill positions with people who have already shown an enthusiasm for working on the trails. Additional

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Trailhead, from page 22

recruiting is under way, and Mark expects to fill more overseer slots from work trip volunteers in 2004.

Will You Qualify?

The Blue and White Crew will host the Annual Overseer Workshop over the weekend of June 5-6. The workshop fills fast. If you're interested, check the crew's Web site at www.blueandwhitecrew.org, or e-mail Kerry Snow at kerry@trailcrews.net.

The crew is also accepting applications for crew membership. A very exclusive organization, the crew typically accepts only one or two new members per year, selected from thousands of eager applicants. Good standing in the District of Columbia Social Register will help the aspiring "B&Wer," but is no guarantee of acceptance. All applicants must, as a minimum, have a Roman numeral after his or her name (e.g., Mr. M.W. "Muffy" Holland IV) or have made a hefty contribution to an approved charity (e.g., the Paull & Snow Small-Scale Brewing Research Center). Accepted applicants will receive the treasured Crew Blue Blazer, the B&W signet ring, a sterling silver pruning saw, and will be instructed in the numerous secret rites and rituals of the ancient organization (including the B&W "Paddlewheel of Humility"). For more

information, contact Kerry "Biff" Snow XVI, at kerry@trailcrews.net.

Some Braved the Ice AND Snow

John McCrea, Dick Dugan, and Bernie Stalman tested conditions in the SNP North District in late February. Trails weren't as slippery as they expected due to the previous warmer days. They managed to chainsaw blowdowns on a section of Dickey Ridge Trail and to crosscut (easier to carry than a chainsaw on icy trails) a section of the AT. It was great to get out after months of being cooped up due to the weather. Even Indian Run Maintenance Hut felt like home.

Off-Season Repairs

Pete Gatje, DM for SNP South Blue Blaze, had some bodily repairs instead of working on trail tools. His knee and meniscus were the subject of attention – this time. Pete says the UVA surgeon did a great job, and he was able to walk out of the surgical center within two hours after surgery started. He feels pain-free and has been given a clean bill of health with no restrictions. Just in time for the new trail season – now to sharpen and clean all those tools.

Benton MacKaye Trail Project

PATC is not the only organization with major trail projects. The Benton MacKaye Trail Association recently received approval

of an 85-mile trail extension through the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests in eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. Following years of paperwork and negotiations, including EPA requirements, the effort has finally paid off.

The extension almost doubles the length of the existing Benton MacKaye Trail and will pass through three wildernesses: Little Frog and Citico in Tennessee and Kilmer-Slickrock in North Carolina. Eventually the extension will hook to the AT in the southeastern part of the Smokies, providing a great southern loop of 400 miles, Springer Mountain to the Smokies and return. Future plans include another 90-mile section through park lands that will lengthen the trail to 275 miles and connect to the AT at Davenport Gap. The two footpaths would form a complete figure-eight from the terminus at Springer Mountain. Volunteer work crews have already begun clearing for the approved extension and hope to complete it by December 2005 – a very ambitious project.

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

Tails from the Woods by George Walters

The History of Louie, Part 3

UPWARD MOBILITY! LOUIE'S FAMILY MOVES FROM AN A.T. SHELTER TO A P.A.T.C. CABIN.



"FOUR WALLS, HONEY!... LOOK AT IT!... FOUR WALLS!!"

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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Trail, Shelter and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

Shelter Overseer Opening
Manassas Gap Shelter - Northern VA - Map 8
 Frank Turk, 301/249-8243
 FrankTurk@aol.com

Co - District Manager for SNP North AT - Map 9
 Front Royal to US Rte. 211
 John McCrea, 610/352-9287
 mcreajf@aol.com

Trail Overseer Openings
 Contact the district manager for the section
 that interests you.

Tuscarora/Pennsylvania - Maps J & K
 Opportunity to work long hours with no pay or benefits.
 Generous allowance of blisters, stinging/biting insects,
 and poisonous plants. Special provision for rain and
 mud. Little or no supervision. Work hours optional.
 Location somewhere on the Tuscarora Trail in
 Pennsylvania. No certification from your doctor or
 hospital required.
 Pete Brown 410/343-1140
 peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net or

Ashby/Possums AT/BB [Rte. 50 to SNP] - Map 8, 9
 Lloyd Parriott, 540/622-2743
 laparriott@hotmail.com
Appalachian Trail
 2nd creek crossing to pipeline (1.2 miles)
Appalachian Trail
 Va. 602 to 4H access Trail (0.7 miles)
Appalachian Trail
 4-H Access Trail to Tom Floyd Wayside (0.9 miles)
Tom Floyd Wayside & Ginger Spring
 AT to Tom Floyd Wayside/Ginger Spring (0.45 miles)

SNP North AT - Map 9
 John McCrea, 610/352-9287
 mcreajf@aol.com
Appalachian Trail - Co-overseer
 Beahms Gap to Pass Mt. Hut Trail (1.9 miles)

SNP North Blue-Blazed - Map 9
 Dick Dugan, 703/836-0391
 rdugan@bellatlantic.net
Piney Branch Trail [upper]
 Powerline to AT (2.2 miles)
Piney Branch Trail [lower] - Co-overseer
 Powerline to Hull School Trail (2.2 miles)
Thornton River (lower) - Co-overseer
 Skyline Drive to Hull School Trail (2.9 miles)

SNP Central AT - Map 10
 Kerry Snow, 240/535-8621
 kerry@trailcrews.net
Appalachian Trail
 Fishers Gap to Big Meadows Amphitheater (1.5 miles)

SNP Central Blue-Blazed [north end] - Map 10
 Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248
 danjan3@cox.net
Corbin Mountain Trail - Co-overseer
 Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fireroad (4.4 miles)
Passamaquoddy Trail
 AT to Skyland Dining Hall (1.2 miles)

SNP Central Blue-Blazed [south end] - Map 10
 Steve Paull, 703/361-3869
 stevepaull@yahoo.com
Hawksbill Trail [upper]
 Upper Hawksbill Parking Area to Hawksbill Mt.
 (0.6 miles)

SNP South AT - Map 11
 Dennis DeSilvey, 434/295-8825
 dldsilvey@pcvmed.com
Appalachian Trail
 Doyles River Trail to Browns Gap (2.0 miles)

SNP South Blue-Blazed - Map 11
 Pete Gatje, 434/361-1309
 pjgatje@aol.com
Brown Mountain Trail - Co-overseers
 Skyline Drive to Big Run Portal Trail (5.3 miles)
Jones Run Trail
 Jones Run Parking Area to Doyles River/Jones Run Jct.
 (2.5 miles)

Tuscarora Central - Map L
 Walt Smith, 540/678-0423
 wsmith@visuallink.com
Tuscarora Trail
 Gore to Hunters Cabin (2.9 miles, 1.2 miles on roads)
 passes by Howze Campground
Tuscarora Trail
 Hunters Cabin to Northern Rockfield (1.2 miles)
 1.4 miles south of Howze Campground
Tuscarora Trail
 Northern Rockfield to Southern Rockfield (1.5 miles)
 1 mile from the Pinnacle Shelter
High Rock Trail
 Packhorse Trail Road to Tuscarora Trail (2.3 miles)

Tuscarora South - Map F, G, 9
 Rick Rhoades, 540/477-3247
 rhoades@shentel.net
Tuscarora Trail
 Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)
Tuscarora Trail
 Doll Ridge to Rock marker (1.5 miles)
Tuscarora Trail
 Rock marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)
Tuscarora Trail
 Shawl Gap to Sherman Gap (2.5 miles)

Great North Mountain - Map F
 Hop Long, 301/942-6177
 theFSLongs@comcast.net
Gerhard Shelter Trail
 Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

Volunteers Appointed in February

Trail Overseers

Gabrielle Czaja
 Christine Plepys
 Art & Mary Anne Boyer
 Michael Tolstorukov

Normanstone Trail
 Valley Trail
 Crusher Ridge Trail
 Tibbet Knob Trail



The Potomac Appalachian

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