



# The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 32, Number 5  
 May 2003

## 75 Years of Service

### You're Invited to the Annual Blackburn Summer Barbeque!

Imagine the pleasant aroma of brisket and chicken sizzling on the grill at the foot of the AT!

If you've never attended one of the annual Blackburn Trail Center Summer Barbeques, you really should consider attending this year! Blackburn Trail Center is located very close to Round Hill, Va., and just a few strides from the AT. This year the event is scheduled for July 12-13, 2003. Come join us for a day of hiking, arts and craft activities for the kids, relaxing on the porch, and the best BBQ, some say, outside of Texas! Besides bringing good people together to enjoy great food, hiking, and the wonderful views from Blackburn, this event seeks to find new members as well as to raise funds for the Club. Last year, the event provided funding to the Land Acquisition Committee to support the purchase of property surrounding Blackburn and the AT. We raise funds at the event through registration fees and a raffle.



The beautiful Blackburn Trail Center, host site of the Annual PATC Summer Barbeque.

The Blackburn Trail Center can accommodate approximately 30 people in bunkrooms – which are available on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition, the nearby camp-

ground has ample space for tents. The cost of the BBQ is \$30 for adults and children 16 and older, \$15 for children seven to 15, and

See Barbeque, page 6



### OVERSEER WORKSHOP

Pinnacles Research Station  
 Shenandoah National Park – Central District  
 JUNE 7-8

PATC and the SNP trails staff are joining forces to sponsor the Annual Spring Overseer Workshop. All trail workers (and prospective trail workers) are welcome. The workshop will commence at 9 a.m. Saturday morning and will wrap up after lunch on Sunday. The \$20 registration fee will cover dinner on Saturday night and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. The workshop is limited to 35 participants and always fills early. Please contact Kerry Snow ([kerrysnow@comcast.net](mailto:kerrysnow@comcast.net)) 301/570-0596 or visit the Blue and White Crew Web page ([www.blueandwhitecrew.org](http://www.blueandwhitecrew.org)) for more details. □ —Kerry Snow

National Trails Day



June 7, 2003

### OUR SINCERE APOLOGY TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE DONATED TO OUR CLUB FUNDS IN 2002

There are no excuses for a non-profit, volunteer organization failing to acknowledge donations made by loyal members. So we won't make any. The acknowledgements were sent, but later than they should have been. Some were lost when a volunteer did not return donor information. We made some mistakes and are sorry. We intend to do a much better job of this task in the future. □

### In This Issue . . .

Council Fire . . . . .	2
Tom's Trail Talk . . . . .	3
Trail Patrol's National Trails Day . . . . .	3
Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature . . . . .	4
Tracking Big Foot on the Potomac . . . . .	5
Wilderness First Aid Training . . . . .	6
Trail Patrol Awards . . . . .	7
Wind Power Protest . . . . .	8
In Memoriam, Elsie Kinsey . . . . .	8
SNP Summer Field Seminars . . . . .	8
SNP Spring Opening Dates . . . . .	9
Annual Overseers Meeting . . . . .	9
Birding Field Day . . . . .	9
Forecast . . . . .	10
Tales of Scotland Hillwalking . . . . .	15
Come to New Hampshire . . . . .	16
Notices . . . . .	17
Trailhead . . . . .	18
Volunteers Appointed . . . . .	20
Help Wanted . . . . .	20

## Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

### Officers

**President:** Tom Johnson (johns3@juno.com)  
Weekdays, Reston, Va, ph. 703/435-2755  
Weekends, Front Royal, ph. 540/622-6422  
**VP Volunteerism:** Mickey McDermott  
**VP Operations:** Fred "Hop" Long  
**Treasurer:** Gerhard Salinger  
**Secretary:** Georgeann Smale (gsmale99@yahoo.com)  
**Supervisor of Trails:** Liles Creighton  
**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:** Vacant

**General Counsel:** Charles Sloan

### Sections/Chapters

**Mountaineering Section:** Andy Britton  
**SMRG:** Christopher Smith  
**Ski Touring Section:** Steve Brickel  
**North Chapter:** Pete Brown  
**N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** Lee Sheaffer  
**S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** John Held  
**Charlottesville Chapter:** John Shannon  
**West Virginia Chapter:** Judy Smoot

### Standing Committee Chairs (Council Members)

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

### Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

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

### Potomac Appalachian

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

## Council Fire

The PATC Council's regular monthly meeting was held on March 11, 2003, at Club Headquarters. Representatives from SNP spoke at the meeting.

### Shenandoah National Park Representatives

Superintendent Douglas Morris expressed thanks for the invitation to the Council meeting, commenting on the successful relationship between the Park and PATC. He announced that the 2003 NPS Northeast Regional Award for conservation partnerships has been awarded to PATC. He thanked Ranger Steve Bair for submitting a seven-page proposal to nominate PATC. He also informed Council that a special fund would be established to assist SNP. The Park is in the process of forming a selection committee for a board of trustees to oversee the fund. He asked for assistance in picking members for either the selection committee or the board itself. Finally, he commented on trails in the Park. He noted that funding for trails might be in jeopardy. As a recurring maintenance, some trail work may not be eligible for funds derived from the fee-demonstration program. Mr. Morris also spoke on the progress toward building a new parking lot for Old Rag. The period for public comment on this project has been extended 30 days.

Concessions Specialist Robbie Brockwehl spoke about the PATC cabins in SNP. PATC has held a permit for the cabin concessions; this will be changed to a contract. The current PATC agreement will be

extended until the contract process is completed. Regarding Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, Robbie noted the historic significance of the cabins has an impact on implementing the requirements. The State Historic Preservation Officer will assist with the evaluation process. According to Robbie, the 40 percent increase in cabin rental fees, proposed by PATC last year, was denied because it exceeded the consumer price index. She said that PATC should re-submit the proposed increase, along with a letter justifying the increase. To avoid this trouble in the future, she suggested it would be better to raise the rates in small increments on a yearly basis. Robbie also noted that an amount of \$30,000 from the Park's concession fund has been earmarked for Rock Spring Cabin renovations. This fund is generated primarily from the largest concessionaire in the Park, Aramark.

Backcountry/Wilderness Manager Steve Bair also spoke at Council, informing Club members that he and Cliff Willy had inspected every PATC cabin in the park last year. He reported that the Park and PATC currently have an informal "handshake" agreement regarding a five-year cabin maintenance plan for the buildings. He stated this should be good groundwork for the more formal plan.

### Finance

Wilson Riley announced the Club had received \$2,000 from donations made in memory of the late Jay Shaw Smith, a PATC

*See Council Fire, page 4*

### 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: Wliley@patc.net  
**Trails Management Coordinator:** Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) e-mail: hforrest@patc.net  
**Business Manager:** Monica Clark (Ext. 15) e-mail: mclark@patc.net  
**Membership/Cabin Coordinator:** Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) e-mail: pfankhauser@patc.net  
**Sales Coordinator:** Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) e-mail: mestes@patc.net

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

## Tom's Trail Talk

### Trail Land and You

Did you know that between 1940 and 1990 the population of Maryland grew more than 100 percent? Or that Loudoun County is the third-fastest growing county in the United States? Did you say that you see the subdivisions rising out of farm and forest land every day? Did you say that you already knew that because you drove through Round Hill, Va., last weekend?

I guess we all know the threat. We live in an area of explosive growth, and there is no end in sight. In 1921 Benton MacKaye mapped out a large green swathe of land that would surround the AT, running from Maine to Georgia and forming a barrier to the encroaching metroplex. He dedicated the rest of his life to protecting that green swath, so that the AT would become an environment, not simply a trail. So what will happen to that land?

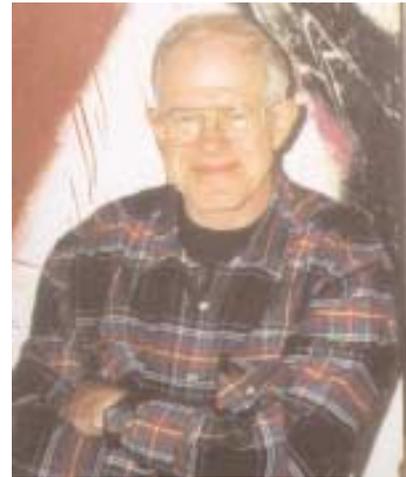
PATC is in partnership with the ATC Land Trust to preserve land parcels from development. It is hit or miss. When land comes on the market, if it is important to the environment that MacKaye envisioned, we try to keep it in its natural state. If the land parcel is small enough, we sometimes buy it. If it is large and expensive, we try other ways. A conservation easement is one way.

The Carleton Penn property in northern Loudoun County runs along almost two miles of the AT between Keys Gap and Harpers Ferry. At \$1.275 million, it was too expensive for the AT Land Trust and PATC combined. So ATC decided to find conservation buyers. With a loan from PATC, they secured the right to buy from Judge Penn and are in the process of finding conservation buyers – people who are willing to buy a tract with conservation restrictions that will keep the land undeveloped in perpetuity.

### You Can Help

There are many ways for a private citizen to protect the land for future generations. You can become a conservation buyer and donate an easement to the Club. If you own land near a trail, you can donate it to the Club. Or you can sell it to PATC at less than fair market value – this is called a bargain sale. You can give it to the Club in your will, and even retain a life estate that permits you to live and work on the land for as long as you live.

Any way you do it, the transaction has tax advantages. Such gifts are considered donations to tax-exempt organizations (PATC is tax-exempt). This means that you benefit financially, and so does the Club. And the land stays in its natural state forever.



If you don't own land that could be important to the Trail experience, you might consider donating assets (land not near the Trail, stocks and bonds, or just cash) that PATC can convert into money for the trail lands fund. Because of the meager returns from our endowment over the past several years, our fund is just about empty, and we literally don't know where money for our next land purchase will be coming from. So consider getting involved in the land effort. Feel free to contact me at [johtns3@juno.com](mailto:johtns3@juno.com) or 540/622-6422. □

—Tom Johnson



## PATC Trail Patrol Presents 1st Annual National Trails Day Event Dickey Ridge Visitor Center, SNP Saturday, June 7



Trail Patrol is sponsoring an all-day event in the Shenandoah National Park that highlights PATC's diverse activities and teaches people how to enjoy the outdoors safely and with minimal impact to the environment. The event is designed to encourage both beginners and experienced outdoorsmen and women to learn more about the outdoors and to encourage conservation activities through involvement in PATC activities.

The following are some of the planned activities:

### Workshops

- Trail Patrol and other PATC experts introduce visitors to:
- Beginning hiking
  - Safety in the outdoors
  - Backpacking essentials
  - Trail construction and maintenance
  - Mountain rescue (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group)
  - Hike leadership
  - Leave No Trace
  - Hiking apparel

### Hikes

- You may sign up for the hike of your choice (first-come, first-served), including these:
- Hike for family with young hikers
  - Hike for parents with infants
  - Natural and cultural history hike
  - Beginner hike
  - Strenuous hike
  - Moderate hike

If you would like to present a workshop on a PATC activity, or to get more information, please e-mail or call Kumait Jawdat [Kumait@jawdats.com](mailto:Kumait@jawdats.com) or 202/328-8137 (6:00 to 9:00 p.m. evenings or weekends).

## Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: May is the Birding Month

May is the last month of what I call the great spring triumvirate. For me, March starts the season with the gathering of spotted salamanders and frogs, while April's leafless forest brings spring ephemeral wildflowers. May can only mean the return of our neotropical migrant birds. Every spring, the bird population in North America grows by 2 to 5 billion with the arrival of these migrant birds which winter in southern Mexico, Central America, northern South America, and the West Indies. These migrants include thrushes, vireos, swifts, tanagers, flycatchers, orioles, swallows, and the warblers. In fact, in North America, of the 650 breeding bird species, 332, or 51 percent, are neotropical migrants.

In Shenandoah National Park, this migration tends to peak in numbers by the first or second week in May. Since 1952 the Audubon Naturalist Society has conducted a May bird census. Counting year-round residents as well as migrants, the Society has recorded some 154 different species. It's a wonderful and bewildering time to identify birds by song or by sight.

These migrants are primarily insectivores and have spent their winter sharing the neotropical forests with the resident bird populations. The timing of their return matches the emergence of insects in our forests. And the insects, in turn, key their metamorphosis on the availability of their food source, namely the emergence of plant foliage.

### Impact of Foliage, Insects, Birds

I love spring in our forests. Everything seems to come back to life, and it's all due to the increasing daylight. When you look at nature and how it runs, you see our life forms are fueled by solar energy input, more specifically, how this energy source is utilized. In our spring ecosystem, a tremendous amount of energy is captured in the biomass of plant foliage,

insects, and birds. All three of these are closely related, and impacts on any one of these energy sources will greatly influence the other two. For example, with the decreasing numbers of neotropical migrants, one can imagine the increase in insect populations that would result. Similarly, cutting down the forests removes fuel for the insects, which reduces the fuel for our migrants (not to mention reducing habitat). As we humans diminish any of the three of these life forms, we reduce the fertility and diversity of our natural ecosystem.

Our Eastern deciduous forests can be characterized by a few dominant life forms. Certainly, salamanders are one of these defining elements, with more species found in North Carolina than all of Europe. Oaks, which basically fuel the animal community through the fall and winter through their mast production are certainly another key member. Ferns would have to be another member of this exclusive club. But this limited list would not be complete without including the wood warblers, found nowhere else in the world but in North America. Of the 115 wood-warbler species in this strictly New World tribe, about 60 range north of Mexico. Frequently, on a good day, 15 or more species of warblers have been found on a single morning in May. Thirty-three or more species have been recorded in every state in our region.

Listening and looking for these warblers and the other birds of our forests is a rite of spring. In addition to playing a major role in the energy cycle of our forests, birds are often extremely colorful and vocal. If you'd like an opportunity to learn more about our native birds, you're welcome to join us May 17 for a day in the field. Look in the Forecast section of the *PA* for more details on this program. □

—Bob Pickett

### Council Fire, from page 2

member from Mercerville, Pa., who had thru-hiked the AT, canoed the Mississippi, and worked on the Tuscarora Trail for 20 years. Wilson reported \$605 was spent on snow removal at Headquarters during the recent snowstorms. Mr. Salinger distributed the monthly budget report for February 2003, noting that sales had been slow. He also reported a \$52,000 loss for the month; however, that included the short-term loan of \$53,000 to ATC.

### Trails and Lands

Vice President of Operations Hop Long reported attending the Lee District Forest Service Trail User Meeting, noting that about half of the 30 attendees were horseback riders. Four members from PATC were present. Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton reported attending the March Forest Service meeting. He announced that this summer's work for the Massarock Crew has been planned. Regarding safety, Liles reported several upcoming training dates for trail maintenance and chainsaw certification. He also spoke on new safety requirements instituted by the Forest Service. Tom

Johnson informed Council that the three PATC representatives to the ATC Strategic Planning Meeting had been selected: Liles Creighton, Kerry Snow, and Tom Johnson.

### Facilities

Supervisor of Facilities Larry Marcoux notified Council that a committee would be formed to examine the potential sale of the Headquarters property. The committee will ascertain the Club's needs, including storage, parking, and room to grow.

### Membership And Volunteerism

Supervisor of Membership Susan Nelson submitted a membership report for March 2003 showing total membership to be 7,001. Vice President of Volunteerism Mickey McDermott reported attending the AHS advocacy conference. He reported some statistics of interest comparing ATC and the Florida Trails Association. He also reported the theme for this year's National Trails Day is "Healthy Trails, Healthy People." Supervisor of Information, Education, and Activities Mal Fordham reported more

progress on the Club computer problem. He informed Council that the Computer Committee would be organized into database, networking, and Web site subcommittees.

### Other Business

Dave Pierce informed Council that he contributed seven data points to the 2003 edition of the "AT Data Book," and noted which publications will need editing as a result of changes to the AT.

Maryland AT Manager Charlie Graf reported that a special use permit has been awarded to the Willard family for pastureland. This will preserve an open vista and cultural landscape. He also announced that, with two other volunteers, he completed installing a privy accessible to people with disabilities at Annapolis Rocks.

The March Council meeting was attended by 10 Club officers, eight committee chairs, two chapter representatives, one section representative, three other members, one staff person, and three representatives from Shenandoah National Park. □

—Georgeann Smale, Secretary

## Tracking Big Foot Along the Potomac River

If you hid indoors from the snow of this past winter, you can be assured that hiking was still available close to home. That is what 28 hearty souls found after one of the February snows as they hiked down the upper half of the Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT). The hike was part of a new joint American Hiking Society (AHS)-PATC endeavor to connect with staffers on Capitol Hill and other government park authorities. Sponsored by the House Trails Caucus – an ad hoc group of dozens of members of congress – the hikes are led by PATC to different locales each season.

The fall hike was to Sugarloaf Mountain in Maryland to see autumn colors, and this winter's hike on the PHT highlighted Mother Nature's work which provided a smooth carpet of six inches of snow.

Starting beneath the American Legion Bridge, the 28 souls (thankfully, only five only had sneakers) tracked through the snow to enjoy the solitude of the upper PHT. PATC District Manager Bruce Glendening provided stories along the way about the history of Plummer's Island, the CIA presence, and the water gauge that measured the historic 1936 Potomac River flood, which put most of what is now the PHT under 15 feet of water.

No sign of Bigfoot was found, but tracks of fox and deer were abundant since we were the first trekkers after the fallen snow along this portion of the PHT. Timing for the hike was perfect as the Potomac began to rise shortly thereafter with the President's Day snowfall, putting many portions of the PHT under water during the early spring.

After five miles of snow-hiking, the group finished at Fort Marcy, hearing about the Civil War encampment and a more recent event on the PHT provided by Vince Foster's (Clinton aide) suicide in 1993 on the Fort grounds. At the conclusion, hikers considered the boast that the PHT is the "best urban trail" in America, with a trail-



*House Trails Caucus hikers step gingerly across the snow-covered boulder crossing at Dead Run on the PHT.*

head being within five miles of a major metropolitan center and a quarter-mile of the Rosslyn Metro stop (Portland, Ore., trails were offered as competition). No matter one's position on the "best urban trail" boast, House staffers and some Interior Department staff left with a new appreciation of what can be found close at hand to Washington, D.C., and the serenity of the Potomac River in winter.

Next up for the PATC-AHS series is a wildflower hike somewhere close to the Shenandoah, and then an early summer hike is scheduled to Annapolis Rocks and the AT. □

—Bruce Glendening

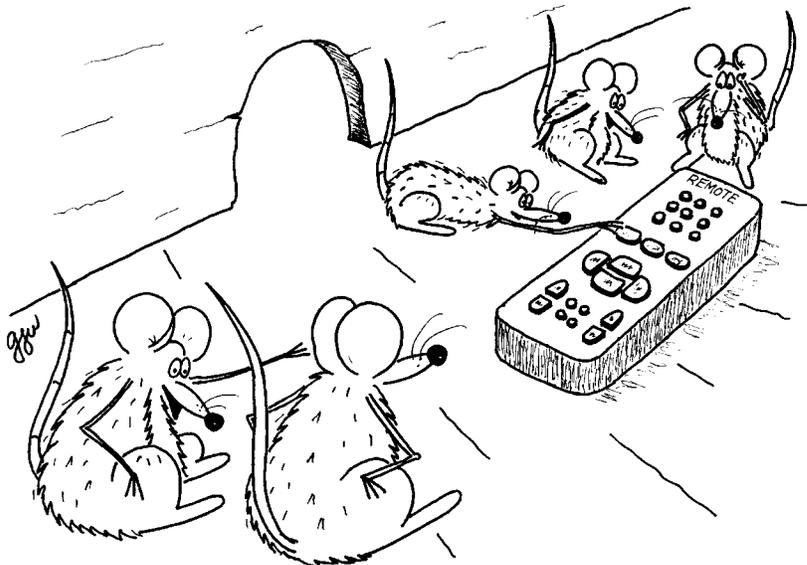
## First Public Hike of PHT's New Laurel Hill

The Potomac Trail Council has finally received permission from both the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to construct new trails on their lands, which enables this unique National Trails Day (NTD) event. This is the first public hike of the new Laurel Hill (former Lorton Prison) section of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and Fairfax Cross County Trail. It completes the fourth and final leg of the Ultimate Cross County Hike, begun last year for NTD.

Ultimate Cross-County Hike, June 7, 2003. 8 a.m.: Final Leg: First public hike along Laurel Hill section of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and Fairfax

*See Laure; Hill, page 19*

## Tails from the Woods by George Walters



*"I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS EITHER MARTHA... BUT THE GUYS ARE ALL FASCINATED BY IT!"*

PATC Trail Patrol Presents  
**Wilderness First Aid**

by NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute  
 Sat. - Sun., May 17-18

Be prepared for the most common medical emergencies you are likely to encounter in the backcountry. This hands-on two-day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel and work in the outdoors, including:

- patient assessment
- head injuries
- shock and bleeding
- wound management
- fractures
- dislocations
- heat and cold injuries
- lightning
- anaphylaxis
- unconscious patients
- first aid kits

Cost: \$100. Subsidized price includes:

- certification upon successful completion
- Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast
- lodging (bunks are first-come, first-served; space outdoors for tents).

Conditions: PATC membership, re-registration and pre-payment required. Limited space. E-mail Kumait Jawdat at [kumait@jawdats.com](mailto:kumait@jawdats.com) to reserve a place and arrange payment.

Additional course information available at [www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/](http://www.nols.edu/wmi/courses/).

**National Park Service Award Ceremony Delayed**

The NPS Partnership Award ceremony, originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2003, in Philadelphia, was cancelled over Homeland Security issues. There has not been a date set as yet to present this award, but we will let you know as soon as we have more information. □  
 —Editor

*Barbeque, from page 1*

\$5 for children under seven. (Babies are free!) The registration fee covers happy hour, beginning around 5:00 p.m., dinner, beverages, and dessert on the 12th, as well as camping or bunking privileges. In addition, breakfast is served to all participants on the 13th.

There is limited parking right at Blackburn, but cars can be parked in various locations, except where prohibited, along the dirt road leading to the cabin. For those who want to get in as much hiking as possible, cars can be parked at the bottom of the road, providing you with approximately a mile to stretch out those legs.

So pack up your gear, put on your hiking boots, and join us for a truly enjoyable, recreational, and culinary weekend.

Please mail the attached registration form along with the appropriate fee to Lisa Still at: 5812 Cove Landing Rd., Unit #302, Burke, VA 22015.

- Checks should be made out to Lisa Still and sent with the accompanying registration form no later than June 30, 2003.
- As much as we love them, please leave your dogs at home or at the pet hotel!
- Due to its success last year, we are holding the 2nd Annual Dessert Contest. Bring your best cookies, cakes, pies, or otherwise

Grandma's favorite recipe. Prizes awarded to first-, second-, and third-place winners.

Volunteers are welcome and needed for several activities. If you would like to assist with this event or have any questions, please contact Caren or Blaine Robinson at 703/560-1361 before 9:00 p.m. or e-mail them at [imshemish@aol.com](mailto:imshemish@aol.com). □

—Caren Rothstein-Robinson

**Schedule of Events:**

**Saturday, July 12 – Blackburn Trail Center**

- 10:00 a.m. Long Hike (7 miles)
- 11:00 a.m. Short Hike (3 miles)
- Lunch (On Your Own)
- 1:00-2:00 p.m. Arts and Crafts
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Children's Scavenger Hunt
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Happy Hour
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. BBQ Dinner
- 7:30-8:00 p.m. Dessert Contest Judging and Prize Award & Raffle Drawing
- 8:00 p.m.-? Relaxing, Game Time, and Music on the Porch (bring your favorite games and/or instruments)

**Sunday, July 13 – Blackburn Trail Center**

- 8:30-10:00 a.m. Breakfast and Farewells! □

—Caren Rothstein-Robinson

**Blackburn Summer BBQ Registration – Saturday and Sunday, July 12-13, 2003**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_  
 DESSERT CONTEST ITEM: \_\_\_\_\_ (If interested, please indicate what delicious item you will be entering!)  
 Number of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$30.00 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of children ages 7-15: \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$15.00 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of children 6 and under: \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$5.00 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail reservation form and check to: Lisa Still at 5812 Cove Landing Rd., Unit #302, Burke, VA 22015.  
 Registration forms must be received no later than June 30, 2003

**IMPORTANT: Please be sure to make your check payable to Lisa Still.**

# Trail Patrol Awards

PATC Trail Patrol annually recognizes its members for outstanding service to the hiking community in three categories: PATC Service Awards, Trail Patrol Century Awards, and Trail Patrol Volunteer of the Year.

## PATC Service Awards

The following Trail Patrol members received PATC Service Awards for the 2002 period (Oct. 1, 2001 – Sept. 30, 2002) “in recognition of outstanding volunteer work in support of the Club’s activities.”

### John Buchheit

John made important contributions as a Leave No Trace Master and backpacking instructor for the Trail Patrol. In both areas he brought exceptional skills and educational abilities.

### Karen Crawford

The New Members Coordinator, Karen presided over the admission of many new Trail Patrol members, corresponding with hundreds of prospects. She also provided instruction to the Hike Leadership Training program.

### Dave Erdman

Dave recorded the minutes of Trail Patrol meetings over the course of the year, maintained the roster, and tracked a variety of items for the Chair, in addition to finding time to hike regularly. Dave has made it possible for the first time to provide regular minutes of the meetings.

### Ben Fernandez

As Chair of the Trail Patrol Hike Leadership Training Committee, Ben continued to expand the program and educate prospective leaders about the skills of conducting safe, enjoyable hikes. Ben also continued his enthusiastic support for several Trail Patrol programs, including membership training, outreach programs, administration, and as a backpacking instructor. He also was active in leading Meet the Trail Patrol hikes.

### Mal Fordham

The Trail Patrol Volunteer of the Year in 2001, this year Mal continued his outstanding work on many fronts. As the Trail Patrol Ridgerunner Coordinator, Mal hired, helped train, managed, and supported PATC’s three Ridgerunners. In addition, Mal was an instructor with the Backpacking Committee and the Hike Leadership Training Committee, provided Leave No Trace training on several occasions, and conducted many patrols.

### Joe Gareri

Joe continued to play an important role in the backpacking group, leading out-

ings, providing instruction, and helping organize classes.

### Hal Hallett

As in past years, Hal contributed to the Trail Patrol on many fronts. As co-founder with Larry Eads of the backpacking program, Hal continued to inspire the group with enthusiasm for the outdoors and a sense of responsibility for maintaining it. Hal has continued to offer his uniquely qualified instruction on Leave No Trace.

### Mark Hingston

As Trail Patrol Treasurer, Mark tracked the group’s budget. Mark also provided instruction at Trail Patrol training sessions and at Hike Leadership Training, while maintaining a steady schedule of patrols.

### Greg Howell

Greg contributed in a variety of ways, most significantly as one of the primary Leave No Trace instructors and as a backpacking instructor.

### Barbara Logan

Barbara played an important role in the Trail Patrol training as an organizer and instructor. Barbara also developed, with Chris Logan, a 10-minute-long video describing Trail Patrol’s mission and activities.

### Chris Logan

The Training Officer, Chris organized two highly successful weekend training sessions, and he followed and monitored the development of probationary members up to their induction into Active status. Chris also worked with Barbara Logan to shoot and produce the Trail Patrol video.

### John Luck

As Trail Patrol Vice Chair, John supported the Chair and ensured that Trail Patrol continued to function in his absence. John wrote articles about the Trail Patrol and took photographs that were published in the *PA*, he regularly represented Trail Patrol at PATC New Members meetings, and patrolled regularly.

### Larry Marcoux

Backpacking Committee Chair, Larry devoted his usual tireless efforts to promoting the backpacking courses, organizing them and ensuring that they were conducted smoothly and efficiently.

### Anniell Miller

Anniell continued her extraordinary development of the Trail Patrol Leave No Trace program, providing LNT training to a variety of institutions in addition to PATC. The committee’s dedicated members provided several training sessions over the year.

Anniell also participated in a variety of other activities, including backpacking instruction and training new members.

### Catherine Pipan

As the Operations Officer, Catherine has done a tremendous job organizing patrols. She has provided Trail Patrol with its first regular weekly newsletter, informing members of upcoming patrols and activities. She also led a large number of patrols.

### Holly Wheeler

The Trail Patrol Volunteer of the Year in 2000-2001, Holly has continued to support the Trail Patrol’s mission in several ways: as a hike leader, as a backpacking instructor, and as a Trail Patrol instructor.

## Trail Patrol Century Awards

The Century Award is given to each member who reports 100 miles or more of patrols during the year. In 2002, Kisun set a new record of miles patrolled by a Trail Patrol member in one year – by hundreds of miles! Overall, Trail Patrol reported three times as many patrol miles as in any preceding year.

Kisun Han: . . . . .	.562 miles
Catherine Pipan: . . . . .	.208 miles
Larry Knutson: . . . . .	.200 miles
Ben Fernandez: . . . . .	.190 miles
Mal Fordham: . . . . .	.182 miles
Jonathan Ortega: . . . . .	.129 miles
Georgeann Smale: . . . . .	.125 miles
Matthew Kirkconnell: . . . . .	.117 miles
Jane Thompson: . . . . .	.101 miles

## Trail Patrol Volunteer of the Year

### Ben Fernandez

The Volunteer of the Year award is given to the Trail Patrol member who, in the opinion of the Chair, has contributed most to the success of the Trail Patrol endeavors. In 2002, the choice was made especially difficult because so many Trail Patrol members provided outstanding contributions.

The Chair chose Ben because of the variety of activities in which he participated and the enthusiasm with which he pursued them. Even though he had his hands full as Chair of the Hike Leadership Committee, he nevertheless managed to log 190 miles in patrol reports, led several Meet the Trail Patrol hikes, assisted in outreach activities, provided new member training, and supported the Chair in dozens of administrative activities. Thanks to all Trail Patrol members for your contributions, large and small. Let’s make 2003 an even better year than last. □

—Kumait Jawdat  
PATC Trail Patrol Chair

## Conservancy Protests New Wind Power Project in Mountains

In November 2002, members of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy learned that the Guascor Group, a Spanish company with offices in Miami, was considering development of a wind energy project that would include 65 turbines atop Rich Mountain near Harman, W.Va. Guascor had approached some landowners to negotiate leases. The text of a protest letter from a West Virginia conservation group to Guascor follows:

“On Jan. 25, 2003, the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy voted to publicly oppose the construction of an extensive wind energy facility on Rich Mountain, near Harman, W.Va. We respectfully suggest that Guascor discontinue efforts to develop such a project.

“This decision is in line with a policy decided at our Oct. 20, 2002, board meeting: ‘The Highlands Conservancy does not support permits for wind power projects that would degrade scenic vistas from Canaan Valley, Dolly Sods, Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob and other special places in West Virginia.’

“The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is among the state’s best-known environmental advocacy organizations. We have a special concern and institutional role in protection of the Monongahela National Forest, which surrounds Rich Mountain. We do our best to take a balanced view regarding wind energy. We applaud its contribution of clean,



renewable energy but must also consider issues regarding visual impact, endangered species, and avian impact.

“In this case, our assessment indicates that the impact on the scenic splendors of the

Since 1992 the U.S. Department of Energy has been working to develop more efficient and lower-cost wind turbines. A project begun in 1994 dedicated \$40 million toward the development of two new turbines designed to be significant improvements over what was available. Both designs called for towers in excess of 200 and 300 feet, with rotors with diameters up to 177 feet. The average height of turbines in the early 1980s was just over 34 feet. Today many rotors exceed 262 feet, with tower heights in excess of 325 feet. The larger turbines allow for slower rotation speeds, resulting in fewer problems with bird collisions.

Noise level has been reduced through the years, and designers are now using colors that work to help blend the turbines in with the landscape.

Monongahela National Forest, including the Spruce Knob/Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area and two Wilderness Areas, would just be too great. The turbines would be clearly visible from many points on Spruce Mountain, including the observation platform at Spruce Knob. They would also be clearly visible from other special places, including Mt. Porte Crayon, Haystack Knob, Shavers Mountain, Middle Mountain, and Roaring Plains, as well as the Gandy Creek, Dry Fork, and Laurel Fork Valleys. The changes in vista would be particularly disturbing on clear, star-filled nights and at sunrise and sunset.

“In our discussions with other developers, we have sometimes recommended changes to mitigate visual impact while maintaining the main thrust of their projects. Unfortunately, in this case, the impact appears so extensive that we don’t think this is possible.

“We wish you the best of luck in your efforts to develop projects that will contribute to the world’s need for renewable energy without degrading the resources we need to protect.

“Please feel free to contact us at any time for further discussion.” □

*For more information, contact: Hugh Rogers, 304/636-2662, rogers@wvhighlands.org, or Peter Shoenfeld, 301/587-6197, peter@mountain.net.*

## In Memoriam

Elsie S. Kinsey, long-time Life Member of PATC, joined in 1952, died in February. She leaves her husband, Robert K. Kinsey, who still lives at 935 N. Halifax Avenue, Apt. 806-N, Daytona Beach, FL 32118. □

Rockwood H. “Adam” Foster, PATC member since 1980, died March 11, 2003. A government official in various departments including Republican member of the DC City Council, member of the DC Board of Elections, and vice president of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Also DC Commissioner and chairman of the Interstate Commission on Potomac River Basin and the C & O Canal National Historic Park Commission. □

—Patricia Fankhauser

## Shenandoah National Park Seminars

Shenandoah National Park, Va. – Following are seminars available in the coming months.

### It’s About Trout: May 24

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

### Focus and Frame: June 7-8

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

### Stories in the Rock: July 12

Join Robert Badger, author of “Geology Along Skyline Drive,” for a day spent discovering the geological story of Shenandoah National Park. Learn the vol-

canic history of the Blue Ridge Mountains and see how geology affects more than the scenery. \$35

### Air Quality: Aug. 9

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

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

## Shenandoah National Park Announces Spring Opening Dates

The arrival of warmer days signals the start of the spring travel season and the opening of facilities at SNP. Superintendent Doug Morris announced today that facilities have begun opening and openings will continue through the spring.

Visitor Centers will be operated as follows: Harry F. Byrd Visitor Center opened April 6; Dickey Ridge Visitor Center opened April 20; and Loft Mountain Information Center will open May 24.

Campgrounds will operate on the following schedule: Dundo and Big Meadows Campgrounds opened on April 4; Lewis Mountain Campground will open on May 2; Loft Mountain Campground will open on May 9; and Mathews Arm Campground will open on May 16.

Campground prices have increased this year and are as follows: Mathews Arm, Lewis Mountain, and Loft Mountain Campgrounds are \$16.00; Big Meadows Campground is \$16.00 off-season (April, May, and November) and \$19.00 in-season. Dundo Campground is \$32.00.

Elkwallow Wayside, Skyland Resort, and Big Meadows Wayside opened on March 28. Other Concessioner-operated restaurants, lodges, and associated facilities will operate as follows: Big Meadows Shower/Laundry opened on April 4; Big Meadows Lodge opened on April 17; Loft Mountain Wayside opened on April 18; Lewis Mountain Cabins and Lewis Mountain Campstore will open on May 2; Loft Mountain Campstore and Loft Mountain Shower and Laundry will open on May 9; and Panorama will open on May 16.

For more information about planning a trip to SNP, go to [www.nps.gov/shen](http://www.nps.gov/shen) and click on the "In depth" section or call the park at 540/999-3500. □

—Karen Beck-Herzog

## Overseers Share War Stories, Develop 'Look' of Outrage

The 4th Annual Cabin Overseers Meeting was held at Catoctin Cottage near Thurmont, Md., on March 8, 2003.

As in the past, a good time was had by all. Twenty-seven Overseers and several guests shared experiences and ideas and picked up new blankets, fire extinguishers, splitting mauls, and other useful items from the "free flea market." We also discovered The Bob Humphrey Look: a facial expression that seems to be common to anyone who is in charge of building a new PATC cabin when asked, "When will it be ready to go into the system?"

Tyler Somerville of Gypsy Spring, Tom Hebert of Eaton Hollow, Joel Anderson of John's Rest, and Park Anderson and Peg Manuel of Rosser Lamb have all perfected "the look." Only Charlie Graf seems certain that his Tulip Tree Cabin will be ready to go in the system this year.

Tom Johnson, president of PATC, spoke on the importance of the cabins system and cabin Overseers to the Club. Jerry

Bortner of Badger Fire Protection was there to give us information on the fire extinguishers his company donated.

A special award was created for this year's Most Improved Cabin. "The Order of the Silver Propane Tank" went to Tom Jorgensen, who carried out a major and very successful renovation at Weaver Cabin. Our "Left-Hand Person" award went to Cliff Willey for his work as SNP Cabins Regional Supervisor. Cliff arranged for \$30,000 in Park concession funds for the restoration of Rock Spring Cabin and improved our communications with the Park Service.

If you think you would like to join us as a cabin Overseer, the Cabins Committee has developed a Cabin Overseer Application. Cabin Overseers are expected to schedule work trips four to six times a year in order to keep cabins organized and well-maintained. A background of basic home-maintenance skills is useful. Please call or e-mail Pat Fankhauser at Headquarters if you are interested in applying. We expect a couple of positions to open this year. □

—Mel Merritt

## Birding Field Day Inaugurates Shaver Hollow Natural History Program

May is the peak of the breeding bird season in our Eastern forests, with 150 species known to nest in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Walking through the woods in May, one cannot help but be impressed by the tremendous variety of bird songs heard and the colorful plumage that is seen darting above our heads. This diversity can also be a bit intimidating and frustrating, even to the experienced birder. Here is an opportunity to spend a day with an expert birder and learn a bit about the birds that make the Blue Ridge their home.

Saturday, May 17, marks the first of a series of field days to be offered this year by PATC. These programs will be held on Darwin and Eileen Lambert's property in Shaver Hollow, Va., located on the west side of the Shenandoah National Park, near Route 211 and Luray. Darwin and Eileen have donated a five-acre tract to PATC, where the Club is currently constructing the

Tulip Tree Cabin. The morning will be spent in the field, spending four hours visiting a number of habitats, including open field, stream, lake, and wooded forests. We will adjourn to the Tulip Tree Cabin for lunch, where we can learn about its construction, which was done solely with hand tools. In the afternoon, our field experience will be supported by a two-hour classroom presentation on the evolution, classification, and role of birds in our forest ecology.

In addition to this birding program, we will be offering field day programs on butterflies, mushrooms, and geology as part of a broader Natural History Program, which PATC will be developing on the Shaver Hollow property. Notices will be provided in the Forecast section of *PA* and identified as Shaver Hollow Field Days. All programs are free. □

—Bob Pickett

# FORECAST

## Chapters

### Charlottesville Chapter

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

### North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the AT and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays – contact Mark Mitchell ([mdtrail@yahoo.com](mailto:mdtrail@yahoo.com)) 301/461-7048 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday – contact Pete Brown ([peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net](mailto:peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net)) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Spring cabin. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme ([bncfirme@innernet.net](mailto:bncfirme@innernet.net)) 717/794-2855. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Pete Brown or visit the North Chapter home page: [www.patc.net/chapters/north/](http://www.patc.net/chapters/north/).

### Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the Forecast. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Lee Sheaffer, ([thumpers@visualink.com](mailto:thumpers@visualink.com)) 540/955-0736.

### Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Please refer to our Web site at [www.ssvc.org](http://www.ssvc.org) or the one linked to the PATC Web site for descriptions of hikes and work trips. We usually hike in the southern and central districts of the SNP and in the GWNF. Contact the listed hike leader for information about a specific event, or contact John Held 540/564-1926 or Michael Seth 540/438-1301 for more information.

### West Virginia Chapter

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

### Ski Touring Section

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

### Mountaineering Section

We're a diverse group of local Washington, DC area climbers. Young and old, male and female, crag rat, sport climber, and alpinist, active and armchair types – we all enjoy climbing in its many varieties. We also share common interests in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those wanting to learn the basics – we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice climbers. For further information contact Andy Britton, ([tallandyb@aol.com](mailto:tallandyb@aol.com)) 703/622-1920, or ([MackMuir@edisaurus.com](mailto:MackMuir@edisaurus.com)).

### PATC Midweek Hikes

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

### Other Clubs' Hikes

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

## KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

## Meetings

### Meetings

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

### New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

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

### Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

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

### Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

### PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

### Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

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

## MAY

1 (Thursday)

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

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

1 (Thursday)

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

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

2 - 4 (Friday - Sunday)

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

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

3 (Saturday)

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

G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area. Be a part of PATC history! Starting as far back as the late 1920's, PATC members have hiked along this stretch of the AT at this time of the year to revel in the beauty of the literally millions of large-flowered trilliums. Led for many years by trail overseer Herman Nolte, then by Paula Strain, Bob Pickett now hosts this famous hike for his 13th year. After a moderately difficult one-mile hike up to the AT, we'll spend the afternoon hiking through some of the densest stands of trillium known on the east coast. Yellow lady's slipper orchids, nodding trillium, and occasionally, showy orchid orchids, are among the many wildflowers seen along this trail. And as if flowers weren't enough, this is a great place for warblers and scarlet tanagers. Morels, snakes and common loons have also been found on this hike. Reservations: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

3 (Saturday)

**RAIL WORK TRIP - Frederick County Appalachian Trail, MD**

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

3 (Saturday)

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

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

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Alexandria, VA**

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

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Backpacking 101 - Weekend Trip Location to be announced**

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

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

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

5 (Monday)

**HIKE - Family Hike - Manassas Battlefield Manassas, VA**

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

6 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Oceanside Hiking Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, VA**

Up to ten miles outbound along the water's edge viewing the waves, seashells, and shore birds and ten more back, mostly on inland trail to see the wild ponies. Long day - car pools meet at 5:30 a.m. and expected return about 7:00 p.m. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

6 (Tuesday)

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

7 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy hikers Glen Echo, MD**

Glen Echo Park and C&O Canal Towpath. A 5-6 mile hike followed by lunch in the Park and a ride on the adult friendly Carousel. The Clara Barton House is on an adjacent site has free tours on the hour until 4 p.m. From the I-495 beltway, exit 41. Follow Clara Barton Parkway east where it will merge into Cabin John Parkway. Proceed to the Cabin John exit, left over the bridge, right onto MacArthur Blvd. and go about 1 mile to Glen Echo Park entrance. Start at 10:15 a.m., rain or shine. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

7 (Wednesday)

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

8 (Thursday)

**HIKE - In-between Hikers Great Falls and Riverbend Parks, VA**

5-9 miles at moderate-fast pace. Start 10:00 a.m. Meet at Great Falls Park Visitor Center parking lot. From Beltway, take Exit 44 west on VA 193 (Georgetown Pike) for 4 miles to Old Dominion Drive. At traffic light turn right. Go 1 mile to park entrance. Fee \$5 per vehicle or Park Pass. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Mary Siu 703/533-1430.

10 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Hazeltop Mountain Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Join us for a day of spring cleaning on one of Shenandoah National Park's highest peaks with a tremendous view near the summit. We'll be doing annual waterbar clearing with pick mattocks, shovels, and McLeods, and may even have time to build a stone waterbar or two. First timers are encouraged to attend, but all are welcome. Join some of the personalities who frequent PATC's online Trails Forum, who regularly attend this event. INFO: Andy Hiltz (jhiltz@cox.net) 703/764-0121.

10 (Saturday)

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

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

10 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew Pen Mar Park, PA**

North Chapter Spring meeting and picnic at Pen Mar Park, 9:30 a.m. For meeting place and other details, INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)

**SPECIAL EVENT - 17th Annual Wildflower Weekend South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Rangers and volunteer experts will lead hikes to South River Falls, Rose River Loop, Hightop Mountain, Millers Head, Pocosin Mission, Bootens Gap, Mill Prong Trail, the AT, and Hawksbill Mountain. Featured speaker Alan Weakley will give a slide program on the new "Flora of Virginia" project. Trillium, lady's slippers, jack-in-the-pulpit, wood anemones, wild geranium and many more native woodland flowers may be in bloom. It's also peak time for migrant birds. Look and listen for scarlet tanagers, indigo buntings, wood thrushes, veeries, rose-breasted grosbeaks, cerulean warblers, ovenbirds and many more. The complete program schedule is available on the park's Web site: www.nps.gov/shen or call Mara Meisel, Wildflower Weekend coordinator 540/999-3283.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Per Lee Tract, Madison, VA**

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

13 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Thompson Wildlife Management Area, VA**

An annual excursion into the pink trillium wildflowers of the Wildlife Management Area with options up to 15 miles and 3,300 foot elevation change. Bring cameras to capture the wildflower display. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

13 (Tuesday)

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

# FORECAST

14 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers

Fort Hunt Park, VA

Remember when that big February snowstorm canceled our tribute to the country's first leader, George Washington, on President's Day holiday week? Now is your chance to make it up with a springtime 6-mile hike along the Potomac River. Meet at 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot of Fort Hunt Park. Take George Washington Parkway south to Fort Hunt Park entrance. Turn right into park. Lunch will be in the fast food court at the Mount Vernon Inn. Group will return to starting point after lunch. No pets! INFO: Jim Flanigan (jflanigan@aol.com) 202/554-3775.

14 (Wednesday)

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

17 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - In-between Hikers

Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

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

17 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - Shaver Hollow Field Days

Shaver Hollow, VA

Here's a chance to spend a day learning about our nesting birds with noted regional naturalist and birder, Ken Bass. Many of you are familiar with the on-going construction of the Tulip Tree Cabin. We'll hike in a variety of habitats looking and listening to the many species of warblers and other birds that are busy finding mates and making nests in the Blue Ridge Mountains. As noted in the news article on page 9 of this issue this event is being held at Darwin and Eileen Lamberts property that is adjacent to the Shenandoah National Park near Luray, VA. It is also the site of the on-going construction of the Tulip Tree Cabin, where we will be having lunch. We'll be birding in the field from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. After lunch, Mr. Bass will present a two-hour discussion on the birds of this region; their natural history and lifestyles. You will be assured of learning much about our breeding bird population, along with the other aspects of nature, on this free program. INFO/RSVP: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

17 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - Waterfall and Wild Flower Series

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The second hike of the Waterfall and Wild Flower Series will be a 16-mile hike starting at the Bluff trail to include about 4 miles of bush-whacking. Elevation gain is 3,300 feet. Waterfalls to be visited are Big Devil Stairs, Jordan River Waterfall, and Lands Run. A side trip to see the columnar jointing is optional. There will be a 6-mile shuttle along Skyline Drive. Shorter distances are options. PATC Map 9. Meet at the Oakton Shopping Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack Thorsen, (thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127.

17 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Seneca Creek Trail (REI)

Damascus, MD

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join REI and Montgomery County Parks for a trail construction project along the Magruder Branch tributary of Seneca Creek, northeast of Gaithersburg. We'll be working on the final half mile segment connecting Damascus, MD to the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail. Work will include clearing the trail corridor, invasive plant removal, some tread and waterbar work, and blazing the finished trail segment. Volunteers need to bring water, lunch and work gloves. Tools provided, but volunteers owning loppers are encouraged to bring them. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400 or respond to the website at senecatrail.org.

17 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

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

17 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade

Shenandoah County, VA

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

17 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew

Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 CLASS - Wilderness First Aid

Blackburn Trail Center, VA

Trail Patrol sponsors a fast-paced, hands-on course by the NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute. The course provides certification and includes such wilderness emergency topics as patient assessment, head injuries, shock and bleeding, wound management, fractures, dislocations, heat and cold injuries, lightning, anaphylaxis, unconscious patients and first aid kits. Pre-registration required (see boxed ad on page 6 of this issue). INFO: Kumait Jawdat (Kumait@Jawdat.com) or leave message at 202/328-8320.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Jambalaya on down to SNP for the Hoodlums' Cajun worktrip! Y'all come! The Hoodlums Trail Crew works on the Appalachian Trail in the North District of SNP, building rock steps and log water-bars, and engaging in similar other down-and-dirty treadwork chores by day, but after a good day's work, the crew settles down to enjoy the fruits of their labor afterwards in grand fashion via the theme meal and festivities at a facility within the park. No trail work experience is necessary and newcomers are always welcome. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, camp out overnight in SNP - lots of options! What a 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. Please reserve by mid-

week prior. INFO/RSVP: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

18 (Sunday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - C&O Canal

Potomac, MD

Join us for a half-day work trip on the Ford Mine Trail at the C&O Canal. This will be an easy introduction to trail maintenance that will leave you time for an afternoon of hiking or biking on the towpath. Meet at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center, in the fenced courtyard at the back, at 9:00 a.m. Bring water and work gloves. INFO: Georgeann Smale (gsmale99@yahoo.com) 301/581-9584.

20 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Snowed out in February we will try this hike again. Up Rose River Fire Road to unmarked Cutoff Trail connecting to Rose River Loop Trail. Climb to drive and go south on AT to the Lewis Fall Trail. Return via Rapidan Fire Road and Dark Hollow Falls Trail - 18 miles 4,300 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

20 (Tuesday)

🏠 MEETING - Grants and Donations

Vienna, VA

A meeting of people interested in getting grants and donations for the Club will be held in the Library upstairs at HQ at 7:30 p.m. The Land Acquisition Fund will need replenishing as we begin the job of securing land for the Tuscarora Trail, and the renovation and repair of our cabins and shelters always needs funds for lumber, nails and paint. If you're interested in helping with this activity, please join us or write Grants and Donation Chair, Susan Nelson (warnelson@aol.com) 703/243-7867.

21 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers

National Arboretum, Washington, DC

The Easy Hikers will hike about 4 easy miles through the Arboretum. Meet at 10:15 a.m. on the main parking lot immediately inside the R Street entrance. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take Baltimore-Washington Parkway south from the Beltway. At split with I-295, bear right on New York Avenue toward Washington. Continue 2 miles to Bladensburg Road at a major intersection. Turn left and go 0.4 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.

24 - 26 (Saturday - Monday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

Vining Tract near Stanardsville, VA

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

27 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

George Washington National Forest, VA/WV

Little Sluice Mountain Trail to Tuscarora Trail west to Mill Mountain Trail to Big Schloss rock towers. Return on Cutoff Trail 17 miles 3,000 ft. 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** - Gold mine and Great Falls Great Falls, MD

Five mile hike from old Angler's Inn to Great Falls, MD. Meet at 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot across from Old Angler's Inn on MacArthur Blvd. Bring lunch and water. From I-495 Beltway go west on Clara Barton Parkway to its end at MacArthur Blvd. Go west one mile and turn left into the parking area across from Old Angler's Inn. INFO: Mitch Helbrecht. (Helbrecht@msn.com) 703/535-3236.

31 (Saturday)

**HIKE** - In-between Hikers Springfield, VA

Pohick and South Run Valley Stream Parks. Joint hike with Sierra Club, MWROP. Ten miles, I-95 to Burke Lake. From Fairfax County Parkway (VA7100), Pohick Road south 3 miles to Rolling Road light. Go right 0.2 miles to Wadebrook Terr. No pets. Bring lunch. Car shuttle required. Start at 9 a.m., rain or shine. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965 or Frank Wodarczyk 703/569-6737.

## JUNE

1 (Sunday)

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

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

1 (Sunday)

**SPECIAL EVENT** - 25+ Year Members PATC Headquarters, Vienna, VA

The Club is having a party for our long-time members on Sunday, June 1st from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at PATC Headquarters. This will be exclusively for those who joined the Club 25 years or more ago. We're planning a fun afternoon for folks to see old friends, tour the Club, look and laugh over old photos and have refreshments. Hope to see you then. Shuttle service from the Vienna Metro stop will be available from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. and from Headquarters at the end of the party. Look for a member with a PATC sign. INFO: Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Extension 17

3 (Tuesday)

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

3 (Tuesday)

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

Begin with the scenic ascent up Little Devil Stairs, connecting to the Sugarloaf Trail to inspect the laurel in season joining the AT to the Tuscarora, the Elkwallow Trail the AT then descending the Piney Branch Trail and the Hull School Trail for 4,000 feet and 17 miles. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

4 (Wednesday)

**CAMP** - Kid's Outdoor Adventure (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Join REI's outdoor adventurers, and explore some great places to take kids camping, and some sure-fire exciting outdoor adventures for kids of all ages. We'll explore great spots from mountains to the ocean, how to get started, nec-

essary and helpful gear, camp safety, fun food, cool wildlife, and the art of sleeping in a tent. Join us for some great fun and bring the kids. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

4 (Wednesday)

**HIKE** - Easy Hikers - Patuxent River Park Jug Bay, MD

Meet at 10:15 in parking lot near park office. Hike preceded by 1 1/2 hour river cruise on "Otter" with park naturalist. Capacity 20 passengers. Reserve early. Directions: Beltway (I-495), Exit 11, go southeast on Pennsylvania Ave. (MD 4) 6.2 miles to cut-off for Crain Highway. Bear right 0.2 miles to fork, then shortly left 1.8 miles to MD 301, ease right 0.6 miles to Croom Road (MD 382), turn left 2.1 mile to Croom Airport Road, left again 2.1 miles to park entrance road, and left once more to parking lot just beyond visitor's center. Total 15.6 miles from the Beltway. Bring lunch and water. Leader, Henry Shryock. INFO/RSVP: Suzanne or John Kominski 703/751-3026.

4 (Wednesday)

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

5 (Thursday)

**HIKE** - In-between Hike.

Glen Echo, MD

Glen Echo, Cabin John Creek and C&O Canal Towpath. Joint hike with Sierra Club, MWROP. A moderate/fast 9 miles. From beltway (I495) exit 41. Follow Clara Barton Parkway east where it will merge onto Cabin John Parkway. Go to Cabin John exit, left over bridge, right on MacArthur Boulevard and 1 mile to Glen Echo Park entrance. At end, ride Carousel and visit Clara Barton House. Start at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine. Bring water/lunch. No pets. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

7 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP** - National Trails Day

Seneca Creek, Damascus, MD

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join REI, MNCPPC, and the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail Coalition for a trail construction project. We'll be pushing north from Huntmaster Rd. toward the link with Magruder Branch. Finishing this segment will open up a continuous 30-mile trail from Damascus, Md. to the Potomac River at Riley's Lock on the C&O Towpath. Volunteers need to bring water, lunch, and work gloves. Any tools would be welcome. The work will include clearing corridor, some tread work and waterbars, invasive plant removal, and blazing. INFO/RSVP: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400 or respond to senecatrail.org Web site.

7 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP** -

Rock Creek Park Crew

Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There can't be a better way to celebrate National Trails Day than coming to Rock Creek Park for some trail work. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee (202/895-6221).

7 (Saturday)

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

The Trail House of Frederick, MD is sponsoring the South Mountaineer's National Trails Day event for the third consecutive year. Thanks to owners Clyde and Gerry Hicks for their support of PATC. Join us for work on the trail and a hearty meal and social event in the park afterwards. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.



7 (Saturday)

**SPECIAL EVENT** - PATC National Trails Day Dickey Ridge VC Shenandoah National Park, VA

Trail Patrol is sponsoring an all-day event (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) in the Shenandoah National Park with workshops that showcase such PATC activities as hiking and hike leadership, backpacking, Leave No Trace, trail building and maintenance, mountain rescue, safety in the outdoors and many others. Designed for both beginners and experienced outdoorsmen and women, the event will also feature hikes for people with a wide variety of experience and interests, including natural history, cultural history, botany, hiking for children, hiking for beginners and long-distance hiking (see boxed ad on page 3 of this issue). INFO: Kumait Jawdat (Kumait@jawsdats.com) 202/328-8137 (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. or weekends).

7 - 8 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS** - Annual Spring Overseers Workshop

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Blue/White Crew & Natl. Park Service. Sign up early for the Annual Spring Overseer Workshop. The workshop will be held at the Pinnacles Research Station. Participants may arrive on Friday evening to set up camp. The workshop starts promptly at 9 a.m. on Saturday and ends after lunch on Sunday. The registration fee is \$20 and covers dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysnow@comcast.net) 301/570-0596 or check the registration/info page at www.blueandwhitecrew.org.

10 (Tuesday)

**HIKE** - Vigorous Hikers

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Another opportunity to view laurel in season, by ascending to Bear Church Rock, continuing to Cat Knob, returning on the Fork Mountain, Staunton River Trail with options up to 18 miles and 4,300 feet of elevation gain. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

10 (Tuesday)

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

11 (Wednesday)

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

11 (Wednesday)

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

Highacre Cabin, Harpers Ferry, VA

14 (Saturday)

**HIKE** - Appalachian Trail Hike

Big Flats section, PA

Pine Grove Furnace State Park to Big Flats parking lot Arendtsville-Shippensburg Rd. 8.3 miles, moderate hike, elevation change of 1,200 feet. This section of the AT takes in Toms Run and Birch Run shelters. We will be crossing the Big Flats area, which at an elevation of 2,000 feet is cool in the summer and very cold in the winter. Meet at 10:00 am at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. INFO: Christopher Firme (bnctirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855.

14 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP**

Appalachian Trail, MD

Enjoy gardening? This is on a much grander scale. Enjoy the camaraderie of other volunteers in the woods, making a difference and getting away from the city. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

# FORECAST

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **HIKE - Appalachian Trail Hike**

Location to be announced

An overnigher at a PATC cabin. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855.

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Pass Mountain**

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come join the Overseers and District Manager as we take our annual whack at the persistent briars and weeds on the AT between Beahms Gap and Thornton Gap. A portion of this chronically overgrown section is in Wilderness. Overnight at Range View Cabin for all who are interested. The DM will prepare a special treat for dinner. Bring gloves, water, loppers, weeders and appropriate weather gear. Info: John McCreia (mccreiaj@aol.com) 610/352-9287.

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**

Shockeys Knob, VA

Near Gainesboro west of Winchester. Join the Cadillac Crew as we work to reopen a trail from High Rocks in the Sleepy Creek WMA to the old Tuscarora Trail. Some work may still be needed to assist in the construction of a shelter on Shockeys Knob. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Brill Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

15 (Sunday)

👤 **HIKE - Appalachian Trail Hike - North Chapter**

Big Pine Flat Section, PA

Big Flats parking lot Arendtsville-Shippensburg Rd. to Caledonia State Park/PA. Rte 30. 11.4 miles, difficult hike, elevation change of 1,100 feet. We will be hiking through areas of oak tree growth mixed with pitch/Virginia pine species. We might even be able to see ant mounds found along the trail. We will also be hiking past Quarry Gap Shelters and we might even get a glimpse of the rare Jim Stauch known as the Overseer of these shelters. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Big Flats parking lot. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855.

17 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

Long Mountain, WV

16-mile out-and-back hike from Bucktail intersection of Long Mountain Trail to Rockcliff Lake (maybe a swim?) INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

18 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Mason Neck, VA

Meet at 10:15 a.m. at Woodmarsh Trail. Hike about 4 easy miles in Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge and Mason Neck State Park. From beltway, take RT 611, Telegraph Road south. At 9.6 miles, stay in the middle lane marked by straight ahead arrow, to cross RT 1 and continue on RT 611, now called Colchester Road. After 1.8 miles, turn left on Gunston Road. Go 3.7 miles to right turn at sign for Mason Neck State Park. Go 0.6 mile to parking for Woodmarsh Trail on left. Bring lunch and binoculars if you wish; we may see eagles. Call if weather is doubtful. INFO: John and Suzanne Kominski 703/751-3026.



*Cabin Supervisors take a moment to get a group shot after their March 8 Cabin Overseers meeting at Catoctin Cottage. Not present is Tom Jorgensen, South District Supervisor, who couldn't wait to show off. L-R Ben Mayock, Central District Cabin Supervisor; Pat Fankhauser, PATC Cabin Coordinator; Tyler Somerville, North District Cabin Supervisor; Mel Merritt, Chairman, Cabins Operations and Vining Tract Cabins Supervisor; Cliff Willey, Shenandoah Natl. Park Cabin Supervisor.*

20 - 22 (Friday - Sunday)

👤 **BACKPACKING TRIP - WV Chapter**

Spruce Knob, WV

Ever wondered what lay beyond the trail's end? Or how about the "abandoned trail" listing on an older map? Come find out as we bushwhack through spruce and laurel, trying to find our own hidden Shangri-La. Strenuous. This trip is located on the highest mountain in WV, near Cass, WV. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319 between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

21 (Saturday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers**

Appalachian Trail, MD

The tenth of 19 South Mountaineers work events this year. Join our volunteer crew, enjoy the peace of the woods and go home happy if fired. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

21 - 22 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **CLASS - Trail Patrol Training**

Glass House, Fort Valley, VA

This weekend course teaches the fundamental skills for joining the team that patrols, monitors and helps hikers along PATC's 1,000 miles of trails. Training topics include land navigation, Leave No Trace, equipment and clothing, how to communicate with hikers (scenario-based training), radio skills and Trail Patrol duties. Pre-registration required. INFO: Dave Paxton (explorewilderness@yahoo.com) 304/344-0429 (6 p.m. to 9 p.m. evenings or weekends).

24 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

South District - Shenandoah National Park, VA

Brown Mountain Overlook - Brown Mountain Trail, Big Run Portal Trail, Patterson Ridge Trail, AT, 13 mi. 3,000 ft. with options for longer hike. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

24 (Tuesday)

👤 **MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue**

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

25 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg, MD

About 5 varied miles over rolling terrain. No pets allowed. Bring drinking water. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot at 10:15 a.m. From the Beltway, exit to I-270 N. After about 7 mi. (at the exit for Rt. 370), move into the local lanes. Stay in the center of the 3 lanes. After the right-hand lane has disappeared and re-appeared, move into the right-hand lane. Take the next exit (for Rt. 124 West and Rt. 117 West); this is about 3 mi. after the move into the local lanes. Follow the signs for Rt. 117, which becomes Clopper Rd. (and is still Rt. 117). After 2.1 mi., turn left into the inconspicuous park entrance. After 0.1 mi., turn right toward the Visitor Center. In 0.1 mi., park at the end of the road. Since this is our last walk until September, we will lunch at Roy's Place in Gaithersburg after the hike. INFO: Sue King 703/356-6659.

28 (Saturday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park**

Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Get in a trip before the Dog Days of summer hit. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. Contact: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

28 - 29 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**

Schairer Trail Center, VA

Near Elkton. Get views at Schairer and we hope to make them better. Join the Crew for some clearing projects on the Firestone Tract to include clearing around the Eaton Hollow Cabin currently under renovation. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Schairer Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351. ☐

## Tales of a Happy Hillwalker in Scotland: Part II

*The Highlands of Scotland are a special favorite of mine: superb hillwalking, congenial and helpful fellow hillwalkers, and all the weather you can handle. "If you wait longer, the sun may break through."*  
Madison Brown

With full backpack I slogged up one damp glen, down another. The hostel seemed tiny in the broad sweep of Glen Affric – two small buildings with dull red roofs and corrugated green sides, no power or telephone wires, just the turbine windmill. I was encouraged by not seeing privies. One building contained kitchen, common room, two double rooms, shower, toilet, and the warden's (as a hostel Manager is called) suite – one room and closet-sized office. The other building contained toilets and a dormitory accommodating 18. The turbine windmill and the solar panels produced electricity that was stored in batteries, so there were electric lights and indoor running water, which was sometimes hot. The cold bourne running next to the hostel served as the refrigerator. We had gas ranges to cook on, a coal stove to heat the kitchen, and a wood stove to heat the common room.

Our number ranged from four to 15 per night the six nights I stayed there, and we



*The Fordan Ridge.*

generally got to know each other even better than we had in Ratagan. My great fortune was to be adopted by a National Trust for Scotland Thistle Camp of six volunteers and their supervising local Ranger. The crew had paid room and board to work that

week on redecking a bridge and repairing a culvert on the road leading down the glen to the east. I helped prepare dinner each night in exchange for eating with them. Half were Scots and half English. All enjoyed the countryside and wanted to express their gratitude by doing this work.

*Below are some internet reference points for planning a trip to Scotland. And for more information please feel free to contact Madison Brown (madisonbrown34@hotmail.com). Please put "Hillwalking" in the subject line.*

### Internet Hillwalking Organizations

Scottish Mountaineering Club . . . . . [www.smc.org.uk](http://www.smc.org.uk)  
 Mountaineering Council of Scotland . . . . . [www.mountaineering-scotland.org.uk](http://www.mountaineering-scotland.org.uk)  
 British Mountaineering Council . . . . . [www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)  
 National Trust for Scotland . . . . . [www.nts.uk](http://www.nts.uk)  
 Thistle Camp Working Holidays . . . . . [www.thistlecamps.org.uk](http://www.thistlecamps.org.uk)

### Tourist Offices

Scottish Tourist Board . . . . . [www.host.co.uk](http://www.host.co.uk)  
 Scottish Tourism Office . . . . . [www.visit.org.uk](http://www.visit.org.uk)

### Books & Maps

Waterstone/Amazon (20 Munro matches) . . . . . [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)  
 WH Smith (6 Munro matches) . . . . . [www.bookshop.co.uk](http://www.bookshop.co.uk)  
 Ordnance Survey . . . . . [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

### Accommodations

American hostels (obtain your membership) . . . . . [www.hiayh.org](http://www.hiayh.org)  
 Scottish hostels . . . . . [www.syha.org.uk](http://www.syha.org.uk)  
 Independent Backpackers Hostels Scotland . . . . . [www.hostel-scotland.co.uk](http://www.hostel-scotland.co.uk)  
 Highland Hostels Ltd. (bunkhouses, hostels, bothies, etc) . [www.highland-hostels.co.uk](http://www.highland-hostels.co.uk)  
 Mountain Bothy Association . . . . . [www.mountainbothies.org.uk](http://www.mountainbothies.org.uk)

### Travel

Britrail . . . . . [www.britrail.com](http://www.britrail.com)  
 Citylink (bus) . . . . . [www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk)

### Reforestation Efforts

The history of the deforestation of the Highlands is not clear, but the attempts at reforestation were there to see. The National Trust for Scotland acquired much of Glen Affric in 1994 and has undertaken to the reintroduction of patches of forest. Previous Thistle Camps had fenced in "exclosures," which keep the red deer and sheep out so those areas can reforest. Some of the exclosures were planted with Scotch pine, hazel, rowan (mountain ash), and birch; others were left unplanted so whatever was already there could grow free of cropping by sheep and deer.

I did four walks around Alltbeithe. I walked north up to the bealach above a corrie behind the hostel and turned east along the ridge to Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan (Peak of the Quarters, 3,775') for a short route of 6.6 miles with a total ascent of 3,123 feet.

The second day proved very exhilarating; up to the same bealach where I turned east over An Socach (The Snout, 3,018'), down to the next bealach and then up to Mam Sodhail (Hill of the Barns, 3,870') and Carn Eighe

*See Scotland, page 16*

Scotland, from page 15

(File Hill, 3,880'). The mists lifted as I first approached the summit of Mam Sodhail and revealed that superb Highland panorama again. To the east from each of these two summits, huge, long ridges extend two miles to where one ends in a Munro (mountains 3,000 feet or higher) and the other in a Top (peaks over 3,000 feet but not "separate" enough from Munros to claim that title). This grand horseshoe begins with a loch nestled some 1,000 feet straight down from the ridge, and continues down an ever-widening glen. To the west, these two mountains slope gently down 2,800 feet to another glen. The exhilaration of the day swept me along as I returned by the same route for a walk of just over nine miles and a total ascent of 5,238 feet.

The third walk took me south up Mullach Fraoch-choire (Heather-corrie Peak, 3,615'), along a 2.5-mile ridge, mostly rounded except for an arrête and a scramble to A' Chralaig (The Basket, 3,569'). Returning by the same route, I walked a total of seven miles and ascended 3,470 feet.

The final day in Glen Affric was another delightful, eventful outing. Two allts and their glens come together to form the River Affric and its broader glen. In between rises Beinn Fhada (Long Hill, 3,354'), which extends 5.5 miles east-west from Glen Affric to the head of Loch Duich, a distance comparable to the The Five Sisters' route. The broad summit ridge alone is more than three miles long. I walked up to the head of Gleann Gnoimhaidh (no idea what this means) from where I could look back on the serpentine course of the allt I'd walked beside and ahead to the next glen with its loch. I headed up the side of Bienn Fhada to the east end of its ridge. On the way I could look across the glen to an enclosure and see the difference in the vegetation inside and out.

### Finally, Sun!

When I reached the eastern-most end of the summit ridge, I turned west and walked to the summit. The spectacular view overwhelmed me. I could see most of the Munros, Tops, and ridges I had walked the past five days! As if that were not enough, the wind died and the sun broke through. I lay back in that unique silence of a mountain summit and marveled at where I was and all I could see.

In the face of such an extravagance as sunlight, I lay contentedly at the foot of the summit cairn, enjoyed a snack, and dozed off for a short nap. I started back in half an hour when the clouds returned and shut out the sun. By the time I was approaching the end of the summit ridge, I was "misted in." After missing my way briefly in the



*Allbeithe Hostel in Glen Affric.*

clouds, I was back on course descending down the southern slope into Fionnglean (White Glen). I stopped at the Camban Bothy, an unlocked, unfurnished, two-room stone structure with loft available to hillwalkers for simple overnight shelter. Bothies are buildings from the sheep-herding and deer-hunting days, which were then abandoned and allowed to go to ruin. Hillwalkers began using them in the early 1950s. As hillwalking grew more popular and bothies were more in demand, hillwalkers began to fix them up. The Mountain Bothies Association organized in 1965 and now cares for more than 100 bothies in remote areas.

I followed the meandering ancient path back to the hostel, reviewing in my mind the events of a delightful, eventful, satisfying day: taking an easy walk beside a lively water course, surprising a small herd of red deer settled in their mountainside, day-resting spot, flushing a ptarmigan up close, napping

in the sunlight on a Munro summit, taking a wrong turn in the mist but quickly correcting the mistake after one compass reading (I was not lost because I knew exactly where I was), visiting my first bothy, and treading an old way probably in use by walkers since prehistoric times. At every moment, from every place, I had all the Highland views one could ever want. I had walked almost 10 miles with an ascent of 2,565 feet.

After Glen Affric I hitched rides, rode the train, and walked cross-country. I stopped first at a hostel and then a hotel bunkhouse. From each of these I climbed two more Munros and ended back in Inverness a happy hillwalker.

The Highlands of Scotland are a special favorite of mine: superb hillwalking, congenial and helpful fellow hillwalkers, and all the weather you can handle. "If you wait longer, the sun may break through." □

—Madison Brown

## Come to New Hampshire!

The White Mountains beckon, and 2003 is the year to be there. The Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) will have its biennial conference at Waterville Valley, N.H., a year-round resort in the very center of the White Mountains.

What is the ATC Conference? It is an excuse for trail lovers to get together and do the things they enjoy. They hike, they attend workshops, they catch up with friends, they go to evening entertainment, they eat, they enjoy the scenery. (And oh yes, there is a business meeting to elect new ATC Board members and transact other

business.) Club members from up and down the AT attend, as well as trail enthusiasts from all over the country (and the world).

Sound like a vacation for you? If you have some time from July 25 - August 1, or any fraction thereof, this might just be your summer vacation. How do you find out more? If you are not already a member of ATC, you can visit the conference web site at [www.atc2003.org](http://www.atc2003.org). If this doesn't work for you, call ATC direct: 304/535-6331. The nice volunteer on the phone will get you connected! □

—Tom Johnson

# NOTICES

## NEW NOTICES

**FOR SALE:** Hike to LeConte Lodge in Smoky Mountains. Two nights at the lodge for up to two persons: Sun. June 15 and Tues. June 17 (we normally stay at LeConte trail shelter on the Monday). I can provide a ride down and back from the Washington, DC area. The cost for the Lodge is \$82.75 per person per night (total of \$165.50 for one person, includes breakfast and dinner), the trail shelter is free. INFO: Michael Barrett (michaelbarrett@pkfamily.com) 301/474-1814.

## HELP WANTED

**CALLING ALL LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND TAX ATTORNEYS.** Want to give something of value to the Club, but don't want to swing a Pulaski? Virginia has enacted a new law that permits donors of conservation easements to sell the tax credit and reap a substantial cash infusion. PATC owns property in Virginia that would be eligible for such a 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), or phone 540/882-3027. But hurry – before the State changes its mind.

## FOR SALE

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

## LOST AND FOUND

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

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

## HIKING EXCURSIONS

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

**HIKE IN SWITZERLAND'S BERNISSE REGION.** Five hiking days in Murren, four hiking days in Grindelwald and two days in Zurich are included in this ten-day trip beginning Sep. 4, 2003. Approximate cost is \$2,000. INFO: Donna Brothel, 703/435-8315.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

## ALSO NEEDED:

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

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

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

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

## NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS?

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

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

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

## DONATIONS WANTED

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

## CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

## TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

## Trailhead

The Ides of March passed, and winter took a break. Overseers and District Managers crawled out of their holes to see if their trails still existed after the snow melt. The trails were there, but so was all the stuff from the December ice storm and a new crop of blowdowns. Not to be outdone, winter returned on March 30 to drop more than four inches of snow on the trails, and that was after temperatures were in the 70s the day before. This will be a winter to remember. Still, early spring is a great time to get rid of those winter blahs by renewing your association with trails. The bugs aren't out yet, the temperature is cool, and the poison ivy has yet to appear.

### Semi-Annual Trails Meeting

The Supervisor of Trails, District Managers, and crew leaders met on March 20 to discuss plans for the coming trail season. A hot topic was the draft ATC policy for chainsaw and crosscut certification. The draft policy introduces certification requirements for current wilderness first aid and CPR training, which represents a cost and training issue. In the past, there hasn't been a certification requirement for crosscut sawyers. PATC will continue its current certification and training process until the draft ATC policy is finalized and actual requirements are known. The Trails Committee reaffirmed the policy that at least two volunteers be present while chainsaws are being used on trails.

The SNP and Massanutten summer work crews are shaping up except for the May 4 to 9 SNP South work crew week, which has been cancelled. Openings are still available for most of the other summer crew weeks – sign up soon for a physical outdoor adventure.

District Managers reported on trail conditions in their respective districts. In spite of the weather, most Managers were able to assess trail conditions and are working with Overseers to get them in shape for the coming season. Reports since the meeting indicate some trails have lots of trees down, while others are in good shape.

Heidi Forrest, PATC Trails Coordinator, introduced fuel cards for PATC power tools (chainsaws and brushcutters/trimmers). The purpose of the fuel cards is to determine how much each power tool is being used so that Trails can better predict when they need to be serviced and when to budget for replacement equipment. Overseers are asked to record the date and number of tanks of fuel used. The plastic-coated cards list the equipment type and serial number and will be issued to those holding the tools or attached to the tool if it is located in a tool cache. When the cards are full, Overseers are requested to return or mail them to PATC Headquarters to the attention of Heidi Forrest. Heidi thanks Overseers in advance for their cooperation.

### Central Tuscarora District

Walt Smith has had to give up his job as Tuscarora Central District Manager. PATC needs a volunteer experienced in trail work who can carry on Walt's vision for the district.

### New Trail Tool Prototype

The Blue and White Crew had scheduled its first trip of the year for the first weekend in March. The plan, as in years past, was to clear the entire SNP Central District AT of over-winter deadfall. Hip-deep snow on the trail, however, forced a cancellation of the plan. The Blue and White Advance Team (Steve Paull and Joe Richardson, co-leaders), however, were able to fight their way into the Meadows Cabin (and dispel blizzard-induced hallucinations of imported beer and sirloin steaks buried in the snow), which served as headquarters for intense crew planning sessions. Project details for the next decade were sketched out and brainstormed. The session was also used to put the finishing touches on a new prototype set of trail tools, including a combination axe-mattock-rake-bottle opener. The prototype has been named the McPaull.

The Blue and White Crew will sponsor the Annual Overseer Workshop in the Central District of Shenandoah National Park again this year. The workshop will be held on the weekend of June 7-8 at the Pinnacles Research Station, near Thornton Gap. See the ad on the front page of this issue of the *PA* for more details, or go to [www.blueandwhitecrew.org](http://www.blueandwhitecrew.org) for details and a registration form.

### Wild Ones

Pete Gatje is pleased with his new crop of Overseers for Blue Blaze Trails in SNP South District. Several have their trails in such good shape they are forming two crews to go out with Pete on Saturdays and Mondays. They are trying to figure out a name for the crews. Suggestions include the "Blue Blazers" or "The Wild Ones."

### Ford Mine Trail

On March 23, Georgeanne Smale led a work trip of the Maryland Metrolites on the Ford Mine Trail. Crew members included Tracie Nadeau, Linda Rowan, John McCormack, and the SOT. Waterbars and a water diversion were installed in a gullied out area, restoring the trail to its intended route. The Ford Mine Trail is a beautiful walk along the C&O Canal with several fine picnic spots for a lazy afternoon.

### Rock Creek Filibusters

The D.C. Trail Crew, a.k.a. Rock Creek Filibusters, kick off the 2003 work trip season with two April trips aimed at breathing life back

*See Trailhead, page 19*

*Lunch on a log for Cadillac Crew at Entry Run Trail.*



Photo by Richard Stenberg

*Trailhead, from page 18*

into the trails after an unusually tough winter and wet spring. Workers will soon discover backbreaking pain caused by this year's winter and spring double-punch of cold, wet weather. D.C.'s early work trips will focus on cleaning dozens of waterbars spread throughout the trail system and dealing with new wet spots that cropped up after years of drought. May is likely to bring more restorative work before the crew turns to projects during the summer months. Between April and October, the trail crew will conduct 10 work trips that supplement the work of some 20 Overseers. With the new work season, District Manager Mark Anderson, who has been on the job for more than six years, began looking for a partner to help with D.C. trail management. Look to this space for information later this year for an announcement of a new District Co-Manager.

### **Massanutten North**

Ed Brimberg is replacing Mike Sutherland as the District Manager for Massanutten North. Ed is working with the Forest Service to review trail maintenance responsibility. PATC, bike club, and horse club volunteers assist the Forest Service in maintaining trails in the Massanutten. Welcome aboard Ed, and good luck figuring out what is what.

### **Young and Old Ache Alike**

Saturday, March 22, Bernie Stalman, John McCrea, Dick Dugan, "Mountain Man" Ray Galles, John Shoemaker, and Dave Nebhut spent a long day crosscutting on Piney Ridge and Fork Mountain Trails in the SNP North District. Even the younger ones in the group ached after that. Some 30 blowdowns were removed from the trails. However, a "monster" four-foot-diameter tree across Piney Ridge Trail was left for another day and a bigger crosscut saw.

On Sunday Dick Dugan and Bill Spach cleared upper Piney Branch Trail to follow Peter Harris in his effort to clear the lower section of the trail on the previous Friday. The work isn't over yet. On Sunday Bernie discovered what appears to have been a microburst between 2,000' and 2,300', on Sams Ridge Trail where some 18 trees were down in a half-mile section. Too bad it is wilderness, Bernie, you can't use your new big Stihl MS310 chainsaw. There are more aches ahead for the "old" guy.

### **Walt's Saw**

Is it true? Walt Smith, long-time advocate of the one-man crosscut saw, took chainsaw

training recently from the Forest Service. What's the world coming to? War, disease, and now corruption of purists.

### **PHT—River Running Through It**

Snow, ice, rain, and water kept all but the heartiest from the Potomac Heritage Trail. Two scheduled March worktrips were cancelled due to snow or ice still on the trail, and then the thaws brought mud. On top of this mess, rains created the highest spring water level for the Potomac River. Certain PHT sections were literally under water, and a work crew of 10 Student Conservation Association members (high school kids from D.C.) headed for the high ground in trying to get something done on the PHT. The group spent the first beautiful spring weekend starting to reconstruct a stone switchback on a PHT access trail. The kids loved watching the raging Potomac below, but the couple of small snakes found as stones were excavated created excitement. All had fun that day, but spring cleanup when the water recedes will be quite a job.

### **Americorp Help**

Chris Brunton, District Manager for Northern Virginia AT, is known to take advantage of every opportunity. For example, he coerced the Americorp Crew working in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to clear blowdowns on 12 miles of the AT and three miles of the blue-blazed Loudoun Heights Trail on Feb. 9. A nice start for the year, says Chris, and many thanks to Americorp.

### **Seven Sections Cleared**

Two weeks prior to the planned North District Hoodlums March worktrip, we were still "on hold" since Skyline Drive remained closed due to the snow and ice. Fortunately, early spring weather prevailed just in time, and the "Irish" worktrip went ahead as planned. There were pockets of snow still remaining on the AT, with some drifts of considerable depth, but the chainsaws and coronas were singing in the balmy air as seven sections of the trail were cleared of their wintry collection. The crew retired to Range View Cabin at day's end to enjoy John McCrea's corned beef and cabbage and all the other festivities for which the Irish are known. And a wee bit o' good time was had by all the lads and lassies!

### **Entry Run Trail**

Work progresses on the Entry Run Trail in hopes of opening the new trailhead into SNP by year's end. The Cadillac Crew enjoyed great weather for a change on their

March 22-23 work trip to add more tread to the trail. After some hard digging and rock work, the crew nursed their sore bodies (not in shape yet) with relaxing spirits around a warm fire tended by Mike Vento. New crew member Bruce Agnew commented on the amount of manual labor required to build trails. No surprise there. Entry Run was running, providing background noise for a great night's sleep at Rosser Lamb Cabin. After a couple of cancelled trips, the crew appreciated the opportunity to say goodbye to winter.

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. □

*Laurel Hill, from page 5*

Cross County Trail. Occoquan to Lake Accotink; 12 miles (possible five-mile shuttle). We will hike along the route from Algonkian Regional Park in Loudoun County, Va., to RiverBend Park in Great Falls, Va. Leader Bill Niedringhaus, wniedrin@mitre.org H: 703/821-0975; C: 703/244-2476. Directions: from Backlick Road in Springfield just south of its Beltway underpass (no interchange), take Highland Street west, following signs to Lake Accotink Park; park at far end away from dam. Late details see [www.PotomacTrail.org](http://www.PotomacTrail.org). Co-sponsors: Potomac Trail Council, Fairfax Trails and Streams, FCPA, NVRPA. □

—Bill Niedringhaus,  
President, Potomac Trail Council  
President, Fairfax Trails and Streams First

### **POTOMAC APPALACHIAN**

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# TRAIL, SHELTER and CORRIDOR OVERSEERS/MONITORS WANTED

## SHELTER OVERSEERS

CALL FRANK TURK, 301/249-8243

E-mail: frankturk@aol.com

**ROD HOLLOW SHELTER –  
NORTHERN VA**

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

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

CALL CHRIS BRUNTON, 703/560-8070

E-mail: trailbossbt@msn.com

**Loudoun Heights Blue Trail [lower]  
Loudoun Heights Orange Trail to Rte. 340  
(2.6 miles)**

**Rod Hollow Shelter Trails  
AT to Rod Hollow Shelter (0.2 miles)**

**SNP NORTH DISTRICT  
APPALACHIAN TRAIL – MAP 9  
CALL JOHN MCCREA, 610/352-9287  
E-mail: mccreajf@aol.com  
CO-OVERSEERS NEEDED ON AT SECTIONS**

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

CALL DAN DUEWEKE, 703/266-3248

E-mail: danjan@fcc.net

**WILDERNESS OVERSEERS NEEDED –  
ADVENTURE GUARANTEED.**

**Catlett Mountain Trail**

Hannah Run Trail to Hazel Mountain Trail  
(1.2 miles)

**SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZED – MAP 11**

CALL PETE GATJE, 434/361-1309

E-mail: pjgatje@aol.com

**Rocky Mountain Run**

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

**Rockytop Trail – Co-Overseer [upper]**

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

**Doyles River & Cabin Trail – Co-Overseer**

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

**TUSCARORA SOUTH – MAP F, G, 9  
CALL RICK RHOADES, 540/477-3247  
E-mail: Rrhoades@shentel.net  
Tuscarora Trail  
Rock marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)  
Tuscarora Trail**

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

**Tuscarora Trail**

Shawl Gap to Sherman Gap (2.5 miles)

**MASSANUTTEN NORTH – MAP G  
CALL ED BRIMBERG, 703/430-6481  
E-mail: brimberg@cox.net**

**Massanutten Trail**

Kennedy Peak Trail to Camp Roosevelt  
(3.3 miles)

**Massanutten Connector Trail**

Massanutten Trail to US 211 (1.8 miles)

**Meneke Peak Trail**

Massanutten Trail to Bear Wallow/ Tuscarora  
Trail (1.2 miles)

**MASSANUTTEN SOUTH – MAP H  
CALL DON WHITE, 804/795-2914  
E-mail: whitedh@attbi.com**

**Massanutten Mt. South Trail**

TV Tower to Pitt Spring (3.4 miles)

**Massanutten Mt. South Trail**

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (3.3 miles)

**GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN – MAP F  
CALL HOP LONG, 301/942-6177  
E-mail: theFSLongs@erols.com**

**Gerhard Shelter Trail**

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

## Volunteers Appointed – March

### Shelter Overseers

Shirley & Herschell Blevins  
Jeff Cogle

Co-overseer for Tom Floyd Wayside  
Devils Racecourse Shelter & Co-overseer Cowall Shelter

### Trail Overseers

Ted Schad  
William Holland  
Chris Miller  
Carol & Joe Stielper  
Gale Gibson  
Shawn Callahan

Dicks Dome Shelter Trail  
AT – Gas Pipeline to Rattlesnake Run Road  
Co-overseer TT – US 30 to Cowans Gap  
Thompson Hollow Trail  
Snead Farm Loop Trail  
BROT – Rte. 28 to Little Rocky Run



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