



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 33, Number 5
May 2004

National Trails Day - June 5

Tulip Tree Cabin Dedication

Have you ever wondered about the early Blue Ridge settler's homes – those quaint little log cabins clinging to a mountainside? Did you wonder how they were put together? What kind of materials did they use? Where did they get the things they used? What kind of tools did they have? What was it like to build your own home back then? If you owned your own home in those days you built it yourself, probably with the help of your family, friends, and neighbors. How was it done?

PATC's Tulip Tree Cabin Crew has answered all these questions and has finally after eight and one-half years completed construction of Tulip Tree Cabin in Shaver Hollow. This is not your average quaint little cabin, but it was built the same way, using the same materials, tools, and methods that would have been used more than 100 years ago. Some liberties have been taken with the trim and finish to make the cabin more attractive and comfortable, but everything in the cabin would have been available to a cabin builder in the Blue Ridge in the late 19th century or early 20th century.

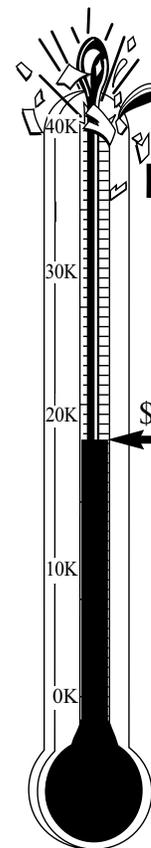
This is the first log cabin built by PATC from the ground up since the construction of

Michener Cabin in Pennsylvania was built by Fred Blackburn and his crew. The Tulip Tree Cabin is unique in that it has been built of logs hewn flat on two sides, whereas Michener Cabin was built of round logs, and they used some new tools and technology. Tulip Tree Cabin was built from the ground up using only primitive hand tools and technology that would have been available over 100 years ago.

Tulip Tree Cabin will be dedicated and turned over to the rental system at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, May 30. There will be hors d'oeuvres and beverages served and a dedication ceremony with several speakers. Self-guided tours of the cabin and grounds will be possible. There will be displays of the antique tools used and some demonstrations of their use. There will be construction crew members available to answer questions.

Tulip Tree Cabin is located in Shaver Hollow near Luray, Va. To reach Tulip Tree Cabin from the Washington, D.C., area, take I-66 to US 29 at Gainesville, Va. Follow US 29 south to Warrenton, and turn west on US 211. Take US 211 to the top of the Blue Ridge in SNP,

See Tulip Tree, page 7



Donations Reach
\$18,500

\$18,500 - March 30

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

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Cabins Operations: Mel Merritt

Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf

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Maps: Dave Pierce

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Potomac Appalachian: Linda Shannon-Beaver

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Publications: George Meek

Sales: Vacant

Shelters: Frank Turk

Trail Lands Acquisition: Phil Paschall

Trail Patrol: Holly Wheeler

Tuscarora Trail Land Management:

Vacant

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Cabin Reservations: Shakuntala Ghare

Communications Team: Vacant

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Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Jon Rindt

Headquarters Facility: Orron Kee

Information/Sales Desks: Annetta DePompa

Medical: Vacant

Shelters, Cabins, & Cabins Land Fund: Larry Marcoux

SNP Boundary Trailheads Study Group:

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Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project:

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Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council Meeting was held at club headquarters; March 9, 2004. Administrator Wilson Riley informed Council members that the heat exchanger had been replaced at headquarters and phase monitors had been installed as well. In the parking lot, one storage container had been removed; the other will be used for storage of newly printed maps. Wilson thanked members Jack Reeder and Orrin Key for assembling the new desk located in the ground floor reception area.

Finance

Treasurer Gerhard Salinger distributed the monthly budget report for February 2004, noting several points of interest. Cabin rentals are as expected, sales are low. Dave Pierce commented that sales of the SNP Central District map, the biggest seller for the club, were down. Gerhard announced that the audit was nearly complete and the audit report would be presented in April.

According to the new procedure, to receive brief monthly reports, in turn, from the three restricted accounts, Council heard a quarterly review of the Cabin/Shelters/Building Lands Fund. This review included the following information: Highacre House – gutters being replaced, Cliff's House – major renovation nearly complete, cabin is back in rental system, Tulip Tree – May 30 dedication, Shockey's Knob – to be dedicated in April, Devil's Racecourse – access issues

hold up work, Rocky Run Shelter – work is waiting for permission, in light of historical considerations.

Trails and Lands

Vice President of Operations Hop Long reported from the computer committee. Content of the Web site will be reviewed for accuracy and currency of information. Hop also reported attending the annual Forest Service meeting for the Lee District.

Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton reported attending a Forest Service meeting with PATC district managers and overseers. The meeting went well; chainsaw certification was discussed. The Forest Service will re-certify only sawyers that the Forest Service has previously certified. Liles also commended Trail Patrol for recent reports on trail conditions.

Facilities

Council approved a motion to transfer \$2,500 from the unrestricted portion of the cabins land fund to the Gypsy Spring fund for completion of the project.

Volunteerism

Council approved a motion to create the position of club naturalist. Tom, with the consensus of Excom, plans to appoint Bob Pickett to the position. And Supervisor of

See Council Fire, page 3

HEADQUARTERS

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

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Phone #: 703/242-0315

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

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

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

Club e-mail: info@patc.net

Facsimile #: 703/242-0968

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

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) e-mail: 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: For more information about Metrobus routes or Metrorail lines, schedules, fares, and parking fees, call the Metro at 202/637-7000. The TDD number is 202/638-3780.

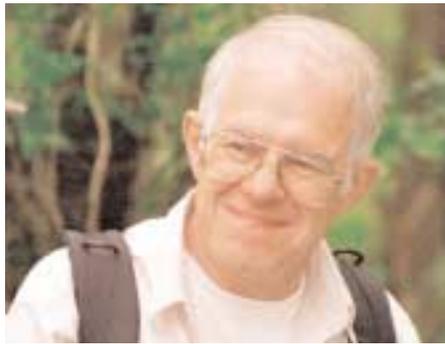
Tom's Trail Talk

It's Spring! Do You Know What Your Trail is Doing Today?

Today is March 21, the official start of spring. That said, it is 32 degrees and light snow is whipping by the window of my study, propelled by a strong, icy wind. I went out earlier to walk the dog (the well-known hiking dog Willow), and quickly retreated back inside. But the calendar says it is spring.

I began the winter with all sorts of noble resolutions. I would get out on my trail and do some blazing, I would dig more waterbars, I would pick up the trash in the parking lot at my trailhead - it had become an informal garbage dump. But December came cold and snowy and I banked up the fire in the stove and waited for better weather. I waited, and waited, and waited. It was as cold a winter as I can remember, and of course you can't blaze when it's below freezing. We kept stoking the fire and the closest I ever got to my trail was driving by the parking lot.

So now it is March and yesterday dawned bright and sunny. I grabbed my loppers and paint can and headed for my trail. Surprise! She was still there! Rumors that she had



packed up and moved to West Virginia were completely unfounded. The only thing growing so far was multiflora rose, so I concentrated on painting more white blazes. I figured that if I blazed her better she would think better of her appearance and be less tempted by the blandishments of West Virginia.

It is amazing to me how well trails survive even through the ice and snow of a very cold winter. They do seem to like a little TLC and I heartily recommend that we all reacquaint ourselves with them.

I still haven't done those waterbars. And as for the parking lot, my district manager took care of that for me - he closed it. □

—Tom

Trail Patrol Presents A National Trails Day Event Beyond the Trailhead

Saturday, June 5, 2004, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Shenandoah National Park

Trail Patrol, with SNP, is sponsoring an opportunity to leave your car behind and experience the outdoors. Join us for guided hikes, activities, displays, & games to learn more about safe & responsible enjoyment of the natural world. Events occur throughout the day at the Byrd Visitor Center at Big Meadows. The event is free and open to the public (normal park entrance fees apply).

Displays Include:

- Day hiking techniques & equipment
- Leave No Trace outdoor ethics
- Hiking with your dog
- Trail maintenance
- Backpacking

Maps, compasses, & GPS units

Wilderness first aid

Physical conditioning

Day Hikes Include:

- Family hikes with children
- Shorter hikes for all ages
- Longer hikes for skilled hikers
- Dog hikes for owners and leashed pets
- Natural history hikes

For More Information:

visit www.patc.net/activities/ or
e-mail trailpatrol@patc.net

Council Fire, from page 2

Membership Susan Nelson reported membership was holding steady, currently at 6,699 members.

Other Business

Shelters: Henry Horn led a presentation to Boy Scouts at Walter Johnson High School in Maryland. Holly Wheeler and Tom Johnson also participated in the presentation. Henry asked PATC members with suitable projects for scouts to contact him.

West Virginia Chapter: Jane Thompson announced an upcoming meeting for the chapter. And, Jane noted, a goat has taken up residence on Signal Knob.

Trail Patrol: Holly Wheeler announced that Trail Patrol has organized a first aid/CPR course which will be held on a regularly scheduled basis at HQ. The first aid class is an expanded class which will provide useful information for incidents occurring in a trail environment. The classes are open to overseers, hike leaders, and other PATC members, as well as Trail Patrol.

SMRG: John Luck reported that 36 SMRG members took part in a training exercise on the Vining Tract. He noted SMRG members enjoyed interacting with cabin overseers on the tract and learning more about their work.

Mutton Hollow Trail District: Hugh Robinson announced that he would act as the district manager for the new trail district on the Mutton Hollow property.

AT Corridor Management: Tom Lupp announced that the revisions to the Local AT Management Plan have been distributed, and a master copy will be available for review at HQ. Tom also announced that the Ovoca Farms survey map is being completed and that he is looking for a monitor. Tom reported that the Appalachian Trail Conference has a new boundary project manager, Ross Garidien, and that someone drove a truck through the worm-fencing gap at Turner's Gap.

Maps: Dave Pierce met with Peddler District officials to review 140 planned changes to Map 13. He also noted that updates to Map 7 are in progress.

Hikes Committee: Karen Brown reported that the Hikes Committee had met with the Ski Touring Section and the Mountaineering Section in a meeting at HQ to discuss the excursions policy. The group also discussed developing a liability waiver that serves those sections as well as hike leaders.

The March Council meeting was attended by seven club officers, 11 committee chairs, four chapter representatives, three section representatives, one staff member, and four other club members. □

—Georgann Smale, Secretary

Contributions Near \$20,000

Four months into the campaign to help replenish PATC's land acquisition funds, over \$18,500 has been contributed by the individuals whose names appear below and by more than 50 anonymous donors. We are grateful for everyone's generosity.

Combined with a \$12,000 matching fund challenge sponsored by several club members, the drive is within \$10,000 of reaching its goal for the campaign. WON'T YOU HELP enable PATC to be better able to purchase lands that support our conservation efforts and increase the opportunity for members to enjoy the wilderness?

With an ever-diminishing amount of rural land, PATC's ability to purchase desirable land when it comes on the market is increasingly dependent on a ready source of financing - the land acquisition funds. The replenishment of these funds is, therefore, critical if the club is to further its goals.

All contributors of \$25 or more will receive a copy of the revised cabins booklet due for publication this year. Contributors of higher amounts receive additional awards. **Please send your generous contribution along with form on page 7 to: Tom Johnson, President, PATC, 118 Park St., S.E., Vienna, VA 22180-4609.** □

—Hugh Robinson

Land Acquisition Fund Donor List

George & Frances Alderson	Susan Cunningham	Karen Krehbiel Brown	Hugh T. Robinson
Bruce Ammerman	Elton Ellison	Robert Lewitt	Emmett Roden
Richard L. Ashbacker	Melanie Falk	James Lipscomb	Linda Johnson Rudy
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Susan D. Eisenfeld	Suzanne Izzo	Edward Reis	
Neil J. Heinkamp	Thomas R. Johnson	John W. Restall	
Philip Eliot	Russell Knaub	Shirley Rettig	

The Naked Warrior

On Jan. 24, 2004, my friend Mark and I left Fredericksburg, Va., for a one-night hiking trip into the SNP. It proved to be perhaps the oddest experience of our lives. We parked our car on the side of Hwy. 211, put our packs on, and began our hike to the top of Pass Mountain – destination: the Pass Mountain Hut. My dog Samson was along for the trip, and we all excitedly climbed the steep trail to the top of the mountain.

The forecast for the day was cold. It snowed briefly, but for the most part was a pleasant winter hike. We made it to the top in about 2.5 hours, as it was only about a four-mile-long hike in. As we hurried to gather firewood for the evening, which was forecast to be bitterly cold, we were taken by the calmness and serenity of the area. Even the babbling brook behind the hut was mostly silent due to having been frozen by the cold weather. Finally we decided to do some more day hiking, as it was only 2:30 or so by the time we made camp. So, we hiked up to the AT and walked along until we both decided that we were cold and tired enough. You know that you are in cold weather when you remove your boots and they are steaming! Back at camp we stripped down quickly as the temperature was dropping, in order to put on a dry change of clothes for the evening. My friend began starting the fire, and I got the stove fired up to make some hot coffee. Samson assisted us by chewing choice logs into more bite-size pieces.

I went to the spring to get some water and accidentally dropped the pot lid into the freezing cold water. “Oh no,” I said, not wanting to take off my warm glove and put my hand into that icy water. But, it had to be done. I was surprised and shocked when I realized that the water actually felt good because it was actually much warmer than the freezing cold air temperature!

Settling in for the Night

The sun began to go down, and the gentle breeze gave way to a stiff and unforgiving east wind. The forecast was for a strong front to come through, giving way to snow sometime the next day. As you can imagine, after business was completed and everything was cleaned up around camp, you could find us nowhere else but in our sleeping bags inside the hut. The hut itself was an open-faced design, providing a roof and shelter on three sides. We had elected not to bring a tent to set

up inside the shelter, and instead we used tarps to cover ourselves and hoped for the best. By around 8:45, we had finished conversing for the most part, and drifted toward a comfortable rest.

Samson Raises Alarm

At around 9:30 p.m. Samson, our yellow lab, who was sleeping right next to me, sat erect and began to listen. A few moments later, he let out the “Something isn’t right” semi-growl. I still wasn’t interested enough to roll over from my comfortable position, but when he escalated it to the “half-bark-medium growl,” I hesitantly rolled over and pulled the zipper back from my mummy-bag. At that moment I, too, heard something that sounded like a cracking sound. I listened intently and heard it again. Mark was still sleeping, nestled inside his bag.

Then, to my great alarm, I saw a bright light hit the tree in front of our cabin. Earlier in the evening, Mark and I had heard the distinctive sound of a low-flying helicopter somewhere in our vicinity shortly after we went to bed that seemed to loiter in the vicinity longer than one that was simply flying over. Perhaps something was happening in the woods where we lay? Before I had time to react, a full set of headlights was right there, bearing down on us from the right side of the cabin. To the right was a service road that is blocked off normally, which leads to Skyline Drive. It is used for maintenance crews who maintain the shelters along the AT, but never at 9:30 p.m. on a Saturday night in the dead of winter. I yelled to Mark, “Mark, wake up, somebody is here!” As he came to, an SUV was sitting right in front of us, with its headlights shining in our faces. Just then, the door came open, and a man stepped out. At the same time, three other figures appeared as silhouettes in the headlights of the car. The first man walked straight for us rather quickly with a flashlight held at eye level. My heart beat rapidly. I tried to imagine what in the world was happening, as my brain, half-asleep, tried to process this new development in what was until now a routine hiking trip.

Obviously we were found, but by whom? I found the word “Hello?!” coming out of my mouth. The man said, “Do you have a dog?” “Do I have a dog?” I thought. What a queer question to be asking me. I said, “Uh, yeah.” “Is he OK?” “Yes sir, he is fine,” I replied trying to be polite. Meanwhile Samson was pro-

tectively standing on all fours beside me growling at our intruders. I held him by his collar during the interrogation process. Finally, Mark, unwilling to stand the suspense any longer said “Is everything OK??” The man replied no, everything was not OK. By now he was standing right before us. We had elected to sleep on the top ledge of the hut, so he was standing below us slightly, looking up while he shined his flashlight upon us. We could see now that he clearly had a gun. His three compatriots were pacing around behind him as if they were looking for something or someone about the campsite.

Have You Seen This Man?

As he began to speak, we both realized that we were talking to none other than Mr. National Park Ranger. He explained to us in a serious tone that a missing persons APB was out and that a man, who was believed to be the missing person, was spotted down at the trailhead where we parked our car. He was last seen standing naked on the side of the road near the Pass Mountain Trail Head. Naked? Did I hear that right? I said, “Sir, did you say a naked man was on Hwy. 211?” At this given moment, I was in my zero-degree, Kely mummy-bag, wearing full thermal underwear, two fleece pullovers, a Gore-Tex sock hat, wool socks, on a Therm-A-Rest sleeping pad, covered by a solar-blanket, huddling with my dog for warmth inside of a hut in what was the coldest air I think I’ve felt. The outside air temperature at 9:30 p.m. where we were was 12 degrees Fahrenheit. By 4:00 a.m., it was 8 degrees outside, not including wind.

Yes, he confirmed that the man they were looking for had parked his car next to my Jeep and was last seen walking buck naked, not even with shoes, through the partially snow-covered, frozen ground toward a destination that could only lead to our hut. “Have you seen anybody?” We quickly scanned our memories for any images earlier in the day of a naked man hiking through the snow, and neither of us could recall having seen him. Mark said, “Sir, are we in danger?” “No,” he said. “We don’t think he’s armed (go figure), and we don’t believe he poses a threat.” Ooookay, I thought. As we spoke, the other three silhouettes, who turned out to be the Rescue Squad, made last-minute preparations to depart for the search. They believed that the man may have a chemical imbalance

See Naked, page 6

Naked, from page 5

in his brain that was causing him to try to hike the mountain in the snow, for whatever reason. I asked for the man's name in case we, uh, saw him. Now, the chances that anybody was going to successfully make a four-mile hike, uphill, buck naked, in the snow, at night, with no shoes in 12 degree weather not counting the wind chill were fabulously low. Nevertheless, as the ranger left, Mark and I began to pray quite earnestly for this situation and especially that they would find the man before it was too late (and before he found us). We began to joke about which one of us was going to let him get into our sleeping bag with us, were he to arrive.

When all of the action ended, we tried to make sense of this most unusual evening on the mountaintop. So, we drifted off to sleep, and the events of that night faded out of our consciousness. I dreamt that night that a bunch of S.W.A.T. people descended on our hut with automatic weapons and started having a Paint Ball war right in our midst. It's pretty weird when your weird dream is actually less weird than what actually happened.

Suddenly, I was awakened by Samson growling and barking. I threw the sleeping bag off of me and sat up, heart beating out of my chest. I was half-ready to do hand-to-hand combat with the Naked Warrior. I yelled for Mark to wake up. Right then, I heard a roaring sound, and then ... headlights again. It was Ranger Bob. "Hi Bob," we said, "what's new?" Bob walked up and proudly informed us that the team had found the missing person! As it turns out, the man actually hiked 1.5 miles up the trail, almost halfway to the top, before he stopped to take a break next to a tree. They found him by hollering to him, and alas, he answered them. He was 25 feet or so off the trail sitting on a tree, eating a piece of sliced cheese at around 11:00 p.m. He obviously lasted several hours, and yes, he was buck naked when they found him. He actually walked out with the team a good ways, until the other search team that had started from the bottom met up with them and they put him on a stretcher with blankets. How do we know he was eating cheese, you might ask? Because on the hike down the next morning, we found the spot where the rescue team found him. There were two pieces of bright orange tape that weren't there on the way up. They were right at 1.5 miles from the bottom, and one was on the trail, and the other was about 25 ft. off the trail tied to a tree. And, next to the tree was a wrapper from a slice of cheese.

Upon arriving home, after having showered, etc., my wife came into the house with two of her friends. They were all looking at me and giggling, and I had no idea why. I was expecting to surprise them with this whole story. My wife said, "Do you have something to share with me?" I said, "Huh? What do you mean?" As it turns out, while she was having a girl's-night-out party at our house that night, the phone rang, and it was the sheriff. He ran the tags on my Jeep and called my home. He said there was no cause for alarm, but that a naked man had been spotted on Hwy. 211 near our car. He wanted to know how many of us there were in our group, and where we were going, and if she knew anything about this. She confidently proclaimed that neither my companions nor I would ever do something like that. Then, my wife hung up the phone and exclaimed, "Oh my goodness, one of them has stripped down naked and has been spotted by the police!" So, the whole room goes into an uproar at this exciting new development. I later found out that this rumor had spread all over town, and everybody wanted to know exactly what in the world happened. There was a third person who was supposed to go on this trip. He decided not to go at the last minute because of a pinched nerve in his neck. To compound things, before he decided he wasn't going to go, we were all talking about previous "wilderness" experiences in which certain ones of us, who shall remain nameless, have stripped down in the forest in a moment of "inspiration." So, naturally it was assumed, based on this information, that one of us had gotten "inspired" on our trip.

I later found out that the young man who had this brush with death was mentally ill, and the authorities had been on a race against time to stop him from harming himself or someone else. Obviously he was waiting to die in that forest when the rangers called out to him. Who knows what kind of thoughts were going through his mind? No normal person could survive 2.5 hours in that kind of cold completely exposed. It was definitely a blessing from above that this life was spared, and it was certainly a very sobering experience for us, as we realized what could have happened.

The ending was happy. I later found out that the man had moderate hypothermia and frostbite that, extraordinarily, didn't require amputation. It just goes to show that you never can be sure what you might see when you hike in the Appalachians. □

—True story by Craig Patton

Follow-up on Rescue

On the evening of Jan. 24th, a motorist stopped in at the Sperryville Fire Department and reported that he'd seen a naked man walking along State Highway 211 within the park. The temperature at the time was 18 degrees and was dropping. Investigation revealed that he was a 27-year-old Richmond resident who had recently been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. A search was immediately mounted, and he was soon found lying huddled 30 to 40 yards off the Pass Mountain Trail about a mile-and-a-half from the trailhead. Although still responsive, his body temperature had dropped below the point at which shivering ceases. He was treated by rangers at the scene, then taken to a hospital in Culpepper, where he is being treated for complications from hypothermia and for frostbite to his toes. At present, it doesn't appear that amputations will be necessary. The man told rangers that he was extremely grateful to be alive, and that, with a clear head, he now realizes the danger in which he placed himself. His mother has extended her sincere thanks for the efforts made by the park, sheriff's department, state police, and local EMS and SAR volunteers in rescuing her son. □

—Clay Jordan, Deputy Chief Ranger

Hike Organizers Needed

There are many medical ailments that can prevent hikers from enjoying their favorite recreational activity. I recently learned that a friend with whom I have enjoyed family hikes is suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS robs its victims not only of the ability to walk but also to speak, write, and carry out most other bodily functions and is eventually fatal.

Through correspondence I have learned that friends of other ALS patients have begun organizing hikes in several metropolitan areas to raise funds for research on ALS. An organizing committee for the D.C. region is still in the early stages of formation. The most likely date for the 2004 hike appears to be June 5, National Trails Day. An operational manual is already available for this event.

For further information, contact the national coordinator, Greg Wegrich, at Hike4ALS@aol.com or 415/648-7524. With some of the highest family incomes in the nation, thousands of health-conscious hikers, and a vast amount of medical research nearby, the PATC region should easily be able to support several annual events of this nature. □

—Lloyd MacAskill

Tulip Tree, from page 1

and proceed on US 211 down the other side of the mountain. Before you leave the park at its lower boundary there will be a gravel road, Jewell Hollow Access Road, on your left. Take this road down to the bottom of the hill where it will cross a creek. Go straight ahead onto the blacktop road and proceed about a mile to Morningstar Road, which will be on your left after crossing another small creek. Go through the green metal gate, and if you are an adventurous driver follow the main old mountain road for a way past the lake and then past a small green house, cross a small stream, and go past a massive stone wall. At the end of the stone wall is the driveway back to the cabin. There are two parking places here, or if you are really adventurous follow the driveway a short distance and find one of the few parking places along the driveway.

Most of you are not going to be so adventurous as to want to drive all the way up to Tulip Tree Cabin's driveway. A few cars can park in the field immediately after entering the gate. Others can go a little farther and park at the bottom of the massive earthen dam or go past the lake and a couple of cars can park above the lake. There will be someone stationed at the gate from about 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. to advise you where to park if you are unsure of what to do. Once you enter the gate you will be on the private property of our neighbors and should be respectful of their property. Whatever you do, please do not block the road.

All current and past members of the Tulip Tree Cabin Crew are encouraged to attend and wear their crew T-shirts and caps. All PATC members are welcome. ☐

—Charlie Graf

Historic Rock Masonry Class Offered by SNP

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

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

LAND ACQUISITION CONTRIBUTION

(Name) _____ (Telephone) (_____) _____

(Address) _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

() \$1,000 or more - Cabin: _____ Dates: _____
(Dates must be for two consecutive nights)

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

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

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

Trail Patrol

Presents

Leave No Trace Trainers Course

June 7 and 19-20, 2004

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

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

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

Indoor classroom instruction:

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

Outdoor Instruction:

(low-mileage backpacking weekend):

Sat. – Sun. June 19-20, SNP

Fee: \$30 (non-refundable)

Includes course material

For more information or to register (required), please e-mail

Anniell Miller at amill1@yahoo.com or call 703/250-8113 (before 11 p.m.) ☐

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

Trail Patrol Presents

Hike Leadership Training

May 22 and 23, 2004

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

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

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

K9 Trailblazers Hike Sugar Loaf Mountain

Happy Birthday to K9 Trailblazers! On March 20, 1999, Jeff and Pat hiked Sugar Loaf Mountain with Katy and Mickey. After waiting for several people who replied to our first hike announcement but didn't show up, we hiked the "Northern Peaks Trail" by ourselves. Today, the fifth anniversary of our first official club hike, we repeated that hike. We left from West View Parking and hiked the Northern Peaks Trail around four peaks of Sugar Loaf Mountain and back to West View with 12 eager hikers and their canine companions! After much rain, we were delighted with perfect weather on hike day.

When we assembled at West View Parking, the temperature was about 40 but warmed to the high 50s as the day wore on. With enough wind to keep us cool but not cold, we hiked at a good pace and enjoyed many views that will later be obscured by foliage.

Hike leaders today were Pat with Mickey and Jeff with Katy. We welcomed newcomers Marcos with Peanut and Caron with Ed. They and their dogs were enthusiastic and friendly, and we hope to see them again soon. Among the "old friends" who came today were Ruth and Mike with Shu, Daphne with Sadie, Lisa and Chuck with Jester, Alice with Diva, and Sarah and Eric with Toby and Poppy. Alice brought Dove dark chocolate for the people, and Daphne brought some homemade liver brownies that went over well with all the dogs!

After introductions, we discussed the hike rules and safety on the trail. Then everyone collected Tootsie Rolls and Blue Dog biscuits and maps before setting out. As usual, the hike started slowly as each dog stopped to sniff and mark the most important spots. But it's a K9 hike!

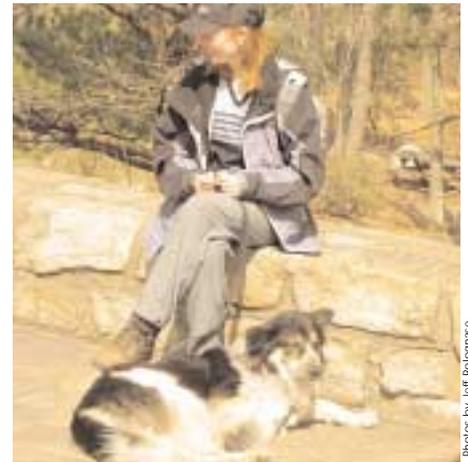
People used those special moments to chat, adjust packs, and remove jackets, and eventually we picked up the pace. Trails were clear but there were huge piles of debris along the sides from Isabel and various winter storms.

Within the first mile we encountered our first challenges. One hiker, who had recently recovered from a bout with the flu, wisely decided the hike was more than she was up to and accepted Jeff's escort back to the parking area. Pat, who was leading, waited for the group to assemble since our sweep was turning back. After 10 minutes our group began retracing its steps to look for the two hikers who had not yet caught up with us. They had taken a wrong turn onto the red trail but when they realized their error they retraced their steps and we found them on the blue trail. Then we all waited together for Jeff to catch up with us.

One Upstanding Dog

Everyone joked that it's a good thing radios and cell phones work on Sugar Loaf Mountain. The rest of the hike was uneventful but full of good humor. One attention-getter was Jester's ability to do handstands and then continue walking on his front paws while peeing on the bushes! He also amused us by crawling on his belly like a Marine and jumping through Lisa's arms, but it was the handstands that garnered the most attention and provoked the most laughter.

As usual, all the dogs were offered turns being "lead dog" and walking just in front of the hike leader. Most took a turn, but Peanut's sled dog heritage made him especially well-suited for this task, and he held a good pace up over the peaks. We stopped for snacks and water at White Rocks, where the view includes the cities



Photos by Jeff Bologna

Caron and Ed take a break after the hike. of Frederick and Buckeystown, and the Catoctin and South Mountains.

Sugar Loaf Mountain is a favorite hiking area, and we always say a little thank you to Gordon and Louise Strong. The Stronghold Corporation was formed by the Strongs to hold Sugar Loaf in trust for public use.

The mountain is open every day; there is no admission charge; and Stronghold provides maps, portable toilets, well-maintained trails, paved roads to large parking areas, even trash bins for our dog poop bags. Trail maintenance on some trails is also provided by PATC. PATC overseers regularly check the trails and send work crews out when needed. This mountain is a gift to those of us who live in urban areas and love to hike with our dogs!

We saw very few people on the trails today, and the forest was quiet except for bird calls and the rustling of the dry leaves. We encountered the same two off-leash dogs twice on our hike, but their owners managed to catch them. Our leashed dogs took it in stride, looking only slightly indignant at the repeated violation of Sugarloaf leash rules!

When we returned to West View, we shared lunch and Jeff's birthday cupcakes at the picnic area. Nobody took Pat up on her offer to lead an ascent to the main peak after lunch, but everyone agreed it was great to celebrate five years, and we'll look forward to the 10th anniversary Sugarloaf hike in March of 2009! If you can't wait that long, check our schedule page for hikes to Sugar Loaf and other destinations coming up soon. □

—Pat Fuhrer

More pictures from this and other K9TB hikes can be found at www.k9trailblazers.org/trip_reports.htm.



Hikers approach White Rocks.

Land Acquisition Fund Donors Pay Tribute to Harry Lawson

Harry Lawson

**PATC Member February
1989-November 2003**

Word has come from Florida of the death of Harry last November from Parkinson's disease. Harry and his wife Peg were overseers for many years of part of the Cabin John trail and they hiked regularly with the stronger Wednesday group. PATC has received several donations in his memory and the donors are listed at right with many thanks. Those donations were requested and will be placed in the Land Acquisition Fund. As of March 24, \$2570 has been received. □

—Carol Niedzialek

Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Nancy Brown	West Palm Beach, FL
Ms. Kathleen P. Burger	Herndon, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent J. & Marie D. Cushing	Annapolis, MD
Ms. Sonja V. De Herdt & Mr. Rick Robinson	Fort Collins, CO
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Dekemper	Jacksonville, FL
IBM Employee Services Center	
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel & Barbara Ertel	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Ms. June S. Gangler	Chevy Chase, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Odile Jennings	Bethesda, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Hal & Betty Jones	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Ms. Jean A. Lamphere	Sanibel, FL
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond & Eula Mae Lippitt	Bethesda, MD
Mr. & Mrs. James & Margaret Lipps	Kensington, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Weldon B. & Martha K MacDonald	Williamsburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Maryanna Malone	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Ms. Loretta Morgan	Potomac, MD
Ms. Suzanne P. Murphy	Potomac, MD
Mr. Kenneth Olson	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Mrs. Horace H. Pittman	Charlotte, NC
Ms. Sarah W. Point	Grossbott, Germany
Mr. & Mrs. Marium & Henry Schrader	Potomac, MD
Ms. Sara S. Steward	Broadway, VA
Mr. and Mrs. William B. and Nancy R. Thompson	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

2004 SNP Facility Opening Dates

Dickey Ridge Visitor Center	April 18* thru Oct. 31 - 5 p.m.**
Elkwallow Wayside	April 2 thru Oct. 31 - 6:30 p.m.
Mathews Arm Campground	May 14 thru Nov. 1 - Noon
Panorama	May 27 thru Oct. 31 - 5:30 p.m.
Skyland Resort	April 2 thru Nov. 28 - Noon
Harry F. Byrd Visitor Center	April 4 thru Oct. 31 - 5 p.m.**
Big Meadows Lodge	April 29 thru Nov. 7 - Noon
Big Meadows Wayside	April 2 thru Nov. 28 - 5:30 p.m.
Big Meadows Campground	April 2 thru Nov. 29 - Noon
Big Meadows Shower/Laundry	April 2 thru Nov. 29 - Noon
Lewis Mountain Cabins	April 30 thru Oct. 31 - Noon
Lewis Mountain Campstore	April 30 thru Nov. 1 - Noon
Lewis Mountain Campground	April 30 thru Nov. 1 - Noon
Dundo Campground	April 30 thru Nov. 8 - Noon
Loft Mountain Wayside	April 30 thru Oct. 31 - 5:30 p.m.
Loft Mountain Campstore	May 7 thru Nov. 1 - Noon
Loft Mountain Shower/Laundry	May 7 thru Nov. 1 - Noon
Loft Mountain Campground	May 7 thru Nov. 1 - Noon
Loft Mountain Information Center	May 29* thru Sept. 5 - 5 p.m.*

Dickey Ridge Visitor Center, Mile 4.6

*Sunday, April 18 - May 29 - Open Thursday through Monday;
Sunday, May 30 - Open seven days a week, ** schedule may be reduced in November**

Harry F. Byrd Visitor Center, Mile 51

Sunday, April 4 - Open seven days a week, ** schedule may be reduced in November**

Loft Mountain Information Center, Mile 79.5

*Saturday, May 29 - Open intermittently weekends (Fri/Sat/Sun)
Big Meadows Campground will open on a first-come, first-serve basis on Friday, April 2. Sites will be available under the reservation system beginning Tuesday, May 11, through Sunday, Oct. 31. Big Meadows Campground will revert to first-come, first-serve from Nov. 1 through Nov. 29, 2004. □



SNP Announces History Revealed Field Seminar

SNP and the Shenandoah National Park Association will kick off the park's 2004 Field Seminar season on Saturday, May 8, with a seminar entitled History Revealed. This seminar will examine the park's cultural history. During this event, participants will tour historic Massanutten Lodge, visit a research site, and spend time with authors Audrey Horning and Reed L. Engle. Both Horning and Engle have contributed to current research on the park, and their findings have added new perspectives to the park's history.

Advance registration for Field Seminars is required. Contact SNP's Education Office at 540/999-3489 or go on-line at <http://www.nps.gov/shen/seminars.html> to register or for more information. □

What's on Your Plate? License Plate Features Shenandoah National Park

Now is the time to order a brand new plate – a license plate featuring Shenandoah National Park. Virginia residents who recognize the park's beauty and historic importance will want to order this plate, part of the Virginia Specialty License Plate program. The process is easy, too: applicants simply fill in a short form.

The plate's design incorporates the logo of the park: Stony Man Mountain, stone walls overlooking the valley, and one of the loveliest flowers in the park, the trillium.

Since its establishment in 1935, hundreds of thousands of visitors each year have come to SNP to drive along Skyline Drive and marvel at the stunning vistas from more than 75 overlooks. They have come to see deer nibbling at brush in the meadow or a mother bear with her cubs along the roadside. Many walk the forest trails in the park, maybe even a section of the famous Appalachian Trail. Visitors marvel at birds and wildflowers, at old rock walls left from the days when families lived here, at waterfalls and rocky summits. Everywhere in Shenandoah, they find peace, for this natural world is far from the freeways and malls of everyday life.

Those who order the new license plate will have a little reminder of the park on their cars, wherever they are traveling.



The Shenandoah National Park Association (SNPA) is collecting applications for the plate now, and the deadline is fast approaching. The Department of Motor Vehicles will begin making the plates when 350 applications have been collected. Applicants can download the form from the SNPA website at www.snpbooks.org. Applicants should include a \$10.00 fee with their application, payable by check or credit card.

For additional information, call the association at 540/999-3581.

—Greta Miller

Invitation to Day-Hike: Seven Days on the Pacific Crest Trail

A group is being organized to take day-hikes on the Pacific Crest Trail west of Lake Tahoe beginning the day after Labor Day. Anyone interested in joining should contact the trip organizer, PATC member Dave Appel (trail name Wisconsin David) either by e-mail at dwappel@juno.com, or by phone at Bears Den Trail Center, 540/554-8709, preferably between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m., or leave a message for him to call back.

Participants will be picked up at the Reno Airport on the afternoon of Sept. 6 or may arrange their own transportation to lodging for the first four nights at Markleeville, Calif. The following four nights will be at Sierra City, Calif. An eight-passenger van will be used to shuttle hikers to and from trailheads each day and then return them to the Reno Airport on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 14. A complete itinerary is available for the asking.

Breakfasts and suppers will be at local places according to the choice of the hikers. Lunches will be the responsibility of each hiker, as well as water, other drinks, snacks, and reserve food for the trail. Group costs for the van and lodging will be shared equally by all participating. This includes

the trip organizer-shuttle driver and the hike leader or leaders. The fee covering lodging for eight nights with double occupancy, van rental, and gasoline is projected to be under \$400 per person based on full registration. Round-trip airfare from Dulles Airport also is just under \$400 and will be the individual's responsibility. The total cost will depend upon what each individual chooses to pay for meals as no foods are provided. Single-occupancy rooms will cost more for anyone preferring that.

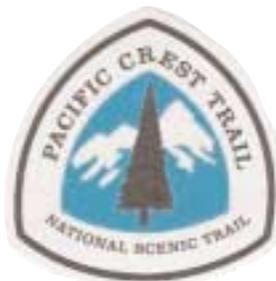
The hikes will be easy to moderate in length: 6.9 miles the first hiking day (to get acclimated to the 8,000-foot altitude), increasing to 13.6 miles on the third day and to 16.6 on the sixth day. Elevation changes are on the order of only 1,000 foot on any one day except the last day. The final day the trail rises from 7,010 to 7,350 feet at spectacular Sierra Buttes and then descends

to 4,570 foot at the final trailhead in 9.8 miles. All trails follow easy grades, and the treads are quite smooth compared to rocky sections of the AT due to the region's being volcanic in origin. No one is required to do all the hikes. Alternatives are to accompany the shuttle driver between trailheads and take short hikes with him at each location or to browse in town.

Participation is limited to members of PATC. Those interested should sign up as early as possible. The trip is limited to seven in addition to the trip leader (the capacity of the van), and these will be drawn from signups in the order they are received. Further information will be supplied to those interested in the trip on such things as a list of the specific hikes, a note on lodgings that will be used, notice of when payments are due, and what the cancellation policy will be.

This trip is to give moderate hikers a chance to experience a few sections of the PCT more easily than going alone. Sharing the experience with like-minded hikers will be an added benefit. If you are unsure of your ability to make these hikes, call or write as we can help you decide if it is right for you.

—Dave Appel



From the PATC Store

PATC Publications

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	RETAIL	MEMBER
PA100	Map 1 (ed. 9, 1998) AT Cumberland Valley, PA (Susquehanna River to Route 94)	6.00	4.80
PA110	Map 2-3 (ed. 9, 2000) AT Michaux State Forest, PA (Route 94 to Route 30)	6.00	4.80
PA120	Map 4 (ed. 8, 2000) AT Michaux State Forest, PA (Route 30 to PA-MD State Line)	6.00	4.80
PA130	Map 5-6 (ed. 16, 2002) AT Maryland	6.00	4.80
PA140	Map 7 (ed. 13, 2000) AT Northern Virginia (Potomac River to Snickers Gap)	6.00	4.80
PA150	Map 8 (ed. 12, 2001) AT Northern Virginia (Snickers Gap to Chester Gap)	6.00	4.80
PA160	Map 9 (ed. 16, 2002) AT Shenandoah National Park (North District)	6.00	4.80
PA170	Map 10 (ed. 20, 2003) AT Shenandoah National Park (Central District)	6.00	4.80
PA180	Map 11 (ed. 14, 2001) AT Shenandoah National Park (South District)	6.00	4.80
PA190	Map 12 (ed. 9, 2002) AT GWNF Pedlar District (Rockfish Gap to Tye River)	6.00	4.80
PA200	Map 13 (ed. 4, 1999) AT GWNF Pedlar District (Tye River to James River)	6.00	4.80
PA210	Map D (ed. 3, 2001) Potomac River Gorge Area and Cabin John Trail	6.00	4.80
PA220	Map F (ed. 5, 2001) Great North Mountain-North Half (Virginia/West Virginia)	6.00	4.80
PA230	Map G (ed. 7, 2002) Massanutten Mountain-North Half (Signal Knob to New Market Gap)	6.00	4.80
PA240	Map H (ed. 3, 1999) Massanutten Mountain-South Half (New Market Gap to Mass. Peak)	6.00	4.80
PA250	Map J (ed. 2, 1997) Tuscarora Trail AT, PA to PA Route 641	6.00	4.80
PA260	Map K (ed. 2, 1997) Tuscarora Trail PA route 641 to Hancock, MD	6.00	4.80
PA270	Map L (ed. 2, 1996) Tuscarora Trail (Hancock, MD, to Capon Springs, WV, and Cacapon St. Pk.)	6.00	4.80
PA290	Map N (ed. 4, 2000) Rock Creek Park Area, DC	6.00	4.80
PA300	PATC Elevation Profile of Appalachian Trail (Pine Grove Furnace to Rockfish Gap)	2.75	2.20
PB100	AT Guide Book #6 (ed. 16, 2000) Maryland and Northern Virginia	8.00	6.40
PB110	AT Guide Set #6 (AT Guide Book to MD and Northern VA with Maps 5-6, 7 & 8)	22.00	17.60
PB120	AT Guide Book #7 (ed. 12, 1999) Shenandoah National Park	10.00	8.00
PB130	AT Guide Set #7 (AT Guide Book to Shenandoah National Park with Maps 9, 10 & 11)	24.00	19.20
PB135	Guide to Great North Mountain Trails (ed. 1, 2001)	7.00	5.60
PB140	Massanutten Guide Set (Guide to Massanutten Mountain with Maps G & H)	16.00	12.80
PB150	The Guide to Pedlar District set with maps 12 and 13	18.00	14.40
PC100	Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park (ed. 14, 1996)	7.00	5.60
PC110	Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania (ed. 6, 2000)	7.00	5.60
PC115	Hikes in Western Maryland (ed. 2, 2004)	7.00	5.60
PC116	The Tuscarora Trail North (Guide to Maryland and Pennsylvania) (ed. 3, 1997)	7.00	5.60
PC117	The Tuscarora Trail South (Guide to West Virginia and Virginia) (ed. 3, 1997)	7.00	5.60
PC120	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part A Northern Maryland Counties (ed. 4, 2001)	7.00	5.60
PC130	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part B Northern Virginia Counties (ed. 3, 1993)	7.00	5.60
PC140	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part C DC/Southern Maryland Counties (ed. 2, 1999)	7.00	5.60
PC160	Guide to Massanutten Mountain (ed. 3, 2004)	7.00	5.60
PC180	Hiking Guide to the Pedlar District, George Washington National Forest (ed. 3, 2002)	7.00	5.60
PC190	Climbers' Guide to the Great Falls of the Potomac (2001)	12.95	10.36
PC200	Carderock Past & Present: A Climbers Guide (1990)	7.00	5.60
PC205	Pioneering Ascents (the origins of climbing in America)	14.00	11.20
PC210	Clearing Trails in War Time	5.95	4.76
PC220	Breaking Trail in the Central Appalachians - a narrative	12.50	10.00
PC230	Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain (ed. 2, 1985)	7.50	6.00
PC240	The Dean Mountain Story (1982)	5.50	4.40
PC250	Shenandoah Heritage: The Story of the People Before the Park (6th printing, 2000)	10.00	8.00
PC260	Shenandoah Vestiges: What the Mountain People Left Behind (4th printing, 2001)	6.00	5.00
PC270	Shenandoah Secrets: The Story of the Park's Hidden Past (Revised 1998)	12.95	10.36
PC280	PATC Cabins Booklet (2001)	5.50	4.40
PC300	Wildflowers of the Potomac Appalachians: A Hikers Guide (1979)	2.50	2.00
PC310	The Blue Hills of Maryland (ed. 1, 1993)	14.00	11.20
PC320	Memories of a Lewis Mountain Man (1993)	8.00	6.40
PD100	Map of the Stony Man Region of the Shenandoah National Park (Illustrated) (1964)	2.00	1.60
PE120	PATC Member Decal	N/A	1.00
PE130	PATC Member Patch	N/A	2.00
PE140	PATC Member Pin	N/A	2.95
PE150	PATC Ballpoint Pen with gift box	3.00	3.00
PE250	Long Sleeve T-Shirts	20.00	20.00
PE260	Short Sleeve T-Shirts	15.00	15.00
PE265	Notecards with Drawings of 3 PATC Cabins (box of 10 with envelopes)	4.00	4.00
PE280	PATC Coffee Mugs	7.50	6.00
PE320	PATC Hat	12.00	12.00
XX420	The Appalachian Trail Fieldbook, 2nd Edition	4.95	3.95
XX700	Natural History Guide to Common Woody Plants of the GWNF and SNP (1995)	3.00	2.40
XX860	Rock Climbing	17.95	14.50
XX870	Grandpa's Mountain	4.99	3.99
PC215	Time For Everything	9.00	7.20
PC225	A Footpath in the Wilderness	9.00	7.20

From the PATC Store

Publications from Other Publishers

DESCRIPTION	RETAIL	MEMBER
50 hikes in Northern Virginia (1998)	13.00	10.40
Appalachian Trail Names (David Edwin Lillard)	16.95	13.50
Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion (1998)	10.00	8.00
Backpacker Magazine Guide to the AT (1989)	16.95	13.56
Camping and Backpacking with Children (1995)	16.95	13.56
Cross-Country Skiing	9.00	7.20
Finding Wildflowers in Washington/Baltimore Area (1995)	15.95	12.76
Food & Lodging Along the C&O Canal (1994)	3.00	2.40
Guide to the Mason-Dixon Trail System (1992) Map Series	15.12	12.60
Grandpa's Mountain (Carolyn Reeder)	4.99	3.99
Hikes to Waterfalls (1997)	3.00	2.40
Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest (2001)	12.00	10.00
Hiking Virginia's National Forests (1998)	10.00	8.00
Hollow Boy By Rayner V. Snead (1995)	13.95	11.16
Insiders Guide to Virginia's Blue Ridge (1998)	15.00	12.00
Lightly on the Land	19.95	15.95
Moonshiner's Son by Carolyn Reeder	4.79	3.99
Mountaineering First Aid (1996)	7.00	5.60
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails	10.00	8.00
Rock Climbing (A Trailside how to Guide) (Don Mellor)	17.95	14.50
The 18 Cabins of Old Rag	6.00	6.00
The Appalachian Trail Backpacker (1994)	11.00	8.80
The C&O Canal Companion (1997)	23.50	19.60
The New Appalachian Trail (Ed Garvey) (1997)	14.95	11.95
The Potomac River and the C&O Canal (1992)	8.50	6.80
There are Mountains to Climb (1996)	12.95	10.36
Thru-hikers Handbook (Dan "Wingfoot" Bruce)	15.95	12.80
Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal (1999)	14.00	11.20
Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance 2000	14.95	11.96
Trails in Southwest Virginia (1997)	6.95	5.50
Undying Past of the Shenandoah National Park	18.95	15.16
W & OD Railroad Trail Guide (1996)	8.00	6.40
Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry (1994)	8.00	6.40

Walking The Appalachian Trail	16.95	13.56
Wilderness Navigation (1999)	9.95	8.00
Workbook for Planning Thru-Hikes	6.00	4.80
184 Miles of Adventure (C&O Towpath)	4.75	3.80

Appalachian Trail Poster Maps

AT strip map with forest green border 9" x 48"	3.50	2.80
AT Poster Map, Eastern Coastline	6.95	5.56

Other AT Guide Books with Trail Maps

AT Data Book (supplement to guide sets) (2003)	4.95	3.95
Central Virginia (1994)	18.00	14.40
Maine (1993)	25.00	20.00
Massachusetts-Connecticut (1994)	20.00	16.00
New Hampshire-Vermont (1995)	17.00	13.60
New York-New Jersey (1994)	16.00	12.80
North Carolina-Georgia (1998)	25.00	20.00
Pennsylvania	40.00	32.00
Southwest Virginia (1994)	17.00	13.60
Tennessee-North Carolina (1995)	25.00	20.00

Trails Illustrated Topo Maps

Shenandoah National Park (1994)	9.00	7.20
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Trinkets

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Appalachian Trail Patch	3.00	3.00
PATC Water Bottles	5.00	5.00
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Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: The 17-Year Cicada

I know you've probably satiated your appetite for knowledge about our 17-year cicada by now. But, you've got to admit, they are amazingly unique.

You don't have to go any further than the zoological name to begin to understand the uniqueness of this species. Carolus Linnaeus, himself, bowed to its' special nature, by giving it the generic (or genus) name *magicicada*. Linnaeus had a practical side, as well. The specific epithet (or species) name he chose was *septendecim*; Latin for 17.

While some articles suggest the 17-year cicada is the world's longest-living insect, my contacts say otherwise. While it may be true that this cicada may be the longest-living as a species, the longest-living insect was thought to be either the queen bee or queen termite, who has been documented to live as long as 30 years! And then, someone documented an individual wood-boring beetle larva that emerged after 51 years!

Loud Little Fellows

Many articles suggest it may be the loudest insect in the world. At 120 decibels, these insects are louder than lawnmowers (90-100 db) or car horns (100 db), and just as loud as chainsaws. Sounds reaching 90 db are known to damage hearing. I have read of no insects that make louder noise, er, music; at least, so believes the female.

Speaking of music, you would think the vocal males would have no problem attracting females. Yet, they still compete for their attention. The males routinely produce four different 'songs' in their effort to win the affection of the females. The first calling song, the sing-fly, is used to lure the female to his whereabouts. When he detects the hormones of several females, he lands on a twig and begins the first of three courtship songs (known as CI), in which the female joins in song with him by 'flicking' her wings. Getting a little excited, he will walk along the twigs in her direction and begin the next song (CII). As he finally makes contact with the female, he begins a final triumphant song (CIII), which he continues until the final climatic moments of his 17-year life.

Did you know you can tell the very night the cicadas will emerge? Take the temperature of the soil. The cicadas, like all creatures, need a certain amount of energy to conduct their activities. When the soil temperature reaches 64°F, they have the necessary energy to turn the systems on. In fact, the weather can cause a majority of the insects to emerge on a single night.

So, how many can emerge? Records have documented population densities as high as 1.5 million per acre, although densities of 10s to hundreds of thousands per acre are more common. Why so many? It's called 'predator satiation.' So many cicadas are produced, it simply overwhelms the gluttony of any and all predators. This is similar to the infrequent 'mast years' of oaks and other woody plants and not too dissimilar to the massive broods of mayflies in the spring.

Let's face it. Cicadas are great fast food. Easy to find, easy to catch, and easy to consume. Good for you, too. So popular are cicadas, they must do more than just emerge in massive quantities to survive. They also emerge unexpectedly. As you know, not only are there 17-year cicadas, but there are 13-year cicadas, as well. And what makes that unexpected? Realize that 17 and 13 are prime numbers, each divisible by only themselves and one. This means predators with a shorter life



cycle (read that, all predators) cannot synchronize their life cycles with those of these cicadas.

So, let's talk a bit about cicadas, in general. There are over 100 species known in North America. Apparently all species emerge only after spending several years underground. Even our 'dog-day' annual cicada spends two to four years sucking on roots before emerging. They just aren't synchronized for emergence, like the 17- and 13-year cicadas, so some emerge every year. Only three species emerge on a 17-year cycle and four species emerge on a 13-year cycle. Interestingly, each 17-year species has a 13-year counterpart species, from which it can be distinguished only by life cycle and geographic distribution. For the time being, taxonomists prefer to keep them as separate species.

Where Cicadas Call Home

Speaking of geographic distribution, the 17-year cicada emerges somewhere in the Eastern United States almost every year. Each yearly population is called a brood. There are 12 broods of 17-year cicadas (with the remaining five-year classes apparently containing no cicadas), and three broods of 13-year cicadas (with 10 empty-year classes). Each brood of 17-year cicadas consists of all three species, with the exception of brood VII, which is found on the northern edge of the cicada's range. The 13-year cicadas are less inclusive.

We don't have any 13-year cicadas in our region. These more southerly species get only as close as extreme Southeast Virginia, with the next emergence expected in 2011.

These amazingly unique creatures will only be around for about four weeks. After six to 10 weeks, the eggs hatch, and the new first-instar nymphs drop from the tree twigs and burrow underground to start the next 17-year cycle. I wonder what our world will be like when they emerge in 2021? □

—Bob Pickett

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

The Charlottesville Chapter hikes every Saturday; summer, winter, and in between. Hikes are usually 8 to 10 miles. We usually maintain trails on the last Saturday of the month. Meet at Sprint parking lot, 2307 Hydraulic Road, at 9:00 a.m., with food and water for the day. The majority of hikes are in the southern and central districts of Shenandoah National Park, with some in the north district and in George Washington National Forest. Our Chapter hikes are posted at www.patc.net/chapters/char/hikes.html. INFO: Jere Bidwell 434/295-2143 or John Shannon 434/293-2953.

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the AT and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays – contact Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday – contact Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday evening dinner at the Gypsy Spring cabin. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/765-4833. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Pete Brown or visit the North Chapter home page (www.patc.net/chapters/north/).

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

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

Ski Touring Section

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

Mountaineering Section

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

PATC Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

-  Hiking Trips
-  Backpacking Trips
-  Trail Work Trips
-  Cabin/Shelter Work Trips
-  Ski Trips
-  Special Events
-  Meetings
-  Classes
-  K9 Trail Blazers (dogs permitted)

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

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

Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

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

MAY

1 (Saturday)

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

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

1 (Saturday)

HIKE - Guided Appalachian Trail Hike (REI) Bears Den, VA

1:30 p.m. Just an hour's drive from REI, experience the forest's spring renewal. Stroll through wildflowers, and watch woodpeckers and hawks, on this four-hour trek on the AT to Bears Den Rock to watch the sun set. Led by experienced guides and naturalists, the hike is designed for beginners. Hiker-snack and dinner provided. \$15 per person. Dress comfortably and for the weather. Bring water. Build up your appetite on the trail without worry - we'll return to Bears Den to cook a hiker's feast and fill our bellies in the dining room. For those wishing to stay overnight, lodging and camping accommodations are available by calling 540/554-8708, or on the web site: info@bearsdencenter.org, www.bearsdencenter.org. Space is limited. INFO/RSVP: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

1 (Saturday)

HIKE - Natural History Trillium Hike Linden, VA

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

1 (Saturday)

HIKE - Pine Grove Furnace Appalachian Trail, PA

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

1 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Appalachian Trail, PA

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

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

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

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Backpacking 101

Location: TBD

Overnight Backpacking Trip. For students enrolled in the class, trip destination and times TBD. INFO: John Browne (back2_packing@cox.net) 703/425-5645.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)

Alexandria, VA

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

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The Crew will rebuild a section of the Appalachian Trail near Swift Run Gap. Overnight accommodations will be at the Dove Farm, near Madison, Virginia. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerry@trailcrews.net) 301/345-9408.

2 (Sunday)

HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Appalachian Trail, Northern VA

Another hike in the Sunday Coffee hike series. This is the classic wildflower hike in the G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management area where millions of Trillium are on display as well as Yellow Lady Slippers, Showy Orchids and many, many other wildflowers. Meet in downtown Berryville, Va., for a fine cup of coffee and good conversation and then venture off to see one of nature's best display of wildflowers anywhere. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

2 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - West Virginia Chapter Frederick, MD

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

4 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike, Northwest Branch Trail Silver Spring, MD

Come join us for a kid-friendly, three-mile, up-and-back hike along the Northwest Branch stream. There will be lots of opportunities to throw rocks and see a waterfall. This hike is not jogging-stroller friendly. After the hike, we will go to Jennifer's house, which is down the road, for outdoor play and a potluck lunch. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpcjk1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.

4 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Thompson Wildlife Management Area, VA

An annual excursion into the fabulous Trillium wildflowers of the Wildlife Management Area, about 15 miles and 3300 feet of elevation. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

4 (Tuesday)

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

5 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Great Falls, VA

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

5 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

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

6 (Thursday)

HIKE - In-Between Hikers

Seneca Creek State Park, MD

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

5 (Wednesday)

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

8 (Saturday)

HIKE - North Shenandoah Valley Chapter Massanutten Mountain, Northern VA

Bill Melson leads us on a hike through the northern Massanutten Mountains and explains the forces and events that took place to form and create this most unusual mountain range. Bill, a trained geologist recently retired from the Smithsonian Institution, has written a book on the geology of Massanutten and will show us some of the geological wonders of the range. Bill will also have his book on hand for purchase and signing. INFO: Bill Melson (wjmelson@shentel.net) 540/933-6276.

8 (Saturday)

HIKE - Shockey's Knob Circuit Shockey's Knob, VA

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

8 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Chapter Meeting/Dinner NSVC

Front Royal, VA

This is our semi-annual meeting, this time at Dean's Steak house in Front Royal. We will meet as a chapter in the dining hall at 6:00 pm to eat and discuss upcoming events in the chapter. Then Bill Melson will discuss his new book on the Geology of the Massanutten Mountains. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

8 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Shelter Dedication Shockey's Knob, VA

2:00 p.m. Dedication of Shockey's Knob Shelter adjacent to the Tuscarora Trail on Shockey's Knob in VA. Guest speaker is Harry Thompson who was Shelters Committee Chair when the Pinnacle Shelter was dedicated on Great North Mountain in 1990. INFO: Frank Turk (frankturk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

FORECAST

8 (Saturday)

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

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

8 (Saturday)

⊗ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders**
Appalachian Trail, VA

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

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

⊗ **BACKPACKING - The AT with L.L. Bean**
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Corbin Cabin Cutoff Trail. L.L. Bean is hosting four trips this spring and summer along the AT geared toward beginners. Join our professional guides and a member of the ATC staff this summer for a two-day trip along the majestic AT and connecting trails in Maine, New Jersey, Maryland, or Virginia. No experience is necessary. Participants of all skill levels will enjoy hiking through beautiful, unspoiled forests. See wildlife, streams, waterfalls, and some of the best views you'll ever witness, while learning valuable hiking and camping techniques. All basic equipment except clothing is provided. INFO: Roger Morse (rtmorse3@aol.com) 703/684-1242, or Mac McKeever (emckeever@llbean.com) 703/288-4466 ext 27562. Or call 888/552-3261 or visit www.llbean.com/ods for more information.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

⊗ **CABIN WORK TRIP - Catoctin / Olive Green**
Thurmont, MD

Spread rock at Olive Green (we'll do anything to stay in a cabin). At Catoctin paint the inside, tear up the kitchen floor, put in a new tub/shower. If enough of you slackers show up, we can paint the outside. INFO: Thomas C. Jorgensen (hairatheart@aol.com) 540/456-4760 (home) 540/248-7009 (work).

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

⊗ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**
Potomac, MD

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

9 (Sunday)

⊗ **HIKE - Strenuous Hike**

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

10 (Monday)

⊗ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders**
Old Rag Mountain, VA

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

11 (Tuesday)

⊗ **HIKE - Family Hike, Lake Royal**
Fairfax, VA

This is a two-mile, kid-friendly circuit hike around Lake Royal. The trail is jogging-stroller friendly, regular-stroller passable, with some log steps and gravel to navigate. We will search for textures along the way, armed with crayons for rubbings. There is a playground half way where we will stop for lunch. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

11 (Tuesday)

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

11 - 13 (Tuesday - Thursday)

⊗ **CLASS - Historic Rock Masonry**
Shenandoah National Park, VA

The course will be a hands-on instruction in rock masonry work, with emphasis on repair of historic rock masonry construction. The course will be conducted in the park on May 11, 12, and a half day on the 13th. The course is offered to PATC with the expectation of developing volunteer workers trained in rock masonry skills who will perform structural repairs of PATC-managed facilities within and outside of the park. For more information please see ad on page 7 of this issue. INFO: Pat Fankhauser (pfankhauser@patc.net) 703/242-0693, Ext. 17.

12 (Wednesday)

⊗ **CLASS - The Joy of Hiking, History (REI)**
Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Paul Elliott will make his case that hiking is a great way to savor the metro area's natural and human history. He will then invite you to see for yourself on a May 15 guided hike in Fairfax County (he'll tell you where), and he'll stay to sign copies of his book, "60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Washington, DC." Registration for both the talk and hike is necessary, limited, and free. INFO/RSVP: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

12 (Wednesday)

⊗ **HIKE - Easy Hikers**
Wheaton Regional Park, MD

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

12 (Wednesday)

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

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

12 (Wednesday)

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

15 (Saturday)

⊗ **HIKE - Mystery Hike (REI)**
Bailey's Crossroads, VA

Join Paul Elliott, author of "60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Washington, DC" for a stroll through one of his favorite trails, as a follow up to May 12 clinic. Registration is necessary and limited. INFO/RSVP: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

15 (Saturday)

⊗ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade**
Great North Mountain, VA/WV

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

15 (Saturday)

⊗ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers**
Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

⊗ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Co.**
Woodstock, VA

Okay, just in case you weren't able to work with us on the Tuscarora Trail relocation in April, here's the answer to your dreams: we're going back out in May to finish the project! We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Ramada Inn restaurant in Woodstock immediately by the exit for that town off of I-81 and we shall (again) camp overnight at a forest service campground near the work site. Please contact me by Wednesday, May 13 if you wish to be a part of this Very Important Project. INFO: Don White (jamesrivercom@comcast.net) 804/795-2914.

16 (Sunday)

⊗ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - WV Chapter**
Frederick, MD

Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. Gambrill State Park. WV Chapter of PATC. Continuation of ongoing trail maintenance projects on the Black Locust trail. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 240/777-7741 or Eric Creter 301/293-4170.

18 (Tuesday)

⊗ **HIKE - Family Hike, T. Roosevelt Island**
Arlington, VA

Come join us for a beautiful run along the Potomac River with great views of the monuments. We will run along the North end of the Mount Vernon Trail. Afterwards, we will enjoy a leisurely 2 mile hike along the perimeter trail around Theodore Roosevelt Island. We will picnic near the monument after the hike. Join us for the run, or the hike, or both. Designed for the families with young children, but all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

18 (Tuesday)

⊗ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**
George Washington National Forest, VA

From the Massanutten Trailhead climb to Buzzard Rock, amble south to Sherman Gap, wade Passage Creek, cut over to the Bear Wallow, return via Elizabeth Furnace and Shawl Gap. 16 mi, 2700 ft. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

19 (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 state park. From beltway take route 611, Telegraph Road

south. At 9.6 miles stay in middle lane marked by straight ahead arrow to cross route 1 and continue on route 611 (changes to Old 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 of a mile to parking for Woodmarsh Trail on left. Bring lunch, water and binoculars if you wish. We may see eagles. INFO: John and Suzanne Kominski 703/751-3026.

19 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

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

22 (Saturday)

HIKE - In-Between Hikers Springfield, VA

Pohick and South Run Valley Stream Parks. Joint hike with Sierra Club, MWROP. Nine miles, I-95 to Burke Lake. From Fairfax County Parkway (route 7100) take Pohick Road (VA 641) south 3 miles to Rolling road light. Go right 0.2 miles to Wadebrook Terr. No pets. Bring lunch. Car shuttle required. Start at 9:00 a.m., rain or shine. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) or Frank Wodarczyk 703/569-6737.

22 (Saturday)

HIKE - K9Trailblazers Hereford, MD

Gunpowder Falls State Park. We'll hike at a moderate pace for a ~5-mile loop through the Hereford section of Gunpowder Falls State Park. This will be our spring wildflower hike, and we'll take in the wide variety of flowers blooming in the woodlands and flood plains of Gunpowder Falls. This hike will be on wooded, rocky trails and on sometimes muddy trails down near the river. There will be relatively moderate climbs in and out of the valley (~250 ft total elevation change). Sturdy hiking boots with good ankle support are required. This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on a leash and scoop up after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead! Bring lunch, snacks, and water for you and your dog. Visit www.k9trailblazers.org for more details. INFO: Jeff Bolognese (jabolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

22 (Saturday)

HIKE - North Chapter Clarks Valley, PA

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

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Catoclin Thurmont, MD

Finish up our mess. Paint what's needed, put the floor down, hook up the new stove and oven. INFO: Thomas C. Jorgensen (hairtheart@aol.com) 540/456-4760 (home) 540/248-7009 (work).

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (ATC) Carlisle, PA

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

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

HIKE - WV Chapter Ohiopyle, PA

Laurel Highlands Trail in western Pennsylvania, Section 1, Ohiopyle State Park to Maple Ridge Summit, 11 miles. Depart Saturday morning, May 22, car camp at Ohiopyle State Park. Hike starts 10:00 a.m. Sunday, May 23. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 240/777-7741.

23 (Sunday)

HIKE - North Shenandoah Valley Chapter Massanutten Mountain, Northern VA

Another Sunday coffee hike this time from deep in the Shenandoah Valley. This is the best overlook you've never been to. See expansive views of both the lower Shenandoah Valley and the upper Fort valley from the same rock outcrop. If time and energy allow there will be additional hiking on a newer portion of the Massanutten Trail. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

25 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike, Manassas Battlefield Manassas, VA

Come get some fresh air on this 2.5-mile circuit hike. The trail has lots of variation- a long boardwalk, then up through a wide open meadow, then into the woods and back along the stream. The trail is jogging-stroller passable, with some log stairs and roots to navigate. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

25 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Climb to the AT on the Slaughter Trail, go south on the AT descending via Pocasin Hollow Trail. 16 mi. 3100 ft. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

25 (Tuesday)

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

26 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers Turkey Run Park, VA

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

26 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

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

29 - 31 (Saturday - Monday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Stanardsville, VA

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

30 (Sunday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Tulip Tree Cabin Dedication Shaver Hollow, VA

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

JUNE

1 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE - July Potomac Appalachian Material due to editors

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to the editor at lindashannonb@mac.com. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

1 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike, Potomac Heritage Trail Near 495 and George Washington Parkway

Join us for a three-mile, out-and-back hike along this beautiful, rugged section of the Potomac Heritage Trail. Great rock scrambling for little kids and, if the water is low, we'll get close to the river and throw rocks in the water. The trail is right along the Potomac River, and not stroller friendly. We will hike to a waterfall from a feeder stream. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

1 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A chance to view laurel in season, by ascending the Jones Mountain Trail to Bear Church Rock, continuing to Cat Knob, returning on the Fork Mountain, Staunton River Trail with options up to 18 miles and 4300 feet of elevation gain. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

1 (Tuesday)

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

2 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Hiking, Rafting Grand Canyon (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Author Tom Martin, Co-Director of River Runners for Wilderness, will update East Coast boaters on the controversial Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) now in progress for Grand Canyon National Park, and how this plan will affect the boating public. Tom will illustrate his talk with a slide show on the Grand Canyon based on his books, *Day Hikes From The River: A Guide to 100 Hikes from Camps on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park* and *Guide To The Colorado River In The Grand Canyon*. The free slide show will be open to the public and features beautiful vistas illustrating Grand Canyon hikes you can do from the river and exciting river running shots. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

FORECAST

2 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Jug Bay, Patuxent River Park, MD

Meet at 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot near the park office. 5-mile hike preceded by 1-1/2 hour cruise on the "Otter" with park naturalist. Boat capacity is 20 passengers. Directions from Capital Beltway (I-495) take exit 11 going SE on Pennsylvania Avenue (MD 4) 6.2 miles to cut-off for Crane Hwy. Bear right 0.2 mile to fork. Bear left 1.8 miles to US 301 and ease right 0.6 mile to Croom Road (MD 382). Turn left 3.1 miles to Croom Airport Road, then turn left 2.1 miles to park entrance road and left again 1.6 miles to park office. Total travel distance 15.6 miles from Beltway. Bring lunch and water. INFO/reservations for boat ride John or Suzanne Kominski 703/751-3026; hike leader, Henry Shryock.

2 (Wednesday)

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

3 (Thursday)

HIKE - In-Between Hikers

Langley, VA

Scotts Run to Turkey Run Park and return. A mod/fast 10 miles over varied terrain and several stream crossings. Boots recommended. Joint hike with Sierra Club MWRP. From I-495, Exit 44, go W. on Va 193 (Georgetown Pike) 0.6 mi to Swinks Mill Rd., turn R. into main parking area. Starts 10:00 am. Bring lunch/water. No pets. INFO: Henri Comeau (henri-comeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

4, 5 (Friday - Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - NSVC Retreat

Massanutten, VA

This is another of our quarterly retreats at Glass House where we will hike, eat, and relax in a place where the view is great and the relaxing easy. Get away from the crowds to a place that is cool and you are among friends. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

5 (Saturday)

HIKE - NSVC

Appalachian Trail, Northern VA

Join NSVC for another in our series of hikes along the AT north of the SNP. Come and enjoy the views and wonder of nature as spring turns into summer. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

5 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - National Trails Day
Shenandoah National Park, VA

Trail Patrol, in partnership with SNP, will sponsor "Beyond the Trailhead," an opportunity to leave your car behind and experience the outdoors through hiking and backpacking. Join us for guided hikes, activities, information tables, displays, and games to learn more about safe and responsible enjoyment of the natural world. Events will be held throughout the day at the Byrd Visitor Center at Big Meadows. Admission is free and open to the public (normal park entrance fees apply). INFO: www.patc.net/activities/ or e-mail trailpatrol@patc.net.

5 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Volunteer Day
Bluemont, VA

"Trails and Health: A Natural Connection." Visit Bears Den to participate in the nationally organized day to celebrate trails. Bring your outdoor gloves and sturdy shoes for a couple hours of work on the trails. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. INFO: Rob Carey (rcarey@blueridgecenter.org) 540/554-8708.



5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park
Washington, D.C.

(8:15-Noon). This is our National Trails Day extravaganza. Sometimes we work hard and sometimes we ease up and enjoy the great trails of Rock Creek Park. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718, or Ranger Ken Ferebee at 202/895-6221.

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Service (REI)
Riverbend Park, VA

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Celebrate National Trails Day with the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Potomac Conservancy and REI. Join us for a day of trail restoration at Riverbend Park along the Potomac Heritage Trail. We'll be constructing a relocation to take a 100-yard section of trail out of eroded flood plain. The work will include a variety of tasks from clearing brush to stone construction. Tools will be provided, but volunteers with pruning shears, shovels, or other trail tools are invited to bring them. Groups and families are welcome, but no pets. Registration is necessary to ensure we have proper tools and materials. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers
Appalachian Trail, PA

Set a good example and join the North Chapter trail crew for a National Trails Day work trip. We will meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Rock Springs
Central District, SNP, VA

No more 60 lb. bags of rocks 0.3 miles down the path. All we need is to put the bunks and inside of the cabin back. May clean up Pocosin. Sleeping at both places. INFO: Thomas C. Jorgensen (hairtheart@aol.com) 540/456-4760 (home) 540/248-7009 (work).

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Overseer Workshop

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

New or prospective trail overseers are encouraged to join the Blue and White Crew for our annual trail overseers workshop. Sessions will be led by trail maintenance professionals from SNP and crew leaders from the PATC. There is a \$20 registration fee, which will cover lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Workshop participants will be able to camp at the Pinnacles Research Station. The workshop fills early every year. For more information, contact Kerry Snow (kerry@trailcrews.net) 301/345-9408.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)

Alexandria, VA

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

6 (Sunday)

HIKE - NSVC

Appalachian Trail, Northern VA

Hike from US 522 to Terrapin Station. Is this the end or the beginning? Storyteller gives no choice; his job is to inform, not to master. Intrigued? Go on the hike. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

6 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - WV Chapter
Frederick, MD

Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. Gambrill State Park. WV Chapter of PATC. Continuation of ongoing trail maintenance projects on the Black Locust trail. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 240/777-7741 or Eric Creter 301/293-4170.

7, 19 - 20 (Monday, Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - LNT

PATC headquarters and SNP

Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainers Course will be held in a two-part series. The classroom instruction (introduction and planning) will be held Monday evening 7:15- 9:45 p.m. The field experience will be a backpacking trip in the SNP. Instructors will be LNT Masters from Trail Patrol. The goal will be to enhance LNT skills and ethics and to gain confidence in teaching LNT to others. Pre-registration required, space is limited. Fee: \$30 INFO: Anniell Miller (amill1@yahoo.com) 703/250-8113 (before 11:00 p.m.)

8 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Begin with the scenic ascent up Little Devil's Stairs, connect to the Sugarloaf Trail to inspect the laurel in season, travel the AT to the Tuscarora, the Elkwallow Trail to the AT, then descend the Piney Branch Trail and the Hull School Trail for 4000 feet and 17 miles. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

8 (Tuesday)

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

9 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Food for the Trail (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. When planning a trip, have you ever wondered whether your only choice is between food that tastes like cardboard or meals that cost as much as eating in a fine restaurant? Then this is the clinic for you. Wilderness guide, Marian Marbury, of Adventures in Good Company, will cover considerations in meal planning, essential items to bring, shopping at your food co-op or supermarket, how to save money, and when to make the more expensive choices. We'll also point you to some recipe resources on the Internet. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

9 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Annandale, VA

Wakefield (Audrey Moore) and Long Branch Valley Stream Parks. Five miles on dirt trails. Meet at Wakefield Park. Directions: Beltway exit 54A, Braddock Road West then 1/8 mile right to park

entrance road and first parking lot on left. Bring water. No pets. Starts at 10:15 a.m. Lunch at nearby Kilroy's restaurant. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

9 (Wednesday)

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

9 (Wednesday)

MEETING - West Virginia Chapter, 7:00 p.m. Highacre Cabin, Harpers Ferry, VA

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew AT between I-66 and Rte. 50

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

13 (Sunday)

HIKE - Wolf/Chimney/Cat Rocks Circuit Thurmont, MD

Join us for this moderate-to-strenuous 10.6 mile circuit in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains. In addition to the spectacular summer vistas from the three rock outcroppings, we'll see Cunningham Falls as well. Total elevation change is approximately 1200 feet. We tried to do this hike in February, but had to cancel due to icy trail conditions. I don't anticipate any ice this time! USGS Quad: Blue Ridge Summit, MD. Contact Vince Ferrari (ferrari3@ix.netcom.com) 301/249-2210.

15 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA Brown Mtn Overlook - Brown Mountain Trail, Big Run Portal Trail, Patterson Ridge Trail, AT, 13 mi. 3000 ft. with options for longer hike. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

16 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Cedarville State Forest, MD

Four-mile, easy circuit hike with optional two-mile extension. From beltway exit 7, south on MD route 5 (Branch Ave.) merging with US 301 after 10 miles. Then stay in left lane for 1.8 miles to first traffic light, Cedarville Road. Turn left, continue 2.4 miles to state forest sign at intersection with Bee Oak Road. Turn right, proceed 1 mile to meeting place outside forest office at 10:15 a.m. Entrance fee \$2.00 per car. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Paul Van Order 703/536-4378.

19 (Saturday)

CLASS - Butterfly Field Day

Shaver Hollow, VA

Rain date, June 20, Sunday. Darwin and Eileen Lambert's property, which includes the Tulip Tree cabin, is a wonderful location for the study and search of butterflies. Shaver Hollow, located adjacent to the SNP near Luray, hosts a number of habitats and butterflies, including the Baltimore checkerspot; a rare species for this region. Our expert guest leader is entomologist Clyde Kessler. Clyde is currently finishing his book, *Butterflies of the Blue Ridge*, while conducting research at Virginia Tech. The format for this field day includes a morning session devoted to learning about the natural history of butterflies, followed by an afternoon identifying butterflies we may see or catch. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

19 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers

Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Co.

Gore, VA

Ever get a tune in your head and can't get rid of it? Listen closely: could it be that the refrain you hear so repetitively is that bluegrass cross-over, "the Tuscarora Big Blues?" Well, anyway, our Crew is set to continue construction of a public access trail to the Tuscarora Trail north of The Pinnacles shelter on Saturday. We will meet for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in the Hayfield Family Restaurant west of Winchester on US Route 50; we will camp overnight near the work site. Space on the Crew is limited and fills up quickly. INFO: Don White (jamesrivercom@comcast.net) 804/795-2914 (by June 16).

20 (Sunday)

HIKE - North Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Appalachian Trail, Northern VA

Another Sunday Coffee hike and another in our series on the AT between Harpers Ferry and SNP. Come see the forest transition from spring to summer and views of the Shenandoah Valley. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

22 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

George Washington National Forest, VA

Runkles Gap, South Massanutten Mountain. This year we will ascend pretty Morgan Run returning via Fridley Gap on the Massanutten South Trail and the Boone Run Trail. About 15 miles, 3000 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

23 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Hiking the Remote Sierra (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

For those who want to venture into something more challenging and remote than the Appalachians offer, Michael Glagola will share his experience from several extended hikes in the Sierra. He will discuss remote locations such as Tower Peak, Benson Lake, Red Peak Pass, and the Ottoway Lakes amongst other locations. Michael will cover necessary planning, useful information sources, transportation (how to get there without renting a car), backcountry regulations unique to the Sierra, essential equipment, and how the conditions in the Sierra make it a distinctly different experience from the east coast. This highly interactive session will include pictures from some of the locations he has visited over the years. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

23 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Swain's Lock, MD

We will hike six easy miles on the C&O canal towpath to Pennyfield Lock and return. Bring water. Bring lunch if rain is not in the forecast. In the event of a rain forecast, lunch will be in a nearby restaurant. Meet at 10:15 at Swain's Lock. Take exit 39 West from the Capital Beltway to River Rd. toward Potomac. Go approximately 2 miles past Potomac, MD. Turn left on Swain's Lock Road 0.3 miles to parking area. Info: Bill Burnett (burn2154@earthlink.net) 703/569-2154.



26 (Saturday)

HIKE - North Chapter

Hosscock Run, PA

Hosscock Run/A.T. Figure 8 Circuit Hike easy to moderate 8-10 miles in length. We are hopeful that the rhododendrons will still be in bloom along Hosscock Run and the AT at Quarry Gap shelters as we hike this figure-eight hike. INFO: Christopher Firme (bnc-firme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

26 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park

Washington, D.C.

(8:15-Noon). Former presidents Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, Admiral George Dewey and even former French ambassador Jules Jusserand all loved Rock Creek Park. Come find out why. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. Contact: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee at 202/895-6221.

26 & 27 (Saturday and Sunday)

CLASS - Land Navigation Class (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

Saturday - 10:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at REI, Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Prince William Forest Park. This comprehensive two-day course teaches all skills necessary to use map and compass in an integrated land navigation system. The first day is spent in intensive classroom exercises concentrating on topographic map reading and interpretation, position plotting, compass fundamentals, declination and azimuth. The second day is spent in Prince William Forest Park, primarily off-trail, engaging in practical navigation exercises of increasing complexity. The course fee is \$85 and includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map, grid reader, and lunch on Saturday. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

Shockeys Knob, near Gainesboro, VA

Beautiful setting and views at Brill Cabin and Shockeys Knob on the Virginia-West Virginia border. The crew will work the nearby Tuscarora Trail doing some maintenance and tread work. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Brill Cabin. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders

Old Rag Mountain, VA

We need you! Enjoying hiking? Love to play tennis or racket ball? Do it all on Old Rag Mountain. Train to improve your serve and backhand while cutting brush on this Wilderness Area trail. A wilderness first aider and physical therapist will be on hand. Come for either day or join us for a backpack camp in Nicholson Hollow, with a swim in the Hughes River. INFO: Cathie Cummins (Cathie@wfa.net) 703/631-7421.

29 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

George Washington National Forest, VA

A 15-mile circuit in Massanutten featuring an 1100 ft bushwhack to the rocky top of Strickler Knob. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

29 (Tuesday)

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

See Forecast, page 20

NVRPA Director Jack Robey Retires

Jack Robey, director of park operations, retired in mid-March after 29 years with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

NVRPA named Jack Robey acting director of park operations in 1996 and permanent director of park operations in the six-jurisdiction agency in 1997. He oversaw activities in 19 regional parks.

"Jack Robey's career evolved along with the Regional Park Authority," said NVRPA Chairman Walter Mess. "We will miss his vision, his good humor, and his skill in building regional and local cooperation."

The agency's Executive Director Gary Fenton expressed appreciation for Robey's dedication to parks and recreation professionalism and his ability to work with colleagues to develop policies on safety and other issues.

"Jack's greatest gift to park visitors may be providing safe, enjoyable passive and active experiences in regional park settings," said Fenton. "We look forward to welcoming him as a visitor to the parks he has helped Northern Virginians enjoy for the past 29 years."

Trained in forestry and wildlife management at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State

University, Robey came to the authority in 1975 as a ranger at Bull Run Regional Park near Centreville, Va., and moved to Pohick Bay Regional Park in 1977. That year, he became the assistant naturalist at NVRPA's Nature Center at Potomac Overlook Regional Park in North Arlington, Va., and in 1979 was appointed manager of Upton Hill Regional Park on the Arlington-Fairfax county line.

When the regional agency opened the first phase of the water recreation complex at Cameron Run Regional Park in Alexandria in 1983, Robey was tapped to manage this popular destination, which offered the only wave pool in Northern Virginia, now known as Great Waves at Cameron Run Regional Park.

Robey was promoted to operations specialist and then park operations superintendent in 1984. The Centreville, Va., resident received the authority's 25-year Ira N. Gabrielson Service Award in 1999.

NVRPA Superintendent of Cultural and Natural Resources Julia Claypool and Superintendent of Revenue Resources Rodney Pryor will oversee the authority's park operations until the agency conducts a search for a new director later this year. □

Forecast, from page 19

30 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Man of the Mountains (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

Nick Williams has hiked the Triple Crown: the full length of the AT, PCT, and CDT, as well as climbed peaks and wandered off trail through some of the most rugged terrain in North America. And, in Nick's words, if you "set a stout heart to a steep hill", you too can experience the beauty and solitude our great land has to offer. Nick will show highlights of some of his most memorable adventures, and lend his experience to those making the transition to longer journeys afoot. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

30 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers, Seneca Creek State Park Gaithersburg, MD

About 5 varied miles over rolling terrain. No pets. 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 (monarch@cpucug.org) 703/356-6659. □

Trailhead, from page 23

We hope to finish the relocation this season but a lot depends on the AT Park Office's completing an environmental assessment and cultural survey. The north and south ends, which are on state property, have been worked, but we have to wait until DM Lloyd Parriott gets the go-ahead before actually working tread on the ATPO lands.

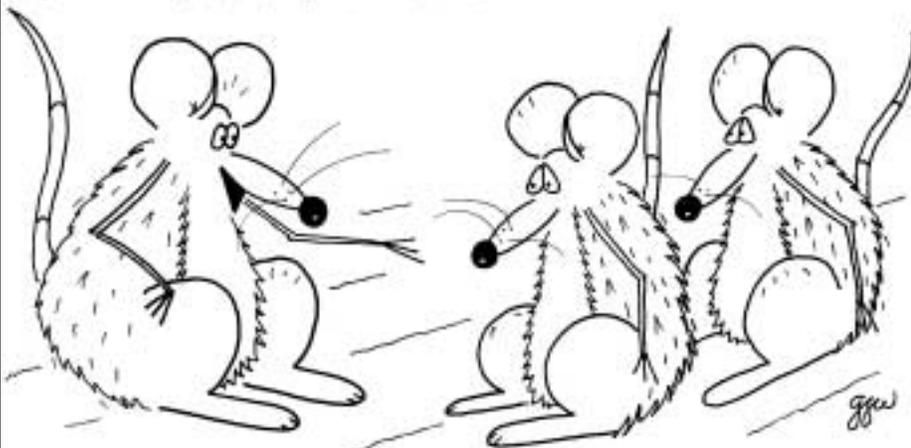
Several weeks later the weather was much warmer when the crew started out in the rain to help DM Bruce Glendening make the western terminus of the PHT less treacherous. A series of wood and earth steps were constructed along the trail as it drops steeply off the bluff toward the Potomac River, and the sidehill was cut to widen and improve the tread as it levels out some. This section of trail is less than 100 feet from the American Legion Bridge and I-495, with an average of 295,000 vehicles passing daily. To say there was noise is an understatement. Bruce advised us to pretend it was a large waterfall.

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

Tails from the Woods by George Walters

The History of Louie, Part 4

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST! - LOUIE QUICKLY RISES AMONGST HIS PEERS BY MAKING WISE DECISIONS AND SOUND JUDGEMENTS.



"You two will HAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT TONIGHT!... you will CREATE THE DIVERSION!!"

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE needs someone proficient in desktop publishing (Quark and/or Pagemaker) to work with chairman in updating guidebooks. Adobe Photo Shop also helpful for scanning photos. Need to prepare final disk for printer. Minimal time requirement - only 2 or 3 publications per year would require your expertise. If you are interested or have questions, call George Meek, publications committee chair, (george@meekconsulting.com) 703/874-3021.

32 FT. MOTOR HOME FOR SALE — 1993 Rexhall Airex, 33,000 miles — Ford Chassis. Queen Bed, Sleeps 6, 460 hp engine, Dual Air Conditioning, Tag Axle, Granny Air Suspension. SKW Generac Generator with 160 Hours, NADA: \$26,000, Asking \$19,000. If interested call Jim Hill (JKH.Jr@mail.com) 949/510-9304.

HIKING PARTNERSHIPS

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

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

HELP WANTED

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

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

FOR SALE/RENT

CAMP TRAILS BACKPACK. Barely used, approx 3500 cubic inches, with external frame, six large outside pockets. Just the thing for extended trips ... room for all your gear. Great value. \$35 obo. Contact John Moore, 703/368-1952 (jtmoores20112@comcast.net).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DAYTIME RESERVATIONISTS NEEDED If you are available during the day to work a busy reservation desk, I've got an opening for you on alternate Thursdays. I really need to secure a volunteer every other Thursday afternoon between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. Will train. No pressure calls. Please call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 if you can help us out.

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

DAYTIME AND EVENING CABIN RESERVATIONISTS NEEDED: Openings are available to any individual who can give attention to detail, work independently, and work under pressure some seasons of the year. Daytime volunteers are needed on Thursday afternoon between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. Evening volunteers are needed to take one or two nights per month. We Need You Now! Call Pat Fankhauser for interview at 703/242-0693 or e-mail, pfankhauser@patc.net.

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

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

HELP WANTED

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

C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK is seeking volunteers for the Williamsport Visitor Center to staff the center and bookstore, and can include informal interpretation. INFO: Gloria Updyke (Gloria_Updyke@nps.gov) 301/582-0813.

CALLING ALL LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS, AND TAX ATTORNEYS. Virginia now permits donors of conservation easements to sell the tax credit for cash. PATC owns property in Virginia that would be eligible for such a rebate. The club needs your help writing proposals that would help the club save thousands of dollars. Contact: Phil Paschall (bettycox@erols.com), 540/882-3027. Hurry — before the state changes its mind.

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

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

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

GIS Specialist - Help start and develop the club's GIS capabilities.

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

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

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

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

TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

The smell of spring is in the air, and the green is beginning to appear as April gives way to May. Drawn by the changing season, trail overseers and crews are beginning to visit trails and resume the chores at hand. Winter damage is reported to be minimal this year, or maybe it just pales in comparison to the recovery effort associated with Hurricane Isabel last fall. It is always exciting to begin a new season. Maybe the weeds won't be as bad this year – ever an optimist.

Semi-Annual DM Meeting

Liles Creighton, supervisor of trails, chaired the Trails Semi-Annual District Managers meeting at PATC Headquarters in Vienna on March 24. Each district manager received a notebook containing updated DM responsibilities, overseer handbook, chainsaw policy, and other material. One of the new DM responsibilities includes conducting a trail inventory and assessment primarily to identify where work is needed and where compliance activities are required. DMs are also given the latitude to set up sub-districts, assign assistant DMs, and establish a district crew as needed.

The PATC chainsaw policy is evolving as the ATC works to implement the new memo of understanding with Park Service and Forest Service. For now, PATC policy remains pretty much as it has been. A revised curriculum is being used for future chainsaw training. This year, PATC will co-sponsor a training session in April with SNP, and the Forest Service recently completed a session in March. A training session is being set up for Oct. 9-10 at Greenbriar State Park off Rte. 40 at South Mountain. If you need or want certification or recertification, call Heidi at PATC headquarters to sign up.

The meeting closed with each DM describing recent and planned activities in their respective districts. There are a number of new trail relocations and other interesting projects being done this year.

Comments from the SOT

I have been reading each work report from overseers and DMs/crew leaders. Three conclusions emerge. First, we as a group are catching up



Cadillac Crew works rocks on Ovoka Farms AT relocation.

with the damage done during the winter and spring, although work remains on some trails. But more and more the term “trail in good condition” is popping up. Second, you people are putting in an awful lot of time and demonstrating dedication way above and beyond the norm. Well done, and thanks. Third, crews and individuals are helping others out, and that reflects credit on your fine character.

We have received several letters from hikers expressing thanks for work well done on our trails. Several have made contributions to help with paying for trail tools and supplies. Another indication of your fine work.

Seasons are changing, and soon bugs will return. Please use repellent to avoid the bad things bugs carry nowadays. Also, if you haven't had a tetanus shot, I encourage you to get one (update every 10 years). Lockjaw bugs live in the ground, which is where we play.

Tuscarora Central

District manager, Walt Smith, with accomplices George Starzman, John Brown, Karen Brown, and Jon Rindt had a great day Saturday, March 20, hiking around the Hauvermale Tract. They determined that there is plenty of opportunity in the future for both a shelter and a cabin in the adjacent Hauvermale and Ruth Morris tracts, although the source of water for either will be down in a hollow. The right of way that is being negotiated for a logging operation leads from the tract northwest to the state road and would provide good access for future crews.

The group selected a tentative site for the shelter on a knoll overlooking the intersection of the Hauvermale stream and the Sleepy Hollow Creek. A tentative relocation of the Tuscarora Trail was selected, coming down on the southern slopes of the ridge into the Hauvermale tract, passing near the proposed shelter, and rejoining the current Tuscarora Trail as it crosses the creek. Further relocations depend on land purchases or landowner agreements to the south. In due course, the old trail will probably become a white-blazed trail, and there is room for additional circuits, especially if a cabin is constructed on the tracts.

George Schubert, assistant DM for the district, had surgery recently and has been waiting for his surgeon to give him the green light. She kinda sorta, did recently, but waffled around a lot asking how many pounds he would be carrying, etc. His waiting time is up, but the amount of weight was questionable. So, after much deliberation and finally getting a stroke of brilliance, he realized that he could go blaze now – not much weight required. With over 50 miles of turf scattered around hither and yon, he surely has some stuff that could use some paint refreshing. So, that will be the way he will get cranked up this spring: Blazing offers a good chance to check for blowdowns without having the weight of a chainsaw or the frustration of finding a buddy.

Tuscarora South

Rick Rhoades reports Overseers Mark Allen and Mike Marx attended the recent Lee District Forest Service chainsaw training. It is a good two-day training session with one day in the classroom and one day in the field.

Under the leadership of Carol Saah, the Wanderbirds hikers have begun their 2004 commitment to monthly trail work days. Their first trip was a long day on the Tuscarora along Little North Mountain as

See Trailhead, page 23

Trailhead, from page 22

chainsaw swappers (under-paid, over-worked forest sanitation engineer) and brush cutters. We really appreciate their willingness to "give back."

Blue & White Begins Season

The Blue and White inaugurated their 2004 season on the first weekend of March. What had threatened to be a chilly, rainy weekend, turned out to be perfect for trail work, sunny and warm. The crew worked on the Staunton River Trail (a route that the crew re-built after the Madison County Flood of '95) and the Jones Mountain Trail. Both trails had suffered over-winter damage (large rootballs in the tread and some eroded sidehill). The trail overseers, Melanie and Aksel Falk and S.V. Dove, led the recovery efforts. The crew retired to the Falk Farm for Saturday dinner and overnight accommodations. "Fats" Wilson dominated the Falk billiard room, humiliating all comers.

The Spring Overseer Workshop is scheduled for June 5 - 6. See the notice in the Forecast for more details, or e-mail Kerry Snow (kerry@trailcrews.net).

SNP South Side Trails

Pete Gatje says he has a great bunch of overseers this year with all positions filled. Most trails in the SNP South Side District are in tip-top shape since they have removed almost all the blowdowns from Isabel. Pete is feeling great after his out-patient knee surgery in February and is now able to get out on the wilderness trails to give overseers a hand.

Hoodlums Get Help

On Saturday, March 20, the North District trail season opened with a bang as the Key School of Annapolis, Md., joined with the North District Hoodlums and several trail overseers for an all-out assault. In all, 48 people turned out for this event.

The weather cooperated as Bernie Stalman and Ray Galles led a crew of 15 students in a tread-work project along the Upper Piney Branch Trail. Dick Dugan and Wayne Limberg led a crew of six students crosscutting on the Lower Piney Branch. Overseer Peter Harris, Kevin Kraditor, and Dave Nebhut embarked on a successful mission to remove 30 blowdowns from the recesses of the Piney Branch as well.

John McCrea led a crew of students in a tread-work project on the Pass Mountain AT.



Photos by Jon Rindt

A damp Cadillac Crew after adding steps to steep section of Potomac Heritage Trail below American Legion Bridge.

While this was going on, George Walters, Frank Burke, and Jim Finucane led three Hoodlum chainsaw crews, who cleared about 3/4 of the North District's AT in SNP, and also cleaned the waterbars along the way.

The students retired to Indian Run while the Hoodlums returned to Range View Cabin for the annual St. Patrick's Day feast. Special thanks to Lee Curry of the Key School who has made this trip an annual part of the school's outdoor program for the past seven years. Lee is retiring at the end of this school year after 34 years at Key School. Lee does a great job with these kids, and he will be missed. Thanks again for all your efforts. It's always a pleasure working with this group.

Potomac Heritage Doings

The year work on the Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT) started on an unseasonably warm February day when the Student Conservation Association (SCA) came to help. New waterbars and checkdams dot the landscape as the SCA toiled in the shadow of historic Fort Marcy, guardian of Chain Bridge during the Civil War.

Six SCA members and a crew chief joined PHT Overseers Bob Laughlin and Ken Williams to help control erosion amongst the rolling gullies of northern Virginia. SCA had such fun that they returned in March to side-cut a new trail into a hillside, reroute the PHT around a waterlogged section of trail, and channel a spring water seep through the trail into the Potomac River. The high schoolers saw Canada geese and other migratory

waterfowl play in the Potomac as they gave the PHT a better tread for us landlubbers. PATC gives many thanks for their efforts.

SNP South AT

The Park Service's Shawn Green and PATC's DM's Dennis DeSilvey and Eric Seaborg looked over the relocation of the AT at Simmons Gap on March 3. The new trail goes, as Eric said, where the trail should always have gone. The new section will be about 90 feet long, shorter than the old by about 180 feet. They are looking for the lost feet so the guide book does not have to have a fuss. We are hopeful that the May work crew will tackle the task and a new trail will greet summer hikers. For those who wish to view the largest blowdown from Isabel, a nature side-trail will be included, and signs indicating the work of Kerry Snow, *et al.*, will be posted.

The Cold Wind Blows

It blew as we gathered, blew as we worked, and blew as we settled into our tents for an attempt at a night's sleep. It blew so hard that having a hot Sunday breakfast seemed almost futile until Fred Tutman saved the day by magically producing trail omelets on his backpacking stove. But the Cadillac Crew managed to begin the AT relocation across the Ovoka Farms lands purchased last year by the AT Park Office. The relocation, in conjunction with some blue-blazed trails connecting to the adjacent Sky Meadows State Park, will provide a unique series of trails through high, open meadows and woods with views to the east across the Rte. 17 valley farms.

See Trailhead, page 20

Trail, Shelter and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

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

District Manager for SNP Central AT – Map 10

Kerry Snow, 240-535-8621
 kerry@trailcrews.net

Co-District Manager for SNP North AT – Map 9

Front Royal to US Rte. 211
 John McCrea, 610/352-9287
 mccreajf@aol.com

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

Tuscarora Pennsylvania Maps J & K

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

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

Ashby/Possums AT/ Blue-Blazed (Rte. 50 to SNP) - Map 8, 9

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

Appalachian Trail

2nd creek crossing to pipeline (1.2 miles)

Appalachian Trail

Va. 602 to 4H access Trail (0.7 mile)

Appalachian Trail

4-H Access Trail to Tom Floyd Wayside (0.9 mile)

Tom Floyd Wayside & Ginger Spring
 AT to Tom Floyd Wayside/Ginger Spring
 (0.45 miles)

SNP North AT - Map 9

John McCrea, 610/352-9287
 mccreajf@aol.com

Appalachian Trail – Co-overseer

Beahms Gap to Pass Mt. Hut Trail (1.9 miles)

SNP North District Blue-Blazed – Map 9

Dick Dugan, 703/836-0391
 rdugan@bellatlantic.net

Piney Branch Trail [lower] – Co-overseer

Powerline to Hull School Trail (2.2 miles)

SNP Central Blue-Blazed (north end) – Map 10

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

Corbin Mountain Trail – Co-overseer

Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fireroad
 (4.4 miles)

Passamaquoddy Trail

AT to Skyland Dining Hall (1.2 miles)

SNP Central Blue-Blazed (south end) – Map 10

Steve Paull, 703/361-3869
 stevepaull@yahoo.com

Hawksbill Trail [upper]

Upper Hawksbill Parking Area to Hawksbill Mt.
 (0.6 miles)

SNP South AT - Map 11

Dennis DeSilvey, 434/295-8825
 ddesilvey@pcvmed.com

Appalachian Trail

Simmons Gap to Pinefield Gap (1.9 miles)

SNP South Blue-Blazed – Map 11

Pete Gatje, 434/361-1309
 pigatje@aol.com

Brown Mountain Trail - Co-overseers
 Skyline Drive to Big Run Portal Trail (5.3 miles)

Tuscarora Central – Map L

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

Tuscarora Trail

Gore to Hunters Cabin (2.9 miles, 1.2 miles on roads) passes by Howze Campground

Tuscarora Trail

Hunters Cabin to Northern Rockfield (1.2 miles)
 1.4 miles south of Howze Campground

Tuscarora

Northern Rockfield to Southern Rockfield
 (1.5 miles) 1 mile from the Pinnacle Shelter

Tuscarora South – Map F, G, 9

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

Tuscarora Trail

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Doll Ridge to Rock marker (1.5 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Rock marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Shawl Gap to Sherman Gap (2.5 miles)

Great North Mountain – Map F

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

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

Volunteers Appointed in March

Shelter Overseers

Dave Goodlin
Trail Overseers
 Sue Ellen Wells & Geoffrey Wilson
 Joe Lederle
 Sarah Snow
 Paul Hession
 Laura Cheek & John Buchheit

David Lesser Shelter

BROT - Little Rocky Run to Johnny Moore Creek
 Appalachian Trail -Dicks Dome Rd. to parking lot #8
 Mini Knife Edge & High Rock Trail
 Piney Branch Trail (upper)
 Thornton River (lower)



The Potomac Appalachian

118 Park Street
 Vienna, VA 22180-4609

Telephone: 703/242-0315
 Mon.-Thurs. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Thurs. & Fri. 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

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