



The Potomac Appalachian

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

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PATC Opposes Sale of Federal Land

In his budget for 2007, President Bush has proposed selling over 300,000 acres of your land to the highest bidder over the next five years. The sale is proposed as a new way to fund an old program and seems to be a short-term solution to a long-term funding problem. It also appears to be a shortsighted way to eliminate both Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land with benefit only to the highest bidder.

To understand what is proposed by this budget item, we must first look at how this program is currently funded and how the new proposal will change all this in a way that we think is much worse. In the past, if the federal government owned land in your county, it would make a payment to the county as a way to offset lost property taxes. Since the government did not wish to call these 'payments' in lieu of property taxes, they set up a program known as the Secure Rural Schools Act. This act was earmarked for support of rural schools and roads

and was paid directly to local governments, which were under no obligation to actually use the money for either schools or roads.

The Secure Rural Schools Act is up for renewal in 2007, and the Bush administration has proposed to sell over 309,000 acres of National Forest and BLM land to finance this program for the next five years. In Virginia, over 5,700 acres of land has been marked for sale along with over 4,500 acres of land in West Virginia. All this land is proposed for sale at auction to the highest bidder, with little chance that conservation or local governments will have much of a chance to outbid commercial developers. This means that land that you can currently use for hiking, fishing, wildlife, and even for forest products will no longer be available except to those who can afford the highest bid.

PATC is disturbed by this proposal and passed a motion during the March Council

meeting to oppose any sale of federal land for this program. PATC has already sent letters to all congressmen and senators in the PATC area, urging them to oppose this proposal. We urge you to do the same. Write or e-mail your congressman and senators and tell them this is our land to hold, keep, and enjoy, not a real estate bank account to be used when money is tight. When federal land was obtained, it was purchased with future generations in mind, for enjoyment and use for as long as this great nation endured. Let's make sure these principles are upheld and that all federal land is kept for our use and enjoyment and for the use and enjoyment of all who follow us.

To find your congressman and senators, simply go to www.house.gov and www.senate.gov and follow the instructions to find their address or e-mail directly from that site. Thank you for your help and concern. □

—Lee Sheaffer,

Vice-President of Volunteerism



Beyond the Trailhead

Saturday, June 3, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

In partnership with SNP, the Trail Patrol is sponsoring "Beyond the Trailhead," an opportunity to leave your car behind and experience the outdoors through hiking. Join us for guided hikes and informational displays to learn more about safe and responsible enjoyment of the natural world. Events will be held throughout the day at Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center (milepost 51). Admission to the event is free and open to the public. Hikers will need to sign in at the registration table at Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center 15 minutes before the hike time. Please be sure to bring water, food, clothing, and footwear as appropriate for the hike.

Hikes leaving Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center:

Family/Easy	Story of the Forest Nature Trail	1.8 mi.	9:30, 11:00, 1:00
Easy	Taste of the AT	2.0 mi.	9:45, 11:15, 12:45, 1:30
Moderate	Dark Hollow Falls Trail	1.4 mi.	9:15, 10:30, 11:45, 1:15
Mod/Nature	Booten Gap-Cat Knob	4.5 mi.	10:00
Advanced	Lewis Falls Trail	3.0 mi.	9:30, 1:00
Advanced (pre-registration required)	Rose River Loop Trail	6.0 mi.	9:45

Pre-registration is encouraged but you may also register on June 3 at Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center.

To pre-register, send an e-mail to TPNTD@patc.net by June 1. Include your name and which hike you wish to join. For more information go to: www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol/Outreach/ntdinfo.htm. □

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Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. on March 14, 2006, at the Club Headquarters building by President Tom Johnson. Staff Director Wilson Riley announced that PATC's Combined Federal Campaign application had been submitted and acknowledged. He also said that Booze-Allen Hamilton had put together a questionnaire to provide an overall assessment of the management type of an organization. He asked Council members to report back their results to the questionnaire. His scoring of PATC was a "Just-in-Time" management style.

Tom requested comments on the proposal that Council members be provided motions and reports via e-mail rather than by U.S. Postal Service mail to save mailing and postal fees. Printed copies would still be available at Council meetings and to those who did not wish to handle this material electronically.

Tom informed Council members that PATC and he, as president, were being sued by a PATC member for defamation. PATC General Council Chuck Sloan would be representing PATC and Tom at the March 28 court appearance on a pro bono basis. *(Editor's note: When this case was brought to court the judge rendered a summary judgment in favor of PATC. The case was dismissed.)*

Secretary Alan Day is spearheading a graphical information system (GIS) study. There is a great deal of digital mapping information available and several potential GIS systems that PATC can leverage without the need to own one. Peter Hof, a James Madison University student, who is working with Tom Jorgenson, started to do GPS surveys supporting the PATC mapping effort. Their first mapping trip was to the Cliff-Weaver property. This represents the first instance of the evolving relationship between JMU and PATC. (The teleconferencing capability is also supporting the IT Committee, which is actively revising the Web site and changing the PATC administrative databases.)

Treasurer Ric Francke reported that revenue and expenses were still roughly in balance and that the audit has been complicated with the addition of Bears Den. Council approved a motion supporting the conversion of the abandoned Dahlgren railroad corridor to a Potomac Heritage Trail right-of-way.

Trails, Lands, and Facilities

Vice President for Operations Bruce Glendening provided an update on the redesign of the PATC Web site. Tom Johnson observed that the window of opportunity for selling the tax credits on Blackburn will be closing on June 30. Supervisor of Facilities Mel Merritt reported the signing of the cabins agreement with SNP. He also said that the Headquarters committee had decided to focus on fixing up the outside of the building.

Henry Horn's committee planned to start Voss Shelter construction in late March. Charlie Graf expected Washington County approval of the Rocky Run mouldering privy and a privy for Devils Racecourse. Chris Brunton reported that new Blackburn caretakers had been hired. Bears Den Chair Vern Conaway reported that Bears Den had taken in \$3,157 in February.

Council authorized Vice President for Volunteerism Lee Shaeffer to write a letter to area senators and members of Congress opposing the sale of National Forest and BLM land in the federal 2007 budget. These proposed land sales would be a short-term budget-balancing measure that would set a bad precedent on open land.

Of Note Around the Room

Dave Raboy has been named as the new Mountaineering Section chair. Dave Pierce reported plans to go to press in June with revisions of Map 5-6 in Maryland, Map 12 in GWNF Pedlar District, and Map G covering Massanutten Mountain North Half. Katrina Hedlesky reported that Trail Patrol was having trouble hiring ridgerunners. Peter Pennington, SMRG, expressed concern that FEMA was beginning to show interest in volunteer rescue groups with the implicit threat of imposing standards and certification (Virginia already has the highest standards in the area); Peter is resigning from SMRG in April. □

—Alan Day, Secretary

HOW TO CONTACT US: HEADQUARTERS, SALES, CABIN RESERVATIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

Phone #: 703/242-0315

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

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

Club President (leave a message), Tom Johnson: Extension 40

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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

Facsimile #: 703/242-0968

Club e-mail: info@patc.net

World Wide Web URL: www.patc.net

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Potomac Appalachian

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Club Officers and chairs contact info:

www.patc.net/about/contact.html

or call the main club phone number.

Contact list published twice annually in the PA.

Tom's Trail Talk – On Rereading Bill Bryson

In December of 1998 I received a Christmas present in the mail from a friend in England. Its title, "A Walk in the Woods," and its author, one Bill Bryson, were unknown to me. The subtitle, "Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail," told me that this was another in a long line of thru-hiker reminiscences – one in a genre of true-life accounts. I had already read several – did I really want to read yet another?

I wasn't at all sure that I did, but I didn't have a book on my bedstand at the time, and I was growing tired of thumbing through the weekly *New Yorkers*. So I began to read.

A couple of days later, a little bleary-eyed from non-stop reading, I finished and put aside what was to become the most popular hiking book in the history of the planet. It had not yet appeared in America, but I began telling everyone I knew about the funniest book I had ever read. Bill Bryson's book was a triumph.

It wasn't triumphal for everyone. Many thru-hikers criticized Bryson for not finishing the trail in a single year. Others picked apart perceived inaccuracies. ("Well, it wasn't that way when I hiked the trail.") Some thought the levity ill-placed. ("A thru-hike is a serious thing.") Everyone (and I mean everyone) thought that there was no such person as Katz. (Bryson adamantly insists that he didn't make Katz up. He protects Katz's identity as Bob Woodward protected Deep Throat.)

But Bryson brings the fascination and the majesty of backpacking the AT to life. Look past the disagreements, and see the fascination of the trail. At times Bryson admits to having been zoned out – hiking in a trance through deep forest, past rocky outcrops and southern balds, with the entire East Coast spread out before him. In one passage he writes of hiking around a massive blowdown so deep in thought that he didn't even see it. (Katz brought it sternly to his attention later in the day.)

He doesn't hide the difficulties, the discouragement that descended on him after hiking for days in deep snow in Georgia and a driving rain in the Smokies. He was aghast at honky-tonk Gatlinburg. It was there, wet and weary, that he looked at a four-foot map of the Trail and, realizing that he and Katz had hiked only the bottom two inches, gave up the idea of a thru-hike. After that he picked and chose the sections that he would hike.

He loved SNP (his favorite part of the trail) and had nothing but good things to say about PATC. Pennsylvania, on the other hand, came in for a rude shellacking. The rocks, the bad maps, the environmental destruction around Lehigh Gap sent him into a deep funk. Pennsylvanians I have talked to ruefully acknowledge the difficulties that the trail through their state presents, while pointing out that the state has more miles of long-distance trails than any other, and not all of them are swept by the effluence of zinc mines or strewn haphazardly with rocks.

His mind wanders waywardly. Hypothermia fascinates him (he experienced it in the Whites); he discusses the geology of the Appalachians; he relates the competition between Benton MacKaye and Myron Avery; he has a fine eye for historical spots on the trail. He throws out one-liners like a standup comic. After a night swatting at mice running over his sleeping bag, Katz says, "There's nothing like

a good night's rest, and that was nothing like a good night's rest." Venturing into Vermont, Bryson remarks that a year in Vermont is nine months of winter followed by three months of poor sledding. He likes moose and doesn't understand how anyone could shoot the awkward, harmless creatures.

The funniest parts of the book are the chapters with Katz. Stephen Katz is his foil: Bryson is the Abbot, Katz the Costello; he is the Martin, Katz the Lewis.

In the end, though, Bryson can be philosophical. Many hikers (like me) plod along, the only objective to put one foot in front of the other. Bryson actually thinks as he walks. He stands apart, observing the rest of us as we plod along. □

—Tom Johnson

Does the Trail Beckon?

Follow it to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

Your Passport to Outdoor Fun & Fellowship

Your path may lead you to:

- Trail, shelter, & cabin building
- Group bikes
- Cross-country skiing
- Group Backpacking trips
- Rent remote, rustic cabins

Join Us at our Open House! Saturday, May 13 10 AM - 2 PM

 118 Park Street SE
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serving the hiking public since 1927

The Potomac Heritage Trail Boasts New Signs!

Rebuilt in 1983, the Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT) stretches for 10 miles along the Potomac River's Virginia shoreline from the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge upstream to the Beltway at the American Legion Bridge.

Although it's difficult to get lost on since the deep river borders one side, first-time casual hikers need guidance or they can easily stray off the trail up into the many stream-fed ravines (Windy Run, Donaldson Run, Gulf Branch, Pimmit Run, Turkey Run, Dead Run). When the PHT was rebuilt in the 1980s, the trail had only six signposts, even counting its trail-head signs! This is where PATC volunteer signmaker, Dick Clough, came to the rescue! Dick produced 18 new handmade signs to both replace old signs and provide new waypoints along the PHT's path.

Dick's hiker-friendly signs give guidance to urban adventurers, keeping them on track. After a long National Park Service approval process, PATC's reputation provided the strength to get the job done with beautiful "old-style" large signs that any first-time hiker can't mistake.

Dick's been an avid fisherman and hunter all his life, and signmaking is one of the many ways he "gives something back." Dick also puts in nights working cabin reservations and is the overseer of the Ross



A "Dick Clough" sign on the PHT.

Moore shelter on the AT between Rte. 50 and Rte. 7 in Virginia. He took over the signmaking position 15 years ago and has made "a few hundred" signs over the years. He says the PHT job was his "biggest by far," and the hardest part was the multiple panel signs, taxing Dick's ingenuity and creativity on proper layout.

Many thanks to Dick for putting the last link into the PATC's mantra of its trail being "safe, well-maintained, and appropriately signed." With six boulder crossings, great views, historical features, and relative solitude, the PHT can now take the next step to becoming a great urban-hiking attraction. □

—Bruce Glendenning

7th Annual Blue & White Crew Trail Maintainers Workshop

June 3-4,

Pinnacle Research Station

The workshop, sponsored by the Blue & White Crew, in cooperation with SNP, is scheduled for June 3-4 (National Trails Day) and will be held at the Pinnacle Research Station, in the Central District of SNP. The workshop is designed to teach new and prospective trail maintainers basic skills, as well as provide training in advanced areas of trail design, construction, and maintenance.

Details are available on the Blue & White Crew Web site at www.blueandwhitecrew.org/Calendar/June06.php or call Kerry Snow at 301/345-9408. □

Family Weekend at Bears Den

Bears Den Family Weekend 2006 Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Home address _____

E-mail address _____

Lodging choice (Cabin, Cottage, Camping, or Saturday only) _____

Weekend Fee (See chart at www.patc.net/resources/hot/hot_special.htm) _____

_____ Adults @ \$ _____ each Adult total \$ _____

_____ Kids 4-17 @ \$ _____ each Kid total \$ _____

_____ Kids under 4 (free, but let us know they are coming)

T-shirt # _____ @ \$5 each T-shirt total \$ _____

Family grand total \$ _____

T-shirt sizes (Adult S, M, L, XL; Youth S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16); Toddler 2T, 3T, 4T)

Mail form along with check for grand total to: Anne Regan at 1016 Charlton Place, Herndon, VA 20170.

Last chance! Sign up now! The Family Weekend at Bears Den is May 6-7, with activities scheduled from noon Saturday to noon Sunday. Bears Den Trail Center is located in Bluemont, Va., about an hour's drive from D.C. The fun will include kid-friendly hikes, nature crafts, and games. Special guests will give presentations on raptors (with live birds) and bats, using bat detectors.

For any questions about cost, lodging, and registration, contact Anne Regan at anne.c.regan@verizon.net or 703/689-3883 □

From the Region: MARPC – What Is It, and What Does It Do?

In 2003, the Appalachian Trail Conference convened a “Strategic Summit Meeting” in Shepherdstown, W. Va. The meeting was attended by leaders from all of the maintaining clubs, ATC staff, and representatives from the partner agencies.

One of the goals of the meeting was to develop a vision for the future of the organization and the trail, with the realization that the original goals (building and protecting the treadway and corridor) had been largely met. “Do more with more” was the central message, developed over the course of that weekend. The “do more” part of the equation recognized the need for intensified efforts to conserve as much as possible of the remaining undeveloped lands adjacent to the AT corridor and the recognition of increasing threats to existing trail lands (encroachment, diminishing viewsheds, and threats to cultural and natural resources). “With more” recognized the need for increased human and financial resources and suggested the requirements for increased fundraising and the formation of partnerships with like-minded conservation organizations. Finally, the summit meeting lent impetus to a project that had been under way for several years to reorganize (and ultimately rename) ATC, in an effort to better address these significant goals and concerns.

In 2005, at the ATC Biennial Conference in Johnson City, Tenn., the reorganization became official, and the Appalachian Trail Conference became the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. As part of that reorganization, the ATC created new governing and management structures and hired four new directors to lead the efforts in finance, communications, development, and conservation. The ATC Board of Managers was replaced with two new managerial groups: the ATC Board of Directors (mainly involved with management of the Conservancy), and the ATC Stewardship Council (mainly concerned with management of the AT and its environs). The reorganization effort also created four Regional Partnership Committees that would coordinate the work of the maintaining clubs (with a regional focus), would assist the ATC regional offices, and would serve as a policy and communication conduit between the maintaining clubs, the ATC managerial boards, and the various ATC partners. All four regional committees scheduled initial meetings in the fall of 2005.

PATC is represented on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Committee (MARPC) by one voting member and one alternate. I currently serve as the voting member (and chair of the MARPC). My volunteer background includes approximately 10 years as a trail maintainer on the AT, 10 years as a crew leader and district manager, and one term as PATC supervisor of trails. I’ve also served as a hut overseer and a cabin overseer and as a member of several PATC committees. I’m currently employed as a microbiologist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. John Hedrick serves as the MARPC alternate from PATC. John’s credentials include many years as a trail maintainer and PATC crew member. For the last two years John has served as the PATC ridgerunner in SNP. John is retired from a distinguished career in the U.S. Army and from private enterprise. After his retirement, he thru-hiked the AT. John currently lives near Sperryville, Va.

The second meeting of the MARPC occurred on Saturday, March 11, in Boiling Springs, Pa. Representatives from 12 of the 13 clubs in the Mid-Atlantic Region were present, as well as ATC staff members from both the Harpers Ferry and Boiling Springs offices, and representatives from the Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO).

The meeting included updates on the ATC training schedule (chainsaw, SOLO first aid, rockwork and rigging, and boundary monitoring classes), updates on upcoming ATC-funded projects (Mather side trail rehab in Harpers Ferry, Bear Mt. AT relo-

cation, Port Clinton railroad crossing, and the AT relocation scheduled in the SNP North District), and updates from the ATPO (natural resource issues, law enforcement issues, and the “Trail to Every Classroom” outreach initiative).

Karen Lutz, ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional ATC director, reported that the Pennsylvania AT MOU was completed but still awaited several signatures from club presidents. She also discussed the compliance problems of Mid-Atlantic maintaining clubs in their submission of data for the ATPO five-year plan.

Hal Wright, MARPC representative from the Allentown Hiking Club, presented a Powerpoint presentation on GoogleEarth, mapping software, GPS/GIS, and efforts to use these tools to help manage the AT corridor. Paul Zeph, from the Audubon Society, presented a lunch-time discussion of efforts to conserve the Kittatinny Ridge and described partnership efforts currently under way in that regard.

The afternoon included reports from the seven MARPC subcommittees: Education, Outreach and Volunteer Development; Budget and Grants; MARPC Handbook; Land Use and Corridor Management; Meetings; Cultural and Natural Resources; and Trail Management.

Meeting minutes and relevant documents (including ATPO and NPS updates) are available on the committee’s Web site:

See *MARPC*, page 15

Trail Overseers Appointed in March

Barry Freeman	<u>AT</u> - Old AT Loop Trail to Old AT Loop Trail [purple]	
Lisa & Shawn White	<u>AT</u> - Loudoun Heights Trail to Powerline	
Dewey Clark	<u>Tuscarora Trail</u> - Lincoln Trail to PA Rte. 16	
David R. Coover	<u>Tuscarora Trail</u> - PA 233 to Bill Miller Trail	
William R. Ford	<u>Ambassador Whitehouse</u> - North Ridge Trail to Paris Overlook	
Beth Ann Johnson	<u>Ambassador Whitehouse</u> - North Ridge Trail to the AT	
John Moone	<u>Old AT Loop Trail</u> - AT to AT	
Bruce Schreiber	<u>Roaring Run Trail</u> - Catherine Furnace to TV Tower Road	

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. 10, 2004) 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. 14, 2004) 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. 17, 2005) 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. 5, 2004) AT GWNF Pedlar District (Tye River to James River)	6.00	4.80
PA210	Map D (ed. 4, 2004) Potomac River Gorge Area and Cabin John Trail	6.00	4.80
PA220	Map F (ed. 6, 2004) 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. 4, 2004) 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. 3, 2004) 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. 15, 2005)	9.00	7.20
PC110	Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania (ed. 7, 2004)	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
PC215	Time For Everything	9.00	7.20
PC220	Breaking Trail in the Central Appalachians - a narrative	12.50	10.00
PC225	A Footpath in the Wilderness	9.00	7.20
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 (2004)	6.50	5.20
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
PC315	Tales of Mountain Maryland (ed. 1, 2005)	17.95	14.36
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 (2004)	4.00	3.20
XX860	Rock Climbing	17.95	14.50
XX870	Grandpa's Mountain	4.99	3.99

From the PATC Store

Publications from Other Publishers

DESCRIPTION	RETAIL	MEMBER
50 hikes in Northern Virginia	13.00	10.40
Appalachian Trail Names (David Edwin Lillard)	16.95	13.50
Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion	10.00	8.00
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Guide to the Mason-Dixon Trail System Map Series	15.12	12.60
Grandpa's Mountain (Carolyn Reeder)	4.99	3.99
Hikes to Waterfalls	3.00	2.40
Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest	12.00	10.00
Hiking Virginia's National Forests	10.00	8.00
Hollow Boy By Rayner V. Snead	13.95	11.16
Insiders Guide to Virginia's Blue Ridge	15.00	12.00
Lightly on the Land	19.95	15.95
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Mountaineering First Aid	7.00	5.60
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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	11.00	8.80
The C&O Canal Companion	23.50	19.60
The New Appalachian Trail (Ed Garvey)	14.95	11.95
The Potomac River and the C&O Canal	8.50	6.80
There are Mountains to Climb	12.95	10.36
Towns along the Towpath	14.00	11.20
Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal	14.00	11.20
Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance	14.95	11.96
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Undying Past of the Shenandoah National Park	18.95	15.16
W & OD Railroad Trail Guide	8.00	6.40
Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry	8.00	6.40

Walking The Appalachian Trail	16.95	13.56
Wilderness Navigation	9.95	8.00
Workbook for Planning Thru-Hikes	6.00	4.80
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Appalachian Trail Poster Maps

AT strip map with forest green border 9" x 48"	3.50	2.80
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Pennsylvania	40.00	32.00
Southwest Virginia	17.00	13.60
Tennessee-North Carolina	25.00	20.00

Trails Illustrated Topo Maps

Shenandoah National Park	9.00	7.20
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PATC Water Bottles	5.00	5.00
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Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Mammals and Their Offspring

This is the time of the year to be out in the woods. No excuses. The awakening of April has transformed itself into the emergence of May. It is during this month that the 2006 generation will be out and about, taking advantage of the bountiful summer season of energy and growth. The next four months will be a struggle for survival, growth, and preparation for the winter season of scarcity.

The new generation of mammals is out in display for the fortunate hiker. Bear cubs have emerged with the sow in late April. With the excellent forage offered in Pennsylvania, studies show that the rearing of five cubs is as likely as single cubs (about 6 percent). Emerging mothers will either have the newborn cubs or the yearlings, who have spent the previous year with their mothers.

By the end of this month, the sow will chase off the yearlings, enabling her to find a mate to initiate her alternate year mating. The dispersal of the young will follow an instinctual pattern, common among most mammals, with females settling along the periphery of the mother's range, and males forced to seek out more distant territories, beyond the range of existing males. It is the result of these long treks that young males are found far from their usual habitats.

A Season of Birth

Coyotes have a late winter mating, resulting in one litter with an average of six young per litter per year (the largest litter recorded is 19), born in late April to early May. This newly returned species is now found in every county of Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. They've even been seen in Rock Creek Park and along the George Washington Parkway. Red foxes have one litter per year, averaging five per litter (the largest litter being 17 pups). In our mid-Atlantic region, breeding begins as early as late December, peaking in January and early February, with most birthing taking place in March. Emergence from the den will take place in April.

Gray foxes are about a month behind red foxes, producing one litter a year with an average of four born from early April to May, with emergence in May. Raccoons generally have one litter of three to four individuals, with mating taking place from late December to early March, peaking in February, with most born from April to May.

Striped skunks have only one litter per year, with an average of four to six per litter. The record brood was 18. The kits are born in May or early June. Bobcats produce one litter per year, with an average of two or three cubs commonly born in April or May.

White-tailed deer have one litter per year, with two per litter for mature adults, although 10-15 percent bear triplets, and in rare instances four are recorded. Single fawns will be produced by first litters, old does, and in poor seasons. Most young are born in late May and early June in this Appalachian region. Mating in early spring (late February to early April), woodchucks have one litter of four to five, produced in April to mid-May.

Even beaver usually have only one litter each year, with three to four per litter. Mating occurs from December through February, with birthing from April through June.

Multiple Litters

But, not all mammals have just one litter per season. And, within the same species, those living in Southern climates may have more litters than their Northern counterparts. Below are some of the multiple brooders. Many of these will have their first litters out prior to May.

For example, gray squirrels will normally produce two litters, of about three (ranging from one to nine) per litter per year, with parturition (birth) about March and August.

Opossum will normally produce two litters with up to 13 per litter per year (a third brood can occur if an earlier brood is lost in the pouch stage). They will breed from January through November with two periods of mating, usually in January/February and May/June. Usually about 21 young are born after only a 13-day gestation (although up to 56 have been recorded), but the number of nipples limits the brood, with normally only an average of eight to nine in the Appalachian region (six or seven to the South). Newborn (rather, living embryos), all generally born within 12 minutes, are smaller than a honeybee. Young are weaned after 90 – 100 days and are independent at two to three months. For the first month out of the pouch, the young will hang onto the mother as she forages. Road-killed females can have young still attached or still in the pouch. Something to think about ...

Most species of shrews have two or three litters of five to six per litter per year, born from April through July. The young of the masked shrew exhibit a "caravaning" habit of following-the-leader in a single file line, each one with its nose in the fur of the one in front of it.

Vole Beats out Cottontail

Then there's the rabbit. Our Eastern cottontail breeds throughout the growing season (from February through September) with three to five litters per year, with an average of five per litter (there can be as many as 12).

But, if people were to guess that the highest fecundity of our native mammals belonged to the cottontail, they would need to learn more about the rodents. In fact, the most prolific mammal in North America is the meadow vole. Breeding for the vole occurs throughout the year (primarily April to November), with an average of eight or nine litters with a litter size of five to eight. Such rapid births are the result of postpartum estrus, which enables a new pregnancy within hours of birthing. For the record, in a captive setting, one female had 17 litters in one year.

As the above indicates, various strategies exist for securing the success of the progeny. In general, the larger mammals have fewer young, while the smaller tend to have more and larger broods. Both rabbits and hares produce relatively large litters and are prodigious reproducers, with large populations maintained, supplying a significant food source for many predators (high fecundity is balanced by high mortality). This is known as an r-select strategy. The other primary reproductive strategy is k-select strategy, practiced by larger mammals that produce low numbers of young, with a much greater proportion of the young entering the breeding populations.

Adding the multitude of fledgling birds and the amphibians and reptiles (not to mention the millions of new insects), it is astounding to realize that this same number of individuals must die each year in order to maintain a stable ecosystem, where all the energy of the deceased is consumed by the living.

So, make sure to get out in the woods to view the birthing of another season and another generation of nature's life forms. Celebrate birth. Celebrate life. And accept death, for death is, in the natural world, a part of life. □

Giving and Getting in Nicholson Hollow, A PATC-Styled Birthday Celebration

About a year ago I wrote a short article for the *PA* describing my experience as a new trail overseer and the joy of “giving something back” to the park and the club.

Twelve months have since passed, and I've learned a great deal about being on the trail and in charge of the trail, with my co-overseer, Anne Eggers.

Approximately once a month, Anne and I head up toward Old Rag Mountain and hike in two miles to our path, Hannah Run Trail. From there we work another two miles of the trail. Each month we take on a different task.

We have cleared blown-down trees from across the trail. We have weed-whipped with a manual scythe. We have painted blaze markings on the trees and lopped off encroaching vegetation.

This past week, however, I drove the 90-minute drive to the trailhead primarily for pleasure.

I traveled with my wife and two friends from Richmond, Va., to celebrate my birthday and share the hard work of the past year with family and friends.

Our foursome arrived at Sharp Rock Vineyard, near Sperryville, Va., about 10 a.m. on a Saturday. The vineyard, which sits on 23 acres adjacent to the Hughes River, has two cottages for overnight accommodations.

After checking in with Jimm East, the host of Sharp Rock, we packed our gear into the 216-year-old Sunset Cottage. The small farmhouse was great for our group of four.



Thom Savage on Nicholson Hollow Trail along Hughes River.



Photo by Thom Savage

Old Rag Mountain's profile softens in summer season.

Soon we headed up to the Nicholson Hollow trailhead to start our hike. Although the great drought of March was still lingering, we were able to enjoy the babbling streams of the Hughes River and Hannah Run.

All seemed adequately impressed with the hard work that Anne and I had invested during the past year, as we strolled up Hannah Run Trail. Or, maybe, they were just humoring the birthday boy.

Coming down the mountain we encountered two older couples and assisted them in crossing the Hughes River. They were 60- to 80-something and had traveled from West Virginia to visit the old home place. They were Nicholsons – descendants of the former inhabitants of Nicholson Hollow.

Afterward we hustled back to the Sunset Cottage for the sunset. Jimm and his wife, Kathy, had left two bottles of wine, cheese, crackers, and fruit out for our enjoyment. What a joy it was to sit on the cottage deck, sipping local wine and watching the sun go down right over Old Rag Mountain.

After a dinner of steak and tuna on the grill, we turned in early and enjoyed a good night's sleep.

The next morning we enjoyed a nice breakfast and took another walk around the countryside and vineyard.

So again I write for the newer members of the club, and maybe some older members as well, to remind them to give something back to the park. Give something back to the club. But, also, remember that you can have a wonderful time doing it, as well. □

— Thom Savage

Thom Savage, his wife, and two children live in Goldvein, Va.

Join Us for an Old Rag Celebration

Jimm and Kathy East are hosting an Old Rag Celebration on Sat., July 15, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. All PATC members are invited to stop by after their hike of Old Rag Mountain or any other local trails, including the waterfalls of White Oak Canyon. The Easts are planning live music, gourmet foods, wine tastings of several new wines, and a raffle for a night in the Bed & Breakfast. For more information see www.sharprockvineyard.com. □

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

The Charlottesville Chapter hikes every Saturday; summer, winter, and in between. Hikes are usually 8 to 10 miles with some shorter hikes. We usually maintain trails on the last Saturday of the month. Meet at Albermarle High School in Charlottesville at 9:00 a.m. with food and water for the day. The majority of hikes are in the south and central districts of SNP, with some in the north district and in George Washington National Forest. Our Chapter hikes are posted at www.avenue.org/patc/future_hikes.htm. INFO: Jere Bidwell 434/295-2143 or John Shannon 434/293-2953.

North Chapter

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

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the Forecast. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Betsy Fowler (efowler@shentel.com).

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See www.ssvc.org or the one linked to the PATC Web site for descriptions of hikes and work trips. We usually hike in the southern and central districts of the SNP and in the GWNF. Contact the listed hike leader for information about a specific event, or contact Mark Gatewood 540/248-0442.

West Chapter

The West Chapter meets twice a year in March and September. The Chapter maintains a section of the Black Locust circuit trail in Gambrill State Park near Frederick, Md. Work trips and hikes are usually scheduled monthly from March through December. We also lead overnight weekend trips for day hikes or backpacking. All activities are listed in the PA Forecast. For further information contact Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 304/876-7062 (evenings) or 240/777-7741 (days).

Ski Touring Section

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

Mountaineering Section

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

climbers. For further information contact Dave Raboy (draboy@pattonboggs.com), or Vincent Penoso (vdotmatrix@gmail.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 (www.wanderbirds.org) 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.wvhighlands.org.

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

-  Hiking Trips
-  Backpacking Trips
-  Trail Work Trips
-  Cabin/Shelter Work Trips
-  Special Events
-  Meetings
-  Classes
-  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. Want to learn more about the club? The best way is to attend a New Members meeting (but you don't have to be new). Refreshments served. Directions: Take Rt. 123 into Vienna, Va., and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Georgeann Smale (membership@patc.net) 301/581-9584 or Pat Fankhauser (pfankhauser@patc.net).

Mountaineering Section –

Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. – We meet every month on the second Wednesday except for August, unless noted in the Forecast. INFO: Dave Raboy (draboy@pattonboggs.com), or Vincent Penoso (vdotmatrix@gmail.com) or our Web site: www.potomacmountainclub.org

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

The council meets at 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 always 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., except January. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's goodwill trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, and strive to educate 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. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: Katrina Hedlesky (trailpatrol@patc.net) 703/533-3652, or see our section in PATC's Web site: www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol.

May

1 (Monday)

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 PA@patc.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

1 (Monday)

HIKE – Family Hike Sterling, VA

Come enjoy a kid-friendly circuit hike in beautiful Claude Moore Park. We will hike about 2 and a half miles. We will picnic along the way, next to a pond. After the hike, we will enjoy the activities and turtles in their visitor center. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.)

2 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Climb Buck Hollow to the AT south to Pinnacles, return via upper Hannah Run Trail and Hazel River Trail to White Rocks then bushwhack 1.5 mi. down the old wagon road. 14 mi. 3500 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

2 (Tuesday)

MEETING – Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

3 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Upper Marlboro, MD

We'll hike at Jug Bay, in Patuxent River Park. Meet at 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot near the park office. A 4-mile hike will be preceded by a 1 and half hour cruise on the *Otter*, with a park naturalist. Boat capacity is 20 passengers; reservation required. Directions: From Beltway, take Exit 11A, Pennsylvania Ave. (Rt. 4) south/east. Go 8 miles, and take Rt. 301 south for 1.7 miles. Turn left on Croom Station Rd., go 1.6 miles. Turn left on Croom Rd. (Rt. 382), go 1.5 miles. Turn left on Croom Airport Rd., go 2 miles. Turn left into park driveway to visitor parking, 1.6 miles. Bring lunch and water. INFO: John or Suzanne Kominiski 703/751-3026.

3 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

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

3 (Wednesday)

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

6 (Saturday)

HIKE – Long Distance Hike Great Falls, VA

CCT-V — The Fifth Annual Cross County Trail Hike. This north-to-south 38-mile hike along the stream banks and through the woods of Fairfax County will start at "first light" to allow us to complete the hike before sunset. Run jointly with the Sierra Club's MWROP. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931, or Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 540/373-8267.

6 (Saturday)

HIKE – Natural History Trillium Hike Linden, VA

Bob Pickett, PATC Naturalist, leads this moderately difficult 7-mile hike through literally millions of blooming white-flowering trillium in this botanically-rich area. In addition to the famous trillium fields, we will see yellow lady slippers, showy orchids, and the regionally-rare nodding trillium. Migrating warblers are also a highlight of this hike, with this area being one of the few hot spots in our region for seeing and hearing the cerulean warbler. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

6 (Saturday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers Fairfax County, VA

The Fairfax Cross County Trail (CCT). To help celebrate the opening of the CCT, the "Tuesday Vigorous Hikers" plan to hike the full 38 miles of the trail. Join us on all, or part, of this hike. INFO: Cliff Noyes (hclmnoyes@yahoo.com) or Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

6 (Saturday)

MEETING – North Chapter Arendtsville, PA

3:00 p.m. We'll hold our spring meeting and picnic at Gypsy Spring Cabin. INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

6 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Rock Creek Park Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. – noon. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Alex Sanders (wdctrails@yahoo.com) 703/465-8140 or Ranger Ken Ferebee at 202/895-6221.

6 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

6 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Yankee Clippers Appalachian Trail, PA

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

6 – 7 (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. More information and registration at: <http://wfa.net>. INFO: Christopher Tate (chris@wfa.net) 703/836-8905.

9 (Tuesday)

CLASS – Bird Watching (REI) Fairfax, VA

7:00 p.m. Come hear The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia's birding experts discuss how to identify resident species and pick up tips on choosing the best binoculars for you. A short introduction will be followed by a field trip to a nearby park. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. This event is co-sponsored by Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) and Audubon at Home in Northern Virginia. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

9 (Tuesday)

MEETING – PATC Council, 7:00 p.m.

10 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers Washington, DC

We will hike about 4.5 miles in the central section of Rock Creek Park, walking south to Rolling Meadow Bridge where we eat lunch. There are a few ups & downs on this hike. Meet at 10:15 a.m. on Beach Drive candy cane parking lot; 3 parking lots south of Beach Drive & East-West Hwy. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Carol Niedzialek, (cactus41@earthlink.net) 301/949-9729.

10 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

See May 3 event for more information.

10 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Saturday)

HIKE – In Between Hikers Reston, VA

Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #4. Scenic and one-way, 7.7-mile hike in Reston/Great Falls area, from Lawyers Rd. to Leigh Mill Rd. Car shuttle required. Joint event with Sierra Club MWROP. Bring lunch and water but no pets. Limited to 20 people. INFO: Carol Ivory (carolivory@verizon.net) 703/476-8730 or Henri Comeau (HenriComeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

13 (Saturday)

HIKE – Long Distance

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
After ascending the Conway River Trail (with several stream crossings) to the AT, the hike will proceed south over Bear Fence Mountain (a rock scramble and one of the only 360 degree views in SNP) to the Pocosin Hollow Trail. Several more stream crossings will complete the circuit. Total distance 16 miles with an elevation gain of 3500 feet. The pace is moderate to allow for time to stop to investigate any flora and fungi of interest. Inexperienced hikers contact leader if details needed. INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410-884-9127.

13 (Saturday)

HIKE – Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Woodstock, VA

Enjoy spring and great views on this scenic, seven-mile hike from 1,600 ft. at the Trout Run Trailhead to the 2,800 ft. summit on Halfmoon Mountain, location of a former fire lookout station. Hike in diverse environments from open deciduous woods, going up the hollow created by Halfmoon Run, to the pine and boulder-covered top. Vistas include surrounding mountains in West Virginia and Trout Run Valley. We will also hike to the view of Halfmoon Mountain itself. One mile of the return will be via an old road, off the trail, downhill to Halfmoon Run. For those not wishing to hike off the trail, they may return from Halfmoon Mountain directly for a total distance of six miles. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visuallink.com) 540/678/1043.

13 – 14 (Saturday – Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP – Vining Tract Crew Stanardsville, VA

Come join our crew as we continue the construction of Butternut Cabin and perform trail maintenance on this, PATC's largest property with nearly 1,000 acres and six rental cabins. On the eastern slope of SNP, the property is surrounded by undeveloped land and offers great views of the Virginia Piedmont. Overnight at Conley Cabin. INFO: Hugh Robinson, (mes.hr@verizon.net) 703/525-8726.

FORECAST

13 – 14 (Saturday – Sunday)

🦅 SPECIAL EVENT – Ravishing Raptors

Berkeley Springs, WV

We'll celebrate 'Ravishing Raptors and Other Fine Feathered Friends' at the Panorama Overlook in Berkeley Springs. This overlook has the 7th most beautiful view in the U.S. where you can see West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania all at once. We need trail talkers, as well as someone to lead a hike in the area. This event is sponsored by the Ecology Coalition of Morgan County (www.natureniche.biz). INFO: Jane Thompson (jayteehike@yahoo.com) 301/349-2496.

13 – 14 (Saturday – Sunday)

🦅 TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew

Martinsburg, WV

The Crew continues work on an emergency Tuscarora Trail relocation at the north end of Sleepy Creek WMA. It will be a challenge to build the trail through a steep rock field. Hopefully we will finish the project this work trip. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight location to be determined. INFO: Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@adelphia.net) 540/635-6351.

16 (Tuesday)

🦅 HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Climb Rose River Fire Rd. connecting to scenic Rose River Loop Trail. Climb to AT south to the Lewis Falls. Return via Rapidan Fire Rd. & Dark Hollow Falls Trail — 18 miles, 4300 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

16 (Tuesday)

🦅 SPECIAL EVENT – Alps Adventure (REI)

College Park, MD

7:00 p.m. Explore the numerous hikes, hostels, and huts in the Austrian Alps. Visit St. Bernard's Pass, home of the famous rescue dogs. Travel by train, bus, and horse-drawn cart. See glaciers and spectacular mountain scenery near the other side of the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc—in Italy. World traveler and author, Faith Stern, presents a slide show of a two-month independent hiking trip in the Alps of Austria and Italy. The presentation includes glimpses of Vienna, Innsbruck, and Graz in Austria and Vaduz, Liechtenstein. A signing of her book: *Getting There With Faith: Adventures of a Travel Addict* will follow the show. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

17 (Wednesday)

🦅 CLASS – Backpacking 101 (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Join us, as we take the mystery out of backpacking and share our knowledge and experience. We'll cover essential backpacking gear and skills, proper clothing, and understanding how to plan, prepare and enjoy your adventure while staying safe, warm and dry. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

17 (Wednesday)

🦅 HIKE – Easy Hikers

Washington, DC

Meet at Pierce Mill parking lot in Rock Creek Park. We will walk to National Zoo, cross over to Adams Morgan and walk to 16th street. Walk down 16th street to Meridian Park, over to Meridian House and back to National Zoo for lunch before returning to parking. Possible stops at Mexican Cultural Institute and Meridian House. Distance of 4-5 miles. INFO: Dan Lieberman (danlan2000@att.net) 301/986-9015.

17 (Wednesday)

🦅 HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See May 3 event for more information.

20 (Saturday)

🦅 HIKE – Shenandoah AT Series

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Bearfence Mountain to Swift Run Gap. Section 5.2, about 15km (9.5 miles). After the hike an optional jaunt to view South River Falls. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741, or 304/876-7062.

20 (Saturday)

🦅 HIKE – Waterfall and Wildflower Series

South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

This will be a 10-mile circuit to Riprap Falls on the Riprap, Appalachian and Wildcat Ridge Trails. There will be no bushwhacking. There is a possibility we might see the Large Whorled Pogonia, an uncommon native orchid. PATC Map 11. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

20 (Saturday)

🦅 SPECIAL EVENT – Camp/Backpack (REI)

Gaithersburg, MD

12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m. Come to Seneca Creek State Park and see the latest in camping and backpacking equipment; attend clinics on the basics of backpacking, backcountry cooking, Leave No Trace. Rain will cancel this event. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

20 (Saturday)

🦅 TRAIL WORK TRIP – Northern Virginia

McLean, VA

Join a training workshop on trail maintenance supported by the ACME Treadway Trail Crew. We will redo some sections of the Potomac Heritage Trail along the scenic Potomac River. Trainers will help all abilities learn the fundamentals and "Zen" of trail work. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday only, with optional potluck meal afterwards. Limited to 15 slots – Must RSVP, if interested. INFO: Bruce Glendening (bglendening@yahoo.com) 703-532-9093.

20 (Saturday)

🦅 TRAIL WORK TRIP – Roaring Tuskers

Gore, VA

The Roaring Tuskers, Tuscarora Trail Central District Trail Crew, will be working on relocating the Tuscarora Trail in vicinity of Gore. Please bring water, lunch, gloves and boots. INFO: Steve Sharp (stevensharp@comcast.net) 240/338-3655.

20 (Saturday)

🦅 TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

20 (Saturday)

🦅 TRAIL WORK TRIP – Stonewall Brigade

Woodstock, VA

Join the Stonewall Brigade to keep trails clear in one of PATC's least crowded and scenic districts. Experience unnecessary, all tools and training provided. Help us put together a new group of interested volunteers who like to be outdoors making trails more enjoyable for others. Our schedule will be the third Saturday of every month; you are welcome to join us every month, a few times a year, or as many times as you can. Work will usually be in the area covered by PATC Map F – Great North Mountain on the VA/WV border. Meet at the Wolf Gap Recreation Area campground parking lot (PATC Map F coordinates E-19) at 9:00 a.m. This trip is subject to prevailing or forecast weather. If doubtful, please check before going to the meeting site. See also: www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/stonewall/stonewall.html. INFO: Hop Long (theFSLongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177 or Jim Tomlin (jtomlin@helix.nih.gov).

20 (Saturday)

🦅 TRAIL WORK TRIP – Yankee Clippers

Appalachian Trail, PA

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

20 – 21 (Saturday – Sunday)

🦅 TRAIL WORK TRIP – North District Hoodlums

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come on down to the bayou and join us in our annual Cajun work trip. The Hoodlums trail crew works on the AT and the blue-blazed trails in the north section of SNP. After a day of hard work we will enjoy the camaraderie of fellow trail workers with a Cajun theme meal at Indian Run maintenance hut. Come for the day, stay for dinner, and camp overnight if you wish. Or just come out and work with us during the day. Some folks who stay over may even want to work on Sunday. Newcomers are always welcome! We'll meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. INFO: Dick Dugan (rdugan@frontiernet.net) 304/856-3511.

20 – 21 (Saturday – Sunday)

🦅 TRAIL WORK TRIP – Shenandoah Bartenders

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Lovely little Buck Hollow will be the object of the Bartenders' attention on this trip. North end of this trail needs some treadway repairs and upgrades on the stream crossings. Come out and learn some trail maintenance basics. We love new faces, and don't worry - we offer on-the-job training. For free. Also accommodations at a PATC cabin on Friday and Saturday nights. INFO: Cathie Cummins (Cathie@wfa.net) 703/631-7421, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weeknights.

21 (Sunday)

🦅 HIKE – Sunday Hikers

Comus, MD

May means wildflowers and hikes in the wood. We'll be visiting an old favorite, Sugarloaf Mountain, for this springtime hike. Hopefully we'll be in time to see the mountain laurel blooming this year. This is an 8.5-mile moderate hike, with an elevation change of 1,700 ft. On this route we'll catch all the great overlooks as well. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

21 (Sunday)

🦅 SPECIAL EVENT – Camping/Backpacking (REI)

Lorton, VA

12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m. Come to Pohick Bay Regional Park and see the latest in camping and backpacking equipment; attend clinics on the basics of backpacking, backcountry cooking, Leave No Trace. Rain will cancel this event. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

21 (Sunday)

🦅 TRAIL WORK TRIP – West Chapter

Frederick, MD

Continuation of the Spring, 2006 West Chapter trail work sessions at Gambrill State Park. Ongoing trail maintenance projects. Meet 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741, or 304/876-7062.

23 (Tuesday)

🦅 CLASS – Travel Photography (REI)

Fairfax, VA

7:30 p.m. Join world photographer, Dean Villanueva, just back from a trip to Tibet, for an informative evening on travel photography. Through words and images, Dean will walk you through trip logistics – setting goals, what to shoot, equipment, digital vs. traditional, photo etiquette, composition, and technique. Visit www.villanueva-usa.com for more information. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

23 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

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

23 (Tuesday)

👤 SPECIAL EVENT – Heli-Hiking Rockies (REI)
College Park, MD

7:00 p.m. The Canadian Rockies are majestic, awe-inspiring, and more. Heli-Hiking is one of the world's greatest and rarest summer mountain experiences. The combination of luxurious lodges, service, guides, and casual gourmet cuisine is as good as it gets, anywhere. And the mountains are remote wilderness, inaccessible without the careful and sensitive use of helicopters. Come out for an evening's glimpse of what you can experience in Canada! INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

24 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE – Easy Hikers

Rossllyn, VA

A hike on the Roosevelt Island/Mount Vernon Trail. Park in Theodore Roosevelt Island lot or take 15-minute walk from Rossllyn Metro. We will go two miles up Mount Vernon Trail to Navy and Marine Memorial off George Washington Parkway before doubling back. Spectacular river and city views. Bring camera. Afterward we will do mile-hike around island. Lunch at Teddy Roosevelt Memorial Plaza. Bring lunch and water. No pets! INFO: Jim Flanigan (jflanigan@aol.com) 202/554-3775.

24 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See May 3 event for more information.

24 (Wednesday)

👤 SPECIAL EVENT – Heli-Hiking Rockies (REI)
Rockville, MD

7:30 p.m. See May 23 listing for details. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

25 (Thursday)

👤 CLASS – GPS 101 (REI)

College Park, MD

7:00 p.m. Learn how GPS receivers work and what affects accuracy, as well as features, benefits and how to choose a model. We'll also include a brief overview of online resources and batteries, water and shock resistance and accessories. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

26 – 28 (Friday – Sunday)

👤 CABIN WORK TRIP – Argow Cabin

South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come help restore an old mid 1800's log cabin built by Confederate Soldier James Samuel Eaton. We will be replacing the old floor joists of the cabin and begin construction of the new privy. Overnight accommodations will be at Schairer Trail Center, a short 1/2 mile hike in from Eaton Hollow Overlook on Skyline Drive (MM70). Communal meals for Sat. dinner, Sun. Breakfast and Sun. lunch for a minimal fee. INFO: Jeff Testerman (jtest@ntelos.net) 434/589-2081.

27 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE – In Between Hikers

Great Falls, VA

Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #5. One-way and scenic 7.2 mi. in Great Falls area, consisting of 2.2 mi. from Leigh Mill Rd. to CCT terminus in Great Falls Park, and then partly hilly 5 riverfront mi. in that park and Riverbend Park. Car shuttle required. Joint event with Sierra Club MWRP. Bring lunch

and water but no pets. Limited to 20 people. INFO: Henri Comeau (HenriComeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

27 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE – Tuscarora Trail Series

Berkeley Springs, WV

Hike in Sleepy Creek WMA, in West Virginia. Elevation change of 1200 feet. Using a new relocation, we will hike up Sleepy Creek Mountain as we enter the Wildlife Management Area. From there, it is level hiking until we drop down to the North end of Sleepy Creek Lake. INFO: Jason Rainville (superjasonr@hotmail.com) 304/262-0994.

27 – 28 (Saturday – Sunday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew

Round Hill, VA

Join the Crew for Memorial Day weekend as we work on erosion problems on the AT north of Blackburn. As usual, there are a variety projects to choose from when the Crew visits Blackburn. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@adelphia.net) 540/635-6351.

28 – 29 (Sunday – Monday)

👤 SPECIAL EVENT – Viva Vienna!

Vienna, VA

Viva Vienna! will once again fill Center Street with hundreds of vendors. There will be live music and dance, amusement rides and plenty of good food. PATC will have a display at this event and could use some help. Even if you only have an hour or two, we could use you to set up and take down the display. Help is needed from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday. INFO: Pat Fankhauser (pfankhauser@patc.net).

30 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Climb to the AT on the Slaughter Trail, go south on the AT, visit South River falls, descend Pocosin Hollow Trail. 16 mi., 3100 ft. uphill. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

30 (Tuesday)

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

30 (Tuesday)

👤 SPECIAL EVENT – Heli-Hiking Rockies (REI)
Fairfax, VA

7:30 p.m. See May 23 listing for details. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

31 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE – Easy Hikers

Great Falls, VA

We will hike 5 miles in Great Falls National Park. Bring lunch, water and your Golden Age Passport or pay entrance fee. We will meet at 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot next to the Visitors Center. Directions: Take Georgetown Pike at exit 44 from Beltway towards Great Falls. Turn right at first stoplight into park. INFO: Sigrid Crane (sigrid.crane@verizon.net) 703/938-0954.



31 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See May 3 event for more information.

June

1 (Thursday)

👤 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 PA@patc.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

3 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE – K9 Trailblazers

Thurmont, MD

We'll hike at a moderate pace for an up to eight-mile loop through Catoctin (depending on trail closures). Along the way we'll take in the scenic vistas at Chimney, Wolf, and Hog Rocks. This hike will be on rocky trails with ~700 ft total elevation change. Sturdy boots with good ankle support 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 snacks and water for you and your dog. Visit www.k9trailblazers.org. INFO: Jenifer Foster (jeniferfoster@msn.com)

3 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE – Shockey's Knob Circuit Hike

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. We will begin at the High Rock Trailhead parking lot in Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area (SCWMA). We will be hiking on the High Rock, Mini Knife Edge, and Tuscarora trails, as well as the new Millrace Trail recently completed by the Cadillac Crew. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visualink.com) 540/678-1043.

3 (Saturday)

👤 SPECIAL EVENT –
National Trails Day

Central District,
Shenandoah National Park, VA

Events held at the Byrd Visitor Center. PATC, in partnership with SNP, will sponsor a day celebrating opportunities to experience our natural world. Join us for guided hikes, displays, and information on how you can improve your hiking skills while minimizing your impact on the environment. Events held throughout the day. Admission is free and open to the public (normal park entrance fees apply). Visit www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol/Outreach/ntcdinfo.htm INFO: Cindy Majewski (TPNTD@patc.net).



3 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP –
Rock Creek Park

Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. - noon. National Trails Day work project. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. Rain or shine. INFO: Alex Sanders (wdctrails@yahoo.com) 703/465-8140 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.



3 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP –
South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

Join the South Mountaineers for the annual National Trails Day event, which includes a catered supper, sponsored by The Trail House of Frederick for the fifth consecutive year. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.



FORECAST

3 (Saturday)

🏞️ TRAIL WORK TRIP –
Yankee Clippers
Appalachian Trail, PA

Set a good example and join the Yankee Clippers trail crew for a National Trails Day weekend work trip. INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.



4 (Sunday)

🏞️ TRAIL WORK TRIP –
West Chapter
Thurmont, MD

This is the West Chapter's National Trail Day Event, at Cunningham Falls State Park or Gambrell State Park; near Thurmont, MD or Frederick, MD. Details TBD and posted in the June PA. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741 or 304/876-7062.



6 (Tuesday)

🏞️ HIKE – Vigorous Hikers
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

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

6 (Tuesday)

🏠 MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

7 (Wednesday)

🏞️ CLASS – Women's Backpacking (REI)
Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Join us for an evening at REI for a thorough introduction to equipment. Then spend a weekend field testing your equipment and learning new skills on a backpacking trip along the Appalachian Trail. We'll plan to hike 7 miles the first day, a little over 5 the next, on a trail that for the most part is gently rolling. That should leave plenty of time and energy to learn about Leave No Trace camping, how to use a stove and what to cook on it, map and compass, caring for your feet, and how to pitch a tent. Trip fee \$125 covers food from dinner on Friday June 16 to lunch on Sunday, June 18, and camping fees, all group camping equipment, and expert leadership. INFO: Mark Nelson (MNelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

7 (Wednesday)

🏞️ HIKE – Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

See May 3 event for more information.

7 (Wednesday)

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

10 (Saturday)

🏞️ HIKE – In Between Hikers
Lorton, VA

Fairfax County Cross County Trail Hike #6. One-way, 7.5 mi. hike in Lorton/Springfield area consisting of 4.5 mi. on newly opened Laurel Hill Scenic Greenway Trail, from Occoquan River to Wadebrook Terr., and then 3 mi. along parkland-enclosed Pohick Valley Stream Park to Fairfax County Pkwy. Joint event with Sierra Club MWRP. Bring lunch and water but no pets. Car shuttle required. Limited to 20 people. INFO: Ray Evert (hikerdude22@msn.com) 703/893-3792 or Henri Comeau (HenriComeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

10 (Saturday)

🏞️ TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers
Appalachian Trail, MD

INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

National Trails Day June 3

10 – 11 (Saturday – Sunday)

🏞️ BACKPACKING TRIP – North Chapter
Frostburg, MD

A backpacking weekend on the Big Savage Trail near Frostburg, MD. Total hiking distance 16.9 miles. Must have done backpacking and must have own gear and food. INFO: Christopher Firme (bnc-firme@innet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

10 – 11 (Saturday – Sunday)

🏞️ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew
Winchester, VA

The Crew will continue building the new Millrace Trail that connects the Tuscarora Trail to the White Rocks Trail through Sleepy Creek WMA. The trail has been cleared but there is a lot of sidehill tread to dig. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Margie Knott's cabin. INFO: Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@adelphia.net) 540/635-6351.

11 (Sunday)

🏞️ HIKE – Sunday Hikers
Harpers Ferry, WV

We'll re-visit a favorite hike, the big loop around Harpers Ferry. This moderate circuit of approximately 10 miles will include spectacular views and lots of uphill climbing. From Harpers Ferry, we'll follow the AT, past Jefferson Rock, across the Shenandoah River, and climb up to Loudoun Heights. Then, after crossing over the Potomac, we'll hike down the C&O towpath to the Maryland Heights trail, and climb up for more views, followed by a descent back into town. PATC Map 7. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

13 (Tuesday)

🏠 MEETING - PATC Council, 7:00 p.m.

14 (Wednesday)

🏞️ HIKE – Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

See May 3 event for more information.

14 (Wednesday)

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

17 (Saturday)

🏞️ HIKE – Waterfall and Wild Flower Series
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A 12-mile circuit hike with an easy 3-mile bush-whack to Timber Hollow Falls. We will visit several foundations of old home sites near the falls. The remaining 9 miles will be on the Skyland-Big Meadows Horse, Appalachian, and Hawksbill Trails. PATC Map 10. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

17 (Saturday)

🏞️ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Rock Creek Park
Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. - 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. INFO: Alex Sanders (wdctrails@yahoo.com) 703/465-8140 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

17 (Saturday)

🏞️ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Yankee Clippers
Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

17 – 18 (Saturday – Sunday)

🏞️ TRAIL WORK TRIP – North District Hoodlums
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come help the North District Hoodlums do some tread work in the Park! The Hoodlums trail crew works on the AT and the blue-blazed trails in the north section of Shenandoah National Park. After a day of hard work we will enjoy the camaraderie of fellow trail workers with a Mediterranean theme meal at Indian Run maintenance hut. Come for the day, stay for dinner, and camp overnight if you wish. Or just come out and work with us during the day. Newcomers are always welcome! We'll meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. INFO: Dick Dugan (rdugan@frontiernet.net) 304/856-3511.

17 – 18 (Saturday – Sunday)

🏞️ TRAIL WORK TRIP – Shenandoah Bartenders
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Oh, no! It's brush cutting time. Old Rag needs a cut, and a hearty team of cutters; gotta keep that mountain looking sharp. Join the Bartenders for a day, or the weekend, for work on the 2.7 mile Ridge Trail. Enjoy a dip in Brokenback Run, a relaxing evening, good food, good company and accommodations at a PATC cabin on Friday and Saturday nights. We love new faces, and don't worry, we offer on-the-job training. INFO: Cathie Cummins (Cathie@wfa.net) 703/631-7421, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. weeknights.

18 (Sunday)

🏞️ TRAIL WORK TRIP – South Mountaineers
Appalachian Trail, MD

INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

20 (Tuesday)

🏞️ HIKE – Vigorous Hikers
Shenandoah, VA

Runkles Gap, South Massanutten Mountain; features ascent of pretty Morgan Run returning via Fridley Gap on the Massanutten South Trail and the Boone Run Trail. About 15.4 miles, 3300 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

21 (Wednesday)

🏞️ HIKE – Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

See May 3 event for more information.

23 – 25 (Friday – Sunday)

🏠 CABIN WORK TRIP – Argow Cabin
South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come help restore an old mid 1800's log cabin built by Confederate Soldier James Samuel Eaton. We will be replacing the old floor joists of the cabin and begin construction of the new privy. Overnight accommodations will be at Schairer Trail Center, a short 1/2 mile hike in from Eaton Hollow Overlook on Skyline Drive (MM70). Communal meals for Sat. dinner, Sun. Breakfast and Sun. lunch for a minimal fee. INFO: Jeff Testerman (jtest@ntelos.net) 434/589-2081.

FORECAST

24 (Saturday)

**HIKE – Tuscarora Trail Series
Berkeley Springs, WV**

Hike in Sleep Creek WMA: Sleepy Creek Lake to Hampshire Grade Road. 7.4 miles-moderate hike. Elevation change of 600 feet. We will be hiking along the lake passing several primitive campsites before reentering the forest. Come out and enjoy this underused public area. INFO: Jason Rainville (superjasonr@hotmail.com) 304/262-0994.

24 (Saturday)

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

INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

24 – 25 (Saturday – Sunday)

**BACKPACKING TRIP – Spruce Knob
Spruce Knob, WV**

Explore old railroad logging routes as we base camp at Camp 4 Low Place. We will explore the abandoned Spruce Mountain trail and railroad grades, encountering vistas of the Seneca Creek backcountry. Approximately 700 foot elevation gain/loss with 12-17 moderate miles. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 (day) or 304/258-3319 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).

24 – 25 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS – Land Navigation (REI)
Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. 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.

24 – 25 (Saturday – Sunday)

**SPECIAL EVENT – Oldtown Summer Fest
Cumberland, MD**

The Oldtown Summer Fest will take place near Cumberland, Md. This celebration features the Michael Cresap House, a beautifully restored stone house, where Michael Cresap was born in 1742. This historic house will be open for tours during the event. There will also be various types of music throughout the day, great food and tours of the C&O Canal lock house led by NPS rangers. See the Web site at www.oldtownmdsummerfest.org/. We need volunteers to sign up as trail talkers. INFO: Jane Thompson, (jayteehike@yahoo.com) 301/349-2496.

27 (Tuesday)

HIKE – Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Enjoy two great valley trails. Ascend the full length of Piney Branch Trail, circle around the AT and down the Thornton Trail and Hull School Trail. About 16 miles and 3500 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

27 (Tuesday)

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

28 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See May 3 event for more information. □

MARPC, from page 5

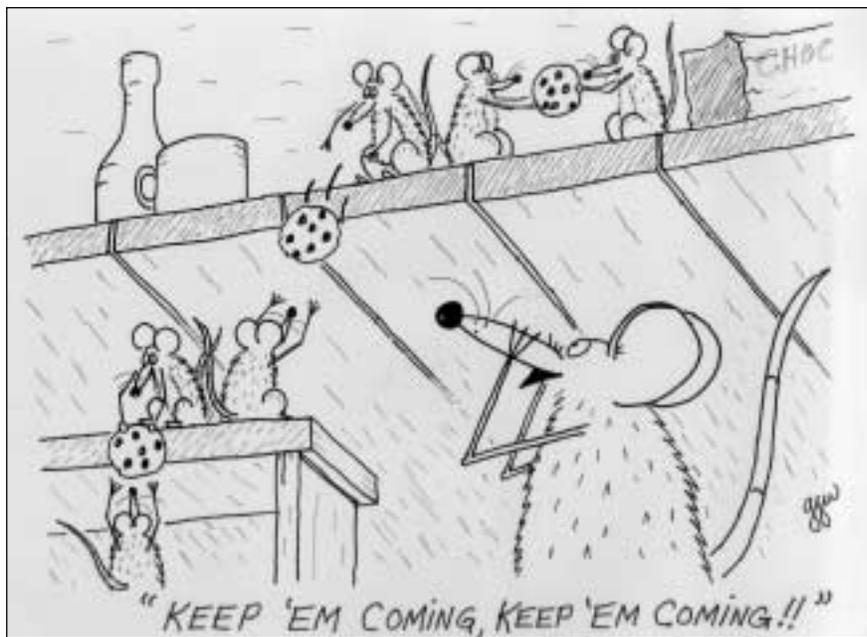
www.atcmarpc.org. The fall meeting for MARPC is scheduled for Nov. 11-12 and will be held in the trail region managed by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. The two-day meeting will accommodate presentations by the various partner agencies (25 federal and state agencies work in cooperation with the ATC and the maintaining clubs in the Mid-Atlantic Region). PATC members are encouraged to contact either me or John Hedrick with questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding the management of the AT in our region. □

—Kerry Snow, kerry@trailcrews.net

In Memoriam Eric Skowronski

Club member Eric Skowronski was killed in a car accident on Jan. 29, 2006. If anyone would want to contact the family, please write to Eric's mother Judy Skowronski at 4510 Lake Washington Boulevard, NE, Kirkland, WA 98033. □

TAILS FROM THE WOODS by George Walters



Are You Creative? Like to See Results?

*The Acme Treadway
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Potomac Appalachian or on
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for work trips each month
through October!



TRAILHEAD

As usual, March saw an explosion of trail activity after an off-and-on winter. Overseers and trail crews began the season in earnest by clearing litter and blowdowns left by winter's winds, ice, and snow. Reports indicate fewer blowdowns and less trail damage than in past years. Unusually dry conditions in March (may be the driest March in 100 years) have elevated fire conditions and left the usually damp trails dry and dusty.

DM Meeting

The trail's district managers met at PATC Headquarters in Vienna on March 22. Round robin introductions allowed each manager to discuss plans, problems, and other issues. In general, winter has been kind to most trails, with no major storms or ice events.

A number of changes to the trails information on the PATC Web page were discussed. Simplifying access to the work trip report and adding information on trail maintenance and various VIP/VIF forms were considered improvements. (Of course we were reminded that all this and more is available on the Blue & White Crew Web site.)

Although work trip reports can be entered through the PATC Web site and passed electronically to others, the actual hours have to be manually entered into the database that records information for the NPS and USFS.

Automating the data entry is proposed for the next system improvement.

The proposed Great Eastern Trail will connect a number of trails from Florida to upstate New York west of the AT. It will utilize sections of PATC's Tuscarora Trail. Expect to hear more on this subject as the project progresses. PATC maintenance of Prince William Forest Park trails is being discussed with county officials. PATC has maintained some of these trails in the past.

The trails budget for next year has been reduced, as well as most other PATC activities. This is due to a large increase in the cost of liability insurance.

SNP Central AT Cleared

The Blue & White Crew used their March work trip to clear blowdowns from the icy trails of the SNP Central District (17 degrees at Big Meadows). Prior to the weekend, John Hedrick and Harry Glenn had walked all of the AT, charting trees that needed to be removed. Using this intelligence, the crew was able to clear the entire AT in one day (Dan Dueweke, Patrick Wilson, and Melanie and Aksel Falk had already taken care of the stretch from Thornton Gap to Skyland). In addition to the AT, the crew cleared the Jones Mountain Trail, the Staunton River Trail, the Laurel Prong Trail, the Mill Prong Trail, the Salamander Trail, and the Upper Hawksbill

Trail. After work, the various small crews regrouped at the Falk Farm for dinner. The evening festivities included birthday recognition of Dan "Scooter" Erwin and "Moe" Davis. LaDonna and St. James could not join the celebration, but sent a cake and "finger food."

The crew will sponsor its Seventh Annual Trail Maintainers Workshop, over the weekend of June 3-4. Details will be posted on the crew Web site at blueandwhitecrew.org/Calendar/June06.php. Interested volunteers can also contact Kerry Snow (kerry@trailcrews.net) or at 301/345-9408.

Mutton Hollow Trails

Back on the Mutton Hollow Trails after the winter layoff, a work crew enjoyed great weather and a good turnout of trail overseers on its March 11-12 monthly work trip. While most of the "multi-hatted" overseers worked on chinking the logs of the under-construction Butternut Cabin, others made a sweep of many of the trails on the Vining Tract.

On Saturday, Marilyn Stone attacked the trails in the vicinity of Conley, Wineberry, and Butternut Cabins, cutting back intruding vegetation and removing a couple of blowdowns. Renters of Morris Cabin who stopped by the Butternut work site and asked for information on where to hike were encouraged to hike the Perimeter Trail and report back any problems. They reported the trail to be in good condition – a relief to the overseers.

On Sunday, Vining Tract Trails District Manager Hugh Robinson, and Marilyn Stone swept about two miles of the CCC road that bisects the Vining Tract, cutting back encroaching briars and removing numerous blowdowns. Time, temperature, and the amount of work caused them to abort before reaching the road's terminus at the Snow Mountain Road. They estimate another few hundred yards of road remain to be cleared before the hiking season moves into full swing.

Massanutten Cleanup

On March 18, the Virginia Happy Trails Running Club (VHTRC) held its annual spring workday in the Massanutten District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. In coordination with PATC, its members did various chores along the

See Trailhead, page 17



Photo by Tim Hupp

From left to right, John Ruppe (One Mile Run Trail Overseer), Pete Gatje (SNP South side trails DM), and Rhett Orndorff (Trayfoot Trail Overseer) use primitive tools to clear a rather large blowdown on the Riprap Trail.

Trailhead, from page 16

Massanutten Trail, including blaze painting, blowdown removal, and sign installation. PATC thanks all the members of VHTRC who supported this effort.

Blackburn Caretakers

The new Blackburn caretakers arrived Sunday, March 26. They are Scott and Marie Wheaton. They thru-hiked the AT last year (2005) and are hoping to meet club members and do some trail work with us.

Millrace and Tuscarora Relo

Surprisingly, it was warmer on the second weekend in March than the fourth weekend for the Cadillac Crew work trips. But both weekends turned out to be great for trail work. Over 20 showed up to work on the Millrace Trail and roughed in the remaining half mile to add to the mile of finished tread built last year. Seventeen made the long trip to work on the emergency Tuscarora relo at the north end of Sleepy Creek WMA (property owner wants the trail off his land). Work on the relo involved busting through a steep rock field on a narrow section of PATC property with few choices for trail location. Lori Edmonds' chili was a special treat after a hard day, and there are already requests for her chili on future work trips. Speaking of future work trips, both projects need sidehill tread and other improvements, and we are hoping for more great turnouts.

Forest Staff Chainsaw Course

PATC volunteers from the Massanutten and Great North Mountain districts attended a two-day chainsaw training course hosted by the Lee District and George Washington National Forest staff on March 4-5, 2006. Chainsaw maestro Jay Collett amused and astonished the large class with amazing tales and awe-inspiring arbor-related abilities. Assisted by Don Sawyer and Wade Bushong, the class enjoyed a sunny spring-like outdoor session on Sunday, bucking (cutting up) trees that had been blown down in prior windstorms in the Signal Knob trailhead area. Current PATC sawyers were re-certified and new sawyers were certified for official chainsaw use on USFS and NPS lands.

Hoodlums Begin With a Sweep

Fourteen hardy Hoodlums braved 22-degree weather at 9:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of March to begin our season of work trips. Sawyers John McCrea, Peter Harris, John Hedrick, and Dick Dugan led groups to remove blowdowns from the AT and side



Photo by Jon Hincit

Mike Vento and Jim Hutzler dig sidehill tread on Cadillac Crew's Millrace Trail project near Shockey's Knob.

trails in the North District of SNP. Accompanying Hoodlums swamped for the sawyers and cleaned out the waterbars. It was a great crew trip, and we got a lot accomplished: 10 of the 15 AT sections in the North District (as well as some blue-blazed trails) were cleared of winter debris. There's nothing like hard work to warm up a bunch of Hoodlums! Better yet, after a day of work, we retired to Range View Cabin for our traditional March meal of Irish food and drink to celebrate St. Paddy's Day (a day late) around a nice warm fire. Thanks to everyone who endured the cold weather and made our first work trip of the year so productive and fun!

PATC-USFS Annual Meeting

On March 12, the Forest Service held its annual Lee District Cooperators meeting, bringing together local landowners and members from the wide range of equestrian, mountain bicycling, hiking, and ATV clubs who volunteer to do trail work and other projects in the Lee District. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss items of interest to all the users of the trails in the Lee District. PATC had a strong contingent present, with Hop Long, Jim Tomlin, Lee Manning, Rick Rhoades, Ed Brimburg, and Tate Heuer representing all of our four PATC districts within the Lee District: Massanutten North, Massanutten South, Tuscarora, and Great North Mountain. It was very helpful for all attendees to meet members of the other groups, exchange information, and get the latest news from the Forest Service staff. A significant number of trail work hours were reported by

those attending. Unfortunately the Forest Service budget cutbacks are continuing, some of their districts are being merged, and administrative oversight is enlarging, so they are more pleased and grateful than ever for the superb volunteer assistance they receive from PATC and other clubs.

Report From Bernie

(Bernie Stalman, PATC honorary life member and past district manager for SNP North District side trails, moved to Arizona in 2004. —*Trailhead Editor*)

Our January and February were drier and warmer than last year. Our March has been cooler. Last year by now we had 2.25" of rain, and so far we have had 0.36" of rain. Much, much drier by our standards. My big volunteer job has been cutting trees at the Nature Conservancy in Ramsey Canyon, as they are concerned over having a HUGE wild fire. USFS recommends having 40 percent open space, and they were at 80 to 90 percent. They have a local that they pay, and they "hired" me as a volunteer. I will saw for two to four hours in the afternoon. Don't want to disturb the serious birders who are out in the morning.

Did an REI project for a day and a half outside of Superior, Ariz., on the Picketpost Trailhead section of the AZT. Relocating the trail from a two-track to a one-track trail to reduce the ATV users on the trail. REI did a superb job of supporting and providing food. Saturday night at the wing-ding, they

See Trailhead, page 18

Trailhead, from page 17

had C&W music and a raffle. I was the last number called, and I won a Casio Sea Pathfinder watch. Now I need to buy a yacht so I can use the yacht timer. But had fun leading a crew.

Still working on the Cienega Corridor section — we have about 18 of the 25 miles done, but we ain't a gonna make 25 miles in two years. We'll need this fall and next spring.

I will have my trail crew application in the mail to Heidi by next week. Thought I needed to check in the August North District Crew week to make sure Don Harvey still has it under control. Not sure I need any more trail work to do, but maybe I can tell a few trail war stories.

—Bernie Stallmann

The Other Fairfax Stone

Usually, when my wife, Loreen, and I go into SNP, we have trail work in mind. However, in November 2005, we did something different. We visited the southeastern terminus of the famous Fairfax Line, which is within what is now SNP.

The Fairfax Line is the western boundary of the 1649 Northern Neck Proprietary granted to seven supporters of the English monarchy by the exiled Charles II. The entire grant, which was confirmed when Charles assumed the restored throne, eventually passed to Thomas Lord Culpepper, Baron of Thoresway and son of one of the original grantees, and later to Thomas Lord Fairfax, Baron of Cameron, Culpepper's grandson.

Because of taxation issues, both the legislature of the Province of Virginia and Lord Fairfax wanted to know the location of the western boundary of the grant, so a survey of the line was begun on Sept. 10, 1746. The party included now-famous surveyors, Joshua Fry, Peter Jefferson, and Thomas Lewis. It was decided that the point of beginning (POB) would be a spring at the head of the middle branch of the Conway River, an extension of the Rappahannock River, which formed the southern boundary of the grant. Since the Potomac River was the northern boundary of the grant, a trial line was run northwesterly, with the objective being the headspring of the North Branch of the Potomac. That was the point from which the theoretical longitude of Maryland's western boundary was later determined and the site of West Virginia's Fairfax Stone Historical Monument, the better-known Fairfax Stone site.

The trial line reached the river three or four miles downstream from its source. Then the variance was calculated and the final line was run from the headspring of the North Branch of the Potomac back to that of the Conway, a distance of about 76 miles. They missed the POB by about 100 yards, not bad for the times, equipment, and terrain.

We accompanied Steve Bair, SNP wilderness and backcountry coordinator, and Robert Gochenour, SNP surveying technician, to a remote area of the park where we bushwhacked to the spring that is believed to have been the starting point for the Fairfax Line survey. About 300 feet away we spotted the upright stone that is believed to be the one that was erected on Nov. 13, 1746, to mark the southeastern end of the line. Nearby is a small monument placed by the Surveyors Historical Society, whose members found the stone in 1999. Although archeological examination of the site failed to produce conclusive evidence that it is the actual Fairfax Stone, surveying operations from two directions based on old property boundaries and

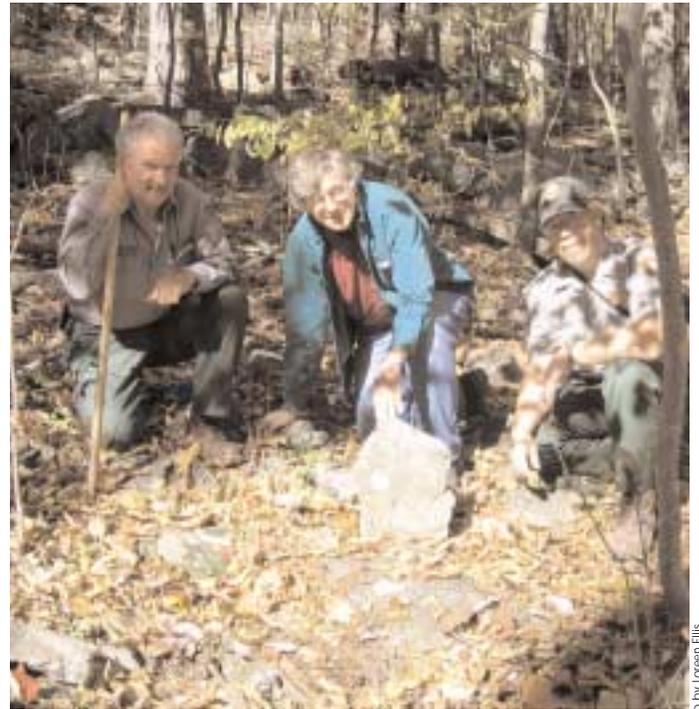


Photo by Loreen Ellis

L-R: Bob Gochenour, Mel Ellis, and Steve Bair at the probable Fairfax Stone.

the original field notes did lead investigators to the spring and the stone. We were pleased to be able to view this seldom visited but historical place where famous colonial surveyors trod. —Mel Ellis

Trail Condition Web Site

Jim Tomlin reports a prototype Web site has been established for the reporting of trail conditions in our region. Created by Mike Juskelis of the Sierra Club and West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, it is a new system for hikers and hike leaders of any affiliation to file online reports about trail conditions that require attention. Mike has done a nice job in getting the Web site up and running. Please visit www.midatlantichikes.com/trailreport.htm, and feel free to use it to report conditions that you encounter during your hikes. Several PATC members assisted Mike in the development of the Web site, but it is not an official PATC site. All official trail work reports and trail patrols should continue to use their existing PATC online reporting mechanism.

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@adelphia.net. □

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Be a giver, not a taker!

Volunteer programmers needed to design and build Web applications. Willing to donate time writing PHP, Perl, SQL, and Java code? Current projects are: 1.) expanding Web-based cabin reservations and 2.) creating Web interfaces for internal databases. Interested? E-mail Matt Novinger at mnovinger@patc.net

We're Looking for a Few Good Volunteers!

Would you be interested in helping to restore an important part of PATC's history? Well, if you are, we need you! Back in 1940 and 1941, the Civilian Conservation Corps and PATC built the Rocky Run Shelter along the AT near Lambs Knoll in central Maryland. This classic three-sided Adirondack-style shelter, which has served hikers for more than 60 years, has suffered from the ravages of time. Faced with a decision of whether or not to replace the shelter, PATC and its AT management partners decided to restore the old shelter, as well as construct a new shelter nearby to handle the increased volume of hikers. Restoration

work should commence in late summer or early fall. We have already recruited a small but enthusiastic crew to restore the old shelter. Would you like to join them? If so, please contact President Tom Johnson at president@patc.net.

Be THE Blackburn Plumber

The Blackburn Trail Center is looking for a volunteer with plumbing skills. We are planning two projects this season: winterizing the existing plumbing system and installing a new kitchenette and half-bathroom in the Carriage House. For more information, please contact Chris Brunton (trailbossbtc@msn.com), 703/924-0406.

Cabin Overseers Needed

The Cabins Committee is looking for able candidates to serve as volunteer overseers for some vacancies that have opened up recently for cabins in our rental system. If interested, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Pat Fankhauser at pfankhauser@patc.net or call 703/242-0693, Ext. 17, to obtain a Potential Cabin Overseer Application to fill out and submit for consideration.

Trek to Kings Canyon National Park, Aug. 12 to Aug. 21, 2006.

This excursion is to be the length of the Rae Lakes Loop Trail, starting and ending at Cedar Grove. This is a 40-mile hike, starting at 5,035 feet elevation, and ascending to Glen Pass at 11,978 feet. The Cedar Grove Pack Station is the concessionaire for trips into the park. They will furnish a wrangler on horseback, mules to transport our gear, a separate cook, and all foods and cookware needed for the six days. Each participant will provide their own tent, sleeping bag, and pad, and their personal gear, also to be transported on the mules except for what individuals choose to carry in daypacks. More details about costs and routes will appear in next month's *PA*, or you may contact Dave Appel, organizer, at jsappel@netnet.net. □

PATC Swap Meet

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 three months, at the discretion of the editor, unless we are otherwise advised. □

CAST IRON FRANKLIN STOVE; FREE TO GOOD HOME, works great; burns wood or coal. Easily heats 3,000 cubic ft. 8-inch flue, and top and back heat shields. Pick up in N. Arlington. Contact Wayne Limberg (wplimberg@aol.com) 703/533-8639.

FOR SALE: Cleaning out the gear closet! Lowe Alpine Cornice 40 pack (\$40 OBO), LL Bean pack large day pack (\$40 OBO), backpacking espresso maker (\$10 OBO), 2 MSR Dromedary bags (\$15 for both OBO). For more information contact: Ben Fernandez (3_ferns@adelphia.net).

HIKING PARTNERSHIPS CAMPING EXPEDITION PARTNER

Six weeks in summer 2006 to western National Parks. Leisurely day hikes to alpine areas from pickup truck camper. Esthetics, not record-setting. Share expenses. (In 2005, six weeks, seven Natl. Parks, 9,000 miles, total cost for two people – not each, was \$2,100.) Contact: Grant Olson, Waynesboro, Pa. (owlie1@pa.net) 717/765-4228.

Trail, Shelter, and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Needed

Corridor Monitor Openings

Tom Lupp, 301/271-7340

tlupp@erols.com

WILSON GAP -VA - PATC MAP 7

ASHBY GAP SOUTH -VA - PATC MAP 8

Volunteers needed for the shelter crew in Maryland

DICKS DOME SHELTER – NORTHERN VA – MAP 8

Henry Horn, 301/498-8254

ATHike@aol.com

Open Trails -

Contact the District Manager for the section that interests you.

PENNSYLVANIA MAPS 2-3, 4, 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: Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania. No certification from your doctor or hospital required.

Pete Brown, 410/343-1140

peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] – Co-overseer

Hemlock Road to Mountain Rd (4.9 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] – Co-overseer

Bill Miller Trail to Cowpens Rd. (4.7 miles)

PA Tuscarora Trail [J] – Co-overseer

Cowans Gap State Park to Lincoln Trail (4.3 miles)

ASHBY/POSSUMS AT/BB [RTE. 50 TO SNP] - MAP 8, 9

Lloyd Parriott, 540/622-2743

lparriott@hotmail.com

Appalachian Trail

VA 55 to North Woods/orchard stile (0.9 miles)

Appalachian Trail

North Woods/orchard stile to South Meadow/woods stile (0.4 miles)

Appalachian Trail

South Meadow/woods stile to VA 638 (0.8 miles)

Barking Dog Trail

AT to Barking Dog Spring/Rte 604 (0.34 mile)

SNP NORTH DISTRICT BLUE-BLAZED – MAP 9

Peter Harris, 540/349-2595

peter.harris@lmco.com

Pole Bridge Link Trail

Piney Branch Trail to Keyser Run Fire Road (1 mile)

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

Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248

danjan3@cox.net

New overseer opportunities coming available soon. Choice trails rich in Shenandoah history.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to stake your claim.

Robertson Mountain Trail

Old Rag Fire Road to Weakley Hollow Fire Road (RM) (2.4 miles)

SNP SOUTH AT - MAP 11

Don White, 804/795-2914

trblldr@comcast.net

Appalachian Trail – Co-overseer
Frazier Discovery Trail to Loft Mtn.
Camp Store (1.1 miles)

TUSCARORA CENTRAL – MAP L

Walt Smith, 540/678-1043

wsmith@visuallink.com

Tuscarora Trail

Southern Rockfield to Pinnacle Powerline (2.3 miles)

Frye Path Trail

at The Pinnacle (0.4 miles)

Laurel Run Trail

at The Pinnacle (0.5 miles)

Rock Cave Trail & Overlook

at The Pinnacle (0.1 miles)

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH – MAP H

Tate Heuer, 202/255-6055

tate@wth2.com

Massanutten Mtn. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (1.4 m FR 65) (3.3 miles)

Massanutten Mtn. South Trail

Morgan Run Trail (1.4 m FR 65) to Fridley Gap (2.3 miles)

Rental Fees Rise for SNP Cabins

As of April 1, 2006, rental fees for the six Shenandoah Park Cabins operated by PATC have been increased to the same rate scheme as our other rustic cabins in the system. They are now \$25 for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights and \$35 for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The previous fees were \$18 and \$28 respectively. □

—Pat Fankhauser, Cabins Coordinator



The Potomac Appalachian

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