



# The Potomac Appalachian

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

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## *In our 75th Year!*

### Dogwood Half Hundred: Challenge, Tragedy, and Valor

The 17th edition of the Dogwood Half Hundred, held on April 20, was characterized by a combination of challenge, tragedy, and valor previously unknown to this event.

The multitiered challenge began on Friday, April 19, when a forest fire begun by a lightning strike closed several of the trails on the Dogwood route and nearly closed the Dogwood itself. During that afternoon discussions between Dogwood officials and the U.S. Forest Service resulted in a major relocation of the Dogwood course, adding approximately three miles but preserving a route consistent with the traditions of the event. That decision was followed by a major campaign lasting well into the evening to relocate two checkpoints, alert the affected volunteers, change the sweep assignments, relocate some of the medical emergency teams, change the directional signs on the trails, and print up new course descriptions and maps for the participants.

*See Dogwood, page 4*



Photo by Vincent Ferraro

*The first-place female hiker and sixth finisher overall, Carol Wesolowski, approaches the scenic end of the course.*

## Don't Miss Spring on the PHT!

For those who live near the Beltway, you should try the Potomac Heritage Trail, maintained by PATC. It starts at the Beltway and travels along the Potomac River 10 miles to the Teddy Roosevelt Island parking lot. (The northern, or upstream, end can be reached by taking the Georgetown Pike exit (Rt. 193) east, toward D.C., and take the first left onto Balls Hill Road, and then Live Oak Road, over the Beltway and follow it all the way to the end of the road, parking on the right side.) This area is very wild and quite beautiful, easy to get to, and inside the Beltway! Enjoy spring! □

—Bob Pickett

June 20  
SPECIAL EVENT

### Summer Solstice at Great Falls - Great Falls Park Auditorium, VA

6 p.m. Optional summer solstice (okay-it's the day before) hike beginning at Great Falls (Virginia side) Visitors' Center along its River Trail to see Great Falls and Mather Gorge. Bring water.

7:30 p.m. To promote the Potomac Heritage Trail, come listen to The Nature Conservancy's Stephanie Flack as she summarizes its year-long study, in cooperation with the National Park Service, of the entire Potomac Gorge area from Great Falls to D.C.! The recently published "Potomac Gorge Site Conservation Plan" proposes certain actions be taken to protect this valuable resource.  
INFO: Bruce Glendening ([bglendening@yahoo.com](mailto:bglendening@yahoo.com)) 703/532-9093.

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## Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

### Officers

**President:** Walt Smith, 703/242-0693  
Ext. 40, wsmith@visuallink.com

**VP Operations:** Vacant

**VP Volunteerism:** Mickey McDermott

**Supervisor of Trails:** Kerry Snow

**Supervisor of Corridor Management:**  
Tom Lupp

**General Secretary (Facilities):** Jon Rindt

**General Counsel:** Charles Sloan

**Membership Secretary:** Liles Creighton

**Treasurer:** Gerhard Salinger

**Recording Secretary:** George Meek

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**SMRG:** Peter Pennington

**Ski Touring Section:** Steve Brickel

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**N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** Gerry Boyd

**S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter:** John Held

**Charlottesville Chapter:** John Shannon

**West Virginia Chapter:** Judy Smoot

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**Cabin Construction:** Charlie Graf

**Conservation:** Mary Margaret Sloan

**Grants & Donations:** Susan Nelson

**Endowment:** Don Price

**Finance:** Gerhard Salinger

**Hikes:** Karen Brown & Tom Johnson

**Internet Services:** Stephen Raia

**Land Management:** Tom Johnson

**Legal:** Charles Sloan

**Maps:** Dave Pierce

**Maryland Appalachian Trail Management**

**Committee:** Charlie Graf

**Potomac Appalachian:** Linda Shannon-Beaver

**Public Affairs:** Larry Rockwell

**Publications:** Aaron Watkins

**Sales:** Paul Dery

**Shelters:** Frank Turk

**Trail Lands Acquisition:** Phil Paschall

**Trail Patrol:** Kumait Jawdat

**Tuscarora Trail Land Management:**

Lloyd MacAskill

### Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

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**Cabin Reservations:** Darlene Wall

**Communications Team:** Mike Sutherland

**Deputy Supervisor of Trails:** Hop Long

**Headquarters Facility:** Orron Kee

**Information/Sales Desks:** Marguerite Schneeberger

**Medical:** Vacant

**Shelters, Cabins, & Cabins Land Fund:** Jon Rindt

**SNP Boundary Trailheads Study Group:**

Mark Holland

**Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project:**

Phoebe Kilby & Larry Bradford

### Potomac Appalachian

**Chief Editor:** Linda Shannon-Beaver  
PA@patc.net

**Features Editor:** Joanne Erickson

**Forecast Editor:** Joan Hollen  
PA-Forecast@patc.net

## Council Fire

At its regular monthly meeting at Headquarters on April 9, the PATC Council allocated \$2,500 to be added to the project line for construction of an Overseer cabin on the Club's Vining Tract, located next to the southern section of Shenandoah National Park. The project was initially approved by the Council in December 2000 at a cost of \$1,500. The additional funding was needed to complete it because some wood recovered from abandoned structures proved to be unsuitable for re-use, and it was decided to make improvements that would make the cabin more useful to work crews.

Forty-five cabin Overseers attended the March 16 meeting at Blackburn Trail Center. The Cabins Committee has had its first meeting and will meet quarterly. The first enforcement letter has been sent out under the new policy for dealing with cabin renters who destroy PATC property.

New caretakers have been named for Blackburn. They are 2001 AT Thru-Hikers Cyndy Olmstead and Sarah Rector.

### Futures Group

The group has made some further revisions in the 2027 vision statement, including graphics, and will present it to the Council in May, thus concluding its work. Members were asked to think of objectives that lead toward the concepts in the vision and extrapolate into the future. There could be a one-page synopsis of the vision.

### Death in Patagonia

A PATC hiking trip to the Patagonia region of Southern Chile ended in a tragedy when two members of the group died of carbon monoxide poisoning while sleeping in their geodesic-dome during their stay in the Torres del Paine National Park. Ursula Harper and her 18-year-old son Matthew were discovered in their tent on the morning of March 24. A criminal investigation of Cascada Expediciones, the owner of the EcoCamp where the domes were located, is under-way. The leadership and membership of the PATC wish to express their sincerest condolences to the Harper family.

Surviving family members include Mr. Ed Harper, and son Nicholas, and stepson and daughter Sean Harper and Erin Harper Hill.

### President's Report

President Walter M. Smith reported that two of the eight participants in a PATC-sponsored excursion to Patagonia in Southern Chile had died in their tent because of a defective heater. Investigation is centering on possible negligence by the local tour operator.

Walt said a proposal has been submitted to the Board on Geographic Names of the U.S. Geological Survey to change the

*See Council Fire, page 18*

### HEADQUARTERS

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

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

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

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

**Phone #:** 703/242-0315

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

**To receive an information packet:** Extension 10

**To leave a message for the Club President Walt Smith:** Extension 40

**Club e-mail:** Wriley1226@aol.com

**Facsimile #:** 703/242-0968

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

### STAFF

#### DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

**Director of Administration:** Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) e-mail: Wriley1226@aol.com

**Trails Management Coordinator:** Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) e-mail: heidif@erols.com

**Business Manager:** Monica Clark

**Membership/Cabin Coordinator:** Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) e-mail: pfankh@erols.com

**Sales Coordinator:** Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) e-mail: patcsales@erols.com

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

## Walt's Notes

### Seeking Volunteers for the Executive Committee

The following have been selected as 2002 Nominating Committee members:

Maureen Harris, 540/987-8217

Stephen Koeppen, 410/756-2916, skoeppen@qis.net

Hop Long, 301/942-6177, mgrgnmd@hotmail.com

Chris Brunton, 703/560-8070, trailbossbtc@msn.com

Rick Canter, 301/924-4942, southmountaineers@yahoo.com

The committee will nominate volunteers for the 2003-2005 Executive Committee, which will be elected at the annual meeting in November. The Executive Committee, as revised at the last annual membership meeting, consists of President; Vice President-Operations; Vice President-Volunteerism; Treasurer; Secretary; Supervisor of Trails; Supervisor of Lands; Supervisor of Facilities; Supervisor of Membership; and Supervisor of Information, Education, and Activities.

Please contact members of the committee with your recommendations for potential candidates.

### Making Spectacular Treks Happen

I had wanted to backpack the 25-mile Trout Run Valley circuit hike in George Washington National Forest ever since I had read about it in Wil Kohlbrenner's first edition of the "Guide to Great North Mountain Trails," published by the Club last year. From April 28-30 I had my chance as I left the car at the Bucktail Trailhead<sup>1</sup>, in the rain, and trudged upward toward Halfmoon Mountain via the Bucktail Cutoff Trail. After two days, I had completed clock-wise the loop created by the Bucktail Cutoff, Halfmoon, Tuscarora, Mill Mountain, Tibbet Knob, SR691, and Long Mountain trails (as shown on PATC Map F, Great North Mountain-North Half, revised April 2001).

It was a spectacular trek! Over the course of 42 hours, I experienced the most unusual variations of weather and natural environments and saw many spring flowers; one human being (a man from California with a cane negotiating the trail to the Big Schloss); many birds, deer, and squirrel; and one deer mouse. Wil's new guide describes 37 different trails in the area, all associated with "trail groups" that surround this circuit. There is enough to keep a backpacker busy for days in this wilderness environment just on the other side of the Shenandoah Valley.



*One of many wildlife clearings along the Long Mountain Trail*



Photos by Walt Smith

*The Big Schloss, Mill Mountain, and Halfmoon Mountain as seen from Tibbet Knob*

This is a great area for climbing to vistas. There are plenty of them. My favorite peaks with outstanding views for miles around were Tibbet Knob, in the southern portion of the loop (with a fun rock climb on the north side), the well-known Big Schloss, and the Halfmoon Lookout in the northern end. There were some other lovely views on the Long Mountain Trail in the relocated northern section, especially overlooking Halfmoon Mountain and the gorge created by Trout Run between Halfmoon and Long Mountains.

### A Variety of Conditions

The most exciting aspect of the journey for me was the experience of meeting the unexpected, especially the different environments, as I hiked between 1,500- and 3,200-foot elevations. The blooming shrubs and plants indicated varying conditions, such as on Mill Mountain where the early blooming serviceberry was still present, while along the Long Mountain Trail, in a protected hollow, I marveled at dogwood, redbud, and azaleas, all in full bloom within a short distance of each other.

The weather varied from a cold, cloudy, very windy day on Mill Mountain (not unlike Dolly Sods), where I observed full sun beaming down on the Shenandoah Valley and Shenandoah National Park to the east (I was a bit jealous), to a lovely, warm sunny day in the beautiful valley along the Long Mountain Trail to the east of Bens Ridge. I realized that the cold weather I was experiencing on the ridge on Monday was not necessarily the prevailing weather since the blooming bellworts, dwarf iris, and berry bushes were indicative of previous warmth. The ridges to the east of Trout Run provided a rugged, wild environment whereas the Long Mountain Trail had a pastoral quality to it with many wildlife clearings, wildflowers, and babbling brooks. The stretch to the east of Bens Ridge had a higher concentration of flowering dogwoods than I have seen anywhere. I continued to be surprised to see so many blooming plants. I awakened Tuesday morning to the sun streaming down on my campsite, revealing a beautiful flower that I had missed the night

*See Walt, page 17*

<sup>1</sup> *The Bucktail Trailhead is adjacent to Trout Run Road and near the Long Mountain Trail crossing of Trout Run. As noted in the guidebook, the National Forest Service has not yet constructed the bridge across Trout Run. I waded safely across the fast-flowing stream with water up to my knees as a result of recent spring rains. However, by hiking the circuit clockwise from this trailhead, I saved the crossing until last in case I fell in.*

# The Dogwood Half Hundred

*Dogwood, from page 1*

A further disruption caused by the fire, and the fire-fighting operation, consisted of the field used for parking being reserved for Forest Service helicopter operations, creating a major traffic jam on the access road to Powells Fort Camp on Saturday morning. Compounding the difficulties that morning were a record number of walk-up registrations replacing no-shows. Despite a rather dubious weather forecast promising rain showers at some point during the day, the 17th Dogwood Half Hundred started promptly at 6:30 a.m. with a field of 233, the largest in a number of years.

As the morning unfolded, temperature and humidity both rose to uncomfortable levels which, combined with the ascent and descent of the Sherman Gap Trail, posed a formidable physical challenge to the hikers. Additional cases of water were delivered to Checkpoint 3 as the bulk of the field passed through; simultaneously, the rain began, not in torrents but in a steady sprinkle that resulted in a welcome drop in the discomfort index.

Beginning at approximately 2:00 p.m., the tragic component of this year's Dogwood began to unfold, together with the valorous. As she was descending from the Massanutten east ridge to Shawl Gap, Bonnie Day, an experienced veteran of three previous Dogwoods, slipped, tripped, or in some manner fell a significant distance downslope from the trail and incurred serious injury to her head. As word of the accident was radioed to the rescue teams at Elizabeth Furnace, the hikers following Bonnie waited with her until help arrived.

A major rescue force composed of the Shenadoah Mountain Rescue Group, the PATC Trail Patrol, the Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department, the U.S. Forest Service, and paramedics from the Pegasus Helicopter unit climbed with their gear some three miles up from Elizabeth Furnace to the accident site via both the Tuscarora Trail and the old wagon road. Upon reaching Bonnie, their task consisted of providing medical attention, raising Bonnie from where she



*Check-in begins around 5:30 a.m., in the dark! Pat Fankhauser and Jim Thornton gather drivers' licenses and distribute participant numbers.*

had fallen some 40 feet uphill to the trail, and then evacuating her three miles downhill to a helicopter waiting at Elizabeth Furnace. Because of the extreme physical difficulty of the lifting and evacuation processes, a large number of Dogwood hikers who had been standing by now were called upon to assist the rescue teams in moving both Bonnie and all the rescue equipment down the mountain. Although the rescue effort was successful in delivering Bonnie to the helicopter, which in turn flew her to a hospital in Charlottesville, Va., in the end Bonnie Day succumbed to her injuries and passed away the next day. All those involved in the Dogwood are deeply saddened by her death.

Nevertheless, it is important to recognize the heroic exertions performed on Bonnie's behalf by the rescue team. We also honor the 46 Dogwood participants who willingly gave up their chance to finish the event in order to assist in the evacuation effort. These individuals have been identified and been declared "honorary finishers" of Dogwood 2002; in addition they have been granted free entry to Dogwood 2003. It is our hope that this recognition of their compassion and physical efforts will constitute a fitting human memorial to Bonnie Day.

Of the field of 233 starters, 126 stalwart individuals were successful in overcoming heat and rain over 34.8 miles to become official finishers. They are joined by the 46 honorary finishers.

On this day of challenge, tragedy, and valor, it is also appropriate to recognize the unsung heroics of the multitude of Dogwood volunteers, who cleared the trails, operated the registration and finish tables, manned checkpoints, served as trail monitors, operated the ham radio communications network, cooked breakfast and the traditional Dogwood chili, placed (and then re-placed) the trail signs, served on sweep teams, provided medical care, and mounted an extremely demanding rescue effort. Their collective contributions represent an extraordinary display of volunteerism, consistent with the proud traditions of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club as it celebrates its 75th anniversary. □

—Ric Francke

*Potomac Appalachian*

## **Bonnie Day... We're sure gonna miss you**

On April 20, 2002, Bonnie Day, RidgeRunner and Charter Member of "Team Lunatic," ran the Dogwood Half Hundred (50K) in the Massanutten Mountains of the George Washington National Forest. Sadly this would be Bonnie's last race on the mountain trails she so loved. Approximately 27 miles into her run near Veach Gap, Bonnie was found approximately 40 ft. below a narrow rocky portion of the trail. Since no one saw her fall, it is speculated that she either slipped, tripped, or lost her balance. Her condition was reported to the race officials who then contacted emergency personnel. Over 30+ mountain rescue, EMS, and Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department personnel responded to the incident. Due to her location and the terrain it took approximately five hours to extract Bonnie and bring her down to the Elizabeth Furnace camping area to a waiting helicopter. She was then evacuated to the University of Virginia hospital. Bonnie suffered a subdural hematoma that proved fatal late the following day. Bonnie's husband Ron and her sister were at her side.

*from RidgeRunners Running Club's home page, at <http://lakeridgerunners.tripod.com/>*

# My Experience of Volunteering at the Dogwood

It's still dark at 5:30 a.m. during the month of April. That was the time on the clock as my two friends and I pulled into Powell's Fort Camp on the 20th. We had dragged ourselves out of bed at 4:00, and proceeded to trade in all the warmth and comfort of our hotel rooms in Woodstock for the cool, damp darkness of this place. It was only the beginning of a long and fulfilling day for all three of us.

Even though we had come to the same event, we were here for different reasons. Johnny and Marty, my two friends, had come here to hike the Dogwood Half-Hundred. I was here to work as one of the many volunteers whose collective efforts make this event a reality. As my friends checked in and went about preparing for the arduous trek that lay before them, I circulated among the crowd trying to find the folks in charge so that I could get to my appointed post on the top of Signal Knob. My job was going to be there, at checkpoint No. 1, to do the check-ins for some 230-odd hikers that would soon be coming that way. I had also volunteered to do some photos for this newsletter, so before leaving the base camp, I shot off some images of the unfolding events.

After meeting Ric Francke and some of the other folks in charge, it was off for a bumpy, rocky ride courtesy of a guy named Kirk up to Signal Knob. By the time we made it there, Joe and the other volunteers were already well on their way to setting up the checkpoint. Kirk, in addition to providing rides over the rough terrain in his four-wheeler, helped out at the checkpoint by being the ham radio operator for that post. All day long, the radio operator at base camp would communicate with the various ham operators at the four checkpoints. Without the impor-



Photos by Vincent Ferrari

*A fire sparked by lightning on Thursday night was responsible for not only a changed course, but also the loss of the "camping spot" for many Dogwood participants, as it served as the landing spot for the firefighter's aerial support.*

tant communication that these folks provided, an event like this would not be possible.

As the sun came up over the mountains, so did the hikers to Signal Knob. What began as a trickle quickly turned into an uphill stream of already trail-worn bodies, all happy to see the relief offered them at the checkpoint. There were energy-rich snacks of all kinds, as well as fresh water and Gatorade to quench their thirsts. Many of the hikers throughout the day would comment on how nice and friendly the people staffing the checkpoints were, but I have to say, the hikers themselves were just as friendly and nice to us. Even the few who were having problems such as blisters or sore legs, and even those who decided at this first checkpoint to drop out of this more-than-a-marathon hike, were nothing but pleasant to us. When the crowds thinned out and the checkpoint came to a close, we all felt satisfied that we had done a good service,

not only to the participants in the Dogwood, but to PATC as well. It was most certainly time well spent.

As the day turned into evening and my exhausted friends made their way back to base camp, I had to reflect on things I'd seen this day. The level of volunteerism in this organization is well-known both to those inside and out of PATC, but a day working with the incredibly dedicated people who run the Dogwood brings that fact home in a most positive way. Everyone from the organizers, to the chili cooks, to the trail sweeps, and on this day of unexpected tragedy, to the fine people of the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group, should be highly commended for their efforts. Being a small part of this huge group effort was a very gratifying experience. I'll be back to do it again. □

—Vincent G. Ferrari

*Although finishing the race is everyone's goal, only 126 official finishers crossed the line this year.*



*At Checkpoint #1 participants were grateful for volunteers providing refreshments, first aid, and (for some) transportation.*



Photos by Vincent Ferrari

## Potomac Watershed Clean-Up at Turkey Run

What a great group! K9Trailblazers proudly turned out 12 people and seven dogs to do the unglamorous job of picking up trash along the Potomac River as well as in parking lots, picnic areas, and along the road in Turkey Run Park.

Pat and Mickey thank their team—Lisa, Chuck, and Jester—who have been active and loyal members of the Club since the beginning; and Jennifer, who had to leave Angel home but came anyway and did the least enjoyable task, walking alone along the road picking up an entire trash bag full of cigarette butts. Jeff thanks his team: Nancy and Tester, Paul and Lucky, Ray and Wiley, Mark and Hannah with Winnie and Flash, and Jeanne for hauling bag after bag of trash up from the river on steep switchbacks. An extra big pat on the back to Paul for lugging four tires up from the river (all at once), and Ray for not only his photography work, but also for carrying a tire WITH RIM all the way up the VERY steep and long switchback from the river. We noticed that the laws of physics seemed to change as the day went on. The trail was much longer when the bags of trash were full, and the bag actually got heavier even if no additional trash was added!

And we all want to give a big round of applause to Cindy, who spent hours alone in Parking Lot C-1 picking up trash and being our communications contact throughout this event. She didn't even have Belle to keep her company! Nice job everyone—we couldn't have done it without you!

Now for the news you have all been waiting for: We picked up 550 pounds of trash! And five old tires; and a big sheet of Styrofoam (fun for Mark and Jeff); and several bags of brown beer bottles, which are heavy and hard to carry; and several bags of cigarette butts, which are very light but required a whole lot of bending over to fill up each bag.

Chuck had a brilliant idea for a slogan to put on signs: "Get your BUTTS outa here!" There is a precedent: "Don't mess with Texas" has dramatically reduced public expenditures for trash removal along highways in that state. Chuck also came with the best tool: a long stick with a hook on the end so he could reach into woods and water to spear trash without damaging vegetation or getting his feet wet. At our post-event team conference, we decided next year we will make the job much easier and faster by bringing brooms and a dustpan for the parking areas instead of picking up cigarette butts one at a time!

K9Trailblazers wanted to help the environment and give something back to Turkey Run Park as a way of showing our apprecia-



Photo by Paul Dery

*Pat Fuhrer gives the workers a briefing.*



Photo by Ray Smith

*Part of the clean-up team show off their haul.*

tion for ranger-led hikes there two years in a row. We did both! Thanks to all the good sports who helped and to all the dogs who thought they were going for a "hike" and discovered it was three to four miles a few steps at a time over four hours. □

—Pat Fuhrer

## PATC Activities at Rock Creek and Other Metro Area Parks

A meeting in the Rock Creek Park Nature Center on April 16, chaired by President Walt Smith and attended by some 25 Easy Hikers and their friends, identified the Club member who first stimulated PATC's involvement there, and later in other parts of the Washington metropolitan area.

Jeff Norman, also a member of the Sierra Club, approached PATC in late 1976 for help in maintaining the park's hiking trails, and was referred to Supervisor of Trails Tom Floyd. Discussions between Tom and Bob

Ford of Rock Creek Park (then and still now responsible for resources management in the park) led to the first PATC work trip, which took place on Melvin Hazen Creek in February 1977. Initially PATC activities centered on the Valley and Western Ridge trails, but then extended westward on strips of parkland across the city to Glover-Archbold and Battery Kemble Parks. During this activity, Trail crew member Bob Laughlin constructed 28 log steps in one day down a long and very steep embankment at Foxhall Road, which are still there.

In addition to trail construction and maintenance, our work involved signposting.

Because of a Carter administration initiative for shifting to metric, these signs included distances in kilometers, which was not popular with some of the public. After one sign was recovered floating in the Potomac, we anchored new ones in concrete foundations!

Our work in Rock Creek Park finished in 1981, and we devoted the next three years to

*See Rock Creek, page 10*

## Working at the Pinnacles

Here is some proof that Les Bate's Pinnacle Crew does get up there to check out the shelter and Les' portion of the Tuscarora Trail, and the Laurel Run and Fry trails. Les is 77 and his vision has deteriorated to the point where he cannot drive. One of us always takes him up there. On this hike he was joined by many of his neighbors.

In addition to the shelter and trail work recently, we also created a new trail, the Rock and Overlook Trail, that leads to a neat cave that I discovered. I will return soon to blaze it (probably yellow) and send in a new map of the Pinnacle area. The end of the cave was so dark that we couldn't follow it to the end. I'll return with my miner's lamp to see how far it goes.

We created a new loop trail off the Tuscarora Trail, the Rock Cave and Overlook Trail, that includes a rock scramble up to the entrance to the cave. I will return and blaze it soon and make a new map for the Pinnacle area, including the new trail and the Laurel Run and Fry trails, not currently on Map L but all side trails from the Tuscarora Trail where Les is Overseer. □

—Walt Smith



Leslie Lemeshewsky at the entrance to a cave that we discovered on Great North Mountain near the Pinnacle Shelter.



(L to r) Roger Henderberg, Dave McCreary, Les Bates, Walt Smith with Leslie Lemeshewsky's dog, and Agnes Bouton.

## Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Songs are Important

By the end of May, all of our neotropical migratory birds have finally reached their breeding grounds here in our Appalachian Mountains. Of the more than 75 species that migrate to our region, 33 are wood warblers. The males have arrived a week or so before the females in an effort to stake out their territories. With the hazardous six-week commute from their wintering grounds complete, it's time for the males to get serious about soliciting a mate and keeping the other males from squeezing in on her.

Migratory males return to reclaim the same territory used the previous year. This "site fidelity" enables the returning males to avoid annual squabbles and fights. Warblers remember the distinctive calls of their returning neighbors. Instead of constantly battling, two individuals appear to call a truce. The birds become what evolutionary biologists have termed "dear enemies." If even half of its neighbors return, the time and energy thus saved can be used to deal with the other neighbors and to attract and court a female. Even if the quality of the territory is poor, and a better site might be found, the male will benefit by accepting the same territory and expending its energy soliciting a mate.

Birds have both call notes and songs. While call notes are normally short and nondistinct, the songs are what we use to identify the birds. Warblers have two distinct groups of songs. The first grouping of songs, called accent-ending, or primary songs, function primarily in attracting a mate. The second grouping, called unaccented-ending, or secondary songs, are for defending territory or a mate. Every spring, as soon as the males have arrived, they start singing their primary songs throughout the day, as often as three hundred per hour, to attract a female mate. The early days of the breeding season are also the time to establish territories, however, and whenever squabbles arise over borders, males bombard each other with their secondary songs.

Almost immediately after pairing, a male's singing strategy changes dramatically. For the first hour or so of every day, he delivers a non-stop barrage of secondary songs. With a mate in hand, his primary concern now turns to protecting her from invading males. During incubation, when the female is no longer fertile, the male sings more primary songs, and sometimes attracts a second mate.

Warblers can have more than one primary and secondary song. Chestnut-sided warblers have at least three variants of the familiar please-please—pleased-to-MEET-cha, and prairie warblers also have three variations of buzzy rising notes. And the hooded warbler and chestnut-sided warbler have up to 10 secondary songs.

The secondary songs of warblers will vary geographically, but in any one location they appear to be consistent and shared by most of the resident males of the same species. Two other spring warblers with multiple songs are the American redstart, with about five, and the yellow warbler, with about 12. In these species, each male reserves one song as his primary song and relegates the others to the second category. However, there is no widespread agreement among males within the same region as to which is which. For these species, messages may be encoded not in the song types themselves but in how each male presents his songs: The single primary song is typically repeated over and over, while the secondary songs are presented one after another in rapid-fire sequences. □

—Bob Pickett

## Maryland AT Relocation Completed by South Mountaineers

On April 20, the South Mountaineers blazed the new Appalachian Trail routing just south of Wolfsville Rd. This capped an 18-event wintertime project that involved 771 labor hours.

The new routing extends from 0.3 to 0.9 miles south of Wolfsville Rd. and adds 0.11 miles to the Trail. This route takes advantage of a woods road on the west side of the ridge with better winter viewing and a nice vista from the ridgeline.

The new route was technically challenging to install and required a lot of digging

and rock tossing. Thanks to the loyal crew members who kept coming out on this project: the Rainey Family, Chuck Huenefeldt, Bob Pragani, Redge Bessmer, Ralph Heimlich, and John Notsch just to name a few. Special thanks to Bob Rainey, who gave it his all every weekend, and Dan Dueweke, the Shenandoah District Manager who volunteered on April 14 with the grip hoist to do some crucial rock moving.

This route was flagged by the Maryland Appalachian Trail Management

Committee in an effort to find a permanent and preferable routing south of Wolfsville Road. The committee had all necessary agency signatures by Dec. 14, 2001, which put the South Mountaineers in action. The committee had scouted and flagged the routing earlier in 2001 over multiple forays.

Some rock moving will continue in the coming months as backpackers pound the new route. It is hoped that the hiking public will warmly embrace this relocation. □

—Rick Canter/District Manager, MD AT

### Annual Blackburn Summer BBQ is Approaching!

To Those Who Love the Mountains, Great Friends, and Fabulous Food:

The annual summer "Texas BBQ" at Blackburn Trail Center, located a click off the AT—just outside of Round Hill, Va.—is getting into gear! This year the event is scheduled for July 6-7, 2002. If you have never experienced one of these delightful gatherings, we urge you to put it on your list of must dos! Come join us for a day of hiking, arts and craft activities for the kids, relaxing on the porch, and the best BBQ, some say, outside of Texas! (The Barbeque as always, features the famous Texan Chef Dean Caraway as well as his West Virginia sidekick Blaine Robinson. Can you imagine a better cultural combo to turn out some mean brisket, ribs, and chicken?) Besides bringing good people together to enjoy great food, hiking, and the wonderful views from Blackburn, this event seeks to find new members as well as to raise funds for the Club. Last year, the event provided funding for the Conservation Committee to support the purchase of property surrounding Blackburn and the AT. We raise funds at the event through registration fees and a raffle.

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

for tents. Bring your lunch on Saturday; dinner Saturday evening and breakfast on Sunday are included. The cost of the BBQ is \$20 for adults and children 13 and older, \$7 for children 5-12, under five years old free. Please mail the attached registration form along with the appropriate fee to Lisa Still at 5812 Cove Landing Rd., Unit #302, Burke, VA 22015.

- CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO LISA STILL AND SENT WITH THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM NO LATER THAN JUNE 21, 2002.

- AS MUCH AS WE LOVE THEM, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR DOGS AT HOME OR AT THE PET HOTEL!

- THIS YEAR WE ARE INTRODUCING THE FIRST-EVER DESSERT CONTEST. BRING YOUR BEST COOKIES, CAKES, PIES, OR OTHERWISE GRANDMA'S FAVORITE RECIPE. PRIZES AWARDED TO FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACE WINNERS.

Volunteers are welcome and needed for several activities. If you would like to assist with this event or have any questions, please call Caren Rothstein-Robinson at 703/560-1361 before 9:00 p.m. or e-mail her at: IMSHEMISH@AOL.COM. □

#### Blackburn Summer BBQ Registration — Saturday and Sunday, July 6-7, 2002

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

DESSERT CONTEST ITEM: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please indicate what item you will be entering in the contest!)

Number of adults/children 13 and older: \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$20.00 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children ages 5-12: \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$7each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail reservation form and check to: Lisa Still at 5812 Cove Landing Rd., Unit #302, Burke, VA 22015.

Registration forms must be received no later than June 21

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

## Schairer Work Trip, Not the Same Without Shirley

In retrospect, we might have made more fuss about dinner. I'd brought plenty of good food: my chickpea, onion, tomato, and rosemary combo; rice; salad; a cherry pie; and two rotisserie chickens because I thought we'd be seven sitting down. We had the second for lunch on Sunday. Instead of candles and paper towel napkins folded neatly, I handed silverware around the table and pushed the chips and hummus to one side. We were well into the wine. As I got the hot food from the oven I remembered the salad. While Pat carved the chicken I cut up onions, avocado, and tomatoes. With a toast to our absent hostess, we dug in.

No one could doubt who was in charge of the cabin where we were staying. Notes in Shirley's clear steady handwriting direct users to put antifreeze in the sink drain before leaving and not to use the fireplace because the damper is closed in winter, to save heat. Next to the cookstove we read that propane travels slowly; patience is advised after turning on the oven. The elderly black naugahyde couch and chair, heavy with duck tape patches, elude retirement. A swath of turquoise paint on one door frame signals work in progress. But there won't be any painting at Schairer Cabin this chilly April weekend.

We all pick tasks from the spring work list. Jim, who had to stop and replace his pickup's alternator on the trip up, unloads a new lawn mower and sets out to repair the electric generator that runs the pump and water heater. No grass to mow yet.

Robert excavates trash from the tool shed, puzzles over the lazy water heater, and tackles the main complaint from cabin users: the back door has no door knob. As its main function had been to open and close the door, which is no longer a rectangle, its collapse was not unexpected. Robert creates two hefty handles, inside and out, from a two-by-four and an old axe handle. Trimming the door's lower corner can wait for a warm day.

Vesta, instead of painting, polishes the windows inside and out, sweeps and mops the floor, scrubs the privy, and replenishes the lime barrel. Her flax-seed bread is the star of the breakfast table.

Before she serves us porridge with hot milk, coffee cake, and bananas, Pat dresses our table with blooming cherry branches. After reorganizing kitchen gear, the medicine kit, and the blanket chest, she scrubs the refrigerator with baking soda and culls chipped china and rickety pots.

I screw a turnbuckle on the back screen door and adjust it so the door swings freely and install restored cushions on the outside rocking chair. The chore I pick is to liberate the right-hand door of the tool shed, which swings out only a foot or two. Either the building has sunk, the sill is rotten, or the sod level has risen. Given the rocks poking out of the soil, the first seems unlikely. In any event, I am only prepared to deal with sod. I peel it up and excavate rocks and rich black soil until the door swings clear and replace the sod. Then I create a job not on

the list, to liberate the cherry saplings near the privy, their scarce blooms nearly hidden by vines and dead branches. I saw off the branch crushing the little tree that produced our bouquet and slash down the prickly, grasping intruders. The dead wood will make fine kindling.

Shirley would love to see this tangle go away. And the gleaming surfaces and unique door hardware. After her recent hospital stay we knew she wouldn't be doing much work this trip. Still, I'd envisioned her coming up in Robert's truck to sit on the deck, on the fresh cushions, and keep us company, and on track, while we all bustled about. But she won't be inspecting our work anytime soon. On the Thursday just before our scheduled maintenance trip, she heard from a neuro-ophthalmologist that her optic nerve was damaged by the infection that took her to the hospital. He doesn't expect her impaired vision will return to normal.

In the middle of the night I discover I have forgotten my flashlight. No matter. Slipping into my faithful sandals, I set forth into the dark. My leg tells me when I pass the couch along the wall and I locate the front door. Breathing and slight snores provide additional orientation. I open and close it soundlessly.

Back in the cabin my shuffling wakes Robert. "Is that you, Mary Helen? How is it out there?" I tell him my only problem was when I started back and had to find the trail by starlight. He gets out his flashlight. □

—Mary Helen Shortridge

## Dedicated Members: Morey Wedding

Kent and Raimi joined PATC in the Spring of 2001. They worked on the Meadows restoration last summer, and have helped with Gypsy Springs. It turns out Kent Morey is a Professional Engineer, registered in a couple of states and presently working for a structural building firm. He was quickly recruited by the Southern Region Cabins Supervisor and the Northern Region Cabin Supervisor to assist in drawing and providing professional opinions on Gypsy Spring decks, Weaver gable ends and bridges (to be put up during this summer's Weaver renovation), and reviewing the Eaton Cabin restoration. It turns out that Kent and Raimi became Mr. and Mrs. Morey on Feb. 22, 2002 (makes you wonder if 02-22-02 is easy to remember). For their

honeymoon weekend they came to Weaver and Schairer cabins on a worktrip. The cabin idea is romantic; the worktrip idea is real dedication. Kent and Raimi helped Boy Scout Troop 17 clear the road to Sam Eaton Cabin, took measurements for a future bridge to the privy at Weaver, and stacked some rough-sawn wood to be used on gable ends this summer. Dinner was served at Cliff's House, cooked by Mary Smith, served by Jim Denham and Bob Mroczek (Cliff's House Overseers). Thomas (the Southern Supervisor) went all out by providing a bottle of wine with a cork in it. After-dinner festivities included cards and conversation. Sunday brought another community meal and wood gathering before the afternoon departure.

Whether it's romantic or dedication, as Southern Cabin's Supervisor, I can't imagine a better honeymoon weekend than being on a PATC worktrip having community meals and a group sleep over.

Kent and Raimi will be joining in the Weaver Cabin restoration, scheduled for the first weekend in June (1-2), and every other weekend throughout June and July. Check your calendars and come out, have some fun, and say "Hi" to the newlyweds.

Congratulations to Kent and Raimi Morey! □

—Thomas C. Jorgensen  
Southern Cabins Supervisor

## Mike Karpie's Photo Tips: Camera Care

Essential items for any camera bag include a lens-cleaning brush, lens tissue, and lens fluid. The brush is great for removing sand, grit, or dust from your camera, particularly from the lens. Lens brushes are often combined with “blowers,” bulbous rubber contraptions that you squeeze quickly to blow dust and debris from your camera. I usually pull the “blowers” off and throw them away because they are rarely worth the space they occupy in your bag or pack. However, I consider the brush essential. Soft camel’s hair works best but when you are obtaining it be very careful you don’t tick off the camel.

Next, you can remove smudges and fingerprints from your lenses and viewfinder by applying a drop or two of lens fluid to the lens tissue and rubbing gently. Never ever EVER use eyeglass tissues! They are treated with silicone and may damage the coating on your lens. It is also not wise to use your shirttail or any abrasive material on your lenses because of this coating.

If you are using a digital camera with an LCD panel, you can “lift” fingerprints from the panel with cellophane tape. Works like magic!

Never attempt to oil or lubricate your camera. Leave this to a professional. Also, if you own a single-lens-reflex camera, never attempt to clean the internal mirror. Unlike your bathroom mirror, the delicate reflective coating is on the surface of the glass rather than behind it and can be damaged very easily.



Is there a topic you would like to see covered in this column? E-mail me at [bkpkr@erols.com](mailto:bkpkr@erols.com). I will try to respond to as many requests as possible.

Next month: Available Light Photography

—Michael Karpie

## Tiptoeing Through the Tulips—Er, Wildflowers

Although not carrying a ukulele, Tiny Tim would have been proud of PATC’s resident botanist, Bob Pickett, who played the pied-piper leading a pack of wildflower enthusiasts down the entire 10-mile length of the Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT) on an early spring day.

Bob was sorely tested early when the George Washington Parkway Park Police failed to timely open one parking gate, and while seeking alternative parking, was harassed by a nearby Saudi embassy official’s security staff – at 8 a.m. on a Sunday morning. But Bob persevered. All were rewarded as the mild winter weather brought early wildflowers in abundance.

“There is incredible variety along the Potomac,” Bob says. Most wildflowers have a blooming season of only a couple of weeks, so the best viewing goes to those who know when to get outdoors. It was fortuitous luck that such a long-planned event could happen so close to the peak wildflower season.

Virginia bluebells were the stars on this trip as dozens lined the PHT from its crossing of Dead Run to Turkey Run. But the rarer flowers interest Bob most. The group saw such rarities as a white trout lily (found in only two

Virginia counties) and harbinger of spring (found in only three Virginia counties).

For those in the know, the list of spotted wildflowers became long: yellow trout lily; bloodroot; cut-leaf toothwort; early saxifrage; toad trillium; wild ginger, blue phlox; star chickweed – with the spice bush and leather leaf shrubs also in bloom. Beyond just wildflowers, Bob especially liked seeing a number of large old-growth sycamores that someone saved from destruction through the years – possibly related to the nearby ruins of a cabin.

As the day grew longer, the tough got going. Twenty-six starters were reduced after lunch to 13, who decided to continue along the bottom half of the PHT downstream of Chain Bridge. It was surprising to see the variety even in this more urban environment.

Most were exhausted with the full day’s hike, but everyone knew much more about the wildflowers right around the corner from our homes in metropolitan D.C. Bob Pickett played a very fine tune that day, and all cannot wait until next year when the magic starts again. □

—Bruce Glendening

### *Rock Creek, from page 6*

rehabilitating the Potomac Heritage Trail, which had been largely destroyed by Hurricane Agnes in 1972. We then shifted briefly to the Cabin John Creek Trail, and finally to the Bull Run-Occoquan Trail, where REI once provided 28 volunteers for a single work trip.

At this year’s meeting, Gail Spilsbury of the Smithsonian presented an overview of the pioneering work of the Olmstead family in establishing Rock Creek Park, based on her forthcoming picture book history, soon to be published. Bob Ford identified the great extent of national park land in the District of Columbia, which now comprises 99 separate segments.

Owing to a medical condition, Tom Floyd could not leave Arkansas to attend this meeting. Other participants included Bob Laughlin and Marie Grenan, each of whom has served as trail Overseer in Rock Creek Park, the PHT, or the AT for more than two decades. Bob is particularly well-known as one who can’t resist improving a waterbar or check dam made by others; his masterpiece on the AT near Linden is known as the aircraft carrier! The long service of these two Club members epitomizes the satisfaction of building and maintaining hiking trails, which is essentially community service in the outdoors. □

—Phil Barringer

## Bears Den, Alive and Well and Up and Running

Bears Den has new managers! After past manager Melody Blaney and her coworker Patti Landovek gave notice of leaving at the end of last year, ATC had thoughts of closing Bears Den Lodge. When word of that got out, Bears Den Volunteers stepped in to offer support for a year during which permanent arrangements for the future could be worked out. When the decision was made to continue the hostel this year, it was no job at all to choose Loretta and Ray Johnson as the prospective new managers. They hiked the trail last year letting everyone along the way know that their goal was to operate a lodge for hikers somewhere along the trail. They had also expressed their interest in Bears Den. Loretta quickly accepted an offer as official manager with Ray as her exceptionally valuable co-worker. Both Ray and Loretta have run their own businesses, Loretta as an accountant and Ray a contractor. Both come well-equipped to run Bears Den with knowledge and tools. They will make the hostel a very sociable place for hikers and guests. Ray and Loretta have plenty of empathy for hikers, derived from their own hike last year. They are highly motivated to provide things for all ages. For example, the store now has stuffed bears for sale. As Loretta says, "Bears Den has to have Bears."

All manager have their particular ways of contributing. When you visit Bears Den now, it will be apparent that Loretta and Ray have spruced up of the facilities and expanded the store to better accommodate hiker needs and to offer visitors a greater variety of things related to the trail. One helpful change is that the Lodge is now open all day,



"Skipper" and "Dusty" (trail names) in front of the Georgia and Maine mileage marker in the yard at Bears Den Hostel, July 12, 2001.

every day, except when the managers have to go to town to buy supplies on Mondays. If you happen to see their green van go by, you cannot miss the Bears Den sign on each side reading, "A little castle in the woods." Glance at the back of the van and you will see the new Bear logo, which soon will be available as a patch at the store.

Bears Den has learned from PATC just how valuable volunteers can be in a place like Bears Den, so if you are looking for an opportunity to take part, give us a call at 540/554-8708 or e-mail us at bearden@crosslink.net. We need help in all areas: office work, reception, hand-lettering signs, minor electrical work, light painting, and future campsite layout. You are welcome to come join us.

Beginning this year, the brick cottage, which many from PATC helped restore, is available for rent. It is a fifth-of-a-mile hike deep into

woods to this 600-square-foot building. It offers a private bedroom with innerspring double bed, wide sleeping bench for two (bring your own sleeping pads), and a loft for three that is especially attractive to children or a good sleeping spot for cold nights. Youth groups often just spread out on the main room floor. When it turns warm and clear, the 10- by 30-foot second-floor deck is the ideal place to roll out your sleeping bag and watch the stars through the limbs of large oaks and tulip trees. Rent starts at \$50 for a couple per night with special rates for youth groups. Facilities included are a two-burner camp stove, essential kitchen utensils, cook pots, silverware, and dishes. Drinking water is available at a faucet just outside the cottage, and there is a new unique privy. Privileges at the hostel are included. Call early if you want to make reservations. Youth groups are especially welcome. □

—Dave Appel  
Volunteer Coordinator Bears Den Hostel

## SNP Announces First 2002 Field Seminar: Peregrine Falcons

Shenandoah National Park will kick off its 2002 Field Seminar series on Saturday, June 8, with the seminar Learning to Fly. During this daylong seminar, participants will meet the people who have been involved in the effort to reintroduce peregrine falcons into the mountains of the East. The seminar will discuss the peregrine falcon's history over the past century and give participants a chance to discover the role this elusive bird of prey plays in the area's ecosystem.

Once listed as an endangered species, the peregrine falcon is now making a comeback. Over the past decade, SNP has partnered with dedicated organizations to help return

peregrine falcons to the mountain of the East. The establishment of a multi-partner study has helped biologists understand more of the behavior and migration patterns of this bird of prey.

Seminar participants will have the opportunity to learn from raptor experts and Park staff about the project that is helping falcons re-establish populations in this area. The peaks of the Blue Ridge Mountains provide good habitat for peregrines. Participants will visit a site in SNP where young falcon chicks are being raised and released and will have the opportunity to view this amazing bird of prey in its natural setting.

SNP's Field Seminars offer an exciting, hands-on way to learn about Park and community resource issues. Advanced registration for seminars is required. To register, or for more information, contact SNP's Education Office at 540/999-3489. The cost for the Learning to Fly seminar is \$25. Shenandoah National Park Association members receive a 20 percent discount.

SNP Field Seminars will continue throughout the summer with the following programs - Nature Photography, July 13; Shenandoah at Night, Aug. 10; and A Wilderness Way, Aug. 24-25. □

# FORECAST

## Chapters

### Charlottesville Chapter

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

### North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays - contact Mark Mitchell ([mdtrail@yahoo.com](mailto:mdtrail@yahoo.com)) 301/461-7048 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday - contact Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848 or Pete Brown ([peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net](mailto:peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net)) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Spring cabin. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme ([bncfirme@innet.net](mailto: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/](http://www.patc.net/chapters/north/)).

### Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the Forecast. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Gerry Boyd ([gerryb@compuserve.com](mailto:gerryb@compuserve.com)) 703/281-7216.

### Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

### West Virginia Chapter

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

### Ski Touring Section

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

### Mountaineering Section

We're a diverse group of local Washington, DC area climbers. Young and old, male and female, crag rat, sport climber, and alpinist, active and armchair types - we all enjoy climbing in its many varieties. We also share common interest in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those wanting to learn the basics - we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice climbers. For further information contact Mack Muir 703/768-5724 ([MackMuir@edisaurus.com](mailto:MackMuir@edisaurus.com)).

### PATC Midweek Hikes

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

### Other Clubs' Hikes

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

## KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

## Meetings

### Meetings

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

### New Members (PATC) - First Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Curious about the Club? Want to learn more? The best way is to attend a new Members meeting (but you don't have to be new to qualify). Attend the meeting and find the mysteries of PATC revealed in full. Refreshments will be served. Directions to PATC: Take Rt. 23 into Vienna, Va. and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

### Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Mack Muir at 703/768-5724 or ([MackMuir@edisaurus.com](mailto:MackMuir@edisaurus.com)) or PATC's website: ([www.patc.net/chapters/mtn Sect](http://www.patc.net/chapters/mtn Sect)).

### PATC Council - Second Tuesday

7:00 p.m. sharp. The PATC Council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the Club. All members are welcome. INFO: Wilson Riley ([wriley@aol.com](mailto:wriley@aol.com)) 703/242-0693 x11.

### Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

(New Members meeting) - Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Martin Juenge ([mjuenge@pihq.com](mailto:mjuenge@pihq.com)) 703/255-5034, then press #5.

### Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

(Business meeting) - Last Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. INFO: Martin Juenge ([mjuenge@pihq.com](mailto:mjuenge@pihq.com)) 703/255-5034, then press #5.

### Trail Patrol - First Tuesday

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

## June

### 1 (Saturday)

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

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter must be submitted electronically, if possible, to headquarters, or by e-mail to PA@patc.net. Allow one week for postal service delivery. **Please e-mail Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net.**

### NATIONAL 1 (Saturday)

#### HIKE - Family Hike Manassas Battlefield Park, Manassas, VA

We will be leading two kid-friendly circuit hikes in celebration of National Trails Day. There will be a short 1.5 mile hike over a boardwalk, through an open meadow, and along a stream for the young walkers. We will also have a 5 mile hike for people with children in back or front carriers and strong kid walkers. This hike will go along Bull Run, past the visitor's center and the old Stone House, and up Matthews Hill. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. Both hikes will begin and end at the Stone Bridge parking lot. From the beltway: Take 66 West to Exit 52 (Route 29), at the end of the ramp, turn right onto RT 29. Go 2-3 miles (road will become one lane in each direction), see rock quarry on the left, look for the parking lot on the right. Designed for families with young children, older children welcome. INFO: Long Hike: Karen Brenner (Brenner@wserv.com) 703/421-6250 (prefer e-mail). Short Hike: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278 (prefer e-mail).

### 1 (Saturday)

#### HIKE - Natural History Hike North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Thornton River/Piney Branch Hike. Join Bob Pickett and friends for about a ten-mile hike along these two shaded ravines on the east side of the Blue Ridge. This will be a moderately difficult hike with total descents of 1500 feet and ascents of 1,000 feet (a car shuttle takes care of the difference). Mountain laurel should be peaking, and numerous wildflowers and songbirds will highlight the trip. Last time we did this trip, we found a copperhead, an old jalyop, a former school site and a beaver den. Call for reservations. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

### NATIONAL 1 (Saturday)

#### HIKE - Ultimate Cross-County Hike, Leg 3

TRAILS DAY Oak Marr to Colvin Run, VA  
9:00 a.m., 12 miles. Fairfax Trails and Streams, in coordination with local Park Authorities, will sponsor a 4-day hike. This is the fourth Fairfax Cross-County Hike, but the first to literally cross the county. Join us on National Trails Day weekend for three-fourths of the hike, then in the fall (after the prison becomes parkland and our volunteers build a trail!) we'll do the remaining leg. Terrain is mostly level, occasional hills less than 200 feet. FTAS/CCT/Ulimate CCH information at [www.fairfaxTrails.org](http://www.fairfaxTrails.org). INFO: Bill Niedringhaus (fairfaxTrails@aol.com) 703/821-0975 or Mike Gingerich 703/590-3188.

### 1 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Metrolites Sugarloaf Mountain, MD

Join the Maryland Metrolites as we work to improve the trail. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the circle at the base of the mountain. Bring gloves, water and lunch. INFO: Liles Creighton (Lrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

### NATIONAL 1 (Saturday)

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

8:15 a.m. to noon. This is the National Trails Day work trip in Rock Creek Park. Always crowded, this 10th anniversary trip promises to be even bigger. Get there early to ensure you get a shovel. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 ext. 31.

### NATIONAL 1 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

TRAILS DAY Appalachian Trail, MD  
The Trail House in Frederick is proudly sponsoring this Trails Day event. Come out and celebrate this special day and enjoy a complimentary meal afterwards. INFO: Mark Mitchel (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

### NATIONAL 1 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - WV Chapter

TRAILS DAY Gambrill State Park, Frederick, MD  
National Trails Day. Assist WV Chapter and other local outdoor groups that maintain the five circuit trails, plus the Catocin through trail located within the park. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Nature Center. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729.

### NATIONAL 1 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew

TRAILS DAY Appalachian Trail, PA  
Set a good example and join the Yankee Clippers for a National Trails Day weekend work trip. Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848 or Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

### 1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

The major focus for our work trip this weekend will be landscaping. We have an outstanding landscaping plan involving lots of wildflowers and hidden surprises. We plan to feature the massive stone walls that pioneer residents of the hollow constructed. There is lots of hard work involved but plenty of satisfaction to go along with it. We will probably also be working on cleaning the interior walls of the cabin in preparation for sealing them with a thin coat of clear varnish. There are numerous other tasks remaining to finish the cabin so there is plenty to keep as many as show up busy. We always have a delicious communal dinner on Saturday and there are evening hike possibilities. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

### 1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### CABIN WORK TRIP - Weaver Cabin Elkton, VA

So many tasks, so little time. ANY level of experience valuable. We'll be setting the bridge foundation, putting up gable windows, mixing cement (chinking), caulking. Want to use a trowel, tape measure or hammer? INFO: Thomas Jorgensen (Hairtheart@aol.com) 540/248-7009 (work), 540/456-4760 (home).

### 1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### CLASS - Land Navigation Class (REI) REI Bailey's Crossroads, VA

11:00 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 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. Course fee \$85, includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map, grid reader, and lunch on Saturday. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

### 1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

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

### 1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA  
The Blue and White Crew hosts the 4th Annual SNP Central District Overseers Workshop. New and prospective overseers are welcome to join the crew on projects on the trails of the Central District. All meals will be provided by the Aulthouse Family Chuckwagon. Instruction will be provided by the SNP Trails professionals (including C.T. Campbell, Roger Dovel and Don Harvey). Overnight accommodations at the Pinnacles Research Station. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysnow@trailcrews.com) 301/570-0596.

### 2 (Sunday)

#### HIKE - Ultimate Cross-County Hike Leg 4

Colvin Run Mill Park to Seneca/Algonkian Park, VA  
9:00 a.m., 12 to 15 miles. Fairfax Trails and Streams, in coordination with local Park Authorities, will sponsor a 4-day hike. This is the fourth Fairfax Cross-County Hike, but the first to literally cross the county. Join us on National Trails Day weekend for three-fourths of the hike, then in the fall (after the prison becomes parkland and our volunteers build a trail!) we'll do the remaining leg. Terrain is mostly level, occasional hills less than 200 feet. Visit our web site at [www.fairfaxTrails.org](http://www.fairfaxTrails.org). INFO: Bill Niedringhaus (fairfaxTrails@aol.com) 703/821-0975.

### 3 (Monday)

#### HIKE - Family Hike Lake Royal, Fairfax, VA

Join us for a 2-mile kid-friendly hike around Lake Royal. We will stop at a playground halfway through the hike, and picnic along the way. The trail is jogging-stroller-friendly, with a few log stairs to go up and down. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278 (prefer e-mail).

### 4 (Tuesday)

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

Join us for this familiar trek up Neighbor Mountain. Hike north on the AT to Elkwallow descending Jeremys Run to the Knob Mountain Cutoff, Knob Mountain Trail for a total of 16 miles and 4100 feet. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

# FORECAST

4 (Tuesday)

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

5 (Wednesday)

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

8 (Saturday)

CLASS - Backpacking 101 (REI)

REI Bailey's Crossroads, VA

1:00 p.m. REI will take the mystery out of backpacking as we share our knowledge in this show and tell session. We will cover backpacking essentials: choosing an internal or external-frame pack; selecting proper clothing, the right footwear and understanding the basic gear you need to reach your destination. We'll also include some great regional backpacking destinations, for great views, sparkling streams and solitude. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

8 (Saturday)

HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Shockey's Knob, WV

7-mile circuit hike NW of Winchester beginning on the new Tuscarora Trail to Shockey's Knob and view of Cacapon Mountains; north to High Rock and view of Blue Ridge (for those interested, we will also traverse the mini "Knife Edge" for better view); east on connecting trail to old Tuscarora Trail, south past several wildlife areas, and then west on Packhorse Trail, crossing Little Brush Creek at the rhododendron thicket. 1300 foot elevation gain at a slow pace. Meeting at Siler. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visualink.com) 540/678-0423.

8 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew Massanutten, VA

Work with us, and know that you will leave one piece of trail better than when you found it. Help us rebuild tread and waterbars on Massanutten Mountain. Take pride in the support you give to the trail community! INFO: Mike Sutherland (msutherland@cox.rr.com) 703/591-8330.

8 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

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

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew Lydia, VA

The Vining Tract crew meets once a month to work on cabin and land management projects on the beautiful Vining property. We are now building a small cabin using logs from an old barn, as well as projects at Conley and Wineberry cabins and around the property to keep everything in top shape. Come join us and raise a hammer, a paintbrush, or a log in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Larry Lang 703/631-9278 or Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Company Shenandoah National Park, VA

Acme Treadway Board Meeting! The Company is responding to a need to clear a significant distance of the Tuscarora Trail on Great North Mountain. Overnight accommodations at the Glass House in Fort Valley, VA. All who participate receive a crew T-shirt to commemorate their first trip! INFO: Don White (whitedh@attbi.com) 804/795-2914.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The crew will continue the trail building project on the Per-Lee Tract with the ultimate goal to connect with the SNP trail system. The easy part is done so now we have some trail building challenges. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at PATC's Rosser Lamb Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Fire Squad Pass Mountain, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Back by popular demand! Come join us in this annual rite of passage as we attack the briars in the wilderness and non-wilderness areas of the AT on Pass Mountain. Anyone who has hiked through here in shorts knows why we're here. We will be using loppers, clippers, saws, and weed whackers of various sorts. If you want on-the-job training with a power brush cutter this is the place to be. We hope to accomplish some tread rehab near the summit if all goes well. The chef has the usual feast planned for those who make it through the day, and he may need help with some side dishes. Overnight at Range View Cabin (sleeps 8 and plenty of camping area). We will work on the cabin area and access trail on Sunday morning. Bring lunch, water, and meet at Thornton gap at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Bring a friend! INFO: John McCreia (mccreiaj@aol.com) 610/352-9287.

10 (Monday)

HIKE - Family Hike Manassas, VA

Manassas Battlefield - Stone Bridge. Toddler-friendly 1.5 mile hike. This hike has lots of variation including a long boardwalk, an open meadow, then through the woods and along a stream. This hike is jogging-stroller passable, but barely. There are some steep log stairs to go up and down. After the hike we'll go to the nearby Bull Run Regional Park to picnic and enjoy their sand-filled playground. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278 (prefer e-mail).

10 (Monday)

MEETING - New Members (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group), 7:30 p.m.

11 (Tuesday)

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

12 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Oh Shenandoah! (REI) REI Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Whether you're gazing out at the autumn colors from Bear Fence Rocks, standing in the cool mist of Dark Hollow Falls or exploring a trailless hollow in a foot of snow in mid-January, Shenandoah National Park is a jewel in any season. Veteran long-distance backpacker, nature photographer and trails advocate, Nick Williams, will take us on an evening's tour of the trails, wildlife, plants, and weather of Virginia's Blue Ridge. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

12 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers Carderock, MD

A 6-mile hike along picturesque section of C&O Canal to Great Falls. Meet at 10:15 a.m. Take Exit 41 off Beltway (I-495) and follow signs to Carderock. Go to third parking lot. One short rocky stretch. Lunch will be at the halfway point. Group will return to starting point after lunch. INFO: Jim Flanigan (jflanigan@aol.com) 202/554-3775.

12 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers Mason Neck, VA

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

12 (Wednesday)

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

12 (Wednesday)

MEETING - West Virginia Chapter Meeting Harpers Ferry, WV

7:00 p.m. Tom Johnson will present a slide show about hiking in the Mid-Atlantic States. Intended to generate enthusiasm for hiking mostly among non-members. You will see some familiar scenes, and some of you will be in the show! Come and watch for your face in the photo. INFO: Judy Smoot (wvpatc@hotmail.com) 540/667-2036.

15 (Saturday)

CLASS - Camping With Kids (REI) REI Bailey's Crossroads, VA

1:00 p.m. It's a question every outdoor-loving parent asks: "When can I take my kids outdoors with me?" Come to REI for our special clinic on camping with kids. We'll offer you lots of ideas for making family camping easy and enjoyable. An REI staff member will provide checklists, gear suggestions and tips for keeping your children entertained and happy. Family camping creates memories for a lifetime. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

15 (Saturday)

HIKE - Massanutten Mountain Series Luray, VA

The fourth hike of the series will be 17 miles from Crisman Hollow Road on the Scothorn Gap Trail and Massanutten East Trail to New Market Gap and returning on Crisman Hollow Road. Total elevation gain is 1800 feet. PATC Map G. Should hydrographic and weather conditions be favorable another hike of the series may be substituted. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Oakton Shopping Center parking lot. Contact leaders for requirements and details. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

15 (Saturday)

HIKE - North Chapter Hassock Run, Appalachian Trail, PA

Figure 8 circuit hike, easy to moderate, 8 to 10 miles in length. Hopefully the rhododendrons will be in bloom along Hassock Run and the Appalachian Trail at Quarry Gap shelters as we hike this figure 8 hike. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

15 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade Shenandoah County, VA

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at Wolf Gap Recreation Area at 9:00 am to get tools then work on a trail in the nearby area. This popular venue offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley

from the mountain crest. We will decide that morning just what the worksite will be; either continue the relocation on Tibbet Knob Trail or clean waterbars near the campground. RSVP by Wednesday prior to work trip. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, seasonal clothing, and hiking shoes. INFO: Hop Long (mgrnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

## 15 (Saturday)

### 🔗 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew Tuscarora Trail, PA.

Call for meeting place and other details. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

## 15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

### 🏠 CABIN WORK TRIP - Highacre Harpers Ferry, MD

Join us as we continue to spruce up this beautiful old Victorian house in Harpers Ferry. There's a lot of work to be done including painting, cleaning, carpentry, and yard work. INFO: Ben Mayock (bmayock@yahoo.com) 410/461-1327 or Pat Fankhauser (pfankh@erols.com) 703/242-0693, Ext. 17.

## 15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

### 🏠 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

If you haven't been to Tulip Tree Cabin yet because you are feeling just a little unsure of your carpentry skills, but you would still like to help with the project, now is the right time to volunteer. We have a massive landscaping job to complete by this Fall. There is lots of brush cutting, digging, rock moving, and raking to be done. We have to get the site prepared for planting of lots of wildflowers. We also have work for you budding trail-builders too. Our trail to the spring needs to be improved as well as a new trail built to connect the cabin site with Shenandoah National Park's Crusher Ridge Trail. All of you carpenters and primitive builders don't be discouraged because there is plenty of work left for you to do too. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

## 15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

### 🏠 CABIN WORK TRIP - Weaver Cabin Elkton, VA

Work had better be progressing! More bridge hammering, and time to cut the walkway. Caulking the old cabin, and we'll be setting chinking like 8-year-olds in past days. Even child labor is beneficial. Spend a day in the great outdoors. If time permits, we'll even sweep the roof. INFO: Thomas Jorgensen (Hairatheart@aol.com) 540/248-7009 (work), 540/456-4760 (home).

## 15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

### CLASS - Trail Patrol Hike Leadership Training Prince William Forest Park, VA

The two-day course uses classroom and hands-on instruction to teach participants the essential skills for leading safe, enjoyable hikes with minimal environmental impact. The topics to be covered include: medical emergencies, planning, personal equipment, Leave No Trace, leadership skills, standard procedures, emergency procedures and navigation and map reading. Additional information at [www.trailpatrol.patc.net](http://www.trailpatrol.patc.net). INFO: Ben Fernandez 703/327-9788.

## 17 (Monday)

### 🥾 HIKE - Family Hike Great Falls Park, VA

River and Matildaville Trails (Virginia side of Park), 2-mile hike along the scenic Mather Gorge. This is a beautiful rugged hike, with great views of the Potomac River. Toddlers will need to be watched

carefully for about a half mile as we go across many rocks and close to the rim of Mather Gorge. We will picnic halfway through at an open meadow. We will meet at the kids touch table inside the visitor's center. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278 (prefer e-mail).

## 18 (Tuesday)

### 🥾 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

#### Shenandoah National Park, VA

Begin with the scenic ascent up the stairs, connecting to the Sugarloaf Trail to inspect the Laurel in season joining the AT to the Tuscarora to the Traces Interpretive Trail, into Mathew's Arm. Continuing on the Elkwallow Trail to the AT, then return descending the Piney Branch Trail and the Hull School Trail for 4000 feet and 17 miles. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

## 19 (Wednesday)

### 🥾 HIKE - Easy Hikers

#### Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

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

## 19 (Wednesday)

### CLASS - Virginia Wilderness (REI)

#### REI Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Yes! Virginia has preserved some excellent examples of Appalachian ecosystems. Some of these areas offer stunning views from high peaks and ridges. Others offer streams and stands of old growth timber. Some are just plain hard to get to, and hard to get around in. All of them offer solitude and a treasure of plants and wildlife. Join REI's Ed Neville for an evening's escape to Virginia Wilderness. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

## 20 (Thursday)

### 🌞 SPECIAL EVENT - Summer Solstice, Great Falls

#### Great Falls Park Auditorium, VA

6 p.m. Optional summer solstice (okay-it's the day before) hike beginning at Great Falls (VA side) Visitors Center along its River Trail to see Great Falls and Mather Gorge. Bring water.

7:30 p.m. To promote the Potomac Heritage Trail, come listen to The Nature Conservancy's Stephanie Flack as she summarizes its year-long study, in cooperation with the National Park Service, of the entire Potomac Gorge area from Great Falls to D.C.! The recently published "Potomac Gorge Site Conservation Plan" proposes certain actions be taken to protect this valuable resource. INFO: Bruce Glendening (bglendening@yahoo.com) 703/532-9093.

## 21 - 23 (Friday - Sunday)

### 🥾 BACKPACKING TRIP - Dolly Sods Wilderness

#### Monongahela National Forest, WV

The mountain laurel should be in bloom for this weekend. We will do about a 20-mile circuit hike on one of the most scenic trails in the Monongahela National Forest. We will leave Friday evening and sleep near the cars. Saturday we will backpack to our campsite on Big Stonecoal Run. Hike back to the cars (with a stop for a swim in Red Creek) on Sunday. Limit 10. INFO: Dave Wilcox (davewillcox@worldnet.att.net) 703/212-099.

## 21 - 23 (Friday - Sunday)

### CAMPING TRIP - Family Camping Weekend Camp Highroad, Aldie, VA

One hour from Washington D.C. We will be tent camping on Friday and Saturday night at Camp Highroad. Each family will be responsible for bringing and cooking their own meals. There are outhouses and drinking water, no cooking facilities provided. We will have use of their swimming pool and hiking trails. There will be a 3-4 mile hike on Saturday with lots of short ups and downs. Designed for families with children under age 5, older children welcome. Sign up early, space is very limited. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278 (prefer e-mail).

## 22 (Saturday)

### 🥾 HIKE - Massanutten Trail Dedication Massanutten, VA

8:00 a.m. Meet at Camp Roosevelt for approximately 6-mile hike from Mooreland Gap to Waterfall Mountain Trail. At 2:00 p.m. dedication begins at wildlife clearing near Waterfall Mountain Trailhead. More details at [http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/gwj/lee/Massanutten\\_trail\\_dedication.htm](http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/gwj/lee/Massanutten_trail_dedication.htm). INFO: Charles Hillion (charleshillion@earthlink.net) 703/754-7388 or Stephanie Bushong, Lee Ranger District, (sbushong@fs.fed.us) 540/984-4101.

## 22 (Saturday)

### 🔗 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Potomac River Work Crew Potomac Heritage Trail, Washington, DC

9:00 a.m.- noon. Try to beat the heat by the water of the Potomac River. Members of the newly formed Potomac Heritage Work Crew invite all to join them improving the PHT. Meet at the Theodore Roosevelt Island parking lot and we will drive to the appropriate access point. Bring water, gloves, and sturdy footwear, but I provide the donuts, tools and instruction. Raindate: June 23. No registration necessary. INFO: Bruce Glendening (bglendening@yahoo.com) 703/532-9093.

## 22 (Saturday)

### 🔗 TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Enjoy gardening? This isn't as pretty, but on a much grander scale along the fabled AT. Enjoy the camaraderie of other volunteers in the woods, making a difference and getting away from the city. INFO: Mark Mitchel (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

## 22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

### 🏠 CABIN WORK TRIP - Rosser Lamb Crew Per-Lee/West Tract, Stanardsville, VA

Come out and discover what the Per-Lee/West properties have to offer. New trails, camping sites, cooking facilities, picnic tables, a beautiful stream, the Rosser Lamb Farm house, and more, all nestled conveniently along the East side of the SNP. Our monthly work parties provide the opportunity to help renovate the old farmhouse, to landscape and clear the grounds, work on trails, and/or just kickback and enjoy this developing facility. Both overnights and day trippers are welcome, just let us know your plans so we can properly prepare for your stay. Community dinner and breakfast will be provided for those giving us advanced notice. Bring your own drinks and lunches. INFO: Peg Manuel (m.j.manuel@worldnet.att.net) 540/972-7093 or Park Anderson (parkplva@yahoo.com) 540/972-1184.

# FORECAST

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

🏞️ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**  
Gore, VA

Saturday the Crew hopes to complete a relocation of the Tuscarora Trail begun last year west of Winchester near Gore, VA. Sunday we will work on trail projects near Shockey's Knob. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Brill Cabin near Shockey's Knob. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

🏞️ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums**  
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA  
MEDITERRANEAN WORK TRIP! Buon giorno! Come join the Hoodlums Crew. Trail sweat rewarded with an evening sampling of the culinary delights of all the Mediterranean regions this worktrip! The Hoodlums Trail Crew works on the Appalachian Trail in the North District of SNP, focusing on treadwork and major trail projects. We build rock steps and log waterbars, and other similar activities by day, but after a good day's work, the crew enjoys the fruits of their labor afterwards via the theme meal and festivities at a facility within the park. No trail work experience is necessary and newcomers are welcome. Visit our website at <http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/hoodlums/hoodlums.html> for more information. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, camp out overnight in SNP - lots of options! We generally meet at the worksite or at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. RSVP by mid-week prior. INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

24 (Monday)

🥾 **HIKE - Family Hike**  
Centreville, VA

Bull Run - Occoquan Trail, off RT 28 in Centreville, VA. A 2-3 mile out-and-back hike along the scenic Bull Run. There are many short ups and downs, rocks and roots along the trail. Walkers and kids in backpacks only, not jogging-stroller passable. We will wade in the stream along the way. Bring water shoes or a spare pair of shoes, if you want your little one(s) to get in. Bring lunch and plenty of water. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278 (prefer e-mail).

25 (Tuesday)

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

Another opportunity to view Laurel in Season, by ascending the Jones Mountain Trail continuing to Cat Knob, then returning on the Fork Mountain, Staunton River Trail with options up to 18 miles and 4300 feet of elevation gain. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931 or Dave Kennamer (dkennamr@yahoo.com) 301/299-9563.

25 (Tuesday)

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

26 (Wednesday)

🏠 **CLASS - Adventure on the Great Divide (REI)**  
REI Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. From Antelope Wells to Piegan Pass, the Continental Divide Trail Runs high along the spine of America, through some of the wildest terrain on the continent. Nick Williams has walked every step from Mexico to Canada, as well as the AT and PCT. Join Nick for a fascinating photo tour of America's high route: the Continental Divide Trail. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

26 (Wednesday)

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

About 5 varied miles over rolling terrain. Bring drinking water. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot at 10:15 a.m. From the Beltway, exit to I-270 North. After about 7 miles (at the exit for RT 370), move into the local lanes. Stay in the center of the 3 lanes. After the right-hand lane has disappeared and re-appeared, move into the right-hand lane. Take the next exit (for RT 124 West and RT 117 West); this is about 3 miles after the move into the local lanes. Follow the signs for RT 117, which becomes Clopper Road. (and is still RT 117). After 2.1 miles turn left into the inconspicuous park entrance. After 0.1 miles, turn right toward the Visitor Center. In 0.1 miles, park at the end of the road. Since this is our last walk until September, we will lunch at Roy's Place in Gaithersburg after the hike. INFO: Sue King 703/356-6659.

29 (Saturday)

🏠 **CLASS - Wildlife Photography (REI)**  
REI Bailey's Crossroad, VA

6:30 p.m. A Natural Light Photography Seminar by award-winning photographer Jack Mills. Jack will discuss field techniques for wildlife photography, what it takes to create a great wildlife image: exposure techniques, image sharpness, and depth of focus. Jack will also cover macro-photography, where and when to find wildlife, and how to approach and set up the shot. Participants receive eight hours of instruction, film, class materials and text, and one-day field/photo shoot on the following day with Jack. Class fee \$75, registration limited. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

29 (Saturday)

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

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

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

🏠 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin**  
Shaver Hollow, VA

Your opportunities for contributing to the completion of this work of art are becoming fewer and fewer. Some day in the not-too-distant future Tulip Tree Cabin will be finished. There are still multiple tasks to complete to finish the cabin and grounds but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Join our outstanding congenial crew for a weekend of satisfying work on the cabin or landscape and enjoy our company at a delicious communal dinner on Saturday evening and an equally delicious community breakfast on Sunday morning. Get a preview of the beauty, ambiance and tranquility to be experienced by future Tulip Tree Cabin renters, and all without paying a rental fee. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

🏠 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Weaver Cabin**  
Elkton, VA

We need help; we'll be behind schedule. Time to set the windows in the gable end. The rock chimney will be complete, and we'll put up rough sawn gable wood. Little projects from privy vents to porch board replacement will be everywhere. INFO: Thomas Jorgensen (Hairatheart@aol.com) 540/248-7009 (work), 540/456-4760 (home).

# July

1 (Monday)

🏠 **DEADLINE - August Potomac Appalachian**  
Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter must be submitted electronically, if possible, to headquarters, or by e-mail to PA@patc.net. Allow one week for postal service delivery. **Please e-mail Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net.**

2 (Tuesday)

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

3 (Wednesday)

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

6 (Saturday)

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

If you like it hot, come out on this event and bring plenty of water. Some of our best work is done with sweat on our brows, moving rocks or weeding. INFO: Mark Mitchel (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

6 (Saturday)

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

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848 or Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

8 (Monday)

🏠 **MEETING - New Members (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group), 7:30 p.m.**

9 (Tuesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Saturday)

🥾 **HIKE - North Chapter**  
Tuscarora State Forest, PA

Iron Horse Trail, easy 10 miles. A historical hike of the Tuscarora State Forest with part being in the Big Spring State Park with its tunnel. Come out to enjoy an early summer hike. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

13 (Saturday)

🏞️ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew**  
Massanutten, VA

Walk in the footsteps of George Washington who first surveyed the Fort Valley area (and planned to retreat there if the revolution failed.) Join us as we rebuild tread and waterbars on Massanutten Mountain. Appreciate our history and take pride in the support you give to the trail community! INFO: Mike Sutherland (msutherland@cox.rr.com) 703/591-8330.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

🏠 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin**  
Shaver Hollow, VA

The main structure may be completed but there are a myriad of little details that need to be finished to make the cabin complete. The landscape has endless opportunities for artistic contributions. We are scrambling now to put the finishing touches on this beautiful labor of love that has occupied hundreds of people over the past seven-and-a-half years. Join our ranks and experience the satisfaction that comes of creating a beautiful work of art. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

**13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew**  
 Lydia, Virginia

The Vining Tract crew meets once a month to work on cabin and land management projects on the beautiful Vining property. We are now building a small cabin using logs from an old barn, as well as projects at Conley and Wineberry cabins and around the property to keep everything in top shape. Come join us and raise a hammer, a paintbrush, or a log in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Larry Lang 703/631-9278 or Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

**13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CABIN WORK TRIP - Weaver Work Crew**  
 Elkton, VA

HELP. We need anyone to hold a paintbrush or work a hammer. Paint the roof, paint the cement, and paint the chinking. Hammer the gable ends, hammer the bridge flooring, and hammer the windowsills. INFO: Thomas Jorgensen (Hairatheart@aol.com) 540/248-7009 (work), 540/456-4760 (home).

**13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)**  
 Alexandria, VA

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

**13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**  
 Blackburn Trail Center, Round Hill, VA

The Crew is nearing completion of the trail rehab project started last year on the side trail to the AT. Chris Brunton may have additional projects for the Crew at Blackburn so join us for an interesting Summer weekend and try the solar shower. Bring a lunch Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.r.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

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

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at Wolf Gap Recreation Area at 9:00 a.m. to get tools then work on a trail in the nearby area. This popular venue offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley from the mountain crest. We will decide that morning just what the worksite will be; either continue the relocation on Tibbet Knob Trail or clean waterbars near the campground. RSVP by Wednesday evening if you plan to attend. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, seasonal clothing, and hiking shoes. INFO: Hop Long (mgrnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

**27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin**  
 Shaver Hollow, VA

If you hate the heat, humidity, noise and traffic of the city come into the cool and beautiful Shaver Hollow of the Blue Ridge Mountains to help us finish Tulip Tree Cabin. This is a unique project, a log cabin which has been built from the ground up with native materials harvested on the site using primitive hand tools. We are putting the finishing touches on the cabin and the landscape in an attempt to culminate what is now a seven-and-a-half-year project. We can use diverse skills and all skill levels. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

**27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)**  
**CABIN WORK TRIP - Weaver Work Crew**  
 Elkton, VA

Finale! Finish the old windows, complete the bridges, terminate gable woodwork, and end-of-roof painting. People will be begging for Weaver to re-open, come help it be the best. INFO: Thomas Jorgensen (Hairatheart@aol.com) 540/248-7009 (work), 540/456-4760 (home).

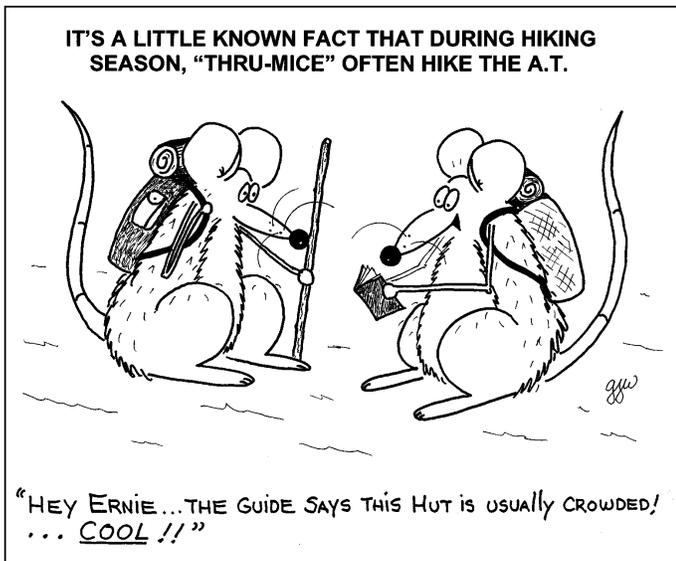
**29 (Tuesday)**  
**MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting), 7:30 p.m.**

*Walt, from page 3*

before. It had a low-lying, purple bloom of the orchid variety. There were many more of them along the trail, but I have still not been able to identify it.

This part of our hiking area has so much to share, including 19th Century iron ore pits (presumably a result of the demands of the Crack Whip Furnace), limestone sinkholes, and a good swimming beach (which I visited last June) just off the trail at Rockcliff Lake. The guidebook and map will provide other ideas that will liven up your visit to the area.

## Tails from the Woods by George Walters



## Why do we do it?

As I neared the end of my hike, I became quite reflective as I paused for a break at the 2,000-foot gap between Cherry Ridge and Long Mountain. It was like a spiritual experience as I sat under a blooming apple tree in a grass-covered wildlife clearing on a beautiful, sunny spring day, and looked at Halfmoon Mountain through the dogwood blossoms. I was most grateful for the opportunity to have had such a spectacular trek. I thought of all the people, such as our partners, in this case the National Forest Service, our staff holding down the fort so that others may enjoy the trails, and the many volunteers who make these adventures possible. So, why do we do it? Do we not pay our dues; donate cabins, land, and easements; help out at the sales, info, and cabin desks; research for and prepare publications; provide for Club administration and communications; construct and maintain trails, shelters, and cabins; and take other volunteer actions that my fallible mind has failed to mention, in order that spectacular treks happen?

Thank you! May you all have a spectacular trek this 75th year.

See you on the trail,

*Walt*



*The Long Mountain Trail with a profusion of Dogwood*

## Massanutten Trail Dedication

The dedication of the Massanutten Trail is scheduled for June 22, 2002. A special invitation is issued to everyone who has worked on the Massarock Crew, as well as PATC members and others interested in this trail. The trail dedication will recognize the long-term commitment and support of PATC and the Massarock crew in completing this trail (now a 70-mile loop on Massanutten Mountain) and also recognize the Elizabeth Furnace Cabin project, which would not have been possible without the help of the dedicated Massarock folks.

**8:00 a.m.** – Meet at Camp Roosevelt for approx. 6-mile hike from Mooreland Gap to Waterfall Mountain Trail

**2:00 p.m.** - Dedication begins at Wildlife Clearing near Waterfall Mountain Trailhead

**5:00 p.m.** - Dinner for Massarock Crew members. Others may attend but need to turn in their reservation (\$8.50 each) by June 1. A reservation form may be obtained at [www.southern-region.fs.fed.us/gwj/lee/Massanutten\\_trail\\_dedication.htm](http://www.southern-region.fs.fed.us/gwj/lee/Massanutten_trail_dedication.htm).

**6:00 (ish) p.m.** – til..? Campfire reminiscing at Camp Roosevelt □  
—Charles T. Hillon

## PATC Trail Patrol

Presents

## Hike Leadership Training

June 15 and 16, 2002

The Trail Patrol is hosting a Hike Leadership Training course on June 15 and 16 at Prince William Forest Park. The two-day course uses classroom and hands-on instruction to teach participants the essential skills for leading safe, enjoyable hikes with minimal environmental impact.

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

For more information, contact Ben Fernandez at 703/327-9788 or go to our Web site: [trailpatrol.patc.net](http://trailpatrol.patc.net) □

### *Council Fire, from page 2*

source of Entry Run in Greene County, Va., so that it goes into the valley where the Rosser-Lamb Cabin is located, and to rename the present headwaters, from Entry Run to Collects Run.

Four people have been named to the PATC Nominating Committee (Maureen Harris, Steve Koeppen, Rick Canter, and Hop Long), and a fifth was to be designated shortly.

### Corridor Management

Because of the lack of snow, the potential problem of snowmobile use in the Big Flats area of Pennsylvania did not materialize. Volunteers are needed to plant more trees in the area. Spraying for Gypsy moths is scheduled for the AT corridor. Bob Pickett is working on a program to monitor globally rare or state-rare plant species at nine sites where they have been identified along the Appalachian Trail.

### Membership

The April membership report showed a total of 6,748 (up from 6,659 the previous month), but it is not clear whether life members are included in the figure. Since the last report, 173 new members were entered into the database. The cards sent as follow-up on

dues renewal are receiving a good response, and the pattern will be analyzed. The two lists of officers provided to new members will be combined into a single list. There is a need for more precise explanation on the Web site on the areas of interest members can select and a clarification that pre-registration is required for Club activities, including Trail Patrol courses.

A weekend of Trail Patrol training has prepared six new members of the group, bringing added strength in the Charlottesville area. There were 28 persons enrolled in the Trail Patrol's current backpacking course. Trail Patrol taught outdoor safety skills at a Boy Scout Camporee for 3,000 Scouts at Chickahominy Park near Williamsburg.

### Chapters and Sections

The North Chapter reported that a site is being sought for a possible shelter location along the Tuscarora Trail between Routes 16 and 30 in Pennsylvania. Water sources have been found in the area.

The West Virginia Chapter said it is meeting every other month and has several good hike leaders. It is working on the Catoctin Trail.

The Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group reported it has not been called out for searches recently but had completed preparations for the Dogwood Half Hundred on April 20, in cooperation with Trail Patrol.

The Ski Section said it had conducted several ski trips, including some out of the area, and had updated information for skiers on the Web site ([www.patc.net/chapters/ski](http://www.patc.net/chapters/ski)). One hundred people enjoyed a ski-dance weekend in February at Camp Soules near Seven Springs in Pennsylvania.

### Finance

Donations to the Club through the United Way in 2001 totaled \$22,000, an increase of 28 percent over the preceding year. Expenses year-to-date at the end of the first quarter appear to be at 20.8 percent of budget. The audit was still under way. The Executive Committee will consider suggestions for mailings to solicit donations from members for specific purposes.

The April Council meeting was attended by six Club officers, eight committee chairs, three chapter representatives, three section representatives, one staff person, and one other Club member. □

—George Meek, Recording Secretary

# Lear What You Are Doing Before “Socializing” With Wasps

This is about the wasps that we know as hornets, yellow jackets, and “paper wasps.” Hornets build those big paper footballs that hang in trees overhead (and sometimes in the bushes just off the trail). Yellow jackets also build paper houses, but they are usually in the ground – in old rodent holes that are harder to detect. The paper wasps build “honeycombs” that hang from ceilings in trail shelters, privies, carports, and so on.

## Social Versus Solitary

Yellow jackets and hornets are vespids; the slim brown wasps in the shelter are polistes. These wasps are called social wasps because they cooperate to build and defend a nest and cooperate in raising their young. There are many solitary wasps; for example, the parallel tubes of a mud-dauber wasp might appear on the side of a shelter.

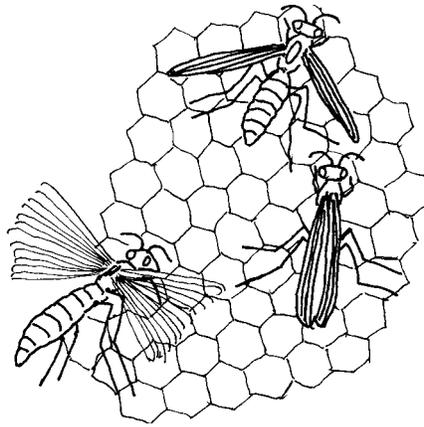
Any wasp will sting when trapped, but it's the social wasps that will attack in numbers when their nest is threatened. These attacks can be life-threatening, so it is good to get acquainted with the social wasps – if only to avoid them.

The life cycle of the social wasps determines when we can expect to encounter them on trails and what we can expect of them during the encounter. Let's consider first the queen wasp.

## Queenly Work

Each nest (colony) has one queen who mated the previous fall and lived through the winter, usually under some tree bark. When she emerges in the spring, she still has the sperm from that mating and can use it each time she is about to lay an egg. If she fertilizes the egg, it develops into a female; if she lays an unfertilized egg, it develops into a male.

She begins a brand new colony and works in isolation. She chews up old wood to make the tough paper from which the nest is constructed. She hangs a flat disc from an overhead support and builds a comb of open cells that hang from it, cementing an egg in the dome of each cell. A hornet queen surrounds the comb with a tough paper ball, not much bigger than a golf ball, leaving a hole in the bottom as an entrance. A yellow jacket queen builds her comb in a rodent hole and also builds a shell of surrounding paper. The paper wasp in the trail shelter relies on the shelter's roof to keep her comb dry.



The eggs hatch into larvae (grubs), and a six-sided cell houses each grub until it is ready to become a pupa. The queen feeds the grubs in their cells (on a diet of chewed up insects) and caps their cells when they are grown. The grub becomes a pupa, and the pupa transforms into an adult wasp.

In the spring and summer the queen lays only fertilized eggs, and the females that emerge cooperate to form the colony, expanding the comb, defending it, feeding grubs, capping cells, cleaning out cells for reuse, feeding the queen, etc. These females have not mated, and are thus unable to take over for the queen if she should meet an untimely end.

Bees store honey in a wax honeycomb, but wasps do not make honey. They use their paper comb solely to raise their young from egg to adult. Even without honey, the comb full of grubs makes a tasty meal for various forest animals, and many are tough enough to endure the wasp stings. Bears will dig up a yellow jacket nest or climb a tree to knock down a hornet nest.

## Can Queens Cooperate?

Polistes varies from the vespid behavior in an interesting way. A polistes queen may be joined by another queen, that is, another mated female that made it through the win-

### Wasp Data

The data on wasps is taken from “Wasp Farm,” by Howard Ensign Evans, Cornell University Press, 1963. The author makes wasps into fascinating creatures – as interesting as any you'll meet on a forest trail. A paperback reprint can be ordered through your favorite bookseller. You might try: *A Likely Story*, in Alexandria, 703/836-2498, or [www.alikelystorybooks.com](http://www.alikelystorybooks.com).

ter. The originator of the comb remains the sole egg-layer, but any that arrive later can assume the role of queen if the original queen meets an untimely end. In the meantime, the queens-in-waiting perform the usual female role of workers. Why these joining females did not construct their own combs, and how they decide which of them will assume the queen's role if she is lost, is not well understood – at least not by humans. Polistes queens seem to have it worked out.

Since polistes does her work out in the open, you can observe her every move. The next rainy day at a shelter, you can watch the coming and going of paper wasps – who does what – and perhaps determine which wasp is laying eggs. Paper wasps are pretty mild-mannered. I watched a nest that was only a foot above my face last summer. It was in a wind chime in the carport. When arriving at a trail shelter, you might inspect for polistes nests and then be careful not to provoke them. But I wouldn't worry about removing them.

Near the end of the summer, hornets and yellow jackets construct some larger cells. The queen lays fertilized eggs in these cells. The grubs in these cells grow to a larger size and are destined to be next year's queens. The queen also begins to lay unfertilized eggs, which become males. The males can't sting, and they don't do “female work.” Their only purpose is to mate with a female. The newly mated females put on as much fat as possible and look for a place to spend the winter.

All the other wasps die. Their intricate paper nest is abandoned and never used again.

## Boom and Bust

Hornet and yellow jacket nests can get quite large. There is a population expansion in summer, limited only by food supply, mortality due to hard work, and depredation by enemies. Near the end of the summer, the colony focuses on raising new queens, and the worker population sharply declines. With the emergence of larger females that are ready to mate and males that are ready to oblige them, the colony's purpose is fulfilled. The colony's queen is worn out, and there is a general slacking off. The workers may even devour the remaining grubs.

The wasps hang around through the fall months, mooching jelly or a sip of sweetened drink from hikers. This is a good time to

*See Wasps, page 20*

## Trail Overseers – Appointed in May

### Trail Overseers

Bill Pepelko	Corbin Mountain Trail
Jud Knecht	Fridley Gap Trail
Richard & Karen Mosteller	Appalachian Trail –Beahms Gap to Pass Mt. Hut Trail
Barbara Austin	Appalachian Trail - Waterline to Power line
Melissa Amory	Appalachian Trail - Marshall Mountain Saddle to Gravel Springs Gap
David C Holton	Glover-Archbold Trail - Massachusetts Avenue to Van Ness Street
Kathy Patrick	Massanutten Trail - VA 678 to Ft. Valley Overlook
Karen Linkins	Massanutten Trail - VA 678 to Ft. Valley Overlook

## Keystone Trail Crew's Summer Splash

Keystone Trail Crew, sponsored by KTA, will again have three weeks of volunteer hiking trail maintenance June 5 through June 9, Quehanna Trail; June 12 through June 16, Chuck Keiper Trail; June 19 through June 23, Mid-State Trail. Meals and lodging/campsites will be provided. E-mail Joe Healey, [jnlhealey@aol.com](mailto:jnlhealey@aol.com), or feel free to call at 570/655-4979.

*Wasps, from page 19*

examine one up close. They are no longer defending the nest, so they will sting only if you trap them in your hand or mouth.

### What Does This Mean for Hikers?

In spring and early summer, the colonies are small, so there are few wasps available for defense. In the fall, the colony is in decline, but in summer...Watch out!

Hornet and yellow jacket colonies will fiercely defend the nest against a threat. The period of peak danger from a wasp attack is early summer to early fall – when you stand close to the nest. Picking blueberries in July can put you next to a yellow-jacket hole in the ground or a hornet nest in shrubbery. Going off trail for a little privacy in the laurel bushes warrants care.

Each attacking wasp will sting many times, unlike the honeybee that stings once. The wasp venom contains histamine, the same enzyme that your body produces in reaction to irritants, such as dust and pollen. Histamine swells mucous membranes, and we take antihistamines to reduce the swelling in our throat and sinuses. A massive injection of histamine from multiple wasp stings can swell nose and throat membranes, shut down your airway, and kill you. Some hikers have had very close calls.

Wasp venom is as dangerous as rattlesnake venom. Quickly taking an antihistamine, such as Benadryl, may help to prevent severe swelling in your airway. Some hikers who have already had a run-in with wasps carry a prescription injector of epinephrine as emergency medicine to provide time to get to a hospital. □

—Wil Koblrenner

## 4th Annual SNP Central District Overseers Workshop

Pinnacles Research Station

June 1-2

PATC and the Trails Staff of SNP will hold the Annual Overseer Workshop again this year at the Pinnacles Research Station in the Central District of the Park (near Thornton Gap) on June 1 and 2.

The workshop is designed to teach new Overseers the basic skills of trail repair and maintenance, and to help experienced volunteers learn a few more tricks. Please contact Kerry Snow at 301/570-0596 or [kerrysnow@telocity.com](mailto:kerrysnow@telocity.com) for registration materials.

*Trailhead, from page 23*

evening/night at home overlooking the Shenandoah River and the Blue Ridge. After a day in the mud, shower facilities were appreciated. The dinner menu will remain undisclosed in an attempt to prevent too large a crew in the future.

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@erols.com](mailto:jkrindt@erols.com). □



*Cleaned up after a muddy Saturday, the Cadillac Crew pauses before heading back to work on the Dickey Ridge Trail.*

# NOTICES

## NEW NOTICES

**MEDICAL CHAIR VACANCY:** The Medical Chair is the Principal Advisor to the Club's President on medical risk management. The Chair is also expected to have access to various medical community resources that can assist Trail Patrol, Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group, and other volunteers in obtaining qualified medical training and advice. We need volunteers for this position and for committee members. If interested please contact Mickey McDermott at patcvolunteer@aol.com.

**NEEDED FOR SCHAIRER CABIN:** Large, durable, comfortable arm chair covered with naugahyde or equivalent. No recliners or fabric upholstery please. Call Shirley Strong at 301/229-6905.

## LOST AND FOUND

**LEFT AT FIRST BIRCH RUN SHELTER** (South to North) to dry on rafters, NEW Smartwool socks and liners. Please mail to J. Foster, Rt. 1, Box 761, Roseland, VA 22967.

## HIKING OPPORTUNITIES

**APPALACHIAN TRAIL SECTION HIKE** Opportunity: AT Section Hiker (200 mile sections) seeks fellow hikers as companion/s for adventure on the AT in Fall 2002. The first section starting from Georgia will be in the Fall of 2002. Be prepared to hike an average of 20 miles per day carrying a 35-40 lb pack, over the course of 10-12 days, with 1 travel day on either end of the trip. If you are reasonably fit and eager to get involved in such an undertaking please contact me at alex.mclellan@intcominc.com.

## DONATIONS WANTED

**LAPTOP AND COMPUTER PROJECTOR NEEDED:** The PATC Officers, Staff and Committee Chairpersons need a laptop computer and computer projector which can be used to make presentations at conferences, meetings, and community presentations. Projection at 1024 X 768 desired. If you work for a corporation which might make such a donation, contact Mike Sutherland at msutherland@cox.rr.com or 703/591-8330.

## FOR SALE

**STAMP COLLECTORS** - New Zealand first day stamp covers, 1988 Scenic issue, and a dozen special issue US stamps from 1960 - 1985 period. Reasonably priced. Call Paula Strain at 301/215-4569.

**SHARES FOR SALE** in 81 mostly wooded acres adjacent to Shenandoah National Park - convenient to Old Rag and White Oak Canyon trails. 3 houses, water, heat & good times. Cooperatively owned by 12 folks (looking for more company!) Opportunity for country living, conservation, friendship & easy weekend get-aways. Call Larry Martin @ 202/829.7112 Martinlrr@netscape.net; http://dreamwater.org/ghllc2001

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**CABIN MONITORS NEEDED:** If you are a Club member who would like to contribute your time toward a good cause (and be able to get the annual advance cabin reservation privilege), then we need you. We are looking for members who live within 1/2 hour of any of

our various cabins. These individuals would need to be willing to give a couple of hours a few times per year to spot check a cabin. If interested please contact Pat Fankhauser at PATC headquarters at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 or pfankh@erols.com as soon as possible.

**WANTED TO HIRE COOKS.** Duration from one (1) day to six (6) weekends. Paying \$0.00/hr, transportation and personal food costs not included. Weaver Cabin is being renovated over June & July, 2002. Work crews need someone to serve soup. If you plan, prepare, cook, and clean there is no need to work on the cabin. If you are interested in fresh air, a weekend out, meeting a group of volunteers, and having a good time, we could use the assistance. Earn the same wage as trainees, carpenters, painters and engineers on site at Weaver Work Trips, Elkton, VA. Contact Thomas Jorgensen at Hairtheart@aol.com or 540/248-7009 (w) (h) 540/456-4760.

**DAYTIME SALES DESK VOLUNTEERS BADLY NEEDED** every Thursday and/or Friday at the PATC Headquarters between 12 Noon and 2 p.m. We will train you. Once or twice per month. If interested call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 or e-mail at pfankh@erols.com or Maureen Estes at Ext. 19 or at patcsales@erols.com.

**WANTED-VOLUNTEER** to assume Budget Chair responsibilities. Exposure to all areas of the Club provides greater understanding of the breadth of services offered. Do your part to help PATC grow & prosper. Financial background preferred. Please contact either Gerhard Salinger or Paul Dery @ 703/208-5818.

**PROJECT LEADERS/CONSTRUCTION** Foremen needed to plan, organize and supervise several restoration projects. The Club owns 2 old (historic?) log cabins that need to be restored so that they can be placed in the Club's cabin rental system. There is also the possibility of the Club obtaining permission from the National Park Service to restore a stone lock house on the C&O Canal to be used for a rental cabin. You don't need to be a construction professional but good building skills and knowledge are desirable. Good management skills are also desirable. What we are looking for is the will and the courage to try. Some help is available in all aspects of the jobs. For info call Charlie Graf at: 410/757-6053 or e-mail cagraf@aol.com.

**PUBLICATIONS CHAIR NEEDS HELP** on a book celebrating the 75th anniversary of PATC. One, two or three people are needed to interview a handful of members who joined the club in the 30s and 40s. Please contact Aaron Watkins at 410/740-7082 or publications@patc.net.

**HELP PATC CELEBRATE ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY.** Larry Rockwell, Public Affairs, is in charge of planning. INFO: rockwell@usa.redcross.org.

**NEEDED: PEOPLE TO HELP PLAN** and conduct our Club events. We are planning a number of events, such as a picnic in SNP summer 2002. We receive many invitations to provide a Club display at other people's activities. Often we just don't have members to attend. If you are willing, please contact Liles Creighton, Membership Secretary at 410/573-0067, lcrei@aol.com or Pat Fankhauser at Club headquarters.

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

**THE SALES OFFICE** is looking for volunteers interested in working as little or as long as you can manage it - Monday through Friday between 9 and 5 p.m. If interested, please contact the Sales Coordinator, Maureen Estes, by either calling headquarters at 703/242-0693, ext. 19 or by e-mail at patcsales@erols.com.

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

**SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP (SMRG)** is seeking people interested in wilderness search and rescue. New member orientation meetings are held every month at PATC headquarters. No experience is necessary. INFO: SMRG Operations 703/255-5034, then press #5.

**NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS?** PATC has a continuous need for Headquarters Volunteers willing to help out with a variety of tasks - from manning the sales desk in the evening, to providing typing or office support. It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the Club going! INFO: Wilson Riley, wiley1226@aol.com or 703/242-0693, ext.11.

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

## Trailhead

April always brings a lot of trail activity as Crews and Overseers get serious about the new season. This April was wetter than usual with a mix of warm (several days in the 90s) and cool days. A wet spring also means the weeds and trailside vegetation will be growing strong and healthy, if you haven't already noticed. You need to attack these weeds in early June while they are young and tender and easier to cut. Check with your District Manager if you need to use a PATC brush cutter.

As summer approaches, trail Overseers might want to take the opportunity to check in with their District Managers either by e-mail or a telephone call. If you've found that trail work has become too time consuming or if your schedule looks a little tight this year, don't hesitate to ask for help or to take a break from your Overseer position. There are always trail vacancies, and enthusiastic volunteers are always welcome to take a new section (after their vacation). Remember, trail work reports can be submitted via the PATC Web page at <http://patc.net/forms/overseer/wtr.html>.

By the way, only six slots are left for the SNP Summer Trail Crew weeks. Contact Bernie Stalman at 301/725-8876 or Heidi Forrest at PATC Headquarters, 703/242-0315 while you still have the opportunity.

### Chainsaw Workshop

The annual SNP/PATC-sponsored chainsaw workshop was conducted on the weekend of April 20-21 at SNP Headquarters. More than 20 sawyers participated, with about an equal mix of new sawyers and those being recertified. SNP District Trail Supervisors CT Campbell, Roger Dovel, and Don Harvey and PATC's Bernie Stalman led the instruction with emphasis on safe operation of the chainsaw (drop-start a chainsaw and forget about certification) and proper use of protective equipment. The Saturday morning classroom instruction was followed by demonstrations of cutting techniques and hands-on experience in a nearby section of the Park. Most of the class retired to the Pinnacles Research Station for the evening for a feast prepared by Ester "Come and Get It" and Ed Aulthouse.

Sunday was supposed to be the opportunity for new sawyers to gain practical experience and complete the certification process, but a continuous rain prohibited the exercise. So the class focused on chain-



Photos by George Walters

*The North District Hoodlums Trail Crew and several Park Rangers gather at Range View Cabin in April for their "Southwestern" worktrip and C.T. Campbell's famous chili!*

saw maintenance and was exposed to videos of the Swedish super-sawyer, demonstrating safe cutting techniques and making it look easy. Because the class was unable to complete the practical training, new sawyers will have to arrange to work with certified sawyers to demonstrate their proficiency before being certified.

George Walters noted that even though the SNP chainsaw workshop was marred by rainy weather, the expertise and instruction that was brought to the table by CT Campbell and all the instructors really stood out and made an impression and helped return our focus to what matters most – safety!

### Tuscarora Planning Session

A planning meeting was held on April 20 in Woodstock, Va., for the southern part of the Tuscarora Trail. This followed a similar meeting that was held for the northern part of the trail on Dec. 8 last year. Attendance at the April meeting was light due to schedule conflicts with the Dogwood Half Hundred, a chainsaw certification workshop, and other activities. However, some progress was made on the issues that were discussed, particularly for the part of the trail that crosses the Shenandoah Valley.

### Rock Workshop at Michaux

There will be a rock workshop on June 8 and 9 in the Michaux State Forest in Pennsylvania. The ATC will provide the instructor for this workshop. The training will be done on a section of the AT near

Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Those attending can stay at Gypsy Spring Cabin. Supper will be provided on June 8 along with breakfast and lunch on June 9. Attendance will be limited to the first 15 persons to sign up. The fee will be \$15 payable in advance. Those interested in learning or in improving their skills for this craft should contact Pete Brown by phone at 410/343-1140 or by e-mail at [peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net](mailto:peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net).

### Massanutten Trail

The May issue of the PA announced a dedication ceremony to be held on June 22 for the recently designated Massanutten Trail. The creation of this 70-mile loop trail involved renaming several other trails. The Massanutten Mountain East & West Trails are just the Massanutten Trail. The Signal Knob Trail is now part of the Massanutten Trail, and the Buzzards Rock Trail is back in existence, no longer part of the Massanutten Mountain East Trail.

Anstr Davidson and Chris Scott of the Virginia Happy Trails Running Club are claiming to be the first to complete a run of the entire Massanutten Trail loop in one shot. They left Signal Knob trailhead parking at 9:40 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, and returned at 1:31 p.m. on Monday for a 28-hour circuit. Anstr's comment: "Other than needing another pair of feet to replace my trashed ones, I am none the worse for wear." They consider the trail a wonderful resource and extend thanks to all who have worked to make it a reality.

*See Trailhead, page 23*

*Trailhead, from page 22*

## Entry Run Trail

The Blue and White Crew returned to the Per Lee/West tract in April to continue building the Entry Run Trail. Saturday found the crew, joined by new Entry Run Trail Overseers Mike, Mike, and Marcus) “roughing in” the trail from the property boundary near the John’s Rest Cabin to the Lamb cemetery. The crew retired to the cozy confines of the Rosser Lamb Cabin Saturday night for the typical Blue and White banquet, complemented by wines supplied by renowned B&W wine steward, Pious Choi. A chilly evening was heated by a roaring campfire, tall tales, and descriptions of camel anatomy.

## Boulders Flying Down the Hillside

Returning to the Potomac Heritage Trail, the Blue and White Crew finished the reroute down a steep embankment to avoid a major road crossing near the Chain Bridge crossing of the Potomac River. The 35 stone steps were boulders hand-placed using the “highline” system of winches, cables, pulleys and sweat. The crew slowed for a moment when a Washington Post reporter showed up in a suede jacket and patent leather boots, but completed the project well ahead of schedule to have refreshments on site and accept congratulations from grateful passing hikers (no—we did not share refreshments with them). Although the crew will no longer be there to help you, like they helped the Post reporter, to cross the storm water gully tra-



*The North District Hoodlums Trail Crew doing sidehill trail reconstruction on the AT near Jenkins Gap in SNP.*

versing the trail, these very visible stone stairs will be a “signature” site along the PHT.

## He’s Back

Pete Gatje, previous Supervisor of Trails, says he is recovering amazingly well from hip replacement surgery. The only tough part is rebuilding the muscles he lost while limping around before surgery. He reminds us of the saying, “If you are over 50 and you wake up and nothing hurts, you are dead.”

As the District Manager for blue blaze trails in the South District of SNP, most of Pete’s trails are in designated wilderness areas. Roger Dovel and Charles Rudicelle, who supervise the trails for the Park in the district, recently presented Pete with a newly sharpened and reconditioned PATC crosscut saw. Knowing what is in store for him, Pete is trying to form a crew of innocent local volunteers from Wintergreen (where he now resides) to go out in the wilderness and attack the many reported blowdowns with a crosscut. He remarked that if you hike trails in the South district and see a crosscut clamped in a blowdown across the trail, you will know we were there.

## And There was CT Chili

George Walters reported that the North District Hoodlums Trail Crew’s “Southwestern” worktrip in April was a great success and a special event for the crew. Don Harvey of the North District park staff joined the workcrew to lend his expertise and always-good company. Fifteen hearty souls braved the questionable weather forecast and, with mattocks and McLeods swinging away, cut a thousand feet of new sidehill trail reconstruction on the AT, south of Jenkins Gap, where the slope was sidwinding and slipping off the steep face of an “unnamed mountain.” (The late Jimmy Denton once told George that this section of trail traversed one of the few unnamed mountains in the park.)

Afterwards, our old friend and mentor, CT Campbell of the Park staff, whipped up a kettle of his famous chili for the feast that followed at Range View Cabin, and what a feast it was! More salsas, beans, cornbreads, and Southwestern vittles than you can shake a rattlesnake at! CT cooks his chili over a slow heat, using his own special blend of powders and spices, and it is some kind of good! All sorts of outlaws and cowpokes wandered into the ranch this evening! Even Steve Bair showed up for a bowl of CT’s Texas Red. An ample supply of Cerveza Mejicana and Wayne Limburg’s “Hoodlums Own” handcrafted beverage helped wash down the hearty meal, all set against a back-

drop of Tex-Mex music and a glowing campfire. A pair of American woodcocks were even on hand to perform their mating aerial acrobatics for the crew in the meadow that evening. A good day of work and a great feast. As Stephanie Bill would say, “Yippe KiYay!”

On a side note, Captain Walters, of the infamous Boston Whaler fishing incident, wishes to apologize for any rockfish smell that may remain in the club’s Big Bertha blue cooler.

## Thanks for 20-Plus Years

George Robbins, an Overseer on the AT between Rattlesnake Point and Little Hogback Overlook in the North District of SNP, has hung up his pick mattock and McLeod after tending to that section since 1980. An avid hiker, George was a hike leader at the biennial AT meeting hosted by PATC in 1995. At 91 years of age, he remains active with the Wanderbirds and we wish him well in his “retirement.” Hope to see you on the trail, George!

## Culvert Operation

A continuous light rain didn’t deter the Cadillac Crew’s April appointment with the Dickey Ridge Trail near the north entrance to SNP. The efforts were concentrated on improving and repairing drainage on the trail. With the arrival of Kurt Fisher from Calgary and the enthusiastic participation of Steve Pebley, the crew had two veteran mud-hole excavators to replace a culvert and build a stone-lined water channel. Kurt and Steve had collaborated a couple of years earlier to build a shallow well near the Shockeyes Knob campsite. It would be difficult to say which project provided them with the most mud to take home at the end of the day! Meanwhile the rest of the crew hardened more than a dozen dirt waterbars with locust logs.

The crew thanks Richard and Sybille Stromberg for inviting the crew to spend the  
*See Trailhead, page 20*

### POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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# TRAIL, SHELTER and CORRIDOR OVERSEERS/MONITORS WANTED

## SHELTER OVERSEERS WANTED

CONTACT FRANK TURK, 301/249-8243

E-mail: frankturk@aol.com

**Dicks Dome Shelter  
Rock Springs Hut**

## DISTRICT MANAGER

CONTACT KERRY SNOW, 301/295-5084

E-mail: KerrySnow@telocity.com

**District Manager Massanutten South**

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

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

CALL ED MCKNEW, 540/622-6004

E-mail: emcknew@aol.com

### Appalachian Trail

2<sup>nd</sup> Logging Road to Pipeline (1.2miles)

### Appalachian Trail

Pipeline to Davenport Meadow (1.2 mile)

### Dicks Dome Shelter Trail

AT to shelter (0.20 miles)

## SNP NORTH BLUE-BLAZED – MAP 9

CALL BERNIE STALMANN, 301/725-8876

E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com

### Piney Branch Trail (lower)

Powerline to Hull School Trail (2.2miles)

### Pass Mountain Trail (upper)

Pass Mountain Hut to breakpoint ( 1.5 miles)

## SNP SOUTH AT – MAP 11

CALL MIKE KARPIE, 540/785-9553

E-mail: BKPKR@erols.com

### Appalachian Trail

Powell Gap to Flattop Mt. Summit (1.7 miles)

### Appalachian Trail

Riprap Trail Parking to Hairpin Switchback

(1.5miles)

## SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZED – MAP 11

CALL PETE GATJE, 434/361-1309

E-mail: pjgatje@aol.com

### Rocky Mount Trail

Skyline Drive to Gap Run

(2.2miles)

### One-Mile Run Trail

Two Mile Run Overlook to

west Park boundary

(3.7 miles)

### Furnace Mountain Trail

Trayfoot Mt. Trail to Madison Run FR

(3.4 miles)

### Furnace Mountain Summit Trail

Furnace Mountain Trail to

Furnace Mountain Summit

(.5 mile)

## TUSCARORA SOUTH – MAP F, G, 9

CALL RICK RHOADES, 540/477-3247

E-mail: RRhoades@shentel.net

### Tuscarora Trail

Mill Mountain Trail to White Rocks Trail

(2.90 miles)

### Tuscarora Trail

White Rocks Trail to Cedar Creek

( 2.7 miles)

### Tuscarora Trail

Rock marker to Massanutten Trail

(1.5 miles)

## MASSANUTTEN NORTH – MAP G

CALL MIKE SUTHERLAND, 703/591-8330

E-mail: msutherland@cox.rr.com

### Massanutten Trail

Rte. 758 to 7-Bar-None Trail

(3.3 miles)

### Massanutten Trail

7-Bar-None Trail to Bear Trap Trail

(2.7 miles)

## Massanutten Trail

Bear Trap Trail to Peters Mill Run Trail

(1.6 miles)

## Massanutten Trail

Moerlan Gap Road to Jawbone Gap Trail

(1.6 miles)

## Massanutten Trail

Jawbone Gap Trail Crisman Hollow Road

(4.8 miles)

## MASSANUTTEN SOUTH – MAP H

CALL BILL SCHMIDT, 301/585-2477

E-mail: wmeschmidt@aol.com

### Massanutten Mt. South Trail

TV Tower to Pitt Spring (3.40 miles)

### Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (3.3 miles)

### Second Mountain Trail

Boone Run trail to Kaylor Knob (1.1 miles)

### Morgan Run Trail

Cub Run Road to Massanutten

Mt. South Trail (2.6 miles)

## GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN – MAP F

CALL HOP LONG, 301/942-6177

E-mail: mgrgnmd@hotmail.com

### Mill Mountain Trail

Big Schloss Cutoff Trail to the

Tuscarora Trail (3.3 miles)

### Great North Mountain Trail

Stack Rock to FR 720 (4.2 miles)

### Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove Trail

(1.5 miles)

## SUBURBAN MARYLAND – MAP D

CALL LILES CREIGHTON, 410/573-0067

E-mail: lcrei@aol.com

### Ford Mine Trail

Maintenance area to Mine (.5 mile)



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