



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 33, Number 6
 June 2004

National Trails Day - June 5

Automated Cabin Reservation System in Place

Beginning the evening of June 7, 2004, we'll experience a major milestone for PATC. (To accentuate the greatness of this milestone, it warrants setting off fireworks, but the city of Vienna would not let us do that.) The Cabin Reservations Committee volunteers will be making reservations on an automated reservation system and changing a couple more rules approved by Council in April. This new system will allow renters (both members and non-members) to make up to two separate reservations within a two-calendar-month period. Volunteer members still can, once per year, add an additional seven days to that reservation limit. Other rules will be changed to accommodate the new reservation system limitations that will also make the rental process faster and easier to understand. For instance, the weekday rate will always be charged for Sunday night through Wednesday night, and the weekend rate will always be charged for Thursday night through Saturday night. The higher holiday rate will be eliminated.

The cabins were originally designed as shelter for work crews building the AT. When people

started using the cabins for pleasure, decades ago, the reservations were largely entered by hand in a large, black reservation book. The volunteers working the reservation desk used 5 x 7 index cards to record reservation holders' names, addresses, cabin rented, what dates they were used, etc. This system has lasted until now. But on June 7, we will be making reservations on a computer using the "Easy InnKeeping Software" system by Grace Software. This software has been modified to include the names of our cabins and will be working in conjunction with our membership database. The new system will make it easier for the volunteer reservationist to: 1.) check membership immediately, 2.) check credit card validity, and 3.) quickly book reservations. The software was discovered by Bear Spring Cabin Overseer and Headquarters evening Information Desk volunteer William Steinhour. He has been key in the communication with Grace Software and instrumental in getting the system up and running. More information about it will be in upcoming issues of the newsletter. □

—Patricia Fankhauser,
 Membership, Information, Cabins Coordinator



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PATC Looking for Co-Buyers/Investors

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME PATC's NEIGHBOR

PATC has located an extremely desirable 184-acre tract of land in central Pennsylvania that it wishes to purchase as a cabin site and trail center. However, this is much more land than the club needs or can afford, and therefore PATC is looking for conservation buyers who would like to purchase a portion of the remainder (lot size negotiable, but the bigger the better) as a vacation retreat and cabin site. If you are interested read on . . .

This parcel of land is located on a beautiful trout stream north of Cowan's Gap in Fulton County in south central Pennsylvania. It borders Buchanan State Forest for 0.5 mile and

the Tuscarora Trail for 0.25 mile. The property is entirely wooded, and is crossed by two small streams in addition to the major stream, Aughwick Creek, which runs across or borders the property for nearly one mile. Recreational opportunities, including hiking (dozens of trails close by), fishing, swimming, boating, skiing, and hunting are available within minutes of the property.

To learn more about this fascinating parcel of land and the opportunity to join with PATC in purchasing it, contact Jim Peterson (Petersonatpleasantgrovefarm@msn.com) 410/775-7753, or Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. □

—James Peterson

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N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Lee Sheaffer

S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: John Held

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Budget: David White

Cabins Operations: Mel Merritt

Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf

Conservation: Jeff Pearcy

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Maps: Dave Pierce

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Potomac Appalachian: Linda Shannon-Beaver

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Sales: Tim Hanlon

Shelters: Frank Turk

Trail Lands Acquisition: Phil Paschall

Trail Patrol: Holly Wheeler

Tuscarora Trail Land Management:

Vacant

Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

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Cabin Reservations: Shakuntala Ghare

Club Naturalist: Bob Pickett

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Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Jon Rindt

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Information/Sales Desks: Annetta DePompa

Medical: Vacant

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Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council meeting was held at Club Headquarters on April 13, 2004. President Tom Johnson introduced the new Sales Committee chair, Tim Hanlon, to Council. Tom announced PATC's support for an American Hiking Society's letter to the Forest Service requesting limitations on the use of off-road vehicles on National Forest land. After consulting the Executive Committee, the club naturalist, and the conservation chair, Tom signed the letter on behalf of PATC.

Finance

Treasurer Salinger distributed the monthly budget report for March 2004, noting several points of interest. Sales have increased and are near expected levels. Gerhard also summarized the audit report for 2003.

Facilities

Council reviewed a motion to revise cabin reservations and rules. After discussion and some amendments, three changes were made regarding no-fault winter cancellations, weekend reservation rates, and advance registration policies.

Other Business

Cabins: Mel Merritt reported from the 5th annual cabin overseers meeting, held at Blackburn the weekend before Easter. It was attended by 31 overseers from 25 cabins. The speaker was from the NPS Historic Preservation Training Center.



Trail Patrol: Holly Wheeler reported the April Leave No Trace Trainer class had been canceled due to snow on the drive in Shenandoah National Park. She also announced that Trail Patrol has organized a two-day first aid/CPR course, which will be held at headquarters periodically. The first aid class is an expanded class, which will provide useful information for incidents occurring in a trail environment. The courses are open to overseers, hike leaders, and other PATC members, as well as Trail Patrol.

The April Council meeting was attended by eight club officers, 11 committee chairs, three chapter representatives, one section representative, two staff members, and four other club members. □

—Secretary Georgeann Smale

HEADQUARTERS

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

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

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

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

Phone #: 703/242-0315

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

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

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

Club e-mail: info@patc.net

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STAFF

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

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

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

Tom's Trail Talk

AT Shelters: The Standard of Care

It is April 18, and the shelter survey has drawn 37 respondents. The results are surprising.

Of the 37, 19 voted for fancy, 13 voted for plain, and five wanted to see a combination.

The part that surprised me was the number that wanted a primitive experience. It is not hard to vote for more luxury, but a number of folks just want to get out there and rough it.

Shelters are there for all kinds of hikers. You might get a very different result if you stopped with a clipboard at Manassas Gap during thru-hiker rush hour (May and June) and took a poll of hikers headed for Katahdin. They would probably vote for a Denton-type experience, since many of them would have stayed at Denton the previous night. But thru-hikers, important though they are, are not our exclusive (or even our primary) constituency. The casual backpacker from the Washington metropolitan area may want to get more of a taste of the wild.

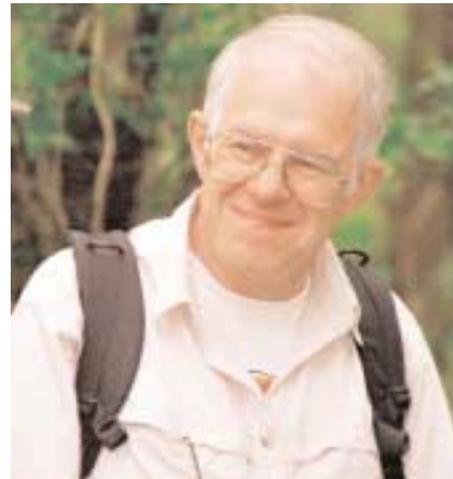
So what do we conclude? A combination of experiences is probably what we need to pro-

vide. Weekend backpackers can target their hikes to the kind of experience they are looking for. The thru-hiker will be assured of basic services (a roof, a spring, and a privy) and will be pleasantly surprised by the occasional eating pavilion or shower.

Weekend Overcrowding a Problem

Looking at the answers that arrived in my inbox caused me to think longer and harder about shelters. The problems we have stem more from overcrowding on weekends than from basic shelter design. On any sunny weekend during the spring and fall, backpackers surge into the mountains looking for an outdoor experience. They sometimes come in groups of 15 to 20, and a single group can overwhelm a shelter and its amenities. Perhaps we should begin thinking about smaller campsites that can disperse the crowd. When your group of four weekend backpackers arrives at a shelter that is already jammed to capacity, wouldn't it be nice to know that just a mile down the trail is a small campsite by a brook?

The last word was provided by a thru-hiker who stayed at Quarry Gap a few nights ago and sent me an e-mail as soon as he could get



to an electric plug. He was all in favor of the amenities at Quarry Gap (which, in case you don't know, is the very shelter that spurred my original request to hear from you). But he also sent me an unexpected compliment that I will pass on to all PATCers who are out there right now working on trails. Officer Taco (his trail name) says:

"Keep up the good work. You guys [PATC] are already heads and shoulders above every other section I have hiked through. I'll be sad to see you go." □

—Tom

Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience

The Appalachian Trail Conference should take into account the effects of trail-management programs and policies on the primitive and natural qualities of the Appalachian Trail and the primitive recreational experience the trail is intended to provide. Although these guidelines are intended to apply primarily to the effects of actions or programs on predominantly natural, wild, and remote environments along the trail, they may apply to certain pastoral, cultural, and rural landscapes as well. Even in sections of the trail that do not pass through remote or primitive landscapes, care should be taken not to inadvertently overdevelop or improve the trail tread or facilities in these environments.

Trail improvements, including shelters, privies, bridges, and other facilities, should be constructed when appropriate to protect the resource or provide a minimum level of public safety. Design and construction of these facilities should reflect an awareness of, and harmony with, the trail's primitive qualities. Materials and design features should emphasize simplicity and not detract from the predominant sense of a natural, primitive environment. The trail treadway, when constructed, reconstructed, or relocated, should wear lightly on the land and be built primarily to provide greater protection for the trail footpath or trail-resource values. Trail-management publications should include appropriate references to the potential effects of trail-management activities on the primitive qualities of the trail.

In developing programs to maintain open areas; improve water sources; provide sanitation; remove structures; and construct bridges, signs, trailheads, and other facilities, trail managers should consider whether a proposed action or program will have an adverse effect on the primitive qualities of the trail, and, if such effects are identified, whether the action or program is appropriate.

The following questions should be used to help evaluate the potential effect of a policy, program, or project on the primitive quality of the trail:

- Will this action or program protect the AT?
- Can this be done in a less obtrusive manner?
- Does this action unnecessarily sacrifice aspects of the trail that provide solitude or that challenge hikers' skills or stamina?
- Could this action, either by itself or in concert with other actions, result in an inappropriate diminution of the primitive quality of the trail?
- Will this action help to ensure that future generations of hikers will be able to enjoy a primitive recreational experience on the Appalachian Trail? □

—From the ATC/Board of Managers 4/22/95

Shelters: Luxurious or Simplistic?

Karen Lutz was invited by Tom Johnson to respond to his two columns (this and last month's) dealing with the question of types of trail shelters most desirable.

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your invitation to respond to your March *PA* article. There has been considerable debate about the increasing development of AT shelters and the “gentrification” of the AT, and your article was timely. Personally, I think this type of lively debate fuels the fire that continues to keep the AT community vibrant and energized. Let me preface my comments by complimenting PATC on an extraordinarily successful AT shelter program. I’m sure your members share with me an exceptional admiration for the dedication, skill, and workmanship of your shelter crew, and I’m certain your club is very proud of their accomplishments.

You posed several questions to PATC’s membership asking whether or not members preferred AT shelters with numerous amenities [or] simpler [and] more primitive structures – in which direction your club should go – and you encouraged your readership to submit “short pithy answers” to your question. I suspect my rebuttal might fail in the “short” stipulation, but I’ll bet I can hit the “pithy” requisite! While your article was straight to the point, I believe there is essential background information missing, which an uninformed reader would need prior to responding. Ironically, some of that information is at least obliquely referenced elsewhere in the same *PA* issue. As a historian, I hope you’ll follow my reasoning, if not my conclusions.

Before answering your questions, it is important to have a basic understanding of how the AT works and how unique this trail really is. It is not like the Tuscarora Trail. Or the Carolina

Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Or Vermont’s Long Trail. Or even the Pacific Crest Trail. The AT is truly different. Why? There are a lot of reasons. It was the first to be named in the National Trail System Act. It is one of a very few to have land acquisition authority and the only one that the federal government granted eminent domain authority.

Many individual states have adopted a state “AT Act.” The fact that the AT has such an extraordinary and unprecedented legislative history speaks to its importance. But the real difference – and it is a difference that cuts to the very heart of the matter – is the fact that oversight of day-to-day trail management and operations is delegated to the 31 volunteer-based clubs under the policy-setting guidance of ATC’s Board of Managers. It is the cooperation of the federation partners that keeps the trail alive and, in my opinion, the trick is to keep the federation strong while acknowledging regional differences and abilities of individual clubs. But it is also maintaining a degree of consistency in management without stifling the creative energies of our volunteers.

Let’s start at the beginning, of course with Benton MacKaye’s vision. George Still’s eloquent article highlighted the “big picture” of the AT and the fact that the vision was a direct response to social phenomenon. (I couldn’t help but find some irony in the similarities between some of the events of the early ’20s and certain current affairs.) At the risk of oversimplifying things, MacKaye envisioned the AT as a place where the public could seek refuge from an increasingly industrial urban society. He advocated a primitive experience and referred to a “barbarian utopia.”

ATC’s Board of Managers grappled with the issue of increasing amenities on the trail and “fancier” shelters and developed, vetted, and passed a policy to address managing the trail

for a primitive experience. As with all policies brought before ATC’s board for its endorsement, members of the trail community were given an opportunity to weigh in with their views. (The policy can be found in the Local Management Planning Guide located on ATC’s Web site at www.appalachiantrail.org/protect/policies/lmpg.html.) [Side Note: I noticed that the latest draft of PATC’s Local Management Plan does not address this policy.] Similarly, there is a policy on Shelters and Overnight Use.

So I return to the question of primitive or fancy shelters? The question may be twofold. First, what kind of an AT experience does PATC want to provide, and how is that experience consistent with or different from the consensus-based policy guidelines? At what point do management decisions begin to diminish the very AT experience that we have collectively agreed to protect? If that experience is progressively diminished by individual clubs’ actions, when does it become something other than the AT? At what point does a club become disenfranchised from the federation?

These may seem like esoteric and bureaucratic ramblings, but I believe they go to the very core of the AT management philosophy. At what point is enough enough? When is it “over the top?” What amenities simply don’t belong in the backcountry at an AT overnight site? Swinging porch benches? Clerestory windows? Adirondack chairs? Imported landscape stone and solar lights to illuminate the way to the privy and spring? Solar showers? Hanging baskets of potted pansies? While each of these amenities are pleasant and have their place, is an AT shelter that place? What do your members think? □

—*Respectfully, Karen Lutz*

May Day for the Tuscarora Trail?

On May 1 a dozen-odd PATC leaders met at Blackburn Trail Center to discuss land management problems and opportunities along the 250-mile length of the Tuscarora Trail. While much of the trail is still on private land and thus threatened by development pressures, there are still opportunities to move more of the trail off roads and to provide legally protected scenic trail corridors.

There was also some discussion of connecting the Tuscarora Trail with others in what is becoming known as the Western Appalachian Alternative route to the Appalachian Trail.

A continuing need exists for club members who could spend some time on courthouse research, landowner relations, and similar activities in the counties west of the Blue Ridge, as well as fund raising and other things needed for this long-term effort.

For more information on possible volunteer opportunities, contact Lloyd MacAskill at LloydMacA@aol.com. Also check the Forecast for work trips as well as the listings of overseer vacancies related to trail maintenance and construction. □

—*Lloyd MacAskill*

Protecting the Appalachian Trail

This article discusses the protection afforded the Appalachian Trail under the 1968 National Trails System Act (NTA), as amended. We will highlight the land acquisition and protection issues the AT has faced since 1968.

Acquiring property takes time and money and, in the case of the AT, ample amounts of both. One also needs flexibility and negotiating options to achieve acceptable outcomes, particularly when eminent domain, the taking of land for the trail, is the tool of last resort, as it should be. We will discuss the history of the AT under the NTA focusing on the money, time, and flexibility issues and changes in the AT corridor, illustrate how the NTA has been applied in a few cases, and conclude with a summary of where we stand today.

The AT and the 1968 National Trails Act

The 1968 NTA gave federal recognition and protection to the outdoor values of the AT. The AT was to be administered “primarily” (but not exclusively) as a footpath by the secretary of the interior in consultation with the secretary of agriculture. The National Park Service has the overall administrative responsibility within Interior.

In 1968, the AT was the model national scenic trail and, according to the conference report, represented almost everything that can be expected from a national system of trails:

- A long history of private initiatives and cooperation between government agencies, private landowners, and trail users;
- An extended trail of 2,000 miles (currently 2,174 miles) in 14 states;
- A trail crossing areas of natural beauty, developed areas, and federal, state, local, and private lands;
- A trail entirely in place, only a few relocations were necessary;
- A trail in close proximity to densely populated states of the Atlantic Seaboard and accessible to millions of people; and
- A trail promoted by groups affiliated with the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) and substantially developed and maintained

by its members. (Maintaining 240 miles of the AT makes PATC a key member within the ATC.)

All was not sweetness and light. The NTA contained Panglossian assumptions concerning the cost to protect the AT in growing, densely populated areas where not everyone shared the same views on hikers and hiking, land rights, or acceptable land uses. In 1968, Congress appropriated \$5 million for AT land acquisition. This figure was driven by the assumption that AT land acquisition costs could be “minimized” by state land acquisition or cooperative agreements between states and private landowners (no federal cost) or land exchanges between the federal agencies and landowners (minimal federal cost).

Eminent domain, the taking of land, was the tool of last resort, to be used only when “all reasonable efforts to acquire such lands or interest therein by negotiation have failed” (still true today). Land acquisition could occur within a relatively narrow 200-foot right-of-way (ROW) AT corridor (no longer true, but the AT was affected when this was the standard).

Money to Protect the AT: The 1978 Amendments

In the 1970s, Congress held oversight hearings where a former PATC President and AT thru-hiker Ed Garvey had a major role. Congress learned that the AT was at best increasingly stressed, at worst in serious trouble. There had been no federal AT land acquisitions outside National Parks and National Forests since 1968, and delay had led to “incompatible developments within yards of certain sections of the trail route.” In 1978, 650 miles of the AT were still on private lands where changes in ownership and development pressures posed threats in numerous places. Another 180 AT miles required walking on roads, which was not deemed to be a real hiking experience, and not surprisingly, Congress found that AT road walking was linked to the loss of access to private land for hiking.

Congress authorized \$30 million for AT land acquisition beginning in 1979 for three years, or \$90 million total, with carryover allowed. To date, according to ATC, over \$180 million of public money has been spent for AT protection.

The other major change was to increase the AT ROW corridor by a factor of five. Acquisition of up to an “average of 125 acres per mile” was the new corridor standard, which works out to roughly 1,000 feet (a little more than three football fields). Interior and ATC were required to submit annual progress reports to Congress.

Negotiating Flexibility and New Options for AT Protection: The 1983 Amendments

The last major NTA amendments affecting the AT were passed in 1983. After again finding that the NTA was not being implemented expeditiously, Congress decided to provide more AT land protection options and greater flexibility in negotiations. The NTA was amended to allow the acquisition of entire tracts of land notwithstanding that parts may lie outside the AT corridor. This was coupled with the flexibility to exchange or sell land not needed for trail protection, with the proceeds being credited for other AT land acquisitions. The NTA was also amended to allow donations of land or other property interests, including “right-of-way, open space, scenic, or conservation easements,” to “qualifying organizations” to receive federal tax benefits.

With money and flexible acquisition options, the process of protecting the AT accelerated in the 1980s. By 1989, only 100 miles of the AT remained unprotected, privately owned, and subject to potential development; and by 1999, that figure had been reduced to 21 miles.

Eminent Domain: Discretion, Litigation, and AT Relocations

Congress has never deviated from the principle that eminent domain is the tool of last resort to protect the AT. Prior to taking that step, the federal agency must have entered into negotiations that have failed, the agency shall acquire such title as is “reasonably necessary to provide passage across such lands,” and the AT corridor test must be met. Taken together, we have three statutory criteria.

Not surprisingly, given the risks of litigation, most AT land issues have been resolved on a mutually agreeable basis. Only two reported court cases, both decided in the 1990s, have addressed condemnation issues under the NTA. Both cases sus-

See Protecting, page 8

Contributions Near \$38,000

With one month remaining in our drive to replenish the land acquisition funds, contributions and pledges now total over \$37,000. The names of contributors appear below, and we want to thank them for their generosity.

The land funds permit PATC to acquire land for trails and cabins, purchase easements over private lands, and buffer areas of scenic or historic significance. Recent purchases include the Johnson property adjacent to PATC's Vining Tract. This 70-acre parcel contained a cabin that has now been added to the rental system, a large house that the club plans to rehabilitate, and trails and scenic overlooks. The purchase also gave the club the legal right to hike across adjacent private property to a road leading to a back-country entrance

into SNP. Other purchases, including property at the trailhead of Old Rag Mountain, permitted the rerouting of the Tuscarora Trail onto forested land. These three purchases cost in excess of \$400,000. Your contribution will permit PATC to respond in the future when similar lands become available.

Please send your contribution to: **Tom Johnson, President, PATC; 118 Park St., SE, Vienna, VA 22180-4609.** All contributors of \$25 or more will receive a copy of the revised Cabins booklet due for publication this year. Contributors of higher amounts receive additional rewards - see contribution form on page 7.

—Hugh Robinson

Land Acquisition Fund Donor List

George and Frances Alderson	Philip Eliot and Susan Cunningham	Gary Kellman	Hugh T. Robinson
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		Edward Reis	
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		Shirley Rettig	



In Memoriam
Betty L. Brown

*Club Member since 1968
from Arlington, Va.,
passed away February 4, 2004.*



PATC Trail Patrol
Presents
**American Heart Association
CPR and First Aid**

July 17 and 18, 2004

The Trail Patrol is hosting a CPR and First Aid course on July 17 and 18 at PATC Headquarters. The two-day course covers American Heart Association adult, child, and infant CPR and first aid. The students will learn basic first aid skills with hands on time. Books and certifications are provided. The afternoon portion of the first aid class is designed with wilderness situations in mind. Time will be spent going over items in our first aid kits and packs. The students learn how to do basic splinting and bleeding control with supplies from their packs.

The cost of each class is \$40 per day (\$80 for both days of CPR and first aid). The deadline to register for this class is July 10. For more information contact Ben Fernandez (3ferns@adelphia.net) 703/327-9788.

**Trail Patrol Presents
A National Trails Day
Event
Beyond the Trailhead**

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

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

Displays Include:

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

- Maps, compasses, & GPS units
- Wilderness first aid
- Physical conditioning

Day Hikes Include:

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

For More Information:

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

LAND ACQUISITION CONTRIBUTION

(Name) _____ (Telephone) (____) _____

(Address) _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature _____

Date _____

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

**Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Trail Patrol**

Presents

**Leave No Trace
Trainers' Course**

June 7 and 19-20, 2004

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

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

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

Indoor classroom instruction:

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

Outdoor Instruction:

(low-mileage backpacking weekend):

Sat. – Sun. June 19-20, SNP

Fee: \$30 (non-refundable)

Includes course material

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

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

Book Review: One Man's Window on the 20th Century

"One Man's Window on the 20th Century," by Thurston Griggs, Vantage Press, New York, 2003, hard cover, 249p., \$22.95.

Long-time trail supporter Thurston Griggs has lived an extraordinary life, with interests spanning a wide range of topics, including the theater and history leading up to World War II. "One Man's Window on the 20th Century" reflects Thurston's many years of experience not only working for trail caus-

es but detailing events of his life. PATC recently named a trail in Maryland for Thurston near the Pogo Campground to honor his four decades of most important contributions to the Appalachian Trail.

Thurston is a PATC overseer and a founding member of the Maryland AT Management Committee. He has been involved in major trail issues and has served in several capacities.

Protecting, from page 5

tained Interior's decision to "go courting" and take land for the AT.

In a 1994 case, the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court decision holding that Interior could not condemn a 16-acre tract of land in Vermont, but was limited to taking a "minimal" AT acreage so as to reduce the impact on the landowner. Strictly construing the NTA, the 2nd Circuit held that Interior had satisfied the three relevant statutory criteria and that the "minimal interest" and "reduce landowner impact" tests were ones improperly created by the lower court and were also inconsistent with the 1978 NTA amendments. Interior's decision to condemn the 16-acre tract was, therefore, approved.

In a 1990 case, a landowner challenged Interior's decision to take 13 acres of land in New York for a 10-mile AT relocation (relo) with a "lateral displacement" of no more than 0.75 miles from the former AT route. The landowner argued that this was a "substantial" relo, requiring congressional approval for such relos under the NTA. Interior had previously determined that an AT relo between a few hundred feet up to a maximum of 15 miles, with a lateral displacement of one mile maximum, was not a "substantial" relo. More importantly, this standard had been previously communicated to Congress in an annual progress report. Because the New York AT relo was not "substantial" under Interior's announced standard, the U.S. District Court held that congressional authorization was not required. (Incidentally, PATC sometimes has problems doing short AT relos because moving the trail even a few hundred feet can trigger an approval process.)

Current Status and the Future: AT Protection Beyond the Corridor

As of July 2003, 13.5 miles of the AT and 7,500 acres of land within the designated corridor remains to be acquired. Interior and Agriculture are projected to complete this task in 2005 or 2006.

What remains? Obviously, one issue is the need to protect the AT beyond the corridor. Here ATC and its members have an important role to play, particularly outside national parks, national forests, and state parks and forests where public land holdings are significant. The 1983 NTA amendments are quite useful here, clearly authorizing, as they do, federal tax benefits for donations of land and other property interests to qualifying organizations.

Since 1982, ATC has had a land trust for the purpose of negotiating land acquisitions and conservation easements. To date, through ATC and its partners, 128,053 acres of land have been protected outside the AT corridor. Of that total, the three highest amounts are Maine (49,200 acres), New York (23,300 acres), and Virginia (10,500 acres). The figures for the remaining 11 states are all less than 10,000 acres per state.

To put the 128,053-acre figure in perspective, it equals 200 square miles. Pretty impressive? This same figure, however, also equates to an additional 1,000-foot corridor on about 1,000 AT miles. When one considers the number of scenic views where some additional protection is desirable, 128,053 acres doesn't seem quite so impressive, and more can and should be done for AT protection beyond what has been achieved in the 35 years since the NTA was passed. □

— Bob Nelson

Thurston moved to Maryland in 1958, and through ranger-neighbors he joined the Mountain Club of Maryland in 1959 and later PATC. That later membership changed his life. Besides being a trail overseer he was twice president of MCM and supervisor of trails for many years. He served for many years on the ATC Board of Managers' excom and ad hoc committees. He founded the newsletter for trail maintainers, *The Register*, in 1978, and was editor for many years. He helped reroute 26 miles of the AT and the Tuscarora Trail. He was made Honorary Life Member of ATC in 1989. He currently serves as coordinator for the AT Land Trust.

In response to landowner concerns about the AT in Pennsylvania in the 1980s, Thurston helped develop four alternate routes. In the end, local people began to see that the trail did not threaten their way of life. He was one of the first ridgerunners, and he describes unusual experiences in that capacity. He makes a good case for local publicity of the Trail Patrol program.

A Full and Interesting Life

From summer jobs during college (building fire towers on Mt. Rainier) to writing plays, interesting work seemed to fall into Thurston's lap throughout his career. He began by doing summer trailwork on Mt. Olympus: building trails, blasting cliffs, building bridges. Thurston kept journals of his years of studies abroad – Heidelberg in 1933 and China in 1936 – and includes in his book long sections of interesting history for that period in time. He provides a background of China before WWII, social conditions, and military aggressions of Japan toward China.

Thurston is someone who has learned something from every experience in life and realized the value of that experience. In addition, he relates the experiences of his life from when he was age five to the present (he was 87 at time of publication).

This is not just an autobiography but a person's view of global political affairs, from a personal perspective of trail issues, to what went wrong in the United States after the Viet Nam war. After Thurston's retirement, his interests turned to items he had kept on the back burner: He is a musician and an inventor and is into theater and acting, church work, outdoor conservation, and foot trails. His book reflects his very full life. □

— Carol Niedzialek

Hams Test Emergency Preparedness

Every year the American Radio Relay League has a competition and drill to test the readiness of amateur radio operators to respond to various types of emergencies. The event is based on the premise, "If there was an emergency, and there was no power, no electricity, how would messages and communication be done?" Thus, every year amateur radio – ham – operators set up emergency facilities and try to talk to each other for a 24-hour period.

In late June 2003, an amateur radio club from Kentucky went to Mutton Top. To begin with, this basic coffee-drinking lot shot arrows with antennas attached high into the trees. Ground rods were pounded in everywhere, and cords, radio sets, Morse code keys, and microphones were scattered on the picnic table, kitchen table, boxes, and loft.

The Kentucky club, with a little help from its Virginia brothers and first-timer rookies to the event, was set to go. Club members operated all equipment on five watts of power (honest – it's less power than a night light). After tabulating that we contacted 37 different states, five foreign countries (I talked with Cuba, allowed on the air by special permis-

sion direct from Castro just for this competition), and well over 1,000 different contacts in the 24-hour period, we sent in the sheets. The result – this small group placed No. 7 IN THE NATION. Of course we know it had lots to do with the location of Mutton Top – high up, no power lines for interference, the stars were out, no sunspots, etc. It probably had to do a little with the antenna structures, people sending Morse code until they fell asleep at the radio, allowing no one more than three hours of sleep, and some very expensive equipment.

On June 26-27, 2004, the Kentucky club is going to be at it again, and again at Mutton Top (why move a good thing). Come on out. Ever talk to someone 2,000 miles away on a radio powered by a couple of AA batteries duct-taped together? It's a great way to see emergency preparedness, get out in the woods, and see some hard-core ham radio operators contacting people throughout the world and experience good, old-fashioned clean fun. If you are lucky, they may even give you an opportunity to make a contact and they usually have a station set up for just that purpose. □

—Thomas C. Jorgensen

Volunteers in Maryland Complete Major Trail Relocation: 'Maryland 77'

The "Maryland 77" relocation has finally been installed by the volunteers of the Mountain Club of Maryland and PATC.

"Maryland 77," an ambitious, three-mile-long relocation initiative, gets its name from its primary road crossing. In early May, volunteers from PATC and MCM blazed the trail, the finishing touch on this project.

The project was challenging to implement from its inception. ATC was involved in a contentious public debate over the initiative for many years in the late 1980s and the 1990s. All of the pieces came into place in 2003, a flag line was created, and volunteers installed the new AT over the past six months.

Hikers should be aware of the changes northbound at Ensign Cowall Shelter near Wolfsville Rd. and southbound leaving the Warner Hollow area.



The old walk beside the powerline – 0.4 mile long, and a very steep hike over a gas line – is no longer in existence. The new trail runs directly across the powerline.

Additionally, the crossing of Md. 77 was in the immediate vicinity of homes; now the road crossing includes open fields with a couple of homes visible some distance away. The new hiking experience involves wooded rolling grades and open fields with blazed posts.

In the past seven years, the AT experience in Maryland has been enhanced by seven relocations, four of which took the trail off of gravel or paved roadways. □

—Rick Canter, PATC Maryland Manager



Hiker's Notebook

Common Name: False Hellebore, Indian Poke, Bugbane

Scientific Name: *Veratrum viride* (Latin for green [*viridis*] hellebore [*veratrum*])

False hellebore is a perennial that emerges early in the spring as small, bright green spears that open up into striking foliage in wet woodlands and swampy areas.

Potpourri: False hellebore is named for black hellebore (*helleborus niger*), which is native to the mountainous regions of Central and Southern Europe. However, unlike other false variants, it is not so named due to a similar appearance, but rather due to being similarly poisonous. The name hellebore is derived from the Greek *elein*, to injure, and *bora*, food. In France, it is known as *tabac du diable*, devil's tobacco.

False hellebore contains the alkaloids jervine and cyclopamine that cause depressed cardiac activity, a burning sensation in the mouth, and headaches in humans. Although it seldom kills humans as ingestion induces vomiting, it is a big problem for grazing animals, particularly sheep. Pregnant ewes who eat the plant have a statistically higher incidence of having lambs that are either stillborn or that have severe birth defects.

Native Americans used the poison of the "Indian Poke" as a means of selecting tribe members who were the strongest. The one who could tolerate the most poison before becoming sick was thereby identified as the chief. Due to its toxic effects on animals, false hellebore has long been used as an insecticide. "Bugbane" was made from boiling the root of the plant and applying the resultant decoction to the scalp to kill head lice. □

—William Needham

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

K9 Trailblazers Get Rid of a Mess at Turkey Run Park

Turkey Run Park Cleanup Report

For our third consecutive year, K9 Trailblazers have adopted Turkey Run Park (www.k9trailblazers.org/turkey_run/tr_worktrip_040304.htm). We provided crews to clean the trails, parking lots, and picnic areas in the park as well as the mile or so of Potomac River shoreline bordering the park. When we clean up other people's trash with our leashed dogs by our sides, the National Park Service sees us as a visible advertisement for "hiking responsibly with dogs." We are a reminder that it's not "dogs" that are the problem in parks, it's irresponsible people.

It was 42 degrees with drizzling rain, but everyone who promised to come did show up to be part of the Potomac Watershed Cleanup, an annual event sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation (www.fergusonfoundation.org).

This is One Well-Prepared Group

We gathered at 9:00 a.m. for orientation. Site coordinator was Pat with Mickey. After learning a little about the history of the park, we discussed safety procedures and the plan for the day. Everyone was given black bags for trash, blue bags for recyclable plastic bottles, tan bags to double-bag broken glass, work gloves and latex gloves, maps, and chocolate. Reflective vests and special containers for Haz-Mat were given to team leaders, and Blue Dog biscuits were distributed to the dogs. Team leaders Chuck and Lisa, who came without Jester, headed out along the red trail with Nancy and Tester; Becky and Sparky; and Jeanne, who came without Tanka. Then Jeff, who came without Katy, headed down the yellow trail to the river with Jenifer and Gigi; Shirley who came without Princess; and Cheryl who left Oliver and Jess sleeping at home.

Then, for nearly four hours, 10 hard-working volunteers collected trash. Those folks working along the river hauled bags of trash up the steep trails from the river to the collection points. Among the notable items we removed: several hundred beer bottles, the back end of a television set, a set of oars, several pounds of cigarette butts, a basketball,



The day begins with an orientation.



Photos by Jeff Bolognese

Part of the clean-up haul gathered in the park.

a racquetball, a hockey ball, some fishing line, a double-bagged dirty diaper that burst its bag (eeeeuuuwwww), and 10 feet of rubber hose. We even found one of the mysterious "blue barrels" that have been washing up along the shores of the Potomac lately. No one knows where they're coming from, or what was in them, so we pulled it up on the shore and marked its location for pickup by the river patrol. In addition to those unusual items, we also picked up many pounds of plastic bottles, food wrappers, and general detritus left by people who don't know or don't care that their trash is a threat to the health of both people and wildlife.

Dogs Take the Day Off

Although well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome at K9TB events, most dogs do not enjoy this one, so many of our helpers allowed their canine companions to remain on the couch. But a few brought dogs who thought they were going for a hike and instead found themselves sitting quietly while their owners gathered trash. Sparky, Tester, and Gigi were out on the trails, and Mickey assisted with public relations, trash pickup, and site coordination in Parking Area C1. These canines, whose presence and good behavior help make dogs more welcome in national parks, were the "face" of K9 Trailblazers on Saturday. Thanks to all of them, and their hard-working people!

As a way of showing their appreciation for our help, the National Park Service rangers have offered a special "invitation only" hike during which the people who did the dirty work today will be treated to a guided peek at special places off the trails. They've earned it! K9 Trailblazers has committed to adopting Turkey Run Park next year. We hope to see more old and new friends out there helping with this big job. □

—Pat Fuhrer

Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Is the Earthworm Our Friend?

Luspect as you read this, the cacophony of cicadas outside is probably reaching its climax. And as the males die, shortly followed by the egg-laying females, a gluttony of food will be devoured by any number of predators. Birds, shrews, foxes, raccoons, opossums, snakes, and frogs, will all soon be satiated with this plethora of protein. Of course, our cats and dogs will have their turn at playing with and eating these easy targets. I would suggest keeping Fido off your new carpet for the first several days of encounters until he has learned when to say when.

Eventually, all of the cicada corpses will be returned to the soil. At that point, the invertebrates, bacteria, and fungi of the soil community get their chance at the grounded gourmet. Included in this community are the 50 to 500 earthworms that inhabit every square yard of soil.

Venerable Worm Studier

Earthworms are an important part of our environment. In fact, Charles Darwin's last book, "The Formation of Vegetable Mould," published in 1881, was the first methodical study of earthworms. It was referred to as the culmination of his professional activities (at least, according to modern worm scholars). Darwin noted, "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world." Certainly, earthworms are valuable in their ability to improve soil structure, mix and till the soil, aid in humus formation, and increase the availability of plant nutrients. In fact, Darwin concluded that earthworms brought 18 tons of soil to the surface per acre each year, a figure supported by current studies.

Science is now discovering that all is not well in the soils of North America. Once again, it appears a case of introduced species disturbing the balance that exists among the native community members. An estimated 70 species of native earthworms can be found in the Eastern United States, while about 45 non-native species have been introduced. And, the question is only now being addressed as to the impact of these foreign invaders.

Researchers participating in the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park have found a region where the duff (or partially decomposed surface leaf layer) was significantly missing. Instead of the rich organic matter that typifies the forest floors of the area, researchers found unusual, squiggling gray Asian earthworms of the genus *Amyntas*—and a healthy load of their excrement.

The concern of this situation is the loss of the duff layer, with its community of insects and microorganisms. Compared with the more leisurely feeding rate of these smaller organisms, earthworms consume the leaf litter 24 hours a day. They digest it so quickly, that whole populations of microorganisms are at risk of being wiped out in some areas.

Importance of the Duff Layer

The duff layer is the forest's digestive system. Its microbes and fungi break organic matter down into essential elements such as nitrogen and phosphorus so that plants can absorb them to start the cycle over again. Its entangled litter creates cover and food for larger members of the community: insects, spiders, salamanders, frogs, small mammals, and migratory birds. A duffless forest floor can't support spring ephemerals like bellworts, trillium, yel-

low violets, and wild ginger. Instead, exotics such as garlic mustard can muscle in, taking up space and shading out native flowers and tree seedlings.

The impact of introduced worms is best documented in the glaciated regions of the Northern United States. Here, all native worms were removed by the glaciers some 10,000 years ago, being replaced in the past 200 years by European and Asian worms brought in by the early settlers. Prior to the introduction of worms, the ecological communities were based on nutrient-poor, acidic soils. Since their introduction, the worms have added soil nutrients, raised soil pH, reduced soil duff, and removed mycorrhizal fungi necessary for certain plants, including the rare goblin fern found in the Chippewa National Forest of Minnesota. Salamanders have also been notably decreased in numbers, due to the reduced food source formerly found in the duff layer. This, in turn, will have an effect on the predators of salamanders, namely the snakes, shrews, and birds.

So, we ask, are worms our friends or not? And, of course the answer is that it depends on the species and where they are found. Native species tend to be controlled in numbers by natural predators, and thus don't tend to significantly impact the duff layer as do the uncontrolled high number of exotic worms. Perhaps in the garden and agricultural endeavors, introduced worms may prove to be beneficial to one's needs. But in our forests, the more adaptable, non-native earthworms are known to devour the leaf litter that is vital to the healthy functioning of forests in Northern North America, altering soil conditions, enabling the spread of invasive plant species, and changing the food chain for forest animals.

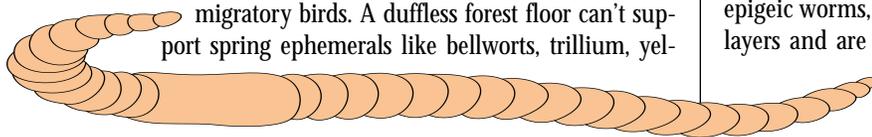
Worms Multiply, Dispelling Myths

Earthworms belong to the phylum annelida, a word derived from Latin meaning "rings." You'll note that worms are made up of dozens of rings or segments. The phylum includes earthworms and their relatives, leeches, and a large number of mostly marine worms.

Most earthworms are hermaphroditic with both male and female gonads. It is a myth that you can divide a worm in half and have each half grow into a complete new worm. But to some degree, worms can regrow segments that have been cut off. A worm can lose its head, but it'll grow right back as long as too many segments haven't been sacrificed. Each ring or segment on the worm has tiny bristles that help the creature move along the ground or burrow through the soil. There are approximately 4,400 named species of earthworms around the world—some measure only about one inch long. The giant earthworm of Australia can measure 10 feet in length and has a girth of up to three inches!

Researchers have broken worms into three categories, largely descriptive of their habits in the soil. These three categories are endogeic, anecic, and epigeic. Endogeic worms are the only ones that actually eat soil; they make lateral burrows in the shallow soil, but rarely come to the surface. Anecic worms, like the non-native night crawlers, dig vertical tunnels up to six feet in depth, and feed at the surface. The epigeic worms, like the "red wigglers," live in the surface soil and duff layers and are used in vermiculture for composting purposes. They are apparently native to North America. □

—Bob Pickett



Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

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

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

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

Ski Touring Section

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

Mountaineering Section

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

PATC Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

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

Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

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

JUNE

1 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE - July Potomac Appalachian Material due to editors

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

1 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike Potomac Heritage Trail, VA

Near 495 and George Washington Parkway. Join us for a three-mile, out-and-back hike along this beautiful, rugged section of the Potomac Heritage Trail. Great rock scrambling for little kids and, if the water is low, we'll get close to the river and throw rocks in the water. The trail is right along the Potomac River, and not stroller friendly. We will hike to a waterfall from a feeder stream. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

1 (Tuesday)

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

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

1 (Tuesday)

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

2 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Hiking, Rafting Grand Canyon (REI) Baileys Crossroads, VA

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

2 (Wednesday)

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

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

2 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to trailheads. Hikes are

at a moderate pace and about 8 to 12 miles in length with varied elevations. Current information, including meeting place at time, leaders name and phone number, and a detailed description of the hike are available on the PATC Activities Recording 703/242-0965.

2 (Wednesday)

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

3 (Thursday)

HIKE - In-Between Hikers Langley, VA

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

4-5 (Friday - Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - NSVC Retreat Massanutten, VA

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

5 (Saturday)

HIKE - Family Hike - National Trails Day Great Falls National Park, VA

Come learn about John Muir and the important contributions he made to our country and society. This hike is intended for school aged children and their parents. Children will participate in hands-on activities while hiking a three mile circuit. The hike is from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. This hike is limited to six children plus their parents. INFO: Jennifer Chambers at Extracurricular ETC. (jpcjkcc1@starpower.net) 240/893-1347 to sign up for this hike.

5 (Saturday)

HIKE - NSVC Appalachian Trail, VA

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

5 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - National Trails Day Shenandoah National Park, VA

Trail Patrol, in partnership with SNP, will sponsor Beyond the Trailhead, an opportunity to leave your car behind and experience the outdoors through hiking and backpacking. Join us for guided hikes, activities, information tables, displays, and games to learn more about safe and responsible enjoyment of the natural world. Events will be held throughout the day at the Byrd Visitor Center at Big Meadows. Admission is free and open to the public (normal park entrance fees apply). INFO: (www.patc.net/activities), (trailpatrol@patc.net). See ad on page 7 in this issue for more information.



5 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Volunteer Day Bluemont, VA

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

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Washington, DC

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

5 (Saturday)

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

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

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

The Trail House of Frederick, Md., is sponsoring the South Mountaineers' National Trails Day event for a fourth consecutive year. Thanks to Clyde and Gerry Hicks of the Trail House for their kind support of our efforts. We will work with vigor on the AT through the mid-day. As usual on Trails Day, volunteers are treated to a supper and social after the event in Washington Monument State Park. Join us for this special event. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Appalachian Trail, PA

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

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Rock Springs Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

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

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Overseer Workshop Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

New or prospective trail overseers are encouraged to join the Blue and White Crew for our annual trail overseers workshop. Sessions will be led by trail

FORECAST

maintenance professionals from SNP and crew leaders from the PATC. There is a \$20 registration fee, which will cover lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Workshop participants will be able to camp at the Pinnacles Research Station. The workshop fills early every year. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerry@trailcrews.net) 301/345-9408. See ad on page 7 in this issue for more information.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday) CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Alexandria, VA

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

6 (Sunday) HIKE - NSVC Appalachian Trail, Northern VA

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

6 (Sunday) TRAIL WORK TRIP - WV Chapter Frederick, MD

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

7 (Monday) SPECIAL EVENT - Reservation Desk Vienna, VA

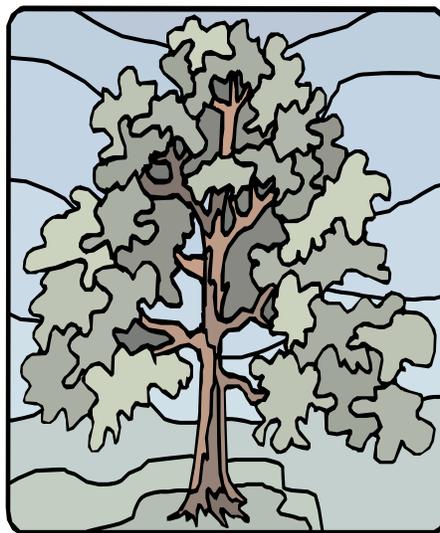
Take this opportunity to be one of the first to use our new computer reservation system. Beginning this evening you may make a reservation for 2 months in advance - and even more if you have volunteered this year. Reservation desk is open at 7:00 p.m. Don't get left in the dirt on this historic occasion! INFO: Pat Fankhauser (pfankhauser@patc.net) 703/242-0315.

7, 19 - 20 (Monday, Saturday - Sunday) CLASS - Leave No Trace PATC headquarters and SNP

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

8 (Tuesday) HIKE - Family Hike Great Falls Park VA

Celebrate National Trails Day (3 days late), we will be leading two concurrent scavenger hunt hikes. One will be a more rugged 4 mile hike along the beautiful River Trail. The other will be a jogging-stroller passable 2-mile hike along the scenic Matildaville and Carriage Trails. Bring nuts, dried fruit, or whatever you like to contribute to a group GORP. We will picnic along the way. Designed for families with young children, all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278 or Jennifer Chambers (jpckjkc1@starpower.net) 301/588-1716.



8 (Tuesday) HIKE - Vigorous Hikers North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

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

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

9 (Wednesday) CLASS - Food for the Trail (REI) Baileys Crossroads, VA

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

9 (Wednesday) HIKE - Easy Hikers Annandale, VA

Wakefield (Audrey Moore) and Long Branch Valley Stream Parks. Five miles on dirt trails. Meet at Wakefield Park. Directions: Beltway exit 54A, Braddock Road West then 1/8 mile right to park entrance road and first parking lot on left. Bring water. No pets. Starts at 10:15 a.m. Lunch at nearby Kilroy's restaurant. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

9 (Wednesday) HIKE - Midweek Hikers Location to be determined

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

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

9 (Wednesday) MEETING - West Virginia Chapter, 7:00 p.m. Highacre Cabin, Harpers Ferry, WV

12 (Saturday) TRAIL WORK TRIP - Bears Den Bluemont, VA

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., lunch served after work. Clear invasive plants and vines along the Bears Den trails to clear the ground for new oak seedlings. Or climb down the Bears Den Rock Overlook on the Appalachian Trail to help clean up trash. Bring gloves, appropriate clothing, and water bottle. RSVP with Rob Carey, Bears Den manager (info@bearsdencenter.org) 540/554-8708 INFO: (www.bearsdencenter.org).

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday) CABIN WORK TRIP - Rock Springs Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

No more 60 lb. bags of rocks 0.3 miles down the path. All we need is to put the bunks and inside of the cabin back. May clean up Pococoin. Sleeping at both places. Get off your duff and let me know when you can help out. \$10/weekend/person for the 3 meals. Need cooks. Need workers. Need help. INFO: Thomas C. Jorgensen (hairheart@aol.com) 540/456-4760.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday) TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Ovoka farms, Appalachian Trail, VA

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

13 (Sunday) HIKE - Wolf Chimney Cat Rocks Circuit Thurmont, MD

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

13 (Sunday) TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Enjoy creative gardening with the South Mountaineers Trail Crew; making a difference and getting away from the city. 9:00 a.m. Please bring lunch water and gloves; expect to hike 1-4 miles and work into the afternoon. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

15 (Tuesday) HIKE - Family Hike, Ellanor Lawrence Park Chantilly, VA

Come on out and explore the textures of the natural world. We will head out with paper and crayons to collect rubbings of different textures along our hike. This hike will wind through the woods, along a small stream, and down to a pond. We'll hike about 3 miles. The trail is jogging-stroller passable. Designed for families with young children, all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631- 9278.

15 (Tuesday)

🚶 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

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

16 (Wednesday)

🚶 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Cedarville State Forest, MD

Four-mile, easy circuit hike with optional two-mile extension. From beltway exit 7, south on MD route 5 (Branch Ave.) merging with US 301 after 10 miles. Then stay in left lane for 1.8 miles to traffic light, Cedarville Road. Turn left, continue 2.4 miles to state forest sign at intersection with Bee Oak Road. Turn right, proceed 1 mile to meeting place outside forest office at 10:15 a.m. Entrance fee \$4.00 per car. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Paul Van Order 703/536-4378.

16 (Wednesday)

🚶 **HIKE - Midweek Hikers**

Location to be determined

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

19 (Saturday)

🦋 **CLASS - Butterfly Field Day**

Shaver Hollow, VA

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

19 (Saturday)

🚶 **HIKE - WV Chapter**

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Front Royal, Va., section 2. Gravel Springs Gap to Thornton Gap; 14 miles. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 240/777-7741.

19 (Saturday)

🦋 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers**

Appalachian Trail, MD

The twelfth of 23 South Mountaineers work events this year. Join our volunteer crew, enjoy the peace of the woods and go home happy if tired. Please bring lunch, water and gloves and meet us in Frederick County, Md., at 9:00 a.m. Expect to work into the afternoon and hike 1-4 miles. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

19 (Saturday)

🦋 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers**

Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

🦋 **BACKPACKING - Dolly Sods Wilderness**

Monongahela Natl. Forest, WV

Enjoy an early summer backpack in the unique, lush, cooler environment of this wilderness area. We'll hike 8-9 miles or so on Saturday and a little less on Sunday. Dolly Sods is just due west of Petersburg, WV., and driving time should be less than in the past

with at least one section of Corridor H, the new interstate, now open. Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze, 703/846-9207.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

🦋 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Co.**

Gore, VA

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

19 - 20 (Saturday-Sunday)

🦋 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Mediterranean Hoodlums**

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Buon giorno! - An invitation is extended to all to come on out and join the Hoodlum's Mediterranean trail worktrip in June! The North District Hoodlums Trail Crew works on the Appalachian Trail and Blue-Blazed Trails in that section of the park. We work hard and enjoy the fruits of our labor afterwards via the theme meal and good company at a facility within the park. Newcomers are always welcome. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, camp out overnight in SNP - lots of options. We meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 10: a.m. on Saturday morning. INFO/RSVP: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) or 410/426-2724.

20 (Sunday)

🚶 **HIKE - North Shenandoah Valley Chapter**

Appalachian Trail, VA

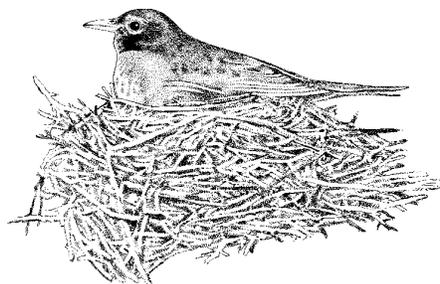
Another Sunday Coffee hike and another in our series on the AT between Harpers Ferry and SNP. Come see the forest transition from spring to summer and views of the Shenandoah Valley. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visualink.com) 540/955-0736.

22 (Tuesday)

🚶 **HIKE - Family Hike**

Rock Creek Park, DC

Come join us for a kid-friendly circuit hike in Rock Creek Park. The trail is mostly jogging-stroller passable with a few steps and steep hills to navigate. We will hike past the horse stables and then down along the Creek, where we will have a picnic lunch. Afterwards we can visit the nature center. INFO: Jennifer Chambers (jpkckkk1@starpower.net) or 301/588-1716.



22 (Tuesday)

🚶 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

George Washington National Forest, VA

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

23 (Wednesday)

🦋 **CLASS - Hiking the Remote Sierra (REI)**

Baileys Crossroads, VA

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

23 (Wednesday)

🚶 **HIKE - Easy Hikers, Lipton Simple Steps**

Swains Lock, MD

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

23 (Wednesday)

🚶 **HIKE - Midweek Hikers**

Location to be determined

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

26 (Saturday)

🚶 **HIKE - North Chapter**

Hossock Run, PA

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

26 (Saturday)

🚶 **HIKE - Sunset and Sing-a-long**

Bluemont, VA

Sunset Hike and Music Sing-A-Long at Bears Den - The "castle in the woods" holds an unsung Appalachian gem- the Grand Room's acoustically advantageous architecture. Come help us fill it with music to match our mountains! Dinner is served at 6:00, then we gather in the grand room. Talented musicians and singers lead everyone in folksongs. Intermission for desert and sunset at the rock overlook. Music over at 9:30 p.m. \$10 for dinner, desert and music. \$25 for all that and overnight lodging.

FORECAST

RSVP with Rob Carey, Bears Den manager INFO: (info@bearsdencenter.org) 540/554-8708 or more info (www.bearsdencenter.org).

26 (Saturday)

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

Washington, DC

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

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ **CLASS - Land Navigation Class (REI)**

Baileys Crossroads, VA

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

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ **HIKE - WV Chapter**

Ohioypyle, PA

Laurel Highlands Trail in western Pennsylvania, Section 2; Maple Ridge Summit to PA Route 643 (near Laurel Ridge SP headquarters), 7? miles. Depart Saturday morning, June 26, car camp at Ohioypyle State Park. Hike starts 10:00 a.m. Sunday June 27. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 240/777-7741.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**

Shockeys Knob, near Gainesboro, VA

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

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders**

Old Rag Mountain, VA

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

27 (Sunday)

✂ **HIKE - Leave No Trace**

Great Falls, MD

Billy Goat Trail, section A, C&O Canal. 9:00 a.m. to noon. Join a hike along the Billy Goat Trail A for an introduction to Leave No Trace (LNT). We'll stop at points along the hike to learn about the seven LNT



principles and discuss how Leave No Trace practices help protect the surrounding conservation area, known as Bear Island. The LNT hike will conclude midway along section A, hikers can then choose to return to their cars or to finish the trail. The Billy Goat Trail is a strenuous hike and some restrictions will apply. INFO/RSVP (required) Georgeann Smale (gsmale99@yahoo.com) 301/581-9584.

29 (Tuesday)

✂ **HIKE - Family Hike**

Burke, VA

Burke Lake Park. Come stretch your legs on a 5-mile hike around Burke Lake. Jogging-stroller friendly, regular-stroller passable. (some mud and larger gravel). There are a few small hills, but it's mostly flat. We'll picnic along the way, and stop at a playground. After the hike we'll take a ride on their mini train and carousel. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) or 703/631-9278.

29 (Tuesday)

✂ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

George Washington National Forest, VA

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

29 (Tuesday)

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

30 (Wednesday)

✂ **CLASS - Man of the Mountains (REI)**

Baileys Crossroads, VA

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

30 (Wednesday)

✂ **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Gaithersburg, MD

Seneca Creek State Park. About 5 varied miles over rolling terrain. No pets. Bring drinking water. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot at 10:15 a.m. From the Beltway, exit to I-270 N. After about 7 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.

30 (Wednesday)

✂ **HIKE - Midweek Hikers**

Location to be determined

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

JULY

1 (1st of the month)

☞ **DEADLINE - July Potomac Appalachian**

Material due to editors

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

6 (Tuesday)

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

7 (Wednesday)

✂ **HIKE - Midweek Hikers**

Location to be determined

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

7 (Wednesday)

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

10 (Saturday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Crew**

Rock Creek Park, DC

(8:15 a.m. -Noon). [Rain date July 24]. Jules Jusserand, an early 1900s French ambassador, has the only memorial in Rock Creek Park. Come find out where they put it. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (mailto:dc.trails@verizon.net) (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee at 202/895-6221.

10 (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. Expect to work into early afternoon (if conditions are reasonable) and hike 1-4 miles. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

10 (Saturday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers**

Appalachian Trail, PA

Join the North Chapter trail crew for an all out attack on weeds, greenbriars, and other such trail neme-

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

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)
CABIN WORK TRIP - Highacre
Harpers Ferry, WV

Put the roof and siding on the old privy. Maybe clean up the barn. Get off your duff and let me know when you can help out. \$10/weekend/person for the three meals. Need cooks. Need workers. Need help. INFO: Thomas C. Jorgensen (hairatheart@aol.com) 540/456-4760.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)
CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)
Alexandria, VA

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

11 (Sunday)
HIKE - Rose River Circuit (Strenuous)
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join us for this popular 12-mile circuit that includes bushwhacking along the Rose River for 1.8 miles. We'll hike to Rose River Falls, and later take a side trail that leads to Dark Hollow Falls. We may even stop to cool off in the clear waters of Rose River to top off this hot July hike. There is a total elevation gain of 2,000 feet. PATC map 10. INFO: Vince Ferrari (ferrari3@ix.netcom.com) 301/249-2210.

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

14 (Wednesday)
HIKE - Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

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

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

14 (Wednesday)
MEETING - West Virginia Chapter, 7:00 p.m.
Highacre Cabin, Harpers Ferry, WV

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)
CLASS - CPR
Vienna, VA

The Trail Patrol is hosting a CPR and First Aid course on July 17 and 18 at PATC Headquarters. The two-day course covers American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant CPR and First Aid. The students will learn basic first aid skills with hands on time. Books and certifications are provided. The afternoon portion of the first aid class is designed with wilderness situations in mind. The students learn how to do basic splinting and bleeding control with supplies from their packs. The cost of each class is \$40 per day (\$80 for both days of CPR and first aid). The deadline to register for this class is July 10. INFO: Ben Fernandez (3ferns@adelphia.net) 703/327-9788.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Co.
Lydia, VA

It looks like the Crew has (finally!) lived down to its expectations and earned respect it does not deserve. We have been asked to deploy a Chain Gang in the wilds of somewhat western Virginia near Lydia. Okay, so the work site is on the Vining Tract; so what? It ain't no big deal. We're forced to eschew tents; instead, we'll just have to stay overnight in one of the cabins on the Tract. INFO: Don White (jamesrivercom@comcast.net).

21 (Wednesday)
HIKE - Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

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

24 (Saturday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers
Tuscarora Trail, PA
INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

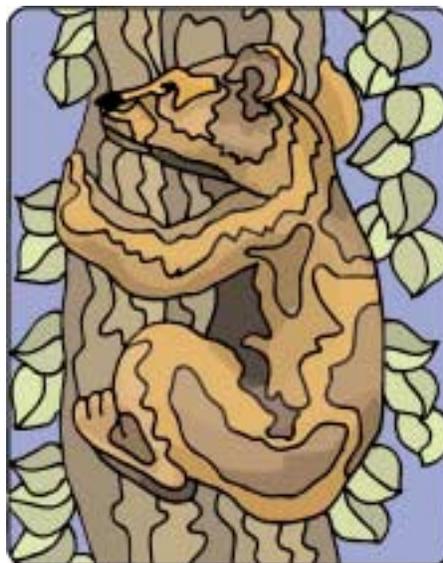
24 - 25 (Saturday - Sunday)
CABIN WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Round Hill, VA

It may be hot but Blackburn Trail Center is a cool place. One task is build steps to the fire pit the crew constructed a couple years ago. And there is always trail work on the nearby AT and access trails. Don't forget Blackburn's sun shower to refresh after a hot day. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

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

28 (Wednesday)
HIKE - Midweek Hikers
Location to be determined

The PATC Midweek Hikers carpool each Wednesday from the Washington DC area to trailheads. Hikes are at a moderate pace and about 8 to 12 miles in



length with varied elevations. Current information, including meeting place and time, leaders name and phone number, and a detailed description of the hike are available on the PATC Activities Recording 703/242-0965.

30 - 1 (Friday - Sunday)
HIKE - Acme Treadway Company
Little Orleans, MD

It IS time ... time, that is, for our First Ever Annual Picnic Party! We plan to base ourselves at the Famed Little Orleans Cabin by the C&O Canal east of Cumberland. This is NOT a work trip: the surrounding area offers plenty of hiking, biking, and canoeing. All who have worked with the Crew at least once this year are eligible to participate. INFO: Don White (jamesrivercom@comcast.net) by Wednesday, July 21st.

31 (Saturday)
HIKE - Full Moon Hike, Bears Den
Bluemont, VA

Ever take a night hike? Join this guided trek on the Appalachian Trail for an unusual and marvelous full moon experience. We'll soak in the peace and quiet, call owls to find wildlife and roast marshmallows by a campfire. \$30 per person for guided hike, trail snack, breakfast and overnight lodging at Bears Den. Hike starts at 9:00 p.m. Limited to 10 people. INFO/RSVP Rob Carey, Bears Den manager (info@bearsdencenter.org) 540/554-8708. More info (www.bearsdencenter.org).

31 - 1 (Saturday - Sunday)
CABIN WORK TRIP - Johnson Cabin
Vining Tract - Lydia, VA

Flatten the ground and lay the groundwork for the cooking shed. Get off your duff and let me know when you can help out. \$10/weekend/person for the three meals. Need cooks. Need workers. Need help. INFO: Thomas C. Jorgensen (hairatheart@aol.com) 540/456-4760. □

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Thar's Gold (and Other Treasure) in Them Thar North Georgia Hills!

Every spring, men and women from all over the United States and, indeed, all over the world, flock to the northern edge of Georgia to take the first steps on a long journey that they will always treasure. But almost two centuries ago people came to these dark and brooding hills for treasure of another sort – they came for gold, and they found it!

Just over 10 miles from the Springer Mountain terminus of the AT sits a dark-bricked building that once was the center of the United States' first gold rush, the Dahlonega Gold Museum in Dahlonega, Ga. Formerly the seat of government in a county born from a gold bonanza, this colonial-style edifice offers silent testimony to a unique period in American history when this quiet area was the center of a frenzied maelstrom as the famous and the humble came by the thousands seeking to instantly wrest a better life from the cold clutches of soil and stone.

Any schoolboy who has done his homework knows that early explorers came to the new world with the blessings of the church in one hand and a treasure map in the other. In the bountiful coffers of the Incan and Aztec empires, explorers found that treasure; but it eluded them in the land we now call the United States. Not that they did not try.

The Explorers

Hernando DeSoto landed in Florida in 1538 with a party of 640 Conquistadors and spent four years searching Georgia and the Mississippi valley for riches that would lure colonists. They found nothing but landscape, hardship, and, for DeSoto himself, death at the hands of affronted Indians. Fewer than half the members of DeSoto's band made it back to Spanish outposts on the Gulf of Mexico.

Fellow Spaniard Tristan de Luna explored north Georgia again in 1560 at the head of a smaller expedition, and again came up with nothing. It is easy, now, to snicker at these lost souls in their funny crescent-shaped helmets stumbling over ridges and through thicketed river bottoms, but actually they came very close to finding their El Dorado.

How close was not revealed for more than 200 years. Geologists now know that a "gold belt" follows the eastern piedmont of the southern Appalachians from northern Alabama on up to northern Virginia. The rich ore lies among

In Celebration of PATC's History

veins of quartz and in beds of a dark granite-like rock called gabbro, and in north Georgia the gold is found in a purity as high as 95 percent as opposed to the 88 percent purity of California gold.

But while early settlers hoped to see the new world dripping with such riches, they could not find them, and news of scattered gold finds were few and far between. In "Notes on Virginia," Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1782 of a lump of gold ore found along the banks of the Rappahannock River that yielded 17 pennyweight (almost one troy ounce) of the precious metal.

In 1799 in North Carolina, one state to the south, a bigger find was soon made. Conrad Reed, son of a Revolutionary War Hessian named John Reed (Johannus Reith before his change of allegiance) who fought for King George but decided when peace came to cast his lot with the Americans, found an interesting glittery stone while out fishing. The family kept the 17-pound rock as a curiosity, and for three years it was the cabin doorstep. But the Reeds thought enough of the stone that when John traveled to Fayetteville in 1802 he took the rock along to have it assayed and was astounded to learn that it was raw gold ore. By 1804, enough of Reed's piedmont neighbors had also found gold on their land to justify serious mining and prospecting ventures.

For the next 24 years, the Tar Heel state provided all of the domestically-mined gold processed by the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. That changed in 1828 when several discoveries were made in and near the Dahlonega area. Some came from natural events, as when storms toppled tall trees whose root balls contained glittering gold nuggets; some were calculated, as when North Carolinians passing through noticed similarities between Georgia rocks and dirt and the geology of the Carolina gold areas; and some were dumb luck, as when a young farmer named Benjamin Parks kicked up a stone while deer hunting on a neighbor's land.

Parks did a double-take and bent to examine the stone. Its lustrous nature was undeniable. He immediately knew what he had found, and he knew why he had found it: that day, Oct. 27, was his birthday and he had just received a gift more appropriate for the man who has everything than for a hardscrabble man of the soil.

Parks approached the land's owner and offered to give him one fourth of all he found in exchange for permission to work the ground. The skeptical owner laughed, having bought the 240-acre Hall County farm for only \$100 cash money, but thinking he had nothing to lose signed an agreement granting Parks the right to prospect the property. Parks returned with a cooking pan, turned a pan full of earth, and beheld pay dirt as yellow as an egg yolk. By the end of the year, Parks later recalled for a writer from the *North Georgia Journal*, "the to-do that followed was going full steam."

Prospectors Floor Georgia

Miners, prospectors, and opportunists poured into north Georgia, often encroaching onto the mountainous lands claimed as the sovereign Cherokee Nation by the region's original Indian inhabitants. To the Cherokees, this period was the "Great Intrusion;" to most Georgians not bitten with the gold bug, it was bedlam. Gov. George Gilmer reportedly described the "thousands of idle, profligate people" who descended upon every creek bed, riverbank, and hillside in search of fortune's favors as "like the evil one in his worst mood." He described hellish scenes of hundreds of miners "at fisticuffs, swearing, striking, and gouging, as frontier men only can do these things."

Not everyone clamoring for riches in the newly-found goldfields was a roughneck, however. South Carolina's John C. Calhoun (influential lawyer, state legislator, U.S. congressman, senator, secretary of war, secretary of state, U.S. vice president) also joined the fray – although on a more dignified level as befitted a man of his stature. He purchased for \$6,000 the land where Parks made his find, and soon reaped a profit many times over. His son-in-law Thomas Clemson wrote of often taking up to five hundred dollars of the rich metal from a single pan full of ore.

See *Gold*, page 19

In 1830, Georgia shipped \$212,000 of raw gold to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. While this is not an impressive number in today's dollars, this was a time when \$100 could purchase a 240-acre farm. That amount also represents but a fraction of what was actually extracted from the gold fields since most of the gold dust and nuggets were circulated as money in the cash-strapped local economy.

Indians are Deposed

This new-found wealth exacerbated a growing tension between the Georgia state government and the Cherokees who possessed most of the land. Although the law forbade encroachment into the Cherokee Nation, miners pretty much did as they pleased. When rounded up and removed by the U.S. Army or state militia, they merely moved back in after the authorities left. This intolerable situation could have but one result – the Indians were quickly stripped of their property rights and their status as a sovereign people and were pushed westward by the U.S. government.

Georgia received something of a windfall as the state assumed full control over all of the land within its borders. Gov. Gilmer advocated leaving the former Cherokee lands and their gold mines in state hands, but in the 1831 election his opponent Wilson Lumpkin backed a plan to divide the former Indian land into lots that would be awarded by a statewide lottery. The notion of “voting themselves a gold mine” resonated with the public and Lumpkin swept into office. By 1832, surveys of the new lands were complete, and 18,309 parcels (40-acre lots in the “gold districts” and 160 acres in the “land districts”) were put up for grabs for the state's (white) citizens.

All this activity brought an unprecedented influx of merchants and tradesmen to support mining operations. A tavern and hotel built by Nathaniel Nuckolls between the Chestatee and Etowah Rivers quickly blossomed into a thriving town known as Nuckollsville before changing its name to Auraria (from *aurum*, the Latin word for gold). Auraria seemed to have a golden future ahead. With more than 1,000 residents it was the largest town in the area and the logical choice for seat of the newly organized Lumpkin County, but Auraria was a victim of the land lottery that helped create it.

Most of the town was built on a 40-acre lottery parcel won by John Plummer, a man

whose right to participate in the lottery had been disputed by the town's founder. Obviously there was the potential for legal dispute, so the State Court empowered to select the county seat cast its eye a few miles northward and in 1833 picked a courthouse site near the busiest mining area. This new town was christened Dahlonega, from the Cherokee word “dalanigie” – gold.

Because of a shortage of money in the largely barter-based frontier economy, small private “mints” sprang up to turn the region's raw gold into more spendable coin money. In the seven years from 1830 to 1837, some \$1,800,000 (based on 1830s dollars and a gold

Just over 10 miles from the Springer Mountain terminus of the AT sits a dark-bricked building that once was the center of the United States' first gold rush, the Dahlonega Gold Museum.

price no higher than \$20 per ounce) in Georgia gold reached the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. In 1837, the Federal Government recognized the wisdom of eliminating the expense of shipping and established a gold coin mint in Dahlonega. The building housing the mint was constructed from bricks made from the local soil – weak bricks that were deficient in clay but loaded with golden flecks found in the region's earth.

Veins Dry Up

Of course, the gold frenzy could not last. Mines were played out, re-worked as new veins were found, and played out again. Over the years as gold prices fluctuated, ore that once was considered too expensive to process and left as slag was sought as eagerly and as profitably as pure nuggets once had been, and time and again areas declared exhausted of mineral wealth experienced successive mini-booms as new pockets of ore were found. But overall, the trend was unmistakable. By the later 1840s small-scale miners and placer (gold-panning) prospectors could not make the Georgia fields pay.

This exhaustion of the easy gold from north Georgia coincided with news of the discovery of gold in California. Discouraged prospectors and miners in the southern Appalachians

joined the flood of emigrants heading westward in the great 1849 gold rush. Dismayed at the quickening de-population of the region and the abandonment of area gold operations, Dahlonega assayer Matthew Stephenson called a town meeting to encourage residents to stay put. He made an impassioned gesture toward Findlay Ridge on nearby Crown Mountain and implored “Why go to California? In that ridge lies more gold than man ever dreamt of – there's millions in it!”

But the miners did leave and took Stephenson's cry with them as inspiration to keep digging when discouraged by hardship in the Western gold fields. A budding journalist named Samuel Clemens who covered the rough and tumble mining camps in California and Nevada in the 1860s under the byline “Mark Twain” made this hopeful and plaintive phrase famous in American culture as “There's gold in them thar hills!”

A New Type of Treasure

Today, ghosts of north Georgia's gold rush can still be found in the Dahlonega Gold Museum housed in the original county courthouse. Like the first mint, it was built of local gold-speckled bricks. Gold operations still exist in the county, but most of them, like the Crisson Gold Mine in Dahlonega, mine ore not for commercial processing but to provide material that tourists can pan for gold dust mementos of their visit. “There is still gold here,” says Tammy Ray of the Crisson Mine. “It is in quartz veins that follow the piedmont gold belt paralleling the AT, there just isn't enough left here to support profitable commercial operation.”

But that hasn't stopped Lumpkin County from experiencing a new rush of treasure seekers. Every year, especially every spring, hikers again descend on the hills of north Georgia in search of wealth of another kind. These hikers come for something more valuable than the dust and nuggets that might lie underfoot, something that cannot be stolen by fickle governments or greedy trespassers, or purchased away by the big pockets of the influential.

North Georgia's treasure exists in the form of the Springer Mountain terminus of the 2,160-mile AT. It is a treasure that won't be exhausted and won't tarnish over time. The months spent on the trail that starts in Georgia's gold country may represent the best investment of time and effort that many thru-hikers will ever make. □

—George Still

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

FREE FIREWOOD for the asking. A pickup truck full of cut and seasoned (by this fall) wood is available on a first come, first served basis. Kindling also available. Must get rid of it quickly. Please call Bernie Morgan at 301/864-1324.

FOUND: Two trekking poles left at Glass House sometime prior to April 2. Contact Sam Perdue, 703/241-8664, sam_perdue@yahoo.com.

HIKING PARTNERSHIPS

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

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

HELP WANTED

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

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

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

FOR SALE/RENT

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

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

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

CALLING ALL LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS, AND TAX ATTORNEYS.

Virginia now permits donors of conservation easements to sell the tax credit for cash. PATC owns property in Virginia that would be eligible for such a rebate. The club needs your help writing proposals that would help the club save thousands of dollars. Contact:

Phil Paschall (bettycox@erols.com),
540/882-3027. Hurry – before the state changes its mind.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

TRAILHEAD

A fickle April with some above and below average temperatures and extended periods of showers didn't stop many overseers and crews from trail work. On some of the warmer days it didn't take long to remember that sweat and bugs are part of the venue for these activities. Unlike later in the spring and summer, the lack of leaves allow the UV rays to burn the unprotected light winter skin so you have to be careful early in the year. By the time you read this the district managers will already be on your case to "get those weeds" so surprise them by getting a headstart this year.

Wanderbirds in Awe

Joining Don White and his Acme Treadway Co. Trail Crew in the Cedar Creek/Tuscarora relocation in April, nine members of the Wanderbird Hiking Club learned first-hand how difficult and time-consuming it is to build a trail. In sweltering heat and full sun, each person, armed with a pick mattock, McLeod, and helmet, hiked 1.5 to two miles into the relocation site. We then began the very arduous and laborious task of cutting sidehill and removing the never-ending depth of mountain laurel duff off the trail. Under Don White's and his crew's super instructions and help, we finished a little section: fine-tuning the grade on a switchback for optimal drainage, rounding out edges/slope of sidehill to prevent waterfall erosion, maintaining the one degree out-slope, then finally spreading leaves over the finished section. Attitudes were still great at the end of the second day when we brushed the tools clean and sprayed them with WD-40. The crew/WB convoy then headed off to the Dairy Queen at Toms Brook off I-81 where some of us splurged on ice cream. In awe of trail crews, a Wanderbird participant commented: How did all of the 1,000s of miles of trail get built [when it requires this much effort and time to do a small section]?!

Chainsaw Certification

The first chainsaw certification for PATC under the new memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and ATC took place in the SNP Headquarters



Christina Thornton and Ellis Domenech finish planting a blaze post in an open field for the AT relocation on Ovoka Farms property, north of Sky Meadows State Park.

Photo by Jon Rindt



Photo by Vic Fickes

Bruce Agnew and Clyde Siebert put up sign for the Entry Run Trail. Dedication of this new access trail into SNP is scheduled for June 19.

Training Room on April 24-25. Led by instructors CT Campbell, Don Harvey, and Roger Dovel, 24 sawyers and sawyers-to-be met for certification. There are still issues to resolve and differences between how the Forest-Service-led instruction and the National-Park-Service-led instruction occur, but time will resolve the issues. Changes incorporated by the new MOU include: 1.) All certification instruction will be done by professional sawyers. Volunteer instructors and ATC employees cannot provide instruction as in the past; 2.) There is only certification, not recertification as in the past. The levels of certification include at this time "intermediate," which allows a sawyer to buck to a "diameter at breast height" (dbh) determined by the instructor cadre for each sawyer based on ability, and "apprentice," which means that a sawyer has to work with an intermediate sawyer whenever sawing until such time that the apprentice returns to a later course and can pass the instructor's field testing; 3.) Intermediate sawyers will at some time in the future receive a set of chaps and a hard hat, compliments of the respective ATC maintaining club.

This year previously certified sawyers received five hours of classroom instruction on job hazard analysis, emergency planning, and use of personal protective equipment, all followed by chainsaw use and maintenance. This was followed by chainsaw tasks with both instruction and videos. Then old sawyers went to the field to demonstrate their skills in bucking, limbing, and removing spring poles and leaners.

Certified sawyers-to-be, in addition to the above, met on day two for three more hours of sawing, followed by an extensive breakdown and maintenance of the saw and a short review and evaluation of the course.

Each sawyer received the Forest Service "Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Training Course" student guidebook, an excellent resource for both new and old sawyers. The next chainsaw certification session

See Trailhead, page 22

Trailhead, from page 21

will be held at Greenbriar State Park, between Hagerstown and Frederick, Md., in October 2004.

Silent Saws

Blackburn Trail Center hosted the 2004 running of PATC's primitive tool workshop the weekend of April 17. PATC District Manager Dan Dueweke lectured on proper axe and saw techniques and how to safely clear a blowdown without getting the saw stuck in the tree, as well as how to get it out of the bind if you do. Each student had an opportunity to practice one- and two-man sawing, moving a log with a come-along, and "walking down" a leaner obstructing the trail. The evening's entertainment consisted of a saw sharpening demonstration that included the jointing, filing, setting, and swaging of a crosscut saw's many teeth – now that's entertainment!

"New" Crosscut Saws Coming to The Tool Room

Speaking of CC saws, PATC is in the process of purchasing some "new" "old stock" crosscut saws to replenish its inventory. It is still possible to find unused early 20th century crosscut saws, often in their original packaging. Saws by Simonds, Disston, and Ohlen Bishop have been purchased and will probably be available in Vienna by the time this edition goes to press. Just keep 'em out of the dirt.

Hoodlums Take Advantage

Any of PATC's trail crews knows the benefits of doing treadwork on a bright sunny day following several days of continuous rain. You know it as soon as the pick or McLeod hits the soil! From mid-summer on, that same dirt will grow rock-hard. And so by chance the North District Hoodlums took full advantage of such an opportunity on their April "Southwestern" worktrip performing sidehill and rock waterbar construction on the upper portion of the Little Devils Stairs Trail. The earth was soft, and the crew was able to rehab a long stretch of trail as a result. John Collins, a reporter from Luray, came along to gather material for an article to appear later this summer in a Sunday supplement for Shenandoah Valley newspapers, and he rolled up his sleeves and joined in the work as well.

Afterwards, we enlisted the aid of some authentic Tex-Mex chefs who accompanied us to Indian Run Hut and prepared a great Southwestern spread of goat chili, quesadil-



Hoodlums Stahlman, McCrea, and Walters ponder where youth has gone and, more importantly, the Irish stew.

las, dry gulch beans, salad, and jalapeno cornbread. Many agreed that Amy's flan with rum was the best they had ever had.

George Walters also had the opportunity to work with a group of students from George Washington University's GW Trails Program on the AT section near Range View Cabin in April. "I stress the word 'opportunity' because these college groups not only do nice work, but they are some of the nicest young people one could ever meet," George says.

PHT: Walkers and Landslides

The Potomac Heritage Trail showed off its good and ugly sides this spring. It's good when 20 House of Representative staffers enjoy a gorgeous spring day with a wildflower hike of the PHT. Its ugly when a landslide sends human-sized boulders covering a much-used access trail.

PATC and the American Hiking Society sponsored the hiking event whose highlight was viewing the bountiful Virginia bluebells (and pink or white mutants). The hikers toured PHT's more beautiful Turkey Run – Dead Run section, and a Park Service ranger provided a cameo for helpful wildflower identification.

The landslide came without fanfare or warning. No one was injured as a side of the nearby palisades let loose on the Windy Run access trail to the PHT. The Park Service closed the access trail, denying many local Arlington, Va., residents easy use of the PHT. Even with police barricades, local fishermen and dog walkers appear to be "climbing the boulders" to be able to continue enjoying the

river. The Park Service enlisted a geologist from its Denver office to consider the remaining slope's stability and other alternatives. There is no indication the access trail will open soon.

April Snow Doesn't Stop Blue and White

Late season snowstorms in Shenandoah nearly canceled the Blue and White April outing. The crew arrived at the park on Saturday morning to find Skyline Drive closed to visitors. Unable to reconnoiter at the appointed rendezvous in the Park (for a planned tread re-hab project near the South River Maintenance Hut), the crew splintered into several small workgroups. Alpha Team (Dueweke, Hillon, and Ellis) attacked blowdowns on the AT south of Thornton Gap and on the Crusher Ridge Trail, while Delta Team (Paull and Richardson) did the same on the Powell Mountain Trail. Omega Group A (Wilson) scouted the crew retreat path, while Omega Group B (Holland and Holland) ensured that no blowdowns or other obstacles blocked entrances to gift shops or restaurants in the greater SNP vicinity. Finally, the B&W Stealth Saw Ops Group, commanded by Seaman Bernie Stalman, donned climbing gear and packed their crosscut saws for the ascent of the nearly vertical Sam's Ridge, crosscutting blowdowns as they climbed. While the Ops Group was largely successful, waning daylight forced the group to leave several large "elements for surprise and discovery" (translation: huge blowdowns) on the Broad Hollow Trail. The various teams (with the

See Trailhead, page 23

Trailhead, from page 23

exception of Omega Groups A and B) were miraculously reunited at Sal's in Stanardsville for pizzas and beer, before they retired to Mutton Top Cabin for the evening.

Massanutten North

Ed Brimberg reports many trips by a dedicated few have completed the clearing of the trails of the effects of Hurricane Isabel in the Massanutten North District. In a new initiative, they have begun an effort to extend the Scothorn Gap Trail from Crisman Hollow Road to the Massanutten Trail on the top of Kern Mountain. In April they flagged the trail. The next step is for the Forest Service to do the paperwork and get approval.

Entry Run Trail

The dedication of the Entry Run Trail is set for June 19 at the trailhead with Pocosin Fire Road in the SNP. The trail begins at the end of Rte. 643 in Greene County, Va., on the east side of the SNP, crosses the PATC Per-Lee Tract and ultimately leads to the AT near Pocosin Cabin via the Pocosin Fire Road. This is the first new access trail into the SNP in more than 30 years.

In preparation for the dedication, the Cadillac Crew used an April work trip to improve the tread and add steps to a steep section. Tom Johnson, our PATC president, assisted the crew in this endeavor on what turned out to be a great day for trail work – cool and dry.



Dick Dugan provides Key School student instruction on the finer points of crosscut sawing – 60s-style.

Photo by George Walters

Tuscarora Central District

The Pinnacle Crew has been busy this spring getting the trails in shape in the area of The Pinnacle. Because of the map scale there are four trails in that area that aren't even on Map L. Only the Tuscarora Trail is indicated on the map in the vicinity of The Pinnacle. The names of three of the nonpublished trails described fairly well their purpose: the Rock Cave & Overlook Trail, The Laurel Run Trail,

and the Waterfall Trail. However, the Frye Path Trail requires some explanation.

The Frye Path was part of a pioneer trail that crossed Great North Mountain connecting Back Creek Valley to the Shenandoah Valley. Most of the path had probably been an Indian track in earlier times. In one incident, the Indians attacked a group of whites on the path and took some captives across the mountain. Somewhere along the path, they killed a baby of one of the prisoners, fearing that its crying would alert pursuers.

In recent years a portion of the Frye Path, all originally in the woods, had "strayed" out onto the utility ROW. This spring the Pinnacle Crew relocated that portion back into the woods where it belongs. The Indians and pioneers didn't follow the powerline!

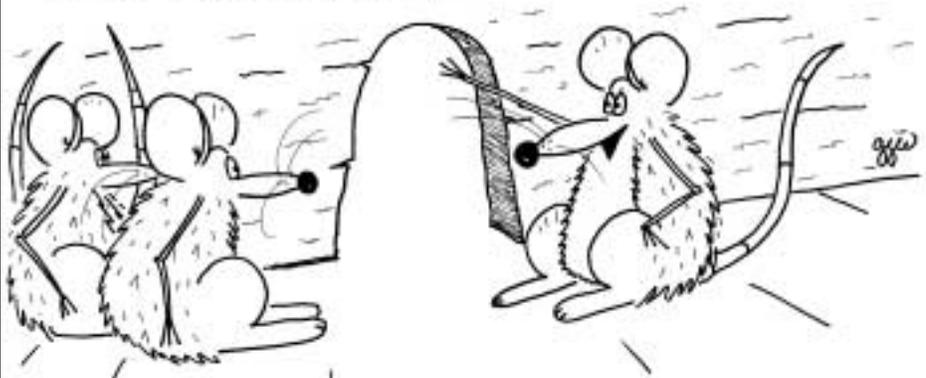
The Pinnacle can be reached by hiking north on the Tuscarora Trail from Lucas Woods or south from Gore. By 2005 it is expected that the Biby Wilderness Access Trail, now under construction by the Acme Treadway Crew, will provide another public trail to the vicinity of The Pinnacle from Great North Mountain through Shawneeland.

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

Tails from the Woods by George Walters

The History of Louie, Part 5

A LEADER IS BORN!



"OK!...THEY'VE STORED ALL THEIR FOOD IN THE PROPER CONTAINERS... ARE WE GONNA TAKE THIS LYING DOWN?!... I SAY WE CHEW SLEEPING BAGS TONIGHT!..... AT THE TOES!!"

Trail, Shelter and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

Shelter Overseer Opening

Manassas Gap Shelter – Northern VA – Map 8

Frank Turk, 301/249-8243
FrankTurk@aol.com

Co-District Manager for SNP North AT - Map 9

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

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

Tuscarora Pennsylvania Maps J & K

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

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

Ashby/Possums AT/Blue-Blazed [Rte. 50 to SNP] – Map 8, 9

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

Appalachian Trail

2nd creek crossing to pipeline (1.2 miles)

Appalachian Trail

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

SNP North AT – Map 9

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

Appalachian Trail – Co-overseer

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

SNP North District Blue-Blazed – Map 9

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

Piney Branch Trail [lower] – Co-overseer

Powerline to Hull School Trail (2.2 miles)

SNP Central Blue-Blazed [north end] – Map 10

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

Corbin Mountain Trail – Co-overseer

Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fireroad (4.4 miles)

Passamaquoddy Trail

AT to Skyland Dining Hall (1.2 miles)

SNP Central Blue-Blazed [south end] – Map 10

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

Hawksbill Trail [upper]

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

Jones Mt. Trail

Bear Church Rock to Cat Knob Trail (2.8 miles)

SNP South Blue-Blazed (Map 11)

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

Brown Mountain Trail – Co-overseers

Skyline Drive to Big Run Portal Trail (5.3 miles)

Tuscarora Central – Map L

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

Tuscarora Trail

Hunters Cabin to Northern Rockfield (1.2 miles)

1.4 miles south of Howze Campground

Tuscarora Trail

Northern Rockfield to Southern Rockfield (1.5 miles)

1 mile from the Pinnacle Shelter

Tuscarora South – Map F, G, 9

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

Tuscarora Trail

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Doll Ridge to Rock marker (1.5 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Rock marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Shaw Gap to Sherman Gap (2.5 miles)

Great North Mountain – Map F

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

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

Volunteers Appointed in April

Trail Overseers

Roger Paul Guyett

William Timperley

Bull Run-Occaquan Trail – Route 28 parking lot to Ordway

Appalachian Trail – Fishers Gap to Big Meadows



The Potomac Appalachian

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