



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 28, Number 6
June 1999

Rachel Carson

With National Trails Day this month, this seems like the perfect time of year to look at some of the people who played significant roles in the development of parks and our outlook on the environment.

Rachel Louise Carson (1907 - 1964) is best known for her book *Silent Spring*, which sounded the alarm regarding the increasing use of indiscriminate pesticides in the 1950s. Through this one book she was able to bring about an awareness of the plight of our environment. She was able to drive home the message of the interconnected world we live in through a writing style that combined scientific research (her list of sources is roughly 30 pages long in my copy) with imagery for the layman (just read the short first chapter and you will understand what I mean). Many people are aware that this book is regarded as one of the catalysts for the environmental movement that led to the first Earth Day, but many people do not know how strong her ties were to Maryland.

Carson was born in Springdale, Pennsylvania. She was an avid writer even during her childhood. After graduating from the Pennsylvania College for Women in 1929, she obtained a master's degree in zoology from Johns Hopkins University in 1932. During the early 1930s, Carson taught zoology at the University of Maryland. She lived in Silver Spring, Maryland for many years of her life, and her main residence was still located in Silver Spring when she died of cancer in 1964.

Carson used both her skills as zoologist and writer to develop a career as a marine biologist and science writer at the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In her writings, she stressed the interrelation of all living things and the dependence of human welfare on a healthy environment. In addition to many articles for magazines and editorial duties in her job, Carson wrote *Under the Sea-Wind* (1941), and the critically acclaimed *The Sea Around Us* (1951).

Insecticide experiments in Maryland caught her attention as early as 1952. She became increasingly appalled by government abuse of pesticides. It wasn't until she wrote *Silent Spring* (1962) that she was able to capture the world's attention regarding the hazards associated with pesticide use. Timing played a large role in her success. Between 1957 and 1959 the effects of these policies began to spring to the forefront of concerns of the scientific community and slowly to reach the media. Carson described, in layman's terms, many of the scientific findings linking declining populations of small animals to insecticide spraying programs for Dutch elm disease, gypsy moth, bollworm, and many other pests.

Silent Spring led to restrictions on the use of pesticides in many parts of the world and to an environmental movement that echoed throughout the 1970s. The bad news is that, despite pesticide controls and banning the use of some insecticides, songbird populations continue to decline and we still rely heavily on chemicals to control pest damage to agricultural crops. □

—Lynn Witwer

Acid Rain — Why Hikers Should Care

When hikers list the most pressing issues for footpaths, they include problems like suburban sprawl, funding shortfalls, trail erosion, and user impacts. Air pollution rarely tops the list, being a problem generally associated with cities. Recent research, however, indicates that hikers and trail corridors are heavily impacted by acid rain, the precipitation that falls through air fouled by coal-fired electrical plants and other industrial polluters. In fact, the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of PATC, in concern over the effects of acid rain in that area, has unanimously voted to endorse Virginia's Clean Air Campaign.

Acid rain primarily affects the health of forests, streams, and human respiratory systems. Though the problem is nationwide—California had the highest number of unhealthy

smog days in 1998—to date, much of the acid rain research has focused on eastern United States. A 1998 study of 530 non-smoking hikers on Mount Washington by the Appalachian Mountain Club, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the Harvard School of Public Health showed that prolonged outdoor exercise during moderate levels of air pollution—low level exposures to ozone, fine particulate matter and acid aerosols (air pollutants commonly transported to the mountains)—caused a measurable reduction in lung function. For those with lung or circulatory problems, the effect was four times greater. The study also showed that longer hikes, and thus greater exposure to pollutants, led to greater reduction in lung function.

Coal-fired power plants contribute the bulk of pollutants that cause acid rain, but the

See *Acid Rain*, page 3

In this Issue...

Council Fire	2
Walt's Notes	3
A Tradition Revived	4
Tulip Tree Cabin	4
Willow is Arrested	6
PATC Saves Heritage Book	7
Forecast of Events	8
Trailwork Isn't That Hard	13
Donations	14
Notices	15
The Bear Necessities	16
Blackwater Canyon	17
Trailhead	18
Trail Overseers Wanted	20

Council Members, Chairs and Staff

Officers

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

VP Operations: George Still

VP Volunteerism: Tom Johnson

Supervisor of Trails: Peter Gatje

Email: PJGatje@aol.com

Supervisor of Corridor Management:

Tom Lupp

General Secretary: Warren Sharp

General Counsel: Eric Olson

Membership Secretary: Terry Cummings

Treasurer: Dick Newcomer

Recording Secretary: Gerhard Salinger

Sections/ Chapters

Mountaineering Section: Ozana Halik

SMRG: Bud Hyland

Ski Touring Section: Katherine Stentzel

North Chapter: Steve Koeppen

N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Martha Clark

S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Lynn Cameron

Charlottesville Chapter: John Shannon

West Virginia Chapter: Jane Thompson

Standing Committee Chairs

(Council Members)

Blackburn Trail Center: Chris Brunton

Cabins: Matt Ogorzalek

Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf

Conservation: Mary Margaret Sloan

Corporate Donations: Jack Reeder

Endowment: Bill Ladd

Finance: John Richards

Hikes: Tom Johnson

Internet Services: Andy Hiltz

Land Management: Ed McKnew

Land Acquisition: Phil Paschall & Eric Olson

Legal: Eric Olson

Maps: Dave Pierce

Maryland Appalachian Trail Management

Committee: Charlie Graf

Public Affairs: Terry Cummings

Publications: Aaron Watkins

Shelters: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053

Trail Patrol: Mickey McDermott

Tuscarora Trail Land Management:

Lloyd MacAskill

Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

Archives & Library: Paula Strain

Cabin Reservations: Darlene Wall

Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Rick Rhoades

Firestone Tract Management: Shirley Strong

Information/Sales Desks: Marguerite

Schneeberger

Medical: Dennis DeSilvey

Vining Tract Management: Howard Johnson

Potomac Appalachian

Chief Editor: Bianca Menendez

bianca@moon.jic.com

Features Editor: Joanne Erickson

Forecast Editor: Joe O'Neill

JJO'Neill@visi.net

Pre-press: Nancy Merritt,

MeritMktg@aol.com

Council Fire

Publicity and Website Bring Increased Membership

The Council held its regular meeting on April 13, 1999 at the Club headquarters. The meeting was attended by 24 Council members, 3 staff, and 5 Club members. The PATC membership stands at 6,734. There were 336 new members registered in the months of February and March and four new Life Members. Favorable publicity in the *Washington Post* and elsewhere increases traffic on the PATC website (<http://www.patc.net>) and results in more members.

Andy Hiltz provided an overview of the PATC Internet site, which receives over 4,200 hits per week. 38% of the new members and 40% of the direct sales are initiated on the Internet. As webmaster, Andy spends from 2 to 4 hours per night. His activities have gone from new content to maintenance. The website provides a trail forum, information about the Club and special events, and special resources about hiking and camping. Andy is looking for an assistant webmaster.

New Honorary Life Members

The Council meeting began with a ceremony awarding Honorary Life Memberships to Marjorie Dexter, Jean Golightly, Sandra Marra, and Randall Minchew.

Committee Chair Changes

Aaron Watkins is the new chair of the Publications Committee. Darleen Wall replaces Marilyn Stone as chair of the Cabins Reservation Committee. Shirley Strong is chair of the Firestone Tract Management Committee. Lee Schaefer is the new editor of the *Shenandoah National Park Guide*.

PATC Seminars and Classes

The Corridor Management seminar was very successful with 28 in attendance. Almost all areas now have corridor managers who monitor the boundaries of PATC properties.

The Trail Patrol class on backpacking had 29 participants and 25 on a waiting list. Four ridgerunners have been hired for the summer—two in Virginia and one each in Maryland and Pennsylvania. The ridgerunners educate the public about low impact hiking and camping.

Local Management Plan

After adopting the revised PATC Local Management Plan for the Appalachian Trail, the Council voted special thanks to General Secretary Warren Sharp for his monumental effort in researching and revising the 350 page document. It involves 33 policies of PATC. The ATC found the document exemplary, and other trails organizations want to use it as a model. The Council also approved a Memorandum of Understanding for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The MOU describes specific understandings and working relationships among the trail partners within the Commonwealth of Virginia outside of the Shenandoah National Park and the National Forests.

Lands Expenditures

The Council voted to contribute \$25,000 over three years to the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands toward the purchase of 250 acres of the Shannondale property near Buzzard's Rock. The Council agreed to provide one-year grants of \$4,000 each to Eric Nasar and Guy Mullinix for their continuing assistance

See Council Fire, page 4

Thank You from Shenandoah National Park

Saturday, April 24 was National Volunteer Day. As Superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, I take this opportunity to say, thank you, to the many volunteers from your community who have helped the Park.

Volunteers at Shenandoah do amazing work. They welcome campers, clear trails, and care for birds used in ranger talks. They write, edit, sort, compute, calculate, study, repair, and share their knowledge. Some people work for a day, others for years. All of this helps to

protect resources and serve visitors.

Last fiscal year, volunteers contributed over 40,000 hours. Volunteers give far more than their time, however. They give their enthusiasm, wisdom, and even their love. These are great gifts to Shenandoah National Park. With deepest appreciation, thank you all.

—Douglas K. Morris,
Superintendent,
Shenandoah National Park

Walt's Notes — You do Make a Difference - Part II

On another page in this issue of the *Potomac Appalachian* is a copy of a letter from Doug Morris in which he expresses thanks to PATC members who work as volunteers in Shenandoah National Park. It is not unusual now a days to hear such expressions of pleasure from members of the National Park Service or the Forest Service. Last spring I attended a conference where Robert Stanton, the Director of the NPS, said “volunteers are the reason we get up and go to work in the morning”. Bill Damon, Forest Supervisor for George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, recently added his thanks for PATC volunteers during a Lee District/PATC Partnership Hike held on Great North Mountain.

I think that there are at least three reasons why PATC volunteers have a good reputation among the public lands staff as well as the users. We work hard, we communicate

well, and we follow the rules. Our hard work is evident to both the public and our partners, and the results reflect well on both members of the partnership. We generally try to mix with our partners, in both work and fun, and this helps improve communication. Finally, most PATC volunteers follow the rules, even though they change from state to state, park to forest, or as established by private owners. By making an extra effort to follow the rules, we seem to fit in—no matter what the circumstances are.

The Balance Sheet

Following the rules may also mean filing a report that indicates how many hours we work as a volunteer. This information is not only important to our government partners, but it is also important to PATC! Do you realize that your volunteer hours affect our Balance Sheet? PATC currently attributes eleven percent of its costs to administrative overhead.

This is a low amount for an organization. Every hour of service that you report as a volunteer helps keep our administrative figures at a low level. Why is the Balance Sheet important to anyone besides the Treasurer? For one reason, it is important to organizations or individuals contemplating providing PATC a grant or gift that will assist us in achieving our objectives. Donors are more willing to give to a non-profit organization with low administrative costs. The services you provide do make a difference. So please try hard to accurately report what you are doing as a volunteer. If there is any question concerning how you report your hours please ask your committee chair.

Recently Appointed Committee Chairs

I am grateful for the following members who have volunteered to fill a committee chair
See Walt, page 4

Acid Rain, from page 1

impact of dirty plants is not merely local. Air pollution moves long distances from its source and knows no boundaries. Long distance transport from urban to rural areas can result in rural areas having air pollution problems equal to or greater than urban areas. According to the Southern Environmental Law Center, Shenandoah National Park experienced 22 days last summer when the level of ozone smog in the Park exceeded the new federal health standard. In Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Appalachian Mountain Club tallied 34 days last year that were unhealthy for at least 8 hours of the day. The number of ozone violations in the park—over 40 per year—is exceeded only by three cities, Los Angeles, Houston and Atlanta. In New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest, the average visibility over the last fifty years has been reduced from approximately 90 to about 35 miles. In the west, according to studies by the conservation group the Izaak Walton League, air quality is equally unhealthy in the parks and forests of Minnesota, New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona. There, too, air pollution harms forest and mountain ecosystems and threatens hiker health.

How is the Clean Air Act Doing?

With the effects of air pollution and acid rain so widespread, can the Clean Air Act be doing its job? In August 1998, the National Acid

Precipitation Assessment Program (NAPAP) finally released its long overdue report on the effectiveness of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. A product of NAPAP member agencies such as the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Departments of Energy, Interior, and Agriculture, and NASA, the report assessed how well the country is doing in reaching our national goals for reducing acid rain. Some of NAPAP's findings were positive. The market-based approach to emissions trading appears to be a success. Reductions in sulfur dioxide emissions from utility smokestacks have occurred on time and overall sulfur dioxide emissions have indeed decreased. Measurements of trends in acid deposition and acidity levels for many lakes in New England show significant reductions.

But there are notable exceptions. New York's Adirondack Mountains and other high-elevation acid sensitive areas are not among NAPAP's success stories. The report states that “sensitive areas, most notably the Adirondacks, have not shown decreasing trends in the acidity of surface water.” Acidity leaches aluminum out of rock and soil and depletes the high elevation soil of vital nutrients. Aluminum destroys the root hairs of the trees, preventing them from absorbing the water and nutrients they need for survival. Such a weakened state then makes them prone to blow-downs, infestation, and other intense elements. Right

now, approximately 25 percent of the Adirondack Park's lakes and ponds cannot support plant and aquatic wildlife. The NAPAP report estimates that if current acid deposition rates continue unabated, by the year 2040 more than 40 percent of the Park's lakes and ponds will be unable to support life. Nearly all of its rivers and streams will be too acidic every spring.

To the passing hiker, the damage to the mosaic of interrelated ecosystems in these lakes is not always apparent. Fish populations in many lakes have become nonexistent, as have the waterfowl that feed on them. Vegetation and insect life, unable to adapt to increasingly acidic waters, suffer as well. Ultimately, the cumulative effects of acid rain will lead to a decrease in bio-diversity, an increasingly visible threat to forest health and the experience of being in the woods.

For more information on the Clean Air Campaign or how you can get involved in your state, visit American Hiking's web site at www.americanhiking.org.

This report is based on research by Meg Carr, Legislative Associate, Adirondack Mountain Club, an AHS affiliate. □

—Mary Margaret Sloan,
excerpted from *American Hiker Magazine*,
June 1999

Walt, from page 3

vacancy since the first of the year: Lloyd MacAskill, Tuscarora Trail Land Management; Aaron Watkins, Publications; Dennis DeSilvey, Medical; Shirley Strong, Firestone Tract Management; Darlene Wall, Cabin Reservations; and John Richards, Finance. Many thanks for stepping forward to make a difference.

See you on the trail,

Council Fire, from page 2

in land acquisition and conservation projects along the AT corridor. Council agreed to accept an offer from Kyle Barbehenn for a scenic easement over a recently acquired 48 acre property in Clarke County subject to review and ratification of the terms and conditions of the easement. The Council authorized the expenditure of \$13,000 for the purchase of the Simonson Tract along the Tuscarora Trail. This purchase preserves public access for hikers to rock outcropping with spectacular views. Jim Peterson, a friend of the late Richard Simonson, agreed to be Tract Manager. The Council approved to purchase a twelve month option to purchase 210 acres of land in two parcels from John Bennett along the AT corridor in Virginia. In this period, PATC would launch a fund raising campaign to fund the purchase.

PATC Financial Statements

The firm of Cocke, Szpanka and Taylor, CPAs, PC audited the financial statements for the 1998 calendar year and found them in excellent order. The Council accepted the report and also the Treasurer's reports for February and March.

Dues Reimbursement to Chapters

The Council voted to simplify the dues policy for reimbursing the Chapters for a portion of PATC members' dues. Henceforth, each Chapter will receive \$4.00 per PATC member in certain defined zip codes. During the budget process, each Chapter must provide a roster of members, a statement of expenses, and an annual report of activities.

Records Donation Tabled

A motion to donate the first fifty years of records of PATC to the George Washington University Library for safekeeping was tabled because Council members had concerns about access and eventual disposition. □

—Gerhard Salinger,
Recording Secretary

A Tradition Revived

Work parties have been half of PATC's activities ever since the Club began, but only within the last quarter century have they been exclusively trail and construction work parties. PATC used to have work parties folding maps for sale, mailing out newsletters, etc. Necessary Club work got done, and participants enjoyed their friends at the same time. Recently, the Headquarters work party has been revived.

PATC Archives had been blessed with five legal-sized file drawers filled with 35mm color slides showing Club activities—but the drawers came with no organization whatever. In 1998, a Headquarters work party was announced in the Forecast section, and phone calls were made to members who remembered Headquarters work parties. One Saturday afternoon, a dozen older PATC members and one man who had just joined the Club showed up at Headquarters, and tackled the mass of slides.

Any slide with caption and date was kept. One with a caption but no date, or one dated by the developer could be kept as well. Over half the slides on hand had to be discarded simply because they told nothing useful to today's viewers. That work party ended with only two file drawers of slides awaiting organization.

This February, a second work party was held on a weekday. It, too, drew more than a dozen old-timers, and another new member who was curious. This time the sorting was by date of the activity or that of developing. Seven piles were made, one for each decade

of the Club's existence. We began to attempt to do a second sort of the slides within decades, but eyes were tired and traffic rush hour approached, so the work party ended.

Since then, a volunteer has taken the slides of each of the first five decades home and sorted them by kind of activity: hikes; trail maintenance and construction; building use, construction, and repair; and good old "everything else". The slides are now stored properly for preservation and are indexed to the point that searching for a particular topic ought to produce results in a reasonable few minutes.

Until these old slides had been organized, who knew that PATC has several pictures of our first Headquarters, of the two "Red Beauty" trucks, of the apple-picking done in the 1940s when PATC needed money, and orchardists could not hire pickers to harvest their crops? Slides of these were found. There are slides of the first of the three Hermitage cabins, of vanished Three Springs and Yellow Rose Shelters. Scenery shots show how the forest came back to Shenandoah Park.

The slides taken since 1980 to the present remain unsorted, waiting either another work party or a volunteer willing to spend six to eight hours sorting them into those four categories. Which will it be?

If you're interested in this important aspect of preserving the Club's past, contact Paula Strain, 301/340-6895. □

—Paula Strain, Archivist

Tulip Tree Cabin—the Land and the Work

Hidden away on the west side of Skyline Drive, about one-and-a-quarter miles west-northwest of Jewell Hollow Overlook, is a moderately gentle slope in Shaver Hollow, thickly forested with poplar trees. The trees are tall and straight, having no limbs for the first 40 to 60 feet of their 80- to 120-foot height. They look like they were made to be cut for logs.

A log is the unhewn portion of the trunk of a felled tree. The two key words "felled" and "hewn" do not begin to describe the amount of work required before there is "timber," or wood from the log, shaped for structural use.

A good structural use would be for the building of a rustic cabin.

Through the generous gift of 60 acres of land from Darwin Lambert, PATC had a good location for construction of a new cabin, reasonable access, and on-site materials, both wood and rock. The name for the cabin was obvious, as the poplars are the tulip variety of the magnolia family, displaying large yellow blossoms in the spring.

The Trees

The National Audubon Society's Field Guide to North American Trees notes, "Habitat:

moist, well-drained soils, especially valleys and slopes; often in pure stands." The stand of trees on the Shaver Hollow slope is probably only 85 percent poplars, and the soils are well drained, which has significance for ground-water and means a spring and water supply.

Trees on a sloping mountainside are subjected to unusual wind conditions as well as the forces of gravity. To compensate for these conditions, the tree may grow thicker on one side than the other. The tree is, in essence, over-stressing on one side to help it withstand the wind and gravity. When hewn, the stress pattern is changed, sometimes resulting in stress relief so great that the log splits. Then it's back to the hewing stand with another tree.

Dealing with Rocks

There is something about the Shaver Hollow site that catches one's eye and stimulates one's thinking. For a site at an elevation of about 1,550 feet in the mountains, it is strange to see no rock outcrops. However, there are rocks everywhere in the soil, and quite a number of them were transformed into dry-laid walls, built on the edges of fields years ago by German settlers. The walls—four to five feet high, three to four feet wide and continuous for hundreds of feet—were not meant to be fences to contain animals but were merely repositories for rocks removed from the ground to make tillable fields for crops. They are made of rocks that one man could lift, mostly no bigger than a large watermelon, but generally smaller.

The rocks are sub-rounded with few sharp edges and are from the Pedlar Formation of greenish gray, coarse-grained granodiorite. Once these rocks had been removed from the soil, a significant thickness of soil remained, and this is unusual on the flank of a hard-rock mountain. The answer to this enigma is that the gentle slope in Shaver Hollow is an ancient debris flow, probably prehistoric. The steep slope at the head of the hollow is the source of the material.

Cabin Building Begins—the Hard Way

So, with rock and wood available, the work on the cabin could begin. First, the site had to be cleared. Closely spaced, tall tulip trees, with a spreading canopy, do not always fall completely when severed from their roots. Their limbs tangle with those of the next tree, and the half-fallen tree hangs up. These "widder makers" require extra work to get on the ground so they can be debarked and hewn into timber.

The foundation excavation had to be dug and rock hauled for the foundation. Water and cement had to be hauled to mix for mortar to hold the rocks. The floor had to be leveled and walls plumbed, with all lines straight and angles square.

At Tulip Tree, volunteer workers are practicing the near-forgotten art of cabin building, using the hand tools of their forebears.

Now, on a freezing February morning or the stifling humidity of an August afternoon, volunteer workers are practicing the near-forgotten art of cabin building, using the hand tools of their forebears. Use of the tools means use of words like "cant hook, slick, bark spud, peeling chisel, peavey, glut, carpenter's adze, broad ax, log tongs, auger, and chalk line." Saying the word is one thing, putting the tool to its proper use is another. Every other weekend for every month of the year—even January—the Tulip Tree Crew assembles on site for the continuation of the project under the watchful and patient guidance of Charlie Graf. With a few constant regulars and many one-timers, it's a continuing teaching-learning process that makes progress—albeit slowly.

Now that the walls are up and window openings cut, the concept is taking shape. The chamfer-and-notch corner joints have been cut and fitted with a cabinetmaker's care. The layout of this complicated variation of the cabinetmaker's dovetail joint on the rough wood requires not only an understanding of geometry but good drafting skills. Of course, the cutting of the joint with saw and chisel requires considerable skill as well.

Hard Yet Satisfying Work

Sometimes a log will split, or there is too much twist to the grain to make it worth hewing, or an error is made in measuring for the cut. But even with disappointments and extra work, there is no feeling like the camaraderie of working together on a project in the woods. And this project has the added attention of the donor of the land. Living just up the hill, the Lamberts often come down on their daily walk and chat about mushrooms, or leeks, or their fruit trees, as well as progress on the cabin.

If this cabinmaking work brings any thought of the mountain-folk settlers, there is no time better than at Christmas. Just before the holidays, the Tulip Tree Crew met to have their annual Christmas dinner in the cooking pavilion. This year the inside was decorated with sprays of evergreen; colorful, small, handmade ornaments hung from the sprigs. The dark of night melted away in the glow of the lantern, and the smell of turkey and roasted chicken wafted among the piney fragrance of the evergreens.

Potatoes cooking, pots boiling, coffee brewing and a sip of chilled wine. Fruitcake, pies, and cookies. The crew sat on benches at the tables, the physical closeness not unlike the spiritual closeness we all feel when working together. The little wood stove, radiating heat, won the fight against the evening chill. People chatted, ate, listened. It was not too much to imagine mountain folk on this very ground, gathered around the fireplace, going through these same rituals a hundred years ago before any of these poplars were even a thought. □

—Carl G. Bock

Thanks to the Unknown Hiker who Found my Keys

On the long shot chance that that person is here and listening — I just wanted to thank you for finding and returning my car keys (which were lost on Old Rag Mt.) to the park rangers, who subsequently mailed them to me here in New York. Much obliged!

Jim Close — Mechanicville, N.Y.
—from the Trails Forum at www.patc.net

A Reminder about Waste

Dear PATC,

I was riding up Milford Lane to the Milford Gap trail in Fort Valley, Va. I reached the top of the mountain and started down the East side. Practically in the middle of the trail, a hiker had found it necessary to relieve herself. There for all to step over was human feces covered and surrounded by Kleenex or handwipes.

It offended me, I expect it would offend PATC members, and it certainly is offensive to the forest itself. I am tired of encountering this type disgusting litter. Bodily waste and elimination are normal part of life and living. However, there are some choices as to WHERE and the manner in which those wastes are deposited. Urine and feces are biodegradable. When a facility is not available, a few steps into the bushes and likely "no one would ever know." Paper draws attention and stays around for a long time. Paper is not always necessary, but for those that feel it is pack it out! Perhaps some awareness would help clean up our forest.

Thank You,
Valerie Kanavy

Willow is Arrested: Tips for Hiking with Your Dog (*The second of two articles*)

There is a serious side to hiking with dogs. The endeavor requires care and foresight. Willow, being such a friendly and well-mannered dog, is rarely leashed, but the situation occasionally demands it. You may know your dog's temperament, but when hiking through populated areas you can happen onto people who are simply afraid of all dogs. There are even places where Willow is not wanted, and unfriendly regulations intrude.

To Leash or Not to Leash

Such was the case on a hike on the Catoctin Trail. When we entered Cunningham Falls State Park there was a big sign: "No Dogs Allowed (Not Even On a Leash)." It would have disrupted the hike (not to mention my own personal plans) for me to turn around and go back. But I knew that the trail was through unpopulated forests and felt the risks of an unpleasant incident were remote. So we pressed on.

Unfortunately, I had pretty much forgotten the park law by the time our lunch stop came. We chose to hike down to Cunningham Falls to eat. The place was mobbed with children, all of whom wanted to pet Willow, so I slipped the leash and let her play with them. As I got up to go, I looked for Willow. She was in the custody of a park ranger, who looked singularly unhappy about the turn of events. We were ushered to the park boundary (only a quarter of a mile away) and told to go hike in Catoctin Park across the road where the Feds allow dogs.

Willow gets leashed in heavily populated areas, especially in urban surroundings or tourist attractions. Away from those areas, I let her run. Hikers are generally tolerant of dogs, and many have their own with them. On a 12- or 15-mile hike through backwoods it seems a little ridiculous to leash a dog. If the dog can't be trusted, don't take it along. Some clubs have rules prohibiting pets on hikes. PATC has no such rule, and none has been proposed in recent years.

Dogs Must Condition, Too

Another serious issue is physical conditioning. Dogs don't go to the gym to do push-ups—many just eat, sleep, and lie around all day. Like us, they grow fat and lazy, and getting them into condition can be almost as hard as getting ourselves in shape.

Many dogs develop sore pads, and this is sometimes a showstopper. I recently ran into a young through-hiker on the Appalachian

Trail with a highly temperamental Great Dane. The decision to hike the AT with the dog was a loser on two counts: the dog couldn't be trusted, and it had developed such sore paws that the young man had sent for booties, which may or may not have cured the problem. Before undertaking any journey, test your dog's capabilities.

Willow, fortunately, has never had sore pads and regularly hikes 10 to 15 miles in a day at a fast clip without a single "When are we going to get there?" However, she can be a little lethargic on very long summer hikes and tends to lag back some 20 yards or so from the main group. That is a sign that she is not having fun yet!

Earlier in her hiking career she gave no thought to taking water—she was not able to plan ahead. But after a few very dry hikes she learned, and now she rarely passes up a water stop. Of course I carry extra water for her, but she prefers mud puddles. Having that ridiculously long snout, she has trouble drinking from water dishes because the end of her nose goes under water. She likes ponds. She plunges in and then scoops up water like a crocodile, slicing horizontally through the shallows.

Problems to Watch For

Dogs like Willow, with a heavy winter coat all year long, can get overheated. But dogs can also become hypothermic. Recently Angus Phillips wrote a column for the *Washington Post* describing a dog that became hypothermic on a winter hunting trip in Wyoming. The dog displayed many of the human signs of hypothermia—disorientation, poor judgment, lethargy. Fortunately, the hunters got him back to the truck in time to warm him up, and later he was bounding around as if nothing had happened. But it was a close thing.

Ticks are a constant problem. Willow's heavy coat provides a very effective hiding place for the little devils, and it is difficult if not impossible to find them all after a summer hike. Willow once got Lyme disease. The symptoms were obvious—her joints swelled, and movement was painful. She could not climb stairs. If you have ever wondered whether or not you can spot Lyme disease, this stage is a piece of cake. We took her immediately to the vet, who put her through a lengthy and expen-

sive cure. But it worked, and Willow has been free of symptoms for two years.

Showing Off a New Prowess

Over the years Willow has shed some of her phobias. She now fords streams that she formerly would have avoided. (But I have never taken her back to Little Devils Stairs—we don't want to test her new-found capabilities too specifically.) Her acrophobia has also disappeared, and a hike up Mary's Rock not too long ago saw her mincing along the edge of the cliff. But Willow still has trouble doing big rocks. She has never done Old Rag, and she never will. I have enough trouble with that myself without worrying about Willow.

Last summer I was on a hike to Duncan Knob on Massanutten Mountain and found the last quarter mile to be a lot of rock hopping. The rocks were just too big for Willow, and we took turns carrying her to the top.

Willow has become a regular on PATC hikes. She can hike long distances, doesn't complain and rarely interrupts a conversation. She is happy with an occasional pat on the head, or a little Chinese stir-fry. She poses for pictures and will stand still for the photographer while others in the group are still arranging themselves. Most hikers take an instant liking to her. When she finally hangs it up and retires from hiking, she will have many happy memories. The Club, on the other hand, will have some disappointed hikers. □

—Tom Johnson

HEADQUARTERS
HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US
FOR CABIN RESERVATIONS,
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, AND SALES

Address: 116 Park Street, SE, 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
To receive an information packet: Extension 10
To leave a message for the Club President Walt Smith:
Extension 40
24-hr. Activities Tape #: 703/242-0965
Facsimile #: 703/242-0968
Club E-mail #: Wriley1226@aol.com
World Wide Web URL: <http://www.patc.net>

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11)
Email: Wriley1226@aol.com
Trails Management Coordinator: Heidi Forrest
(Ext. 12) Email: heidif@erols.com
Business Manager: Regina Garnett (Ext. 15)
Email: rgarnett@erols.com
Membership/Cabin Coordinator: Pat Fankhauser
(Ext. 17) Email: pfankh@erols.com
Sales Coordinator: Maureen Estes (Ext. 19)
Email: patcsales@erols.com

PATC Saves Heritage Book

It's interesting how book opportunities sometimes emerge for the Club store. During Christmas 1997, veteran AT trail overseer Nick Williams presented me with a beautiful book called *Pioneering Ascents - The Origins of Climbing in America, 1642-1873*, written by Dave Mazel. Since I've always been a history buff, especially early history exploring our U.S. mountain ranges, I couldn't wait to dig in and travel back in time to the days when the first white men set their gaze on the far ridges and wondered. The book did not disappoint.

I followed excerpts of the travels of John Brickell as he wandered into the dark recesses of the "Charokee Range" of North Carolina. I followed in the foot-steps of Darby Fields as he topped the summit of Mt. Washington in 1642. I read André Michaux's scientific account of his 1795 ascent of Roan Mountain, then moved on to other "first ascents" of Kathadin, Mount Mitchell, Pike's Peak, Long's Peak, Mount Ranier, Mount St. Helens, the Sierra Nevada, and many more. I was on a journey of another kind, seeing these magnificent mountains through the eyes of those who spotted them first and said, "We must climb this mountain." I turned the last page with regret but also with an interest in getting the book to Jean Golightly (PATC's former Publications Committee Chairman) to see if we could carry it in our store. Jean read it, then passed it to Paula Strain (the Club Archivist) for review, who in turn passed it to Tony Sanders (Mountaineering Section president) for a final review. Everyone

agreed—this book was special. Jean asked me to contact the publisher for terms, and I figured it would be an easy matter to arrange an order for the Club.

Or so I thought.

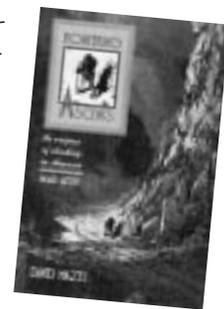
It turned out the book was out of print, and the publisher had no idea where the author was. They had a contact number, but, as I quickly discovered, Dave Mazel was no longer there. It took a dozen phone calls to colleges around the country to find Mazel (he's a Professor of English), but I finally located Dave in tiny Adams College in Colorado. "Would you allow our Club to bring your book back in print?" I inquired. "I think we can work something out," Dave replied. And so it went from there.

Two months later I received a call from Jean. "We're going to print with *Pioneering Ascents!*" Jean told me that not only had Dave allowed us to reprint this extraordinary book, but he had decided to donate the entire manuscript and all copyrights to the Club. Suddenly PATC had become the "owner" of a mountaineering publication.

So what about this book.

If ever there was a heritage book on the American mountains, this is it. The book provides a thumbnail sketch of the first discovery of the greatest American peaks and ranges. It's comprised of a compilation of excerpts from the original manuscripts and

diaries of the first explorers, with an informative and well-researched preface by Mazel in each chapter. The book is absolutely fascinating, and deserving of a coveted space on any outdoorsmen's bookshelf. It's a "golden" publication well worth a read, and a "must have" if you love mountain history.



If you're online, a scanned excerpt can be reviewed on our website (<http://patc.net/pubs.html>). If you enjoy a good book on mountaineering history, no other publication comes close. Copies are now available for purchase at \$14.95 each. Thankfully, PATC was able to save this extraordinary book from the dustbin of history at the last minute—thanks to a simple act of kindness on Christmas Day, 1997.

PATC would like to thank David Mazel for this extraordinary and generous donation to our Club. Jean grabbed one of the first copies of *Pioneering Ascents* when it came off the presses and had PATC Council members sign the book during the April meeting. We hope Dave enjoys his "signature" copy as much as we enjoy bringing this outstanding publication back to the hiking public. □

—Andy Hiltz,
Internet Services Committee Chairman

Congratulations 1999 Dogwood Half Hundred Finishers

Congratulations to the 181 hikers who finished the Dogwood Half Hundred this year and to all the hikers who participated. For the second year in a row Andrew Peterson (pictured here) was the first finisher, completing the hike in 5 hours, 25 minutes, 2 minutes faster than last year. Jeanne Christie was the first woman to finish, in 6 hours, 54 minutes. Hiker #181 finished at 6:58 pm, 12 hours and 28 minutes after beginning. Special thanks to the volunteers who made this event possible.



Photo by Walt Smith



Patrons

Capital Hiking Club
Center Hiking Club
Potomac Backpackers
Association
Sierra Club, MWROP
Wanderbirds Hiking Club

Corporate Supporters

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports
Campmor
Casual Adventures
Duron
Hewlett-Packard
Hudson Trail Outfitters
Outdoor Adventure
REI
The Outfitter at Harpers Ferry
The Trail House
Wilderness Voyagers

FORECAST

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

The Charlottesville Chapter hikes every Saturday, summer, winter and in between. Hikes are about 8 miles. Trail maintenance is usually done on the last Saturday of the month. Meet at Sprint parking lot, 2307 Hydraulic Road at 9 a.m. with food and water for the day. We hike trails in the Southern, Central and occasionally Northern Districts of Shenandoah National Park, and in George Washington National Forest. INFO: Jere Bidwell 804/295-2143, John Shannon 804/293-2953 or Lois Mansfield 804/973-7184.

North Chapter

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

upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/765-4833. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Steve Koeppen (patcnorth@iname.com) 410/756-2916 or visit the North Chapter home page (http://www.patc.net/north_ch.html).

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 to Martha Clark (mclark@visuallink.com) 540/665-2101.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See **Forecast** for work trips and hiking events sponsored by the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter. Most trips meet in Harrisonburg at the Cloverleaf Shopping Center at 8:00 a.m. Hikers from the DC area should allow about 3 hours to get to our region. INFO: in Harrisonburg, call Suzanne 540/269-4341; in Staunton or Waynesboro, call Vernon 703/886-9218, or Doris 540/885-4526.

West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre on the first Wednesday of the month; see **Forecast** for up-coming activi-

ties. For further information on chapter activities or to receive the chapter newsletter contact Jane Thompson 301/865-5399.

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: Katherine Stentzel 703/781-3249.

PATC Midweek Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

Capital and Wanderbirds hike on Sundays, traveling by bus and leaving from downtown, with suburban stops as well. Center Club, Northern Virginia Hiking Club and Sierra Clubs hike on both Saturdays and Sundays using carpools, which often leave from a suburban Metro stop. Schedules are available at PATC Headquarters and are published in area newspapers on Fridays.

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 <http://www.patc.net>

National Trails Day Events

Hiking Trips

Backpacking Trips

Trail Work Trips

Cabin/Shelter Work Trips

Special Events

Meetings

Cross-Country Skiing

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

Trail Patrol - First Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's good will 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: MickeyMcDermott 703/866-0928 or see PATC's website (<http://www.patc.net/patrol.html>).

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: Terry Cummings (TCIVP@aol.com) 410/489-4594.

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (New Members meeting) - Second Monday

7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Greg Huska (ghuska@rpihq.com) 703/241-4195 (w) or 703/567-7960 (h).

PATC Council - Second Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - sharp. The PATC Council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the Club. All members are welcome, but members wishing to address the Council should call two weeks prior to the meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda. INFO: Wilson Riley (wrliley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Tony Sanders 202/362-3819 or see PATC's website (http://www.patc.net/mtn_sect/).

Conservation Committee - Third Monday

7:00 p.m. For information on the Conservation Committee, or to join its meetings with the Piedmont Environmental Council or Virginia Planners, e-mail Mary Margaret Sloan at mmsloan@americanhiking.org or call her at 703/807-0746.

The Futures Group - Third Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Meets to research, develop, and recommend to membership changes to PATC organization, constitution, and bylaws in order to meet challenges of the next century. PATC members welcomed. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visuallink.com) 703/242-0693.

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting) - Last Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Meet in conference room. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press #5.

June

1 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE - July Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the PATC newsletter must be submitted on disk if possible to headquarters, or via e-mail or e-mail attachment to bianca@moon.jic.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

1 (Tuesday)

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

2 (Wednesday)

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

2 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Vigorous circuit hike in Central SNP visiting Hoover Camp, Jones Mt., Bear Church Rock, and Cat Knob for a total of 15 miles. With luck, the wild flowers should be near their spring peak. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

2 (Wednesday)

SLIDE SHOW - Mexico to Canada: The Continental Divide Trail

REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Longer and higher than the Appalachian Trail or the Pacific Crest Trail, at 3,100 miles, the CDT is truly North America's high traverse. It also crosses some of the largest tracts of wilderness, where man really is just a visitor in the homes of grizzly, mountain lion, and bighorn. Nick Williams, who has hiked all three great trails, will take us on an evening's ramble through the peaks, passes, and high meadows along the Divide, and discuss the planning, gear and skills necessary for your CDT adventure! INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

2 (Wednesday)

 **MEETING - West Virginia Chapter Highacre, Harpers Ferry, WV**

Join us as Steve Bair, Shenandoah National Park Backcountry/Wilderness/Trails Manager, addresses the park's new Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan and specifically changes in backcountry management policies and regulations that will affect backcountry campers. The park has developed these new policies after years of research and public involvement including input from backpackers. The new camping system should be more user friendly and yet more protective of the park's backcountry resources. Steve will be glad to answer any questions you have about backpacking in SNP and other park related issues. INFO: Jane Thompson 301/865-5399 before 9:00 p.m.

2 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Colonial Farm and Piscataway Park, MD

Easy Hikers will do 5 to 6 miles in Colonial Farm and Piscataway Park. Take Beltway Exit 3, go south on Indian Head Hwy. (MD 210) 9.7 miles to Bryant Point Rd. Turn right 3.8 miles to end of road at Colonial Farm (\$2 or \$1 admission). Meet in their parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Henry Shryock 202/479-4130 or Pauline LeMarie 202/484-2966.

3 (Thursday)

SLIDE SHOW - Mexico to Canada:

The Continental Divide Trail

REI, College Park, MD

See 6/2 for details. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

5 (Saturday)

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

8:15-11:30 a.m. This is the National Trails Day outing for the Rock Creek Park trail crew. We probably won't work you as hard so you can take a moment to enjoy the beautiful wooded setting located in the heart of D.C. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

5 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - REI/NVRPA/ACP Northern Virginia**

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Celebrate National Trails Day on The Trail by joining REI, The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and Arlington County Parks for a day of trail maintenance, erosion control, and cleanup along Donaldson Run in Potomac Overlook Park. Donaldson Run is one of a number of trails that provide access to the Potomac Heritage Trail and the beauty of the Potomac Palisades. We'll be reconstructing the 30th street access trail, and other short sections, working on erosion control and stream bank stabilization. More than 100 volunteers are needed to complete the day's objectives. Call REI Customer Service to register for this opportunity to make a real impact on the quality of outdoor recreation resources in our community. Registration/INFO: REI 703/379-9400 or 301/982-9681.

5 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Metro Cabin John Trail, MD**

Join the Maryland Metrolites for work on the Cabin John Trail. Bring lunch and water. We meet at the Cabin John Park tennis court parking lot just off Democracy Boulevard at 9 a.m. INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

5 (Saturday)

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

Eastern Mountain Sports is sponsoring our National Trails Day event for a second year. Bring your gas-powered brush cutter or clippers and make a difference in Maryland. All hands/newcomers welcome. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

5 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - West Virginia Chapter Gambrell State Park, MD**

Join us on the third, and final, leg of the Catoctin Trail series. We will include a circuit through Gambrell State Park. This beautiful section of the Catoctin Trail will take us along a stream and through lots of mountain laurel. The circuit will include two views of the town of Frederick, MD. Total hike will be about 13 miles. INFO: Janet Dombrowski 703/243-4232 before 10:00 p.m.

5 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Massanutten Mt., George Washington National Forest, VA**

All are invited to join the NSVC on a 5.5-mile hike of moderate difficulty traversing forest and farm in Shenandoah County. The hike will start in George Washington National Forest at Powell's Fort Camp

and continue a steep 0.5 mile to Three Top Mountain. There we will stop to investigate a Civil War signal station on the ridge. We will then descend through the forest and into open farmland, before crossing the Shenandoah River on a low water bridge. Following country roads, we head west to the Shenandoah County Farm. This historic property has been in the county's ownership since the Revolutionary War, when it was the Glebe Farm for Peter Muhlenberg, Episcopal pastor and officer in the war. We will end our hike at the County Park, where we will visit a new interpretive area for the Battle of Tom's Brook, a battle of the Civil War, October 9, 1864. Leader/INFO: Phoebe Kilby (slp@shentel.net) 540/459-4567.

5 (Saturday)

 **Family HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter**

C & O Canal near Antietam, MD

This short hike is designed for parents with small children. We will walk the C&O Canal towpath near the Antietam Aqueduct and north to some caves where local folks hid during the fierce Battle of Antietam during the Civil War. This hike is stroller capable, and will be at a slow pace to accommodate parents and small children. Bring water, your children, and good shoes, as we discover nature and history through the inquisitive eyes of our children. Leader/INFO: Terrie Sheaffer (thumpers@visualink.com) 540/662-1524.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **HIKE - Fairfax Cross-County Hike Fairfax County, VA**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. each day. PATC and Northern Virginia Hiking Club are cosponsoring Fairfax Trails & Streams official National Trails Day event - the Fairfax Cross-County Hike. The Hike follows a newly established public route running south to north and lies mostly along wooded stream valleys in some of the most remote land in Fairfax County. The southern half, covering 18 miles from Lorton to Oakton, will be hiked on June 5. The northern half, covering 18 miles from Oakton to Great Falls, will be hiked on June 6. Website info: www.mindspring.net/~potomacgreenways. INFO: Bill Niedringhaus 703/821-0975 or Tom McCready 703/534-5251.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA**

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. Join us for a group dinner and overnight at the Gypsy Spring cabin Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **SHELTER WORK TRIP - PATC's newest shelter Appalachian Trail, MD**

We will be placing the shelter onto the foundation and working on the roof. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Mystery Trip!!**

Round Hill, VA ??

What will we be working on and where will we be doing that work?? At time of writing even we are not sure, but as the date gets closer we will be able to tell you more about this "Mystery Trip". One thing you can bet on, it will be fun!! So get out your work clothes, gloves and boots and plan to join us. Share a Saturday evening dinner and maybe even an after dinner hike. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

FORECAST

8 (Tuesday)

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

9 (Wednesday)

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

9 (Wednesday)

 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Great North Mtn., VA/WV border

Vigorous circuit hike near VA/WV border climbing Great North Mtn., past Sugar Knob Cabin, down to Waites Run, and back up and along the ridge of Mill Mtn. to the crenelated towers of Big Schloss for a total of 18 miles. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

9 (Wednesday)

 HIKE - Easy Hikers

Turkey Run Park, VA

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the first parking lot (Area C-1). We will hike 4-5 miles on the Turkey Run and Potomac Heritage Trails. This hike involves rough terrain, climbing, rock scrambling, and stream crossings. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From Beltway, go south on George Washington Parkway to Turkey Run Park exit. From Key Bridge, north on GW Parkway to Turkey Run Park exit. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

9 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Rock Climbing

REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

REI and Inner Quest offer Basic Climbing year-round. The course covers all the essential skills for top-roped climbing, as well as climbing technique. The class is conducted on REI's indoor wall at Bailey's Crossroads. Class size is limited to eight participants to two instructors. The fee is \$65.00. Registration/INFORM: REI 703/379-9400.

10 (Thursday)

CLASS - Backpacking Stove Operation and Maintenance

REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. After 10 miles on the trail in a cold wind, you're ready for a big hot meal, but your stove sputters and dies, and you don't know how to fix it. Before this happens to you, spend an evening with an REI stove expert and learn how to diagnose, fix, and prevent problems, and get along better with your stove. INFO: Mark Nelson 703/379-9400.

12 (Saturday)

 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew

Massanutten Mountain, VA

Near Elizabeth Furnace area. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 SHELTER WORK TRIP - PATC's newest shelter
Appalachian Trail, MD

We will be placing the shelter onto the foundation and working on the roof. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 HIKE - North Chapter

Appalachian Trail, VA

Appalachian Trail series # II-2. Manassas Gap (Va. Rte. 55) to Snickers Gap (Va. Rte. 7). Second overnigher. First day: Manassas Gap to Myron Glaser Cabin. 14.2 moderate miles with an elevation change of 960 ft. Second day: Myron Glaser Cabin to Snickers Gap. 12.0 difficult miles with an elevation change of 501 ft. Must bring sleeping bag, food, and water. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 6:00 p.m.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin
Shaver Hollow, VA

Do you know what a misery whip is? or a Swedish fiddle? an adze? draw knife? broad axe? slick? mortising chisel? If so, you are just the person we need; and if not, but you are curious and want to not only find out what they are but learn how to use them, call for INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

Shockeysville, VA

Shockeys Knob. It's the first trip in June and we think it's high time we got back to our "home" project of relocating the Tuscarora Trail over Shockeys Knob. We have a lot of fun, so come on out and join us. Overnight at a local cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Please call by June 5 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 703/573-2261.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

FAMILY WEEKEND

Michaux State Forest, PA

Join us as we enjoy PATC cabins, family fun, and make new friends. Possible activities include nature hikes, inspecting Pine Grove Furnace museum and ruins, swimming at Pine Grove Furnace and Caledonia State Parks, visiting the Stevens ironworks and more. We will split costs. Reserve your space now. INFO: Lynn Gulley (earthcon@aol.com) 410/730-8034 or Bob Mathis (Robert_Mathis@fc.mcps.k12.md.us) 301/589-7539.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Winch Techniques

Scott Farm/Mid-Atlantic Training Center,
Carlisle, PA

This course teaches techniques for using winches and cable rigging. These simple mechanical devices enable human-powered lifting and hauling, as well as the use of high lines, for the safe, efficient and environmentally-friendly transportation of tons of building material. INFO: John Wright (jwright@atconf.org) 717/258-5771.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Backpacking

REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

This course will cover the most important aspects and skills of backpacking. The format will be lecture and discussion, with plenty of demonstrations and hands-on exercises. Topics covered will include: dayhiking vs. backpacking; physical conditioning; gear - boots and socks, fitting boots, clothing and layering, packs, tents, sleeping systems, raingear, stoves and fuel, first aid kits; water purification; food and cooking; map and compass navigation; trip planning and preparation; campsite selection; wilderness ethics; information sources. The instructor has more than 30 years of experience hiking and backpacking. The course fee is \$75, and covers all necessary materials. Registration/INFORM: REI 703/379-9400.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid

Arlington, VA

This sixteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$125. Registration is limited to 25 people. See course description and print registration from <http://wfa.net/>. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

14 (Monday)

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

15 (Tuesday)

 MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.

16 (Wednesday)

 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Point to point hike on the AT in North District of SNP from Compton Gap south to Panorama - a total of 22 miles. Don't plan on an evening of Contra Dancing after this one (not with the leader anyway). INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

16 (Wednesday)

 HIKE - Easy Hikers

Leesylvania State Park, Woodbridge, VA

A scenic and historic 4.5 miles with an optional additional 1.7 miles. \$2 vehicle fee. From beltway take I-95 South, exit 156 east, pass NOVA college to route 1, turn right and follow posted signs. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10 a.m. next to entrance gate. Henri Comeau (hankcomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

17 (Thursday)

 HIKE - In-between Hikers

Gaithersburg, MD

Moderately paced 9.6 mile circuit hike in Seneca Creek State Park along a stream and around Clopper Lake. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Park Visitor's Center. Take I-270 to exit 10, Clopper Road, and proceed approximately 2.5 miles to Park entrance on left. Turn right at sign for Visitor's Center. INFO: Marjorie Richman (mar0522@aol.com) 301/320-5509.

19 (Saturday)

 TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter

Tuscarora Trail, PA

For meeting place and other details, call Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848.

19 (Saturday)

 HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #14

Wardensville, WV

A moderately paced 18 mile hike east of Wardensville, WV over the County Line and Sugar Knob Sections of the Tuscarora Trail between WV 55 and Peer Trail. Elevation gain is 3100 feet. A car shuttle is required. PATC map F. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or William Needham 703/256-6735.

19 (Saturday)

 HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Twin Falls of Overall Run, Shenandoah National Park, VA

This is a moderately long hike with great rewards. Start outside the park, just outside Bentonville, and hike to the lower falls of Overall Run, an area known as The Ponds. If the weather is warm, this is a great swimming hole, as well as a beautiful waterfall. Continue down Overall Run to the Beecher Ridge Connecting Trail and up Beecher Ridge. This is a long, steady climb, eventually reaching the upper falls of Overall Run or "Big Falls", the tallest falls in the park. This area also affords one of the most breathtaking views in Shenandoah National Park. From here it is a steep descent on the Tuscarora Trail and back to our cars. Leader/INFORM: Bill Hendrickson (Bhendric@nas.edu) 703/519-9410.

19 (Saturday)

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

June is a busy month for trail maintenance. Please come out and enjoy the woods with the South Mountaineers. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Newcomers welcome. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

19 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade Racer Camp Hollow, WV**

We are continuing the reconstruction of the trail in Racer Camp Hollow near Wardensville, WV. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971 or Hop Long (theFSLongs@erols.com) 301/942-6177.

19 (Saturday)

⤴ **HIKE - Appalachian Trail Carlisle, PA**

Bring in summer with this fast-paced 30 mile hike from the Scott Farm Trail Work Center to Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The hike begins early in the morning going across fields, bridges, and puncheon of the Cumberland Valley before entering the woods for the remainder of the day. The terrain varies from flat and easy to rocky and steep. This is a difficult hike appropriate only for experienced hikers, and will be a joint hike with the Susquehanna AT Club. Pennsylvania AT sections 10-12, PATC maps 1 and 2-3. INFO: Rob Shaw (rshaw@coltplumbing.com) 717/697-4618 x233.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

⚙ **SHELTER WORK TRIP - PATC's newest shelter Appalachian Trail, MD**

We will be placing the shelter onto the foundation and working on the roof. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

⤴ **HIKE - Potomac Heritage Trail series Potomac Heritage Trail, MD/PA**

Join us on the third weekend of our hike through the "original" route proposal for this, the eighth National Scenic Trail, hiking the section from Cumberland, Maryland, to Confluence, Pennsylvania. This series continues with a two-day hike from New Germany State Park, MD, to Forbes State Forest, PA. Saturday will be about 13 miles; Sunday, about 7 miles. Stay Saturday in local motels or New Germany State Park campground. Have your compass at the ready to follow this mapped but unblazed route. INFO: Tom Johnson 410/647-8554.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

⚙ **CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Mystery Trip!!**

Round Hill, VA ??

What will we be working on and where will we be doing that work?? At time of writing even we are not sure, but as the date gets closer we will be able to tell you more about this "Mystery Trip". One thing you can bet on, it will be fun!! So get out your work clothes, gloves and boots and plan to join us. Share a Saturday evening dinner and maybe even an after dinner hike. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ **Cajun TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums**

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Jambalaya! Come and help work on the Appalachian Trail in the North District of SNP and be rewarded afterwards with some of the best Creole

feasting this side of Lake Pontchartrain. The crew will be working on erosion problems on one or more sections of trail, within easy access off Skyline Drive. No experience necessary; tools provided. Bring work gloves, lunch and a smile. This month's theme meal will be Cajun, straight from the bayou - all may contribute. Overnight stay provided by Indian Run hut within the North District. Come for the day, stay the evening meal, or spend the entire weekend. The crew meets at 10:00 a.m. at Piney River Ranger Station in the Park. RSVP/INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@erols.com) 410/426-2724.

20 (Saturday)

⤴ **HIKE - Advanced Hikers**

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Hike White Oak Canyon/Cedar Run, considered by many as the "scenic gem" of Shenandoah. While beautiful, the trail, in part, is steep and sometimes rough and rocky. The hike is 9.1 miles with an elevation change of 2600 feet. Meet 8:15 a.m. at a location outside the Virginia beltway. INFO: Donna Brother 703/435-8315.

21 (Monday)

⚙ **MEETING - Conservation Committee, 7:00 p.m.**

21 (Monday)

⤴ **HIKE - Parent/child**

Poole Steeple, Michaux State Forest, PA

Up to 6 miles. Pack your child - suggested age 6 months to 4 years. Swim in Fuller Lake after the hike. 2 miles per hour pace. Leave DC area around 11:00 a.m. Limit 12 participants. INFO: John Butler (JohnButler@msn.com) 301-263-0141.

23 (Wednesday)

⤴ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Old Rag and either White Oak or Cedar Run circuit for a total of 16 to 19 miles. Maybe time for a dip in a Tahitian-like pool part way up White Oak - skimpy undies OK cause it's pretty secluded. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

23 (Wednesday)

⤴ **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Greenbelt Park, MD

5.3 mile hike in Greenbelt Park. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in parking lot of Holly Picnic Area. From Beltway take exit 23, go south on Kenilworth Ave. (MD 201) 0.5 miles to Greenbelt Rd. (MD 193), turn left (east) 0.3 miles to entrance to Greenbelt Park, right 0.15 miles to Park Central Rd, then left 0.1 mile to parking lot. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Elizabeth Cook 202/265-0747.

23 (Wednesday)

CLASS - More Fun in the Woods

REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Mark Nelson and local photographer Ed Neville will show and discuss some skills and methods that will leave more time for fun, while leaving a great campsite for those that follow. INFO: Mark Nelson, 703/379-9400.

24 (Thursday)

CLASS - More Fun in the Woods

REI, College Park, MD

See 6/23 for details. INFO: Mark Nelson, 703/379-9400.

26 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro**

Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Summer has officially started, making this one of the last work trips you can attend and have a chance of escaping Washington heat

and humidity. Even if it is hot, we start early and end before the noon day sun. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

26 (Saturday)

⤴ **HIKE/CANOE - Annual Hike and Canoe Trip Massanutten Mtn./Shenandoah River, VA**

Annual hike and canoe trip. Hike 12 miles from Bentonville Landing south along the ridge of Massanutten Mtn. and down Indian Graves Ridge. Then we ford the Shenandoah River and paddle downstream for 12 miles with some Class I and one Class II rapids (OK for amateurs). Cost of canoe rental will probably be about \$23-25 and must be paid in advance to reserve one of the limited spaces on this trip. For details call or e-mail in early June. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

26 (Saturday)

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

The South Mountaineers continue to do the good and necessary work of trail stewardship in Maryland. Our events are fun, social and bring a sense of accomplishment. Bring plenty of water, gloves and lunch. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

⚙ **SHELTER WORK TRIP - PATC's newest shelter Appalachian Trail, MD**

We will be placing the shelter onto the foundation and working on the roof. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

We need a few good men and a few good women too! We are building a log cabin from the ground up using nothing but all the primitive old hand tools. We have an outstanding and talented crew but there is always room for more. Call Charlie Graf: 410/757-6053.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew George Washington National Forest, VA**

We're going to do trail rehab on the Massanutten Mountain South Trail in the area between Cub Run Road and Fridley Gap Trail. This is in the area of the Boone Run Shelter. We'll be staying at Firestone Cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Please call by June 19 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frananc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 703/573-2261.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

⚙ **CABIN WORK TRIP - Morris Cabin Vining Tract, Lydia, VA**

Time to get your hands dirty and help correct some of the neglect of this pearl of a cabin. We will be rebuilding the front deck, replacing the shed roof, and making plans for rebuilding the back deck to incorporate an outdoor fireplace. Shared cost dinner and breakfast provided. Call by 21 June if coming. INFO: Ric Kempton (rkempton@iitri.org) 410/573-7427.

29 (Tuesday)

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

FORECAST

30 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers

NWR and Mason Neck State Park, VA

Meet at 10:00 a.m. in Woodmarsh Trail parking lot at the National Wildlife Refuge. We will hike approximately 4 miles. At the end a picnic lunch will be served (cost: \$4) but bring your own drinks. Call before June 28. RSVP/Directions/INFO: Irene Kamm 703/780-8568.

July

1 (Thursday)

DEADLINE - August Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the PATC newsletter must be submitted on disk if possible to headquarters, or via e-mail or e-mail attachment to bianca@moon.jic.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

3 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

Bring plenty (and plenty more) water for this event as we make the AT in Maryland the best it can be. Fun, teamwork and perspiration are guaranteed on this event. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)

🏠 CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Mystery Trip!!

Round Hill, VA ??

What will we be working on and where will we be doing that work?? At time of writing even we are not sure, but as the date gets closer we will be able to tell you more about this "Mystery Trip". One thing you can bet on, it will be fun!! So get out your work clothes, gloves and boots and plan to join us. Share a Saturday evening dinner and maybe even an after dinner hike. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

6 (Tuesday)

👤 MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

7 (Wednesday)

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

10 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. -11:30 a.m. (Rain date: July 24). If you've never set foot on the 40 miles of stunning D.C. hiking trails, now might be a good time to survey the situation and lend a helping hand. (Please note that for the next three months we will slow to a summer schedule of one monthly work trip with a rain date option). Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

10 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Tuscarora South Crew Tuscarora Trail, Massanutten Mtn., VA

Come see some trails you have never seen before. We will be clipping and brushing; many hands make it easy and fast moving. Join us! Come out and enjoy this one-day trip; newcomers are particularly welcome. INFO: Rick Rhoades 703/239-0965.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. Join us for a group dinner and overnight at the Gypsy Spring cabin Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Did you ever wonder how your ancestors built their houses? Have you ever admired an old log cabin and wondered what it would be like to build one? Join the Tulip Tree Cabin Crew and learn how it was done. We have all the old tools and we know how to use them. You would be amazed what a skilled person can do just with an axe. A skilled pioneer craftsman could build an entire cabin with nothing but an axe and a knife. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 HIKE/CAMP - Natural History Weekend George Washington National Forest, VA

Join Bob Pickett and travel west of Harrisonburg, VA, doing two day hikes and camp Saturday night at the Braley Pond Campground. Saturday we'll hike the 5.8-mile Chimney Hollow Trail over Crawford Mountain. Sunday we'll do the 9-mile hike over Elliotts Knob Trail. Both trails are in the Deerfield District of the GW National Forest. Braley Pond has rest rooms and water. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

12 (Monday)

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

13 (Tuesday)

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

14 (Wednesday)

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

17 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade Racer Camp Hollow, WV

We are continuing the reconstruction of the trail in Racer Camp Hollow near Wardensville, WV. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971 or Hop Long (theFSLongs@erols.com) 301-942-6177.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 HIKE - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, VA

Appalachian Trail series # II-3. Snickers Gap (Va. Rte. 7) to ATC headquarters at Harpers Ferry. Third overniter and the completion of our grand figure-eight hike series on the Tuscarora and Appalachian Trails which began in February of 1996. First day: Snickers Gap to Blackburn Trail Center. 7.0 moderate miles with an elevation change of 800 ft. Second day: Blackburn Trail Center to Harpers Ferry. 11.7 moderate miles with an elevation change of 1400 ft. Must bring sleeping bag, food, and water. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 6:00 p.m.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid Arlington, VA

This sixteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$125. Registration is limited to 25 people. See course description and print registration from <http://wfa.net/>. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

19 (Monday)

👤 MEETING - Conservation Committee, 7:00 p.m.

20 (Tuesday)

👤 MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.

24 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail, PA

For meeting place and other details, call Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848.

24 (Saturday)

👤 DAY HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Snead Farm and Fox Hollow Circuits. Enjoy a day appropriate for the entire family in the vicinity of the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center in Shenandoah National Park. Hike the three-mile Snead Farm/Dickey Hill loop with 500' elevation change in the morning with Walt Smith, author of "The Last Orchard" (to be published), the story of the people of Snead Farm. After passing through the farm (the barn is still standing in the former 250-acre orchard farm) we will see good views of the surrounding valleys and mountains from Dickey Hill. Enjoy lunch in the picnic grounds and then hike the 1.5 mile (300' elevation change) Fox Hollow Loop interpretive circuit of a former homestead including the family cemetery. There will be ample opportunity to browse at the visitor's center and see the slide presentation. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visualink.com) 540/678-0423.

24 - 25 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

We have all the walls of the cabin up and have second floor joists; soon we will be putting the floor on the second floor and making and putting up rafters. Before you know it the cabin will be done. Don't miss out on this opportunity to participate in this outstanding project. We may never build a log cabin like this again. Join this outstanding crew in completion of the only PATC cabin built in modern times using all the old tools and the antiquated methods. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

27 (Tuesday)

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



Annual surveys of juvenile rockfish (striped bass) indicate that the species is continuing to proliferate in the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River. American shad is also reproducing successfully in the bay and tributaries. From *Potomac Basin Reporter* (newsletter of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin).

—Lynn Witwer

Hey, Trail Work Isn't That Hard!

My husband Michael and I joined PATC because we'd been hiking in the area for a few months, had bought several PATC maps, and were generally impressed with the condition of the trails. We wanted to put something back into that marvelous trail system that gave us such pleasure. Those of you who feel like your day lasts thirty hours instead of twenty-four can probably guess why it took us several months more to sign up with Wil Kohlbrenner's Massanutten Crew. I have to credit Wil with sending us an introductory letter that prodded us into giving him a call and indicating our interest.

Alas, as fate would have, Michael and I were in a car accident two days before our first trip out. Several months later my back had finally healed from its sprain, and we tried again, but every time we attempted to go out, something happened, usually bad weather. Finally, on a snowy weekend in March, we made it to Sidewinder Trail, which some of you may know as the Glass House Trail.

The day started out sunny and bright. I was a little nervous, never having done trail work before. I think Michael, who had done some trail work at Philmont in New Mexico, was anticipating the steak dinner he was going to be able to talk me into after all the hard work.

The day's work didn't start out with trail work, however. A regular member of the crew had misjudged a turn on the narrow road leading to the rendezvous point and came rolling in on a completely busted front wheel. Tom

Ryan, another newcomer, changed the tire after the group got the car up on a jack, a procedure that required driving the wheel up onto a rock so the car would be high enough to get a jack under. We put the rock back in the nearby streambed and headed off for the trail.

After some instruction on the use of the tools and trail work etiquette, I dove into my task of mining dirt to fill in depressions in the sidehill trail that we were building. Despite the fact that I was doing it wrong at first—don't drag the pick-mattock towards you; just lever it up to displace the dirt—my formerly sprained back fared very well. I was not tiring as quickly as I would have imagined and

having an immense amount of fun. I found myself agreeing with Ann O'Neemus' April article ("It's the Dirt, Stupid") that playing in dirt (in this case mud) is a welcome relief from rushing through life.

Time passed rather quickly, and we never got the storm that was predicted for that afternoon. We broke early, because we'd met our objective for the day. Driving home, muddy and tired, I was thinking about checking Wil's calendar for the next outing and how I could squeeze it between all the business trips I'll be taking this Spring. □

—Bianca Menendez



Photo by Bianca Menendez

Model Secondary School for the Deaf and the Cowall Shelter

How did this shelter come to be?

During the Fall of 1997, unique ideas and opportunities were being explored for students at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD), a four-year high school operated by Gallaudet University. After securing support from MSSD Administrators, contacts were made to check out the feasibility of building a log shelter as a community service project. Calls were made to a variety of agencies, including PATC and local foresters and loggers. PATC was receptive, and planning began.

In May of 1998, PATC received a letter from David & Cynthia Cowall of Salisbury, MD:

"We are exploring the possibility of making a donation to the PATC in memory of our late son, ENS Phillip Cowall, USCG... Phil loved the wilderness and especially the AT. He had hiked several hundred miles of the AT (mostly in VA), and hoped one day when time allowed to through-hike the entire trail. Since that dream was never realized, perhaps we could help make that journey easier for others." PATC approved the project, and funding was allocated for it.

A generous donation of Loblolly Pine was secured from Southern Maryland logger Wallace Johnson. After learning the logs were to be used for constructing a shelter to be placed

on the Appalachian Trail, Wallace's comment was, "This is a good cause". When he learned that hearing-impaired folks are heavily involved, he mentioned his parents are deaf. What a coincidence! The logs were delivered on Sunday, January 23 on a Johnson-owned logging truck driven by employee Robert and his 4 year old daughter Kayla.

Two locations on the Maryland Appalachian Trail (AT) were identified as needing shelters: 1) Hemlock Hills Shelter, in rough shape, is associated with a section of the AT currently being re-routed. 2) Weverton Cliffs needs a shelter because of the long stretch of trail with-

See Shelter, page 14

Shelter, from page 13

out one. Project leaders chose to replace the current Hemlock Hills Shelter with this shelter.

It was a matter of several phone calls before ultimately reaching Greg Lewis at Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission (MNCPPC) who enthusiastically embraced the idea and suggested a location on county land for constructing the shelter. Coincidence has it that on the way to look at the proposed worksite a “Deaf Child Area” road sign is passed enroute. Once we saw this sign, our shelter seemed destined to occur.

The shelter is being built off-site of its eventual location. Project leaders made the decision to keep the shelter close in, so that MSSD students would have an economically reasonable commute, since each trip involves hiring transportation. This also allows for less time spent traveling and more time actually working on the shelter. Understandably, PATC had questions, since the Club is accustomed to building shelters on-site. Charlie Graf, PATC’s Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee Chairperson, was supportive of the concept, and it was ultimately approved by Council.

In a “worst case” timeline, we will have finished log construction and roof rafters by the end of June, begin foundation work and privy in July and August and complete this work by the end of September, transport logs to the AT by the end of November, and complete the shelter no later than December.

Community Service

During Charlie’s site visit on the first day, students understood his sincere appreciation of their involvement with this community service project. He explained the value and intrinsic rewards one receives from this type of activity. Charlie spoke from experience and knows full well the value of shelters, since he is a through-hiker, class of ’93. He told students that a majority of his nights were spent in shelters along the 2,159 mile route. After his talk, the students were full of questions, such as, “where did you buy your food? How many miles a day? How much did it cost?” After this visit, the students had a clear understanding of this project.

There is much support from the MSSD administration for this project, and they are



Photo by Frank Turk

Students Erwin and Liz discuss how the logs fit.

thrilled with the student involvement. It is an opportunity for students to apply skills learned in the classroom in a unique setting. Curricula “touched” include math, history, science, recreation, woodworking, and more. For more information about MSSD’s After School Program check out Website: www.gallaudet.edu/~pcnmpcoc/ There is also a page about the shelter project at: www.gallaudet.edu/~pcnmpcoc/weekend/log-shelter/ □

—Frank Turk, adapted from the MSSD Co-curricular Projects Webpage
ENS Phillip Cowall Memorial Shelter

Donations

Our heartfelt THANK YOU to those members who have given additional donations with their dues renewal fee, and from the goodness of their heart to the individual funds listed below.

Our mission of protecting the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and side trails throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, is assured through generous donations from you. It also helps greatly to ensure that these protected trail lands can be enjoyed by future generations.

Donations received in April

Funds: G - General; T - Trail Lands; S/C - Shelters, Cabins, Cabin Lands; HQ - Headquarters Capital Repair; E -Endowment

Stephen J. Artnier	T	Thomas Dawson and Pam Bozzi	Blackburn T. C.	Thomas Ogorzalek	S/C
Rifa and William Bauman	S/C	Robert Dircks, Jr.	T	Brendan O’Neill	S/C
Ronald Beaver and Roxy Wright	S/C	Thomas and Greta Gay	G;T	John Shannon	T; HQ
Brian Bechtold	S/C	David and Karen Gray	G	Kenneth A. Stibolt	T
Raymond and Loretta Belford	S/C	Craig Howell	G;T;E.J.	John F. Tate	E
Charleen and Jim Booker	S/C	S. King	G;E	Anthony and Ann Tontodonato	S/C
Charles M. Cales	T;S/C	Sid Lineker	Blackburn T. C.	Samuel and Grace Tucker	E
Martha R. Clark	T	J. Randall Minchew	T	Virginia Happy Trails Running Club	T
		Robert Mroczek	G	Janine M. Ziske	S/C

We are grateful for the following people who gave generously to the Trail Land Fund in memory of PATC Member and Trail Overseer, John H. Poole: Mr. John M. Scheurer; Ms. Tara Corvo and Mr. Robert Haynos; Ms. Valerie J. Raba; Mr. and Mrs. William Gallagher; Mrs. Ine Greger; Mrs. Alfred Long Scanlan, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Antosh; Mrs. Mary Garrett Abert; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Everett Wilson; Mr. Eugene A. Groshong, Jr.; Ms. Marjorie R. Nohawel.

A brief note about DUES RENEWAL NOTICES. The expiration date on your membership card reflects the month in which I generate the dues notices. Your membership will not expire exactly on the date shown, but it will shortly thereafter if the dues notice remains unpaid after that month. I normally generate the dues notices sometime after the 10th of the month, so please be patient if you think your membership has passed the expiration date. If it passes a couple of months, then please contact me as there is a problem we need to correct.

—Pat Fankhauser, Membership Coordinator

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

SPEND AN EVENING WITH THE CLUB'S PAST. Review a decade of PATC activity as recorded on 35mm color slides. (Between 50 and 300 slides in a single decade). Sort them into one of four categories. Instructions furnished. Use hand-held viewer or projector. Work at home or at Headquarters using Club projector. Seven volunteers needed by Archivist. Info: Paula Strain, 301/340-6895.

DAY HIKE OPPORTUNITY. Seeking interested parties to join a small group (3 regulars) of day hikers. We go about once a month and usually meet at Vienna Metro. Hikes usually range 7 to 12 miles. There is no set schedule, but if you would like to be notified (a week or two in advance) of our upcoming hikes, e-mail Brian Rubendall at BDRube@aol.com or call 703/255-2620 (evening) or 703/284-1927 (day).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: CALF MOUNTAIN MAINTENANCE The Corridor Management Section is looking for an individual or group to maintain the open summit of Little Calf Mountain, located near Jarmans Gap, just south of Shenandoah NP. The position involves keeping about 15 acres of grassy bald free of woody vegetation. The Club will provide a brush mower and weed eater. For more information contact Tom Lupp at 301/271-7340 or email at mdacent@erols.com.

IN MEMORY OF JAY POOLE. Those who wish to contribute to a memorial in honor of John H. Poole, you may donate to the John H. Poole Fund for Trail Land Acquisition, PATC, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, VA 22180. Please make checks payable to PATC, and note that you are sending them in care of John H. Poole.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK SEEKS INFORMATION ON SKYLAND WOMEN. SNP has received an Albright-Wirth grant for research into the untold story of women's historical roles at Skyland from 1900-1937. This research will be used for an exhibit in historic Massanutten Lodge. It will focus on the women guests and cabin owners who summered at Skyland, and the era in which they lived. SNP is seeking information from the public on many women associated with Skyland at the time. If you have any information related to this project, please call Park Interpreter Gloria Updyke, 540/999-3284.

THE PATC STORE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE EVERYONE AWARE OF OUR GREAT T-SHIRTS on sale at the headquarters. We have short sleeve T-shirts in light blue, green, natural, and rose at \$15.00 each. We also have long sleeve T-shirts in white and ash colors for \$20.00 each. These T-shirts have the PATC logo on the front and a picture of an AT trail section on the back, with the words "Leave Only Footprints." You absolutely must have one! Call us today and place your order! Also don't forget our new PATC coffee mugs now available with the PATC logo and "since 1927." These are \$6.00 for members and \$7.50 for non-members.

DOGWOOD LOST AND FOUND: Various items of clothing, water bottle holder, and carved walking staff, were left at check points during the Dogwood Half-Hundred Hike. Call 703/242-0693, Ext. 11 to claim.

HIKE LEADER TRAINING ON TAP. Did you miss the previous hike leader training sessions? If so, it is not too late. The 1999 edition will be conducted Sat-

urday, Sept 18, and Sunday, Sept 19, at Blackburn Trail Center in Virginia. Abbreviated wilderness first aid training, hike planning, hike execution, and introduction to Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group and Trail Patrol contributions to the hiking experience are on the agenda. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast at Blackburn - cost, minimal. All current leaders, anyone contemplating becoming a leader, and the idly curious, are welcome. Contact Tom Johnson, 410/647-8554; johnts@erols.com, to reserve your place.

PATC SLIDE PRESENTATION: Volunteer wanted to develop slide presentation on the PATC story: who we are and what we do, from maintenance to preservation. For information contact Walt Smith: wsmith@visuallink.com or 703/242-0693.

NEED PATC MEMBER LIVING IN VIENNA, with volunteer experience in the Club, who would enjoy attending the local Chamber of Commerce meetings as a representative of PATC. Please contact Walt Smith: wsmith@visuallink.com or 703/242-0693.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MAINTENANCE AND PLUMBING. Seeking persons with relevant experience to work with the Headquarters Committee in improving and maintaining the Club Headquarters. For information contact Walt Smith: wsmith@visuallink.com or 703/242-0693.

SIGNMAKERS NEEDED. PATC needs volunteer with router available to produce some new signs for our trail system. Materials and bits will be reimbursed. Please contact Heidi Forrest at 703/242-0693x12.

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING OUTDOORS? PATC has a continuous need for Headquarters Volunteers willing to help out with a variety of tasks — from manning the sales desk in the evening, to providing typing or office support. It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the Club going! INFO: Wilson Riley (wrliley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693, Ext. 11.

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

SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP (SMRG) is seeking people interested in wilderness search and rescue. New member orientation meetings are held every month at PATC headquarters. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. INFO: Martin Juenge 703/255-5034, then press #5.

TOOL ROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help sharpen and maintain tools at PATC Headquarters. INFO: Pete Gatje 703/242-0693 x13.

HIKING VACATIONS

GRAND TETON HIKE. Join a group of 6 PATC members and 6 members of the Idaho Alpine Club for an extended backpack in the heart of Grand Teton National Park. Enjoy short days for opportunities to peak-bag and explore side canyons. September 3-September 11, 1999. For details contact Frank Francisco 301/352-5832 or John Hagarty, 703/620-2485.

DISCOVER THE LAKE DISTRICT IN ENGLAND. An invitation to fellow PATC members. Come and enjoy a leisurely guided hiking and sightseeing holiday in this beautiful corner of England. It is an

area of outstanding natural beauty—land of Wordsworth, lakes and mountains. For more details contact Derek Teasdale on DTeasdale1@aol.com or write to 25 Queens Drive, Whitley Bay, NE26 2JU, England (tel 0191-2520752) Call John Mason at 703/450-5009 for local reference or see <http://www.patc.net/dolomites.html>.

HIKE THE SPECTACULAR DOLOMITE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEASTERN ITALY September 6-15. Sandwiched between the Austrian border on the north and the vast Venetian plain of the south, its enormous rock walls (a rock climber's paradise) explode to startling heights above the pastoral green countryside. The Dolomites are stunning in shapes and dramatic with brilliant colors and enjoy a reputation of unsurpassed appeal and beauty. Join us for 6 nights in Cortina, our hiking home base, and for 2 nights experience the culture and beauty of Venice. The fee includes: air (British Airways from Dulles); ground transfers between Venice and Cortina and airport transportation; lodging in a superior tourist class hotel (Cortina) and a first class hotel (Venice); all breakfasts and 7 dinners; guide; and hotel taxes and service charges. Price \$1,615 if 25 participants; \$1,645 for 20 to 24 participants. INFO: Donna Brother, 703/435-8315.

MISCELLANEOUS

HIKING RECOMMENDATIONS NEEDED! Family will be hiking and camping in Nova Scotia late July, early August. We would like information on where to stay and hikes to take. Contact Bob Huber at 301/277-6736.

TABLEWARE WANTED for the Blackburn Trail Center. We are in dire need of table spoons, tea spoons and knives. If you have some put away in your attic or basement that you would like to donate to a great cause, call Chris Brunton at 703/560-8070.

TUSCARORA TRAIL SLIDE SHOW. John Tate would like to put on a slide show of the Tuscarora Trail to show at the October ALDHA gathering and for a showing for interested PATC members. However he needs some slides to do the show. If anyone has some slides and would be interested in sharing please call John at 703/273-5471.

THE PATC WEBMASTER MAINTAINS A SPECIAL "MEMBER'S ONLY" E-MAIL LIST. The list is used to distribute special information of interest to the PATC membership, special volunteer opportunities that miss the regular issues of the *Potomac Appalachian*, and other items of note. If you'd like to be added to the list, send an e-mail to PATC Webmaster Andy Hiltz (hiltz@mindspring.com), and you'll be included following membership confirmation.

THE PATC STORE would like to ask our members for their opinion. We would like to have your suggestions as to what you would like to see available for sale in our store. You can send your suggestions to the PATC Headquarters to the attention of Maureen Estes, Sales Coordinator. We appreciate your feedback and hope to receive some helpful suggestions.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: WATER FILTER on March 21 on Corbin Mountain Trail between Indian Run Trail and Old Rag Fire Road. Call 703/631-7421 evenings, R. Cummins.

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. PLEASE let us know when your notice is no longer applicable.

The Bear Necessities of Wilderness Travel

Viewing a bear in the wild can be one of the most exhilarating and awe-inspiring of all outdoor experiences. Unfortunately, if you don't take some fundamental precautions during your sojourn into the wilderness, this close encounter of the ursine kind could also be one of the most dangerous.

At one time, black bears were scarce in Eastern woods, but they have shown a remarkable adaptability to the ways of man and now roam Shenandoah National Park in good numbers. Shawn Green, a trails coordinator at Shenandoah National Park, estimates there are close to 300 black bears in and around the Park. They have also been spotted in Maryland and the national forests of Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. But even bears in Shenandoah are shy, and it is more common to stumble upon signs of the animals—long black hairs in trees, logs ripped open in search of insects, or downed logs and wooden signs chewed or rubbed against by the animals—than to actually meet one face to face.

But black bear's size—typical adults in this region weigh more than 300 pounds—and astonishing strength demand respect, and precautions are necessary to ensure a chance encounter is a positive one. According to Rolf Gubler, a natural resources manager in Shenandoah National Park, most problem encounters with bears are the result of improper food storage by hikers and campers. Once a bear successfully raids a campsite, it may do so again and again, getting bolder every time. The Park Service has made several improvements in an effort to keep bears away from campsites and heavily traveled areas. In 1976, Shenandoah closed its landfills and installed heavier lids on all trashcans in the park. These changes have made it more difficult for bears to scavenge for human food in the Park, said Green, but it is still necessary for hikers to protect their rations.

It is important to seal food and sweet smelling items—including shampoo and toothpaste—in plastic zip lock bags to keep them as odorless as possible. Some wilderness areas provide food storage facilities at backcountry campsites, but in the absence of such amenities, the traditional “bear bag” should keep tomorrow's breakfast out of the paws of a curious visitor: Choose a tree 50 to 100 yards away from your tent. Using para-

chute cord or other sturdy line and a rock to counterbalance the weight of your stuff sack, suspend food, garbage, and other odorous items from a tree limb at least 10 feet off the ground and four feet out from the trunk of the tree. Choose a tree upwind from your tent. “You don't want to draw the bear through your tent to get to the food,” said Gubler.

Counterbalancing—the method of dividing your rations into two stuff sacks and using the two bags as leverage against one another—is recommended in many Park Service areas where bears are a more serious problem, but the traditional method should be sufficient closer to home. According to Gubler, there is more of a problem with bear encounters in the Smokies than in the Shenandoah. “The main difference between the two parks is the fact that backcountry campfires are allowed in the Smokies,” he said. “The smell of the fire, unburnt food particles, and leftover scraps all attract scavengers, causing the bears to become more conditioned. The bears down there are more aggressive and more conditioned.”

If you see a bear near your campsite, Gubler advises doing everything possible to scare the bear away from the area. “Yell and wave your arms,” he said. “Bang pots and pans to make a lot of noise. Stand up and make yourself look big. If you've done everything you can to scare it off and a bear is still persistent, you may want to consider moving your site.”

In addition to proper food storage at your campsite, a conscientious approach on the trail can reduce the risk of a human-bear conflict. Black bears are generally benign—there are only a few reported incidents of aggressive behavior in Shenandoah every year—but they may react aggressively if suddenly confronted. To help prevent surprising a bear, keep your head up and your eyes and ears open when hiking. Stop every now and then to take a good look at your surroundings, and get in the habit of looking far ahead on the trail. When hiking through thick vegetation, on a blind curve or through a naturally noisy area such as a stream crossing, speak up to make yourself known and avoid startling a possible nearby bear.

If you are fortunate enough to see a bear, make sure it can see you. Stand your ground

and keep your distance, giving the animal all the room it needs. Even in the most volatile of all bear encounters—one involving a sow and her cubs—a black bear may give you the benefit of the doubt by either leaving the area or allowing you to pass slowly. More often than not, if a bear smells you coming, it will try to leave before you ever catch a glimpse of it.

In the event of a closer encounter, never turn your back on a bear, and don't run from it—black bears can run at speeds approaching 35 MPH. They are also excellent climbers. Problems can often be averted by speaking softly and backing away from a confrontational bear, but if a bear does charge, make yourself look big. Most black bear charges are merely bluffs, but they can still be quite frightening. In general, Gubler said, it is unwise to play dead with a black bear. Actual attacks are extremely rare, but if one occurs, it is best to fight back.

Certain areas in Shenandoah—such as White Oak Canyon—are more prone to bear sightings than others, and signs are typically posted to alert hikers of possible encounters. But incidents are rare, and the exercise of caution and care on the trail and at your campsite will keep the myth of the bear alive and the delicate balance between man and nature intact. □

—Holly Thomsen

The First Bears in the SNP

“The bears of Great Smoky Mountain National Park...constitute the second thickest population of black bears known anywhere. Shenandoah National Park...ranks first. Bears are the stars of the Appalachian recovery.”

—*The Appalachian Forest*,
Bolgiano (1998).

When I started hiking in Shenandoah Park in the 1950s, bears were not known to be there. I remember how excited we were one late afternoon, coming down to Panorama from Mary's Rock, when a noise to the west turned heads, and a flash of brown was seen moving out of sight. Was it a bear? And the answer was, probably. The rangers had seen some evidence of bears. That had to be in the very late 1950s, maybe even 1960.

—Paula Strain

Blackwater Canyon National Park

Blackwater Canyon

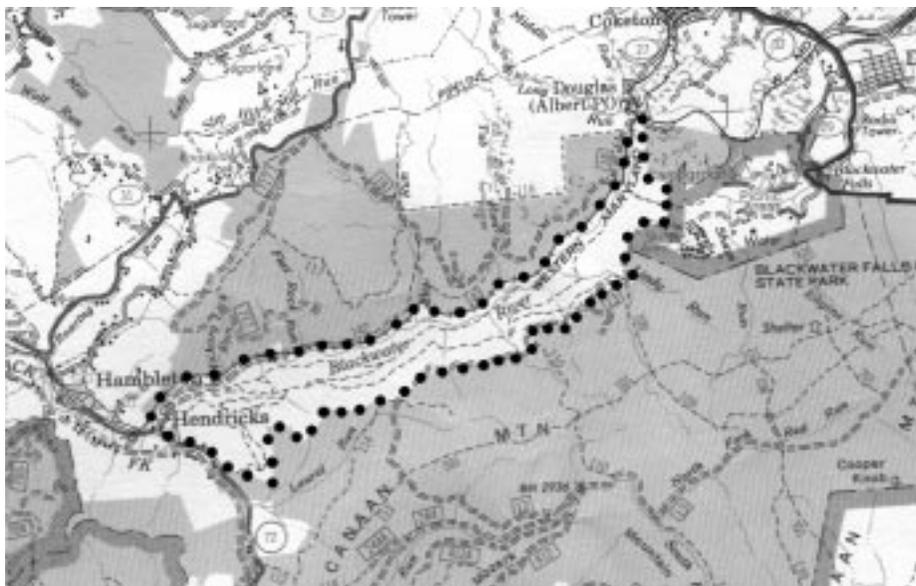
The Blackwater River is about 30 miles long and drains most of Tucker County, WV, 190 miles west of Washington. It executes a complete U-turn in its course, flowing east at the headwaters and west toward the point where it joins Dry Fork of Cheat at Hendricks. The upper Blackwater is flat and drains the high (3,200 ft.) Canaan Valley wetland. In its lower 10 miles, below Blackwater Falls, the river drops 1,200 ft. through a wild, forested thousand foot gorge known as Blackwater Canyon. Blackwater Falls State Park is at the upper end of the Canyon.

The Canyon is renowned for its scenery. Highlights include Blackwater Falls and Lindy Point overlook. The entire area was unexplored wilderness until the mid-nineteenth century. Phillip Pendleton Kennedy said in 1852 “nowhere in all this fair land of ours has a scene more beautifully grand broken on the eye of poet or painter.” The area has been favored by outdoorsmen ever since.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, the West Virginia Central railroad brought a coal and timber boom to the Blackwater. By 1925, the timber was all cut, the mills closed, and the Canyon had become a wasteland of weeds and stumps. There are interesting relics of the boom years still evident, including the former railroad grade along the Blackwater—now a premier hiker/biker trail.

By the 1990s, a healthy second growth forest had regenerated. Common large tree species included red spruce, hemlock, yellow birch, sugar maple, basswood, and many others. In a few locations there are balsam fir, a northern tree at the limit of its range. Understory species include witch hazel, hornbeam, magnolia, mountain holly, and dogwood. Herbs include trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, ladies slippers, bellwort, hepatica, ginseng, and trout lily. Four-legged animals include black bear, bobcat, fisher, deer, red squirrel, gray squirrel, snowshoe hare, cotton-tail rabbit, long-tailed weasel, mink, chipmunk, and opossum. Several endangered and threatened species are present—the northern flying squirrel, the Cheat Mountain salamander, the big-eared Virginia and Indiana bats, and the northern water shrew.

The Canyon is a marvelous recreational source. Unique opportunities exist for hunt-



ing, hiking, and backpacking in the Canyon, and fly-fishing and kayaking in the river itself. Of particular interest to hikers and backpackers are the Monongahela National Forest trail systems on Backbone and Canaan mountains, on either side of the Canyon.

Canyon Lost

Although for many decades the east end of the Canyon has been a state park, the south side (and a strip on the north side) remained a Monongahela National Forest in-holding owned by a power company, which permitted public use of the land. The Conservation Fund had offered \$3 million for the 3,000 acre property, with the intent of later turning it over to the Forest Service (USFS), but this had been refused. In 1997 this property was sold suddenly to Allegheny Wood Products (AWP), Inc., a timber company.

AWP built logging roads and began logging the Canyon in the spring of 1998. The land on the south side of the Canyon adjoining Blackwater Falls State Park has been marked off into small housing lots. The public is now barred from almost all the AWP property. The posted areas include the trailheads for the National Forest trails on Canaan Mountain and the Lindy Point trail. Despite all this, the Canyon is still a place of spectacular beauty. However, the extensive earth disturbance and large tree removal threaten endangered species and water quality, as well as having aesthetic impact. It will be many decades before the forest again matures.

What's Been Done

At the urging of WV Senator Rockefeller, a potential “land swap” between AWP and USFS was pursued for many months. This involved the 700 acres most visible from Blackwater Falls State Park. That land would have gone into public ownership and in return AWP would have been given tracts of National Forest land of equivalent value, but negotiations failed.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy (WVHC) and the WV chapter of the Sierra Club mounted major campaigns to gain public support to save the Canyon. WVHC and others brought suit contending that the land sale was illegal due to lack of approval by the state Public Service Commission, required by statute for land sales by public utilities. The suit ultimately failed on appeal.

In late 1998, AWP was given 60 day notice of pending Endangered Species Act suits brought both by WVHC and the Sierra Club. In February, AWP signed an agreement with the Sierra Club to temporarily defer further logging on their 3,000 acre Canyon tract. This April, attorneys representing WVHC and Heartwood filed suit seeking firmer protections.

Why a Blackwater Canyon National Park

National Park status could save Blackwater Canyon. The lands surrounding the Canyon currently are parts of Monongahela National Forest and Blackwater Falls State Park, but

See Blackwater Canyon, page 20

Trailhead

With the arrival of warmer spring weather, sap begins to rise in nature's vegetation and PATC's overseers. With freshly sharpened tools and a keen eye for what winter has wrought, overseers and trail crews have been busy. A generally mild winter has been kind to most trails, but past gypsy moth damage has resulted in reports of an unusually large number of dead oak blowdowns on the PATC trails. This is a great time to be on the trails before the summer bugs and nettles arrive in force and while the wild flowers are still in bloom.

AT in WV Gets A Facelift

On Saturday, April 10th, Chris Brunton worked with Eagle Scout, Jared Stroeck, and Troop 142 from Kearneysville, WV on an Eagle Scout project to build rock and locust log steps on a badly eroded section of the AT. Eighteen steps and water bars were built under a power line where the AT crosses Chestnut Hill Road in Harpers Ferry, WV. Also working on this project were PATC overseer, Mike Jenkins, and Landscape Architect for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Steve Lowe, in whose jurisdiction this section of the trail lies. Adding to this project, Steve Lowe has arranged for the WV Department of Highways to paint a striped road crossing and install two hiker crossing signs where the AT crosses the road.

SNP Chainsaw Workshop

A very successful SNP chainsaw workshop was held at the Pinnacles Cabin on the 17-18th of April. Eighteen potential sawyers showed up and did extremely well according to the ranger instructors. Forty-knot winds on Saturday night added to the outdoor experience for the many tenters. The meals prepared by Ester Althouse and her family were awesome. Pete Gatje and others claimed to have gained about 10 pounds.

SNP North District

George Walters reports North District overseers and the Hoodlums trail crew have been busy removing numerous blowdowns from the AT in SNP again. Emphasis is on the word "again". The trail was completely cleared end to end in mid-February as previously reported, but perhaps we were a bit premature. Three weeks of March storms brought down as many trees as the previous three months of winter, so we had to start over. This "second" clearing was completed

by the third week of April, and we are keeping our fingers crossed. Special thanks go out to SNP's Don Harvey & crew who jumped in and helped clear several sections. Most of the blowdowns were old gypsy moth skeletons that finally decided to give up the ghost.

Walters also reported that he and John McCrea worked with a group of students from Georgetown University led by Kathryn Sciarretta in April, clearing early briars and cleaning out water bars on Pass Mountain. "They were a hard-working crew and a wonderful group of young people to work with," Walters stated.

SNP Central District

Their crosscut saws singing on a beautiful April 24-25 spring weekend, the SNP Central District's Blue & White Crew cleared the Cedar Run and Link Trails of all blowdowns as well as blowdowns reported on parts of the Buck Hollow and Meadow Spring trails. In addition, erosion control devices were installed on Cedar Run and on the AT near Pinnacles Research Station facility where the crew was housed for the first time since renovation was completed on this historic CCC barracks. Thanks to Crew members Donald Brewster, Susan Cahill, Mr. & Mrs. Dove, Mike Dyas, Charles Hillon, Ron Kutz, John Lewis, Joel Maupin, Dan Ross, Joe Schock, and Kerry Snow for a weekend of good trailwork, great food, and fun.

SNP South District

On "last Saturday of the month" work trips in March and April, PATC's Charlottesville Chapter cut blowdowns and lopped laurel on the One Mile Run and Lewis Peak Trails that the Chapter maintains. In addition, water bars were cleared on the Chapter's section of the AT between McCormick and Rockfish Gaps. Blowdowns were cut on the Big Run - South and Rockytop Trails enroute to Lewis Peak and on the first mile of the Rocky Mountain - Brown Mountain Trail. Gypsy moth-killed oaks continue to fall across the trails. Fortunately for maintainers, reports Lois Mansfield, more than half of the blowdowns seem to be within a mile or so of Skyline Drive.

Racer Camp Hollow Trail

A project to reopen the Racer Camp Hollow Trail as a replacement for the Peer Trail on

Great North Mountain has resulted in a different approach to trail clearing. Last summer, Wil Kohlbrenner decided the best route for the trail was to utilize an old road through the hollow. The road provided a decent tread but full of saplings and briars. The usual technique is to clip them off with loppers or a brush cutter. Instead, it was decided to clear them by pulling them out by the roots. Striped maples, sweet birch, and tulip poplars up to 3/4 inches in diameter are easily pulled from the duff. Small oaks must be dug out with a pick mattock or similar tool. Briars are all interconnected by the roots and must be dug up by the "patch". Volunteers from PATC and area bike riders and horse-men, including a work trip with three mules, have worked to clear the road using this method. The tears in the duff have disappeared over the winter, and the full width of the road shows no signs of regrowth. Work has continued through the winter with the entire length of the old road being located and many blowdowns being removed.

Come Pound Some Tread

The Massanutten Crew reports that after a year of work on the upper portion of the old Glass House Trail, now called Sidewinder, the trail is open for business. The crew built a LOT of sidehill, three to four feet wide, 8% grade, sweeping turns on the switchbacks, grade dips, cribbed and sloped to the down slope. And one rock water bar—because a crewmember was determined to build a water bar.

PATC members are invited to pound that tread with hiking boots because others are going to pound it with mountain bike wheels, horse hooves, sandals, sneakers, and doggie paws. Forest traffic will pound it with deer hooves, bear paws, and the paws of smaller creatures, some of which have no paws, but do a good slither.

Next fall, the crew will return to see what worked and what didn't.

New District Manager

Hop Long is replacing Wil Kohlbrenner as the district manager for PATC's Great North Mountain Trails and as the leader of the Stonewall Brigade Trail Crew. This will allow Wil to concentrate on the Massanutten trails and crew work. A special thanks to Wil for his dual hatted rolls in the past and the

fine trail maintenance standard he has established. After working with Wil for over a year, Hop knows what he is in for.

Work in Rock Creek Park Continues

A trail relocation project in Rock Creek Park is nearing completion by the D.C. trail crew that meets twice a month during the warmer months to perform large projects on the 40 miles of PATC trails inside the District line. The short relocation, necessitated by creek erosion undercutting the bank where the trail ran, was difficult because of the steep terrain of the creek gorge in that area of the park.

In an effort to save a beautiful and large beech tree, the crew built a wood platform around the tree to avoid damaging the extensive root system that covered the ground at the only available location to run the trail. The platform, a brainstorm of park ranger Ken Ferebee, runs for almost 20 feet. Numerous rocks had to be carried up a steep hillside by teams of four "expert" rock haulers to assist with cribbing of the trail for almost half of its length.

Towers in Rock Creek Park

Mark Anderson reports that opponents of a plan by Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems to place two wireless phone towers in Rock Creek Park won a key round in the tower battle in late March when the National Capital Planning Commission rejected the plan. The fight isn't over yet, however. The commission turned down the plan because it didn't outline alternatives or show that the wireless towers were necessary. A spokeswoman told the *Washington Post* that the commission would reconsider an amended plan that covered those issues. The wireless tower plan has sparked opposition from park users and neighbors who are worried the towers will stand out in the D.C. park, which has some of the most beautiful forests in the region. A 1994 telecommunications law makes it difficult for the park service to turn down tower proposals, and this issue is cropping up around the country in both wilderness and urban parks alike. Opponents recently lost a battle to keep wireless towers out of Manassas National Battlefield.

Please send any interesting tale, technical advice, individual or group accomplishments, and trail maintenance questions to Trailhead, c/o Jon Rindt, 7861 Colonial Village Row, Annandale, VA 22003 or to jkrindt@erols.com. □

Volunteers - Appointed in February

Trail District Manager

Fred "Hop" Long

Great North Mountain
Stonewall Brigade

Trail Overseers

Frank Haas

Chancellorsville History Loop
Maury Birthplace

Tom Hawkins

Lee Drive Trail

M. Craig Parker

Beahms Gap Spur

Tyler Williamson

Byrds Nest #4 Access

Tuscarora Trail - SNP boundary to Thompson

Hollow Trail

David Christian

Potomac Heritage - Water Tower to Live Oak Drive

Corridor Monitor Workshop Held

On Saturday, March 20, a corridor monitor workshop was held at Bears Den Hostel in Northern Virginia. This was the first workshop for corridor monitors sponsored by PATC in five years. The workshop was well attended with three instructors and twenty-seven students. Cara Gentry, ATC Corridor Boundary Technician, with help from Joe LaRue, her field assistant, gave instructions on corridor monitoring and boundary maintenance, including a slide presentation. Don Owen, from Appalachian Trail Park Office, gave a talk on reading legal deeds.

The afternoon was spent going over compass basics and learning about the various corridor maps available. A short field exercise was then held to try out the skills learned during the class. After the field exercise, new monitor assignments were made and ten of twelve vacancies were filled. This was an overall fun and successful workshop.

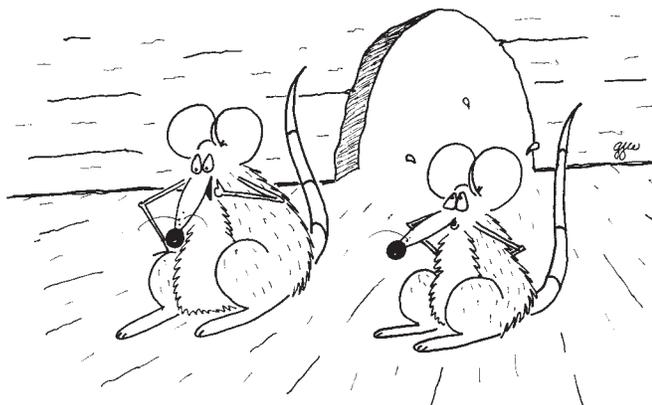
I would like to welcome the following new monitors to the Corridor Monitoring program:

Mark Taylor
Joanne Reker
Tom Merrigan
Joe Beben
Ben Eckert
Molly Moorhead
Sara Grossman
Jane Hershey
Joe Mackrell
Blair Dobbs
John Shoemaker
Robin Klearman
Dave Pierce

Big Flats, PA
Lambs Knoll, MD
Keys Gap North, VA
Blackburn, VA
Sand Spring, VA
Rod Hollow, VA
Rod Hollow, VA
Ashby Gap South, VA
Ashby Gap South, VA
Sky Meadows, VA
Apple Orchard, VA
Apple Orchard, VA
Calf Mountain, VA

—Tom Lupp,
Supervisor of Corridor Management

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



"WAIT A MINUTE!... IF LOUIE BROUGHT BACK THE CHUNK OF GRANOLA... AND FRED GOT THE BREAD CRUMB... WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT YUMMY PIECE OF CHEESE ON THE FLOOR?!"

TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings May 3, 1999. Contact the District Manager for the region that interests you.

SNP NORTH BLUE-BLAZE (Map #9)
[CALL BERNIE STALMANN AT 301/725-8876 or
E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com]

Dickey Ridge Trail
MP 2.1 to Snead Farm Road [2.60 miles]

SHENANDOAH CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZE (Map #10)
[CALL CHARLES HILLON AT 703/754-7388
or E-mail: hillon@erols.com]

Buck Hollow Trail (upper)
Buck Hollow Stream to Skyline Drive [1.70 miles]

TUSCARORA [BBNO] (Map # L)
[CALL LLOYD MACASKILL at 703/978-4070
or E-mail: LloydM3160@aol.com]

Tuscarora Trail
Pinnacle Powerline to Larrick Overlook [1.40 miles]

Tuscarora Trail
Larrick Overlook to Lucas Woods [2.30 miles]

Tuscarora Trail
Shanghai Road to Third Mountain Trail [2.70 miles]

MASSANUTTEN NORTH (Map # G)
[CALL RANDY BUIE at 540/622-6476
or E-mail: todd.r.buie@trw.com]

Massanutten Mt. East Trail
Waterfall Mountain Trail to US Rte. 211 [1.8 mile]

Kennedy Peak Trail
Massanutten East Trail to Kennedy Peak [0.4 mile]

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH (Map # H)
[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477
or E-mail: weschem@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu]

Massanutten Mountain South Trail
TV Tower Road (FR375) to Pitt Spring [3.4 miles]

Massanutten Mountain South Trail
Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail [3.3 miles]

Morgan Run Trail
Cub Run Rd. to Massanutten Mt. South Trail [1.4 miles]

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN (Map # F)
[CALL "HOP" LONG AT 301/942-6177
or E-mail: the FSLongs@erols.com]

White Rock Trail
Tuscarora Trail to White Rock Cliff [0.20 mile]

Blackwater Canyon, from page 17

additional government action is needed to save the Canyon. National Park status would provide full protection.

A 90 page report, *The Blackwater Canyon*, by WVHC recommends National Park status for the Canyon and a Blackwater Ecotourism Enterprise Training Center. A request by the West Virginia congressional delegation for a National Park Service study would begin the process. The report does not propose specific boundaries for the new National Park. These would evolve from the study process and public participation.

To See and To Do

A good way to see the Canyon is by hiking, biking, or skiing the Rail Trail down the north side of the Canyon. The Rail Trail is accessed from Co. Rd. 27, the Douglas Road, which leaves the west side of WV 32 just south of Thomas. You can drive right on to the Rail Trail where the road crosses the North Fork of Blackwater River, about a mile outside the National Forest boundary. The AWP/USFS property line runs right down the Rail Trail. The temporary river access is reached from the Rail Trail near the National Forest boundary.

National Forest trails on both sides of the

Canyon are described in the *Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide*. There are Canyon views and several charming shorter trails in Blackwater Falls State Park.

For more information on the drive for Blackwater Canyon National Park contact the author or Julian Martin, Box 35, Griffithsville, WV 25521, (304)524-7609, imaginemew@aol.com.

—Peter Shoenfeld

Peter Shoenfeld is a West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Board member and Vice-President for Federal Affairs. He may be contacted at (301)587-6197, peter@cais.net.

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

(USPS-440-280) © 1999, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.

Published monthly by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street, S. E., Vienna, VA 22180.

Periodical class postage paid at Vienna, VA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180.

Subscription: \$6.00 annually; \$.50 single copies.



The Potomac Appalachian

118 Park Street, S.E.
Vienna, VA 22180-4609

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

Periodical
Postage
PAID
Vienna, VA