



# The Potomac Appalachian

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

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## PATC Sponsors Event for Disabled Hikers

One of a trail club's most important missions is to reach out to non-traditional trail users those with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Sometimes the disability is blindness, sometimes the hikers are wheelchair-bound. In the case of a group occupying Blackburn Trail Center on the weekend of April 25 and 26, they were teenagers and adults with epilepsy.

Every year, the Neurology Department at Children's National Medical Center sponsors a week-long camp for children with epilepsy held at the 4-H Center outside Front Royal. It is financed by an Appalachian Trail Conference outreach grant. The counselors who work with the children themselves have epilepsy, so they know the concerns and issues, and what they are trying to achieve. One goal is to reduce the physical and social isolation often experienced by those with disabilities and chronic health conditions, and bring the children to a better understanding of themselves and the disability they have through a group and camp experience in the outdoors. Many have been over-protected by parents who fear the consequences of epilepsy.

Counselors need training before they can help others. And that was the purpose of the gathering at Blackburn - to take teenagers to the point of leadership. Ten CITs (Counselors in Training) joined with four staff members to have group sessions and training, funded by a grant from the Appalachian Trail Conference. Dr. John McNamara, the chairman of the newly formed PATC medical committee, conducted training in wilderness medicine and snake identification, including recognition of poisonous snakes. Immediately after the training, hike leader Bob Pickett took the group on an AT hike. The snakes cooperated, and they found two timber rattlers sunning themselves just west of the trail at Buzzard Rock. (Was that you, Bob, holding that rattler by his head and tail for everyone to see?) After that, everyone retreated to Blackburn for a never-to-be-forgotten dinner cooked by camp chef Sharon Johnson. After dinner, Evelyn Salinger demonstrated how to conduct a sing-along during the campfire portion of the evening

The next day was more wilderness training, group training and planning sessions. Most

important, there was cohesion among the counselors encouraged by the beauty of the location. The camp broke up about mid-afternoon on Sunday. The counselors seemed ready to begin the regular camp in June.

The CITs, the staff and parents who drove to the camp were equally impressed with the magnificent scenery and the Blackburn facility. Many commented that they had no idea that such a fine lodge existed in the area, and asked many questions about when the club obtained it and how it was being renovated and enlarged. With a facility like Blackburn, PATC is well equipped to host such sessions. This gives us a capability that we have never had before. It is more than just an opportunity to do good—it is a mission to bring the experience of the trail to people who might otherwise never know it. With the weekend of April 25 and 26, PATC may have embarked on a new era of community service. □

—Tom Johnson,  
Vice President

## Reclaiming The American Chestnut's Old Dominion

Walking the Trail, you may pass a stream called, "Shooting Creek". There are many, and the name does not refer to the water cascading down the mountainside, but to the stills that were fiercely defended as an alternative source of cash after blight killed the big American chestnut trees, taking with it the mainstay of the mountain family's existence. Just imagine what once was ours: before the blight, one-fourth of the trees in Appalachia were American chestnut. At the time, a hundred feet tall was not an uncommon size for chestnut, and the small sweet nuts were preferred by most of the wildlife from birds to bears.

The destruction of the American chestnut

began with a blight imported on Oriental nursery stock shortly after the turn of the century, and proceeded steadily south- and westward from New York through the eastern states in spite of all efforts to halt or delay its spread. By the Great Depression, the chestnut forests of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains were dead; by the early 50's the last large groves in West Virginia had also succumbed.

Everywhere the forests were haunted by tall gray ghosts which covered some mountains so completely that the rural folk described them as giant porcupines. However, the lumber was still valuable — straight as the yellow poplar and nearly as strong as oak, but much

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**Charlottesville Chapter:** John Shannon  
**West Virginia Chapter:** Jane Thompson

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**Cabins:** Matt Ogorzalek  
**Cabin Construction:** Charlie Graf  
**Conservation:** Mary Margaret Sloan  
**Corporate Donations:** Jack Reeder  
**Endowment:** Bill Ladd  
**Finance:** Blair Staley  
**Hikes:** Tom Johnson  
**Lands:** Phil Paschall & Eric Olson, co-chairs  
**Legal:** Randy Minchew  
**Maps:** Dave Pierce  
**Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee:** Charlie Graf  
**Public Affairs:** Terry Cummings  
**Publications:** Jean Golightly  
**Shelters:** John Andrews  
**Trail Patrol:** John Moore

### Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

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**Tuscarora Trail Land Management:** Vacant  
**Cabin Reservations:** Marilyn Stone  
**Deputy Supervisor of Trails:** Rick Rhoades  
**Firestone Tract Management:** Vacant  
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## Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 12, 1998 at the Club headquarters. The meeting was attended by 20 Council members, 2 Special Committee chairs, 3 staff and one Club member.

The Club membership decreased by a net of 11 to 5910 in April; but 132 new members signed up during the month. Treasurer Dick Newcomer gave an overview of the endowment fund. In 1992 and in 1996, the Club received very large gifts which were put into an endowment fund that has been well managed so that its value now is several times the annual operating budget. The purposes of the fund are to provide supplemental income to the operating fund, provide income to capital funds and provide a reserve in the event of severe, unforeseen problems. The Endowment Committee consists of five Club members appointed by the President for staggered three year terms and the Club President and Treasurer. They meet quarterly to review investments. Once each year, they transfer some of the income to endowment fund to the operations of the Club and to the restricted capital funds.

Wilson Riley discussed the Shenandoah National Park (SNP) Backcountry/Wilderness Management Plan. The Park is divided into five recreational opportunity zones with regulations for each. The thrust of the Plan is to reduce the impact of humans on the Park. Access to wilderness and cultural areas of the Park may be limited. Essentially every activity of the Club in the Park will be affected. Committee chairs are urged to respond to the Plan before the June Council meeting. Public Comment closes June 30.

Separate from that document, each Trail Maintaining Organization is expected to have an Appalachian Trail Management Plan for its section of the AT. PATC wrote such a plan in 1982 and revised it in 1988. This plan is being circulated to affected Committee Chairs to get it updated to share with our government partners before the fall.

Nextel is interested in building a telecommunications tower at the edge of the parking lot in Ashby Gap. A County ordinance decrees that if the tower is on private property it must accommodate three companies and therefore must be very tall. If the tower is built on Park property, the County ordinance does not apply and the

tower need be only slightly above tree level. The tower would not be visible from the AT. There would be a small building at the edge of the parking lot that would require service once a month or less. PATC and ATC are working with Nextel.

The Council voted to increase the cabin rental rates starting on October 1, 1998. The new rate structure removes the increase in rate for parties larger than a specified number. There will be a single rate for all cabins during the weekend and on holidays and a lower rate for weekday rental. All rates are multiples of \$5. The rate increases, the first in four years, are in the range of 12%

Walter Smith reported that the Nominating Committee is polling Council members about issues facing the new officers. Club members are urged to contact Walt through Club headquarters.

Supervisor of Trails, Pete Gatje, complimented trail overseers on their work on the AT and major side trails in the SNP. A good rapport has been built between volunteers and the Park Rangers. The Massarock and SNP Trail crews that will work in the SNP for ten weeks this summer are filled.

Maps Committee Chair, David Pierce, showed a strip profile of the AT maintained by PATC. The Council agreed that the profile should be printed and sold.

The Hike Leaders Training Workshop will be held on September 12 and 13 at Blackburn Trail Center. Leaders from other area hiking clubs will be notified. Registration can be made through Club headquarters.

PATC is organizing a booth and other events with other outdoors club on Roosevelt Island on National Trails Day, June 6.

—Gerhard Salinger,  
Recording Secretary



### *Chestnut, from page 1*

lighter, more easily worked and more versatile. Chestnut bark was the preferred source of tannins for tanning leather. So the standing dead timber was harvested, except in remote areas where some standing dead trees may still be found. Chestnut, like locust, is highly resistant to rot.

Old-timers speak of the era before the blight in mythic terms, "We had a world o' chestnuts." Because they bloom after the last frost, the nut crop was 100% dependable. Late in September through early October when chestnuts dropped, all energies were directed toward their harvest, and just about everyone dealt in chestnuts. In the mountains, school did not begin until after chestnut harvest. Families who did not own groves collected what fell in the nearby open woods where underbrush had been cleared to facilitate nut gathering.

Transported by horseback or wagon to the country store and thence to the railroad, the first sweet nuts of each season brought 10 cents a pound, when sugar and meat were 4 and 5 cents a pound, the best grade of flour was 49 cents for a 25 pound bag and \$1.75 was a daily wage. On a good day an adult might collect as much as 100 pounds. Many a mountain family earned enough at chestnut harvest to provide the cash needs for the year, including school books, clothing, all food not produced at home, and treats. Chestnuts were the single biggest source of income in the mountains, and for the poor folks, often the only source.

Following harvest they turned the hogs out in the woods to fatten on chestnuts. What the hogs missed was food for the abundant wild game which hunters used to supplement the larder. As the chestnuts died out, so did the independent existence they had supported. Some found work at the saw-mills. Large numbers left the home place for the first time to work in coal mines. Those who could not or would not work for others turned to moonshining.

Today only a few big chestnuts survive within the natural range. The rest are mostly roots which the underground environment protects against blight, and their shoots, which inhabit the understory. The shoots are sheltered from the wind-born blight by taller trees but are stunted for lack of sunlight, unable to flower and produce nuts. Now it is pos-

sible to begin American chestnut recovery of the canopy slot at carefully selected sites within the former domain; management should play an important role, and the interested public may participate in the rescue of the species (*Castanea dentata*).

Studying chestnut blight and the ecology of forest chestnuts since the 70's, breeding all-American intercrosses, and grafting for blight resistance, Gary Griffin, Professor of Plant Pathology at VA Tech, and John Rush Elkins, Professor of Chemistry at Concord College, WV, founded the American Chestnut Cooperators' Foundation. In a nutshell, their plan is an integrated management approach, combining ideal sites managed for American chestnut, grafting for blight resistance and the manipulation of a naturally occurring biological control.

When chestnuts are released on newly clearcut lands, they compete well at first, growing as rapidly as any other tree, and bearing nuts within a few years. Then the blight strikes and the trunk is killed, while at its base, new sprouts appear. Whenever a sprout is not browsed back by deer and rabbits or shaded out by other trees, it can make a nut-bearing chestnut tree within 4 or 5 years. Once again blight will kill the tree, and once again its roots will send up more sprouts.

Each time this cycle is repeated, the chestnut shoots compete against greater odds because the other trees are not affected by blight. The chestnut shoots, being the newest growth available, are more heavily browsed; and because of the competing hardwood trees, they receive less and less sunlight. Within 10 years after clearcutting, most of the chestnuts are dead, roots and all. Many clearcuts (and other openings, caused by storms, fire, pests and disease) in prime chestnut country age past the deadline, we are losing the valuable root stocks that could hold these sites for a revival of American chestnut.

Ideal American chestnut habitat is found on sloping lands at low to medium elevations, in coves facing east to north, with many chestnut stems, acid, sandy-loam soils and full sunshine. Good site indicator trees are tulip poplar, cucumber magnolia and red oak. When openings occur on these sites, they should be managed for American chestnut recovery; no other use could match the potential benefit to the forest community.

Management involves cutting out competing hardwoods within 10 feet of chestnut stems every other year. When this is done, continuous cycles of blight cause hypovirulence, a virus infection of the blight fungus. Typically the blight fungus enters the inner bark through wounds, forming sunken cankers which expand rapidly, kill the cambium and girdle the tree within a year. In contrast, hypovirulent strains of the blight fungus make swollen cankers grow slowly; they are superficial, confined to the outer bark, and do not threaten the tree's life. Hypovirulence can increase chestnut survival up to 5 years and establish continuous nut production to feed the wildlife on a managed site.

For a forest site to produce large chestnut trees, blight resistant stock must be grafted there, then the first blight cankers on the grafts must be inoculated with hypovirulent strains of the blight fungus. This combination has produced biological control of blight on three American chestnuts grafted in the Lesesne State Forest (Nelson County, VA) in 1980 and inoculated in 1982 & 1983. They are thriving amidst a sea of blight, averaging a meter growth per year, and have been producing nuts for more than ten years.

This is the example you may help to reproduce. As you ramble through the woods, keep an eye out for American chestnuts struggling to survive in new forest openings that meet the ideal specifications. Choice of site is very important to avoid additional environmental stresses which could upset the delicate balance of blight control. On public lands, you may contact the Forest Service for permission to adopt the site and manage it for American chestnut recovery. Then contact The American Chestnut Cooperators, at 2667 Forest Service Road 708, Newport, VA 24128, to have the site entered into a database and considered for a future grafting clinic.

We hope you may be able to join in our efforts to save the best parts of the forest for American chestnuts. There is enough work to be done to keep us all out of retirement. It promises an unparalleled benefit to the environment, for our descendants' legacy.

*Lucille Griffin (gagriffi@vt.edu) The American Chestnut Cooperators' Foundation (<http://ilpm.ppws.vt.edu/griffin/accf.html>) □*

## Cabin Rates To Be Simplified

At its May meeting, Council voted to simplify cabins rental rates effective October 1, 1998. This Council decision will eliminate the two-tiered fee rate structure for weekends and holidays which currently imposes an additional fee of \$10 on rental parties having more than five occupants. A statistical sampling of cabins rental records for 1997 showed that the surcharge for parties of more than 5 people was collected in only 13.9% of rental transactions. Council decided that the added administrative complexity involved did not warrant continuing this policy. A modest increase in the rental rates for most cabins was also approved, to become effective on the same date.

Eliminating the surcharge will simplify the work of the volunteer Cabins Desk staff, and cabins users will find the new fee structure easier to calculate the amount due on a rental

transaction, since the approved changes (a) establish a single rate for a night's rental of a cabin regardless of the number in the party, and (b) adjust the nightly rates to be divisible by 5 (i.e., \$15, \$20, \$25, etc.). The approved new rate structure is shown below.

As members know, the cabins are intended to provide unique outdoor recreational opportunities for our members. PATC currently offers 27 cabins for rent, 12 of which are available to the public and 15 which are reserved for members only. Geographically, 18 cabins are located in Virginia, four in both Maryland and Pennsylvania, and one in West Virginia. The number of cabins in the system continues to increase. In 1988 we had 19 cabins in the system, while in 1994 we had 23 cabins. Five more are currently under construction.

Council made the changes since cabins rental fees have not been adjusted in some years, and it appeared timely to consider if the fees currently charged were commensurate with the value received by cabins renters, in line with Club costs to support the system, provided a fair return to the Club for volunteer efforts expended, and were efficient to administer. The above listed changes indicate Council's conclusions on these issues.

The proposed time schedule and rate adjustment for the six primitive cabins which we operate in Shenandoah National Park are subject to SNP approval under the terms of our current Concession Agreement. Negotiations with Park officials on this matter have been initiated. □

—Warren C. Sharp - Secretary

**CURRENT AND PROPOSED PATC CABINS RENTAL RATES**

CABIN	RATED CAPACITY	USAGE	CURRENT WEEKEND & HOLIDAY RATE TO RATED CAPACITY	CURRENT WEEKDAY RATES TO RATED CAPACITY	PROPOSED WEEKEND & HOLIDAY RATES TO RATED CAPACITY	PROPOSED WEEKDAY RATES TO RATED CAPACITY
Highacre	12	Members	\$50	\$20	\$55	\$30
Blackburn	30	Members	\$50	\$20	\$55*	\$30*
Garlan House	8	Members	\$40	\$20	\$45	\$25
Catoctin	12	Members	\$35	\$18	\$40	\$20
Firestone	8	Members	\$35	\$18	\$40	\$20
Glass House	10	Members	\$35	\$18	\$40	\$20
Shairer TC	14	Members	\$35	\$18	\$40	\$20
Little Orleans	8	Members	\$30	\$15	\$35	\$20
Meadows	12	Members	\$30	\$15	\$35	\$20
Conley	8	Members	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Corbin	12	Public	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Doyle River	12	Public	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Hermitage	12	Public	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Myron Glaser	12	Members	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Jones Mt.	10	Public	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Michener	14	Public	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Milesburn	12	Public	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Morris	12	Members	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Mutton Top	12	Members	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Pocosin	12	Public	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Range View	10	Public	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Rock Spring	12	Public	\$20	\$12	\$25	\$15
Bear Spring	6	Public	\$15	\$10	\$15	\$10
Dawson	7	Members	\$15	\$10	\$15	\$10
Olive Green	4	Public	\$15	\$10	\$15	\$10
Sugar Knob	4	Public	\$15	\$10	\$15	\$10
Weaver	6	Members	\$15	\$10	\$15	\$10

\*Plus \$3 each for more than 15 persons.

## Diary — Morris Cabin, May 2, 1998

A memorable night last night. Arrived at the cabin above Lydia just before dark. Eager to see the cabin and needing light, I chose to use a glass kerosene lamp instead of a flashlight - it seemed more fitting and it was my favorite lamp I remembered from childhood. As I approached the kitchen which was a step down, the glass chimney fell off and broke. Still my favorite lamp, I'll get another chimney. Went to the van for more things - no rain yet. Got back just in time for the rain to start - must have been 10 p.m.

The most interesting thing I saw in the cabin is the wood-burning cook stove - I wondered if it worked well. The kitchen was complete - sink with no faucets, hanging pots and pans, cabinet space and a garbage can for a refrigerator (to keep bugs and animals out of it). There were also ten empty one gallon water jugs. A strong spring emptied into an old bathtub about 100 yards away. No wonder why Mr. Morris built near it. All the water a man could use, and only 100 yards away. I got two mattresses down from upstairs and put the sleeping bag on them - two mattresses should be better than one. In bed and the rain came down. The tin roof makes music. Added to that, the down spouts gurgled and splashed all around me. The sleeping bag returned so much body heat that I couldn't sleep. I tossed the bag and got blankets instead. Much better. It was hard to get to sleep. Ann was on my mind - how much better if she were here. The night wore on. Sleep came after reading some of "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff". Several times during the night the rain woke me up, as the rain waxed and waned the pitter pat changed to rat-a-tat-tat and back again. It must have rained two inches by morning. Dim light filtered in the window and woke me up at about 7 a.m. To my surprise, no rain - the clouds were heading east.

Now for the cook stove. I had oatmeal to cook. I was very surprised at the tiny fire box as compared to the size of the stove - it was tucked in the left corner and about 7" x 7" x 14". No matter, this was a Knox Mealmaster stove - wonder how many homes have one. In due time, the water in the coffee pot got hot enough to pour over the oatmeal. Breakfast done. After one more trip to the van, 1/4 mile downhill, I had everything needed for the stay including a metal kerosene lantern and another glass lamp. I wasn't to be reduced to flashlights and propane.

Ann hinted that the other cabins might be interesting, so I first went uphill to the fairly new "Mutton Top" cabin - a great view but too new for me. Then back to Morris for food, ten minutes out and I was hungry. In a hurry, lunch was cold corned beef on bread - yuck. Covered with mayonnaise it wasn't quite as bad.

Then on to the cabins below me. The map said there was a trail. I found it behind a shed and after maybe 1/8 mile it dumped me onto a logging road. Knowing that the cabins were down hill from me, I continued on the logging trails as they wound down the mountain. The going got steeper and tougher - stickers, vines, trees, impossible slopes. Always, I kept the sound of rushing water on my right - thinking that if I crossed the cascading stream, I would become lost. Also, I kept sight of the next ridge, knowing that if I went uphill, to the right, I wouldn't even reach the road I'd driven in on - another way to get lost. Eventually I slid into a pasture with a barn on it. Looking again at my map, it must be the barn near a cabin. But there was no cabin nearby - just an abandoned house. I then heard a truck to my right. As I crossed a stream and stepped over a fence, the truck approached. The driver, Roy, told me that I was a good mile and two tenths from where I should be. I had missed the cabins and was all the way to Mutton Hollow (wherever that was). Very helpful, he showed me the way back - just follow the bluestone covered road till it ended, then continue on the logging trails. As I started back up, I thought about Roy who was in his seventies, smoked continuously, was missing his left index finger and happened to be building a two mile long split rail fence. I was impressed. Made me think I can start and do many things if I wanted to.

No problem, just a mile up. I got so winded that I had to stop to catch my breath. Making good time though, in just a few minutes I was back where I had crossed a barbed wire fence - maybe I shouldn't have crossed it in the first place. Nearby was a wood stair for crossing another barbed wire fence that Roy had told me about. I hadn't crossed it before because I thought it was a hunting stand. Immediately after crossing the fence, the original trail picked up and in no time I was at the Conley cabin - no one around so I took a couple of pictures of it. The map showed a shower downhill - I just had to see it. No

shower, just a small stream. I crossed it and came upon another cabin with eight or so volunteers working on it. I got a tour - small cabin but it will be a beautiful and cozy one. Opens in the fall - I want to stay in the Wineberry cabin. I took a picture of the cabin with workers posing with a beam in their hands. On the way back I took a picture of Boxwood cabin - forlorn - no windows, unused for years - I hope it is next to be rebuilt. Nearing "home" raindrops start to fall - what a treat - it rains only when I'm inside. I even had time to cool beer in the spring (bathtub), pick poke weed and gather wood before the rains came.

Back to my friend the cookstove. After heating water for the second time, (first pot leaked) I stuffed the poke in a pot with a steamer tray in it. I added to this missive for awhile and restarted the stove over and over again. Eventually I decided to eat the poke. Ann would be proud - it wasn't overcooked - actually after nearly an hour of feeding the stove, the poke was warm and limp. I tried some seasonings I found in the cabin - MSG and garlic powder. It still tasted like half cooked poke weed. A big batch, I almost downed it all. My dad would have been proud of me too - he taught my brothers and I to pick and eat Poke Weed and Lambs Quarter at an early age. No meal is complete without protein. I dumped all the rest of the corned beef in a pan. It looked and smelled like dog food - maybe heating will improve it. I stuff paper and wood, then light, then wait five minutes, then more paper, wood, matches. I can tell if nothing is happening in there, I hear no rumble, no sizzling - yet I keep hoping something is happening. Now I know what we did before electricity. Actually, heated corned beef is edible. I scrape a few warm forkfuls on my plate at a time, hoping that when I finish them, a few more morsels will be warm enough to taste good. After one and a half hours the thermometer built into the face of the oven door reads 200 degrees. I wonder what you can cook in a 200 degree oven. At last, I scrape the last of the now dry corned beef on to my plate. One benefit, the kitchen is pleasantly warm. Maybe that is what a Knox Mealmaster is for.

Excitement, I hear voices - is Chad bringing a friend? I jump to the window and see a dog running - even more excitement. I then see

*See Morris Cabin, page 6*

### *Morris Cabin, from page 5*

two of the workers from Wineberry Cabin. They pass on by. Oh well - I'm here for solitude, aren't I? I wonder if they saw the beer I had cooling in the bathtub.

No watch have I - sun was still pretty high when I started "dinner". Rain gone, I look at its elevation again - maybe 5:30 p.m. Funny how days seem longer when you go to bed when it is dark and get up when it is light.

Not having much to do, I clean up a bit. Mouse droppings - behind the dish drainer, across the kitchen on a counter, in a cupboard. OOP's, I've used the same sponge I washed dishes with. What would my mother think - what will son Chad think when he gets here? Should I tell him which sponge I used to clean up with? I wonder if when I wash mouse droppings down the sink if all the bad stuff in mouse droppings goes with them in the water. Is it "out of sight, out of kitchen"? Whoever left part of a stick of butter in the cupboard sure made a lot of mice happy. Finishing my cleanup while there was enough light coming in from outside made the job easier - no need for candles and lanterns.

That left me with time on my hands. Still enough daylight to be out, I read more of "Don't Sweat. . ." on the porch with its view of the world - an ancient but interesting decaying picket fence, steeply sloping mountainside yard, old log shed at an angle having fallen off its rock foundation and a "window" between the trees of the ridges and valley below. Mr. Morris must have had many serene evenings sitting here - and I'm having one right now.

Eventually the day faded into darkness. I brought out one lantern, then another reading into the night, scrunching down near the light. So this must have been the way Abe Lincoln and all the others read at night.

Cold and dark, I went in. It was then that Chad showed up - full of tales of whitewater rafting in West Virginia and of employees of McKinsey and Co. where he will soon be working. Hungry of course, I showed him the wonders of the Knox Mealmaster. It worked quite well in heating beans. Using a pot with a flat bottom soaked up the heat so much better than what I used before. Sleep came fast for both of us.

At Morris cabin I wake up with the birds - they see to it. Chad continued to sleep so I

managed to get to the porch, taking blankets with me. Reading, looking, being - I am peaceful - except for the one missing element - Ann's presence. The morning sun warms me - how nice. Later, Chad awakens and I decide to make some oatmeal for us. Back to Knox Mealmaster. Hard as I try, I can't get it started on the first try. I stuff more paper in, then more. Because the fire hasn't started to draw up the flue yet, smoke seeps from the stove into the kitchen - rising up to the wooden box over the stove. The fire is now starting to take - what is that sound I hear - could it be the water boiling? No, it is coming from the wood box above - mice maybe. Then I see it scurrying across the wall to the top of a cupboard - gray with pink feet. Healthy looking mouse. I guess for mice, the saying might be "If you can't stand the smoke, get out of the kitchen".

Interesting how dependent situations develop. People bring food and some leave it behind. They also cook and provide a warm place for mice to nest. The mice, in turn, gnaw at food containers, allowing ants to share in the feast. For example, mice chewed at the plastic top of a Log Cabin syrup bottle. This made a large enough opening for ants to get in - enough food for a colony for months.

Chad and I were ready to hit the trail. Went up the CCC-built road then past the Johnson cabin on a trail up towards Hightop summit. A lot of climbing - but we were up for it. Found a couple of interesting things - on a rock was a 3" long dropping - much discussion about what kind of animal it came from - it was full of gray hair and 3/8" long claws - maybe an owl? Later we came across another pile of dung - we decided it may have come from a bear. As with the first, I took a picture of it. I wouldn't say it was the highlight of my trip, but... About half way up the mountain we either lost the trail or it had just been too overgrown - some areas of the trail were choked with 30' stretches of raspberry stickers up to 8 feet tall, many downed trees over the trail. We decided to go back, but even lost the trail we had come up on. Then we found a logging trail and followed it for awhile. Looking up at the ridges, it looked like if we continued, we would be on the next ridge over and far from the cabin. We decided to get off the trail and go down the fall line. Our little map showed a boulder-choked gorge called "Devil's Graveyard" - we wanted to see it anyway. It was there all right - boulders 1 - 6 feet across piled up on each other -

maybe 150' wide and 1,300 uphill. Even stranger because they were piled up so high that they were higher than the surrounding terrain. I would have thought that the soil eroded from between the rocks would have caused them to fall below ground level. What made them pile up so high. We crossed the "Devil's Graveyard" - even climbed downhill on them - rough going but what an experience. It was clouding up again.

Back in the cabin getting ready to leave. The lightning and thunder seems to shake the whole mountainside. As we cleaned the cabin as the sky opened up. We locked up the mattresses and blankets, swept everywhere, washed dishes, packed so we only would have to make one trip. After half an hour we were ready. Found a small leak in the kitchen, put a bucket under it and noted the location to report it. A break in the downpour and we were off. Loaded with our stuff, rain starting again, thunder and lightning getting very close. We jumped into our cars and were off the mountain.

By the way, Chad, I didn't use the mouse dropping sponge to clean dishes with aren't you glad. □

—Bob Smolinski



### **PATC Seeking Editor**

PATC is still on the hunt for a volunteer Editor interesting in generating our club newsletter. If you're interested, please forward your letter of interest to club President Sandi Marra at the PATC Headquarters address listed on the back of the newsletter, or send Sandi and email (smarra@atsva.com). The past editor will work with you to bring you up to speed on your first issue, and you'll have the support of a PATC staff member and bevy of outstanding PA Staff volunteers.

## News for Hike Leaders

When you receive the signup sheet for your next hike, it will look different. This is because of two resolutions passed at the March Council meeting. First, there is a liability waiver statement on the back of the form. At the meeting place for your hike, have your hikers read the statement before they sign up. (You do not have to read it aloud. That detracts from the atmosphere of the hike.) Obviously, if anyone does not agree with the provisions of the waiver, they should drop out of the hike. The waiver is an additional form of protection for you and the Club in case of a mishap. PATC carries an umbrella liability policy that covers you, the hike leader, in case of a lawsuit. It does not guarantee that no lawsuit will be filed. But if the Club were ever taken to court, the liability waiver would be an additional point in our favor. However, there is simply no substitute for a well-conducted hike. That is the ultimate form of protection. Read the Hike Leaders Guide and carry it with you on the hike. (If you no longer have one, don't be afraid to call the Club to get a copy .) Conduct your hike in a responsible way. And by the way, have fun while you are at it.

The second requirement is that all official Club hikes (those that are advertised in the *PA*) must list a Club member as either leader, co-leader or assistant leader. We figure that that is a pretty basic requirement for Club

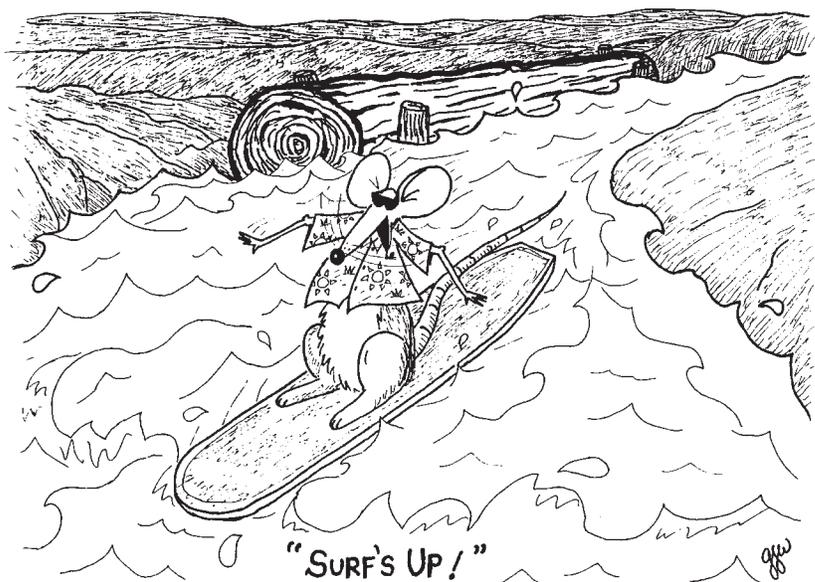
sponsorship, and it insures that our liability policy is in force for the event. Also new on the back of the form is a trail condition report. Fill it out and send it in only if you see problems on the trail. (Be sure it is a trail that we maintain.) If conditions are really bad, call Heidi at the Club, 703/242-0693, ext. 12, so that we can correct it quickly. Finally, our

annual hike leader training will be held at Blackburn Trail Center on September 12 and 13. Call Tom Johnson at 410/647-8554 to sign up. And remember what Garrison Keillor says. "Hike leader training - it's not for everyone." □

—Tom Johnson,  
Hikes Committee Chairman

### Tails From the Woods by George Walters

**IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT THAT CREATURES OF THE FOREST OFTEN USE WATERBARS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.**



## Donations

Our heartfelt THANK YOU to those members who have given additional donations with their dues renewal fee 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 insure that these protected trail lands can be enjoyed by future generations.

### Donations received in May

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

Maya and Thomas Chilcott	S/C	Shirley Strong (In memory of Philip Stone)	T
Ruth Durlou	HQ	John L. Goodman, Jr.	G
Kristi K. Merritt	HQ	Mari Noster	G
Peggy Finn and Jim Firman	S/C	Sherry Dixon and Kent Buhl	E
Mary and Frank Fravel	T	Carol J. Fitzgerald and Clyde M. Newman	S/C
Jed and Gay Tucker	E	Gerard G. Gold	T
David Wilcox	G	Dennis R. Sullivan	T, S/C
Marjorie Dexter	G	John V. Pasley	E

—Pat Fankhauser,  
Membership Coordinator

## Do you Know??

What is the legend behind the naming of "Hot Mountain" in the Central district of Shenandoah National Park?

(Answer on Page 15)

### Patrons

Capital Hiking Club  
Center Hiking Club  
Potomac Backpackers Association  
Sierra Club, Washington Outings Program  
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

## 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 conducts a work trip on the AT on the first Saturday of each month, a hike on the second Saturday, and a work trip on the Tuscarora Trail on the third Saturday. On the first Saturday of the month, members may stay overnight (reservations required) at Hermitage Cabin after a day's trail work. Dinner, breakfast, camaraderie, and good conversation available. INFO: Charles Irvin 301/447-2848, or Steve Koeppen 410/756-2916.

### 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 Walt Smith, 540/678-0423.

### 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 activities. 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 Wednesday evening for the following seven days. The *Forecast* can also be found on PATC's Web site at <http://patc.simplenet.com/forecast.html>

- Hiking Trips
- Backpacking Trips
- Trail Work Trips
- Cabin 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!



## July

### 1 (Wednesday)

#### 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 email or email attachment to [pfankh@erols.com](mailto:pfankh@erols.com). Allow one week for postal service delivery.

### 1 (Wednesday)

#### HIKE - West Virginia Chapter Harpers Ferry, WV

Mike Jenkins will lead a hike around the historic features of Virginian Island near Harpers Ferry. He has a unique knowledge of the industrial ruins in this now heavily forested area just below the town. We will meet at Highacre at 7:00 p.m. INFO: Jane 301/865-5399 before 9:00 p.m.

### 2 (Thursday)

#### MEETING - New Members Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Thrills and chills abound as hikes, cabins, excursions, and special events are stripped of secrecy for interested new and not-so-new club members. Just show up or phone ahead. INFO: Lisa Still ([Stills2@aol.com](mailto:Stills2@aol.com)) 703/425-3884

### 4 (Saturday)

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

9 a.m. Enjoy this holiday by giving trail stewardship a chance. This event likely involves weeds and some perspiration, but the "thank you" from the passing hikers make it all worth it. This fun and social event has you home in time for the barbecue. Tools provided, bring a lot of water. INFO: Rick Canter ([rbcanter@erols.com](mailto:rbcanter@erols.com)) 301/924-4942

### 4 - 5 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP & BERRY PICKING - Stonewall Brigade,

George Washington National Forest, VA-WV border Celebrate our independence by joining George Washington in his National Forest. Nothing is planned —hey, it's a holiday! We'll think of something useful to do while munching on berries. Either/both days. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

### 4 - 5 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Come join our outstanding crew in construction of this beautiful log cabin using nothing but the primitive tools which would have been familiar to our great grandfathers. Learn the skills your ancestors used to build their houses, barns, and corn cribs. We have all the antique tools and know how to use them, and you can learn how too. It may be hot as a firecracker but that doesn't faze the Tulip Tree Crew. We will be hewing, notching and laying up logs. The walls are up about five feet high now with only about two more courses to go before we install the floor joists for the second floor. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053

### 7 (Tuesday)

#### MEETING - Trail Patrol Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATCs 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: John Moore

(trailptr@aol.com) 703/368-1952 or see PATCs website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>)

## 8 (Wednesday)

### MEETING - Mountaineering Section Headquarters, Vienna, VA

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Tony Sanders 202/362-3819 or see PATCs website ([http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn\\_sect/](http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect/))

## 11 (Saturday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - New Crew Massanutten Mountains, George Washington National Forest, VA

Tread rehab on the trail from PATC's Glass House to the Tuscarora - Bear Wallow Trail. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

## 11 (Saturday)

### (Rain Date July 25) TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. to noon. Don't miss this work trip. This is your only chance to work on D.C. hiking trails in July. Please note that we will continue one work trip a month through September. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31

## 11 (Saturday)

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

Whew, the 5th event on the Maryland trail in six weeks! There is nothing like a fun day in the woods to go home bragging about, so come learn about trail stewardship and meet some stalwarts. Bring liters of water, lunch, and gloves. 9 a.m. start in Frederick County, MD. INFO: Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com) 301/924-4942

## 11 (Saturday)

### HIKE - Duncan Knob Central Massanutten Mountains, George Washington National Forest, VA

This scenic 14.5 mile hike of moderate difficulty and moderate pace passes over terrain ranging from partially overgrown meadows to a short rocky scramble to the top of Duncan Knob. We'll meet at the Vienna Metro Station at 7:30 a.m. The hike will start and end where the Duncan Hollow Trail crosses U.S. 211 and will include a segment of the Middle Mountain Trail to make for an enjoyable circuit hike. INFO: Bryon Lawrence (blawrenc@msn.com) 301/294-4830



## 11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew PATC Vining Tract, Standardsville, VA

Help us clear the overgrown hiking trails around Mutton Top/Morris and Conley cabins. Bring sturdy work gloves, long pants (Fran, this means you), and a lunch and water for Saturday. Saturday night community dinner. Share costs for food. Please call by July 6 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Tom Tamburo (wxurf58a@prodigy.com) 301/829-0354

## 11 - 12 (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. Community supper and overnight at the Hermitage Cabin. RSVP by Wednesday of that week. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848

## 11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

### CLASS - Wilderness First Aid Northern VA

A 16 hour class in Wilderness First Aid will be conducted in Northern Virginia. The course includes classroom study and hands-on practice and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$125. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. More information on the web (<http://wfa.net/>). INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905

## 12 (Sunday)

### HIKE - Parent/Child Sky Meadows State Park, VA

This is a moderately challenging hike for young hikers ages 7-11. Between 5-7 miles (depending on group stamina and interest) on rising terrain through Sky Meadows Park and onto the Appalachian Trail. Park Fee will apply. INFO: George Still 703/425-3884

## 12 (Sunday)

### HIKE - Jones Mountain/Staunton River Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Jones Mt/The Sag/Staunton River. A pretty rough 16-mile day. One of the most beautiful and remote areas in the Shenandoah National Park. PATC Map 10. Carpooling/Metro accessible (depending upon seating space in cars). INFO: Chris 301/652-4777 July 6-11 before 9:30 p.m.

## 13 (Monday)

### MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press 5

## 14 (Tuesday)

### MEETING - PATC Council Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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 (wriley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11

## 18 (Saturday)

### HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Massanutten Mountain, George Washington National Forest, VA

Geological Interpretive Hike. In the lovely setting of Passage Creek, we will be hiking at a slow pace for five miles with a 1000' upward elevation change. The hike begins near the 19th Century Elizabeth Furnace where we will stop for an interpretation of the iron ore process. The hike continues on the Tuscarora Trail up the slopes of Massanutten Mountain; reaching Shawl Gap, hikers will turn northward with a stop for views at Buzzard Rock. Geology of the Shenandoah Valley area will be explained during the hike by Dr. William Melson of the Smithsonian Museum. Leaders/INFO: Judy McCarthy & Bill Melson 540/933-6276

## 18 (Saturday)

### Field Study Seminar Shenandoah National Park, VA

Rediscovering lifestyles of the past by discovering the remaining materials from hunters, farmers, and a president. Many stories have been uncovered through careful archeological studies of homesites and settlements. Many more stories are still untold.

A July day in the mountains provides the perfect setting for exploring and better understanding the lives of people who once lived within the boundaries of Shenandoah National Park. Fee: \$25, limited to 25 persons. INFO: Shenandoah National Park 540/999-3499

## 18 (Saturday)

### CLASS/HIKE - Outdoor Leadership Workshop & Hike Shenandoah National Park, VA

For new and established outdoor leaders, this workshop and day hike discusses Leadership Types, Setting People Up For Success, and Modeling Behavior. It covers 8 miles and 1,500 feet of climb at a moderate pace in Shenandoah National Park! INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905

## 18 (Saturday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade

George Washington National Forest, VA-WV border Peer Trail relocation. Meet in Wardensville, WV. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

## 18 (Saturday)

### HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #3 Carlisle, PA

A moderately paced 12.5 mile hike on the Tuscarora Trail between PA-233 and Second Narrows Road. Elevation gain is 2200 feet. A car shuttle is required. PATC Map J. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack 703/339-6716 or William 703/256-6735

## 18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

### HIKE - North Chapter, Tuscarora Trail Series #II-2

Sleepy Creek section. Second overnighter. WV Rte. 9 to WV Rte. 45. 1st day: 11.5 moderate-to-difficult miles with an elevation change of 1200 ft. Overnight at Myers Place Campground. 2nd day: 11.2 moderate-to-difficult miles with an elevation change of 1000 ft. Will shuttle vehicles and camping equipment to allow hiking with only a daypack. Will need tent, sleeping bag, and food. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 5:30 p.m.

## 18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Deep South Trail Worktrip North District Hoodlums

#### North Section, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come join us for a day of work on the mother of all trails—the AT! Afterwards, we'll retire to Indian Run Hut for some down-home Southern cooking complete with Appalachian folk tunes and Dixie Lager. B'rrer Rabbit would be proud! INFO/RSVP: George Walters 410/426-2724

## 18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue & White Crew

#### Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The Blue and White Crew heads to the Shenandoah Central District to help overseers with the "Big Projects". We'll be staying at the White Oak Cabins (most likely) and enjoying a potluck dinner Saturday night. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysno@sprynet.com) 301/570-0596

## 18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Do you want to help to build a log cabin the same way your ancestors did. Join our crew and learn how to use crosscut saws, broad axes, draw knives, and foot adzes. There is a lot of satisfaction in seeing something you have built with your own hands. We have excellent meals prepared by our crew chef in the evening and again for Sunday morning breakfast. You will never enjoy food so much that has cost so little. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053

# FORECAST

20 (Monday)

➔ **MEETING - Conservation Committee**  
Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:00 p.m. INFO: Mary Margaret Sloan 703/807-0746

21 (Tuesday)

⚡ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

**North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

A 16-mile hike with about 3000ft. of elevation gain takes us down an old fire trail to Jeremy's Run, up Jeremy's many stream crossings to Knob Mountain, then over Neighbor Mountain. A good workout for strong hikers. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181

25 (Saturday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP**

**Tuscarora Trail, PA**

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

25 - 26 (Saturday - Sunday)

**R&R TRIP - Cadillac Crew PATC**

**Vining Tract, Lydia, VA**

If you've worked with the Cadillac Crew at least once this season, please join us for a picnic/hiking trip. In the evening, we'll tell exaggerated stories about our hiking excursions as we sit on the porch of Mutton Top cabin and watch the stars. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday. Saturday night community dinner. Share costs for food. Please call by July 20 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Tom Tamburo (wxur58a@prodigy.com) 301/829-0354

25-26 (Saturday - Sunday)

➔ **CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center**  
**Round Hill, VA**

See July 11-12 listing.

26 (Sunday)

⚡ **HIKE - Natural History Hike**

**Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Come join Bob Pickett and friends as we do the 7.4 mile Camp Hoover circuit hike using the Mill Prong and Laurel Prong trails. We'll look for the only location of the great rhododendron in the Park, which may be in bloom, and for the closed gentians, which may be in bud. This is a nice summer hike, passing near one of the largest trees in the Park. Although Camp Hoover is closed for renovations, we'll be able to see what's happening and see the work in progress. Reservations and INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511

28 (Tuesday)

➔ **MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain**  
**Rescue Group**

**Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

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

28 (Tuesday)

⚡ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

**Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

A 13-mile hike with about 2600 ft. of elevation gain will take us from Skyline Drive down to the Hazel River via Sam's Ridge and then up the river, circling (almost) Hazel Mountain. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.



## August

1 (Saturday)

**DEADLINE - September 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 email or email attachment to pfankh@erols.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP and Charlie's Annual Corn Roast**  
**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. Corn roast following the work trip. RSVP no later than Monday, July 27. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

1 (Saturday)

⚡ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

In the morning a 12-mile hike on Tuscarora/Massanutten/Indian Grave Ridge Trails. In the afternoon, 12 mile float/paddle on Shenandoah River back to cars. Limit is 20 people. SASE and \$20/person deposit to leader by July 20th (estimated total cost \$22-25) - Cliff Noyes, 8117 Blairton Road, Springfield, VA 22152. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

1 (Saturday)

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

Join the South Mountaineers Trail Crew for their 5th Anniversary work trip. The Crew originated on August 3, 1993, performing tread repair at Gathland State Park. This year's agenda a bit iffy at press time. Candles, cake, tools and humidity provided; bring a lot of water, lunch, and gloves. INFO: rbcantier@erols.com or Rick Canter 301/924-4942.

1 (Saturday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP**

**Stonewall Brigade, VA-WV Border**

Peer Trail relocation. Meet in Wardensville, WV. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

4 (Tuesday)

⚡ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

**Great North Mountain, VA/WV Border**

A 17-mile hike with about 3400ft of elevation gain includes climb to Sugar Knob Cabin, descent on beautiful Peer Trail, a climb up Pond Run and a visit to the dramatic Big Schloss castle-like rock formation. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

4 (Tuesday)

➔ **MEETING - Trail Patrol**  
**Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

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: John Moore (trailptrl@aol.com) 703/368-1952 or see PATC's website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>)

5 (Wednesday)

**PICNIC - West Virginia Chapter**  
**Harpers Ferry, WV**

This year we will return to Highacre for our annual picnic meeting. This meeting has always been a great opportunity to meet other club and chapter members. Being a pot luck there always is a wide variety of food. We will meet at High Acre at 7:00 p.m. INFO: Jane 301/865-5399 before 9:00 p.m.

8 (Saturday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - New Crew**  
**Massanutten Mountains, George Washington**  
**National Forest, VA**

Tread rehab on the trail from PATC's Glass House to the Tuscarora - Bear Wallow Trail. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

8 (Saturday)

⚡ **HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Hike #11-3**  
**Gore, VA**

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at parking area along Rt. 45 for Tuscarora Trail. Dresel Wayside section. Distance 16.5 miles, moderate hike. Elevation change: 400 ft. Rt. 45 to Gore, Va. (Jct. of Rt. 751 and Rt. 853). INFO: Christopher Firme 717/765-4833 after 5:30 p.m.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**  
**Shockeys Knob, Shockeysville, VA**

We're still working on the Tuscarora Trail relocation, so come on out to help! Overnight at a local cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday. Saturday night community dinner. Share costs for food. Please call by August 1 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Tom Tamburo (wxur58a@prodigy.com) 301/829-0354

10 (Monday)

➔ **MEETING - New Members**  
**Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

7:30 p.m. Thrills and chills abound as hikes, cabins, excursions, and special events are stripped of secrecy for interested new and not-so-new club members. Just show up or phone ahead. INFO: Lisa Still (Stills2@aol.com) 703/425-3884.

11 (Tuesday)

➔ **MEETING - PATC Council**  
**Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

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 (wrlie1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11

11 (Tuesday)

⚡ **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**  
**North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

A 22-mile day hike with about 3000 ft. of elevation gain. Appalachian Trail from Rt 55 into SNP, to Dickey Ridge Trail, then descent to Front Royal along Dickey Ridge. Bailouts are possible along Skyline Drive. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181

12 (Wednesday)

➔ **MEETING - Mountaineering Section**  
**Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Tony Sanders 202/362-3819 or see PATC's website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>)

15 (Saturday)

## ✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP

## Stonewall Brigade - VA-WV border

Peer Trail relocation. Meet in Wardensville, WV. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

15 (Saturday)

## ⬆ HIKE - Parent/Child

## Appalachian Trail, VA/WV Border

Hike 7 miles on the Appalachian Trail on reasonable terrain. Visit a PATC shelter. Moderate hike for young hikers ages 7-11. INFO: George Still 703/425-3884

15 (Saturday)

## ⬆ HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #4

## Shippensburg, PA

A moderately paced hike 16.5 mile on the Tuscarora Trail between Second Narrows Road and PA-641. Elevation gain is 2400. A car shuttle is required. PATC map J. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30. INFO: Jack 703/339-6716 and William 703/256-6735.

15 (Saturday)

## ⬆ HIKE - DAY HIKE: Stoney Man Mountain

## Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Two separate hikes with great views up at the cooler elevations above 3500 ft. Hike a 3-mile circuit, with 900' upward elevation change, which includes the Stony Man Nature Trail, the Little Stony Man Trail, and the Passamaquoddy Trail. Following a look around the Skyland Resort, developed by George Pollock before the Park was created, we will hike an additional mile, on the Bushy Top Trail, out to Millers Head for the view. As we retrace our steps, we'll walk up the 400' elevation change at a slow pace. INFO: Tina and John Kauten 540/665-2084

15 (Saturday)

## ✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP

## Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

22 (Saturday)

## CLASS - Field Study Seminar

## Shenandoah National Park, VA

Air currents move things around, but what are the current air issues? How do our local air quality issues impact mountains, valleys, rivers, and everything living in the larger Chesapeake Bay region? Discover the latest findings in air quality issues and how our choices today affect the quality of life tomorrow? Fee: \$25, limited to 25 persons. INFO: SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK 540/999-3499

22 (Saturday)

## ✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP

## Appalachian Trail, MD

9 am. Weeding or tread repair likely for this event. Learn how to create a waterbar or use a weeder and join in the fun and teamwork that trail stewardship provides. Bring water, lunch, water, gloves and more water. INFO: rbcanter@erols.com or Rick Canter 301/924-4942.

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## Upcoming

September

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

## HIKE LEADER TRAINING - Blackburn Trail Center

## Round Hill, VA

The third annual hike leader training will take place at newly-remodeled Blackburn Trail Center in mid-September. We will be talking about first aid on the trail, trail leadership, planning hikes, and extricating fallen hikers, among other things. There will be opportunities to problem-solve in situations that are very realistic for our hiking area. Whether you are an inexperienced leader or an old hand, you can get something out of this year's event. Cost will be a big \$10, primarily to cover food Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Sign up now. INFO: Tom Johnson 410/647-8554.

August

Sun Aug 10 - Sun Sept 4

## BACKPACKING TRIP - Glacier National Park

Joint trip with No. VA Hiking Club. Fly from Baltimore to Spokane, Washington — 6 hour van ride to Glacier. Two groups of 6. Five day, 35-mile backpack loop trip in Many Glacier area follows mostly contour lines, two passes though. EL 7—9000 ft. difficulty rating: Moderate. We may stay at lodge on the first and last night. Four openings. Deadline July 15. Cost: approx. \$550 for air, transportation, lodging. INFO: John Powers 301/698-5263 Speleol@aol.com or Mike Gingerich 703/590-3188 mgingerich@jnp.com

## Looking Back

20 Years Ago this Month....

Myron Glaser cabin (financed through an anonymous donation) dedicated June 25th with 30 Glaser family members and 130 others in attendance. SNP Survey on future priorities resulted in the following #1 rankings: Washington Metro Residents - Increase education in proper use of park; Front Royal region - Improve and control trailhead parking. PATC surveys AT re-routing so that the trail will pass through Harpers Ferry. PATC forwards response to USFS opposing development in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area (including construction of a scenic highway).

40 Years Ago this Month....

Report on a hiking trip to the C&O canal near Frederick: "Was them hikers cold and wet! Most of the women changed into dry clothes they'd bring with them. One of them dames had on so many clothes, it took her over an hour to get out of her wet ones and into dry ones, and what a sight - red knit underdrawers! We gals was laughing so that one of the guys even put his glasses on so's not to miss a trick even tho a couple of other dames was holding a blanket up as a screen."

60 Years Ago this Month....

Park Service completes graded trail through the Blackrock rock tumble in the south district of SNP. SNP announces plans to construct shelters in the upper Old Rag valley and the south slope of High Knob near Smith Roach Gap. An April 24th trip report to Kennedy's Peak and one of the club's shelters in the Massanutten reports that "Human interest was supplied by competition among the men for the 'privilege' of carrying three 40-lb mattresses the three miles from the bus to the shelter".

## The Costa Rica Gambit -1999

The 1998 PATC trip to Costa Rica has barely concluded, and already next year's trip is in the hopper.

This year's adventure featured a climb of Barva volcano, a quest for the mysterious quetzal bird (it succeeded), lounging in the Pacific surf at the remote Punta Dominical (and again at the more accessible Manuel Antonio beach), an overnight in the jungle at Hacienda Baru, nighttime viewing of the erupting Arenal volcano, and sloths, howler monkeys, scarlet macaws, man-eating plants, and even a voracious croc chasing a panic-stricken cow through a river bottom. In other words, all the wholesome delights of a tropical paradise like Costa Rica.

Had enough? If not, get a peek at next year's

trip. It will include a trek through the Hitoy-Cerere Nature Reserve, so remote and inaccessible that last year exactly 37 tourists registered at the ranger station, and to the Bri Bri indian reservation, deep in the Talamanca mountains. Also on the agenda are hiking and snorkeling at Cahuita on the Caribbean coast, canoeing a river estuary at dawn to see rare tropical birds, rafting on the Sarapiquí River, and the annual trek to Arenal volcano. And of course, there is the traditional down-time at the luxurious Tilajari resort, and the annual climb up Barva volcano. Your guides, Tom and Steve Johnson (Los Dos Hermanos, unincorporated), promise good accommodations at a reasonable price, plus a well conducted tour and lots of camaraderie. But hurry - the trip is already more than half full. Dates: March 12-24. Call Tom at 410/647-8554 for information. □

## A Trail Story (Part II)

*The history of a particular trail is rarely remembered in detail because it is rarely recorded. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) archives happen to have records for one short (six and a half miles) of Appalachian Trail from the moment it was begun until today. This is the history of the Crampton's Gap/Weverton section of Appalachian Trail (AT) and the land it lies on.*

### Hikers Begin To Take Interest

Two trail clubs initiated challenging hikes in 1940. The Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) one June weekend offered a 40-mile hike from PenMar to Harpers Ferry. Twenty-one hikers left the Pennsylvania line at 3:15 a.m.; the first four marathoners crossed the railroad bridge into Harpers Ferry at a little after 3 p.m. By 7:13 p.m., 14 more had finished the hike. In September, the PATC offered one of its "All our AT" series hikes, from Turners Gap to Harpers Ferry. Forty-four of the 60 registrants did the entire route. Three local children gave hikers an unexpected serenade at the crumbling Gapland estate. Some hikers so enjoyed the view at Weverton Cliffs that they got little further that day.

Early in 1941, Schairer decided to reduce the length of trail sections assigned overseers so they would find it easier to keep their sections in order. He divided the Crampton's Gap Weverton segment of AT into two sections, with the Pleasant Valley overlook the dividing point. Henry Hendrickson took the new northern half for a few months' overseership, but then he went into military service. Kathryn Fulkerson and Marian Lapp retained the responsibility for the southern half but added G.J.P. Barger as a third member. A couple other names appeared as their co-overseers in early 1941, but, with the next listing of trail overseers, these names had vanished, probably also into military service. From the end of 1941 on, the Fulkerson-Lapp-Barger triumvirate were overseers for all six and a half miles of AT.

In 1943, the regional Eldership of the Churches of God bought the 101 acres of the Gapland estate, with the announced intention of converting it into a home for their eyed [Q: WOULD THIS BE ELDERLY?] and a youth camp. They bought it and did nothing more. In 1948, the Frederick (MD) Chamber of Commerce and the Frederick County Historical Society bought the property from the church

for \$3,553 and promptly donated it to the State of Maryland for a state park.

Hike-all-of-Maryland-in-one-day was resumed by the MCM in June 1949. This time only 17 hikers left PenMar at 3:15 a.m., had breakfast at Wolfe Shelter and lunch at Washington Monument, with salt tables and water at Crampton's Gap and Weverton. Six people finished at Harpers Ferry: three at 5 p.m., the others arriving by ones and twos up till 7 p.m. Every other year since then, MCM has repeated this hike. About 70 percent of those who begin at PenMar finish between eight and 16 hours later at the Goodloe Byron footbridge to Harpers Ferry.

The next 10 years saw a series of overseers, of whom only two (Robert D. Chew and Grant Conway) lasted as long as two and a half years. A work trip report of 1957 on a five-mile section at the southern end of the trail said "it looked like it hadn't been worked on in five years." When a PATC Truck Trail Traverse hike did this stretch in 1959, maintenance had continued lax. "Occasionally we removed fallen branches from the trail. At one place everybody got a free tattoo from some blackberry bushes," they reported. Then the hikers met a maintenance party cleaning toward them. "From then on the trail was in better condition."

Meanwhile (1950-1952) the state of Maryland sent prisoners from the Hagerstown reformatory to Crampton's Gap to rid Gapland grounds of the briars and trees that had moved in on them. Restoring all the buildings for use was felt to be too costly to attempt. Mount Gath was sold to a private party. Gapland Hall became the residence of the park manager. Part of the den and library were restored as a museum for the park. The fourth house and all outbuildings but the barn and mausoleum were torn down. Nothing was done to preserve the barn or mausoleum. By 1975-1976, the barn had collapsed, leaving only its stone foundation walls standing. In 1958, enough of the park was in good enough repair that the park could be dedicated under a new name, Gathland State Park. "Gash's" grandson spoke of his memories of his grandfather and the glory days of the property.

In 1961, Grant Conway was still maintaining all six and a half miles of AT. Some time before 1961, the Supervisor of Trails, Edward

B. Garveu, returned to Schairer's 1940 decision and divided the six and a half miles into three-plus-mile segments, with different overseers. Conway retained the southern half (from Pleasant Valley overlook to Weverton) until 1964, when James J. Britt picked it up 1965-1970. The northern half remained unassigned or with a series of short-time overseers, one of these being Ed Garvey (1963-1964). Cecil Wadleigh was overseer from 1956-1970.

### Outside Forces At Work

Down at Weverton, the State Highway Department got busy between 1961-1963 in widening the Frederick-Harpers Ferry road into a four-lane highway. The railroad station and the row of stone workers cottages that dated back to the 1840s were torn down. An embankment closed off the lower end of the county road to Boonsboro, which the AT hiker was expected to climb, dodge the speeding cars, and reach the C&O Canal tow-path to continue toward Harpers Ferry.

Another bit of construction affected the trail. About a hundred yards south of the Brownsville post-road crossing of the Gap, AT&T cut a 50-foot wide swath of woodland, dug a trench, and buried their Morristown-Parkersburg coaxial communications cable.

In the spring of 1963, 11 members of the Cumberland Valley Athletic Club (Hagerstown) left Boonsboro early one morning to walk up to the AT in Turners Gap, follow it south to the C & O towpath and, much later, pick up country roads to take themselves into a school yard near Williamsport. Four completed the 50-mile trek by 7:10 p.m. The challenge appealed, and the event was repeated the next year and succeeding years, drawing more registrants each year. By March 1974, 1,355 men and women started the marathon, but only 225 finished within the required 14 hours. That March day had such miserable weather that the 1975 event and all succeeding ones were held in November. The JFK Hike/Run, which it began to be called in 1965, is an annual event, with registration restricted to about 350 persons. Finishing time for winners in the 1990s has been between six and seven hours. Damage to the AT has been reported north of Crampton's Gap, but no noticeable harm has been seen south of the Gap. Several runners have, however, dashed past the double blaze and found themselves at the edge of Weverton Cliffs.

# NOTICES

**PATC SHELTER LOOKING FOR OVERSEER:** The PATC Shelters Committee is presently seeking an overseer for the BOONE RUN Shelter located in George Washington National Forrest. If interested, Please contact John Andrews at [jnandrews@aol.com](mailto:jnandrews@aol.com) or call 703-938-0349.

**BACKPACKERS NEEDED** This Summer To Explore The Pacific Northwest Trail. The Pacific Northwest Trail Association will publish its all-color guidebook in April 2000. I have written the manuscript and will field test it this summer. I need one or more backpackers to volunteer with revisions, videos, navigation, and photography. Our group is creating and preserving America's most scenic long distance trail from Glacier to Olympic national parks. The PNT is an 1100-mile route that uses existing trails and remote roads that we are linking together with new construction. We are an all-volunteer group modeled on the Appalachian Trail Conference. We are involved in direct citizen action to develop and preserve the PNT for educational and recreational purposes. Visit our Website (see PATC "Links" page at [http://patc.simplenet.com/oth\\_plac.html](http://patc.simplenet.com/oth_plac.html)) Be a Pacific Northwest Trail pioneer and explore America's most scenic trail this summer. Ron Strickland, PNT Guidebook Author ([ronstrickland@msn.com](mailto:ronstrickland@msn.com)) 206/324-9359

**PATC MEDICAL COMMITTEE** Looking for Help Newly-appointed medical committee chair for PATC needs assistance with computer presentations for wilderness medicine classes. Will work at PATC HQ in Vienna. No equipment needed - just some time and expertise with computers. Call Dr. John McNamara at 703/528-4519.

**HEADQUARTERS HOUSE COMMITTEE FORMING.** Take Pride in Your Club! We're looking for a few good volunteers to form a Headquarters House Committee to monitor conditions and undertake minor maintenance projects in the Vienna Headquarters building. INFO: Warren Sharp, 703/242-0693, x-11.

**NEW MEMBERS MEETINGS** are hosted the first Thursday of each month at PATC Headquarters. If you're new to PATC, the meeting is a great opportunity to find out about club activities and meet some of the folks who lead these activities. Check the Forecast for specific meeting times.

**MID-WEEK TRAIL WORK.** Can't make it to a trail crew on the weekend? Have a free day during the week? I'm retired and work on trails in the Great North Mountain and Massanutten North Districts. Work with me. No experience necessary. I supply tools, instruction (if needed) and a sense of humor. INFO: Will Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

**SHENANDOAH RIVER LAND/ BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN LAND** 10.19 acres of wooded land for sale, 557 ft. frontage on the Shenandoah River with natural canoe put-in, in Jefferson County West VA, 90 minutes from the DC area. Birds, wildflowers, views, great retreat abutting a 500 acre rolling pasture, \$69,900. Contact Anne McCormick (owner) 505/624-2434 or Cricket Morgan, agent for Greg Diden Realtors, 304/876-6400, evenings 304/725-6670.

**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 ([wriley1226@aol.com](mailto:wriley1226@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.

**SITTING AT HOME ON A RAINY SUNDAY?** Why not stop by PATC Headquarters for the monthly Sunday at the Club — great slide shows and fascinating stories? INFO: Lisa Still ([Stills2@aol.com](mailto:Stills2@aol.com)) 703/425-3884.

**PURE MAPLE SYRUP.** PATC Life Member relocated to the Berkshires makes his own. A quart shipped within the USA is \$18.00, and makes a perfect gift. Contact me for a brochure. Tom McCrumm, 755 Watson-Spruce Corner Road, Ashfield, Massachusetts 01330, (413) 628-3268.

**PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED.** Pictures taken on any of the hikes in Hikes in the Washington Region: Part C. This includes hikes in Rock Creek Park, Dumbarton Oaks, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Glover Archbold, National Arboretum, Doncaster, Cedarville, Myrtle Grove, Piscataway, Cosca, Jug Bay, Watkins Regional Park, and Calvert Cliffs. New edition being prepared for release this fall. Contact Jean Gollightly at [jcgollightly@aol.com](mailto:jcgollightly@aol.com) or call 703-591-9363.

**TO LONGTIME MEMBERS**—A number of you have requested an updated club membership directory. For various reasons, it seems impractical to produce one. However, a directory, limited to the members who joined between 1927 and 1981 has been produced. Alphabetical by last name, it has the full address and home phone of these long-term members, as well as their date of joining PATC. To cover the cost (photocopying and postage) for the 20-page list, send \$1.00 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Membership Coordinator, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, VA 22180. Mailing will be done the first of next month.

*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.*

In the mid-1970s, maintainers took responsibility for longer periods of time. After James Britt who held the southern half of the trail from 1966-1972 retired, it had no overseer until 1975, when John Pertsch took over and kept it until 1995. Robert and Mildred Tuckerman oversaw the northern half from 1971-1975. Paula Strain took the responsibility in early summer 1976 and retained it until 1998.

During these years, maintenance on both sections was relatively easy. Mature timber controlled the growth of briars and grapevines.

There was little or no erosion except at one location on the southern section.

Tom Floyd and his Chester Gap trail crew built a new route with graded switchbacks up the slope in 1975. That year the Maryland Highway Department agreed that the AT could be relocated under the US 340 highway bridge over Israel Creek. This hiker-safety relocation required a change in the trail route through Weverton village as well. Another relocation (1978) attempted to solve the southern section's erosion problem, a few hundred feet of trail about three-quarters of a mile north of Weverton cliffs.

All state lands on South Mountain over which the AT passed were put into a South Mountain Natural Environment Area in 1977, with the manager of Gathland Park in charge. Seven years later, the Environment Area became South Mountain State Park. The AT corridor then became a Special Management Area in all four state parks so that the same regulations applied to all 39 miles of Maryland AT. A Maryland Appalachian Trail Advisory Committee, with representatives from DNR, the National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail Conference and PATC, replaced a similar informal group that had been coordinating trail management.

“Decorations” appeared on the Crampton’s Gap/Weverton trail. A granite wilderness memorial remembering a young trail volunteer, Glenn Caveney, was placed in 1972 a yard or two east of the trail and a few hundred yards south of the Gathland Park boundary on a plot bought for the purpose by the PATC.

The state bought the parcel a few years later when enlarging Gathland Park. A bronze plaque remembering deceased Maryland Congressman Goodloe Byron was mounted on a rock at Weverton Cliffs in 1979. Byron had been influential in the passage of the National Trails System Act of 1978, which gave practical protection and financial support to the Trail.

### Trail Faces Natural Disasters

Fire swept parts of the six-and-a-half-mile trail three times in these years. In 1976, 65 acres of Gathland Park burned. In 1979, fire came upslope from near Weverton to burn a 100- by 150-ft. swath across the AT. In 1991, a similar

fire came across the trail half a mile below Brownsville Gap, burning a 50- by 75-ft. swath. In all three fires, bushes of the understory were destroyed without harming timber.

The southward march of the gypsy moth in 1987-1988 did more damage to the leaves and young branches of the woodland. The mixture of tree species in this part of South Mountain is such that the permanent damage done in areas where oaks were dominant was limited. However, there are more fallen branches and wind-topped trees in recent years than there were 20 years ago, but the forest also is older.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, for budgetary reasons, closed Gathland Park to public use in 1992. Local residents promptly formed a Friends of Gathland Park association and now keep the museum open on summer weekends and do some maintenance of the grounds, though the mausoleum is in serious disrepair. It is probably beyond saving by volunteer labor.

Trail users continue to cut switchbacks up Weverton heights. They also pile rocks over the ashes in fire rings at illegal camps. However, the amount of litter left at these campsites and along the trail has decreased considerably in recent years.

The winter of 1997-1998, with its abundant rain and lack of snow, created visible erosion on parts of the northern half of the trail, where none had previously existed, and serious enough erosion at the southern half’s always troublesome spot that a waterbar construction trip was made by the South Mountain-eers crew in the spring.

Sixty-six years isn’t old for a trail. The Crampton’s Gap Weverton section of AT is just entering middle age. It has more history to be made. □

—Paula Strain,  
Archivist (and trail overseer)

## The Avery Era Ends (Part II)

On January 28, 1941, the baton was passed. With Dr. Schmeckebier in as President, William Appel as First Vice-President and Frank Hayden as Second Vice-President, Frank Schairer staying on as Supervisor of Trails, and other familiar names like Kathryn Fulkerson as General Secretary, Violet Morling as Corresponding Secretary, and the Recording Secretary’s post filled by Anna Michener, the Club was in good hands. The Financial Report showed that the bank balance had been \$137.81 on January 1, 1940 and was \$302.56 on December 31. There was a savings account of \$824.49. Receipts had been \$2,867.76 for 1940 and expenditures were \$2,703.01. Even if possible to interpolate into today’s figures, possibly 7 or 8 times as much, possibly 10 times more, this was not a great deal of money to be in circulation in a group like this, but PATC made do with it.

Dr. Schmeckebier felt that the Council was the body to set Club policy, and not the President, as had been done under Avery. The President and other officers were the ones to implement the policy set by the Council, to do what the Council wanted done. Lawrence Schmeckebier was a man to delegate and share authority and responsibility. The Club had done very well under Avery. The old system had served well with a brand new pioneering organization. The members had accepted this

and worked well with his dominating personality, but the new way had come to the Club, and perhaps the change was overdue.

A committee to study the status of the group of climbers was formed. The problem of their becoming a separate unit under the ‘umbrella’ of the PATC was to be solved, positively or negatively. Frank Schairer called for younger Trail Overseers. Many of those in that position had left, because of their age - the job of maintaining trail becomes more difficult as one grows older - moving away from the area, new jobs or family responsibilities, or overtime work sapping their time and energy. Frank felt these vacancies would be filled and those filling them should be younger than the ones that had left the posts. Selective Service was taking some into the armed services, and as the war drew inevitably closer, more would go. He felt, as always, that measures must be taken to keep the trails open. Dr. Schmeckebier noted that word had come to him from outside sources that cabins reservations were being handled very well by Club volunteers. Non-members were complimentary on this activity. All of this activity and proposed activity was covered at various Council Meetings that spring of 1941. The Club was moved forward under the new administration. Things went well.

A trip to Maine was planned during that spring and summer. The group went in late August and early September. There was much work done on the AT in Maine, and some good hiking gotten in. All on the trip had a great time. Edna Rousseau, who wrote it up for the old BULLETIN, told of having to spend evenings doing office work she had brought along, because of the pressure of the war in Europe coming closer and closer to this country. Their last night on the trail saw a classical sunset and a beautiful display of the aurora borealis which lasted far into the night. This was the last long trip the Club ran before the war came to the U.S.

The story of how the PATC helped build and open the Appalachian Trail in Maine and helped start up the Maine ATC is a fascinating one. Again, Myron Avery’s influence is evident. He showed his loyalty to his native state in this way, and helped complete the northern part of the great hiking trail.

On the weekend of old Armistice Day, November 8 to the 11th, 1941, the Club ran a four-day trip to Green Ridge State Forest in western Maryland. Many of the climbing group went on it. Their climbs were led by the late Paul Bradt, their unofficial leader and spokesman. The hikes were led by Vic Howard and Orville Crowder, both now de-

ceased. All thought it was a great trip. It was so good and was enjoyed so much, that, like the Maine trip, it seemed like those on it knew that this good period in the Club's and their lives, the pioneer time of the PATC and those who were its members, was coming to an end. It all seemed special to those on the trips.

Four weeks later, on Sunday, December 7, 1941, the armed forces of the Japanese Empire bombed the military bases in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Not only had the Avery Era ended for the PATC, in more ways than just formally with Dr. Schmeckebier taking over his long-held post as President eleven months earlier, but an era in the history of the United States had also ended that day. The four years of war would be hard on both the nation and the PATC. Both would come through in good shape. Somehow the Club found ways to go

out and work on the trails and keep them open, to keep members interested, to run hikes now and then, to keep its finances in shape, to keep its morale up, to do all of these things in spite of many obstacles. Gas and tire rationing, inflation, shortages of manpower, overtime work for members, all were overcome. Much of the will to do this was because of Myron Avery's inspiring leadership and the standards and work ethic he had instilled in the members. Under a strong but more relaxed leader, an organized man who was outwardly easier in manner, it did its chosen job and kept itself solid enough to be in good shape when the war ended in August, 1945. After the war years, it was able to go on to better things in its growth and activities. □

—Dave Bates

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**“We shall not cease from exploration. And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started. And know the place for the first time.”**

—T.S. Eliot

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### Answer:

Legend has it that before the days of Shenandoah National Park, locals set fire to Hot Mountain to run out some hikers who were camping there, thus giving the mountain its name.

## Book Review

Bryson, Bill *A Walk in the Woods*. Illus. by David Cook. London, Doubleday, 1997. 320p. \$25 paper.

Lummis, Charles W. *A Tramp Across the Continent*. London, University of Nebraska Press, 1982. 270p (A Bison Book) \$8.95 paper.

How greatly long distance walking (not to mention the hiker himself) has changed in the last hundred years was brought home by the arrival in the mail of these two books. Bill Bryson tells of his 1997 attempted through-hike of the Appalachian Trail; Lummis' book is a reprint of a long out of print account of an 1884 walk.

From September 1884 through January 1885, Lummis walked, for the pleasure of seeing the country, from Cincinnati to Los Angeles where a job awaited him. He placated his new editor by sending him columns about the walk, which later became a book. Lummis' family sensibly went to California by the train, and he walked alone except for a stray dog which joined him en-route, and pick-up companions who never lasted more than a day or two.

Bryson got the idea of walking the Appalachian Trail when he discovered it passed through his new home, Hanover, N.H. His family and most of his friends had no interest in accompanying him, but his overweight friend, Stephen Katz, whom some will have met in Bryson's earlier *Neither Here Nor There*, joined him..

Lummis completed his 3507 mile walk in 143 days. Bryson and Katz walked from Springer Mountain, Ga, to Clingman's Dome, N.C., the whole of Virginia's Blue Ridge, and bits of Pennsylvania and Maine before deciding that having seen the AT in all weathers and all variety of scenery, the complete trail was only a matter of more "details". Bryson apparently wrote the book during and immediately after his walk.

Hiking boots, layered clothing for the varied weather of the trail, sleeping bag, tents, food - freeze dried and store bought, outfitted Bryson. Lummis wore a "close, but not tight, knickerbocker suit" to avoid the flapping trousers make below the knee. His shoes were low and light-weight to achieve the ease and comfort of moccasins - after a day or two of initial discomfort. Small supplies — fishing tackle, a revolver and other items - were in the pockets of the suit. A hunting knife hung at his waist, and a money belt contained small denomination (\$2.50) of gold coins, since perspiration and rain would affect paper money. The small pack he wore carried a blanket, but no tent. In Kansas, he added a rifle to his equipment.

The white blazes of the AT guided Bryson, and the trail-side shelters provided sociability. When heavy snow forced him and other hikers off the AT to lower elevations, Bryson thought the ATC maps inadequate. Lummis, east of the Mississippi, simply followed existing roads between towns. West of the big

river, he followed the rail line. Often he diverged from it to see special sites: the Garden of the Gods in Colorado, Acoma in New Mexico, the Grand Canyon in Arizona and more. He spent most nights in a ranch bunkhouse or a section house along the railroad. When he slept out, he did so without benefit of blanket, because he had sent his pack ahead on the train to the next town where he expected to stop for mail. Bryson carried all his food and cooked it. Lummis cooked sometimes as well, but it was game that he had killed during the day — rabbit or antelope. Sometimes he killed more than one animal because the next potential shot looked as if would be younger and more tender. He fished for trout whenever a trout stream presented, even if it were miles out of his way.

Bryson anticipated no trouble from the people he met, but did fear a possible bear attack. He never saw a bear, but he did hear of the murders of two young women backpackers in Shenandoah Park. Lummis was attacked by a savage dog which he killed with his hunting knife, and he experienced two attempts to rob him, both of which were foiled by his belligerent reaction. He broke his left arm in a fall in New Mexico and set and splinted it himself in lack of other help, and went on hiking. It healed properly.

The authors are men of their time and place. Their styles of writing reflect their differences. Lummis is more florid, Bryson more common-place. Both report interesting characters

they met, and amusing situations. What really sets them apart is their attitude toward distance and the time to cover it. Lummis mentions this in telling of his arrival in Winslow, Az. "I had been walking for thirty consecutive hours, and, in a little more than forty-eight hours past had walked only hundred and fifteen miles." Bryson opens a chapter with: "Distance changes utterly when you take the world on foot. A mile becomes a long way, two miles literally considerable, ten miles whopping, 50 miles at the very limit of conception. The world, you realize, is enormous in a way that only you and a small community of fellow hikers know."

While the bookshop in your local mall may not have these books, they can be special ordered. □

—Paula M. Strain

## Family Hikes Program

With each passing year, PATC finds its membership increasingly comprised of families with young children. In the past, these Club members have had an event geared towards their special needs. But in recent years, this family-oriented event has fallen by the wayside.

This year, PATC hopes to make up for lost time. A family weekend is now scheduled for September 20 at ATC's Bear's Den Hostel atop the Blue Ridge overlooking the Shenandoah Valley. Parents and their children are invited to spend a summer weekend together with other Club members enjoying fine company and the great outdoors.

Planned activities include family hikes, games, crafts, outdoor safety and more. PATC will provide a Saturday dinner and a Sunday breakfast, with snacks for the youngsters throughout the day. Participants should bring their own Saturday lunch. Bring a tent, spend the night with your kids, and take them home Sunday with a renewed interest in a Nintendo-free environment.

The August edition of this newsletter will contain a formal sign-up sheet. For more information contact George and Lisa Still at (703) 425-3884. □

## News from our Sections

### MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

#### Wexlers donate archives to PATC, Whyte Museum

Arnold Wexler was one of a group of rock climbers that pioneered climbing in the Washington, DC, area in the 1940s. When this group became the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), Arnold served as its Chairman for five or six years, quietly leading it through its formative stage.

Along with Arnold's local climbing at Carderock, Great Falls and Seneca Rocks, he also climbed almost every summer either in the Canadian Rockies, the Interior Ranges or the Northwest Territories (at the Cirque of the Unclimbables, which his party named), and in the American Rockies. He made well over 100 ascents of which nearly 50 were first ascents. His most notable climb was in 1946 to the Selkirks with Sterling Hendricks who had been exploring the Canadian mountains.

Arnold died late last year. His family and relatives have generously donated Arnold's climbing logs and trip documentation, pictures and assorted memorabilia to the PATC archives and to the Whyte Museum in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

The Mountaineering Section extends a heartfelt thank you to MS member John Christian for his tireless efforts to make these do-

nations possible. Arnold's climbing archives are proving invaluable to the MS's current efforts to write a history of the section and of local climbing.

—Tony Sanders

#### Spring brings new opportunities for beginning climbers

Don't worry if you missed any of the Mountaineering Section's recent climbing and top-roping trips, because the section is putting together a new schedule for the rest of the spring and summer.

Tops on our list right now for experienced climbers is our annual 4th of July trip to Seneca Rocks.

Back in early May, beginners and experienced climbers alike had an opportunity to learn more about anchors and belaying at nearby Carderock. Other weekend climbing destinations include Crescent Rocks, Annapolis Rocks and, of course, Great Falls.

Drop in on our monthly meetings to find out more (second Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. for pizza, 8 p.m. for meeting and slide show), or check our Internet Web site for the latest trip schedule at: [http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn\\_sect](http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect).

—Tony Sanders - President,  
Mountaineering Section

### SKI TOURING SECTION

#### Ski Notes

The Ski Touring Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) is organized for socialization and to encourage skiing. The section offers tips on how to ski and suggests good skiing locations. Ski lessons and seminars on topics such as how to prevent frostbite are offered.

The Ski Section is active each year from November to April and hosts a ski fair in November. It offers 20 trips a year to sites that include the Adirondacks, NY; Lake Placid, NY; and ski areas in Pennsylvania. The group took a work trip to Germany in 1997.

The Ski Section, which also includes two dance groups, is planning to host a seminar in November offering ski and dance lessons and an opportunity for people to socialize.

The Ski Touring Section offers a newsletter, "Upslope," at \$8 a year for PATC members individually and \$12 for families. Nonmember prices are \$9 for individuals and \$13 for families. Call Katherine for more information - 703-781-3249

—Katherine Stentzel - President,  
Ski Touring Section

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB PUBLICATIONS				
Item #	Description		Retail	Member
PA100	Map 1 (ed. 8, 1994)	AT Cumberland Valley, PA (Susquehanna River to Route 94)	\$5.00	\$4.00
PA110	Map 2-3 (ed. 8, 1998)	AT Michaux State Forest, PA (Route 94 to Route 30)	5.00	4.00
PA120	Map 4 (ed. 7, 1998)	AT Michaux State Forest, PA (Route 30 to PA-MD State Line)	5.00	4.00
PA130	Map 5-6 (ed. 14, 1995)	AT Maryland	5.00	4.00
PA140	Map 7 (ed. 12, 1998)	AT Northern Virginia (Potomac River to Snickers Gap)	5.00	4.00
PA150	Map 8 (ed. 12, 1996)	AT Northern Virginia (Snickers Gap to Chester Gap)	5.00	4.00
PA160	Map 9 (ed. 14, 1996)	AT Shenandoah National Park (North District)	5.00	4.00
PA170	Map 10 (ed. 18, 1997)	AT Shenandoah National Park (Central District)	5.00	4.00
PA180	Map 11 (ed. 12, 1996)	AT Shenandoah National Park (South District)	5.00	4.00
PA190	Map 12 (ed. 7, 1996)	AT GWNF Pedlar District (Rockfish Gap to Tye River)	5.00	4.00
PA200	Map 13 (ed. 3, 1995)	AT GWNF Pedlar District (Tye River to James River)	5.00	4.00
PA210	Map D (ed. 2, 1991)	Potomac River Gorge Area and Cabin John Trail	3.50	2.80
PA220	Map F (ed. 4, 1995)	Great North Mountain-North Half (Virginia/West Virginia)	5.00	4.00
PA230	Map G (ed. 6, 1998)	Massanutten Mountain-North Half (Signal Knob to New Market Gap)	5.00	4.00
PA240	Map H (ed. 2, 1995)	Massanutten Mountain-South Half (New Market Gap to Mass. Peak)	5.00	4.00
PA250	Map J (ed. 2, 1997)	Tuscarora Trail AT, PA to PA Route 641	5.00	4.00
PA260	Map K (ed. 2, 1997)	Tuscarora Trail PA Route 641 to Hancock, MD	5.00	4.00
PA270	Map L (ed. 2, 1996)	Tuscarora Trail (Hancock, MD, to Capon Springs, WV, and Cacapon St. Pk.)	5.00	4.00
PA290	Map N (ed. 1, 1993)	Rock Creek Park Area, DC	5.00	4.00
PB100	AT Guide Book #6 (ed. 15, 1995)	Maryland and Northern Virginia	7.00	5.60
PB110	AT Guide Set #6 (AT Guide Book to MD and Northern VA with Maps 5-6, 7 & 8)		18.00	14.40
PB120	AT Guide Book #7 (ed. 11, 1994)	Shenandoah National Park	9.00	7.20
PB130	AT Guide Set #7 (AT Guide Book to Shenandoah National Park with Maps 9, 10 & 11)		20.00	16.00
PB140	Massanutten Guide Set (Guide to Massanutten Mountain with Maps G and H)		14.00	11.20
PC100	Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park (ed. 14, 1996)		6.00	4.80
PC110	Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania (ed. 5, 1994)		6.00	4.80
PC115	Hikes in Western Maryland (ed. 1, 1997)		6.00	4.80
PC116	The Tuscarora Trail North (Guide to Maryland and Pennsylvania) (ed. 3, 1997)		6.00	4.80
PC117	The Tuscarora Trail South (Guide to Virginia and West Virginia) (ed. 3, 1997)		6.00	4.80
PC120	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part A Northern Maryland Counties (ed. 3, 1992)		6.00	4.80
PC130	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part B Northern Virginia Counties (ed. 3, 1993)		6.00	4.80
PC 140	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part C DC/Southern Maryland Counties (ed. 1, 1984)		6.00	4.60
PC160	Guide to Massanutten Mountain (1993)		6.00	4.80
PC180	Hiking Guide to the Pedlar District, George Washington National Forest (ed. 2, 1990)		6.00	4.80
PC190	Climbers' Guide to the Great Falls of the Potomac (1985)		6.00	4.80
PC200	Carderock Past & Present: A Climbers Guide (1990)		7.00	5.60
PC210	Clearing Trails in War Time		5.95	4.76
PC220	Breaking Trail in the Central Appalachians - a narrative		12.50	10.00
PC230	Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain (ed. 2, 1985)		7.50	6.00
PC240	The Dean Mountain Story (1982)		5.50	4.40
PC250	Shenandoah Heritage: The Story of the People Before the Park (5th printing, 1995)		7.00	5.60
PC260	Shenandoah Vestiges: What the Mountain People Left Behind (3d printing, 1993)		5.00	4.00
PC270	Shenandoah Secrets: The Story of the Park's Hidden Past (1991)		12.95	10.36
PC280	PATC Cabins Booklet (1997)		4.00	3.20
PC300	Wildflowers of the Potomac Appalachians: A Hikers Guide (1979)		2.50	2.00
PC310	The Blue Hills of Maryland (ed. 1, 1993)		14.00	11.20
PC320	Memories of a Lewis Mountain Man (1993)		8.00	6.40
PD100	Map of the Stony Man Region of the Shenandoah National Park (Illustrated) (1964)		2.00	1.60
PE120	PATC Member Decal		N/A	1.00
PE130	PATC Member Patch		N/A	2.00
PE140	PATC Member Pin		N/A	2.95
PE150	PATC Ballpoint Pen with gift box		3.00	3.00
PE250	Long Sleeve T-Shirts		20.00	20.00
PE260	Short Sleeve T-Shirts		15.00	15.00
PE265	Notecards with Drawings of 3 PATC Cabins (box of 10 with envelopes)		4.00	4.00
XX700	Natural History Guide to Common Woody Plants of the GWNF and SNP (1995)		3.00	2.40

PUBLICATIONS FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS					
Description	Retail	Member	Description	Retail	Member
184 Miles of Adventure (C&O Towpath) (1991)	\$ 4.75	\$ 3.80	The Appalachian Trail Backpacker (1994)	11.00	8.80
50 hikes in Northern Virginia (1994)	13.00	10.40	The Appalachians (1975) (Maurice Brooks)	18.95	15.16
Appalachian Trail Field Book (1982)	3.50	2.80	The C&O Canal Companion (1997)	23.50	19.60
Appalachian Trail Patch	3.00	2.40	The New Appalachian Trail (Ed Garvey) (1997)	14.95	11.95
Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion (1996)	10.00	8.00	The Potomac River and the C&O Canal (1992)	8.50	6.80
Backpacker Magazine Guide to the AT (1989)	16.95	13.56	The Undying Past of the Shenandoah National Park	18.95	15.16
Backpacking One Step at a Time (1986)	9.00	7.20	There are Mountains to Climb ( 1996)	12.95	10.36
Camping and Backpacking with Children (1995)	16.95	13.56	Thru-Hikers Handbook (Dan "Wingfoot" Bruce, 1998)	12.00	9.60
Common Sense Medical Guide (1987)	15.00	12.00	Thru-Hikers Planning Guide	12.00	9.60
Cross-Country Skiing (1988)	9.00	7.20	Towns Along the Towpath	14.00	11.20
Exploring Washington on Foot	12.95	10.36	Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal (1994)	14.00	11.20
Finding Wildflowers in Washington/Baltimore Area (1995)	15.95	12.76	Trail Building and Maintenance (ed. 2, 1981) (AMC)	12.95	10.36
Food & Lodging Along the C&O Canal (1994)	3.00	2.40	Trails in Southwest Virginia (1997)	6.95	5.50
Guide to Skyline Drive and SNP (1997)	7.50	6.00	W & OD Railroad Trail Guide (1996)	8.00	6.40
Guide to the Mason-Dixon Trail System (1992)	10.00	8.00	Walker s Guide to Harpers Ferry ( 1994)	8.00	6.40
Hikes to Waterfalls (1997)	3.00	2.40	Walking the Appalachian Trail (1994)	16.95	13.56
Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest (1993)	12.00	10.00	Workbook for Planning Thru-Hikes	6.00	4.80
Hiking Virginia's National Forests (1994)	10.00	8.00			
Hollow Boy by Rayner V. Sneed (1995)	13.95	11.16	<b>Appalachian Trail Poster Maps:</b>		
Insiders Guide to Virginia's Blue Ridge (1995)	15.00	12.00	b) AT and eight full-color trail photos 32" x 47"	6.95	5.56
Lightly on the Land	19.95	15.95	c) AT strip map with forest green border 9-1/2" x 48"	3.50	2.80
Mountain Search and Rescue Techniques (1982)	5.50	4.40			
Mountaineering First Aid (1990)	7.00	5.60	<b>Other AT Guide Books with Trail Maps:</b>		
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails (ed. 10, 1987)	7.00	5.60	Maine (1993)	25.00	20.00
Potomac Trails (1997)	14.95	12.00	Massachusetts-Connecticut (1994)	20.00	16.00
Skyland: The Heart of Shenandoah National Park (1960)	6.00	4.80	New York-New Jersey (1994)	16.00	12.60
The 18 Cabins of Old Rag	5.00	5.00	Pennsylvania (1994)	21.00	16.60

(Continued from page 17)

Other AT Guide Books with Trail Maps:		
Central Virginia (1994)	18.00	14.40
Southwest Virginia (1994)	17.00	13.60
Tennessee-North Carolina (1995)	25.00	20.00
North Carolina-Georgia (1994)	25.00	20.00
AT Data Book (supplement to guide sets) (1998)	4.95	3.95
Trails Illustrated Maps:		
American Discovery Trail (covers DE, MD, & WV) (1995)	9.00	7.20
Shenandoah National Park (1994)	9.00	7.20
Trinkets:		
Appalachian Trail Bandana	5.00	5.00
Hand Painted Scenics on State Rock	19.95	19.95
PATC Sport (Water) Bottles (1 pint)	5.00	5.00
Shenandoah National Park Calendar (1998)	5.00	5.00
Smokey the Bear Pins	4.00	3.20

## Volunteers Appointed in May

### Trail Overseers

Seth Betaharon	Cedar Run/White Oak Link - White Oak Canyon Trail to Cedar Run
Gordon Bradford	AT - Bolden Hollow to Trans Mountain Trail
Jeff Deyerle	Rocky Mount Trail - Summit of Rocky Mount to 2nd Junction of Gap Run Trail
David Garman	AT - Crampton Gap to Pleasant Valley Viewpoint
Colleen & Martin Geislinger	Co-Overseers - Whitehaven Trail - Glover Park to Wisconsin Ave.
Bruce Hawkins	Great Falls River Trail - Picnic area to south end of Patowmack Canal
Fred Long	Massanutten Mt. South - Boone Run to Cub Run Road
Leslie & Kenneth Messersmith	Trayfoot Mountain Trail
Thorburn Reid	Melvin Hazen Trail - Rock Creek to Connecticut Ave.
Jason Rivera	Second Mountain Trail
Kim Stafford	Second Mountain Trail
Chris Tejirian	Jones Mt. Trail
Charlotte Upright	Bull Run-Occoquan Trail - Bull Run Park to Route 28 Parking Lot

## ORDER FORM

### TELEPHONE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 Thursday - Friday: 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.  
 Telephone: 703/242-0693  
 Fax: 703/242-0968

### SEND ALL ORDERS TO:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card orders (Visa or Mastercharge only)  
 Please have all information ready when you call.  
 Make checks payable to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC)  
 Do not send cash, stamps or C.O.D. orders.  
 Please allow 3 weeks for delivery. Orders may be shipped by UPS or First Class Mail.  
 Please include Shipping and Handling costs to expedite your order.

- Member       Nonmember  
 Please send membership information & application

### SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHART

Order Subtotal	S & H Cost
Up to \$10.00	\$2.00
\$10.01 to \$25.00	\$4.00
\$25.01 to \$50.00	\$6.00
Above \$50.00	\$8.00

ITEM#	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL

### METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- Check or Money Order  
 Visa or Mastercard

Order Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

4.5% State Sales Tax (VA residents only) \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping and Handling (see above) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Number      Expiration Date (month/yr.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total for Order** \_\_\_\_\_

## TRAILHEAD

The summer of '98 appears to be shaping up as The Summer of Weeds. Significant damage to the forest canopy by winter storms, combined with a mild, wet spring, has produced a bumper crop of nettles, briars, and poison ivy. Conscientious maintainers have revved up their power-weeders and swing-blade arms earlier than usual but may find it difficult to keep up with the vegetation. Heidi Forrest, Trails Management Coordinator, predicts that overseers will need to make an extra trip or two this season to keep their trails clear.

Arming the overseers against the onslaught, Bernie Stalman has been joined by Liles Creighton in the headquarters tool room. Bernie and Liles have been repairing and sharpening the club's collection of maintenance tools and working hard to impose order on a room with a mind of its own. This in addition to their roles as trail overseers and District Managers.

As the storm damage repairs finally wind down, Bernie extends his thanks to everyone who came to help in the SNP North District. Among the stalwarts that showed up for repeated punishment were Tophier Bill, John McCrea, Jon and Catherine Rindt and Bill Spach.

The North District Hoodlums continued their cleanup efforts on May 16th and 17th with a joint project involving the Mountain Club of Maryland. Thirty volunteers attended and helped to clear about three miles of yellow-blazed trails around the Matthews Arm Campground, including the Traces Nature Trail and most of the Weedlewood Trail.

In the SNP Central District, the Blue and White Crew spent several weekends clearing Wilderness-designated side trails. Anneliese Ring and Kerry Snow thank all who endured the LONG work days to get this job accomplished during the chain saw exemption period. Special thanks to Charles Hillon, who joined every crew trip and most of the Saturday AT sessions.

In July, the Blue and White Crew will bid adieu and bon voyage to Crew co-leader and SNP Central AT District Manager Anneliese Ring. Anneliese will be heading west to finish her hike of the Pacific Crest Trail. Her plans are undetermined for the fall, but everyone in the club who's worked with Anneliese hopes she'll re-

turn to rejoin her PATC pals in the Appalachians when the leaves are changing. Best of Luck Anneliese!

Aimee Kratts reports that the Cadillac Crew is staying busy, as usual. The Crew made two trips to the Sugarloaf area in late April and early May. On the first, they rehabbed 250 feet of trail, incorporating a small switchback to an overlook. On the second, they helped overseer Trudy Thompson rehab 250 feet of trail that had been washed away. On Memorial Day weekend, the crew returned to their Tuscarora Trail relocation project on Shockeyes Knob, near the West Virginia border.

As this newsletter goes to press, the PATC Summer Crews are mobilizing for another season of trail-building and rehabilitation. Those lucky few who'll be working with the SNP North District Crew will, once again, enjoy the crusty comradery and intestinal grumblings of "The Old Timer."

The Old Timer reports... "I hear you've been busy clearing up some trails so the Summer crews will have an easier time come August. Well, don't do it on The Old Timer's account. Why, I can still remember the flood of '09. There were so many blow downs it took the bears four days to walk two miles. And we didn't have any of those fancy tools you fellas use today. We didn't need no Pewlaskis. We dug the water bars by hand. We skinned Locust logs with our teeth at night to keep varmints away, and we lived off the land. We ate berries and sometimes dead things we'd find on the trails. We didn't even know what they were, but they were dead things and we ate 'em...and sometimes they'd make us so constipated we'd get impacted again and our stomachs would bloat up like a week-old road kill. But we liked it...we liked it just fine!"

With Old Timers coming out of the woodwork (and chain saw exemptions out of style), District Manager Rick Rhoades wants to remind trail maintainers that some of the old-time methods are a reasonable (and sometimes preferable) method of getting your job done. Rick recently helped an overseer in his District remove some blowdowns. With no registered chain sawyer available, Rick checked out a 2-person crosscut saw from headquarters and "headed for the hills." Rick points out that the crosscut saw was a light carry compared to a chain saw, with its asso-

ciated paraphernalia, and that crosscut skills come quickly. Rick and his crew took out over twenty blowdowns in a day, including two well over two feet in diameter.

The club owns a variety of crosscut saws. Most overseers, especially those on Wilderness-designated trails, will eventually find a need for a crosscut. The tool caches usually contain a small ("one-person") crosscut that is handy for blowdowns too massive to accommodate a bow saw. These saws are rigid (usually 3 to 4' feet long) and can be converted for use by two sawyers by repositioning the small, movable handle.

Larger saws (5' to 7' feet long) can be borrowed from headquarters or through a District Manager. Large crosscut saws come in two basic varieties. Felling saws typically have a flexible, concave back and are seldom used for trail maintenance tasks. Bucking saws usually have a straight, stiffer back and are generally heavier than a similarly sized felling saw. Bucking saws are the weapon of choice for removing large blowdowns from a trail.

Those who have a frequent need for a reliable crosscut (or those who are simply enamored of elegant tools) may want to purchase their own saw. Some club members have had success in finding usable saws at antique shops, sidewalk sales and flea markets. With the increased value of fine saws as collectibles, however, these sources are becoming more rare. A recommended source for new crosscuts (as well as for collectible older saws) is The Crosscut Saw Co. in Seneca Falls, NY. The company retails a variety of crosscuts that are produced by an affiliated manufacturer (Jemco Tool Corp.) as well as several imported saws. (Contact the Trailhead editor at the address below for more info.)

While using a crosscut is an easily learned skill, sharpening the saw is not. Trail maintainers that borrow club crosscuts should not attempt to sharpen them without the necessary knowledge or tools to do so properly. For those who own their own saws, two excellent resources are available for crosscut maintenance. The Crosscut Saw Manual, by Warren Miller, originally published by the Forest Service and currently available from The Crosscut Saw Co., is a concise (26 pages) and well-illustrated discussion solely devoted to

*(Continued on page 20)*

# TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings May 29, 1998. Contact the District Manager for the region that interests you.

**SNP CENTRAL AT & BLUE-BLAZE (Map # 10)**  
[CALL KERRY SNOW AT 301/570-0596]

**AT**

Spitler Knoll Overlook to Fishers Gap [1.30 miles]

**Co-overseers - Ridge Trail**

Weakley Hollow Fire Rd. to Old Rag Summit [2.70 miles]

**Catlett Mountain Trail**

Hannah Run Trail to Hazel Mountain Trail [1.2 mile]

**Catlett Spur Trail**

Hannah Run Trail to Hazel Mountain Trail [1.1 mile]

**SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZE (Map # 11)**

[CALL ROB LAUCHNER AT 804/794-1038]

**Rocky Mount Trail**

Gap Run [upper end] to Summit of Rocky Mount [1.20 miles]

**Hightop Hut Access Road**

Smith Roach Gap to Hightop Hut [0.7 miles]

**Gap Run Trail (upper)**

Intersection of Rocky Mount Trail to Rte. 628 Access [1.50 miles]

**Gap Run Trail (lower)**

End of Rocky Mount Trail to Rte. 628 Access [.80 mile]

**Austin Mountain Trail**

Rockytop Trail to Madison Run Road [3.20 miles]

**MASSANUTTEN NORTH (Map # G)**

[CALL NANCY AND DAVID CAREY AT 703/538-2418]

**Massanutten Mountain East Trail**

Camp Roosevelt to Gap Creek Trail [3.0 miles]

**Sidewinder (upper)**

Glass House to Tuscarora Trail

**Sidewinder (lower)**

Glass House to VA 678

**MASSANUTTEN SOUTH (Map # H)**

[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477]

**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 [1.4 miles]

**Second Mountain Trail**

Boone Run Trail to Kaylor Knob [1.1 miles]

**TUSCARORA BLUE - NORTH (MAP #L)**

[CALL LLOYD MACASKILL AT 703/978-4070]

**Co-overseers - Tuscarora Trail**

Pinnacle Powerline to Larrick Overlook [1.40 miles]

**Co-overseers - Tuscarora Trail**

Larrick Overlook to Lucas Woods [2.3 miles]

**TUSCARORA BLUE - SOUTH (MAP # 9, F, G & H)**

[CALL RICK RHOADS AT 703/239-0965]

**Tuscarora Trail**

US 340 to SNP boundary [1.10 miles]

**Tuscarora Trail**

Waites Run Road to Mill Mountain Trail [3.30 miles]

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA/ROCK CREEK PARK (MAP #N)**

[CALL MARK ANDERSON AT 202/462-7718]

**Co-overseer - Western Ridge Trail**

Bluff Bridge to Military Rd. [2.7 miles]

**Co-overseer - Valley Trail**

Military Rd. to Boundary Bridge [2.2 miles]

**Co-overseer - Valley Trail**

Bluff Bridge to Boulder Bridge [1.4 miles]

## *(Trailhead, continued)*

crosscut maintenance. The Complete Guide to Sharpening, by Leonard Lee (Taunton Press) is a more comprehensive book (including other types of saws as well as woodworking and sculpting tools) but also includes a clear and helpful guide to crosscut sharpening.

Finally, for those true crosscut aficionados, several publishers have recently released reprints of saw catalogs from the early years of this century. The Simonds Saws & Knives, originally published in 1919 and reprinted by Roger K. Smith (Anthel, Mass.) is highly recommended, as are the publications of the Astragal Press (The Handsaw Collection,

Henry Disston & Sons Handbook for Lumbermen, and Grimshaw on Saws).

The Trailhead editor continues to solicit information concerning PATC trails and those that maintain them. Send your reports to Trailhead, P.O. Box 1169, Olney, MD 20830 or to kerrysno@sprynet.com ☐

—Kerry Snow

## POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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