



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 32, Number 7
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75 Years of Service

PATC Johnson Property Purchase Adds 70 Acres Added To Vining Tract

PATC has purchased the 70-acre Johnson property on the western boundary of PATC's Vining Tract in Greene County, Va. The property, which borders on Shenandoah National Park, contains overlooks that provide stunning views of the Virginia Piedmont and Mutton Hollow 1,000 feet below at the base of Hightop Mountain. The parcel also includes a two-story frame house formerly lived in by Louveane Morris (*shown in the photograph on page 4, holding a child, in the company of her parents, c. 1905*), the mother of Waymond Morris, after whom the Vining Tract's Morris Cabin is named. This house is one of the last remnants of the mountain community that existed in the area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Morris house predates some of the rental log cabins on the Vining Tract.

See Johnson, page 4

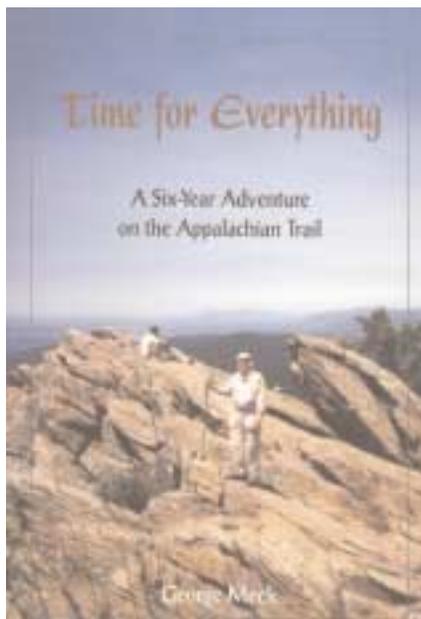


The Johnson Cabin is a fine addition to our cabin rental system. Constructed about 15 years ago from logs salvaged from several farm outbuildings, it served as a hunting cabin for the Johnson brothers.

Don't Miss the 'Poet's' Advice

Our newest arrival to the PATC store is "Time for Everything," by George Meek. George is a life member of both the Appalachian Trail Conference and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, a trail Overseer, and former recording secretary of PATC and was recently appointed co-chair of our Publications Committee. In "Time for Everything" he gives concrete tips for section-hiking the AT at a slower, more enjoyable pace than that which is experienced by most thru-hikers. He gives advice on what to take, where to stay, what to eat, even how to cope with the bears. Verses and photographs by the author complement the text. You may place your order by phone (703/242-0315) or by logging on to the PATC online store at www.patc.net/store. Look to future issues of the PA for a review and information about book signings. □

— Maureen Estes



In This Issue . . .

Council Fire	2
Tom's Trail Talk	3
Calling all Insurance Professionals . . .	4
Volunteers Appointed	4
K9TB at Patapsco Valley Park	5
Great Falls' Rebuilt Trail	6
16th Annual Overseers Workshop	6
Backpacking 101	6
New Record of Cabin Use Form	7
Bears Den: Trails Day Celebration . . .	9
Appalachian Trail??	9
Forecast	10
Through-hikers on a Trail Near You . .	14
Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature . . .	15
South Mountaineers: 10 Years	15
Leave No Trace Trainers Course	15
Trailhead	16
25-Year Celebration Photos	18
Notices	19
Help Wanted	20

Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

Officers

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VP Operations: Fred "Hop" Long
Treasurer: Gerhard Salinger
Secretary: Georgeann Smale (gsmale99@yahoo.com)
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Supervisor of Membership: Susan Nelson
Supervisor of Land Management: Chris Mangold, csm5749@yahoo.com
Supervisor of Facilities: Larry Marcoux
Supervisor of Education, Information, and Activities: Vacant

General Counsel: Charles Sloan

Sections/Chapters

Mountaineering Section: Andy Britton
SMRG: Christopher Smith
Ski Touring Section: Steve Brickel
North Chapter: Pete Brown
N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Lee Sheaffer
S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Michael Seth
Charlottesville Chapter: John Shannon
West Virginia Chapter: Judy Smoot

Standing Committee Chairs

(Council Members)

AT Corridor Monitoring: Tom Lupp
Blackburn Trail Center: Chris Brunton
Budget: David White
Cabins Operations: Mel Merritt
Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf
Conservation: Jeff Pearcy
Grants & Donations: Susan Nelson
Endowment: Don Price
Finance: Gerhard Salinger
Hikes: Karen Brown & Lee Sheaffer
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Legal: Charles Sloan
Maps: Dave Pierce
Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee: Charlie Graf
Potomac Appalachian: Linda Shannon-Beaver
Public Affairs: Vacant
Publications: Susie LeBlanc & Linda Shannon-Beaver
Sales: Vacant
Shelters: Frank Turk
Trail Lands Acquisition: Phil Paschall
Trail Patrol: Kumait Jawdat
Tuscarora Trail Land Management: Lloyd MacAskill

Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

Archives & Library: Carol Niedzialek
Cabin Reservations: Shakuntala Ghare
Communications Team: Tom Johnson
Deputy Finance Committee Chair: John Ferguson
Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Jon Rindt
Headquarters Facility: Orron Kee
Information/Sales Desks: Annetta DePompa
Medical: Vacant
Shelters, Cabins, & Cabins Land Fund: Larry Marcoux
SNP Boundary Trailheads Study Group: Mark Holland
Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project: Phoebe Kilby & Larry Bradford

Potomac Appalachian

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Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council Meeting was held on June 10, 2003, at Club Headquarters. President Tom Johnson introduced Jose Rojas, a volunteer who will assist the computer committee, and he announced that ATC is looking for a volunteer to man the front desk at the Harpers Ferry office during the day. Tom commented on the impressive presentation mounted by Trail Patrol for National Trails Day, though constant rain detracted from the event. Tom reported on a recent hike to Big Schloss with Bill Damon (Superintendent of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests) and Jim Smalls (Chief Ranger of the Lee Ranger District). They spoke of national forest issues affecting PATC. The Forest Service representatives expressed concern over proposed outsourcing of jobs, which is damaging morale and could cause them to lose their trail crews.

Finance

Treasurer Gerhard Salinger distributed the monthly budget report for April 2003. He again stressed that the Club had a deficit budget. Council approved a motion to reappoint Endowment Committee member Don Price, for the period of July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2006, and members Robert Patelunas and Edward Britton for the period of July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2005. Council also approved a motion to expand the current policy of the Endowment Committee to read: "When a vacancy occurs

on the committee in mid-term, the President shall nominate, for Council approval, a person to fill out the term of the member who resigned or was replaced."

Trails, Lands, and Facilities

Vice President of Operations Hop Long solicited comments from Council members regarding their requirements for a new computer system, such as online reporting.

Supervisor of Facilities Larry Marcoux announced the Rocky Run replacement shelter project has been postponed. The state of Maryland has concerns regarding the historical importance of the original CCC-built shelter.

Charlie Graf reported that the roof of Tulip Tree Cabin had received some minimal damage from a fallen tree and that it would need repairs. Charlie updated Council on the progress of the renovation of Cliff's House. He is also looking into the cost of updating the electrical wiring at Glass House. At Weaver, he suggested that it is feasible to convert to electricity, eliminating the current problem with the propane tank. He distributed photos of Highacre to demonstrate the need for painting.

Walt Smith updated Council on the status of the cabin donated by Dr. Silberman two years ago. The 32- by 20-foot cabin is a prefabricated kit that the Club would like to erect near

See Council Fire, page 3

HEADQUARTERS

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

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Phone #: 703/242-0315

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

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

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

Club e-mail: info@patc.net

Facsimile #: 703/242-0968

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

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) e-mail: Wiley@patc.net

Trails Management Coordinator: Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) e-mail: hforrest@patc.net

Business Manager: Monica Clark (Ext. 15) e-mail: mclark@patc.net

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

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

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

Tom's Trail Talk

PATC has its Begging Bowl Out

Remember those sultry mornings in Bangkok when the local monk would appear with his laquer bowl nestled against the saffron robes surrounding his midriff. He would stand in the shade of the mango tree covering our driveway while our maid, Pat, collected the most delectable fruits from our kitchen. Pat (an anglicized form of her true Thai name) had an almost mystical reverence for monks. Monks enjoyed a favored status in society. Their only source of food was people like Pat.

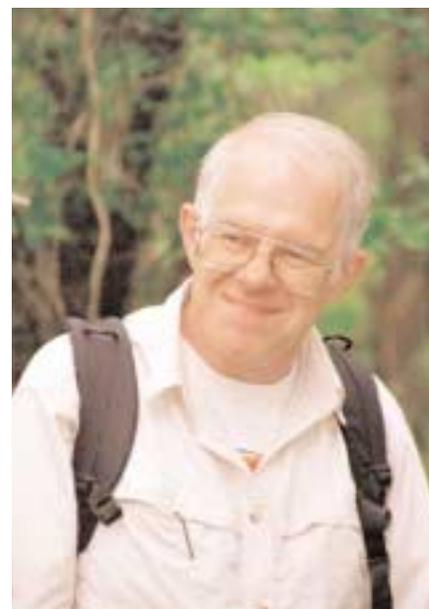
Conservation organizations like PATC have, likewise, only one source of support – those who agree with their endeavors and are inclined to donate. This year's land acquisition expenses have been especially heavy. Already this year the Club has spent more than \$300,000 to protect trails. We've purchased more than 150 acres at an average price of \$2,000 per acre for heavily wooded lands surrounding trails. The benefits to hikers will be more than matched by the benefits to wildlife,

trees and plants, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This land will be protected forever by a Club that values the natural world.

But – we are running out of money to acquire these lands, with many tracts still to be purchased. Most of our future efforts will be concentrated on protecting the Tuscarora Trail, long stretches of which run through private lands. This is not a National Trail, and federal protection is nonexistent. Only PATC can acquire the trail right-of-way. It will be a long and expensive process.

We begin our project with a land acquisition treasury that is nearly empty. The latest spurt of land-buying has brought us to the brink. We need to replenish the fund. Moreover, we bought one of the properties partly on time (a loan from the seller). We are obligated to pay that back.

Over the ensuing weeks you will be getting more details about our fund-drive – details about the specific properties that we have just purchased, what their benefits are, even some



photos and maps to show you why they are so important. Help us replenish our funds to pay off these properties. It is early morning, and our begging bowl is empty. □

—Tom Johnson

Council Fire, from page 2

the Tuscarora Trail. Charlie and Walt recently inspected possible cabin sites on the Larrick Tract and found a site that, while not ideal, could be used for the cabin.

Volunteerism, Training, and Communication

Council approved a motion altering the cabin rental policies and procedures. The changes go into effect on Monday, Aug. 4, 2003. An article outlining the changes will be published in *The Potomac Appalachian*.

Supervisor of Membership Susan Nelson distributed the Membership Report from June 10, 2003. She noted that membership had dropped below 7,000 and is currently at 6,842 members. Discussion ensued regarding the decline. The consensus was that sufficient reminder notices are sent. Susan announced that the Annual Meeting would be held at the Atrium again this year on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Susan reported the success of the recent party for PATC members with 25 years of membership. Participants enjoyed a video, made from archival films, which included scenes from a 1932 work trip.

Other Business

Maryland AT Management Committee: Charlie Graf announced the Annapolis Rocks dedication would take place June 30 at 11:00 a.m. He has prepared service awards for two volunteers, Jack Thomas and John Akerly, who made outstanding contributions to the project.

North Chapter: Pete Brown announced that, on National Trails Day, the North Chapter worked on the AT between Deer Lick Shelter and the Old Forge picnic area. As they built waterbars and checkdams, they were able to immediately judge their effectiveness in the pouring rain. He also reported the Birch Run Shelter has been completed.

AT Corridor Management: Tom Lupp announced advanced corridor monitor training would be held at Blackburn Nov. 1. He reported the resignation of Chris Florak, ATC corridor boundary surveyor. Tom also reported that a Charlottesville Chapter volunteer has taken responsibility for mowing on Calf Mountain.

SMRG: John Luck, reporting for both SMRG and Trail Patrol, commented on the Trail Patrol's National Trails Day event at Dickey Ridge Visitor Center. He noted SMRG was present and that there were numerous informative Trail Patrol displays.

Maps: Dave Pierce reported on the revisions made to Map 10. He noted that 140 changes had been made. In particular, he revised the back to include the parking lot at White Oak Canyon and to include an atlas index of all the trails and their distances. Dave also brought a copy of Gail Spilsbury's new book on Rock Creek Park. It includes the PATC map of the park. In addition, the text refers to the Club's trail-maintenance efforts and Web site.

The June Council meeting was attended by seven Club officers, seven committee Chairs, two chapter representatives, two section representatives, two staff members, and four other Club members. □

—Georgeann Smale, Secretary

Johnson, from page 1

Additional Rental Cabin

Adjoining the Morris House is a small cabin built by Andrew and William Johnson who sold the land, originally purchased by their parents in the 1950s, to PATC. The cabin, constructed about 15 years ago from logs salvaged from several farm outbuildings associated with the Morris house, served as a hunting cabin for the Johnson brothers. The 8' x 15' cabin is in very good condition and, with some minor alterations, will soon be included in the cabin rental program. It contains a stove, two bunks, and a fold-down table. A nearby spring and privy provide essential amenities.

Increased Hiking Opportunities

In addition to providing an additional rental cabin, the property's trails will provide

expanded short-duration hiking opportunities for renters of the Johnson Cabin and the cabins on the Vining Tract. Of greatest significance, however, is that by acquiring this land, PATC members gain the legal right to hike the old CCC road that bisects both the Vining Tract and the Johnson property across two adjacent properties to its western junction with the Snow Mountain Road (State Rte. 626). The Snow Mountain Road connects one mile beyond the junction to SNP at Smith Roach Gap. From Smith Roach Gap, trails lead to the Appalachian Trail and the summit of Hightop Mountain (see PATC Map 11).

PATC members are invited to visit this new property when in the area and enjoy the vistas and hiking opportunities this recent acquisition provides and view a part of the history of this former mountain community. □

—Hugh Robinson



This photograph of the Morris house was probably taken at some time in the 1950s.



This is a recent photograph of the Morris house, showing that major renovation work is needed.



Calling All Insurance Professionals

When you joined PATC, you probably didn't realize that your expertise could be used for anything but digging out waterbars. However, one of the Club's major expenses is its insurance policy, and this year will see some major changes. We need your expertise to advise us on the best course to take. Please respond to the Club President, Tom Johnson, at johntns3@juno.com, or call the Club at 703/242-0693 and leave a voice mail message on extension 40.

Volunteers - Appointed in July

Trail Overseers

- Charles ClarkAT - Powerline to south end of the waterline
- Jack DannerAT - Bootens Gap to Bearfence Rock Scramble
- Brain Bulman . . .Tuscarora Trail - SNP Boundary to Thompson Hollow Trail
- Ben SedwickSaddle Trail
- Don SeaySaddle Trail
- Bob McCullaugh .Big Run South

Reserve the Date - Oct. 11, 2003 20th Annual Pig Roast

Huge event celebrating 20 years of pigs and beer. More details coming in the September PA. Thanks. —Chris Brunton

Dogs, Hikers Have Fun at Patapsco Valley State Park

The rain never materialized on this beautiful, slightly cooler Saturday morning as we returned to Patapsco Valley State Park. Last year's hike at the Hilton Area was so much fun that we returned to the Patapsco River, this time to the Daniels Area. First we welcomed everyone and introduced newcomers Jane with Willy & Ned, Jim with Snoop, and Ken who was a much-appreciated Honorary Uncle to everyone else's dogs. After passing around the Tootsie Rolls, the Blue Dog biscuits, and the insect repellent, we set out on the Camels Den Trail. Thanks to Jenifer & Tigger for co-leading their first K9TB hike with Jeff and Cindy, who had to leave Katy & Belle home, and Pat with Rory. Joining the group were regulars Lisa and Chuck with Jester, Shirley with Princess, and Ray with Wiley.

We found the trails well-maintained and very pretty after all the recent rain. We saw lots of animal tracks in the mud, including adult and baby deer, raccoon, bird, and squirrel, in addition to human, dog, and bicycle. As we wandered through the mossy woods we enjoyed gorgeous displays of ferns growing in natural rock gardens. They looked like the homes of fairies but none were seen. We also stopped to peer at several puddles filled with tadpoles, some of which

were growing legs and will soon hop away. At rest stops, which were frequent, we saw wild strawberries and a very large garter snake! Also with help from our club naturalist, Cindy, we were able to identify a beaver skeleton along the side of the trail.

A History of Mills

The Patapsco Valley area has been the site of homes and industry since Colonial days, and the Daniels Area, which we visited today, was most recently the site of the Daniels textiles mill. Canvas produced in the mill was used as tent cloth by the Union Army during the Civil War. The mill started operation back in 1840 as the Elysville mill and changed hands several times, becoming the Alberton mill and finally the Daniels mill. The Daniels mill operated until 1968, at which point the mill town was razed. The mill itself was subsequently severely damaged when the remnants of Hurricane Agnes scoured the valley in 1972.

The Patapsco Valley was also the original route for the B&O Railroad, and tracks were laid in the Daniels Area back in 1830. When we encountered one flooded section of trail, we were able to keep our feet dry by walking along some granite slabs, which were originally used as stringers for the Old Main Line of the B&O Railroad. The tracks were laid on the stone, which at the time was considered sturdy and longer-lasting than wood. However, during hot weather the tracks expanded, and the stones did not. The result was often derailment! Along the trail we saw other signs of the B&O and crossed some beautiful stone arched bridges that allowed trains such as the "Tom Thumb" (America's first steam engine) to cross the streams feeding the Patapsco.

At the Davis Tunnel, now serving the CSX Railroad, we climbed a steep trail up and over the top. In addition to a lovely view we saw



Photos by Jeff Bolognese

Hikers take a break by the Patapsco River.

mica scattered on the trail and embedded in the rocks. Cindy explained that mica was important to miners because it is found in quartz rocks. Since gold veins are also found in quartz, mica flakes on the surface flash a signal to gold seekers. Also, mica can sometimes be mined in large sheets that even today are used to make windows for smelting ovens, where the operators want to view the process inside but the high heat and pressure would shatter ordinary glass. Some people also use mica for medicinal purposes, and others use it to make jewelry and for decorating clothing and household furnishings. Although no mines exist in the area, the train bridge that crosses the Patapsco right before the Davis tunnel is reportedly named the "Eureka Bridge" after a mining company that once operated near there.

As the day wore on, the temperature rose but never to expected heights, and the humidity decreased dramatically. The dogs took a dip in the water, and people and dogs arrived back at the parking area still feeling jaunty. So, after the hike ended, some people chose to hike up a steep but short climb to see the Camels Den cave, for which the trail was named. Others went to see the "fish ladder" at the dam across the Patapsco River. This ladder consists of a series of shallow pools that enable migrating fish to swim over the dam to reach breeding grounds upstream. Windows in the structure allow visitors to watch this process, but the day we were there no fish were seen swimming.

For more pictures, please see the online trip report at: www.k9trailblazers.org/pvsp/pvspd_062803_report.htm □

—Pat Fuhrer



Hiking the B&O Railroad Old Main Line.

Great Falls Gains Rebuilt River Trail

Lazily watching kayakers work the raging Potomac River and perched above a soaring blue heron, the ACME Treadway Crew could easily think they were on a fun recreational jaunt. But on this cool, summer solstice day in June the reality soon hit that they were helping the Potomac River work crew.

Working around Cow Hoof Rock at the downstream end of Mather Gorge, leader Don White used all his teaching skills to meld a full crew of 14. Don's offer of ACME Treadway T-shirts helped morale as the group rebuilt a steep technical piece of the River Trail in Great Falls National Park.

Locust logs provided the foundation as steps were laid, and Don dazzled us all with his natural-dirt "coweta dip," turning a heavily eroded trail into a hiker's highway. Don always reminded passing hikers that



ACME Treadway's crew sits on appropriately named Cow Hoof Rock high above the Potomac River.



Photos by Bruce Glendening

Overseer Bruce Hawkins is glad to see ACME Treadway's Rich Morin place another log step.

"we've got extra tools," but the industrious crew could not entice additional worker bees. Maybe it was the continual wheelbarrows of muddy dirt passing by that helped hikers make their decisions. The rainy spring made for interesting building materials, but the end product was declared a success by all.

Overseer Bruce Hawkins could not pay the crew enough at the time (I think he said the check was in the mail), but was overjoyed with the result, which improves PATC's standing within Great Falls Park. Although showers threatened all day, clouds kept the area cool, and the sun came out for the great evening dinner before the tired crew hit the road. Better trained, the Potomac River Crew can now return to the Potomac Heritage Trail if only the Potomac would return to normal levels and several underwater sections can be reclaimed. □

—Bruce Glendening

16th Annual SNP North District Overseers' Workshop

Sept. 13-14, Pinnacles Research Station

PATC and the Trails Staff of SNP will once again host this annual workshop which is designed to teach new trail Overseers the basic skills of trail maintenance and trail repair, and to give experienced Overseers the opportunity to pick up a few more tricks by working with park personnel on major projects. We will keep our base of operations this year at the Pinnacles Research Station in the Central District of the park (near Thornton Gap).

The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning and end on Sunday after lunch. All meals will be provided for a \$20 registration fee (Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and lunches for both days). Camping facilities are provided at the Research Station with a large clearing for tent camping. You may arrive Friday evening or Saturday morning. Instruction will be provided by SNP trail professionals and PATC Crew Leaders. The sessions typically include basic skills of trail maintenance, rock work, wilderness trail skills, and advanced projects. Power tools may be discussed if there is an interest, but chainsaw instruction will not be provided at this workshop.

Please make reservations early since the workshop is limited to 25 participants, and always fills up early. Contact George Walters at gjwalters@starpower.net, or 410/426-2724 for registration materials. Hope to see you there! □

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol
presents

BACKPACKING 202

How to Plan and Enjoy a Backcountry Outing

An Intermediate Course Focused On Planning Small Group Trips

Working in groups of eight or less, participants have the opportunity to expand or renew their skills by planning and executing a three-day group backpacking trip. The course covers equipment selection and use, route planning, food planning, safety and comfort in challenging conditions, and Leave No Trace (LNT) principles. Experienced instructors facilitate group planning sessions and accompany the weekend trip.

GROUP PLANNING SESSIONS: Three Thursday nights, 7:30-9:30: Sep 25, Oct 2 and Oct 9, PATC Headquarters, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Virginia

WEEKEND OUTING – LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED
Three days, two nights: Columbus Day weekend, Oct 11 - 13

FEES: \$40.00 for PATC Members; \$55.00 for non-members

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Applicants must know the basics and have some backpacking experience. To receive a registration form and for all other information, call or e-mail Alex Lampros: 703/719-7846 evenings 7:30-9:30, weekends until 9:30; E-mail: a.lampros@att.net (Between Aug 23 and Sep 6, contact John Browne 703/425-5645; jbrowne11@cox.net) Visit PATC Trail Patrol's website: trailpatrol.patc.net

RECORD OF CABIN USE

CABIN: HIGHACRE
 RESERVATION NUMBER: 07150301

RESERVATION PERIOD: AUGUST 15-17, 2003
 KEY NUMBER: HA-15

Reservations start at 3:00 p.m. on the first date and end at 3:00 p.m. on the day after the last date.

RENTERS OF SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK CABINS ARE REQUIRED TO LIST THE NUMBER OF GUESTS AND NIGHTS THEY STAYED FOR REPORT PURPOSES TO SNP	DATES RESERVED	15	16	17					
	NIGHTS OF THE WEEK	FRI	SAT	SUN					
RESERVATION HOLDER	MEMBER?	PLEASE LIST NUMBER OF GUESTS IN BOX OF APPROPRIATE DATE							
SAMPLE FORM	YES/NO	1	1	1					
NUMBER OF PATC MEMBER GUESTS:		3	3	1					
NUMBER OF NON-MEMBER GUESTS:		2	2						

By accepting the enclosed key to the cabin listed above, the Reservation Holder and guests will abide by the rules set forth in the Cancellation and Refund Policies below and the Policy For Proper Use Of Cabins listed on the reverse side of this page.

The Reservation Holder's credit card has been charged or a check has been received in the amount of \$ _____ for the rental of this cabin and for the non-refundable \$5.00 processing fee.

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club maintains cabins and shelters for the enjoyment of our members and guests. An additional tax-deductible donation to the Shelter, Cabins, and Cabin Lands fund is appreciated.

PATC has 16 member-only cabins. If you have found this cabin experience to be enjoyable and are not a PATC member, we would like to invite you to join our Club. If you would like information on membership, please initial here _____, or call us at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17.

Please charge my credit card for the donation amount of \$ _____ (Reservation Holder's initials): _____

******* CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICIES *******

Full refund, less \$5.00 processing fee, is available if the reservation is cancelled 15 or more days prior to the first night of the reservation.

50% of the rental fee, less \$5.00 processing fee, will be refunded if the reservation is cancelled 8 to 14 days prior to the first night of the reservation.

No refund will be made if the reservation is cancelled 7 or fewer days prior to the first night of the reservation.

Reservations made fewer than 7 days prior to the first night will automatically be responsible for the full fee even if the reservation is cancelled shortly thereafter.

Part of a reservation may not be cancelled. The whole reservation must be cancelled and the processing fee forfeited. The renter must then wait at least 24 hours to make another reservation.

RETURNING THE KEY: The enclosed key, which unlocks the cabin and associated outbuildings and authorized gates, must be returned *with this form* within ten (10) days from the last date of this reservation. Failure to include this form will result in delay in the clearance of the Reservation Holder's reservation record for future reservations.

LOST KEY FEE: Failure to return the key will result in an additional \$25 lost key charge to the Reservation Holder's credit card if it is not returned within ten (10) days from the last date of this reservation. If a lost key fee is charged and the key is later returned, a reimbursement of the lost key charge less a \$5.00 administrative fee will be given. Further rental privileges will be revoked if a renter loses a key a second time, even though the lost key charge is paid.

***** POLICY FOR PROPER USE OF CABINS *****

The Reservation Holder listed on this form must carry this authorization while occupying the cabin, as he/she will be required to show proof of his/her reservation to Park or Forest Rangers, to officers of PATC, or to other parties claiming reservations in conflict with this one.

The Reservation Holder listed on this form must be at least 21 years old. This is required by PATC policy.

The Reservation Holder must be with his/her party each night the cabin is occupied.

For report purposes, it is required that the number of guests that stay each night in a Shenandoah National Park cabin listed as well as the membership status of the renter and of the guests.

The rental party, which includes the Reservation Holder, must not exceed the established cabin capacity.

The Reservation Holder accepts complete financial responsibility for any loss or damage to the cabin or to the equipment in or about the premises, resulting from acts or omissions thereof by him/her or by members of his/her party, whether through carelessness, vandalism, or otherwise.

Upon entering the cabin, the Reservation Holder will familiarize him/herself and each member of his/her party with the rules posted therein. The Reservation Holder accepts responsibility for compliance with such rules by each member of his/her party.

Before leaving the cabin, the Reservation Holder will enclose all blankets and mattresses in the receptacle provided for that purpose where applicable. The Reservation Holder will empty and clean all drinking water containers, ash containers, pots, pans, and utensils; will personally make sure that all fires are extinguished or guarded in accordance with instructions; and will close, securely fasten, or lock all window shutters and doors.

The Reservation Holder will return the key and this form within ten (10) days from the last night of the reservation.

This reservation covers no more than one weekend.

Transfer of a reservation to another person will be allowed only at the discretion of PATC.

PATC cabins are maintained as a public service by PATC, a non-profit, volunteer organization. The Reservation Holder and all members of his/her party will use the cabins and equipment in the spirit with which PATC makes them available. Please fill out the enclosed Condition Report for the overseer's reference and attention.

Thank you for choosing a PATC cabin. We hope you enjoy your stay at the cabin and using the trails in the vicinity for your hiking pleasure.

If you should have questions regarding these rental policies, please call PATC Headquarters during regular business hours. The number to call is 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 for the Cabin Coordinator.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, through volunteer efforts, education and advocacy, acquires, maintains and protects the Trail and lands of the Appalachian Trail, other trails and related facilities in the Mid-Atlantic region for the enjoyment of present and future hikers.

The new cabin reservation rules go into effect on Monday, Aug. 4, 2003. Please keep this information with your cabins booklet for your convenience when renting cabins. Call the sales desk volunteer at 703/242-0693 between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. for help with obtaining the booklet or go to www.patc.net/activities/cabins/ for more information on individual cabins. A summary of rule changes follows. For the full article see page 1 of the July, 2003 *Potomac Appalachian*.

- The rental fee is now collected in advance. You may use VISA, Mastercard or check. Keys will be mailed only after the rent is received.
- Refunds are now on a sliding scale based on when the cancellation occurs. No refund if less than a week before reservation. Part of a reservation cannot be cancelled.
- The Responsibility Statement is now part of the invoice. Once the renter accepts the keys, he or she has consented to and is bound by the rules governing cabin usage (above).

- A \$25 lost key fee will automatically be charged if the key is not returned within 10 days of end of reservation. Rental privileges will be revoked if the key is not returned a second time, even though the lost key return fee is received.
- The nonrefundable processing fee is now \$5 per reservation.
- The arrival and departure time is now 3:00 p.m. □

Bears Den: First Annual National Trails Day Celebration a Success

I called merely to ask a simple question, “You guys doing anything for National Trails Day?” Rob Carey, the Resident Manager of Bears Den Trail Center, responded, “We hadn’t planned anything ... Heeeeyyy ... why don’t you put something together for us?” And so, for the 4,873rd time in my life, the ask-a-simple-question-get-an-elaborate-task-assigned-to-you scenario played out. As I hung up the phone, I wondered, “When will I ever learn?” I not only had never planned a National Trails Day Celebration before – I had never even attended one.

As it turned out, helping to plan a National Trails Day event for Bears Den was a snap, largely due to Rob’s enthusiasm and natural leadership abilities. Rob gave me a telephone list and prepared an e-mail announcement of our plans to hold an event. He even suggested a nice, easy task for Bears Den’s First Annual National Trails Day Celebration – picking up trash on the blue-blazed trail that connects it to the AT. I thought, “This is turning out to be the easiest event I’ve ever planned.” As luck would have it, though, Rob called a week later to report that the blue-blazed trail didn’t actually have debris on it. Hmmm . . . this was

gonna be harder than I thought. Not to fear – Rob said there was plenty of other work that needed to be done. I was hoping he wouldn’t say trail relocation or building waterbars – my lower back isn’t designed for such tasks. He said, “We gotta relocate a section of the Nature Trail and build waterbars on the blue-blazed trail.” Ugh. I was relieved when he added that some invasive plants needed to be removed – that sounded like something I could do.

Plans were falling into place nicely. Bobby Lowry stopped by Bears Den in May to give advice on the proposed trail work. And Burt Sharp came by a week before the big day to help Dave Appel build some waterbars. Rob picked up the food for the lunchtime cookout. The only thing left to consider was the weather. Given Northern Virginia’s rainforest-like weather this spring, rain on June 7 was well within the realm of possibility. Things were looking good as I sat in my D.C. office on the 6th. It was a tauntingly gorgeous day – the kind of day that prompts grown adults to beg their bosses to hold office outside. I figured it would be too cruel a joke for Mother Nature to have us all cooped up in our offices on a beautiful Friday and then make us build

waterbars on a soggy Saturday. My bubble was burst when a colleague stuck her head in my office and reported, “Major rain tomorrow – flood watches in some areas.”

As I drove through the pouring rain to Bears Den Saturday morning, I made a mental list of indoor tasks that might need to be done – mop floors, oil squeaky doors, scrub bathtubs. But I guess Bears Den attracts hard-core trail workers, because the dozen or so attendees weren’t the least bit deterred by the rain. Rob led a group out to build waterbars, Dave Appel took some folks out to re-route the Nature Trail, and I recruited a group to remove an invasive species.

After a morning of hard work (which actually seemed much more like play), a group of us, led by Rob’s mom, Sara, broke away to grill some burgers and dogs under the protection of Bears Den’s front awning. At lunchtime, 13 mud-splattered bodies broke bread in celebration of National Trail’s Day at Bears Den.

We hope to see you next year, at Bears Den’s Second Annual National Trails Day Celebration. □

—Laura Starling

Is It a Joke, a Mistake, or a Statement?



I’m an Overseer of a section of the AT that runs through Virginia’s G.R. Thompson Wildlife Management Area. Last summer, the state decided to put up trailhead bulletin boards with appropriate signage in all the management area parking lots.

Each week, I’d go out to walk my section of the Trail and check out the progress the state was making in putting up their new trailhead boards. I was pretty excited because they were taking the time to do it right and erect sturdy bulletin boards that would last for many years.

Well, the day finally came when I pulled into the parking lot and the signage was in place! That excitement lasted until I got close enough to actually read the sign. Much to my dismay, however, they had mis-

spelled “Trail”! I wrote to my District Manager to point out this mistake, and he kindly informed me that perhaps it was not a mistake. Perhaps the folks at the department of natural resources were sympathizing with the hikers and understood that tackling the Appalachian Trail could, indeed, be a trial!

Almost a year later, the misspelled sign remains.

So, decide for yourselves (*see photo*). Is this really a misspelled word or the work of a sympathetic sign maker in the department of natural resources? □

—Beth Ann Johnson



Sign just outside of Front Royal on Blue Mountain. Take Freezeland Road up the mountain and continue on the fire road that runs through the Thompson Wildlife Management Area. The path from this parking area connects to the AT about a mile north of Dick’s Dome Shelter and a mile south of where it cuts across the corner of Sky Meadows State Park.

FORECAST

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the AT and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays – contact Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday – contact Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Spring cabin. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Pete Brown or visit the North Chapter home page: www.patc.net/chapters/north/.

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

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

Ski Touring Section

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

Mountaineering Section

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

climbers. For further information contact Andy Britton, (tallandyb@aol.com) 703/622-1920, or (MackMuir@edisaurus.com).

PATC Midweek Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Curious about the Club? Want to learn more? The best way is to attend a New Members meeting (but you don't have to be new to qualify). Attend the meeting and find the mysteries of PATC revealed in full. Refreshments will be served. Directions to PATC: Take Rt. 23 into Vienna, Va. and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Jane Thompson 301/565-6704 x208.

Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Business meeting – Last Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. INFO: Zeb Whitaker (zw@tdcarchitects.com) 703/255-5034, then press #5.

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

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

AUGUST

1 (Friday)

DEADLINE - September Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to PA@patc.net.

2 (Saturday)

HIKE - K9TB

Gambrill State Park, Thurmont, MD

We'll hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace on the trails of Gambrill State Park. The hike will include some steep climbs (500 foot elevation gain), and a trip to the North Frederick Overlook. This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well-behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on leash and scoop after them. Maps and chocolate and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead, but bring lunch/snacks/water for you and your dog. INFO/RSVP: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org), Jeff Bolognese (jbolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434, or check out the K9TB web site (k9trailblazers.org/schedule.htm).

2 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - S. Mountaineers Anniversary Appalachian Trail, MD

Come celebrate the **10th** anniversary of the South Mountaineers on this event. Food and frolic after the event. This crew began its stewardship in Maryland in August, 1993 by performing erosion control near Gathland State Park. Join this event and christen the crew's second decade of success. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

Are you looking for a way to escape the city heat and bustle? Join the Tulip Tree Cabin Construction Crew for a weekend in Shaver Hollow Virginia putting the finishing touches on a beautiful new PATC rental cabin. There will not be many more opportunities to experience first-hand how our forefathers built their homes. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

4 (Monday)

HIKE - Family Hike

Ellanor Lawrence Park, Chantilly, VA

Join us for a mostly shaded 3 mile hike through the woods, along Walney Creek, and down to Walney pond, where we usually spot some of the resident turtles. The trail is jogging stroller passable, with some log steps along the way. After the hike we will stop by the visitor center to see the snakes, turtles, and skink. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

5 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

About 16 miles, 3000 foot climb. From Thompson Hollow climb Heiskell Hollow T. then north on AT to return via Overall Falls and a swim. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

5 (Tuesday)

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

6 (Wednesday)

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

8 - 10 (Friday - Sunday)

BACKPACKING - Dolly Sods Waterways Petersburg, WV

Looking for a way to cool off this summer? How about dowsing your head under a waterfall in one of WV's premier hiking destinations? Help find swimming holes in Red Creek as we backpack both in and out of the Creek. This trip is moderate to strenuous and is located in the Dolly Sods Wilderness near Petersburg, WV. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/258-3319 between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

9 (Saturday)

HIKE - Natural History Hike

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join Bob Pickett on a 10.2 mile hike along Jeremy's Run and Neighbor Mountain. We will do numerous small stream crossings and find one of the few populations of white birch in the Park. This is a good area for bear, grouse and snakes. This is a moderately difficult hike due to the mileage and elevation changes. Starting at 2700 feet on Neighbor Mountain, we will descend to 1070 feet at the base of the mountain before ascending Jeremy's Run back up to 2390 feet at our hike's end at Elkwallow Wayside. INFO and reservations: Bob Pickett (pickett@usna.edu) 301/681-1511.

9 (Saturday)

HIKE - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

Appalachian Trail Hike VI-High Rock/Raven Rock section. Pen Mar Park to Wolfsville Rd-9.6

**A REMINDER TO
HIKE LEADERS:**

All PATC hikes must either be listed in the *Potomac Appalachian* or a chapter newsletter.

miles-difficult hike. This section includes the steep climb to High Rock with views westward. At Raven Rocks we will be on a fairly new piece of the AT built by the South Mountaineers. This portion of the trail is considered the rollercoaster section in Maryland. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Pen Mar Park. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855.

9 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. to noon (rain date Aug. 30) When Washington slows down in August it is a great time to check out trail maintenance in this gem of an urban park. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

11 (Monday)

HIKE - Family Hike

Greenbrier Lake State Park MD

Kid friendly hike, then we'll enjoy their lake beach. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

12 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

George Washington National Forest, VA/WV

Little Sluice Mountain Trail to Tuscarora Trail west to Mill Mountain Trail to Big Schloss rock towers. Return on Cutoff Trail. 17 miles, 3000 feet. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

12 (Tuesday)

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

13 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Backpacking (REI)

Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. You awaken to the sound of voices. You're camped at the head of a deep hollow. It's rained cats and dogs all night and bears snuffled around your campsite, but you stayed warm and dry, and your food was hung safely out of reach. A group trudges sad and wet up the trail past your campsite. Their tent had flooded, and a bear had torn up one of their packs and eaten their food. It wasn't a matter of luck. You'd done things right. But as a beginner you know there are other skills you need to go further into the backcountry. Join REI's resident AT through-hiker, Brian Chenoweth, for an evening's discussion of the skills and tips to take you to the next stage of backcountry enjoyment. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

FORECAST

15 - 18 (Friday - Monday)

**🏔️ BACKPACKING - Family Trip
Dolly Sods, WV**

We will hike about 3 miles in and set up a base camp on Friday, day hike and swim in Red Creek on Saturday and Sunday, and hike out on Monday. (If you need to leave Sunday, that's fine) Each family will be responsible for their own gear and meals. Designed for families with young children, older children welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

16 (Saturday)

**🏔️ HIKE - Waterfall and Wild Flower Series
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

The third hike of the Waterfall and Wild Flower Series will be a 10-mile circuit to include a 3.5-mile wade up Naked Creek. Total elevation gain is 2300 feet. Expect to get your feet wet. Consider wearing old boots, athletic shoes or sandals. No promises but on prior hikes we have seen rattlesnakes. PATC Map 10. Meet at the Oakton Shopping Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack Thorsen, (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham, (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

16 (Saturday)

**🏔️ HIKE - (WSC)
South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Come along and enjoy a great trek through the cool hollows along the Blue Ridge in the south section of Shenandoah National Park. This moderately paced, 8-mile hike begins on the Appalachian Trail and then leads down to Doyles River Falls and back up to Skyline Drive via Jones Run. We'll pass two waterfalls along the way; a great way to beat the heat! The hike is free, but a park entry fee is charged. Registration is limited, and necessary to ensure your place. INFO: Chris Tate (www.wfa.net) 703/836-8905.

16 (Saturday)

**🏔️ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade
Shenandoah County, VA**

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at the Wolf Gap Campground parking lot at 9:00 a.m.. We will get tools at the campground and work on a trail in the nearby area. We may leave the parking area so, please, be on time. Let me know by Wednesday evening if you plan to attend. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, seasonal clothing, and hiking shoes. RSVP/INFO: Hop Long (theFSLongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177.

16 (Saturday)

**🏔️ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Crew
Tuscarora Trail, PA**

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



16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

**🏠 CABIN WORK TRIP - John's Rest
Stanardsville VA**

Come help put the finishing touches on this cabin. No special skills needed. We always try to have some great food and do some hiking. There are some new trails around the cabin to check out. INFO: Joel Anderson (jtanderson54@yahoo.com) 301/898 0047.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The Tulip Tree Cabin Construction Crew is looking for a few good men, and women who would like to wield primitive hand tools to help in the construction of a beautiful log cabin in Shaver Hollow. There is work for all skill levels, even for unskilled labor. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

**🏔️ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Come to Jamaica, mon! Enjoy a day of trail-work in the park and then settle down to a meal of jerk chicken and all de slow, good Caribbean foods. The Hoodlums Trail Crew works on the Appalachian Trail in the North District of SNP, building rock steps and log waterbars, and engaging in similar other down-and-dirty trail chores by day, but after a good day's work, the crew settles down to enjoy the fruits of their labor afterwards in grand fashion via the theme meal and festivities at a facility within the park. No trail work experience is necessary and newcomers are always welcome. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, camp out overnight in SNP - lots of options. What a way to spend a weekend! We meet at Piney River Ranger

Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Please reserve by mid-week prior. INFO/RSVP: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

17 (Sunday)

**🏠 MEETING - West Virginia Chapter
Frederick, MD**

Short hike and potluck cookout with meeting at the home of Melinda and Jim Lautenberger. INFO: Melinda or Jim (melindaandjim@aol.com) 301/371-8312.

19 (Tuesday)

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

Circuit follows Nicholson Hollow to Corbin Cabin, climbs the Cutoff Trail to the AT south. Return on Indian Run Trail and Corbin Mountain. About 14 miles, 4000 foot climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

**🏔️ BACKPACKING - Shenandoah National Park
District to be determined, VA**

Enjoy a summer weekend in the woods guaranteed to cool you off on a moderate backpack of 8 miles or so per day. Exact location TBD depending on group size and weather. Possibly depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze (john@metroarch.com) or Kathy McDermott 703/846-9207. Leave e-mail address when you call.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

**🏔️ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Shockeys Knob, VA**

Near Gainesboro, VA west of Winchester. The Cadillac Crew will be working on the side trails to the new shelter on Shockeys Knob. Some work may still be needed to help complete the shelter. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Brill Cabin. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

**🏔️ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Escape the doldrums. Avoid Monkey Pox. Join the B&W Crew on the AT in the Central District of Shenandoah. The crew will be working on the AT, near Swift Run Gap, and will return to the Pinnacles Research Station for the Annual August Chili-Fest. Blue and White Crew Calendar: www.blueandwhitecrew.org. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysnow@comcast.net) 301/570-0596.

25 (Monday)

**🏔️ HIKE - Family Hike
Great Falls, VA**

Difficult Run Trail. We will hike about 3 miles to the mouth of Difficult Run at the Potomac River, and return on the Ridge Trail in Great

Falls Park. The parking lot is close to the entrance of Great Falls-Virginia side, and Georgetown Pike (Route 193). Difficult Run is beautiful with lots of small waterfalls and big rocks. We'll hike at a kids pace. Jogging-stroller passable, barely. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

26 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

George Washington National Forest, VA/WV Great North Mountain. Bucktail Cutoff Trail to Pond Run Trail to Waites Run Road returning on German Wilson Trail with view from Half Moon Lookout. 14 miles, 2500 foot climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

26 (Tuesday)

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

30 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Say good-bye to summer with a walk in the woods with the South Mountaineers. We perform weeding, lopping, blazing, deadfall and graffiti removal, and erosion control; all sorts of good work. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

30 - 31 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

Can you believe that this is the end of August and that fall will soon be upon us? We hope to have the cabin ready to put into the rental system before the end of this fall. Join our crew in the completion of the cabin and enjoy an opportunity to use it over the week-end. You will be amazed at the amount of work done by our crew and the skill with which it was done. INFO: Charlie Graf (cagraf@aol.com) 410/757-6053.

SEPTEMBER

1 (Monday)

DEADLINE - October Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to PA@patc.net.

2 (Tuesday)

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

3 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers Battery Kemble, DC

Back for another year, the Easy Hikers will hike a 4- to 5-mile circuit on the Battery Kemble and Glover Archbold trails and the C & O

canal towpath. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at Battery Kemble Park. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From MacArthur Blvd., turn NE (left if inbound, right if outbound) onto Chain Bridge Rd. Proceed to park entrance on right. Follow road to parking area. INFO: Gary Abrecht (Gabrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

3 (Wednesday)

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

9 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Manassas Battlefield- Stone Bridge Centreville, Virginia

NOTE: hikes will be on Tuesdays until further notice. Join us for a kid-friendly 2-mile hike. The trail is jogging-stroller passable with some log steps and roots. The trail goes over a long boardwalk, through an open meadow, and down along a stream. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.net) 703/631-9278.

9 (Tuesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Saturday)

HIKE - Family Hike Appalachian Trail, MD

Hike VII-Black Rock/Annapolis Rock section. Wolfsville Rd. to I-70/Rte 40-8.5 miles-moderate hike, elevation 400 ft. We will be hiking the crest of a portion of the South Mountain in Maryland. After leaving Wolfsville Rd. we

will be on a newly built section of the A.T. We will see views at Black Rock/Annapolis Rocks on this hike. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the A.T. parking lot along Rte 40. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855.

13 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Enjoy cooler air in the woods of western Maryland on this work event. The South Mountaineers' day events meet west of Frederick, MD at 9:00 a.m. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

13 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP Rock Creek Park, DC

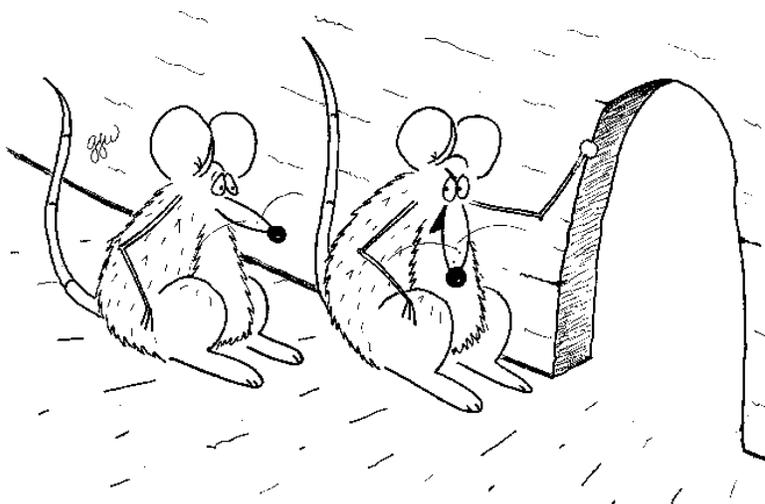
8:15 a.m. to noon (rain date Sept. 27) This may be the best month of the year to get outside and do some volunteer trail work. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

13-14 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Madison, VA

Entry Run Trail on Per-Lee Tract. Work continues on the Entry Run Trail that will be a new access trail into the SNP connecting to the Pocosin Fire Road. We hope to complete this multi-year project this trip. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnite at PATC's Rosser Lamb Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



"OK CARL... CAN WE TRY NOT TO SCREW UP TONIGHT?
RUN AROUND THE SLEEPING BAGS... NOT OVER THEM... GOT IT?"

FORECAST

17 (Wednesday)
HIKE - Easy Hikers
River Bend Park, VA

We will hike from River Bend Park in Virginia about 5 miles along the upstream section of the Heritage Trail. Meet at 10:15 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Directions: take Beltway (I-495) to Exit 44, Georgetown Pike/Great Falls. Turn onto Georgetown Pike towards Great Falls for 4.4 miles (passing Great Falls Park) to River Bend Road. Right on River Bend Road for 2.1 miles to Jeffery Road, right on Jeffery Rd. for 0.9 miles to park entrance. Meet in lower parking lot past the Visitors Center. INFO: Sigrid Crane, (introibo@worldnet.att.net) 703/938-0954.

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

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at the Wolf Gap Campground parking lot at 9:00 am. We will get tools at the campground and work on a trail in the nearby area. We may leave the parking area so, please, be on time. Let me know by Wednesday evening if you plan to attend. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, seasonal clothing, and hiking shoes. RSVP/INFO: Hop Long (theFSLongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177.

25 (Thursday)
CLASS - Backpacking 202
Vienna, VA

Working in groups of eight or less, participants have the opportunity to expand or renew their skills by planning and executing a three-day group backpacking trip. The course covers equipment selection and use, route planning, food planning, safety and comfort in challenging conditions, and Leave No Trace (LNT) principles. Experienced instructors facilitate group planning sessions and accompany the weekend trip. Group Planning Sessions three Thursday nights, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Sep. 25, Oct. 2 and Oct. 9. INFO: Alex Lampros (a.lampros@att.net) 703/719-7846.

27 (Saturday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers
Appalachian Trail, MD

Bring water, lunch and gloves. Tools and training provided. Enjoy comradeship, jokes and the peace of the woods. Go home happy and tired, it's that simple. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

27-28 (Saturday - Sunday)
TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Tuscarora Trail East of Berkeley Springs, WV

The Cadillac Crew will be working on the Tuscarora Trail at the north end of Sleepy

Creek WMA. A couple relocations and erosion control are needed on a steep section. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Brill Cabin near Shockey's Knob. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

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

ALERT! Thru-Hikers Are Now on a Trail Near You

June 19 Report:

Greetings from the soggy Blue Ridge! A snap-shot of the N-bound AT Hiker permits from Rockfish Gap Entrance Station this year shows 645 hikers to date which includes AT thru-hikers and section hikers. This is down by 12 percent over last year. There are still a lot of soggy hikers slipping down the muddy AT this month. June is the busiest month for AT hikers in SNP. On a typical day in June, 15 N-bound AT hikers enter the park at Rockfish Gap.

The rain gauge at Simmons Gap Ranger Station has recorded 7 inches of rain for June and is still rising. And to think that a year ago, we were trying to track the springs along the AT and which ones still had water flowing.

End of June Report:

The end of the month figures for June show that we've now had 891 N-bound AT hikers (493 in June) get BC permits at Rockfish Gap which is still down about 13 percent over last year, but it is still a busy year on the AT considering the wet weather. The rain gauge at Simmons Gap Ranger Station recorded 8.80 inches of rain for June, not a record, but very wet for the trail maintenance community. Thanks,

—Shawn Green,
 Park Trails Coordinator

Have You Moved? Are You Moving?!!

Did you know that the Post Office now charges PATC **70 cents** every time they let us know a member has moved? You can help us save money and get information to you faster just by telling us yourself.

Please fill out this form and mail it to 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna VA 22180-4609. Or, you can call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, ext. 17, or e-mail pfankhauser@patc.net to let us know where we should be sending your issue. Thanks for your help.

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone Number: _____

Effective date of new address: _____

Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Dog Days and Cicada Killers

August brings to mind heat and humidity. These are the dog days of summer. The phrase "dog days" actually comes to us from the Egyptian and Greek civilizations, which based so much of their lives on astronomy. The brightest star in our sky is the winter star Sirius, in the constellation Canis Major, Latin for the Big Dog. In mid-summer, Sirius, called the Dog Star, emerges (is in conjunction) with the sun, thus these days are known as the dog days. August is also the month of the Perseid meteor shower, second in numbers of meteors per hour only to the January Quadrantid shower (110 versus 120, respectively, predicted for this year). Unfortunately, a nearly full moon will substantially dim this year's display when it reaches its peak on Aug. 13.

Cicadas Emerge

I associate August with the return of the annual, or dog day, cicadas.

Cicadas are insects in the order Homoptera, along with leafhoppers, treehoppers, aphids, and spittlebugs. Cicadas are among the loudest of all insects. Only the males create the sound, with evolutionary selection favoring males that call the loudest. Despite their name, the annual cicada actually spends up to seven years in the ground as a grub (nymph), feeding on tree roots before emerging from the ground. The life cycles of individuals vary



so that some emerge every year. The newly emergent adult cicada is soft and vulnerable to its main predator, birds, so it ascends the tree trunks at night, allowing its exoskeleton to dry and harden before daylight. Once the cicada emerges, it has a life expectancy of about two weeks, in which it must mate, and the females lay their eggs. These insects emerge all over the United States, but are generally more common the farther south you go. Approximately eight species in one genus (maybe two genera) are found in our region.

As one might expect in the balance of nature, there is a predator that targets cicadas, this being the cicada killer. The cicada killer is a member of the solitary wasp family looking much like a large yellow jacket, reaching an intimidating length of two inches. Only the female can sting, but normally they are not aggressive and will not attack humans unless carelessly handled (take my word for it). The female burrows into the ground, creating individual chambers for each of the 16 or so eggs that she lays. With each male egg, she deposits one cicada, and with each female, she leaves two cicadas, apparently necessary for the eventual larger size of the female cicada killer. Interestingly, she does not kill the cicada. Rather, she only paralyzes it so her grub

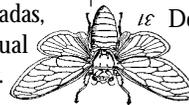
can devour the paralyzed cicada live. In this way, when the egg hatches in two or three days, the food supply will still be fresh, juicy, and disease- and fungus-free. The wasp larvae will pupate over the winter in the nest, emerging the following summer as adults – just in time to greet the emerging cicada.

Next Year, 17 Years is Up

There are actually two types of cicadas. In addition to this late-summer-emerging annual cicada, there are the spring-emerging periodical cicadas, which emerge every 13 or 17 years, depending on the species. Additionally, there are up to 15 discrete "broods" of these periodic cicadas, with each brood emerging in different years. Thus, you can travel the eastern United States and observe these creatures just about every spring. While the 13-year cicada apparently is not found in our region (with the exception of the very southern limits of Virginia), the 17-year variety does appear in D.C. big time. In case you don't recall our metropolitan area's last brood emergence, let me remind you that the last broods were in the spring of 1970 and 1987.

Doing the math, this means next spring will be our year for these longest-lived insects in our ecosystem. □

– Bob Pickett



South Mountaineers Celebrate 10 Years of Stewardship

The South Mountaineers trail crew will celebrate its 10-year milestone with a work event, supper, and social on Aug. 16. PATC members are warmly welcomed to attend this event.

This trail crew, the brainchild of Maryland trail Overseers Scott Cohen and Rick Canter, had its debut work event north from Gathland State Park on Aug. 7, 1993. Originally a tread repair crew, the South Mountaineers have worked on five major Appalachian Trail relocations in Maryland in the past six years. As needed, they also perform weeding, blazing, blowdown removal, trash and graffiti removal, and just about anything else that is needed along South Mountain. The crew has worked on Catoctin Trail projects as well. During the first three years, the crew met once a month. Since then, South Mountaineers events are a staple in the Forecast of Club Events, with 20 advertised events each year, usually on Saturdays.

You are welcomed to work a half-day on the Appalachian Trail with this crew and enjoy a meal and social event in the afternoon at Washington Monument State Park in Boonsboro, Md. Please contact Rick Canter at southmountaineers@yahoo.com or Mark Mitchell at 301/461-7048 for additional information. □

—Rick Canter

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol Presents

Leave No Trace Trainers Course

Oct. 4 - 5, 2003

This weekend course is designed for those who want to learn more about Leave No Trace (LNT) and to help others better understand their impact on the back/front country.

You will have opportunities to learn more about the impact of your choices in the back/front country, to practice minimizing your impact, and to gain confidence in helping other practice LNT skills.

After completing the course you will be certified as an LNT trainer. It is our hope that you will be willing to give LNT presentations to community groups if your schedule permits. This course takes place in the SNP. We will be day-hiking, and you will have the option of staying in a car-accessible cabin at night.

Fee: \$30 (nonrefundable)

For more information or to register (required), please e-mail Anniell Miller at amill1@yahoo.com or call 703/250-8113 (before 11:00 p.m.).

Trailhead

Wet Weather Can't Contain Crews

And we thought May was wet! Rain in early June, especially on the weekends, frustrated a lot of Overseers and trail crews. Springs, wet spots, and even lakes appeared on trails where they had never been seen before.

However, summer arrived during the last week of June. So you had your choice – cool and wet or hot and humid. Old folks talk about their aches and pains. Trail volunteers talk about the “too” weather. That is, too hot, too cold, too wet, too many bugs, or too something. But they still persevere, thank goodness.

Supervisor of Trails Reports

To all District Managers (DM's), crew leaders, and Overseers: The Supervisor of Trails (SOT) has it easy – you guys do the work. Speaking of which, I see lots of weeds reported, and some areas have trees down. I know you will be on top of problems, but one request: Please ensure due care in using and maintaining power tools. We have a near-perfect record with respect to safety, but not so in tool care. There are too many busted power tools due to improper or overly enthusiastic use, such as trying to cut rocks with weed whackers or trying to buck trees with chain brakes on. Enough said.

We have all agonized over the new chainsaw and crosscut saw Memorandum of Understanding, and what it means. At this fall's DM meeting, we will address a course of action and policy for the Club. In the meantime, use your current cards and gear. I will be gone from July 9 to 30 and will provide more specifics then. Tentative date for DM Meeting is Oct. 2. *Reminder: Hour reports due by end of September.*

For DMs and crew leaders: Start assembling records for service and other recognitions. Vice President of Volunteerism may want early submissions for this year, if so, extend predicted hours from Overseer and crew member activity.

Kudos to AT Overseers From ‘Baltimore Jack’

While working with Maureen Harris on her section of the AT in SNP, George Walters ran into trail legend “Baltimore Jack” near Jenkins Gap in late June. He had very kind words for the condition of the trail. “Baltimore Jack” (real name: Jack Tarlin from Hanover, N.H.) was on his eighth thru-hike of the Trail, and he said that, of all these hikes, he had never seen the AT in the Park in better condition than it was this year, even with all the wet weather. Take a pat on the back Overseers, District Managers, and trail crews!

Entry Run Trail

SNP Trails Coordinator Shawn Green reports the Park's Youth Conservation Corps crew under the direction of South District Trail Chief Roger Dovel completed the upper portion of the Entry Run Trail inside the Park. They also blazed the trail and installed cement signposts.

Entry Run Trail is the first new access trail into the Park that has been established in a number of years. The trail starts at a PATC-provided trailhead parking, crosses the PATC Per-Lee/West Tract, and joins the Pocosin Fire Road inside the SNP Central District. The Trail will also provide access to Johns Rest Cabin and Rosser



Photo by Walt Smith

Second tractor arrives to help tractor stuck in the gap carrying logs for Shockey's Knob Shelter (article on page 18).

Lamb Cabin, which are currently being restored. The Cadillac Crew, with assistance from the Blue & White Crew, has just about completed the PATC portion of the trail. Some additional tread improvements and signs are all that remain.

SNP Overseer Workshop

The Annual Spring Overseer's Workshop, in Shenandoah National Park, was held on the weekend of June 7-8. Twenty new and prospective trail maintainers and a handful of PATC “old-hands” were not deterred by the constant downpour Saturday morning. The Park Service trail professionals (Shawn Green, C.T. Campbell, Don Harvey, Jeff Minor, Ray Galles, and Melissa) moved the workshop indoors for a Saturday morning discussion of trail standards, maintenance techniques, tool care, etc. After lunch, the group visited the Dark Hollow Trail, observing and discussing tread conditions and erosion-control devices. Mother Nature accommodated the group by providing a steady downpour for illustration purposes. The rain stopped in time for a dinner cookout (hamburgers and hotdogs on the Pinnacles grills). On Sunday, the group split into two teams, tackling tread projects on upper Cedar Run and building a new spur trail from the Rock Spring parking lot to the AT. Sunday lunch was

See Trailhead, page 17

Trailhead



Photo by Walt Smith

Logs arrive and construction begins on Shockeys Knob Shelter.

Trailhead, from page 16

provided by PATC chefs-extraordinaire George Walters and John McCrea. Thanks to all of the brave volunteers who risked drowning to learn trail maintenance techniques, to the Park Service pros who salvaged a seemingly doomed weekend, and to John and George for the wonderful grub. A few pictures of the soggy workshop are posted at <http://blueand-whitecrew.org> (click the dates for crew photos, and the photos for larger images).

Massarock Trail Crew

In June the Massarock Trail Crew, in conjunction with the Forest Service, completed the relocation of 0.6 miles of the Massanutten Trail north of Edinburg Gap and 0.5 miles of the Snyder Trail on Great North Mountain. The trails are located in the Lee Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. The Massanutten Trail was relocated into the woods, and hikers no longer have to endure walking on the muddy mess of the All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) road and suffer the potential hazards as the vehicles zoom by. The Snyder Trail was relocated off of private land. For those interested, the Massarock Trail Crew stills needs volunteers for the weeks of Sept. 7 and 14, 2003, to work on the extension of the Great North Mountain Trail north of Hunkerson Gap. If you are interested, contact Heidi Forrest at 703/242-0693 extension 12 or visit the Web site to obtain an application: <http://www.patc.net/volunteer/crew03app.pdf>.

Massanutten Trail, a National Recreational Trail

The 71-mile Massanutten Trail is now a National Recreation Trail (NRT). Take a journey through Massanutten Mountain and explore the wonders found on the Lee Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests! This trail is not only steeped in history, but also contains a rich diversity of eastern wildflowers and animals. For 71 miles you can enjoy overlooks with vistas that peer into the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east and the Great North Mountain to the west. For more information, see: <http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/trailNRT/Massanutten-VA.html>.

Beavers at it Again

As previously reported (March Trailhead), beaver-gnawed trees adjacent to the AT had to be removed near Rte. 522 outside Front Royal. Beaver dams in that area have now caused a floating boardwalk. Additionally the beavers have turned the trail into a bog just south of Rte. 55, and the Park Service is involved with this one. Solutions are being investigated – the issue is removing beaver dams. Lloyd Parriott says the beavers seem to have an affinity for the Mosby District.

ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew's North Chapter Project

The ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew will be tearing down and replacing a 65-foot-long by four-

foot-high retaining wall in Caledonia State Park in Pennsylvania. Multiple grip-hoist high-lines will be used to move and position large stones beside a stream. Anyone wishing to help and learn this aspect of stonework is welcome to come out with the crew and North Chapter to work on this project.

The project will take place during the 1st, 2nd, and 4th weeks of the crew schedule. These weeks are Sept. 4-8, Sept. 11-15, and Sept. 25-29. The first week will coincide with the Yankee Clippers AT work trip, so supper afterward is available for all. Contact Pete Brown at 410/343-1140 or peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net for details.

High Rock Trail

The Cadillac Crew spent the second weekend in June clearing two upslope trails that may someday form part of a nice circuit hike over Shockeys Knob. One of these, the High Rock Trail, was an old hunting trail in West Virginia's Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area. It connects the new Tuscarora Trail route along Sleepy Creek Mountain with the old route, which followed the Brush Creek Trail. The old Pack Horse Road would complete the circuit at the southern end.

The few rumbles of thunder and raindrops over the weekend failed to dampen the crew's spirits. Those who still felt the need to get wet jumped into the chilly pond in front of the Brill Cabin after work on Saturday, led by near-octogenarian Al Rogers! A twilight serenade by whippoorwills, bullfrogs, and other creatures of the field and forest ended the long June day at one of the crew's favorite outposts.

See Trailhead, page 18

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Trailhead, from page 17

Frank Turk's Shelter Crew was also working on Shockey's Knob that weekend (see pages 16-17 for photos), setting the first few pre-cut logs in place after they had been hauled up the mountain by Luther Dill, brother of Merle Kerns, co-owner of the Siler Country Store. With differing schedules and so much to do, members of the two crews only saw each other in passing and never really got together.

Hoodlum History

Yes, the Hoodlums were rained out. With rain all week long and the forecast calling for more of the same for the weekend, we thought it prudent for mud and safety reasons to cancel the June work trip at the 11th hour. This is the first time this has happened in 10 years of Hoodlum history!

Pass Mountain Weed Patrol

On June 13, Overseers Karen, Richard, and Rachel and Michael Mostellar were joined by District Manager John McCrea, Bernie Stalman, and Dick Dugan in an annual assault on the weeds and briars in the wilderness area at the summit of Pass Mountain. The rain held off, and they managed to finish not only the trail but also the Pass Mountain Hut Trail. The power weeders got a workout as well when Dick and Bernie weeded the first half mile of the Piney Ridge Trail. John and Bernie also managed to weed the entire area around Range View Cabin. The lack of sun has held the weed growth back some, but with all the water we await the growth explosion. We should be able to watch them grow this year!

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



Photo by Ed Bimberg

"Hildy" Hildebrand and John Howard of the Massarock Trail Crew work on the relocation of the Snyder Trail on Great North Mountain.

Some Images from the 25-Year Get-Together

As promised in the last issue, here are a couple of photos taken at the recent gathering for people who have been members for at least 25 years. The celebration, held in June, was attended by about 70 people. With at least a quarter century of Club participation under their belts, you would expect many good stories and memories to emerge. In addition, attendees were treated to original movies of some of our Club's and the AT's history. Again, thanks to Paula Strain for getting the ball rolling on this event. Hope to see an even bigger turnout at the next such occasion! □

(right) Shirley Strong talking to 99-year-old Dorothy Walker (joined in 1929) with Lyman Stucker (joined 1939) and Bruce Burnside (bearded-1945). Lyman and Dorothy were the male and female attendees with the longest membership record.



Do you know that you can get the PA in color??? All you have to do is go to PATC's Web site and download it from there. You get small Acrobat files, and all the back issues you could dream of!

www.patc.net/resources/pa/

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

FOR SALE: Quality one-man crosscut saws, sharpened and set for hardwoods. Includes second handle and blade guard. Guaranteed to never run out of gas. Contact Dan Dueweke at 703/266-3248 or danjan@fcc.net

FOR SALE

FOR SALE GREAT OPPORTUNITY to outfit yourself with like-new items at reasonable cost – Mountainsmith Frostfire III backpack, fits tall people well, 6037-7213 c.i. capacity; MSR WhisperLite Internat'l stove; Mountainsmith Alouette dog pack for large dog; EMS down sleeping bag rated to zero; Karhu x-c 215 cm. skis w/150 cm. poles AND size 47 Heierling boots. And for family activity: Kelty child carrier with sun/rain hood, small zip-off day pack and large capacity detachable day pack; Burlly D'Lite bike trailer for 2 children; Baby Jogger II stroller w/ sun shade, rain cover, basket, folds flat. Will donate 10 percent of sale to PATC. Joy Imel, 703/642-8350, 703/403-5206 or Ktjimel@aol.com.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: at the Glass House on April 21, a backpacking item (too generic to describe further). Contact Dan at 703/742-7993 or ZootSuit@comcast.net to identify and claim.

FOUND: Watch found along a trail (not sure which) in Madison County, Va. The watch brand is Uptick and is silver tone. If you lost this, please call 301/229-2751.

HELP WANTED

C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK is seeking volunteers for the Williamsport Visitor Center. This is an opportunity to share your knowledge and enthusiasm for trails and the towpath, and to meet and greet visitors to the towpath. The positions involve staffing the visitor center and bookstore, and can include informal interpretation. We are looking for people who can volunteer as part of a regular schedule, even if it is only for half a day a week. Please call Gloria Updyke, 301/582-0813 or email Gloria_Updyke@nps.gov.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE VACANCY: A person with experience in investing is sought to serve on the PATC Endowment Committee. The Committee meets quarterly to review performance and the asset allocation of the PATC Endowment. Interested people should send a resume to Wilson Riley, Director of Administration, at wriley@patc.net.

HELP WANTED: Help is needed for a new project at the Blackburn Trail Center. Work includes electrical, plumbing, drywall and painting. Volunteers may stay at the Center while working on this project and work may be done on weekends or during the week. We would like to get this project finished as soon as possible. For info call Chris Brunton at 703/560-8070 or e-mail at trailboss-btc@msn.com



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PA HELP WANTED: A volunteer is needed to attend monthly Council meetings and report via e-mail on the meeting. Please contact Linda at PA@patc.net.

EVENING DESK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to work the Sales or Information desks once or twice a month 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. We will train you. Call Sales and Information Coordinator Annetta DePompa at 410/535-5171.

ALSO NEEDED:

NEED TO HIRE – PLUMBER. Need help at a PATC Cabin over a work weekend this summer. No pay, use your own tools, supply your own transportation, and bring money for your meals. If you finish the job on Saturday you will be allowed to use the commode and shower on Sunday. Contact Thomas C. Jorgensen (hairtheart@aol.com) 540/456-4760.

DESPERATE - NEED A COOK for weekend work trips. We slackers will eat anything. Your duties are to buy food (we'll reimburse you), cook, take pictures at the site, clean up after meals. Sat. evening, Sun. morning, Sun. lunch. If you can take this job for one weekend, it would be a big help. It pays as all other volunteers on a worktrip, but I don't tongue-lash the cook the way I do laborers. Contact Thomas C. Jorgensen at hairtheart@aol.com or call 540/456-4760.

CREW LEADER TO PLAN, ORGANIZE, and carry out the assembly of a milled – log cabin kit. The cabin will be erected on PATC owned property near Shawneeland, West Virginia. All materials are pre-cut and fit and the kit comes with a full set of plans and instructions. The construction site is in a heavily wooded area well up the mountain but is accessible by a dirt road. INFO: Charlie Graf (410/ 757-6053) or e-mail: Cagraf@aol.com.

MEDICAL CHAIR VACANCY: If interested please contact Mickey McDermott at patcvolunteer@patc.net.

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS?

It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the Club going! INFO: Wilson Riley, Wriley@patc.net or 703/242-0693, ext.11.

SALES OFFICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS please contact the Sales Coordinator, Maureen Estes, by either calling headquarters at 703/242-0693, ext. 19, or by e-mail at mestes@patc.net.

NEEDED: PEOPLE to help plan and conduct our Club events. If you are willing, please contact Susan Nelson, Supervisor of Membership (snelson@patc.net) 703/243-7867, or Pat Fankhauser at Club headquarters - 703/242-0693, Ext. 17, pfankhauser@patc.net.

CALLING ALL LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND TAX ATTORNEYS. Want to give something of value to the Club, but don't want to swing a Pulaski? Virginia has enacted a new law that permits donors of conservation easements to sell the tax credit and reap a substantial cash infusion. PATC owns property in Virginia that would be eligible for such a rebate. The Club needs you to help write the proposals that would help the Club save thousands of dollars. Contact: Phil Paschall (bettycox@erols.com), or phone 540/882-3027. But hurry – before the State changes its mind.

DONATIONS WANTED

LAPTOP AND COMPUTER PROJECTOR NEEDED: PATC HQ needs a laptop computer and computer projector for presentations at conferences, meetings, and community gatherings. Projection at 1024 X 768 desired. If you work for a corporation which might make such a donation, contact Wilson Riley (wriley@patc.net).

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Trail, Shelter and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

Shelter Overseer Wanted

Call Frank Turk, 301/249-8243

E-mail: frankturk@aol.com

Calf Mountain Shelter – SNP South District

District Managers Wanted

Call Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248

E-mail: danjan@fcc.net

Co-District Manager for DC Metro – Map N

Rock Creek, Glover Archbold, Battery Kemble, Dumbarton Oaks, Melvin Hazen & Soapstone Valley Park

District Manager for SNP Central Sidetrails [north end] Map 10 US Rte. 211 to Old Rag

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

Tuscarora Pennsylvania – Maps J & K

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

Call Pete Brown, 410/343-1140

E-mail: peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

Harpers Ferry / Ashby Gap AT & BB – Maps 7 & 8

Call Chris Brunton, 703/560-8070

E-mail: trailbossbtc@msn.com

Appalachian Trail

Trans Mountain Trail to Duke Hollow (1.3 miles)

Rod Hollow Shelter Trail

AT to Rod Hollow Shelter (0.2 miles)

Fishers Hill Loop Trail

AT to AT (1 mile)

SNP North District Appalachian Trail – Map 9

Call John McCrea, 610/352-9287

E-mail: mcreajf@aol.com

Co-Overseers needed on AT sections

SNP North District Blue-Blazed – Map 9

Call Dick Dugan, 703/836-0391

E-mail: rdugan@bellatlantic.net

Elkwallow Trail

Mathews Arm Campground to Elkwallow Wayside (2 miles)

Thornton River Trail – Co-Overseer

Skyline Dr. to Hull School Trail

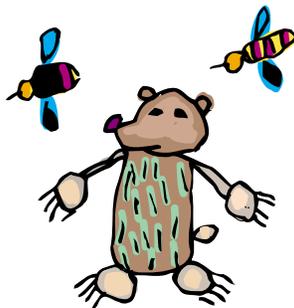
SNP Central Blue-Blazed, south end – Map 10

Call Steve Paull, 703/361-3869

E-mail: stevepaull@yahoo.com

Cedar Run / White Oak Link Trail

White Oak Canyon Trail to Cedar Run Trail (0.8 miles)



SNP South Blue-Blazed – Map 11

Call Pete Gatje, 434/361-1309

E-mail: pjgatje@aol.com

Riprap Trail

Skyline Drive to Cold Spring Hollow (1.8 miles)

Riprap Trail

Cold Spring Hollow to Crimora Fire Road (2.7 miles)

Tuscarora South – Maps F, G, 9

Call Rick Rhoades, 540/477-3247

E-mail: Rrhoades@shentel.net

Tuscarora Trail

Rock marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Shawl Gap to Sherman Gap (2.5 miles)

Massanutten North – Map G

Call Ed Brimberg, 703/430-6481

E-mail: brimberg@cox.net

Massanutten Trail

Kennedy Peak Trail to Camp Roosevelt (3.3 miles)

Massanutten Connector Trail

Massanutten Trail to US 211 (1.8 miles)

Great North Mountain – Map F

Call Hop Long, 301/942-6177

E-mail: theFSLongs@comcast.net

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

Tibbet Knob Trail

Wolf Gap Campground to SR 691 (2.4 miles)

Big Schloss Cutoff Trail

FR92 to Mill Mountain Trail (1.9 miles)

Bull Run Occoquan Trail

Call Dave Fellers, 703/560-2171

E-mail: Fellers_2000@excite.com

Bull Run Occoquan Trail

Little Rocky Run to Johnny Moore (2.0 miles)



The Potomac Appalachian

118 Park Street
Vienna, VA 22180-4609

Telephone: 703/242-0315
Mon.-Thurs. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
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