



# The Potomac Appalachian

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

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## Back Country Horsemen of America Pack Building Materials to Corbin Cabin

**B**ill and Katie are not your usual PATC volunteers. On June 2, as a 2005 National Trails Day project of the two Virginia chapters of Back Country Horsemen of America, Bill and Katie made three trips from Stony Man overlook down Nicholson Hollow Trail to Corbin Cabin, packing close to 1,000 pounds of materials for rebuilding the bunkroom roof of this historic 1910 chestnut-log cabin. The cabin is deep in designated wilderness of SNP and is not accessible by wheeled vehicles, so getting these heavy materials to the cabin presented a real problem to SNP and PATC.

Rick and Meridith Potts donated their skills, equipment, and use of their magnificent mules to this public service project. It was a long day working in fog and rain and not finishing until 8:30 p.m., but the mission was accomplished. Photos can be viewed on the BCHVA web site at [www.bchva.org](http://www.bchva.org). On hand

*See Corbin, page 2*



Photo by Cliff Willey, Corbin Cabin Overseer

*The mules made it possible to pack in over 1,000 pounds of roofing materials used for repairing the bunkroom roof.*

### Trail Overseers - Appointed in June

Ed Sabin	AT - Gas Pipeline to Rattlesnake Run Road
Robert Forrest	AT - Bootens Gap to Bearfence Rock Scramble
Richard Gibson	AT - Crimora Lake Overlook to Turk Gap
Karen Woodall	Tuscarora Trail – Fetzer Gap to Maurertown
Wanderbirds Hiking Club	Tuscarora Trail – Cedar Creek to Ridge Crest
Wanderbirds Hiking Club	Tuscarora Trail – Ridge Crest to Fetzer Gap
Emeline Otey	Tuscarora Trail – Rock Marker to Massanutten Trail
Mary Anne Lepore	Thornton River Trail [upper]
Theodore & Mary Walker	Leading Ridge Trail
Ralph Frink	Lower Rockytop Trail
Dorothy Schoeneman	Tibbet Knob Trail
David & Carol Saah	White Rock Trail



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*Corbin, from page 1*

for this special event were Diane Adams and David Wojick from No Man's Land Back Country Horsemen and Deborah Sensabaugh from Golden Horseshoe Back Country Horsemen, affiliates of BCHVA, and from SNP Deputy Superintendent Trish Kicklighter, Contracting Officer Diane Van Tatenhove, Volunteer Resources Assistant Clark Wright, who helped the mules by carrying a few things himself, and Backcountry, Wilderness, and Trails Manager Steve Bair who made it all happen by telling Rick about the project and making the arrangements. PATC owes a lot of thanks to Rick and Meridith and the BCHVA. By the way, when not tending his stock, Rick is wilderness program manager for the National Park Service. (P.S. Later in June Charlie Graf and John Akerley pitched in to install the new cedar-wood bunkroom roof, and Stan Turk helped rebuild the roof over the bunkroom door.) □

—Cliff Willey, Corbin Cabin Overseer



*Roof before repair*



*There was just enough lumber left over to construct a new red oak wood box for the kitchen, as well as a cedar blanket box.*



*Charlie Graf and Bob Akerley played roll out the roofing for the new roof.*

**HOW TO CONTACT US: HEADQUARTERS, SALES,  
CABIN RESERVATIONS, AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

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**Club President (leave a message), Tom Johnson:** Extension 40

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***Potomac Appalachian***

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www.patc.net/about/contact.html

or call the main club phone number.

Contact list published twice annually in the PA.

## Tom's Trail Talk – The Vos Tract

PATC owns over 2,000 acres of land to protect trails and recreational opportunities for hikers. None, I would venture to say, is more pristine than the 67-acre Vos Tract.

As the Tuscarora Trail crosses the Potomac and turns south into West Virginia, it travels through the Ruth Morris Forest Tract, a 129-acre tract which was donated in 1983. Working south from there it is on roads because of private property. The tract was acquired earlier this year so that the Tuscarora can be moved off of roads, and so that PATC could provide backpackers with overnight accommodations. A shelter and tent sites are planned, and there is a water source.

PATC negotiated with the former owner, Amy Hauvermale, for years. She wanted to sell to PATC to preserve the tract in its natural state, but she dithered for so long that death came to her before an agreement was reached. After she died, her heirs, aware of her desire, approached the club. By this time an appraiser advised them that they had a lot of

marketable timber on the land. They either wanted more money, or they would clear cut the land and then sell to the club. The club was not prepared to pay the price for the land as it stood, but clear cuts are aptly named. After the logger is finished cutting, the tract is an open field. What to do?

The club has a forester, Tyler Williamson, who was familiar with the tract. Would the Hauvermale heirs accept a selective cut? And could we use our own forester to select the timber? They answered Yes to both questions. So Tyler marked the trees to be cut, and since he is a former thru-hiker and sensitive to the natural environment, he was very selective. It then took months to engage a logger, negotiate a logging road, and make the cut. Our tract manager, Karen Brown, made innumerable trips to the tract to check out the work and talk with the logger. PATC also brought in our resident naturalist, Bob Pickett, to assess the damage to land and habitat and advise Karen about the least destructive procedures to complete the job.

I walked the tract for the first time in early June, just after the cut was completed. The major damage was a logging road through the center of the tract, and a cleared area at the top of a hill where the logging operation was centered. But the forest is still there, and in many places it is already hard to see where anything was cut. Hats are off to Karen, Bob, Tyler, and the others who worked so hard to complete this project. PATC now owns 67 acres of forest, contiguous with the Ruth Morris tract, that can be used for hiking and overnight backpacking.

So how did the Hauvermale Tract become the Vos Tract? At the June Council meeting Chris Mangold, the club's supervisor for lands, introduced a motion to rename the tract in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Vos. They are the largest single donors to the club (over \$1.5 million to our endowment) and it seemed appropriate to honor them with a placename. The vote was unanimous. □

—Tom Johnson

## Join the Massarock Crew?

There are no city lights and very seldom any sounds of civilization on Great North Mountain as PATC's Massarock Trail Crew continues construction of the southern extension of the Great North Mountain Trail. June crews finished just over two miles of new trail south of Hunkerson Gap where the crew's spike camp is located on the mountain top.

Crew members return year after year to work in the peace and quiet of this magnificent area on the border of Virginia and West Virginia, where they prepare their own meals, sleep in tents, and even enjoy bag showers! The Massarock Crew works two weeks each in June and September. Crew members may work either one or both weeks. New members are welcome but should be aware that this is a remote area and they will probably not see anyone but the trail crew all week. It's hard work, but great fun, and very relaxing! Applications are available at [www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/summercrews.html](http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/summercrews.html), or from Heidi Forest, [hforrest@patc.net](mailto:hforrest@patc.net), 703/242-0315.



Members of the June 2005 Massarock Crew on Great North Mountain pictured above. From left to right Janet Hawkins [USFS], Charles Hillon, Eric Motzno, and John Howard.

Photos by Wayne Limberg

# Council Fire

## May Meeting

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 10, 2005, at the Club Headquarters building by President Tom Johnson. Wilson Riley announced the passing of Will Kolbrenner to the Council and that a memorial service was to be held on Sunday, May 15. He also said that the fire prevention permit had been received. Exxon Mobil Foundation had donated \$1,000 on behalf of two of their employees. Holly Wheeler introduced Katrina Hedlesky who is the new Trail Patrol Chair. Tom reminded the Council of the official dedication of the Ovoka tract segment on June 4, National Trails Day. John Hedrick was introduced as the alternate representative to the Regional Partnership Committee – he will serve as Kerry Snow's backup. Tom asked that each Committee Chair review and update the goals for the committee. Bruce Glendenning is still trying to identify someone to make a significant effort in planning for future IT needs.

## Finance

The Council unanimously approved payment of medical expenses for PATC Volunteer Thomas Jorgensen who was injured on PATC land and has a \$2,000 deductible on his health insurance and incurred almost \$1,000 in medical expenses at the emergency room. There is a new organization to connect the Tuscarora Trail with the trails from the north and south tentatively named Atlantic Crescent Trail. Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA) has started an Appalachian Trail museum – if members are interested in joining this effort they should see Chris Brunton. NPS has created the George B Hartzog, Jr. Award – Outstanding Volunteer Service, Volunteer of Year – Georgeann was awarded this for the entire United States by the Director of NPS. She put in about 1,300 hours last year, as well as serving as overseer for the Billy Goat Trail. The Council unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding between PATC and the Potomac Heritage Trail Association. This agreement permits PATC to furnish office space to PHTA as assistance to the new organization starting up in exchange for PATC receiving an institutional membership. PHTA seeks to complete the entire Potomac Heritage Trail authorized by Congress. Council also unanimously approved loaning PHTA \$2,000 for an insurance policy required by NPS, to be repaid within a year of PHTA signing the agreement. NPS will repay PHTA the insurance costs once the agreement has been signed. Council voted to remove the Endowment Committee to make it easier to have a successful quorum call. This action had been vetted with the Endowment Chair. Endowment issues are discussed with the treasurer who can represent its interests in Council.

## Trails and Lands

Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton reported that the Tuscarora Trail is cut in a number of places. There will be a continuing need for trail crew efforts over the next few years – the establishment of a rotating crew is under consideration. Current trail crews are fully committed this year and PATC will need significant support from all concerned.

Tom announced that the Brill Tract had been sold for \$3,000,000 – PATC had hoped to buy this land. PATC has an easement that it had thought was signed, notarized, and properly recorded but it is in Morgan County, W.Va., and Frederick County, Va., and had not been recorded in Frederick County, Va. A last-minute effort got the easement recorded properly in Virginia.

Henry Horn reported that the Shelters committee is poised to build two shelters in Maryland, and beginning to define shelters in the west.

## Membership, Volunteerism, Training, and Communications

Vice President for Volunteerism Lee Sheaffer led a discussion of a draft policy on brochures so that they remain current and in stock.

*Ridgerunner status:* Holly Wheeler has hired five ridgerunners who will work until the end of October. Trail Patrol has developed a new Leave No Trace brochure. PATC will be represented on National Trails Day by being at the SNP Byrd Visitors Center and at Dickey Ridge, indoors this year to protect against rain. The Ovoka Trail dedication will also be on the National Trails Day's SNP Trail program. Supervisor of Membership Georgeann Smale is exploring ways to make the Annual Meeting less expensive. Supervisor of Information, Education, and Activities Jane Thompson introduced Nan Leininger who cooked at the Family Weekend. A counselor from Fairfax Co. who works with handicapped senior citizens contacted PATC about a client who would like to hike. The Easy Hikers will work with him to see if there is a match with their group.

*Map Committee* - has made up a one-page brochure for the Ovoka Trail dedication on June 4 and the draft is at the Piedmont Environmental Council for their input.

*Grants & Donations* - looking at putting a plaque in shelter with donor's name. Needs to be coordinated with ATC. Shelters are named after geographic locations

*Blackburn* - through hikers have started coming through; had a Boy Scout weekend last month, over three troops with over 30 scouts.

*AT Corridor Management* - is working on a brochure to give to land owners.

*SMRG* - 5 searches, SMRG was incorporated in February to protect PATC from litigation that might be brought against SMRG.

*Naturalist* - two scout groups contacted him because of a presentation at REI last year; the weekend of May 7 they had their first water quality session monitoring – it was quite successful.

*Public Affairs* - working with the Piedmont Environmental Council on the Ovoka dedication.

## June Meeting

PATC's regularly scheduled Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 14, 2005, at Club Headquarters by President Tom Johnson. Wilson Riley announced that the computer equipment lease was up; the company has offered to sell the equipment to PATC for \$2,000. It would cost \$700 to ship back per the existing contract.

The process of estimating the cost of next year's insurance bill has started. A child fell off a cliff along the AT, and an incident report should have been filed with NPS.

Tom announced the appointment of Katrina Hedlesky as Trail Patrol chair. He also asked the various chairs to update the goals and objectives of their business areas and forward the updates to Wilson for integration into a document for review at the July Council meeting.

See Council, page 15

## A Dedication Ceremony for the Ovoka Relocation

Bob King remembers the No Trespassing signs. When he first became a trail overseer in the early 1950s he was assigned to a section of the AT south of Ashby Gap in Northern Virginia, and the first thing he saw were the signs warning him to stay off the tract of land just to the east of the path. It was a large farm owned by a wealthy family, and they did not want hikers on their land. The AT had been rerouted into the woods off to the west. What hikers lost when they were forced into the woods was a grand view of the rolling meadows and horse farms of Fauquier County.

And for more than a half century the view was just a memory to old-timers. But in the late 1990s the National Park Service and the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) began working together to restore the view. To accomplish that, they had to buy the land from the family who owned it. Congressman Frank Wolf and Senator John Warner agreed to support an appropriation earmarked to buy the portion of the farm on the upper meadow for the National Park Service, over 400 acres of pastureland with the original views off to the east. (PEC now owns the remainder.) The acquisition was completed in 2003, and



**Tom Johnson, Pam Underhill, Mari Omland, Congressman Frank Wolf, and Sarah Whitehouse Atkins after the release of "Freedom" the red-tailed hawk.**

Congressman Wolf spoke at a dedication ceremony at the overlook in September of that year.

Once the land was acquired, Jon and Katherine Rindt led the Cadillac Crew on a 1.5 mile AT reroute onto the pastureland. While they were at it, they worked with Sky Meadows State Park on a blue-blazed trail that went from the AT across the pastureland to the view point, then down into the park to connect with existing park trails. The relocation was completed last winter, and was opened up in March. Now that the new trail was open, it was decided that we should have a dedication ceremony, and what better day to have it than National Trails Day, June 4.

The day began dark and gloomy, rather typical of recent National Trails Days, but it gradually brightened, and the group that assembled in Sky Meadows State Park began hiking up to the viewpoint for the ceremony. They continued on the newly-opened Ambassador Whitehouse Trail, named after a prominent U.S. ambassador who was a contributor to PEC. Meanwhile, at the viewpoint, PEC and PATC people were

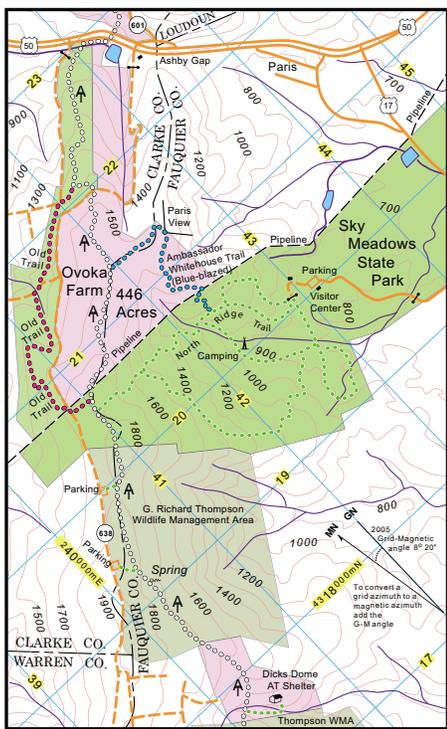
setting up for the ceremony, with tables for refreshments and a lectern.

Congressman Wolf was the featured speaker. Tim Skinner the director of Sky Meadows, welcomed the group, while Pam Underhill, the superintendent of the AT, and Mari Omland, ATC conservation director, called attention to the significance of the joint public-private effort to get the trail back onto its historic path, and pointed to the volunteer effort that was emblematic of the way the AT is built and maintained. Sarah Whitehouse Atkins gave a speech of thanks in behalf of her deceased father. Chris Miller, the executive director of PEC, was the master of ceremonies. All in all it was a grand day for hikers – and it didn't rain! Following the speeches, two officers from the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center released a red-tailed hawk named Freedom, who had been found injured alongside a road and brought to the Center for rehabilitation. When released, the hawk took a couple of short hops, then took off in a low trajectory, and was last seen perched on top of a pine tree, scanning the meadow for prey. Then, Lee Sheaffer, PATC vice president, led a three-mile hike that encompassed the new AT reroute and the older, forested path that is now blazed purple.

The ceremony was attended by more than 70 people. PATC hikers and PEC horse people mixed in an interesting cultural combination. □

—Tom Johnson

Ovoka Farm Purchase and Appalachian Trail Relocation Ceremony -- June 4, 2005 -- National Trails Day 2005



New portion of the A.T. is 1.3 miles long (White-blazed)  
 Old Trail (i.e., the former A.T.) is 1.9 miles long (Mauve-blazed)  
 Ambassador Whitehouse Trail (Blue-blazed) is 1.1 miles from A.T. to SMSP's North Ridge Trail (0.4 mi from A.T. is a view point.)

Contour Interval 100 Feet Scale 1:27,000 US National Grid Zone 18 (NAD-83)

Prepared by PATC Maps Committee (David Pierce)

## Planning for the Future

**P**ATC is growing! The club is acquiring land and easements for the Tuscarora Trail, adding cabins and shelters throughout our trail system, and launching new initiatives as we provide trails and hiking experiences for all who love the outdoors. Every year brings new demands and opportunities, but we need the help of members like you to make our dreams a reality.

Did you know that there are many ways you can help the club while also planning for your own financial future? PATC is sponsoring three seminars this fall for club members and guests to learn more. Here are some of the topics we will cover:

*Gifts of appreciated securities* can provide substantial tax savings. PATC accepts gifts of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, as well as contributions by cash, check, or credit card.

*Donor Advised Funds* allow you to set aside funds now to make your charitable gifts (to PATC or other charities) in the future. With a minimum investment of only \$5,000, these funds can help you plan your philanthropic giving, while providing immediate tax benefits.

*Charitable Remainder Trusts.* You may have significant appreciated assets that are not gen-

erating income. Placing these assets in a remainder trust could provide income now for you or your loved ones. You can save on income and estate taxes, and after your lifetime, the trust remainder will support PATC's mission.

*Bequests:* A bequest in your will allows you to pass any amount you wish to PATC free of estate tax. You can give cash, a specific property, or a percentage of your estate.

*Conservation Easement Tax Credits:* PATC has set aside certain land holdings in Virginia under conservation easements to protect the integrity of the trail and its surrounding area. As a result, the State of Virginia provides tax credits to PATC, though as a non-profit organization the club cannot use them. Under current tax law, we can sell the tax credits to those needing a deduction on their Virginia state taxes.

These Planning for Your Future seminars are being held as a service to PATC members and their guests. They are informational gatherings only – you will not be asked to purchase anything, or be under any obligation to make a gift to PATC. If you would like to learn more, join us on one of the following dates, or call club member John Campagna (jccampagna@leggmason.com) 202/487-1044. □

## Planning for Your Future Seminars

- Wednesday, Sep. 21, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at PATC Headquarters. Refreshments will be provided.
- Thursday, Sept. 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at PATC Headquarters. Lunch will be provided.
- Saturday, Oct. 22, at the annual Blackburn Picnic. Appetizers and discussion at 4:00 p.m.

The seminars are offered at no cost, but RSVP is required. Please RSVP to Pat Fankhauser at [pfankhauser@patc.net](mailto:pfankhauser@patc.net) or 703/242-0693 x17. □

—Christine Iffrig

## Visit PATC at an 'Event a Month' near you

**S**ince it's difficult for people to come to Vienna, PATC is heading out to meet them. We're setting up our display at several events to spread the word about who we are and what we do – as well as introducing potential new members to the Tuscarora Trail, Appalachian Trail, and other hiking trails. Come on out and visit us!

Would you like to share your joy of hiking and help spread the word about PATC and its mission to preserve hiking trails? Come on by and help out for an hour or more! We can always use more volunteers. PATC will greatly appreciate your assistance and support in spreading the word about our organization. Through you, we will be able to extend our outreach and membership efforts. Trail Talkers are needed for these events and more! PATC needs you to talk trails for us!

To volunteer or for more information on these events or to become a Trail Talker, contact: Jane Thompson, PATC Supervisor of Information, Education, and Activities, [jaytee-hike@yahoo.com](mailto:jaytee-hike@yahoo.com) or 301/349-2496.



*Jeff Seal spoke with many people who stopped by the PATC display at the C&O Canal Barge Bash.*

See Events, page 9

## Trail Patrol and SNP Partner for National Trails Day

The fog burned off to a clear, warm day on Saturday, June 4, for National Trails Day at SNP. Trail Patrol volunteers were there to hold their annual event, this year titled "Beyond The Trailhead" in support of the theme of providing information and skills to encourage park visitors to leave their cars behind and explore our backcountry and wilderness trails.

Joining Trail Patrol leaders on guided hikes were 110 park visitors. The variety of hikes, from easy to advanced, provided opportunities for persons of all ages and fitness levels to get out on the trails and enjoy the spring weather. Azaleas, jack-in-the-pulpit, and wild geranium in bloom, and a scarlet tanager in full summer splendor were just a few of the signs of spring that hikers enjoyed along the way.

Information tables at Dickey Ridge Visitor Center and Byrd Visitor Center showcased displays and handouts on topics such as Leave No Trace outdoor ethics, hiking and backpacking essential equipment, and backcountry safety. About 150 people stopped by where Trail Patrol members discussed how to enjoy the outdoors and improve hiking skills while minimizing impact on the environment. Park staff had a wilderness information table and a traditional trail tools display at Byrd Visitor Center where participants had the chance to try using a two-person crosscut saw (and take home their decorated slice of log!).

Many of the 26 Trail Patrol volunteers wrapped up the day by joining the Blue and White Crew at Pinnacles Research Station

for a pot-luck dinner and discussion of the day's events.

The event was organized by Trail Patrol members Cindy Majewski, Anniell Miller, and Renee Hoffman, and SNP staff Laura Buchheit and Steve Bair. Trail Patrol thanks SNP's visitor center staff, public affairs officer, rangers, trail crew, and Student Conservation Association volunteers for their assistance with and participation in this great event. □

—Holly Wheeler



*Trail Patrol member Dave Erdman "sweeps" a guided hike at National Trails Day.*



*Trail Patrol Ridgerunner John Hedrick coordinates with SNP ranger John Buchheit before taking out a guided hike.*



*Trail Patrol member Jeff Shriver talks to visitors about Leave No Trace principles.*



*Participants sign up for a hike and check out the information table at Dickey Ridge Visitor Center.*

## Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Rattlesnakes

The heat of summer makes its final stand in the month of August. Since July 2, the average high temperature for the Washington, D.C., area has been 88 or 89°F. Only by Aug. 14 does the average drop to 87°F. In the bounty of this solar heat, or energy, the various life forms of our forests are doing everything they can to use and conserve this energy to complete their seasonal cycles and prepare for the winter days of depletion.

The plant community as a whole acts like a living manufactory, pumping the atmosphere through its leaves, converting the energy of the sun through photosynthesis to create the foods that will enable the plants to eat, survive, and reproduce. Within their stems and roots, these starches will be stored and utilized over the winter as a fuel to maintain the plants' minimal metabolic needs, serving much the same function as brown fat does for mammals.

Not only must the plant community produce enough food to service its needs, it must produce the food to fuel the metabolism of virtually all of the life forms of our forests. Viewed another way, the quantity of green plant matter produced determines the quantity of other life forms that can be sustained.

A number of fungi are producing spore-bearing fruits, also known as mushrooms, at this time of year. Many fungi are attached to plant roots, absorbing nutrients from the soil and feeding them to the plants. In return, the plants provide some stored starches to these fungi. In fact, 90 percent of all plants contain these mycorrhizal fungi, which include the boletes, amanitas, morels, puffballs, and truffles.

### Mating Season

The heat of July and August has maximized the metabolism of the insect world, supporting the maturation of another season's crop of mating insects. I associate August with the sounds of the annual cicadas, katydids, field crickets, grasshoppers and others. These August evenings can be downright raucous from the back porch. It is clear that to these life forms, this is their month of glory.

August has another association with me. The peak of rattlesnake activity is late July and August. Out of their wintering hibernacula since about May 1, the males have been busy foraging within about a mile or two of their dens. The nature of their foraging is in the form of lying in a coiled position, waiting to

ambush any small mammal that happens to wander too close to the unscented predator, who has the advantage of its heat-sensing pits.

But now, the males are actively moving throughout their territory, seeking out non-pregnant (non-gravid) females. Females will reach maturity at age six or seven, with a life-span of 10 to 15 years average. Mating will peak in early August. Once mated, the females will hold on to the sperm over the winter, not permitting fertilization until June. With a gestation period of about 2.5 months, birthing will begin in late August. This brings into question an interesting enigma. Scientific dogma states that rattlesnakes mate in the spring, giving birth in August of that same year. The source of this supposition appears to date back to a paper written in 1907 by R. L. Ditmars. A very logical presumption, based on gestation period, and the communal nature of rattlesnakes on emergence from their wintering dens, but one not supported by observation. Since that time, many authors have repeated this assertion without adding any supporting documentation. However, documentation supports the 13-month period between mating and birthing. But why would this be the case? Why doesn't the female permit immediate fertilization and give birth the same season? The answer to this question eludes herpetologists at the present time.

### Communal Nurseries

Females give birth on a three-year cycle. Thus in any given season, only a third of the females give birth. Pregnant female rattlesnakes usually use certain favorably exposed rocks for birthing. These sunny rock slabs are usually only 50 to 200 yards from the wintering den sites. As many as 17 females have been found in Pennsylvania at these favored birthing "rookeries."

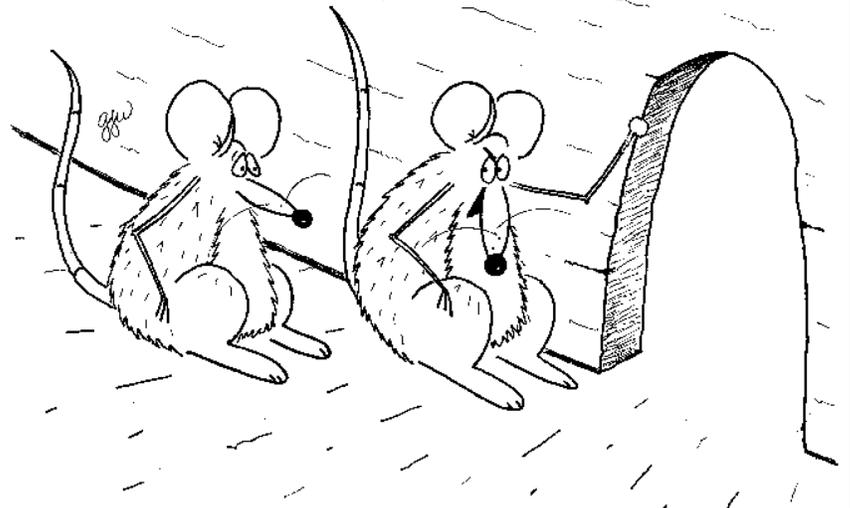
About two weeks after the birthing of the eight to 10 neonates, the female will travel to the hibernaculum with the young soon following the scent to the den, where a population will average 30 to 60 snakes, with larger dens supporting 120 to 200. Copperheads and occasional black rat snakes will also overwinter with the rattlesnakes. In fact, if the young lose the scent of the mother on the way to the den, they have been known to follow the way of a black rat snake going to the same destination. This is how the black rat snake earned one of its common names, the pilot snake. □

**Hold The Date: Oct. 22**

**Blackburn Pig Roast**

More information and registration form to come in the September and October PA.

**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?"

# 18th ANNUAL SNP North District Trail Overseers Workshop

Sept. 17-18, 2005, Mathews Arm Campground

PATC and the trails staff of SNP will once again host this annual workshop, designed to teach new trail overseers the basic skills of trail maintenance and repair and to give experienced overseers the opportunity to pick up a few more skills by working with the park professionals on major projects.

A tent camping loop at Mathews Arm campground will be reserved for exclusive use by PATC for this weekend event. Participants will gain free entry to the park and the campground.

The workshop will begin Saturday morning and end on Sunday at 1 p.m. There is a \$20 registration fee. Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and a buffet lunch will be provided. Participants are requested to bring their own trail lunch on Saturday.

Instruction will be provided by SNP trail professionals and PATC crew leaders. The sessions typically include basic skills of trail maintenance, rock and log work, wilderness trail skills, and advanced projects.

**Please make reservations early.** The workshop is limited to 25 participants, and we always fill up early. Contact George Walters at [gjwalters@starpower.net](mailto:gjwalters@starpower.net) or 410/426-2724 for more info or to make a reservation.



## *Hiker's Notebook*

**Common Name:** Brittlegill

**Scientific Name:** *Russula Pulchra*

**Order:** Russalales

The russula or brittlegill is one of the most common mushrooms you see on the trail throughout the spring and summer. It is usually solitary in groups (as shown) on the ground, particularly under oak trees.

**Potpourri:** The name brittlegill is due to the distinctively brittle flesh of the russula. That means when you push upward on the edge of the cap, it easily snaps off.

There are many colors of the russula. The name pulchra for the red colored variant means beautiful.

The russula is mycorrhizal (my - cor - EEZ - al), meaning that it has a symbiotic relationship with the root structures of specific plants, among which are oak trees. The photosynthetic plant produces the sucrose that is used by the fungus. In return, the fungus helps the plant to absorb water and essential minerals, especially phosphorous.

Some russulas are edible. Those that are not are reportedly bitter in taste. In Russian, the name is pronounced "Sueroyejka" which translates literally to "eat raw."

Many russulas appear to have been nibbled on by the various rodents (mice, voles and squirrels) of the forest (as is the case in the photo). □

—William Needham

Visit the *Hiker's Notebook* Web site at:  
[www.mwrop.org/W\\_Needham/h\\_notebook.html](http://www.mwrop.org/W_Needham/h_notebook.html)

### *Events, from page 6*

#### **September 24 – Harpers Ferry, WV**

Enjoy the fall foliage at Harpers Ferry's first Fall Festival. Wander around the town and take a hike. PATC will not only have a display, but Highacre will be a focal point in the days activities, we'll talk about Leave No Trace, and we will be leading hikes. Mark your calendar now and look for more details in the September *PA*.

#### **October 1 – Frederick, MD**

Visit historic downtown Frederick. The main drag through town is closed to traffic for the day so people can wander around enjoying the music, activities, displays, food, and local stores. PATC will have a table in front of The Trail House – stop by and say hi! If you have never been in The Trail House, this is also a chance for you to say hi to Clyde and his staff who are big supporters of PATC.

#### **October 8 - 9 – Berkeley Springs, WV**

The 33rd Annual Apple Butter Festival is a nice stop before or after a hike on the Tuscarora Trail! Parade – Apple Butter making – kids activities – Bluegrass/Dixieland Jazz/String Band – and when was the last time you got to enter a hog calling contest? All of this and more, including displays where PATC will have a table. [www.berkeleysprings.com/apple/](http://www.berkeleysprings.com/apple/)

#### **October 14, 15, &16 – Millwood, VA (near Winchester)**

Although the hot air balloons are the headliners, they are just the beginning of this unique 3-day festival overflowing with children's activities, entertainment, artisans & crafters, antique fire engines and cars, Virginia Wine Tasting and so much more. Stop by the PATC display and say hi! [www.historiclongbranch.com/balloonfest/balloon.htm](http://www.historiclongbranch.com/balloonfest/balloon.htm)

## Chapters

### Charlottesville Chapter

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

### North Chapter

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

### Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the Forecast. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Betsy Fowler ([efowler@shentel.com](mailto:efowler@shentel.com)).

### Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

### West Chapter

The West Chapter meets twice a year in March and September. The Chapter maintains a section of the Black Locust circuit trail in Gambrill State Park near Frederick, Md. Work trips and hikes are usually scheduled monthly from March through December. We also lead overnight weekend trips for day hikes or backpacking. All activities are listed in the PA Forecast. For further information contact Dave Jordahl ([westpatc@hotmail.com](mailto:westpatc@hotmail.com)) 304/876-7062 (evenings) or 240/777-7741 (days).

### Ski Touring Section

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

### Mountaineering Section

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

climbers. For further information contact Ozana Halik, ([mrkayak1@verizon.net](mailto:mrkayak1@verizon.net)) 703/242-0177, or Mack Muir ([MackMuir@edisaurus.com](mailto:MackMuir@edisaurus.com)).

### PATC Hikes

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

### Other Clubs' Hikes

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

## KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

## Meetings

### Meetings

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

### New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Curious about the club? Want to learn more? The best way is to attend a New Members meeting (but you don't have to be new to qualify). Refreshments will be served. Directions to PATC: Take Rt. 123 into Vienna, Va., and turn east on Park St. (Rt. 675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Georgeann Smale ([gsmale99@yahoo.com](mailto:gsmale99@yahoo.com)) 301/581-9584.

### Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

7:30 p.m. – We meet every month unless noted in the Forecast. INFO: Ozana Halik ([mrkayak1@verizon.net](mailto:mrkayak1@verizon.net)) 703/242-0177 or PATC's Web site: [www.patc.net/chapters/mtn\\_sect](http://www.patc.net/chapters/mtn_sect).

### Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

### PATC Council – Second Tuesday

The council meets at 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 always welcome. Come see how we make decisions about your club. INFO: Wilson Riley ([wirley@patc.net](mailto:wirley@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, and strive to educate 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 Trail Patrol volunteers are also expected to become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: Holly Wheeler ([trailpatrol@patc.net](mailto:trailpatrol@patc.net)) 301/486-1598, or see our section in PATC's Web site: [www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol](http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol).

AUGUST

1 (Monday)

**DEADLINE – September Potomac Appalachian Material due to editors 5:00 p.m.**

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

1 (Monday)

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

Kid friendly hike along the River Trail at Great Falls Park. This 3-mile, circuit hike takes us along the beautiful Mather Gorge with great views of the Potomac River. We will picnic along the way. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950. If I don't respond quickly to your e-mail, please call me.

2 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

**Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
From Meadows Cabin parking climb to Doubletop for views, scramble up the rocks and descend to the Rapidan to tour reopened Hoover Camp. Then climb Mill Prong Trail to AT to enjoy Dark Hollow Falls, returning via Stony Mountain Trail. 16 miles 4000 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

2 (Tuesday)

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

3 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Midweek Hikers**

**Location to be determined**

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

3 (Wednesday)

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

4 (Thursday)

**CLASS - Climb Like A Girl (REI)**

**Fairfax, VA**

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. An open climbing night for women, taught by our own women climbers. Mini-clinics, lessons, tips and stories throughout the evening. Space is limited. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

6 (Saturday)

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

Humiturefest, the anniversary date of the South Mountaineers, is now 12 years old. Work on the AT in Maryland and celebrate another fine year of volunteer stewardship. Please bring plenty of water, lunch, gloves, and boots. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

6 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP – Yankee Clippers Appalachian Trail, PA**

Work trip followed by Charlie's annual corn roast (reservations required). We will meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

7 (Sunday)

**HIKE – Sunday Hikers Burkittsville, MD**

Starting at Gathland State Park, we'll hike south along the AT to Harpers Ferry, stopping to take in the magnificent view from Weverton Cliffs along the way. Distance is approx. 10 miles, with an elevation drop of about 700 feet. Since this is a one-way hike, we'll need volunteers to position cars at either end. PATC Map 6. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

7 (Sunday)

**HIKE – Trail Patrol Comus, MD**

Interested in hiking, helping other hikers or checking out trail conditions? This will be a leisurely hike on Sugarloaf Mountain, as well as a discussion of what it takes to be a member of PATC's Trail Patrol and what services Trail Patrol performs for the hiking and backpacking community. Please remember to bring water and lunch/snacks. INFO: Murry Moskowitz (murmosk@cox.net) 703/440-0614.

9 (Tuesday)

**CLASS - Great Local Hikes (REI) Fairfax, VA**

7:00 p.m. Whether you're new to the area or an experienced hiker looking to expand your repertoire, join us for a discussion on some of the best kept secrets in and around Virginia and Maryland, as well as the usual haunts. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

9 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

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

Climb Corbin Mountain, run down Indian Run, follow Nicholson Hollow up to the AT, see Stony Man summit, return via Corbin Hollow. About 15.5 miles and 3500 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

9 (Tuesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

**HIKE – Midweek Hikers**

**Location to be determined**

See August 3 event for more information.

10 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Backpacking Ultralight (REI) Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. Many AT thru-hikers believe in going light to cover more ground with less effort, for more enjoyment. The first rule is, "What can I live/hike without?" Join us for an evening's exploration of, "What do I really need to hike with, and how can I carry less?" We'll cover stoves, food, clothing, shelter and sleep systems, packs, hiking poles, weather, first aid, campsite selection and re-supply. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

10 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Saturday)

**HIKE – North Chapter New Germantown, PA**

Tuscarora Trail Hike IV: Knob Mtn./Rising Mtn. section: PA Rte 641 to Stewart Narrows Trail-Hemlock Rd-11.1 miles-difficult hike. Elevation change of 1,400 feet. After climbing to the top of the ridge, we will have excellent views to the east and west. This hike will take us into the Tuscarora State Forest. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

13 (Saturday)

**HIKE – Strenuous**

**South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

17-mile circuit hike starting at Brown Mountain Overlook, descending to Big Run on Brown Mountain trail and proceeding south on the Big Run Portal Trail. Return via AT. Total elevation gain 4,000 feet. INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127.

13 - 14 (Saturday – Sunday)

**CABIN WORK TRIP – Vining Tract Stanardsville, VA**

Come join us on the Vining Tract for a weekend of cabin construction, maintenance, and trail projects. The logs are in place at the new Butternut cabin, and now it's time for chinking. We also have trails to build, and work to be done to keep Conley and Wineberry cabins in mint condition. Community meals. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Hugh Robinson (mes.htr@verizon.net) 703/525-8726.

13 - 14 (Saturday-Sunday)

**SHELTER WORK TRIP - Vos Tract Crew Berkeley Springs, WV**

A new shelter crew is forming to work on the beautiful Vos Tract in WV. First timers as well as experienced workers are invited to come out and see one of the latest additions to PATC's Tuscarora Trail lands located just 5 minutes from I-70, Hancock, Md., and Berkeley Springs. We're digging a well and developing tent, privy, cooking and shelter sites, and creating a new camping area culminating in the finest log structure in PATC's catalogue of shelters. We'll have the option of camping on site or at a crewmember's nearby cabin. Bring water and lunch. Potluck supper Saturday night. Please call and join us. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visuallink.com) or Keith Daily 304/229-0110.

13 - 14 (Saturday – Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP – Cadillac Crew Round Hill, VA**

District manager Chris Brunton needs some help on a swampy section of the AT near Rod Hollow Shelter. Plans are to build boardwalks or raise the tread to improve the trail and prevent further damage. The crew will retire to Blackburn Trail Center for their normal Saturday feast and overnight accommodations. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

13 - 14 (Saturday – Sunday)

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

Come and join the North District Hoodlums trail crew on the "Jamaican Island" trail work trip in August! Daylight come and we be workin' on de trail. But cool off afterwards at Indian Run hut with a Red Stripe and Caribbean cuisine??? Noooooo problem, mon! The North District Hoodlums Trail Crew works on the AT and Blue-Blazed Trails in the North section of the park. We work hard and enjoy the fruits of our labor afterwards via the theme meal and good company at a facility within the park. Newcomers are always welcome. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, camp out overnight in SNP – lots of options. Not a bad way to spend a weekend! We meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning. INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

# FORECAST

15 (Monday)

👤 HIKE - Family Hike  
Sterling, VA

Kid friendly hike along the white blazed Little Stoney Mountain Trail in Claude Moore Park. This circuit trail is 3 miles long, but can easily be shortened. The trail is jogging-stroller passable. We will meet in the Vestal's Gap Road Parking lot by the Visitor's Center. After the hike we will check out the turtles, puzzles, and learning activities in their great Visitor's Center. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950. If I don't respond quickly to your e-mail, please call me.

16 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA  
Climb from Broad Hollow on the Hazel Mountain Trail to Meadow Spring, return down Hannah Run, up Hot-Short Mountain Trail to Pine Hill Gap. About 18 miles with 4000 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

17 (Wednesday)

👤 CLASS - Backpacking 101 (REI)  
College Park, MD

7:00 p.m. Join us, as we take the mystery out of backpacking and share our knowledge and experience. We'll cover essential backpacking gear and skills, gear selection and proper clothing; fitting boots; and understanding how to plan, prepare and enjoy your adventure while staying safe, warm and dry. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

17 (Wednesday)

👤 CLASS - GPS 101 (REI)  
Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Learn how GPS receivers work and what affects accuracy, as well as features, benefits and choosing a model based on your intended activities. We'll focus on Garmin receivers, and discuss mapping and waypoint management software from Garmin and DeLorme. We'll also include a brief overview of online resources and batteries, water and shock resistance and accessories. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

17 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Midweek Hikers  
Location to be determined

See August 3 event for more information.

18 (Thursday)

👤 CLASS - GPS 101 (REI)  
College Park, MD

7:00 p.m. Join us for a high level view of how GPS (Global Positioning System) receivers work and the things that affect their accuracy. We will review the features available in consumer GPS receivers and how to choose a model based on your intended activities. Concentrating on Garmin receivers, we will also discuss batteries, water resistance, shock resistance and accessories. We will also discuss software that is available to supplement GPS receivers, with an emphasis on mapping and waypoint management software. Our focus will be on Garmin and DeLorme software products. We will include software demonstrations. Finally, we will include a brief overview of online resources available to assist you in exploring this topic further. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

19 - 21 (Friday - Sunday)

👤 CABIN WORK TRIP - Highacre  
Harpers Ferry, WV

Join us as we continue to spruce up this beautiful old Victorian house in Harpers Ferry, WV. There's always a lot of work to be done and everyone's invited. Bring your work clothes and hiking boots.

We'd especially appreciate volunteers who would like to help clean up Sunday afternoon. INFO: Ben Mayock (BMayock@yahoo.com) 410/461-1327 or Pat Fankhauser (PFankhauser@patc.net) 703/242-0693, Ext. 17.

20 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - Waterfall and Wildflower Series

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A circuit hike of about 14 miles on the Buck Hollow, Buck Ridge, Hazel Mountain and White Rocks trails with 3700-foot elevation gain to a falls on the Hazel River. PATC Map 10. INFO: Jack Thorsen, (Thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham, (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127

20 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park

Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. to Noon. We start early in the morning to limit the sweating. Come see what our work crew can do before noon. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or ranger Ken Ferebee (ken\_ferebee@nps.gov) 202/895-6221.

20 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade

Woodstock, VA

Join the Stonewall Brigade to keep trails clear in one of PATC's least crowded and scenic districts - experience unnecessary, all tools and training provided. Help us put together a new group of interested volunteers who like to be outdoors making trails more enjoyable for others. Our schedule will be the third Saturday of every month; you are welcome to join us every month, a few times a year, or as many times as you can. Work will usually be in the area covered by PATC Map F - Great North Mountain on the VA/WV border. Meet at the Wolf Gap Recreation Area campground parking lot (PATC Map F coordinates E-19) at 9:00 a.m. This trip is subject to prevailing or forecast weather. Please check before going to the meeting site. See: [www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/stonewall/stonewall.html](http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/stonewall/stonewall.html). INFO: Hop Long (theSLongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177 or Jim Tomlin (jtomlin@helix.nih.gov).

20 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers

Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

20 - 21 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 HIKE - Natural History

George Washington NF, VA

Spend Saturday night at the Braley Pond campground and do two nice day hikes with streams and waterfalls in this area just west of Staunton, Va. On Saturday, we'll set up camp and do a 5.8-mile hike on the Chimney Hollow Trail. This is a nice walk along a stream with some nice views. Sunday, we'll do the 9-mile Elliotts Knob hike. This is a gradual ascent through woods to a nice view at the Knob, and descent along a nice stream with waterfalls. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

20 - 21 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Co.

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

This month, the Acme Treadway Company will work in the Central District of SNP. We'll rebuild a section of trail in that district and stay overnight at Pocosin Cabin. This is a trip you should not miss. INFO: Don White (tribldr@comcast.net) 804/795-2914.

22 (Monday)

👤 HIKE - Appalachian Trail  
Round Hill, VA

Snickers Gap, Route 7 and 601. Come on out for some beautiful views from Bear Rocks. This kid-paced hike is very rocky, NOT jogging-stroller passable. We will hike up to Bear Rocks, which has incredible views of the valley. Then we will head over to Bears Den Hostel, along their historical trail and back down. The complete hike will be about 2.5 -3 miles, but can easily be shortened to about 1.5 miles. We will begin the hike at 10:00 a.m., and picnic along the way. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950. If I don't respond quickly to your e-mail, please call me.

23 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA.

Climb Cedar Run to Hawksbill then north to Crescent Rock Trail to descend Whiteoak Canyon. 14 miles and 3500 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

24 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See August 3 event for more information.

27 (Saturday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - The Roaring Tuskers

Gore, VA

The Roaring Tuskers, Tuscarora Trail Central District Trail Crew continue to relocate the Tuscarora Trail from Gore and US 50 into the woods. INFO: Steve Sharp (stevenssharp@comcast.net) 240/338-3655.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Metrolites

Bethesda, MD

We will be joining with the MORE group and Montgomery Parks to install a pre-fabricated bridge on the Cabin John Trail. If you haven't been involved in such a project, here is your opportunity to learn. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday in the parking lot for the indoor tennis courts on Democracy Blvd just down from the Montgomery Mall. If we do not complete work that day, then we will resume on Sunday to finish the job. We will carpool from there, as there is little parking at the Bradley Blvd site. INFO: Liles Creighton, (kb3jmf@comcast.net) 410/573-0067.

30 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Waterlick VA

On Massanutten Mountain, in GW National Forest, starting at parking area for Signal Knob Trail, climb to the Knob, then down to pick up the Tuscarora Trail along Three Top Mountain, returning via Powell Fort Camp and Mudhole Gap Trail. 15 miles and 3,000 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

30 (Tuesday)

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

31 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See August 3 event for more information.

## SEPTEMBER

1 (Thursday)

DEADLINE - October Potomac Appalachian  
Material due to editors 5:00 p.m.

All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and

all other articles to the editor at lindashannonb@mac.com. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

### 3 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers

##### Appalachian Trail, PA

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

### 6 (Tuesday)

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

### 7 (Wednesday)

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

### 10 (Saturday)

#### HIKE - George Washington Ntl. Forest Great North Mountain, WV

A 17-mile circuit hike in the George Washington National Forest with scenic vistas of the Trout Pond area from Big Schloss and Little Schloss. There will be some minor rock scrambling. Meet at the Oakton Shopping Center on Route 123. Moderate pace. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. Elevation gain 3,000 feet. INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410/884-9127

### 10 (Saturday)

#### HIKE - North Chapter Newville, PA

Tuscarora Trail Hike V: Amberson Ridge/ Bowers Mtn. section: Stewart Narrows Trail-Hemlock Rd. to Cowpens Rd.-8.2 miles-moderate hike. Elevation change of 500 feet. We will be hiking the roller coaster section of the Tuscarora Trail. We will be hiking past the first shelter to be built on the trail, the Fowler Hollow shelter. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

### 10 (Saturday)

#### HIKE - Wilderness Hike Martinsburg, WV

Meeting near Martinsburg, WV, we will drive to two trailheads in the Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area of West Virginia. We'll hike to Eagle's Nest Mountain View (1/2 mi, 100 ft. elevation gain) and also descend into Devil's Nose Canyon (3 miles). After enjoying the hemlock/rhododendron along Meadows Branch, we will climb Devil's Nose (250 ft. elevation gain) for a canyon view. Return to canyon for exploring as desired or enjoy the cool river. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visuallink.com) 540/678-1043.

### 10 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Great Falls, MD

Join the crew for Saturday working on the Billy Goat Trail. Overseer Georgeann Smale needs help to repair sections of the trail due to erosion or overuse. Potluck supper at nearby pavilion to close out a fun work trip. INFO: Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

### 10 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. - Noon. Rock Creek Park, with more than 1,700 acres, is one of the finest urban parks in the country. Help us keep the trails clear. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee (ken\_ferebee@nps.gov) 202/895-6221.

### 10 (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' events meet near Frederick, MD at 9:00 a.m. Please bring water, lunch, gloves and boots. Tools provided. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

### 10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### CLASS - Hike Leadership Training Vienna, VA

This weekend course will be conducted at the PATC Headquarters building in Vienna and is designed to prepare you to lead day hikes. The two-day course uses classroom and hands-on instruction to teach participants the essential skills for leading safe, enjoyable hikes with minimal environmental impact. Cost: \$20.00 for PATC members, \$35.00 for non-members. INFO: Katrina Hedlesky (TPHLT@patc.net) 703/533-3652 (before 10:00 p.m.).

### 10 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Adopt-a-Crag (REI) Great Falls, VA

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Washington DC Metro Area rock climbers will join volunteers around the nation to clean up rock climbing areas at Great Falls Park, VA as part of the Access Fund's 6th Annual Adopt-a-Crag, presented by Title Sponsor Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Presenting Sponsor W.L. Gore, and Contributing Sponsor CLIF BAR. Activities will include litter clean-up, visual impact mitigation, trail construction and restoration, and erosion control. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

### 10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Stanardsville, VA

Come join us on the Vining Tract for a weekend of cabin construction, maintenance and trail projects. The logs are in place at the new Butternut cabin, and now it's time for chinking. We also have trails to build, and work to be done to keep Conley and Wineberry cabins in mint condition. Community meals. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Hugh Robinson (mes.htr@verizon.net) 703/525-8726.

### 10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### CLASS - Hike Leadership Training Vienna, VA

This Trail Patrol course is designed to prepare you to lead day hikes. The two-day course uses classroom and hands-on instruction to teach participants the essential skills for leading safe, enjoyable hikes with minimal environmental impact. Cost: \$20 for members, \$35 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. INFO: Katrina Hedlesky (TPHLT@patc.net) 703/533-3652, before 10:00 p.m. See ad on page 14 of this issue for more information.

### 13 (Tuesday)

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

### 14 (Wednesday)

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

### 17 (Saturday)

#### HIKE - Waterfall and Wildflower Series Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A 15-mile circuit on the Appalachian, Bluff, Jordan River, and Mount Marshall Trails with about a 1-mile round trip bushwhack to the falls on the Jordan River. Total elevation gain is 2,800 feet. PATC Map 9. INFO: Jack Thorsen, (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham, (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127.

### 17 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade Woodstock, VA

Join the Stonewall Brigade to keep trails clear in one of PATC's least crowded and scenic districts - experience unnecessary, all tools and training provided. Join this group of interested volunteers who like to be outdoors making trails more enjoyable for others. Let us know you plan to attend so we know to expect you. The trip is subject to prevailing or forecast weather. Please check before going to the meeting site. Visit: www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/stonewall/stonewall.html. INFO: Hop Long (theFSLongs@comcast.net) 301/942-6177 or Jim Tomlin (jtomlin@helix.nih.gov).

### 17 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

### 17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### SPECIAL EVENT - Overseers Workshop North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come to the 18th Annual North District Trail Overseers Workshop in the Mathews Arm Campground. (See article elsewhere in this issue for details). INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) or 410/426-2724.

### 17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Co. Gore, VA

Have you had enough of the summer heat? Pressures from the job, suburbia, and traffic got you down? There's a fix for that: come out with the Acme Treadway Company and work through your frustrations as you help us build this trail giving the public access to the Tuscarora Trail north of The Pinnacle in western Virginia. INFO: Don White (trlbldr@comcast.net) 804/795-2914.

### 21 (Wednesday)

#### CLASS - Planning for Your Future Vienna, VA

Learn how you can help PATC while planning for your own financial future. Refreshments provided. 7:00 p.m. PATC Headquarters. INFO: Pat Fankhauser (pfankhauser@patc.net) 703/242-0693 x17.

### 21 (Wednesday)

#### MEETING - West Chapter, 7:00 p.m.

High Knob Day Area of Gambrill State Park, Frederick, MD

### 22 (Thursday)

#### CLASS - Planning for Your Future Vienna, VA

Learn how you can help PATC while planning for your own financial future. Lunch provided. 11:30 a.m. PATC Headquarters. INFO: Pat Fankhauser (pfankhauser@patc.net) 703/242-0693 x17.

### 24 (Saturday)

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

10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. This comprehensive two-day course teaches all skills necessary to use map and compass in an integrated land navigation system. The first day is spent in intensive classroom exercises concentrating on topographic map reading and interpretation, position plotting, compass fundamentals, declination and azimuth. The second day (Sunday, Sept. 25, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) is spent in Prince William Forest Park, primarily off-trail, engaging in practical navigation exercises of increasing complexity. The course fee is \$95 and includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map,

## FORECAST

grid reader, and lunch on Saturday. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

24 (Saturday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Adopt-a-Crag (REI)  
Carderock, MD

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Washington DC Metro Area rock climbers will join volunteers around the nation to clean up rock climbing areas at Carderock Recreation Area, MD as part of the Access Fund's 6th Annual Adopt-a-Crag, presented by Title Sponsor Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Presenting Sponsor W.L. Gore, and Contributing Sponsor CLIF BAR. Activities will include litter clean-up, visual impact mitigation, trail construction and restoration, and erosion control. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

24 (Saturday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers  
Appalachian Trail, MD

Please bring water, lunch and gloves. Tools and training provided. Enjoy comradeship of fellow volunteers and the peace of the woods. We meet near Frederick, Md., at 9:00 a.m. and go home happy and tired. INFO: Nancy Hammond, (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

27 (Tuesday)

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

28 (Wednesday)

☞ MEETING - Trail Leadership (District Managers) Vienna, VA

This is the fall meeting of the trail leadership. We will start the meeting as soon as possible so those who drive a long way can get home at a reasonable hour. Trail leaders (District Managers, Trail Crew leaders, Workshop leaders, etc.) are asked to be prepared for the meeting (budget requests, tool needs, work schedules, etc.). If you can't attend, send inputs to the Supervisor of Trails by e-mail by Sept. 21. INFO: Liles Creighton (kb3jmf@comcast.net) 410/573-0067. ☐

### Greetings from SNP

At Rockfish Gap, 429 north-bound Appalachian Trail Hikers (AT-thru-hikers and section hikers) have registered for the month of June and 604 for the year through June. This count is very similar compared to last year. The main wave of AT-thru-hikers has moved north. During July we can expect to see about 130 N-bound AT hikers, along with larger groups like scouts and summer camps backpacking along the AT.

Again, our thanks to the staff at Rockfish Entrance Station and PATC's Ridge Runner for making the hikers welcome and to the many AT and shelter overseers who keep help the AT in SNP the "Boulevard of the Blue Ridge".

—Shawn Green  
Park Trails Coordinator

## PATC Trail Patrol Presents Hike Leadership Training Course

Sept. 10 and 11, 2005

This weekend course will be conducted at the PATC Headquarters building in Vienna and is designed to prepare you to lead day hikes. The two-day course uses classroom and hands-on instruction to teach participants the essential skills for leading safe, enjoyable hikes with minimal environmental impact.

The topics to be covered include medical emergencies, planning hikes, personal equipment, Leave No Trace practices, leadership skills, standard procedures to be used, and navigation and map reading. We will also employ scenarios to emphasize hike leadership skills.

Cost\*: \$20 for PATC members, \$35 for non-members

Registration: Send payments to PATC, HLT Course, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, VA 22180-4609. Pre-registration is required.

Information: Katrina Hedlesky (TPHLT@patc.net)  
703/533-3652, before 10:00 p.m.

\*Join PATC at the time of registration and get the member price! ☐

## PATC Trail Patrol Presents Backpacking 101

### An Introductory Backpacking Course

Expand your enjoyment of the outdoors through the practice of backpacking. Provides basic instruction in equipment selection and use, information and techniques to enhance safety and comfort, and Leave No Trace methods to protect our fragile backcountry environment. Includes an overnight backpacking trip accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors. Designed for persons 18 years and older who have no prior backpacking experience, as well as former backpackers seeking to update their skills.

#### Introduction Night

Mon., Sep. 12, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Headquarters, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Va.

#### Instructional Weekend

Sep. 17 & 18: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sat., 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sun., Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, Va.

(Sat. overnight car camping in campground encouraged but not required)

#### Overnight Backpacking Trip

Oct. 8 & 9 (Sat. - Sun.), Trip destination and times TBD

Fee: \$75.00 for PATC Members; \$95.00 for Non-Members

For more information, see [www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol/Outreach/BP101.htm](http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol/Outreach/BP101.htm) or contact John Bridges (TPBackpack@patc.net) 703/726-0188. ☐

## 100-Year-Old Chestnut Tree Found Alive and Well

I recently had the opportunity to see what is now a very rare sight, an American Chestnut tree growing wild. These trees, once a common sight in eastern forests, were decimated by a fungus more than 50 years ago. Cay Savel, overseer at Little Orleans cabin, had learned through her association with the American Chestnut Foundation that a tree had been sighted in Green Ridge State Forest in western Maryland.

Since the forest is near the cabin, we thought we would combine a worktrip with a little exploring. Cay contacted forest headquarters and arranged a visit to the site in late June. We met Mark Beall, forester for Green Ridge State Forest, and got a guided tour to the site. Mark explained that the tree had been found by loggers six years earlier. They had hit it with a skidder as they were removing felled trees, recognized what it was, and reported it to Forest Headquarters.

Mark also stated that a bear had recently climbed the tree, hungry for nuts, and had broken a number of the upper branches. I was really surprised when I first saw it. Cay called out "There it is," and I started looking around. I didn't see it until I realized that Mark and Cay were looking up and I followed their gaze. My limited knowledge of the plight of the American Chestnut had left me with the belief that I would see a small, spindly, sad looking, cankerous, disease ridden tree. I was wrong. Even with the bear damage, in full flower it was quite a sight.

I estimated its height to be 40-45 feet. Its girth was measured at about 35 inches. A 7-inch diameter tree in New York, felled by a beaver a couple of years ago, was found to be more than 70 years old. Based on that, this tree may very well be nearly 100 years old. The skidder damage and bear claw marks were easy to spot and seemed completely healed. No disease was evident.

Mark explained that the Forest operates on a 100 year cycle for harvesting trees. Therefore, it should be 94 years before this site is logged again. □

—Jack Adams,  
Overseer, Little Orleans cabin

### *Council, from page 4*

Tom welcomed former PATC President Sandi Marra of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (Sandi started the pizza tradition at PATC Council meetings). She explained that ATC is morphing, with its original objectives having been accomplished, and said that ATC was to consider its new direction at its meeting in Johnson City, Tenn.

A donor has come forth who wants to donate a 20-acre tract to PATC to preserve habitat for a bear den. The donor has bought the land, and ATC has agreed to put a conservation easement on it, but ATC is unable to accept the donation itself. Therefore, the donor is proposing to donate the land to PATC. This land is not adjacent to any ATPO lands, and PATC would be unable to put trails on it because of the easement and the bear den. If PATC accepted the land, it would be for habitat preservation, and this would be unprecedented in PATC history. This issue will not be decided until after Jan. 1, 2006, for tax purposes. Vickie Hunnicut has informed PATC that her late father, Leroy Wilson, a PATC member since 1947, provided \$10,000 in his will for the endowment. She will explain the details to Council at the August meeting.

PATC is seeking a successor for Carol Niedzialek, who has served as the chair of the Archives and Library since 2000. Carol will be retiring from Archives at the end of this year.

### **Finance**

Treasurer Ric Francke said revenues are meeting or exceeding projections. He also said that there would be a six-month review of the budget process in July after the ATC conference. Vice President-Operations Bruce Glendening announced there would be seminars scheduled on donating to PATC; details will be in the *Potomac Appalachian*.

### **Operations, Trails, and Lands**

Steve Sharp has volunteered to chair an IT Planning subcommittee to help Bruce develop a strategic plan for future PATC IT operations. Bruce wants to proceed along three tracks at once: hardware issues and network day-to-day operations to prevent "crashes," making cabin reservations more consumer-friendly, and Web site renovation to include Web-enabled trail, cabins, and hike reports.

Supervisor of Land Chris Mangold is looking at selling conservation easement tax credits

that could yield worthwhile money. Ex-Com heard a presentation and proposal from Troxell, Kincaid & Mullin, who would line up a buyer and present a proposal to PATC.

### **Tuscarora Trail**

Council approved significant steps toward securing the Tuscarora Trail by authorizing: \$400 to pay for the appraisal for the Nicholson 28.9-acre property (would be the site of a Tuscarora Trail center); \$11,000 in surveying and settlement costs for the 205-acre William Smith Tract (Tuscarora Trail easements); \$3,000 plus settlement costs for the purchase of Raven Rock Road parcel #331 (Council had previously approved \$6,000 for Tuscarora Trail easements – this motion would come out of that authorization); and \$17,000 from the endowment to pay for Vining Mutton Top road and Firestone access road repairs. At the meeting, Council officially renamed the PATC Hauvermale Tract the Vos Tract.

The Tuscarora Trail Rte. 30 reroute has been completed – there is no road walking in this section now. Supervisor of Land Chris Mangold and Hikes Co-chair Karen Brown announced the completion of Hauvermale (Vos) Tract timbering and provided a written assessment.

### **Membership, Volunteerism, Training, and Communications**

*Volunteerism:* Lee Sheaffer brought in newspaper articles about the formal Ovoka Tract AT relocation opening with pictures of Congressman Wolf releasing a red-tailed hawk. About 70 people made the hike. Supervisor of Membership Georgeann Smale reported that membership was up by 41, for a total of 6,606 members. Georgeann polled the Council, and it agreed that this year's annual meeting would be held the 2nd Tuesday in November (Nov. 8).

*Supervisor of Information, Education, and Activities:* PATC will support and is looking for speakers and participants for: Barge Bash, with two volunteers needed, June 26; ATC Conference, July; Girl Scout leadership workshop at Gettysburg in February 2006; Winchester Balloonfest, October. Jane Thompson has established a goal of supporting an event a month next year. □

—W. Alan Day Secretary

## TRAILHEAD

Except for the odd storm and cleanup, June is probably the busiest month for trail overseers and crews. Weeding takes priority over other trail chores and if you didn't cut the weeds in June, they can become formidable.

### The Snake that Could

John P. Ruppe, overseer for the One-Mile Run Trail, provided this interesting tale. "Working along my trail with a swing blade, I looked down to see if I had injured the snake. About 14 inches long, dark with longitudinal yellow stripes, its head appeared larger than normal and the two front legs surprised me as I looked closer. I prodded it gently with a stick to find the rear legs, thinking I had encountered a long, thin lizard of some sort. Oddly, its head and legs then moved forward abruptly to reveal themselves as a separate creature - a frog being engorged by a snake with big ideas.

Only then was I able to focus on the true head of the snake, tiny compared with what it was attempting to eat. The girth of the intended meal was probably five times the size of the predator's body. I still wonder if the over-reaching snake could have succeeded, had I not come along to interrupt its attempt. The frog did not seem very lively, perhaps weakened and made more passive by some sort of proto-venom? I spoke aloud my surprise at the disconcerting shift in what I perceived: "Incredible," I repeated several times at this zoological transmogrification."

### First Aid Before the Need

Every trail worker is responsible for his or her own health and safety on a work trip. To avoid illnesses and injuries that can occur, I suggest every trail worker have a tetanus shot at least every ten years, carry medications if allergic to something, ensure they are physically fit for the work they will do, pace themselves for the terrain and weather conditions, wear ankle supporting boots that are broken in — and carry lots and lots of water. Avoid dehydration by drinking the lots and lots of water you carry. Why drink water? Dehydration leads to some things not so good for health. Of key concern is that people can become confused and lose their balance. This can lead to falls. Falls can lead to really bad injuries. Why such results? Blood is 90 percent or so water. Men perspire and ladies feel the heat when walking up and down hills and mountains carrying stuff. The water lost from the body comes from the blood. Less blood, less oxygen to brain. Less oxygen to brain, and everything is downhill. —Liles Creighton

### SNP Ridgerunner John Hedrick's Observations

Bear activity remains high in the SNP. I see at least one bear daily with the highest daily sighting being five. In a few locations bears have entered the hut areas searching for food, especially around the picnic tables. Proper hanging of food using the bear poles is essential.

Raccoons are also very active. They have learned to climb the bear pole at Gravel Springs Hut and rip open hiker food bags. Two raccoons have been trapped and relocated. The Rangers are continuing to set live animal traps in the vicinity and this problem should soon be under control. Some hiker packs have been damaged by raccoons searching for food at Pass Mountain Hut. The Rangers are also aware of this problem. An incident occurred at Pine Knob Shelter in Maryland that demonstrates the danger of raccoons. A female thru-hiker was bitten three times by a



*The Rockytop crew from left: Ralph Fink, Bette Dzamba, Rhett Orndorff, Dennis DeSilvey, Bill Taylor, and Pete Gatje.*

raccoon while she was inside the shelter. The raccoon was suspected of having rabies.

The AT within the SNP is in good shape. The thru-hikers are very complementary about the trail condition and seem to enjoy their brief time in the Park. Very few blowdowns have been encountered and I can usually remove them with my 13-inch Corona. If not, the District Managers quickly get them removed. Vegetation growth remains a problem in certain areas. My weekly report highlights those sections that need weedeating. In most instances the overseers are quick to respond.

Most hikers understand the principles of Leave No Trace and generally pack out their trash. However, a very few hikers don't consider littering a problem. Some items that I have hauled out include an iron skillet, empty propane fuel canisters, old blankets, dirty underwear, and tin cans/foil from the fire pit. It's a continual education process.

### Tuscarora and Allegheny Trails

Earlier this year PATC became more involved in the effort to establish a second long hiking trail through the Appalachians. In particular, the club offered to provide leadership in linking the Tuscarora and Allegheny Trails - a project that was already in the 1993 master plan for the George Washington National Forest.

With this in mind, a new Web site has been set up: [www.TT-Link-ALT.net](http://www.TT-Link-ALT.net). Its purpose is to facilitate the collection and dissemination of information on possible hiking routes through this area. To date, the biggest problem has been the continuing lack of recent reports from PATC members or anyone else who has hiked many of these trails. Most already have official status and are listed in the transportation database of the Forest Service or other public agencies.

If you would like to tackle (or already have!) the Warm Springs Mountain Trail, the Bogan Run Trail, or anything else listed on the Web site, let PATC President Tom Johnson know ([johnts3@juno.com](mailto:johnts3@juno.com)) of your interests and experiences so they can be incorporated into our planning process.

*See Trailhead, page 17*

Trailhead, from page 16

## A Break From Weeding

During June, weeding usually takes priority for all overseers. But on the third weekend of June, some Hoodlums put weeding aside and, despite the absence of many regulars, still had time to get in their monthly worktrip to do some tread work on the AT south of Compton Peak. What do you do with eight hoodlums and a bunch of tools? You build six checkdams and five waterbars, construct a lateral drain, and move a lot of big rocks around to improve a stream crossing! Of course, we had the assistance of “super rock-man” Ray Galles and were therefore able to move those rocks. After getting ourselves real dirty (as is our habit), and enjoying every minute of it, we had a Mediterranean feast washed down with non-Mediterranean beverages. Not a bad way to spend a Saturday in June!

## Rockytop Trail – Collective Effort

On June 4, Tim Hupp, who lives near the SNP western boundary in the South District, led a group of seven dedicated overseers across Big Run and up a steep bushwhacked trail to the lower Rockytop trailhead. Much needed work was done on the vegetation and waterbars in the area of the Rockytop Trail which burned three years ago. The seven overseers included Tim Rupp, Ralph Frink (new Rockytop co-overseer), Bette Dzamba (new Wildcat Ridge overseer), Rhett Orndorff (Trayfoot Overseer), Dennis DeSilvey (Rockytop lead overseer), Bill Tyler (Calf Mountain Overseer), and Pete Gatje (SNP South Side Trails DM). On the return trip, Dennis and Bette capped off the day by swimming in Big Run with Benin (Dennis’ dog). Of course Benin was on a leash.

## SNP AT South District

The weeds are out in force and lest anyone think that the dry weather has kept them in check, just visit the AT South. Growth of 1 to 3 feet has been seen in the last 2-4 weeks. Many of the overseers have been out on the trails and conditions are very good for hiking in the South District. The mountain laurel has bloomed and has gone by. The bears are out in force. A Ridgerunner saw 16 bears in one day, including two males fighting over a female for her affections. Fortunately, the Ridgerunner was able to make a quick exit. The spring crew did a fantastic job of rebuilding the trail around Calf Mountain and for that the overseer and DM Dennis DeSilvey are very thankful.

## Great North Mountain

The trail crew for Great North Mountain, the Stonewall Brigade, had its inaugural 2005 trip on Saturday, June 18. The Brigade will be going out the third Saturday of every month. Catherine Kelleher, Elizabeth Lourdan, Maria Oria, Bill Popelko, Dorothy Schoeneman, Jim Tomlin, and Hop Long attended to trail maintenance issues on Tibbet Knob Trail, which leads hikers from Wolf Gap Recreation Area to an outstanding overlook atop Tibbet Knob. The trail was so beautiful that Dorothy stepped forward to be the official overseer, which the trail had been lacking. Thank you to the entire dedicated crew and especially to Dorothy!

On Sunday, June 19, Catherine Kelleher (GPS wizard), Maria Oria (hiker extraordinaire), and Jim Tomlin (worthless trail dunce) completed the GPS scouting for the proposed new Sassafras Bear Trail on Great North Mountain. This trail will traverse the ridge of Long Mountain, connecting Long Mountain Trail and Halfmoon Trail, creating a new circuit hike opportunity. The forest canopy is sufficiently dense and the forest soil sufficiently dry to eliminate vegetative impediments and made the bushwhacking seem more like a

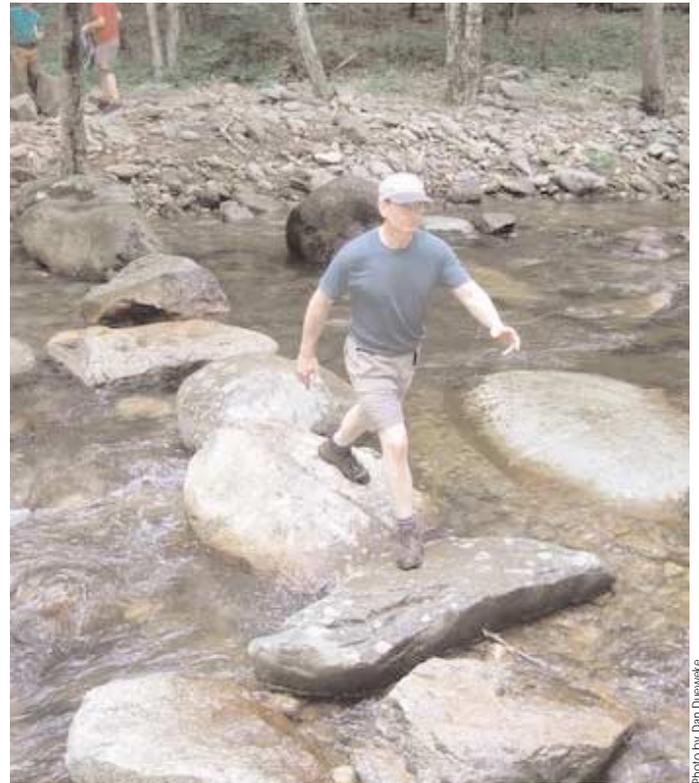


Photo by Dan Dueweke

*Unidentified hiker prances across new Corbin Mountain Trail crossing of the Hughs river.*

stroll in the park. Thanks to Catherine, detailed GPS plots, profiles, and maps were collected. It may take some time for the bureaucratic wheels of progress to turn, but the first steps of trail scouting and preliminary trail placement have been completed.

PATC’s Sugar Knob Cabin boasts the reputation of being the most remote cabin in PATC’s inventory. It became somewhat less remote on Tuesday, June 21. The primary access is 3.2 miles via Little Stoney Creek Trail, a trail known by hikers for its mud, and known by District Managers for its impressive blowdown collection ability. Hop Long and Jim Tomlin spent the longest day of the year chainsawing Little Stoney Creek Trail, and boy oh boy did they ever need every minute of Solstice daylight. Much appreciation to Don Sawyer, Wade Bushong, and especially Jay Collett of the Lee District, George Washington National Forest, for accommodating Hop and Jim’s request to be shuttled up to the top of Little Stoney Creek Trail in a 4WD truck (the ride up was worthy of an amusement park). After a quick lunch at Sugar Knob Cabin, Hop and Jim chainsawed their way downhill through 25 blowdowns and blowdown tangles. Night was falling and the whippoorwills were singing as the intrepid sawyers stumbled back to their car that had been positioned at the trailhead. Cabin renters will now find the way much more hiker-friendly.

## Wanderbirds Give Back

Through the “good offices” of Carol Saah and Emeline Otey, who are members of both PATC and the Wanderbirds Hiking Club, the Wanderbirds Hikers have officially become overseers for two sections of the Tuscarora Trail on Great North Mountain. The Wanderbirds are not newcomers to trail maintenance. Several members of that club including Carol, Emeline, and Glenn Palatini are already themselves PATC overseers on the Tuscarora. Over the last year the Wanderbirds Hiking Club has typically set aside one day a month for a trail mainte-

*See Trailhead, page 18*

### Trailhead, from page 17

nance day as a group activity. So a special tip of the hat to the Wanderbirds, and particularly Carol Saah and Emeline Otey, who really know how to “give back.”

### Dry Boots on Corbin Mt. Trail

The Blue and White crew finished the long-delayed stream crossing at the lower Corbin Mt. trailhead during their June outing. The Hughes River crossing, which had taken on the attributes of the Springfield interchange, finally succumbed to the irresistible force of a two Griphoists, multiple snatch blocks, and a crew of thousands, each with a rockbar or camera.

Under the watchful eye of Patrick Wilson, AKA Mr. Rockbar Bite-Bite for his gorilla-like tenacity at moving stone, the wide and deep Hughes was bridged by a ribbon of boulders now set for all eternity or until the next hurricane. No more will hikers bypass Corbin Mt. Trail – one of the quietist and most remote wilderness trails in Central District – for fear of soggy boots or threats of being washed downstream. More photos of the project are on the crew website: [www.blueandwhite-crew.org/PhotoGallery/june2005photos.php](http://www.blueandwhite-crew.org/PhotoGallery/june2005photos.php).

The crew joined members of the PATC Trail Patrol at the Pinnacles Research Station (in the Park to celebrate Trails Days 2005) for a potluck dinner. The Pinnacles banquet table was full, with almost 40 hungry volunteers. The crew honored S.V. Dove, who was able to attend the banquet with his wife, Janet, and daughter, Sissy. S.V. is a crew regular, who recently underwent serious surgery. S.V. was in good spirits, even though other crewmembers were forced to drink his share of the beer. On Sunday, crewmembers deployed en masse with Stihl trimmers, cutting weeds in all directions.

SNP Central District AT Manager, Kerry Snow, wants to offer many thanks to Ray Galles, for his hard work in the District this season. Ray, who lives in Nebraska most of the year, makes an annual pilgrimage to SNP, where he spends several weeks, working full-time on the Park's trails, cleaning waterbars and cutting weeds. Thanks, Ray, and good luck on your AT hike!

### Busy Overseer

George Schubert goes out four or five times a week someplace, from Seneca Creek SP in Montgomery County, Md., to SNP Stony Man to the Tuscarora Trail near Maurertown to Green Ridge State Forest near Flintstone to



Photo by Walt Smith

**Bryon Lawrence constructing new tread for the new Millrace Trail in Sleepy Creek WMA.**

Bedford County, Pa., Tussey Mountain. He reluctantly reports his first sighting of a golden eagle from the Eagle Nest Trail overlook in Sleepy Creek WMA. He was so enthralled with the tranquility of this dinky little access trail that he didn't crank up his weeder, although there were a few blueberries he could have trimmed back. Now the rest of the world knows of this special place.

Speaking of weeding, George thinks the fuel mix people and the gas can people need to get together. Fuel mix comes in 2.5 gallon portions and not 5 gallon portions whereas most stores are selling 5 gallon cans and not 2.5 gallon gas cans. George says having three types of weeder attachments at his disposal (heavy string, triangular brush blade and power scythe) makes the task a lot more efficient. There are trail sections that optimally use two of the three, with the third being next to useless. Just got to have the right two in the right place!

### North District Workshop

The 18th Annual North District Workshop will be held Sept. 17-18, 2005 at Mathews Arm Campground in SNP. This event, co-sponsored by PATC and SNP, offers an opportunity to learn and hone trail skills with the park professionals. Please see ad on page 9 of this issue for details.

### Millrace Trail

Two hot, humid weekends in June didn't deter the Cadillac Crew from beginning construction of the new Millrace Trail that will connect the High Rock Trail in Sleepy Creek

WMA to the Tuscarora Trail on PATC's Brill Tract near the Shockey's Knob Shelter. When completed, the Trail provides for an interesting seven-mile loop hike (one of Walt Smith's favorites).

So what do you do with hot, sweat soaked trail builders? Bruce Agnew had the answer – build a structure to support a sun shower water bag with tarps for privacy. The general comment – this is really refreshing.

After being kicked out of the Brill cabin (the crew's overnight place for Tuscarora Trail work the past nine years) by the new owner, the crew appreciates the use of overseer Margie Knott's cabin near Shockey's Knob. Thanks Margie.

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

### POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William County: Hikers, Editors, Authors Required

The 4th edition of *Hikes in the Washington Region: Part B: Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties in Virginia* is scheduled for revision and republishing during 2005.

The PATC publications team is seeking the services of a hiker/author to revise/update *Hikes in the Washington Region: Part B* to meet the deadline of publishing the revised edition by the end of 2005. Publications produced and sold by PATC represent approximately 25% of club's income and help promote and fund the objectives of the club.

Join the PATC publications team and combine your interest in the outdoors with some editing. If you have an interest in helping on this project (or others like it) please contact the PATC Publications Chair, Alex McLellan (publications@patc.net) (preferred) or 703/758-1057 (day) or 703/758-7411 (night).

### TRAIL OVERSEER DISCOUNTS

**PATC OVERSEERS GET DISCOUNTS** from the following merchants who support our volunteer programs: Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Charlottesville, Tidewater) – 20%, Hudson Trail Outfitters (Metro D.C.) – 15%, The Trail House (Frederick, Md.) – 15%, Casual Adventures (Arlington, Va.) – 10%, Campmor (mail order via PATC HQ) – 10%, Weasel Creek Outfitters in Front Royal – 10%, The Outfitter at Harpers Ferry – 15%, and the sole source (Harrisonburg) – 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.

### Needed – IT Planning Subcommittee Chair

PATC just purchased new computers and now wants to attack the many hardware and software questions bringing PATC into the 21st century. I want someone to lead – making a commitment of 8 hours per week – a group to plan and execute PATC's future in Information Technology. If someone wants to lead this IT Planning Subcommittee give me a call. Bruce Glendening, Vice President Operations. 703/532-9093 or e-mail bglendening@yahoo.com

## PATC Swap Meet

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

### HIKING PARTNERSHIPS

FLORIDA ESCAPE? For winter hiking without mountains, snow, ice, or freezing rain, take off a week or two in February/March 2006 to join a PATC life member and AT 2000-miler, George Meek (Poet), on a section of the Florida Trail, beginning a couple of hours' drive south of Orlando. For information on the FT check out [www.florida-trail.org](http://www.florida-trail.org). Contact: (george@meeconsulting.com) 703/875-3021.

I live in Gaithersburg, Md., and am looking for hiking and camping buddies within 120 miles of the DC area. I am 29 and willing to hike/camp anywhere. I also have a dual propane stove that I am giving away. Any takers? Contact Jeffrey Scott (knight\_1\_nu@yahoo.com) 301/466-3373.

### LOST AND FOUND

**GOLD COLORED BULOVA MEN'S WATCH**, analogue, with a dark leather band at Meadows cabin on approximately 3/20/05. It was most likely lost outside on the property near the cabin. Contact: Randy Wilcox (rrwilcox1@juno.com) 703/532-5767

# Trail, Shelter, and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

**District Manager Massanutten South —  
Map H**  
Liles Creighton, 410/573-0067  
lcrei@aol.com

**CORRIDOR MONITOR OPENINGS**  
Tom Lupp, 301/271-7340  
tlupp@erols.com

**Shannondale [near Blackburn], VA —  
Map 7**  
**Wilson Gap, VA — Map 7**  
**Bear Den Rocks, VA — Map 7**  
**Ashby Gap South, VA — Map 8**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SHELTER  
CREW IN MD**

**Dicks Dome Shelter —Northern VA —  
Map 8**  
**Rock Springs Shelter —SNP Cent. — Map  
10**  
Henry Horn, 301/498-8254  
ATHike@aol.com

**Trails open - Contact the  
District Manager for the section  
that interests you.**

**PENNSYLVANIA —MAPS 2, 3, 4, J, K**  
Opportunity to work long hours with no  
pay or benefits. Generous allowance of  
blisters, stinging/biting insects, and poison-  
ous plants. Special provision for rain and  
mud. Little or no supervision. Work hours  
optional. Location somewhere on the  
Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania. No certifi-  
cation from your doctor or hospital  
required.

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

**PA Tuscarora Trail [J] — Co-overseer**  
Hemlock Road to Mountain Rd (4.9 miles)

**PA Tuscarora Trail [J] — Co-overseer**  
Bill Miller Trail to Cowpens Rd (4.7 miles)

**HARPERS FERRY / ASHBY GAP AT & BB—  
MAP 7, 8**

Chris Brunton, 703/924-0406  
trailbossbtc@msn.com

**Appalachian Trail**  
Loudoun Heights Trail to Powerline  
(2.3 miles)

**ASHBY/POSSUMS AT/BB [RTE. 50 TO SNP]  
—MAP 8, 9**

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

**Appalachian Trail**  
VA 55 to VA 638 (2.1 miles)  
**Barking Dog Trail**  
AT to Barking Dog Spring/Rte 604  
(0.34 miles)

**SNP NORTH DISTRICT BLUE-BLAZED —  
MAP 9**

Peter Harris, 540/349-2595  
peter.harris@lmco.com

**Tuscarora /Overall Run Trail**  
Thompson Hollow/Overall Run Jct. to  
Mathews Arm Trail (2.3 miles)

**SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [NORTH END]  
—MAP 10**

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

New overseer opportunities coming avail-  
able soon. Choice trails rich in Shenandoah  
history. Don't miss this rare opportunity to  
stake your claim.

**SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [SOUTH END]  
—MAP 10**

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

**Bearfence Loop (Scramble)**

Skyland Drive to AT (0.3 miles)

**Entry Run Trail (lower)**

John's Rest Access Road to Park Boundary  
(1.7 miles)

**Entry Run Trail (Upper)**

Park Boundary to Pocosin Fire Road  
(0.8 miles)

**Rose River Loop — Co-overseer**

Rose River Fire Rd. to Skyland-Big  
Meadows Horse Trail (2.7 miles)

**SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZED —MAP 11**

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

**Furnace Mountain Trail (upper) —  
Co-overseer**

Furnace Mountain Summit Trail to  
Trayfoot Mountain Trail (2.0 miles)

**TUSCARORA CENTRAL —MAP L**

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

**Tuscarora Trail**

Yellow Spring Road to Capon Springs  
Road

**Tuscarora Trail**

Southern Rockfield to Pinnacle Powerline  
(2.3 miles)

**GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN —MAP F**

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

**Gerhard Shelter Trail**

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

**Big Schloss Cutoff Trail**

Mill Mountain Trail to FR 92 (1.9 miles)



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