



# 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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## Sugar Knob Cabin Work Trip - May 20-21, 2006

On May 20 our work crew assembled at Larkin's Grocery Store in Virginia. Keith, Catherine, Terri, Ron, Valerie, Leena and her golden lab Sam, Steve (aka Tuna), Suds, and Lisa with her two pugs, Jada and Cadence. 4 men, 5 women, 3 dogs. Age range 25-82. Our oldest crew member was Suds who, at 82 years old, was only 4 years old when Sugar Knob cabin was built. Our cabin overseer, Keith, started handing out supplies to be hiked the 3.2 miles in to the cabin and we stood around and gawked at it all. Paint, tools, brushes, buckets, a 10-foot aluminum gutter and cement patch, plus a large, mysterious box that we were admonished not to drop. More on that later. And that was before packing in the beverages. Suds unloaded some home-made wine, then Steve, Keith, and Lisa negotiated their individual contributions. (All work and no play makes for a very dull cabin work trip.)

We filled our backpacks and started our hike along Little Stoney Creek. The weather was beautiful and 90 minutes later we arrived at the cabin. The hike in was uneventful, at least for most of us. Several hours later, Suds still had not arrived. Keith went back down the trail to look for him and still the time passed. We all worried a bit, but figured Keith had everything under control. Hours later, Keith and Suds appeared. Apparently, Suds had an altercation with a timber rattler on the trail and had to bushwhack around the hazard. Then, Keith very nearly stepped on another rattler that was sunning itself. While Keith was trying to persuade the snake to leave the trail (unsuccessfully), Suds recounted a wonderful story about an adventure with a cobra in India. As he was currently dealing with a rattlesnake in Virginia, Keith told Suds that he really did not give a tinker's damn about his India story at that particular moment. Luckily, everyone survived unscathed, includ-

*See Sugar Knob, page 4*



*Suds' homemade wine contributed to the spirited nature of the birthday festivities.*



*Massarock Crew members enjoying the wonderful views from Great North Mountain - May 2006. See page 6 for information about joining the Massarock crew.*

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## Council Fire

President Tom Johnson started the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 7:04 p.m. on June 13, 2006, at the Club Headquarters. Director of Administration Wilson Riley reported that the PATC application for CFC funding had been approved. He also provided Blackburn Chair Chris Brunton's report that Blackburn had been very busy with 102 hikers who had come by in the previous week and that two movie producers visited as part of planning for a "Walk in the Woods" production. Tom recognized Chris Mangold for his work as Supervisor of Lands and indicated that Chris would be supporting the Lands and GIS projects.

Council approved significant changes to the bylaws introduced by Vice President - Operations, Bruce Glendenning. These changes had been put forward on the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws committee to make PATC more responsive to the business issues the club faces in supporting the hiking community. One major change gives the Executive Committee (ExCom) more responsibility and authority to carry out PATC objectives subject to after-the-fact Council review. In particular the bylaw change was prompted by the need for ExCom to be able to take rapid action, on behalf of PATC, on time-sensitive issues in order to further PATC interests. Under the previous bylaws ExCom did not have the authority to take action on a significant issue because Council had not authorized it. There could be up to a month delay until the regular Council

meeting. If a quorum of Council were not present, the delay could be two months. PATC has almost lost the opportunity to buy obviously important land or take a position on an issue that would be decided prior to the Council meeting.

ExCom has scheduled an off-site Council meeting for Sept. 16 at Blackburn; this will replace the regular Council meeting for September. The Council will discuss long-range issues, a possible PATC reorganization, and any necessary constitution revisions that would need to be presented at the November PATC Annual Meeting.

Council approved a motion authorizing the Director of Administration to be added to the signature list for the PATC checking account. This was necessary because occasions arise where the other authorized signers were not available and a check had to be presented immediately, such as staff salaries. It is anticipated that this authority would only be used if the other signers are not available. All checks still must have appropriate approved vouchers for review by the auditors. Council approved John Campagna as a member of the Endowment Committee. Treasurer Ric Franke is seeking more endowment committee members to come up to the seven (including the president and treasurer) set by previous Council motion. Please contact Ric (fbfrancke@aol.com) if you know of anyone who would be willing to serve on this important committee.

## Trails, Lands and Facilities

Bruce reported that there were three IT initiatives in progress 1) front end Web redesign being done by Wes Allen from Charlottesville; Web content – each committee chair will be contacted to provide input; 2) back-end database - Matt Novinger is working on this effort and is seeking a java script programmer; and 3) the committee is seeking an IT company to handle day-to-day network maintenance because PATC can no longer rely on volunteers to provide the level of support needed in this vital area. Bruce has an article with more information on IT in this edition, page 7.

Deputy Supervisor of Trails Jon Rindt has indicated that this has been a busy time for overseers with many hours worked and hikers encountered. He also reported that a tool locker in Maryland had been broken into and four power weeders had been stolen. Kerry Snow reported on a National Trails Day workshop where 32 overseers were trained and did three projects in the park; the Mather side-trail project received \$52K from the state of West Virginia and work will commence on the first or second week in October; Peter Jensen may lead the rock work.

Supervisor of Land Jim Peterson reported that an application had been submitted for the Blackburn trail easement with favorable comments from the Land Trust of Virginia and he expected a favorable ruling by the June 30

*See Council, page 3*

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

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

**Phone #:** 703/242-0315

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

**To receive an information packet:** Extension 10

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

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.

**Facsimile #:** 703/242-0968

**Club e-mail:** info@patc.net

**World Wide Web URL:** www.patc.net

### STAFF: DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

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

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

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

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

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

### *Potomac Appalachian*

**Chief Editor:** Linda Shannon-Beaver, PA@patc.net

**Features Editor:** Joanne Erickson

**Forecast Editor:** Vince Ferrari, PA-Forecast@patc.net

### Club Officers and chairs contact info:

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 – Advocacy

Does PATC advocate? Of course we do. We advocate for more and better trails. We are in favor of environmental preservation so that our trails will remain nice places to walk for future generations. We are in favor of increased Park Service and Forest Service budgets to preserve trails for recreation. We have joined the Hikers for Clean Air Coalition to advocate for air purity on the trail. The list goes on.

We are not in favor of one particular political party over another. We simply want good trails and environmental preservation of trail areas, and we are willing to work with political groups across the spectrum to promote these ideas.

I have been told that we cannot advocate because we might lose our federal non-profit status. Nonsense. American Hiking Society, also a federal non-profit, is principally an advocacy group, and much of its budget goes toward advocating for trails at the federal level. In my nine years on their board of directors the subject of loss of non-profit status has never even come up. The key is to remain apolitical, to advance interests that do not respect any particular party.

PATC used to have a strong advocacy role. Our position in the nation's capital made us the natural group to advocate for ATC, and PATC lawyers assisted in writing and advocating for the National Trails Act of 1968. We had a large and active committee, which we called the Conservation Committee, to promote our views. With the passage of the act, the feeling of immediacy receded, and the club gradually forgot about its lead role in advocating for the nation's trails.

The landscape has changed since then. With federal protection of the AT, the objectives of trails advocacy changed. American Hiking Society

was created, and has taken on the advocacy role at the federal level. PATC became just another trail maintaining club.

What should our role in advocacy be? With over 1,000 miles of trail, we should be involved in activities that protect those trails. Mostly this is a local function. We need to make connections to state and local governments. We need to have a presence in state houses and county court houses. We do this now, but our activities are episodic and uncoordinated. There is no central coordinating mechanism to drive forward our views in a coherent manner.

Part of the problem is our geographic diversity. While most trail clubs are within a single state, PATC trails are in four states plus the District of Columbia. For instance, when PATC recently protested the administration's plan to sell off federal lands, PATC letters were sent to congressmen and senators in all four states. It was a big pile of letters.

To credibly advocate at the local level requires PATC members who are local constituents. To re-form the Conservation Committee we will need a number of people associated with the effort spread out over the entire range of our territory. When a trail issue comes up in Frederick County, Md., we need advocates who are residents of Frederick County. When it is Frederick County, Va., we will need people who live there. (In Maryland alone we need people from every county west of the Chesapeake Bay.) Additionally, we will need a committee to identify issues and coordinate efforts. "Conservation" is a little off the mark. Perhaps we should call it the "Advocacy Committee."

Intrigued? Perhaps you are a candidate for this committee. Write to me at [president@patc.net](mailto:president@patc.net). Let me know what you think. □

—Tom Johnson

### *Council, from page 2*

deadline. Council approved a motion to authorize an additional \$5,500 for expenses associated with obtaining the conservation easement for the Blackburn Trail Center bringing the total to \$8,500. These expenses stem from the cost of obtaining appraisals and other administrative work and will be restored to the Endowment from the estimated \$600K for sale of the easement. The Silberman Cabin chimney construction has been completed (except for the stone facing) and draws very well; Rosser-Lamb is coming along.

Council also approved a motion by Supervisor of Facilities Mel Merritt to authorize \$5,050 to pay for improvements to the Blackburn Carriage House that will allow the caretakers to relocate there; this will free up the space in the main Center to be used for hiker support and PATC functions. Council approved the financial allocation for \$10K construction of the Vos shelter. Shelters chair Henry Horn projects that the cost will be about \$6,500 which is less than the \$10K authorized.

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

Vice President for Volunteerism Lee Sheaffer passed around a copy of a Clark Times-Courier article on the 11 May Family Day at Bears Den (with photo).

National Trails Day: Trail Patrol Chair Katrina Hedlesky reported on the SNP presentation on National Trails Day. 58 people were led on hikes, 50 people came by, 19 Trail Patrol members came out, John Hendrick led a couple of hikes. Ric Francke reported a National Trails Day Expo, and dedication of the Potomac Heritage Trail in Landsdown. Loudoun County officials have asked to have another expo in October at Balls Bluff. Tom Johnson supported the presentation in Harpers Ferry, during which he led 8 people on a hike to MD Heights. Lauren Lang received her AHS Volunteer of the Year award there. Lee reported that Walt Smith had led a hike up to Shockey's Knob; PATC had at least six events supported on National Trails Day.

AT Corridor Management - Thomas Lupp - received the \$450 ATC grant check from the ATC LL Bean Grants to Clubs. The money was spent publishing a corridor brochure.

MD AT Management Committee: The Thurston Griggs Trail is open. A pre meeting gathering was held at the trail to discuss locations for a parking lot and kiosk. A discussion was also held with the local property owners who sold an easement to ATC. At the meeting there was a discussion with a MD DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service about opening up a new hunting area between PenMar and Rte. 491. No consensus was reached but all agreed that the area was too narrow for safe hunting. On Lambs Knoll the 1939 fire tower has been torn down. The remaining tower is to be removed. MD Agriculture completed the gypsy moth spraying in early May. There were no reported incidents related to spraying on the AT; preliminary results look good. □

—Alan Day, Secretary



### *Hiker's Notebook*

**Common Name:** Yellow Morel, Common Morel, Molly Moocher, Sponge Mushroom, Honeycomb Morel, Haystack, Blond Morel, Dryland Fish, Thick-Footed Morel

**Scientific Name:** *Morchella esculenta* (An esculent is something fit for food, especially a vegetable, from the Latin *esculentus*)

Morels are probably the most celebrated of edible mushrooms. They were among the first to be classified as belonging to a genetic group, owing to their unique taxonomy.

As morels are choice edibles, they are sought out by mushroom foragers throughout the world. Though they are toxic when raw, when cooked they impart an epicurean flavor reminiscent of hazelnuts to a host of gourmet dishes. They contain more protein than most vegetables, are rich in vitamins E, D, K and the B group, and their fiber is conducive to proper intestinal function. However, finding morels is quite challenging, as the habitat that is likely to favor their growth is imprecise and inconsistent. They may be found under tulip poplars, white and green ash, hickory, elm, striped maple, sycamore, in abandoned apple orchards, and, most significantly, in burned areas after a fire. The lack of consistency in morel fruiting has been a deterrent to commercial cultivation. The unusual appearance of the morel is due to the nature of its spore production. The morel is an ascomycete, its spores are contained in sac-like sausage-shaped containers called asci that project outward from the outward surface of the cap. □

—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)

### *Sugar Knob, from page 1*

ing the snakes. (But, keep your eyes open on Little Stoney Creek trail this summer!)

Sugar Knob cabin is constructed of stone and is small, but cozy, with a large fire pit in front. It is situated directly on the trail and about 100 feet from a cool spring. We chilled the beer and wine in the creek, set up camp, grabbed a sandwich, and got to work. We painted and sanded into the late afternoon hours. Unbeknownst to us, some Tuscarora hikers who were passing through saw the beer cooling in the stream and thought they had hit the jackpot. Fortunately, our cabin overseer was keeping a sharp look out and made his presence known when he saw their eyes open wide like saucers.

Happy hour began around 6:00 p.m. Beers cracked open, the wine flowed, cheese, crackers, pepperoni, olives, chips and salsa, Leena's famous smoked trout, Suds' homemade bread and wine. The hikers decided that this looked like a pretty darn good place to take a break and the party was on. Four of them stayed with us through the night. Some of the humorous antics of the evening included Suds' singing, Tuna's chair collapsing, and the tales of Keith's dumpster-diving in Jefferson. Tuna had Catherine laughing hysterically. Suds had Tuna running for his life, but I digress.

Back to the mysterious box. It contained the highlight of the evening which was a birthday cake – an exact replica of the cabin. Keith had packed it in for Terri, complete with candles. The cake had a gingerbread-cookie roof, awnings, and decorations. It was delicious.

We drank and joked into the wee hours. We also sang lots of songs off-key including a stirring rendition of “My country 'tis of thee.” Cone shaped birthday party hats were worn by all throughout. Suds' homemade wine contributed in many ways to the spirited nature of the six-plus hour festivities. This was without a doubt Terri's best (if perhaps not her first) 39th birthday celebration.

Sunday morning began with an extravagant community breakfast. There were four stoves and a fire going to cook pancakes and eggs and ham, plus breads, jams, syrup, and coffee. The meal was wonderful. The four hikers were treated to a bed and breakfast, Sugar Knob style. They ate and then continued on their way, probably scratching their heads about those crazy old folks.

Believe it or not, we did manage to do a lot of cabin work, once we had lots of coffee and burned the remains of the party hats. The cabin interior ceiling is freshly primed and painted, as well as the lone cupboard. The cabin windows, door, and eaves are all painted now also, a wonderful deep red to complement the stone exterior. The front eave sports a new rain gutter, and the privy roof now has roof caulking on all seams and nail heads. We also tore down a fire ring near the cabin and rehabbed around the cabin grounds. A hole in the concrete cabin floor was filled.

We even squeezed in a little hiking. On Sunday, Steve and Lisa hurried to finish their painting and hiked up to Big Schloss to see the beautiful views. What a great trip! □

—Lisa Hardy



*This old picture of Sugar Knob shows just how large this structure is. Its remote location makes it ideal for a quiet outing.*

## Fall Trail Talker Events

The Trail Talker season is winding down but there are several wonderful fall events on the calendar. There is still time to sign up for one of the events listed below. All you have to do is set up a display and distribute information about the club's activities. It's easy and fun and you'll get to meet some great folks who are also interested in trails and conservation.

**Sept. 30 – Celebrate Virginia, McLean, Va.** There'll be great Virginia-made food and beverages; arts and crafts; classes on how to do, make, or cook; music and strolling entertainers; and door prizes. Check it out at [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org). We have one volunteer and could use another. Contact Jane Thompson, PATC Supervisor of Information, Education and Activities, ([jayteehike@yahoo.com](mailto:jayteehike@yahoo.com)) 301/349-2496.

**Oct. 7 – In the Street, Frederick, Md.** Events include Steeplechaser's Mile Run, parade, entertainment, food, beer & wine sampling, plus art activities for kids and adults. Call 301/694-2489 for information. Contact Jane Thompson ([jayteehike@yahoo.com](mailto:jayteehike@yahoo.com)) 301/349-2496 to reserve your spot.

**Oct. 5-7 – 70th Annual Mountain State Forest Festival, Elkins, WVa.** We have one person signed up but could use some more help with this event that draws up to 100,000 people. Parade, carnival, crafts, food, concerts and lots more. See [www.forestfestival.com](http://www.forestfestival.com) for schedule of events and photos from last year's festival. To volunteer for this event or to ask questions, contact Linda Rudy ([lindarudy@att.net](mailto:lindarudy@att.net)) 304/636-8557.

**Oct. 7-8 – 33rd Annual Apple Butter Festival, Berkeley Springs, WVa.** There'll be a parade, games, contests, arts & crafts, food, entertainment, and, of course, lots of apple butter. See [www.berkeleysprings.com](http://www.berkeleysprings.com) for



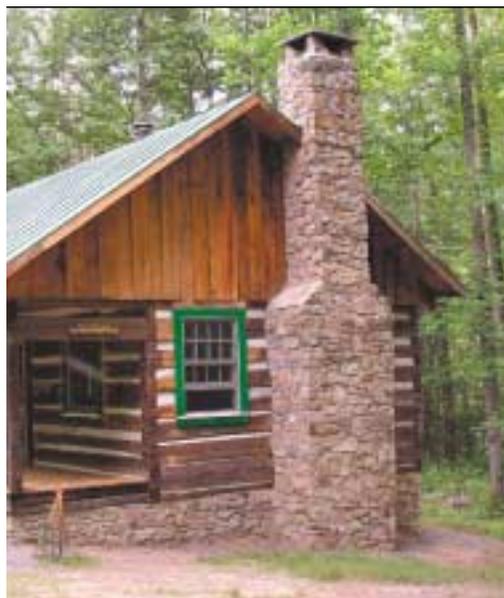
*Children make 'spider' cookies at the PATC Family Weekend.*

details. Contact Jane Thompson ([jayteehike@yahoo.com](mailto:jayteehike@yahoo.com)) 301/349-2496 to represent PATC at this event.

**Oct. 20-22 – Shenandoah Valley Balloon and Wine Festival, Millwood, Va.** For more information, see [www.historiclongbranch.com](http://www.historiclongbranch.com). If interested in helping out contact either Lee Sheaffer, ([thumpers@visuallink.com](mailto:thumpers@visuallink.com)) or Pat Fankhauser, ([PFankhauser@patc.net](mailto:PFankhauser@patc.net)).

As a Trail Talker volunteer, you will be provided with handouts to share with festival participants. Display and materials provided by PATC Education Committee. Some events come with free passes for PATC volunteers. Sign up for a Trail Talker event today and make this a summer to remember. Also, let us know of an event in your area where you think PATC should be represented. □

—Linda Rudy



THE POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB'S

## Cabins

2004

## The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's Cabins

This handsome full-color book (a "first" for PATC) presents complete and up-to-date descriptions and rates for all the club's rental cabins in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia, including four cabins added to the rental system since the last published edition in 2001. Our system now includes 12 cabins available to the general public, and 20 that are rented only to club members. You'll find the history of each cabin and "things to do" at each site, as well as the latest rental procedures and policies. For an overview of the cabins please visit our cabin rental page on the Web at [www.patc.net/activities/cabins/](http://www.patc.net/activities/cabins/). For full details, order this attractive new edition of the guide and have it handy when making reservations. To purchase a copy of this guide call 703/242-0315 ext. 19, or go online at [www.patc.net/store/PC280.htm](http://www.patc.net/store/PC280.htm).

48 pages, Cost: \$5.20 (member price) \$6.50 (non-members)

FROM THE PATC STORE

North District SNP  
**Trail Maintainers Workshop**

Sept. 23-24, 2006

Mathews Arm Campground

The workshop, sponsored by the North District Hoodlums, in cooperation with SNP, is scheduled for Sept. 23-24 and will be held at Mathews Arm Campground in the North District of SNP. The workshop is designed to teach new and prospective trail maintainers the basic skills, as well as provide more advanced training in trail design, construction, and maintenance. Instruction will be provided by SNP trail professionals and PATC crew leaders.

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

The workshop will begin Saturday morning and end on Sunday at 1:00 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.

Please make reservations early. The workshop is limited to 25 participants, and in past years has filled up early. Contact Dick Dugan at rdugan@frontiernet.net, or 304/856-3511 for more information or to make a reservation.

**TAILS FROM THE WOODS**  
by George Walters



**Volunteer Work Crew Opportunities**  
**Massarock Crew – Summer 2006**

PATC in conjunction with George Washington National Forest will sponsor volunteer work crews during the summer of 2006. No past experience is necessary. Trail Crew Staff will work with the crew and guide them through maintenance procedures for trail erosion, brush removal, blowdown removal, sidehill construction and treadwork. All of the necessary instruction and tools will be provided, as well as meals and tent site. Crewmembers are needed the weeks of Sept. 10 and Sept. 17. Volunteers may sign up for one or more weeks if they have previous experience. For further information, call the Trail Management Coordinator, at PATC Headquarters during the day, 703/242-0693 ext.12, or visit the PATC Web Page at [www.patc.net](http://www.patc.net). □



**Prince William Forest National Park**  
**– Interested?**

The club is negotiating an agreement with Prince William Forest National Park to determine if we should assume responsibility for maintaining trails there. PATC uses the park for various purposes, particularly training, and once was responsible for the trails (until about 1994). The time has come to start identifying specific persons who might be interested in working with the park. There will be a need for a District Manager and trail overseers, and possibly a crew leader (a crew may be formed first). Because the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail will eventually go through the area, the club may form a chapter to draw together folks who live in Prince William and Stafford counties. This is a chance of a lifetime to be in at the ground floor, so to speak. There exists a Friends of Prince William Forest National Park, a terrific and friendly group, but not a trail maintaining group. If interested in joining a new effort that promises to be rewarding, please respond to Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton (KB3JMF@Comcast.net) 410/573-0067. □

—Liles Creighton

*Editor's note: On August 5 there will be a hike in conjunction with the Potomac Conservancy at the Prince William Forest Park. This is a good chance to see these trails and become familiar with some of the parties who are trying to form this alliance. See the Forecast for more information.*

## IT Committee – Trying to Move PATC Into the 21st Century

Last Fall, PATC purchased new computer hardware and is now focusing upon redesigning its Web site. The IT Committee divided the project into two areas: (1) Web site redesign (front end) and (2) Web-enabled databases (back end).

For the front end, Wes Allen of Charlottesville, Va., volunteered to design a new Web site on which all of PATC's text content will hang. Recently, Wes completed the design of a home page/index prototype that is now being reviewed by the committee.

For the back end, Matt Novinger, from the local D.C. area, volunteered to begin the process of moving PATC's current Access databases into a more Web-friendly database. Matt's initial work is displayed for members who now see a daily snapshot of cabin rentals on the PATC Web site. His work has resulted in a significant increase to cabin rentals, increasing club revenues.

To attack PATC's large membership database, Matt will focus on writing Java script to begin moving its information into a database that can be manipulated over the internet. For several months, PATC has solicited volunteers to help Matt in this effort, but response from members having the necessary Java script skills has been discouraging. If you have such skills and wish to volunteer, please contact Matt at [mnovinger@gmail.com](mailto:mnovinger@gmail.com).

Matt also is in charge of day-to-day operations of PATC's local network at headquarters. But this added responsibility takes too much of his time from his future-oriented Web database work. Accordingly, PATC has decided to seek professional help on its day-to-day network maintenance from an outside IT individual or vendor. If any PATC member would like to be considered for such work, or knows of an IT company (especially if you or the company would consider a discount from market rates), please inform Steve Sharp, Chair, IT Committee at [SteveITPlanning@comcast.net](mailto:SteveITPlanning@comcast.net).

Of course, as PATC spends money to engage professional IT services, less is available for other PATC efforts. The IT Committee hopes it can continue to redesign its Web site using solely volunteer efforts. However, unless people or contacts with IT companies can provide the necessary support for the project, PATC will have to consider spending more money to meet its needs by moving the PATC Web site into the 21st century.

Any help will always be appreciated. □

—Bruce Glendening, Vice President - Operations,  
[bglendening@yahoo.com](mailto:bglendening@yahoo.com)

## Comments Invited on Allegheny National Forest

The U.S. Forest Service has asked for public comments on a draft forest plan for the Allegheny National Forest in northern Pennsylvania. The draft, presenting the agency's proposal for management of the ANF, is open for comments until August 28.

The Forest Service is proposing two units for wilderness designation, but the agency omits six of the areas proposed for wilderness by Pennsylvania trail clubs and conservation groups. Wilderness designation would permanently protect the land against logging, development, and motorized or mechanized vehicles.

There are now two wilderness areas on the ANF (Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands), totaling 9,000 acres, equivalent to two percent of the 513,000 acres in the ANF.

The Pennsylvania citizen groups identified 54,000 acres in eight units that meet the standards of the Wilderness Act. A comprehensive proposal appears on the Web site of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness at [www.pawild.org](http://www.pawild.org). These wilderness proposals are endorsed by the Keystone Trails Association, Butler Outdoor Club, Explorers Club of Pittsburgh, and Finger Lakes Trail Conference, among others.

Best known of the proposed wilderness units is the Tionesta Wilderness – 15,000 acres including the largest tract of old-growth forest in Pennsylvania (also the largest in the East between the Great Smokies and the Adirondacks). The North Country Trail and Tanbark Trail pass through five of the proposed wilderness units.

As soon as conservationists have analyzed the Forest Service draft, the

results will be posted on the Friends Web site ([www.pawild.org](http://www.pawild.org)).

Comments may be sent to: Forest Plan Revision, Allegheny National Forest, PO Box 36, Warren, PA 16365. (fax: 814/726-1465. Email: [r9\\_anf\\_fpr@fs.fed.us](mailto:r9_anf_fpr@fs.fed.us).) The comment period runs until August 28. The Forest Service Web site for this project is at [www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/projects/forest\\_plan\\_revision](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/projects/forest_plan_revision). □

—George Alderson

### From John Hedrick - PATC Ridgerunner:

Register Quote of the Week:  
Our counselors made us eat  
the lemon rinds as part of the  
Leave No Trace thing.  
Shiloh Quaker Camp #3

## New Items at the Store



We are offering two new items in our store, shown here by one of our youth volunteers.

The first one is the AT Chipmunk Backpack for kids, non-member price is \$25.85, member price is \$20.76.

Eek – A Mouse! The AT Shelter Mouse is a safe, furry friend. Unlike the real thing, this one doesn't smell or bite. The non-member price is \$13.99, member price \$11.19.



These items are great gifts for those younger club members who are just learning to love the outdoors. You can call to place your order (703/242-0693) or go to [www.patc.net](http://www.patc.net). □

## Volunteers Appointed in June

### Trail Overseers

**John Morland**                      **Massanutten Trail - VA 678 to Ft. Valley Overlook**

**Eugene Groshong**                **Robertson Mountain**

**Dorothea and Richard Malsbary**      **Tuscarora Trail – White's Gap to Sleepy Creek Camp Registration**

### Shelter Overseers

**Carol Tolbert**                      **Pinefield Hut**



### **WILDLife is Certainly Out There!**

On Friday, June 9, my daughter and I were hiking in the central section of the SNP. We started at Booten's Gap, hiked less than half a mile north on the AT when we decided to take a blue-blazed trail. Hanging a right on the Laurel Prong Trail, we immediately noticed that the trail had been recently maintained and, about half a mile down the path, when we saw the huge rattlesnake, we were very thankful.

We think this trail was maintained by Steve Paull (SNP Central Blue-Blazed south). Thanks again!! □

—Lynn Armstrong, Fork Union, VA

## Overlooked Overseers

"I have been the overseer on the Federal Line Trail in the Wilderness Battlefield for over five years." Thank you, Dorsey Counts

From John Hagarty: "Thanks much for your inquiry. And, I fully understand the problem you are dealing with. 'Tis a problem without a quick easy answer, I'm sure. For the record, I have been an overseer for about 15 years ... including a section around Rod Hollow Shelter and the Pole Bridge Link Trail. I have been a member of the club for almost 40 years. Currently, I am overseer for the Upper Thornton River Trail...#412030." □

**Are You Creative?  
Like to See Results?**

*The Acme Treadway Company is for You!*

Check The Forecast in the *Potomac Appalachian* or on [www.acmetreadway.net](http://www.acmetreadway.net) for work trips each month through October!

## Service Awards: Do You Know a Worthy Recipient?

### Honorary Life Membership Awards

At the annual meeting to be held Nov. 14, 2006, PATC will recognize a few members for their outstanding and wide-ranging commitment to the club over an extended period. They will be awarded an Honorary Life Membership Award. Please nominate any member you think deserving of this award, including the nominee's name and a clear description of his or her contribution that justifies this award. Nominees must:

1. Be long-time club members.
2. Exemplify the service aims of the club. ("Service" includes leading trips, serving on committees or Council, serving as overseer, donating time at Headquarters, etc.)
3. Have contributed to the club across a broad range of service activities.
4. Have generated enthusiasm and inspired others to become active in the club.



### The Myron Avery Award

Formerly known as The Volunteer of the Year Award, this award was renamed to honor the co-founder of PATC and the driving force behind the completion of the AT, and is given at the annual meeting to that PATC member who most exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism through his or her contribution to PATC during the past year. This is the highest honor bestowed upon members of the club and is awarded to the PATC volunteer who most exemplifies Mr. Avery's dedication and devotion to PATC's mission. The contribution can be to any type or combination of club service activities, e.g., devoting many hours above and beyond the norm to service activities, including travel time, or making an exceptional contribution to a particular project. (Members of the Executive Committee are not eligible for the award.) If any PATC member believes another member should be recognized as the recipient of the Myron Avery Award, please nominate him or her. Include the nominee's name and a clear description of his or her contribution that justifies the

award. Include your name and phone number and e-mail address.

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships and Myron Avery Award must be received at Club Headquarters no later than Oct. 20, 2006. Send nominations by mail (PATC, 118 Park St. SE, Vienna, VA 22180), e-mail (Wiley@PATC.net), or fax (703/242-0968). Mark nominations Attn: Lee Scheaffer, Vice President for Volunteerism. If you have questions, call Wilson Riley, 703/242-0693, ext. 11.



### Service Awards

Service awards are given to club members who have consistently devoted time and effort to club service activities above and beyond the norm. Volunteer leaders who want to recognize those with whom they work should send their lists of service award recipients to PATC Headquarters, via mail, fax, or e-mail (pfankhauser@patc.net), marked Attn: Nominations. Include names of the recipients and a short description for each of their service activities. Nominations should be received no later than Oct. 30, 2006.

### Other Types of Service Awards:

□ *PATC Appreciation Award.* Primarily for nonmembers, this award is given to individuals who have made some special contribution to the club and its objectives. Recipients could include government officials (federal, state, local) who have assisted the club in its activities, individuals who have donated land or facilities to the club, retired PATC employees, or anyone else who has helped the club in a significant way.

□ *Youth Under 14.* Individuals under 14 years of age who have participated in club worktrips or other activities are eligible for special recognition. Upon the recommendation of an adult member, a letter of appreciation, along with a PATC patch, will be sent to the individual, in appreciation for the contribution to the club's work and offering encouragement to become a PATC member when he or she reaches 14 years of age.

All service award nominations should be submitted to Pat Fankhauser (pfankhauser@patc.net) no later than Oct. 30, 2006. □

Nov. 14, 2006  
PATC Annual  
Meeting/Dinner  
Look for more information in  
the September PA.

## Nominations Now Being Accepted

A good organization needs to have good officers to run it. PATC has been blessed in regularly having a strong team to guide it through the trials and tribulations of our time. This coming November a new slate of officers will be voted in, and it is the task of the Nominations Committee to make its recommendations to the council and membership, endeavoring to maintain the high standard of leadership.

If you think you would like a role in the running of the club, or you think you know somebody who would be an asset to us all, then please write to the Nominations Committee, 118 Park Street, S. E., Vienna, Va., 22180-4609. You may also contact Peter Pennington (kernow01@att.net) 703/836-7007, or write to 1213 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. □

## Charlottesville Chapter

The Charlottesville Chapter hikes every Saturday; summer, winter, and in between. Hikes are usually 8 to 10 miles with some shorter hikes. We usually maintain trails on the last Saturday of the month. Meet at Albermarle High School in Charlottesville 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.avenue.org/patc/future\\_hikes.htm](http://www.avenue.org/patc/future_hikes.htm). 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)).

## Chapters

### 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 Mark Gatewood 540/248-0442.

### 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 Dave Raboy ([draboy@pattonboggs.com](mailto:draboy@pattonboggs.com)), or Vincent Penoso ([vdotmatrix@gmail.com](mailto:vdotmatrix@gmail.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
-  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. Want to learn more about the club? The best way is to attend a New Members meeting (but you don't have to be new). Refreshments served. Directions: Take Rt. 123 into Vienna, Va., and turn east on Park St. (Rt. 675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Georgeann Smale ([membership@patc.net](mailto:membership@patc.net)) 301/581-9584 or Pat Fankhauser ([pfankhauser@patc.net](mailto:pfankhauser@patc.net)).

### Mountaineering Section –

#### Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. – We meet every month on the second Wednesday except for August, unless noted in the Forecast. INFO: Dave Raboy ([draboy@pattonboggs.com](mailto:draboy@pattonboggs.com)), or Vincent Penoso ([vdotmatrix@gmail.com](mailto:vdotmatrix@gmail.com)) or our Web site: [www.potomacmountainclub.org](http://www.potomacmountainclub.org)

### 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 ([wriley@patc.net](mailto:wriley@patc.net)) 703/242-0693 x11.

### Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

7:30 p.m., except January. 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. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: Katrina Hedlesky ([trailpatrol@patc.net](mailto:trailpatrol@patc.net)) 703/533-3652, or see our section in PATC's Web site: [www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol](http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol).

## August

1 (Tuesday)

**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 PA@patc.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

1 (Tuesday)

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

2 (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.

2 (Wednesday)

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

3 (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. Special guests from the local climbing community. Space is limited. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

5 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Potomac Heritage Trail Hike****Prince William Forest Park, VA**

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Explore the burgeoning Potomac Heritage Trail in the cool shadows along the Potomac. Join Potomac Conservancy and appreciate summer's wildflowers and wildlife in the lush 15,000-acre park, the largest protected natural area in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. Experience this Piedmont forest ecosystem through the Quantico Creek watershed. Learn about the area's natural history along with Leave No Trace principles. RSVP required. INFO: James Tilley, recreation program coordinator, (tiley@potomac.org) 301/608-1188 ext. 213.

5 (Saturday)

**SPECIAL EVENT - Humiturefest****Frederick, MD**

South Mountaineers Humiturefest, our 13th anniversary. The very first work event of the South Mountaineers happened on the first Saturday of August, 1993, and every year we celebrate the anniversary with what we have dubbed Humiturefest. INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

5 (Saturday)

**SPECIAL EVENT - North Chapter Corn Roast****Arendtsville, PA**

Charlie's annual corn roast. Reservations required by Tuesday, August 1. INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

5 (Saturday)

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

INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

5 (Saturday)

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

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

6 (Sunday)

**HIKE - Sunday Hikers****North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Starting outside of the park at the bottom, we'll hike into the park via the Thompson Hollow Trail, connecting with the Tuscarora Trail, which we will climb all the way to Skyline Drive, and back down. We'll pass the beautiful Overall Run waterfall on the way. Total elevation gain is approx. 2400 feet. Approx. 9-mile round trip. If time allows, we'll take a dip in the pools at the bottom of the trail on our way back out. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

8 (Tuesday)

**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, proper clothing, 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.

8 (Tuesday)

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

9 (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 how to choose a model. We'll also include a brief overview of on-line resources and batteries, water and shock resistance and accessories. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

9 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Midweek Hikers****Location to be determined**

See August 2 event for more information.

12 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Long Distance****South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

A 16-mile circuit hike ascending from the western side of the Blue Ridge Mountains up Furnace Mountain Trail to the Appalachian Trail. Total elevation gain 3500 feet. Return via the Jones Run Trail and Madison Fire Road. Moderate pace including stops for flora, fauna, fungi and other nature objects of interest. Inexperienced hikers contact leader if

### 28 (Monday) Family Hike, Round Hill, VA

Join us for a kid-friendly hike on the A.T. This circuit hike will be about 3 miles long. We will hike up to Bear Rocks, where the young and young-at-heart can climb up, over, and all around the rocks. Then we will hike over to Bears Den Hostel, around the historical trail, and back to the rocks. We will picnic along the way. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

details needed. INFO: William Needham (needham82@aol.com) 410-884-9127.

12 (Saturday)

**HIKE - North Chapter****Jackson Corner, PA**

Frew Rd at Carbon Trail to PA 655, 8.8 miles on the Link Trail. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@inner-net.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

12 (Saturday)

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

8:15 a.m. - Noon. We may go back to Whitehaven or we may begin a new project on the east side of Rock Creek. Either way, join us and give the trails a facelift. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road, NW park entrance. Rain or shine. INFO: Alex Sanders (wdctrails@yahoo.com) 703/465-8140 or Ranger Ken Ferebee at 202/895-6221.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Come and join the crew as we continue the construction of Butternut Cabin and perform trail maintenance on this, PATC's largest property with nearly 1,000 acres and six rental cabins. Located on the eastern boundary of SNP, the property is surrounded by nearly six square miles of undeveloped land and contains wild turkeys and black bears. Community meals and overnight at a cabin. INFO: (mes.htr@verizon.net) Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

15 (Tuesday)

**SPECIAL EVENT - Hiking the AT (REI)****Fairfax, VA**

7:00 p.m. Join Jeff Alt, author of the award-winning books "A Walk For Sunshine" and "A Hike For Mike" for a multi-media adventure filled with humor and inspiration. Dedicated to his brother who has cerebral palsy, Jeff's 2,160-mile journey was filled with animal encounters, interesting people, breathtaking scenery, and challenging weather. Jeff's presentation will inspire you to take a hike while providing you with essential information to hit the trail. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

16 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Midweek Hikers****Location to be determined**

See August 2 event for more information.

16 (Wednesday)

**SPECIAL EVENT - The John Muir Trail (REI)****Rockville, MD**

7:00 p.m. The John Muir Trail, from Yosemite Valley south to Mt. Whitney, is the crown jewel of High Sierra trails, 218 miles showcasing some of the finest mountain scenery in the continental U.S. Join Jeff Alt, author of the award-winning adventure narratives "A Walk For Sunshine" and "A Hike For Mike," for a multimedia presentation of his three-week adventure thru-hiking the JMT with his wife, to overcome a family tragedy. Jeff will have tips on gear, permits, food preparation, and bear safety. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

18 - 20 (Friday - Sunday)

**CABIN WORK TRIP - Argow Cabin****South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Come help restore an old mid-1800's log cabin built by Confederate Soldier James Samuel Eaton. We will be replacing the old floor joists of the cabin and begin construction of the new privy. Communal meals for Sat. dinner, Sun. Breakfast and Sun. lunch for a minimal fee. INFO: Jeff Testerman (jtest@netelos.net) 434/589-2081.

# FORECAST

19 (Saturday)

HIKE – Maryland AT Series  
Appalachian Trail, MD

Sixth and seventh sections of the AT in Maryland. The two sections combined are approximately 11 miles long. Lunch stop at the beautiful Garvey shelter and then enjoy the magnificent views of the Potomac River and Harpers Ferry from Weaverton Cliffs. The last three miles of the hike will be on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and then we will cross the bridge into the historic town of Harpers Ferry for the completion of the AT in Maryland. INFO: Beth Lipford 301/442-6942.

19 (Saturday)

HIKE – Natural History Hike

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA  
Join Bob Pickett (and new spouse, Jane Thompson!) on a 10.2-mile circuit hike from Big Meadows down to Rapidan Camp (Camp Hoover). We'll return by the Mill Prong Trail through Milam Gap and the Appalachian Trail. This is a moderate hike with a 1200 ft. elevation change. After lunch at Rapidan Camp, we'll visit probably the largest tree in the Park nearby. We will talk about the history of Rapidan Camp and, as always, be searching for natural wonders as we hike. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

19 (Saturday)

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

A 15-mile circuit to with a total elevation gain of 3200 feet to the falls on the Jones and Doyle Rivers. No bushwhacking. PATC Map 11. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127.

19 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Yankee Clippers  
Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

HIKE - Monongahela National Forest  
Parsons, WV

Explore a stream – close-up and personal by both hiking and stream whacking along Big Run. Cool off while hiking up Big Run to explore waterfalls, cascades and dunking holes. Hike 7 moderate/strenuous miles on Saturday and 5 moderate/strenuous miles on Sunday. Previous bushwhacking experience a must. Basecamping will take place in the Monongahela National Forest. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 (day) or 304/258-3319 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Come help the North District Hoodlums do some tread work in the Park! The Hoodlums trail crew works on the AT and the blue-blazed trails in the north section of Shenandoah National Park. After a day of hard work, we'll enjoy the camaraderie of fellow trail workers with a Jamaican meal at Indian Run maintenance hut. Come for the day, stay for dinner, and camp overnight if you wish. Or just come out and work with us during the day. No problem, mon! Newcomers are always welcome! We'll meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. INFO: Dick Dugan (rdugan@frontiernet.net) 304/856-3511.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah Bartenders  
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join the crew and learn how to keep trails in shape. We will be working on Old Rag and possibly other trails in the Central District, making sure a swimming hole stop is on the agenda. Weekend accommodations are available at a PATC cabin, but please make your reservations well in advance. No experience necessary. We will train you, but first-timers should call Cathie evenings Mon-Thur. INFO: Cathie Cummins (Cathie@wfa.net) 703/631-7421.

21 (Monday)

HIKE – Family Hike  
Great Falls, VA

Come join us for an exciting, kid-friendly hike. We will hike along the River Trail, with great views of the Potomac River along Mather Gorge. This 3-mile circuit hike is not jogging-stroller passable. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

22 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA  
Ascend Jordan River to Mt Marshall Trail to Jenkins Gap then AT south to Bluff Trail with side trip down Big Devil's Stairs overlook, returning on Jordan River Trail with dip below falls. About 17 miles and 3000 ft. climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

23 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined.

See August 2 event for more information.

26 (Saturday)

HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series  
Berkeley Springs, WV

9.1 miles-moderate hike in Sleepy Creek WMA. Hampshire Grade Rd. to VA 671. Elevation loss of 900 feet. There are several nice views on this section from an old beacon tower and from High Rock. We will be hiking along the ridge of Sleepy Creek Mountain, with a stop at the new Shockey's Knob Shelter. INFO: Jason Rainville (superjasonr@hotmail.com) 304/262-0994.

27 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – West Chapter  
Frederick, MD

We'll meet in Gambrill State Park for the only summer trail work event scheduled for 2006. It's towards the end of summer, so hopefully the weather will be cooler. Water bars need to be cleared, cribbing project on the Black and recently relocated section of the Blue Trail need to be fin-

ished, and there are always a few water bars that would need to be placed. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741 or 304/876-7062.

28 (Monday)

HIKE – Family Hike  
Round Hill, VA

Join us for a kid-friendly hike on the A.T. This circuit hike will be about 3 miles long. We will hike up to Bear Rocks, where the young and young-at-heart can climb up, over, and all around the rocks. Then we will hike over to Bears Den Hostel, around the historical trail, and back to the rocks. We will picnic along the way. INFO: Lauren Lang (at94L@netzero.com) 571/242-3950.

29 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers  
Waterlick, VA

Massanutten Mountain, George Washington National Forest. Starting at parking 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 3000 ft. climb. Splashdown at end. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

29 (Tuesday)

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

30 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See August 2 event for more information.

## September

1 (Friday)

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 PA@patc.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

2 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP – Yankee Clippers  
Appalachian Trail, PA

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

5 (Tuesday)

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

6 (Wednesday)

HIKE – Easy Hikers  
Great Falls, VA

We will start at Colvin Run Mill Park for a 6-mile out-and-back hike on the Fairfax Cross County Trail (CCT). The trail is mostly flat with modest elevation changes on a natural surface and crosses Difficult Run stream at two fair weather (step) crossings. We follow the stream north to the parking lot at Georgetown Pike then return to the mill for lunch. Directions: Beltway Exit 47A (Leesburg Pike, Rt. 7) west 5 miles past Tysons Corner to right turn on Colvin Run Road. Left turn into paved parking lot 500 feet beyond gravel drive to mill. Bring lunch and water. Starts at 10:15 a.m., rain or shine. INFO: Henri Comeau (HenriComeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

6 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See August 2 event for more information.



**Charlie's Annual  
Corn Roast**  
3:00 pm. Saturday, Aug. 5  
Gypsy Spring Cabin  
RSVP by Tuesday, Aug. 1  
Pete Brown 410/343-1140  
peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

6 (Wednesday)

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

9 (Saturday)

HIKE - Long Distance

South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A 16-mile circuit hike ascending from the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains up the Moorman River Trail to the Appalachian Trail. There are many stream crossings. Total elevation gain 3000 feet. Return via the Turk Mountain Cutoff Trail. Moderate pace including stops for flora, fauna, fungi and other nature objects of interest. Inexperienced hikers contact leader if details needed. INFO: William Needham (Needham82@aol.com) 410-884-9127.

9 (Saturday)

HIKE - North Chapter

Mapleton Depot, PA

Pa. Rte. 655 to Mapleton Depot Rte. 22, 9.7 miles. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

9 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park

Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. - Noon. Whittier and/or Holly Trail. Help us slow the erosion of these trails. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center located south of the Military Road NW park entrance. Rain or shine. INFO: Alex Sanders (wdctrails@yahoo.com) 703/465-8140 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

9 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

Round Hill, VA

Join the Crew for a hopefully cool fall weekend as we work on the AT near the Blackburn Trail Center. Projects include trail clearing and erosion control. As usual, there are a variety of other projects when the Crew visits Blackburn. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: Jon or Katherine Rindt (jkrindt@adelphia.net) 540/635-6351.

12 (Tuesday)

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

13 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Annapdale, VA

The Easy Hikers will hike 4-5 moderate miles around Lake Accotink beginning at Wakefield Park on Braddock Rd. at 10:15 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Exit the Beltway (I-495) at Braddock Rd. (Exit 54). Go west on Braddock Rd. and turn right at first right turn into Wakefield Park. Meet at first parking lot on the left. INFO: Shirley Rettig (shirley\_rettig@yahoo.com) 703/836/0147.

13 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See August 2 event for more information.

13 (Wednesday)

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

15 - 17 (Friday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Argow Cabin

South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come help restore an old mid-1800's log cabin built by Confederate Soldier James Samuel Eaton. We will be replacing the old floor joists of the cabin



and begin construction of the new privy. Communal meals for Sat. dinner, Sun. Breakfast and Sun. lunch for a minimal fee. INFO: Jeff Testerman (jtest@ntelos.net) 434/589-2081.

16 (Saturday)

HIKE - Waterfall and Wildflower Series

Columbia Furnace, VA

A 14-mile circuit on the Falls Ridge, Laurel Spur, Great North Mountain, and Fat Mountain trails on Great North Mountain. Total elevation gain is 2,900 feet. PATC Map F. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127.

16 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers

Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

17 (Sunday)

HIKE - Sunday Hikers

Washington, DC

And now, for something completely different. The Sunday Hikers will visit Glover-Archibold Park in the District, for a circuit hike of 8.1 miles, including Dumbarton Oaks Park, and Melvin Hazen Park. INFO: Vince Ferrari (vincentferrari@gmail.com) 301/249-2210.

17 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - West Chapter

Frederick, MD

The first trail work event scheduled for Fall 2006 will take place in Gambrill State Park. The weather will be cooler and the trails will still need maintenance. Continuation of the projects begun August 27: water bar clearing, installation of cribbing to prevent/slow down lateral erosion of certain sections of the Black Trail and Blue Trail (Catoctin Trail). A few water bars may need to be installed at certain sections as well. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741 or 304/876-7062.

20 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Lothian, MD

Meet at 10:15 a.m. to hike 5-6 miles through the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and adjacent River Farm. Terrain includes some hills, forest, meadow and marsh habitat. Special feature: a half-mile hike through tidal wetlands along the narrow bed of a former RR track, for stunning view of the Patuxent River. More information from: www.jugbay.org. Directions: Take Beltway Exit 11 (Penna. Ave.-Rt. 4) east/south toward Upper Marlboro. Follow Rt. 4 east/south for 10.5 miles to the Plummer Lane exit (this is 3 miles east of Rt. 301 and 1.5 mile east of the Patuxent River). Exit right at Plummer Lane and go 1/2 mile, turning right on Wrighton Rd. Continue on Wrighton for 1/2 mile to Sanctuary entrance on left. Entrance fee \$3 (\$2 for seniors). 25 person limit, reservations required. INFO: Nancie Coan (nanco4000@yahoo.com) 202/338-4580.

20 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See August 2 event for more information.

20 (Wednesday)

MEETING - West Chapter

Frederick, MD

The fall meeting of the Chapter will take place at 7:00 a.m. in the Tea Room of Gambrill State Park at the High Knob use area. This will be a joint meeting with the Gambrill State Park Trails Coalition which includes user groups, sponsors, and trail maintainers not directly affiliated with PATC, but with an interest in maintaining and protecting the Park's trail system. INFO: Dave Jordahl (westpatc@hotmail.com) 240/777-7741 or 304/876-7062.

23 (Saturday)

HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series

Siler, VA

Siler Country Store to VA 689. 7.6 miles-easy hike. Elevation change of 200 feet. This out and back hike will take us through various farms and fields on private lands. There will be a nice view of Cacapon Mountain and Great North Mountain near the campsite at Dresel Wayside. INFO: Jason Rainville (superjasonr@hotmail.com) 304/262-0994.

23 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

INFO: Nancy Hammond (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/739-0442.

23-24 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Trail Maintainers Workshop

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

New and prospective trail overseers: come learn trail maintenance skills from SNP trail professionals and PATC trail crew leaders! The workshop will be held at Mathews Arm Campground. \$20 registration fee. See advertisement elsewhere in the PA. INFO: Dick Dugan (rdugan@frontiernet.net) 304/856-3511.

26 (Tuesday)

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

27 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Burke, VA

Five level miles around Burke Lake. Meet at 10:15 a.m. From the Beltway, exit west onto Braddock Rd. At your leisure, move into the left-hand lane (excluding left turn lanes) and stay in this lane. In 1.9 mi. from the Beltway, the lane you are in becomes one of a pair of left-turn lanes onto Burke Lake Rd (Rt. 645). Stay with it and make the turn. (Don't worry about the misleading sign before the preceding left.) Go 4.7 mi., then turn left onto Ox Rd. (Rt. 123). In 0.5 mi. (after passing the Golf Center), turn left into Burke Lake Park. Follow signs to the marina. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Sue King 703/356-6659.

27 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Midweek Hikers

Location to be determined

See August 2 event for more information.

30 (Saturday)

SPECIAL EVENT - Trail Talkers

McLean, VA

Come to the Celebrate Virginia event. Virginia-made food and beverages; arts and crafts; entertainment; and door prizes. Check it out at www.mcleancenter.org. We have one volunteer and could use another. INFO: Linda Rudy (lindarudy@att.net) 304/636-8557. □

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club - Trail Patrol presents

## Backpacking 101

### *An Introductory Backpacking Course*

A second chance in 2006 to take this popular class. The class provides those persons, 18 years and older, who have moderate or no backpacking experience with the opportunity to expand their enjoyment of the outdoors through the practice of backpacking. The class 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. It also provides more experienced backpackers an opportunity to hone or renew their skills and adapt their backpacking techniques to the Leave No Trace wilderness ethic. The students will then use their new skills on an overnight backpacking trip accompanied by experienced backpacking instructors.

#### **Introduction Night**

Sept. 11, (Monday), 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
Headquarters, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Va.

#### **Instructional Weekend**

Sept. 16 - 17, 8:00 a.m. Sat. – 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. 7 - 8, 2006 (Sat. - Sun.), Trip destination and times TBD  
\$75 PATC Members; \$95 Non-Members

For more information, contact John Bridges 703/726-0188,  
TPBackpack@patc.net

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club - Trail Patrol presents

## Backpacking 202

### *How to Plan and Enjoy a Backcountry Outing An Intermediate Course Focused On Planning Small Group Trips*

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

#### **Group Planning Sessions**

Three Monday nights, 7:30-10:00: Sept. 11, 18, and Oct. 2  
Headquarters, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, Va.

#### **Weekend Outing – Location TBD**

Three days, two nights: Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 7 - 9  
\$40.00 PATC Members; \$55.00 non-members

Pre-registration is required. Applicants must know the basics and have some backpacking experience. To receive a registration form and for all other information, call or e-mail John Bridges: 703/726-0188, TPBackpack@patc.net

## A Note from SNP

Greetings to the AT Hiking Community,

During June, the main wave of north-bound AT-hikers passed through SNP. Here is a summary of north-bound AT hikers who obtained a Backcountry Permit for SNP at Rockfish Gap which includes AT-thru-hikers and AT-section-hikers. For the year, there have been about 700 north-bound AT hikers (8 in March, 60 in April, 275 in May and 351 in June). This is about 100 fewer AT hikers (14 percent decrease) than the same period last year. This is about 270 fewer AT hikers than the peak year of AT use in the year 2000.

The condition of the At and AT huts in SNP continue to maintain an excellent reputation among the AT thru-hikers. Our thanks to the PATC volunteers and managers who look after the 100 miles of AT in SNP. A special thanks to Ridge Runner, John Hedrick for his welcoming and helpful presence along the AT. And a special thanks to the park employees at Rockfish Gap ES who welcome the hikers and look after the BC permits at RFES.

*And another letter:*

I am not sure that there is much relationship between AT hikers and the price of gas. AT thru-hiker numbers have been on gradual decline every year since 2000. But, the good news is that there is a higher percentage of successful hikers each year. ATC has those numbers.

Looking at the park's visitation through May this year, and comparing it to last year: park visitation and backcountry visitor nights are both down by only two percent. That may all change as we get further into the vacation season.

Interesting, PATC cabin use in the park is up seven percent this year compared to last year. I think we will all be curious to see how the price of gas impacts volunteer trail maintainer hours . . . hard to measure. ☐

—Shawn Green, SNP Park Trails Coordinator



## Combined Federal Campaign 2006

PATC Agency Number **7956**  
*Make Your Contribution Count!*

PATC is participating again this year in the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area. Please consider a donation to PATC. The fund will be active through December. Thank you for your support, and thanks to the members who contributed via the CFC last year.

*It's for a good cause!*

## Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Chestnut Blight

At the turn of the Century, every fourth tree in America's central Appalachian forests was a chestnut. It was the most important hardwood species in the eastern U.S. Wildlife relied on the trees for a steady meal. Oaks dropped plentiful nuts one year and few the next, but chestnuts produced bumper crops every year. People ate the nuts, and they ate what ate the nuts: wild turkey, squirrel, deer, bear. The wood split with a straight grain and worked easily. It resisted weather and rot and so became choice timber for fence posts, railroad ties, shingles, telegraph and telephone poles, cradles, and coffins. A cabin built of chestnut would last. Chestnut bark, rich in tannic acid, was ground to tan leather. And in modern terms, chestnut was a renewable resource: cut a tree in the woods, and others would grow back from the roots.

### Blight is First Identified

In 1904, the chestnut blight was identified in the Bronx Zoo. Over the next 40 years this fungal disease (*Cryphonectria parasitica*, formerly *Endothia parasitica*), introduced from the Orient, raced through the eastern hardwood forests killing the estimated 3.5 billion chestnuts trees that existed. In the face of the blight's lethal consequences, thousands of healthy chestnut trees were cut down at the advice of self-serving agents to sell for wood products. What natural blight resistance lurking in the vast gene pool of chestnuts there was may have gone to carry telephone wires.

Such natural resistance was discovered in the Italian forests in the 1950s and has resulted in the natural recovery of the European chestnut species. Researchers found isolated forms of the blight fungus that had reduced virulence. This non-lethal (hypovirulent) form enabled infected trees to cure existing cankers and spread naturally to lethal strains, transferring its genetic material and rendering the virulent form non-lethal.

### The Answer Might Be Right in our Backyard

Since 1976, hypovirulent strains have been found to occur naturally in isolated spots in Michigan, Tennessee, and Virginia. However, getting the hypovirulent strains to spread naturally in the eastern U.S. has not been successful. In the past 90-some years the fungus has evolved over 100 different

strains in America. The virus that interacts with one strain of the blight will not interact with another. Thus, the key is to find the fungal equivalent of a skeleton key: one or a few strains of blight that will work with all the different strains.

Different approaches have been used in attempts to develop a blight-resistant American Chestnut for our eastern forests. These approaches include breeding within the species, hybridization with blight-resistant Asian hybrids, and the use of hypovirulent strains of the fungus. Research is now focusing on the recent synthetic creation of the virus responsible for the non-virulent form of fungus; growing the benign fungus in the lab, harvesting the fungal spores, and spraying them on infected trees.

### Work at a Cure is Ongoing

The American Chestnut Cooperators' Foundation in Newport, Va., is working on hybridizing within the American Chestnut species only. The American Chestnut Foundation is crossing American and Chinese chestnut trees and then back-crossing. They have created a blight-resistant tree that is 75 percent American. The foundation's goal is to someday produce a 98 percent American, blight-resistant hybrid.

The most thorough research has been conducted by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. Their grounds include probably the finest collection of species and hybrids of chestnut in the world, with hybrids dating back to 1930. To visit their Web site, the easiest way is to go through the links provided by the American Chestnut Foundation, at [www.chestnut.acf.org/resources.htm](http://www.chestnut.acf.org/resources.htm).

### A Large Genetic Pool May Mean A Come-Back

Philip Rutter, president of the American Chestnut Foundation, believes that the American Chestnut can be resurrected. Favoring this possibility is the fact that a large genetic pool of chestnuts still exists in some states in a number of island-like groves planted by western-moving settlers. It also survives in the millions of understory shrubs that have sprung up from roots of the chestnut (that are naturally resistant to the blight, but eventually succumb as the fungus enters through openings in the young trees' bark). □

## FOR SALE: Lambert's Place

55 acres bordering SNP and Tulip Tree Cabin, in secluded mountain hollow. Two acre clearing, part original historic log cabin with spring, running water, electricity, adjoins mountain stream, lots of wildlife. Conservation buyer wanted. One mile from public road, two miles south of US 211, two hours from D.C. area. Call 540/643-7246.

—Jack Reeder

## Volunteers Needed: Hot Air Balloon and Wine Festival

PATC will once again have an information booth at the Shenandoah Valley Hot Air Balloon and Wine Festival at Historic Long Branch Farm on Oct. 21 and 22, 2006.

Volunteers are needed to help man the booth, talk about what PATC does, and help sell PATC maps and guides. By volunteering for a two hour shift, you will get a free pass into the festival for yourself and your family/friends for the day. If interested in helping out contact either Lee Sheaffer, ([thumpers@visu-allink.com](mailto:thumpers@visu-allink.com)) or Pat Fankhauser, ([PFankhauser@patc.net](mailto:PFankhauser@patc.net)). Come join the fun, music, and hot air balloons, and help PATC all at the same time. □

## Trailhead

In the later part of June, PATC country received pay back for the dry month of May and most of June. Over a period of several days, around a foot of rain fell causing problems in those areas prone to flooding. Reports are not in on the trails but you can expect scouring of trails in many sections and even a few washouts. It is always interesting to see how effective waterbars and other erosion control devices fared under heavy rain conditions, or better still, to identify where erosion control is needed.

### Central District Workshop

The 7th Annual SNP Central District Overseer Workshop was held on June 3-4. Unseasonably cold temperatures persisted throughout the weekend, but volunteers were spared the torrential rainstorms that had soaked the two previous workshops. Thirty-two volunteers split into three crews, led by C.T. Campbell, Don Harvey, and Shawn Green of the SHEN Trails staff, and Patrick Wilson, Dan Dueweke, and Steve Paull, from the PATC Blue and White Crew. The Harvey-Dueweke team built a timber-framed turnpike on the AT, near Thornton Gap. The Green-Wilson unit tackled tread rehab and erosion control on "the Ridges" (Leading Ridge and Crusher Ridge). Strike Force Campbell-Paull installed numerous stone steps on the upper stretches of the Cedar Run Trail.

Hungry volunteers returned to the Pinnacles Research Station to find the world's biggest pot of beans ready for consumption. The beans were accompanied by burgers and dogs



*John Held enjoys drawknife fun during Central District Workshop.*

on the grill, as well as freshly shucked delicacies from Corn Chef Scott Miller.

The Blue and White Crew also scheduled a festive "Vegetation Gala" in mid-June. Twelve hungry Stihl trimmers, steered by husky, no-nonsense operators, and accompanied by lopper/porter specialists, attacked various AT sections in the Central District of SNP. Many thanks to Ridgerunner John Hedrick for his trail reports, which allowed the crew to prioritize its efforts, and beat the encroaching wilderness into submission. Following urashiol-removal rinses, the crew headed

to the Blue Rock Inn for supper on the patio. "Son of Vegetation Gala" is scheduled for mid-August. All SNP Central District AT overseers (and everyone else) is invited to attend.

### New Trail Opens Along Potomac River

On June 3, National Trails Day was celebrated with the grand opening of a new segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail at the new Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park (Landsdowne development) near Leesburg, Va. PATC joined the Sierra Club, American Hiking Society, Piedmont Environmental Council, Potomac Heritage Trail Association, and Potomac Conservancy with a booth exhibiting its trail maintenance mission.

The weather improved throughout the day and a hike was led over the new trail, which will add a new outdoor recreational opportunity for surrounding residents. Many thanks to PATC Treasurer, Ric Francke, and Vice Presidents Lee Scheaffer and Bruce Glendening for carrying the PATC banner in the fastest growing area of the country.

### From Supervisor of Trails

To all trail volunteers: Recently we had an instance of a male overseer treating a female ranger in what could be described as a

*See Trailhead, page 17*



*Central District Workshop Class of '06.*

*Trailhead, from page 16*

“cutesy” manner. The ranger was offended and considered it sexual harassment. The overseer was rebuked by his district manager. He assured the DM it wouldn’t happen again. It did happen again. The overseer was dismissed forthwith. Our trail partners are professionals and shall be treated as such. No disrespectful comments will be made particularly by males to females, and no sexual or cutesy speech will be tolerated. What we say is interpreted by others, and we must consider our remarks from the recipient’s perspective, not “that is just the way I am.” Enough said.

Thanks to all who have and are battling the great plant monsters that have invaded the trails. I have received more complaints about overgrown trails than in previous years. These have been brought to the appropriate DMs attention. Keep up the work to keep trails clear.

### **Hoodlums Active on AT Relo**

For their June work trip, the North District Hoodlums continued working on the 1,700-foot relocation of the AT on Hogback Mountain. Given the rocky conditions of the area, buckets and buckets of dirt had to be imported in order to create and properly grade the new trail section. The project, begun in May, was nearly finished this month, and Project Manager John McCrea was optimistic that the old section will be closed and the new section opened in July when the Hoodlums return. Many AT thru-hikers have passed this relocation and wondered what was going on. A few of them have been given the opportunity to help tamp down the new tread. In traditional fashion, after a hard day of work, the Hoodlums retired to Indian Run Hut for a feast of Mediterranean food and drink.

### **Forest Phil’s Waterbars**

Over Memorial Day weekend, the Cadillac Crew did some major rehab work on the section of AT just north of Blackburn at the junction of old Shannondale Road. Phil “Forest Phil” Abruzzese, a long-time crew member and overseer for this section, had tread erosion problems on a long downhill run (typical sunken road problems), so he came up with plans for a major construction project to get the water off the trail. The crew built up a turnpike with soil dug from a lateral drain where the tread had turned into a gully and installed giant rock water bars at both ends. They also installed checkdams and additional waterbars at various places along the section. When he checked after the deluge at the end of June, Forest Phil reported that the results were obvious. He said



Photo by Jon Rindt

*Cadillac Crew works on one of Forest Phil's new waterbars.*



Photo by Wayne Limberg

*Hoodlums work day on May 20; they groomed half the new trail which should open sometime this summer.*

there is no way the trail would be faring this well in all the rain we received without all the hard work, and sends his congratulations to the crew for making a huge difference on his section.

As usual, the crew enjoyed their stay at Blackburn. A new crew record may be set on Saturday night feeding some 40 people, including the crew, caretakers, thru-hikers, and section hikers, hamburgers and hot dogs at a build-your-own bar. Thanks go to Chris Brunton and Sandi Marra for supper on Sunday night and to “Hairball” for manning the grill both nights.

### **Busy in Rock Creek Park**

On June 3, nearly 80 volunteers participated in a celebration of National Trails Day in Rock Creek Park. Rather than let them goof off, however, PATC and the NPS put these folks to work. Two-thirds of them gathered into groups to collect rubbish and pull invasives, but the hard-core volunteers hit the trails with Ranger Ken Ferebee, Overseer John Hampton and Overseer Donald Titus. These folks cleaned and graded waterbars, installed steps and cleared a section of the Western Ridge Trail of debris. Many thanks go to REI for sponsoring the day’s activities and bringing out so many helping hands.

Two weeks later, the Rock Creek crew reassembled to renew its trail rehabilitation efforts. Its task was to initiate a major rebuilding of the deteriorating Whitehaven Trail, a connecting path between Rock Creek Park and Glover Archbold. The slim corridor of trees and weeds that is Whitehaven has been severely eroded by street runoff, and the trail has

*See Trailhead, page 18*

not escaped these ravages. On the first of several trips, the crew installed waterbars and checkdams and laid down new fill to raise the tread. Nearly 30 people contributed their time and energy, including several high school students. Please consider joining us for a few hours on a Saturday morning and help us maintain the trails that you enjoy.

### GET Project Update

Field surveys are nearing conclusion on PATC's efforts to link the Tuscarora Trail to the Allegheny Trail further south as part of the Great Eastern Trail (GET) project. (For more information about this project see "Tom's Trail Talk," page 3, July 2006 *Potomac Appalachian*). For more information see the Web pages at [GreatEasternTrail.org](http://GreatEasternTrail.org) and [TT-Link-ALT.net](http://TT-Link-ALT.net).

Most of the route is already in place, but some new construction will be required north of Harrisonburg and just west of US 220 further south. Environmental reviews and possibly even public hearings may be needed to obtain U.S. Forest Service approval before crew work can be scheduled. Let PATC president Tom Johnson know if you are interested in getting involved!

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@adelphia.net](mailto:jkrindt@adelphia.net). □



Photo courtesy to the Zilke family

*Eagle Scout Joshua Zilke from Winchester Troop 21 led construction of this bridge for the Tuscarora Trail located about a mile south of Gore.*



Photo by Kerry Snow

*Central District Workshop - Crusher Ridge waterbar or Jimmy Hoffa excavation site?*



Photo by Kerry Snow

*Central District Workshop Team Dueweke completes Turnpike trail construction.*

## POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Wanted — Paid

#### IT Network Administrator/Maintenance

PATC needs an IT company or individual to monitor PATC's IT network (eight workstations and one server located at headquarters). Duties include: Responding to network problems as they arise; keeping network "in tune" — e-mail spam sometimes clogs PATC's system; insure anti-virus protection and Microsoft patches are up to date. Many service aspects can be handled by the IT Administrator remotely. Payment terms negotiable. Contact Steve Sharp at SteveITPlanning@comcast.net. □

### Be a giver, not a taker!

Volunteer programmers needed to design and build Web applications. Willing to donate time writing PHP, Perl, SQL, and Java code? Current projects are: 1.) expanding Web-based cabin reservations and 2.) creating Web interfaces for internal databases. Interested? E-mail Matt Novinger at mnovinger@patc.net

### We're Looking for a Few Good Volunteers!

Would you be interested in helping to restore an important part of PATC's history? Well, if you are, we need you! Back in 1940 and 1941, the Civilian Conservation Corps and PATC built the Rocky Run Shelter along the AT near Lambs Knoll in central Maryland. This classic shelter, which has served hikers for more than 60 years, has suffered from the ravages of time. Faced with a decision of whether or not to replace the shelter, PATC and its AT management partners decided to restore the old shelter as well as construct a new shelter nearby to handle the increased volume of hikers. Restoration work should commence in late summer or early fall. We have already recruited a small but enthusiastic crew to restore the old shelter. Would you like to join them? If so, please contact President Tom Johnson at president@patc.net.

**SEEKING HIKING OR WALKING PARTNER** for Fairfax, Fauquier, or Rappahannock Counties and anyone who would like to donate a walking or hiking staff or stick. Dona Lynette Stewart, 703/691-1387 home, 703/570-5551 cell.

**CABIN RESERVATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** We need help on the cabin reservations desk on weekday evenings and Thursday and Friday during the daytime. If you think you're the person to help us out please call, or just come on by Headquarters or call Pat Fankhauser 703/242-0693, Ext. 17, Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Make a difference, call today. Earn your volunteer qualification of being able to rent a cabin earlier than the public. It's a real handy benefit to have in the spring and fall.

## 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. □**

**FOUND CONTACT LENSES,** Pair of contact lenses in a black and white case at Conley Cabin on Saturday, April 8. Contact Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726

**FOR SALE:** Cleaning out the gear closet! Lowe Alpine Cornice 40 pack (\$40 OBO), LL Bean pack large day pack (\$40 OBO), backpacking espresso maker (\$10 OBO), 2 MSR Dromedary bags (\$15 for both OBO). For more information contact: Ben Fernandez (3\_ferns@adelphia.net).

### **HIKING PARTNERSHIPS CAMPING EXPEDITION PARTNER**

Six weeks in summer 2006 to western National Parks. Leisurely day hikes to alpine areas from pickup truck camper. Esthetics, not record-setting. Share expenses. (In 2005, six weeks, seven Natl. Parks, 9,000 miles, total cost for two people — not each, was \$2,100.) Contact: Grant Olson, Waynesboro, Pa. (owlie1@pa.net) 717/765-4228.

# Trail, Shelter, and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Needed

## Corridor Monitor Openings

Tom Lupp, 301/271-7340  
tlupp@erols.com

Wilson Gap -VA - PATC Map 7  
Duke Hollow -VA - PATC Map 8  
Ashby Gap South -VA - PATC Map 8

## Volunteers needed for the Maryland shelter crew

Rocky Run Shelter – MD – Map 4-5  
Henry Horn, 301/498-8254  
ATHike@aol.com

Open Trails - 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 poisonous plants. Special provision for rain and mud. Little or no supervision. Work hours optional. Location somewhere on the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania. No certification from your doctor or hospital required.

Pete Brown, 410/343-1140

peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

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)  
PA Tuscarora Trail [J] – Co Overseer  
Cowans Gap State Park to Lincoln Trail (4.3 miles)

## ASHBY/POSSUMS AT/BB [RTE. 50 to SNP] - MAP 8, 9

Lloyd Parriott, 540/622-2743

laparriott@hotmail.com

### 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

### Pole Bridge Link Trail

Piney Branch Trail to Keyser Run Fire Road (1.0 miles)

### Lower Jeremys Run Trail

8th Ford of Jeremys Run to West Park Boundary (3.5 miles)

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

Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248

dانjan3@cox.net

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

### Robertson Mountain Trail – Co Overseer

Old Rag Fire Road to Weakley Hollow Fire Road (RM) (2.4 miles)

## SNP SOUTH AT - MAP 11

Don White, 804/795-2914

trblldr@comcast.net

### Appalachian Trail – Co-overseer

Swift Run Gap to Hightop Parking Area (1.3 miles)

### Appalachian Trail – Co-overseer

Frazier Discovery Trail to Loft Mt.Camp Store (1.1 miles)

## SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZED - MAP 11

Pete Gatje, 434/361-1309

PJGATJE@aol.com

### Gap Run Trail (lower)

Rt 628 Access Trail to Gap Run (0.8 miles)

### Rocky Mount Trail (lower)

Summit of Rocky Mount to Gap Run (2.0 miles)

## TUSCARORA CENTRAL – MAP L

Walt Smith, 540/678-1043

wsmith@visuallink.com

### Millrace Trail

High Rock Parking Area to Tuscarora Trail (1.4 miles)

### Frye Path Trail

at The Pinnacle (0.4 miles)

### Laurel Run Trail

at The Pinnacle (0.5 miles)

### Rock Cave Trail & Overlook

at The Pinnacle (0.1 miles)

## TUSCARORA SOUTH – MAP F, G, 9

Rick Rhoades, 540/477-3247

Rrhoades@shentel.net

### Tuscarora Trail

Sherman Gap to Veach Gap (3.1 miles)

### Tuscarora Trail

Veach Gap to Morgan Rd./Massanutten split (1 mile)

### Tuscarora Trail

Morgan Rd./Massanutten split to US 340 (5.5 miles)

## MASSANUTTEN SOUTH – MAP H

Tate Heuer, 202/255-6055

tate@wth2.com

### Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (1.4 m FR 65) (3.3 miles)

### Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Morgan Run Trail (1.4 m FR 65) to Fridley Gap (2.3 miles)

## SUBURBAN MARYLAND – MAP D

Liles Creighton, 410/573-0067

kb3jmf@comcast.net

### Cabin John Trail

Seven Locks Road to River Road (0.5 miles)

### Cabin John Trail

Bradley Boulevard to Democracy Boulevard (1.5 miles)

### Goldmine Loop Trail

Tavern to Tavern (3.2 miles)

### Woodland Trail

Gold Mine Loop to Anglers Spur (0.7 miles)

### Valley Trail

Gold Mine Loop to Anglers Spur (0.6 miles)

### River Trail

Gold Mine Trail to Towpath (1.0 miles)

## GREAT FALLS PARK, VIRGINIA – MAP D

Ric Francke, 571/436-7801

fbfrancke@aol.com

### River Trail

Ridge Trail to Warning Sign (1.5 miles)

## BULL RUN OCCOQUAN TRAIL

Dave Fellers, 703/560-2171

Fellers\_2000@excite.com

### Bull Run Occoquan Trail

Route 28 Parking to Little Rocky Run (1.5 miles)

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA – MAP N

Alex Sanders, 703/465-8140

yargtac@yahoo.com

### Whitehaven Trail

Glover Archbold Trail to Wisconsin Ave (1.1 miles)



## The Potomac Appalachian

118 Park Street  
Vienna, VA 22180-4609

Telephone: 703/242-0315

Mon.-Thurs. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Thurs. & Fri. 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

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