



# The Potomac Appalachian

The Newsletter of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
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## 1998 Ridgerunner, Trail Patrol Hiking Season Off to Smooth Start

PATC's Trail Patrol and its four seasonal Ridgerunners began the 1998 hiking season on schedule this Memorial Day weekend, following intensive training with other ATC Ridgerunners. The Ridgerunners will stay on the AT until the Labor Day weekend.

The four new PATC Ridgerunners are Joe LaRue, who hails from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and who is working on the AT in

Pennsylvania; Chad Eskins, a Maryland native, patrolling in Maryland; Kenny Benson, a 1997 Ridgerunner from Norfolk, who is patrolling in Northern Virginia; and Pete McAdams, a Wisconsin native, responsible for the Central and Southern districts of Shenandoah National Park. Each Ridgerunner is supported by a team of Trail Patrol volunteers, who join in foot patrols primarily on weekends.

Pennsylvania authorities have also given permission for Trail Patrol members to tap into their local radio relay facilities in case of emergencies. Until 1998, Trail Patrol members were only able to use such facilities while patrolling in Shenandoah National Park.

The Patrol's reputation as a unique organization in the ATC is attracting attention from near and far. The Superintendent of Parks and Trees Division of the city of Frederickton, New Brunswick, Canada recently e-mailed Trail Patrol Chair, John Moore, for advice on how to set up a patrol for the city's 50 kilometer trail system. And the Loudoun County, Virginia, Emergency Services Center has asked the Trail Patrol for assistance in planning for emergency response along the trail through its area of responsibility.

Trail Patrol members are PATC's ambassadors to the hiking public. They help educate hikers and campers in minimum impact environmental practices. Membership in the Patrol is open to members of PATC who are 18 or older, and who complete a general curriculum designed to help them work effectively with the hiking public. □

—John Moore  
Chairman, Trail Patrol



1998 Ridgerunners at Scott Farm, PA, from left: Chad Eskins (MD), Wilson Riley (PATC, Trail Patrol), John Wright (PATC, Trail Patrol), Kenny Benson (No. VA), Pete McAdams (SNP); Joe LaRue (PA) not pictured.

1998 may be remembered as a "breakthrough year" for the Trail Patrol in a number of ways. For the first time in its history, the Trail Patrol has assumed complete responsibility for hiring and supervising all four Ridgerunners. Until this year, PATC's Trail Patrol was completely responsible only for hiring and supervision of the two Virginia Ridgerunners, whom the club completely funds. The process of selecting and hiring the Maryland and Pennsylvania Ridgerunners was shared by PATC, ATC and local park personnel. As part of the transition, Maryland and

## Floods and Geology

On the third anniversary of the 1995 floods that ravaged Madison County, a band of 25 people from various walks of life gathered at the Waverly Yowell Elementary School in Madison, Virginia to participate in a National Park Service-USGS seminar and field trip on the debris flows and floods that devastated the area. The group was composed of geologists, grad students, teachers, survivors of the floods, and others interested in the event.

While enjoying pastries and juices before the seminar, people inspected the maps that showed the areas influenced by the torrential

rains of June 27, 1995. Ranger Kelly Hartsell, NPS Education Department, introduced the speakers, who gave the general geology of the Appalachians, which led to the details of how debris flows come into being. Dr. Ben Morgan, USGS, has studied the area intensely since the floods. He prepared us for what we would and would not see during the field trip with a well-presented slide show. We would not see the raging water or soil- and rock-laden debris flows, but we would see the scars on the side of Kirtley Mountain and up-close views of debris flow-carved channels in an

See *Floods*, page 3

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## Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting on June 9, 1998 at the Club headquarters. A quorum was not achieved until 7:30 pm. The meeting was attended by 18 Council members, 1 Special Committee chair, 2 staff and two Club members.

A membership report was not presented since two membership databases were being brought together. It appears that PATC has over 6,100 members.

Steve Bair, a Ranger from the Shenandoah National Park (SNP), presented the highlights from the Backcountry/Wilderness Management Plan for the SNP, which is out for public comment until June 30. The Plan does not change the use of the backcountry but introduces the concept of recreation ecology for controlling access. Education of backcountry users is important and may be controlled through an Internet-based permit system. The SNP has received \$500,000 from the Natural Resources Protection Fund of the Park Service to implement the plan. PATC is commenting on the Plan along with others. Council members had questions about the use of chain saws in the backcountry when necessary, use of additional entrances for trailheads, plans for access for the disabled, access to cultural resources and the use of mountain bikes and horses.

Supervisor of Trails, Pete Gatje, announced that Kerry Snow was awarded the Vibram Volunteer of the Year Award for Maryland. Kerry has logged over 500 volunteer hours for PATC since 1994. He is District Manager for 200 miles of trail in northern Virginia and supervises 40 overseers. He writes the Trailhead column in the *PA* and works on trail crews.

The Trail Patrol has distributed more than 4000 brochures educating the public on trail use. More are to be printed. Thurston Griggs was recognized for his contributions to the Trail Patrol and the Ridgerunner program.

Marilyn Stone, chair of the Cabin Reservations committee, proposed two changes in cabins rental policy that were approved by the Council. The penalty for canceling a cabin reservation within seven days of occupancy is reduced to one night's rental at the highest rate for the reservation plus processing fee if the key is mailed out. Cabin rental privileges

are reinstated immediately upon receipt of the lost key fee rather than imposing an additional one month penalty period. Both changes will take effect when the rental fees are increased as voted on last month.

The Council voted to purchase three new Pentium based computers and upgrade another so that the entire staff will have access to sufficiently powerful, networked computing. Computers excessed in this process may be donated to non-profit organizations that have need.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Walt Smith, reported that much information about the issues facing the new officers of the Club has been gathered. Major issues include balancing the various activities of the Club, increasing volunteerism, and possibly changing the organization of the Club to meet the needs.

Vice President, George Still, reported that the ad hoc committee on the cabins system has held a round of discussions on changes that may be needed to the entire cabins system—reservations, maintenance and construction.

The PATC offer for the purchase of the Oliphant property adjacent to the Appalachian Trail in Clarke County has been accepted. The purchase will take place in July.

David Pierce announced that the new Map G, covering areas of the George Washington National Forest, is now on sale. The new map of the AT in Maryland is at the printers.

—Gerhard Salinger,  
Recording Secretary

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**“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”**

—Aldo Leopold

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## Floods, from page 1

unnamed tributary (locally called Canterbury Run?) that runs into Kinsey Run.

A little after 11 AM, we loaded into three NPS vans and Ben's Jeep Cherokee for the start of our field trip. The weather was mild with the prediction of a very hot and humid day by afternoon and the strong probability of severe thunderstorms. Would we see a debris flow in the making? Despite the weather forecast, the first van to fill up was the only one not air-conditioned, but it was the one with the coolers of refreshments.

With windows open and coolish air blowing in, we drove out of Madison to Wolfstown and then north on Rt. 662 where we stopped at the crossing of the Rapidan River. From here we could see the many debris-flow scars on Kirtley Mountain and were told of the water height that overtopped the bridge. Back in the van we headed north to Graves Mill. We listened to three ladies, who lived in the area relive their experiences of the flood. It added realism that would otherwise have been missing. West from Graves Mill on Rt. 615, we stopped by the tributary under trees casting welcomed shade and scattered about on the ground for lunch. The NPS provided



*The debris flows emerged from steep ravines and spread widely over more gently sloping broad surfaces at valley bottoms. Note the line of trees in the background—all trees in the path of the debris flow were uprooted, stripped of their bark, branches and leaves and carried into streams and rivers where they became battering rams against buildings and bridges.*

cold drinks and bottles of water for lunch and the hike.

After lunch, we started up the tributary without a well-defined trail, through young locusts, vines, weeds, and boulders of all sizes. Strangely, there was no poison ivy, and no

birds, snakes, or other wildlife visible. Ben Morgan, assisted by doctoral candidate Scott Eaton, remarked that this splendid growth of greenery had sprung from desolation to 10 feet or more in just three years. Hidden among the greenery were boulders from a foot in diameter to one roughly 12 feet on an edge and estimated to weigh over 230,000 pounds. These granitic rocks are part of the Pedlar Formation and are easily identifiable by their large, rectangular crystals of feldspar. Most had been moved some distance by the debris flows which were particularly rampant in this water course. As we gained elevation, there was an unusual, moderate breeze that came down the ravine and dark clouds overhead seemed to portend the predicted afternoon thunderstorm. Being in a gully with a notorious past did nothing but make us feel uneasy. Would we be news in Sunday's paper?

Ben led us down a steep, rocky bank, across the little stream, and then up a steeper, barren rock outcrop that was at an abrupt bend in the stream. From this high view point we could look both upstream at the source of the debris flow and downstream to see its destructive results. He told us that this was, as far as he knew, the location of the greatest superelevation of a debris flow in the continental U.S. Was this the biggest and best of the debris flows? "No," Ben replied. "The recent downcutting exposed several buried debris flows, the oldest of which was carbon-dated to be about 35,000 years old."

*See Floods, page 4*

## Annual Meeting

PATC members have found over the years many ways to serve the Trail and the club—clearing brush, building waterbars, building cabins, and maintaining shelters. And now there is another way: enjoying a hot dinner, a cold beverage, catching up with old friends and making new ones. This year there is even a more important reason: helping set the future course of the club through biannual elections.

For a third year in a row, the meeting will be held at Elks Lodge 2188 located at 8421 Arlington Boulevard in Merrifield, Virginia, November 6th from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm. Various club activities and committees will set up "booths" to demonstrate what they have done during 1998 and what they have planned for 1999.

Penciled in for the evening's entertainment is the Opus String Quartet featuring local violinist and PATC member Laura Horstkamp of the George Mason University Symphony Orchestra. A buffet dinner will be provided by the Elks Lodge, as will a cash bar of beer and wine.

Club members who want to attend the meeting only for club business and the election are very welcome and may do so at no charge simply by not signing up for dinner and not eating. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 8:30. We hope to see you all there!

To reach the Elks Lodge #2188 by Metro, simply take the Orange Line to Dunn Loring Station. Shuttle drivers will meet you at the South parking lot to deliver you to (and bring you from) the dinner. Drivers will find the Elks Lodge on the south side of Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) between Gallows Road and Prosperity Avenue. From the Beltway take the Arlington Boulevard Exit (exit 8) West.

DO NOT FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS for this important event and look to the next issue of the *Potomac Appalachian* for more details and a sign-up sheet. If you have any questions please contact Caren Rothstein 703/560-1361 or Lisa Still 703/425-3884.

—Lisa Still,  
Membership Secretary

## Trail News Around the World

In a ceremony on February 11, New York Governor Pataki and New Jersey Governor Whitman announced the stunning results of a thirteen-year campaign to preserve 14,451-acre Sterling Forest. Eighteen times larger than Central Park, it is the largest addition to the New York State Park system in 50 years. (*Trail Walker*)

Starting next year, the National Park Service will begin an experimental four-year project to bring the Elk back to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Elk have not lived in the Smokies since the mid-1800s, when logging and hunting drove them from the area. Plans will begin with a feasibility study on habitat done at the University of Tennessee. The project will cost \$300,000 to \$400,000 and will be entirely funded by private donations. The elk will be tracked by radio collars, which will tell researchers what habitats they favor and will measure mortality. Recent elk reintroductions in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Arkansas and Wisconsin have been successful. (*Appalachian Trailway News*)

The Appalachian Trail Conference has asked Congress to approve about \$7.5 million for the AT land-protection programs of the NPS and U.S. Forest Service in each of the next two federal fiscal years - if it decides not to give the funds in one lump sum this summer. The entire \$15.1 million will be used to put the last 33 miles of the AT in public own-

### Floods, from page 3

Satisfied that we had seen the best of the worst, we headed back to the schoolhouse for the windup of the seminar. The rain didn't materialize, and a soothing breeze continued on the drive back. In the air-conditioned lecture room, with cold drinks to hydrate us, we heard that it takes about 4" of rain an hour to produce the conditions for the hundreds of debris flows mapped in the Madison County area after the 1995 event. Of what significance is the rare occurrence of a debris flow to the average hiker? Ask Laura Loritz or Joseph Tinker who were in the heart of the heaviest rain and barely made it out alive ["And it Rained," *The Potomac Appalachian*, June, 1998]. □

—Carl G. Bock

ership. Full final funding for the AT was near the top of the Clinton administration's proposal earlier this year. The House and Senate appropriations committees' leaders have reacted positively toward a lump-sum approach, but no decision is expected before June. (*Appalachian Trailway News*)

In December 1996, *Wireless Magazine* cited a letter sent from Tom Wheeler, president and CEO of Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA), to President Clinton. In the letter, CTIA identified the NPS as a key problem in its efforts to erect antenna on federal lands. The letter accused NPS of trying to involve the park-visiting public in decisions about how to deal with requests for siting towers within national parks. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires federal agencies to establish guidelines for siting towers on federal lands. Most federal land-management agencies interpreted this to mean developing criteria that would utilize existing infrastructure and minimize impact. This, in turn, could mean denying a tower request, if doing so was in the best interest of the national park or forest. NPS leadership is currently preparing guidelines on the towers. (*American Hiker*)

In September 1997, the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) presented a challenge to the American Hiking Society: it offered to match, dollar for dollar,

up to \$50,000 for every donation to the National Trails Endowment made by AHS members. AHS members more than met the challenge, contributing \$53,000 to secure the match. All of the money will be deposited into the permanent endowment to grow for future years. The SGMA funds have attracted nearly \$300,000 in grant requests for this first year. (*American Hiker*)

Environmental psychologists determine the office worker who has a view of trees and grass has less feeling of pressure and higher levels of job satisfaction than his friend who has no view. Mankind is genetically wired to appreciate open and wooded landscapes. These studies, partially funded by the U.S. Forest Service, which has not yet begun to apply the findings to their policies, are of great interest to the travel industry, and should be to all conservationists. "Nurture by nature" (*Condé Nast Traveler*, May 1988, pp. 130, 132)

Representatives of more than 100 trans-frontier conservation areas (TECAs), also sometimes called Peace Parks, met in South Africa this winter to discuss the problems of managing one park in two different countries, and the solutions that have been worked out. Particularly interesting is the list of the variety and relative costs of projects in the TECAs. (*Africa Environment and Wildlife*, V.6 no. 2, March-April 1998, p. 14-15) □

—Lynn Witwer, PA Staff

## Trail Patrol Through-Hiker Submits Ultimate Trip Report

Trail Patrol member Andrea Dollar recently submitted the "ultimate trip report" when she completed a 15-day stint from Rockfish Gap to Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Pennsylvania. Andrea is through hiking from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mount Katahdin, Maine. She reported on trail conditions and activity along PATC's 240-mile section of the AT.

Hiking steadily from May 31 to June 16, with only one day off, Andrea reported meeting

numerous north-bound through-hikers and several heading south from Maine. She also met Virginia Ridgerunner Kenny Benson at Sam Moore shelter, near Bear's Den hostel and Maryland Ridgerunner Chad Eskins at Pine Knob shelter. Andrea noted no problems on the trail but commented on the unusually lush vegetation caused by this spring's heavy rains and unusually early Spring.

Andrea is also a member of PATC's Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group. □

### Do you Know??

One of these places is NOT adjacent to the Appalachian Trail: Highacre, High Knob, High Point, High Rock, High Top. Which one is it?

Answer on page 18.

## Blackburn Trail Center Needs Your Help

Near the top of the Blue Ridge, separating Jefferson County, West Virginia, and Loudoun County, Virginia, (about an hour-and-a-half from downtown DC) rests one of the best kept “secrets” of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club: the three-building Trail Magic-dispensing complex known as Blackburn Trail Center.

This, more than any other single location along PATC’s 210 miles of Appalachian Trail, is where the club meets the through-hikers who bring the AT to life. Men and women like “Too Obtuse”, “Critter”, “Skiddah” and “Old Man River” stop here on their way from Georgia to Maine (or vice versa) for a chance to clean up in the solar shower, to arrange mail drops from the pay phone, to sleep indoors on a mattress near a wood stove (not so important this time of year), to check the register to see which hikers are ahead of them and who is still some days behind, and to swap trail tales and “heads up” information with hikers heading the other direction. During the peak season, Blackburn truly becomes one of the trail-linked “communities” envisioned by Benton MacKaye, providing an overnight home to up to ten or more long-distance hikers each night.

But as anyone who has visited Blackburn within the past couple of years knows, the old Lodge has seen better days. Foundation logs for the kitchen addition had rotted away and the once proud, straight, roof line rippled and sagged under the weight of long decades.



*New kitchen under construction*

Without quick corrective work, this jewel in PATC’s cabins crown would soon molder away and be lost to future generations of hikers.

Beginning March 1, 1997, that restorative work got underway. Organized by “Trail Boss” Chris Brunton and led by “Straw Boss” Bruce Clendaniel, volunteer groups of up to 30 people have met every other weekend to give the venerable trail center more than just a face lift. A weekend of delicate sledge hammering resulted in the complete removal of the old kitchen, the contents of which were transferred 15 months ago to a “temporary” kitchen set up in a walled-in portion of the

wrap-around screened porch. In its place has risen a true marvel of trail engineering.

Picture this: A new, much larger, two-story addition has been built upon a solid concrete foundation. Inside, one finds a well-lit kitchen with gray tiled floors, hand-built cabinetry and countertops, a wood stove for heat and two gas stoves for cooking, and a dining area for 20 volunteers. Upstairs await two brand new, well-insulated, hardwood-floored bunk rooms, which can sleep 20. Outside, the durable block wall is getting faced with natural stone for that “just-risen-from-the-mountain” look that all the best-dressed trail centers will be sporting this season.

As of July 25 of this year, this new kitchen was finished and fully-functional, marking an important milestone in this multi-year project. But much yet remains to be done. PATC stone-tamer Bill Ladd is only about half finished with the outside rock work. The wrap-around screen porch needs to be extended along the new addition, a new roof still needs to be built OVER the old roof, which will then be removed (how’s that for a trick?), and the existing stone chimney needs more height to properly draft over the higher roof line.

Volunteers of all kinds are desperately sought to help complete this work. NO EXPERIENCE is necessary for someone to become a valued member of the renovation crew. Tools

*See Blackburn, page 6*



*Blackburn Trail Center in all its glory*

### *Blackburn, from page 5*

and training are provided to anyone willing to learn, and non-skilled activities abound for men and women who don't know (and don't want to know) a drill bit from a backpack.

Is there in this club a heart so dead that it doesn't quicken at the thought of making trail magic happen? Here is an opportunity to do something that can be shown to one's children and grandchildren with pride—a chance to make possible a respite for every through hiker for generations to come.

For information, or to take part, phone Chris Brunton (703/560-8070) or Bruce Clendaniel (410/820-7550). The next scheduled Blackburn trip is August 8, and every two weeks thereafter. □

—George Still,  
VP Operations

## Book Reviews

De Hart, Alan. *West Virginia hiking trails; Hiking the Mountain State*, 2nd ed. Adirondack Mountain Club, 1998. 329p. 28 maps, index. \$16.95 paper.

A revised guide to West Virginia trails, written by a North Carolina professor of history and outdoor recreation who has prepared guides to foot trails in half a dozen Eastern states, is now available.

Alan De Hart, who was born in West Virginia, describes 2,029 miles of foot trails in West Virginia, the shortest of which is the 86-yard-long Garden Trail of the Five Senses in Charleston for the visually impaired. The five longest trails within the state are the Allegheny Trail (300 mi.), Greenbrier River Trail (75 mi.), Tuscarora Trail (66 mi.), North Branch Trail (58 mi.) and Kanawha Trace (32 mi.). The author does not include the American Discovery Trail, whose 265 miles are on West Virginia "back roads and other trails."

Since about half of the state's trails (941 miles) are on national forest lands, the book starts off with hiking descriptions of trails in the six districts of the Monongahela National Forest and the two trails that cross over into West Virginia from the George Washington National Forest in Virginia. The chapter on trails in national parks devotes more space to the history of the Appalachian Trail (with emphasis on the New England aspects—perhaps due to the publisher's influence?) than to describing the 25.1 miles in two sections of the AT that fall in West Virginia. The mile of AT in Harpers Ferry National Historic Park is described under its old name, the Cliff Path.

Other chapters describe trails in state parks and forests, those built by counties or municipalities, and trails on private property that the public may use. The Allegheny Trail, having been built by volunteers on public as well as private property, is included here. There may be a few omissions: the 1.5 mile Nature Trail in Bethany College Woods which I hiked

as a student is omitted, but perhaps it has been abandoned in the years since I left college. There's no mention of our recent "Tuscarora Trail" guide, though the "Big Blue Trail" guide is named. A proofreading error has the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club hours of business as 14 hours long Mondays through Wednesdays. The index pages precede the 38 maps of national forest trails, an unhandy location.

But these criticisms are insignificant and should not halt purchase of the book by hikers wanting to extend their territory beyond two hours' driving distance from town. □

—Paula Strain

Marshall, Ian. *Story Line: Exploring the Literature of the Appalachian Trail*. Charlottesville, VA. University Press of Virginia, May 1998. 284p. \$55; \$19.95 paper.

The title echoes Chatwin's "Song Lines," and the text has Chatwin's theme: how man interprets the natural world. Chatwin writes of travel in the Australian outback; Marshall writes of nature in the Appalachian Mountains and how other writers reacted to it.

Marshall is a section-hiker of the Appalachian Trail (AT) with the trail name of "Evergreen." Beginning in the 1970s and expecting to complete the last 250 miles this year, he tells only casually and occasionally about his trail experiences because his attention, and ours, he hopes, should be focused on books that describe some aspect of the Appalachian Mountain experience. Only two of these books (Dillard's *A Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* and Ginsberg's *Howl and Other Poems*) come from the era the AT was built. The author interprets the reaction of Gov. Spotswood's crossing of the Appalachians at Swift Run Gap; he finds a reason why Bartram turned back from exploring the western Great Smokies; and he explains how Hawthorne, in some short stories, and Robert Frost in his poems, used both man and nature to reflect on both.

Some of this post-deconstructionist literary

criticism will be hard going for those of us who read more for pleasure than philosophic problem-solving. Other parts, such as the discussion taking place during a 10-day hike through Maine's Hundred-Mile Wilderness on Thoreau as a leading nature writer, will interest even the least philosophic.

Should you buy the book? You will be dissuaded if I warn of terms only a professor of English would use (which the author is, from Pennsylvania State University at Altoona): geopiety, ecofeminism, ecocriticism and the barely familiar synecdoche. However, you will want to buy the book if I mention that the Bear Mountain to Katahdin chapters don't have any of those terms and should interest most readers and that all the chapters have bits of unexpected delight, such as the comparison of the pleasures of reading and backpacking. It's your call. *Story Line* is a unique contribution to the expanding literature of the Appalachian Trail. □

—Paula Strain

### Potential Congressional Budget Cuts for the Environment

The Fiscal Year 1999 House Budget resolution, passed in the House on June 5th, contains provisions to cut nearly \$5 billion over the next five years from spending for Natural Resources and the Environment. This includes cuts in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Senate also passed the resolution, with some changes in language. The resolution has gone to conference. The Senate version does include a provision for potential increased spending for reauthorization of the Superfund, which facilitates cleanup of hazardous waste. More information to come as the situation develops.

—Bianca Menendez  
Editor

## Family Weekend Program

Longer-term PATC members may recall how the club used to hold annual events geared towards families and children—the famed Massanutten Weekends. The events featured games, hikes, camp cooking and other outdoor activities which helped young families bond with their children in our great outdoors.

But many years have passed now since PATC last sponsored this type of family program. Many Club members have said that the time for reviving this event is long overdue; others say the Club-wide interest in this activity no longer burns bright.

We intend to find out which case is true. We believe club members want to share their natural heritage and love of the outdoors with their children, to help reinforce the love of nature that will nourish the next generation of hikers.

Please join us with your children at PATC's Family Weekend, September 19 and 20 at Bear's Den Hostel near Bluemont, Virginia. PATC will provide a Saturday dinner, a Sunday breakfast, and snacks for the kids during the day. Activities, hikes, crafts, music and storytelling are just some of the things on tap to entertain and educate young and old alike.

Please bring your boots, bring a tent, and bring a willingness to share the outdoors with

### Family Weekend Sign-up Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#Adults \_\_\_\_\_ #Children age 13 and up \_\_\_\_\_ #Children under 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner? \_\_\_\_\_ Breakfast? \_\_\_\_\_ Won't join the meals \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Desired Activities: Hikes \_\_\_\_\_ Games \_\_\_\_\_ Crafts \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check to cover meal costs. #Adults + #Children 13 & up x \$7, #Children under 13 x \$4. Make check payable to Potomac Appalachian Trail Club or PATC.

your children. PATC will try to supply the rest. If this type of event is of interest to you and your family, but you are unable to attend, please phone or e-mail with your support and/or suggestions so that we may properly gauge the level of interest in this club-wide. As with all Club activities, it is the level of membership support that governs the survival of family-oriented events.

It costs nothing to attend the Family Weekend and families not planning to join in the

meals may attend free and not eat, but there is a fee to those planning to partake in the meals to cover the cost of the food provided. The cost for Dinner and Breakfast is \$7 for both meals per adult and per child age 13 and older, \$4 per child below age 13. Please clearly note any dietary restrictions or food allergies on the sign up sheet provided above.

Please note that this is a family event, and is not available for adults without children nor is it a baby sitting service to watch over children dropped off by parents who are not staying.

To take part, please mail the completed sign-up sheet to: PATC Family Weekend, 118 Park St., SE, Vienna, VA 22180-4609, or simply drop it off at Club headquarters. Sign-ups must be received by September 5. Because PATC will be purchasing food and supplies in advance, refunds for cancellations may not be given.

For additional information, please phone Lisa Still at 703/425-3884 or e-mail [Stills2@AOL.COM](mailto:Stills2@AOL.COM). ☐



## Donations

Our heartfelt THANK YOU to those members who have given additional donations with their dues renewal fee to the individual funds listed below. Our mission of protecting the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and side trails throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, is assured through generous donations from you. It also helps greatly to insure that these protected trail lands can be enjoyed by future generations.

### Donations received in June

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

Robert L. Asher	T	Lynn and William Limpert	G
Dennis M. Barry	T	Robert E. Livezey	T
Dudley B. Gaines	T	Jeanne O'Neill and Robert P. Parker	T
Charles and Barbara Hardy	S/C	Somers H. Smith, Jr.	T
Douglas Hill and Marguerite Bradley	T	Richard G. Worth	T
Andrew Jacques and Susan Darrow	T		

A special thank you to the Community Service Coordinator, Phil Lynch and the students of The Chelsea School, Silver Spring, MD, and to the Wanderbird Hiking Club for their generous donations to the General Fund.

—Pat Fankhauser, Membership Coordinator

# FORECAST

## Chapters

### Charlottesville Chapter

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

### North Chapter

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

### Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests

in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the **Forecast**. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Walt Smith, 540/678-0423.

### Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

### West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre on the first Wednesday of the month; see **Forecast** for up-coming activities. For further information on chapter activities or to receive the chapter newsletter contact Jane Thompson 301/865-5399.

### Ski Touring Section

The Ski Touring Section has served since 1974 to introduce Washington area residents to cross-country skiing and to provide cross-country skiing opportunities to experienced skiers. The Section sponsors winter weekend ski trips for all levels of skiers to nearby mountains in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as periodic social events year round. INFO: Katherine Stentzel 703/781-3249.

### PATC Midweek Hikes

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

### Other Clubs' Hikes

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



## KEY to Forecast Activities

All events are marked for easy identification. Late changes or cancellations are listed on the weekly information tape (703/242-0965) which is updated on Wednesday evening for the following seven days. The *Forecast* can also be found on PATC's Web site at <http://patc.simplenet.com/forecast.html>

- Hiking Trips
- Backpacking Trips
- Trail Work Trips
- Cabin Work Trips
- Special Events
- Meetings
- Cross-Country Skiing

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



## August

### 1 (Saturday)

#### DEADLINE - September Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

### 1 (Saturday)

#### HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

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

### 1 (Saturday)

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

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

### 1 (Saturday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV border

Help us open a new trail in Racer Camp Hollow in West Virginia. Call Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

### 1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### TRAIL WORK TRIP and Charlie's Annual Corn Roast North Chapter

##### Appalachian Trail, PA

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. Corn roast following the work trip. RSVP no later than Monday, July 27. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

### 1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The walls are up to 5' high now. Only one more course of logs and we can cut out the windows and doors. It won't be long now before we're ready to put the second floor joists in. Hopefully, we will be putting rafters up before the winter is over. Join us in the woods to work on this primitive log cabin that we are building from the ground up. We are doing all the work with primitive hand tools just like the pioneers did it. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

### 4 (Tuesday)

#### HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

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

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

### 4 (Tuesday)

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

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's good will trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, educating the public on good hiking practices, minimum impact hiking and camping ethics. Patrol members are trained in land navigation, emergency procedures, radio communications and personal equipment. All patrol volunteers are also expected to

become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: John Moore (trailptrl@aol.com) 703/368-1952 or see PATCs website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>)

### 5 (Wednesday)

#### **PICNIC - West Virginia Chapter Harper's Ferry, WV**

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

### 6 (Thursday)

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

7:30 p.m. Thrills and chills abound as hikes, cabins, excursions, and special events are stripped of secrecy for interested new and not-so-new club members. Just show up or phone ahead. INFO: Lisa Still (Still2@aol.com) 703/425-3884.

### 6 (Thursday)

#### **SLIDESHOW - Dolly Sods Wilderness REI, College Park, MD**

Situated at the north end of the Monongahela National Forest, this high altitude area of bogs, blueberry meadows, rhododendron thickets and spruce groves is like a piece of Canada set on a mountain top in West Virginia. REI's Dave Lawrence will discuss routes, weather, clothing and gear that will let you see the best of the Sods. INFO: REI, College Park 301/982-9681

### 8 (Saturday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP - New Crew Massanutten Mountains, VA**

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

### 8 (Saturday)

#### **HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #II-3 Dresel Wayside Section, WV**

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

### 8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Shockeysville, VA**

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

### 9 (Sunday)

#### **HIKE - Parent/Child Appalachian Trail, VA/WV Border**

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



### 11 (Tuesday)

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

7:00 p.m. sharp. The PATC council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the club. All members are welcome, but members wishing to address the council should call two weeks prior to the meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda. INFO: Wilson Riley (wriley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11

### 11 (Tuesday)

#### **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Northern Shenandoah National Park, VA**

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

### 12 (Wednesday)

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

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

### 15 (Saturday)

#### **HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #4 Shippensburg, PA**

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

### 15 (Saturday)

#### **HIKE - DAY HIKE: Stoney Man Mountain Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

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

### 15 (Saturday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP Tuscarora Trail, PA**

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

### 15 (Saturday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV Border**

Help us open a new trail in Racer Camp Hollow in West Virginia. Call Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

### 15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

It's not too late to learn the primitive skills of log cabin building. Join this outstanding and congenial crew in their labor of love. We cut the trees down. We hew the logs and notch them, and lay them up to form the walls. There is lots more to building a cabin that we do too, all with primitive hand tools. No roar of the generator or scream of the chain saw will assault your hearing of this

project. All you will hear is the chop, chop of the axes and laughter and conversation mixed in with the natural sounds of the woods. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053

### 15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **JAMAICAN TRAIL WORKTRIP - North District Hoodlums**

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

Been waitin' all summer for this one, mon! By day, we go down to de trail, Appalachian that is, and donate lots of sweat and toil. No trail experience? Noooo problem, mon! We teach you! By night, we go down to de hut, Indian Run that is, and feast on John McCrea's famous jerk chicken with island music and Red Stripe. Jerk so good you'll be jam mm' it down, child! INFO/RSVP: George Walters 410/426-2724

### 17 (Monday)

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

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

### 22 (Saturday)

#### **CLASS - Field Study Seminar Shenandoah National Park, VA**

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

### 22 (Saturday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP Appalachian Trail, MD**

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

### 22 (Saturday)

#### **HIKE - Sunset Rocks-Tumbling Run Michaux State Forest, PA**

This is a fun 9-mile hike in southern Pennsylvania beginning at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. There will be some rock scrambling on the Sunset Rocks Trail and good views from Sunset Rocks and Lewis "The Robber" Rocks. We will finish up at the waterfalls on Tumbling Run. INFO: Rob Shaw (rshaw07@ibm.net) at work 717/697-4618 anytime after 5:00 p.m. leave voice mail at ext. 233.

### 22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

#### **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Shockeysville, VA**

Come help work on the Tuscarora Trail relocation out near Shockeys Knob! Don't be afraid, the worst of the summer heat has ended and the view of Shockeys Knob is spectacular on a late summer evening. Overnight at a local cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday. Saturday night community dinner. Share costs for food. Please call by August 14 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Tom Tamburo (wxur58a@prodigy.com) 301/829-0354



# FORECAST

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew White Oak Cabin, Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
Escape the smog and August dog-days. Join the Blue and White Crew at the White Oak Cabin, high in the mountains of the Shenandoah Central District. We'll be repairing some worn-out trails in the Park by day and watching fireflies and deer from the White Oak porch by evening. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysno@sprynet.com) 301/570-0596

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORKTRIP - Wineberry Cabin Lydia, VA**  
Come join us as we put the finishing touches on the cabin. Finish carpenters, painters, and handy people needed. We're planning to dedicate this cabin this fall so a limited number of work trips are left. INFO: Larry Lang (Lang\_L@bbs.gov) 703/631-9278

25 (Tuesday)

 **MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group Headquarters, Vienna, VA**  
7:30 p.m. Meet in conference room. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press 5.

29 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP Tuscarora Trail, PA**  
For meeting place and other details. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA**  
Join us in the woods of beautiful Shaver Hollow, VA in the construction of this beautiful log cabin with primitive hand tools. You can learn log cabin construction from the ground up. We have all the old pioneering tools and we know how to use them. It ain't rocket science but it's more complex than you might think! Some of our crew have become real experts at log construction. Come on out and see what it's all about. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053

## September

1 (Tuesday)

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

1 (Tuesday)

 **MEETING - Trail Patrol Headquarters, Vienna, VA**  
7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATCs good will trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, educating the public on good hiking practices, minimum impact hiking and camping ethics. Patrol members are trained in land navigation, emergency procedures, radio communications and personal equipment. All patrol volunteers are also expected to become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: John Moore (trailptrl@aol.com) 703/368-1952 or see PATCs website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>)

2 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers Lake Frank, MD**  
About 4 miles. Meet at 10 a.m. Bring lunch. From right access lanes of I270N, exit W on Rt 28 towards Darnestown, just past Rockville, Rt 28 exit East. Right on Research Blvd. Right on Gude Dr. Left on Southlawn. Right on Avery. Left into Lake Frank parking lot. INFO: Margaret Chapman 301/977-8988

3 (Thursday)

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

5 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV Border**  
Help us open a new trail in Racer Camp Hollow in West Virginia. Call Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

5 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD**  
9 a.m. Join the South Mountaineers for fun and teamwork, creating erosion control on the Appalachian Trail. Learn how to install a water bar and how to make it last. What is a water bar anyway? Tools provided. Bring lunch, water, and gloves. INFO: Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com) 301/924-4942

5 - 7 (Saturday - Monday)

 **BACKPACKING TRIP - Otter Creek Wilderness Monongahela National Forest, WV**  
Leaving Saturday morning, backpack four miles to our campsite where we'll spend two nights. Long dayhike on Sunday. We should be back to D.C. area by 6:00 p.m. on Monday. Wonderful place but plan for rain and stream crossings. INFO: Dave Wilcox (davewilcox@worldnet.att.net) 703/212-0991

8 (Tuesday)

 **MEETING - PATC Council Headquarters, Vienna, VA**  
7:00 p.m. - sharp. The PATC council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the club. All members are welcome, but members wishing to address the council should call two weeks prior to the meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda. INFO: Wilson Riley (wriley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11

9 (Wednesday)

 **MEETING - Mountaineering Section Headquarters, Vienna, VA**  
8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Tony Sanders 202/362-3819 or see PATC's website ([http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn\\_sect/](http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect/))

12 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - New Crew Massanutten Mountains, VA**  
Tread rehab on the trail from PATC's Glass House to the Tuscarora - Bear Wallow Trail. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

12 (Saturday)

**(Rain date September 26)**  
 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC**  
8:15 a.m. to noon. Help prepare D.C.s trails for the

fall hiking season. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Shockeyville, VA**  
Shockeys Knob. We're still working on the Tuscarora Trail relocation, so come on out to Shockeys Knob and help! Overnight at a local cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday. Saturday night community dinner. Share costs for food. Please call by September 5 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Tom Tamburo (wxur58a@prodigy.com) 301/829-0354

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA**  
Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **ANNUAL NORTH DISTRICT TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP - Mathews Arm Campground North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**  
Once again, PATC and the Park Staff team up to offer this instructional workshop for all new and potential trail overseers. See article elsewhere in this issue for more details. RSVP/INFO: George Walters 410/426-2724

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA**  
With luck we will be putting second floor joists in. This is a time consuming but rewarding task requiring a good eye and a little skill but you can do it! Primitive building skills come naturally to some but for most of us it takes a little instruction and a lot of practice. Anyone can learn how to build a log cabin with primitive hand tools. It takes mostly the nerve to try and the patience to stick with it till its done. Try your hand at it! INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053

13 (Sunday)

**BASIC ROCK SCRAMBLING FOR HIKERS Northern Virginia**  
This practical hands-on half day class will provide hikers with the fundamentals of route finding and safe movement over rock hazards and obstacles encountered in alpine and rocky environments. It will include scrambling with the use of hands and feet, and elementary climbing techniques. Class at Great Falls Park, VA. Limited to 15 people. Contact: Tony Sanders (202) 362-3819.

14 (Monday)

 **MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group**

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

19 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV Border**

Help us open a new trail in Racer Camp Hollow in West Virginia. Call Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971

19 (Saturday)

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

9 a.m. in Frederick County, MD. "Fun work" is the oxymoron that best describes a trailwork event. Learn how to take care of trails instead of just hiking them. An informal social event, accentuating teamwork, in the backdrop of the western Maryland hills. Tools provided, bring water, lunch, and gloves. INFO: Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com) 301/924-4942

19 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - North Chapter, Tuscarora Trail Series #II-4 Gore, VA**

Devils Backbone section. Gore, VA (Jct. of Rtes. 751 and 853) to Loman Branch. 13.5 difficult miles with an elevation change of 1900 ft. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 5:30 p.m.

19 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #5 Chambersburg, PA**

A moderately paced 15.8 mile hike on the Tuscarora Trail from PA-641 to Cowans Gap State Park. Elevation gain is 1700 feet. PATC map K. A car shuttle is required. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack 703/339-6716 or William 703/256-6735

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

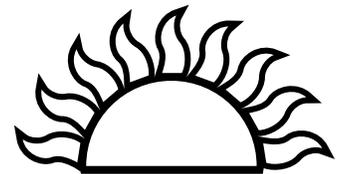
The cabin is really beginning to take shape now and look like a cabin (minus the roof). It is still not too late to partake in the magic of building a log cabin with primitive hand tools though. There is still plenty of work to do, and it will all be done in the old fashioned way. There are still rafters to make and erect

and the roof to put on, not to mention chinking, building the staircase, installing the doors and windows, and the list goes on and on. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053

27 (Sunday)

**LAND NAVIGATION CLASS 101 Northern Virginia**

Introductory Map and Compass Workshop. The first of three day long events features classroom study in the use of topographical maps and compass, with practical hands-on outdoor exercises using basic tools of land navigation. Space is limited to 25 students, sign up now! Details: <http://webmentor.com/mwrop/welcome.html> or send a business-size SASE to Mike Gingerich, 15065 Lindenberry Lane, Dumfries VA 22026-3039. INFO: Mike Gingerich (703) 590-3188.



## From the *Potomac Appalachian's* New Editor

Greetings from your new editor. My name is Bianca Menendez, and I live in Alexandria, Virginia. I moved out to the area for graduate school and started hiking here a few years ago once school was finished. My husband and I just joined PATC last fall, because we were so impressed with the quality of the trails PATC maintains and we wanted to get involved in preserving those trails. You probably won't see me on the trails much this summer, as I am recovering from a back injury, but that will leave me plenty of time to plan for the next few issues of the newsletter.

My plan for the newsletter is to have at least one article per issue in each of the following areas: trail work, club activities, club history, and trail skills. Other types of articles you're used to seeing will also be in here. I don't plan on any radical departures from the way Andy Hiltz has been doing the newsletter, but I'm open to ideas from anyone. These next couple of newsletters will be a learning experience for me, so I can use some input. I warn you that if you come up with an idea, I'm likely to assign the article to you!

If you have any ideas for articles, know of someone you'd like to see write an article, or have an article, drop me an e-mail at

bianca@moon.jic.com or give me a buzz at 703/823-1835 (evening hours). I prefer e-mail, but I check my messages daily and respond promptly. I also prefer e-mail submissions of articles. If you don't have e-mail, you can drop off a floppy disk at PATC headquarters, along with a means of contacting you if I have trouble opening the file (just write your name and number on the disk label). If you don't have access to a computer, drop off your article at PATC headquarters; I have a scan-

ner and can convert anything typed into an electronic file.

I look forward to working with many of you in the coming months and hope to provide all of you with the quality you expect in the *Potomac Appalachian*. Thanks to Andy for making his work such a tough act to follow. You can still find Andy's handiwork at the PATC website at <http://patc.simplenet.com/>. ☐

—Bianca Menendez, Editor

### Are you moving?!!

Did you know that the Post Office charges PATC 50 cents every time they let us know a member has moved? You can help save money and get information to you faster just by telling us yourself.

Please fill out the following form and mail it to 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna VA 22180-4609. You can also call Pat Fankhauser at 703-242-0693 or e-mail her at [pfankh@erols.com](mailto:pfankh@erols.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective date of new address: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## REI's National Trails Day Service Project Brings Trail Closer to Completion

Sixty-two REI members and staff, along with Potomac Appalachian Trail Club volunteers, spent National Trails Day, June 6th, building a portion of the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail in Seneca Creek State Park near Gaithersburg, MD. The crew contributed 454 work hours in the park and constructed 70 yards of new treadway. Using mattocks, pulaskis and McLeods they cut sidehill into a steep slope and then built a retaining wall of railroad ties to hold the trail in place.

Before construction began, a crew of younger volunteers transplanted an extensive bed of ferns out of harm's way. The most strenuous work was performed by four teams of four to ten who transported the massive railroad ties 230 yards to the work site. Each timber weighed from 150 to 400 lbs.

The Seneca Creek Greenway Coalition has been designing and constructing the trail in small segments over the past four years, and opened a portion of it within Seneca Creek State Park last October.

The concept for the trail is ambitious. Look at a map of Montgomery County Maryland and you'll notice public land and trails border all of the County's southern ridge (the C & O Canal) and much of its northern border as well (Patuxent River State Park). Why not connect them with a cross-county natural-surface hiking trail? Seneca Creek has its headwaters in the northeast corner of the county near Damascus. It flows southwest for twenty some miles to join the Potomac River. It didn't take long to discover that between Maryland DNR and Montgomery County, virtually the entire stream was parkland. The state allowed construction to start within the downstream areas below MD Rt. 355, and the countywide trails initiative. With luck, construction may begin this summer on the county portion east of MD Rt. 355.

Completion will take at least two more years. One large obstacle is crossing MD Rt. 28 at Dawsonville. At present there is no safe road crossing near the Seneca Creek Bridge. But the Maryland highway administration will

start construction soon on a larger bridge that is longer and higher above the creek to avoid flooding. This will provide adequate space for the trail to pass safely under the bridge.

Meanwhile, the open portions of the trail are very well designed and it is a pleasure to hike through this beautiful stream valley park. Perhaps the best access is at Black Rock Mill, itself an interesting historical spot. To reach the mill, take MD Rt. 28 west from I-270 through Rockville, Gaithersburg and Darnestown. About a mile west of the junction with MD Rt. 118, turn right onto Black Rock Road. Follow the road less than a mile to the mill. Parking is available in the lot next to the mill, or across the creek along the road. If you're interested in helping out with the trail construction, call REI's Mark Nelson at 703/379-9400. □

—Mark Nelson



## Trail Etiquette, Indian-Style

When traveling in the western wilderness of the 18th century (upstate western New York, western Pennsylvania and the Ohio Valley), the traveler, if he believed he was approaching a camp, shouted several times, waited until he got an answering shout, and then approached the Indian camp. So recorded David McClure, a Presbyterian minister who traveled as a missionary in the Ohio country between 1770 and 1785, in his diary.

If there were only men in the two parties, both groups shared the same campfire for cooking and sleeping. Food might or might

not be shared between the travelers, though it was hospitable to offer. If, however, a woman was traveling with the Indians, McClure's party had to build their own campfire a short distance away.

McClure recorded arriving late at a campsite and finding everyone asleep. He lay down between two of the Indians and slept. In the morning, he found the Indians were not members of a friendly tribe, but trail etiquette prevailed. The parties were somewhat stiff with one another, but the Indians and McClure went their separate ways amicably. □

—Paula Strain

## Reporting SNP Nature Observations

The PATC Internet Services Committee has now teamed with Shenandoah National Park to bring you a new "online feature" on PATC's website. Shenandoah National Park nature observations can now be reported directly to the Park using a form available at PATC's SNP write-up area ([http://patc.simplenet.com/snp\\_page.html](http://patc.simplenet.com/snp_page.html))! Nature observations submitted via this form will help the

Park in its inventory and monitoring efforts. Nature observations are not limited to observations of or about species; air, rocks, and water are also natural resources. For example, air (and its clarity) is an important natural resource in the Park because it affects scenic vistas.

Please feel free to bookmark the form directly in your favorite web browser ([\[patc.simplenet.com/hts/nature.hts\]\(http://patc.simplenet.com/hts/nature.hts\)\) and visit the form URL for a more detailed description of the program, including basic instructions for using the form. Many thanks to Mike Ritoli \(PATC\) and Chip Harvey \(SNP\) for teaming to bring you this new reporting feature. □](http://</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

—Andy Hiltz,  
Internet Services Committee

# NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SITTING AT HOME ON A RAINY SUNDAY?** Why not stop by PATC Headquarters for the monthly Sunday at the Club — great slide shows and fascinating stories? INFO: Lisa Still (stillsl2@aol.com) 703/425-3884.

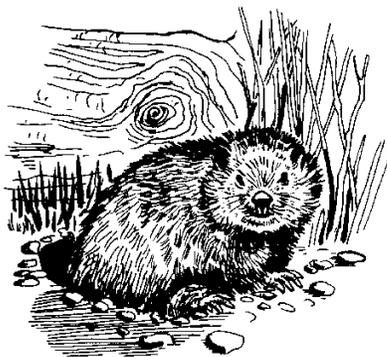
**PURE MAPLE SYRUP.** PATC Life Member relocated to the Berkshires makes his own. A quart shipped within the USA is \$18.00, and makes a perfect gift. Contact me for a brochure. Tom McCrumm, 755 Watson-Spruce Corner Road, Ashfield, Massachusetts 01330, (413) 628-3268.

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

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

**THE INTERNET SERVICES COMMITTEE** is searching for an individual interested in doing two small video authoring projects for the PATC website. The goal is to develop two short streaming video movies that will appear on PATC's opening page. Interested individuals should have a video camera, computer, and video authoring tools that produce content that can be viewed without external plug-ins (such as Real Audio G2). Contact Andy Hiltz (ahiltz@cais.net) 703/764-0121.

*Notices are published free of charge for PATC members only. PATC cannot vouch for any of the advertised items. No commercial advertisement or personal notices unrelated to hiking will be accepted. Deadline for inclusion is the first day of the month preceding issuance of the newsletter. PLEASE let us know when your notice is no longer applicable.*



## Patrons

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

## Corporate Supporters

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The Trail House  
Wilderness Voyagers

## Vacationing Volunteers Clear Jones Mountain Trails

An old moonshiner's cabin with bugs and A rodents instead of running water or power. Rain every day. A strenuous four-mile climb over deadfall and wash-outs just to get near a road, much less food. Hard, physical labor. A leaky privy stinking of many years of use, the yellow painted "smiley face" toilet seat mocking your every visit. Sound like a wonderful way to spend a week's vacation? Well, that's exactly how five dedicated trail enthusiasts spent one week in May, maintaining trails in the Central District of Shenandoah National Park as part of the American Hiking Society's (AHS) Volunteer Vacation program, in cooperation with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC).

Led by the near-legendary crew chief Joe Burton of Madison Heights, MI, the team tackled the trail system on Jones Mountain, VA, a small labyrinth of pre-Park footpaths reeling from the accumulative effects of Hurricane Fran, the floods of 1996 and this past winter's ice storms. For Volunteer Vacation veterans Susan Cho of Phoenix, MD, and Patrick Jones of Newport, KY, and newcomers Joy Beggs and Steve Prescott of Somerville, MA, the week consisted of hard work, mud, awesome dinners and lots of hiking. They were also joined for several days by PATC members Michael Petty, the Jones Mountain cabin overseer; David Lillard, the Jones Mountain trail overseer (who also happens to be the President of AHS); and Rich Wilkinson of Boyds, MD.

### Challenging Tasks

The initial four-mile hike up to the cabin along the Staunton River and Jones Mountain Trails, in the middle of a torrential thunderstorm, revealed just what a task the crew had before them. Blowdowns, rootballs, previously nonexistent springs, overflowing waterbars and flooded creek crossings were just some of the problems needing work. Further investigation revealed that the trail to the scenic overlook of Bear Church Rock was essentially blocked, as was the remainder of the Staunton River Trail to the Fork Mountain Fireroad and the short stretch of the McDaniel Hollow Trail.

After settling into the cabin before a warming fire and enjoying a hearty, morale-boosting meal of Mexican beans and rice, the crew made an ambitious worklist for the week and turned in early.

After a sunrise breakfast, the group divided into two teams, a practice it followed all week. One team headed down Jones Mountain Trail with loppers, woodsaws, firerakes and picks. The workers removed small brush, cleared waterbars, constructed new bars where needed, pruned trees and provided general trail maintenance.

The other team headed up Staunton River Trail to The Sag, where it joined a three-person crew of chainsaw-wielding National Park Rangers intent on removing large blowdowns and tangles. Having had to scramble up the trail before clearing it and forced to climb over and around numerous obstacles, the difference just one day's work made was striking.

Sporadic yet heavy rains prevented the Rangers from doing much with the chainsaws the rest of the week, but it did not deter the volunteers. Sawing by hand all but the biggest of limbs and trunks, they continued to clear trail. The rain actually made siting new water bars easier; it was readily apparent where erosion was occurring. The team improved or created creek crossings to handle the higher levels of water. In two instances, new springs had appeared, flowing down the middle of the trail, necessitating a minor reroute in one spot and the use of corduroy logs in the other.

Another challenge was the existence of several large rootball obstacles. Massive trees had blown over due to saturated soil, pulling entire root systems out of the ground. This caused different types of problems. Sometimes the ball itself blocked the trail, requiring a reroute as the rocks captured in the roots' tendrils made cutting through it dangerous and tough on the tools. Sometimes a tree right beside the trail had fallen, with the rootball leaving a huge hole in the middle of the path. This required hauling stones and dirt to fill the crater and rebuild the trail.

### Sprucing Up The Cabin

The rainy days encouraged work and maintenance on the Jones Mountain Cabin as well. Pat Jones used his expertise to rebuild the springbox, resulting in a much stronger flow of water. He also constructed a large catch basin, convenient for using filters. New stone steps cut into the muddy slope leading from the spring to the cabin eliminated the slipping, sliding and spilled water that entertained witnesses and risked injury to the vic-

tims. A new shelf was attached to the "kitchen cabinet" inside, greatly increasing counter space for meal preparation. Hooks and nails organized the plethora of dented pots and pans previously stacked on the floor. Everyone hauled, cut and split firewood to build a stockpile for use by future visitors. And a badly needed cleaning made the whole cabin downright homey!

The hardest task the crew undertook at first glance appeared to be the easiest. As Michael Petty had made plans to finish re-roofing the cabin this summer, he needed shingles at the site. However, the closest road was four miles away. So Michael had unloaded a pallet of shingles at that point and asked assistance packing them into Jones Mountain. As the Staunton River Trail was a pleasant walk (now that it was cleared) beside rushing water and numerous falls, the eight-mile hike sounded good. And what could be so hard about schlepping shingles?

Now a shingle seems to be fairly innocuous. You pick one up and heft it: "Hey that's not so bad. I'll bet I can carry a bunch of these!" Ladies and gentlemen, when you hear the phrase, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts," the speaker is talking about shingles. One shingle is deceptively light. Five shingles feels like you're packed for a through-hike. Twenty shingles is a humbling, back-breaking suicide march. Over two days, the group made several trips and moved a bunch of shingles. Not surprisingly, they left a bunch as well.

### Vacationers Vacation Too

Of course, not all was hard work, as the vacationers did have a chance to play. Most evenings, after an early dinner (usually masterfully prepared by expedient Miss Cho), members would climb the short hike up Jones Mountain Trail to Bear Church Rock, a wind-swept outcrop with beautiful views of the Rapidan River Valley and the McDaniel Hollow. As the sun slipped behind Fork Mountain, the light made patterns on the ridges and folds of the hollow. With Pat Jones as the group naturalist, the crew observed the explosion of wildflowers across the mountain. Rhododendrons, mountain laurel, daisies, trillium, star moss. Reds, yellows, whites, purples, blues and pinks.

Nights were spent playing cards, discussing the various philosophies of Ayn Rand and John Grisham (the two books in the cabin) and waxing eloquent about Harvey Nichols, whose looseleaf biography pointed out that not only did he build the cabin at the turn of the century, but that he bested everyone on Jones Mountain in physical strength and brandy makin’.

On Saturday the crew packed their gear, divided the last of the perishables and cleaned the cabin one last time. Shaking hands all around, they headed down the mountain to the trailhead parking lot. The hike down, on a trail vastly improved from the grueling wet march up, served to underscore their sense of accomplishment. In the lot, they met a new group on its way up for the weekend, some of Michael Petty’s students, volunteering to work on the cabin. The AHS crew nodded sagely and silently thought, “Strapping young shingle carriers.” □

—P. Richard Wilkinson



*Jones Mountain Cabin  
Shenandoah National Park  
Central District*

## Jones Mountain Cabin Gets New Roof

Though it has taken over two years, the difficult task of putting a new roof atop Jones Mountain Cabin is nearly completed. Because the PATC cabin is very remote, shingles, generously donated by Dale Tucker, previous JMC Overseer, had to be packed down the upper Stanton River Trail from the Fork Mt. Fire Road.

After extensive paperwork and special arrangements with the Shenandoah National Park Service, mules were to be used to transport the heavy and awkward-sized shingles to the cabin, using the local trails in the region, but on the scheduled day, the muleskinner and his stock failed to show up at Big Meadows.

Hence, Boy Scouts from Virginia and Maryland, students from Montgomery College, volunteers with the American Hiking Society, and the author moved them overland to the cabin, two and a half miles away. The actual roofing was performed by Tom Jorgensen, Weaver Cabin overseer, his son Dave, and me, an admitted amateur roofer. □

—Michael Petty,  
Jones Mt. Cabin Overseer



*Michael Petty, Jones Mountain Cabin Overseer, having a “roof” time of it getting the cabin re-shingled.*

## Trails Workshop Coming In September

Do you know the difference between a McLeod and a cutter mattock? Are your waterbars constructed properly? Do you know how to build a rock step or retaining wall? Or have you been thinking about becoming a trail overseer but would like to know more about the duties and responsibilities? This is where you find out.

### Mark your calendar!

The eleventh annual North District trail maintenance workshop and camp-out will be held again at Mathews Arm campground on Saturday and Sunday, September 12-13. This event is co-sponsored by PATC's District Managers in the North section of Shenandoah National Park, and the park staff. We offer up a weekend of trailwork instruction, great food, fun and fellowship.

### Come All Ye Overseers

All club members are invited, both active trail overseers or trail crew members—and those new members who are considering becoming an overseer or crew worker. It's a great opportunity to learn, pick up new skills, talk with park rangers, and just enjoy the beautiful setting of SNP in September.

The workshop will feature discussions and instruction by park rangers and club veterans, with hands-on demonstrations of trail maintenance techniques. In addition to SNP trail standards, tool use, and safety, we will offer three levels of instruction for each day. Check off the area that interests you for each day on the registration form below.

### Basic Course

The basic course is just that—the trail basics! This is for new or potential overseers. We will cover the duties and responsibilities of trail stewardship and teach the basic skills—how to clip and weed, how to clean waterbars, how to paint a blaze, how often to visit your trail. And just as important, WHY we adhere to such standards.

### Waterbar Course

This course will center on erosion, its effects on the trail, and how to control it. We will cover the proper construction of waterbars, check dams, and other erosion control devices. We will also show where to place these devices on the trail and how to look for potential water problems.

### Rock Work Course

This course will center on the construction of rock steps and rock retaining walls. We will cover when, where, why and how they should be built. This course is for experienced overseers who wish to expand their skills.

We may touch upon power weeder use if there is enough interest. Chain saw use will not be a formal topic.

### Evening Campfire and Great Meals

The campground setting gives members a chance to mix trail work with a weekend of camping. A portion of Mathews Arm Campground will be set aside for exclusive use by PATC for this weekend. There will be an evening campfire get-together Saturday night at the campground amphitheater.

The event will be catered at \$16 per person cost for meals. No one has ever been disappointed with the food served at this workshop! This fee will cover lunch and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast and a lunch buffet at the conclusion of the workshop on Sunday. There will be no entry fee to the park or campground for participants. The program starts 10:00a.m. Saturday, and ends 1:00p.m. Sunday.



*So this is how you build a waterbar? Participants of the 1997 North District Workshop receive hands-on instructions on a section of trail nearby Mathews Arm campground.*

### Getting There and Signing Up

Mathews Arm campground is located near milepost 22 on Skyline Drive in the North District of SNP. Use either the Thornton Gap or Front Royal entrance stations. Please make reservations early as the workshop is limited to 25 participants and we always fill up early. Call George Walters at 410/426-2724 to reserve your spot. (Once we are filled up, a message will be left accordingly on the recorder.) Then mail the form below with your area of interest and fee by September 5th. You will then be sent a confirmation and further instructions. See you there! ☐

*—George Walters  
North District Hoodlums  
Crew Chief*

### REGISTRATION FORM

#### Annual North District SNP Trails Workshop September 12-13, 1998

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# (day): \_\_\_\_\_ (eve.): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Area of interest:

Saturday:

- Basics
- Waterbars
- Rockwork

Sunday:

- Waterbars
- Rockwork
- Power Weeder (tentative)

Please include \$16 per registrant, checks payable to George Walters.

SEND TO: George Walters 5604 Pilgrim Road Baltimore, MD 21214

## Czech Paradise - Wild Walking Adventures with Michelle

I spent one month touring the Czech Republic by train, bus and foot, and still wasn't ready to leave. Outside of Prague, the capital, many people don't think of the Czech Republic as a vacation destination. This small country, bordered by Germany, Austria, Poland and Slovakia, has much more to offer, though.

As with most European countries, the Czech Republic has an endless supply of castles, chateaux and churches, many dating from the 12th century or earlier. Scores of these historical buildings have been, or are currently being, renovated, but even those in ruins are fascinating. If you're looking for incredible architecture and a rich assortment of cultural activities and night life, then Prague is definitely the place to go. Personally, though, I preferred the more understated Baroque and Renaissance main squares of the smaller towns. An evening spent in the small Moravian town of Telc, drinking a glass of local red wine and watching the sun set over the 16th century village square, was an evening I'll never forget.

All these sights can be seen from a car, train or bus, but if you prefer a more active vacation, there is ample opportunity for cycling, hiking, skiing and even rock climbing. To the southwest are the low hills and mountain ranges of the Sumava's, perfect for cross-country skiing or light hiking. The northwest offers the Bohemian mountain ranges of the KrKonsé, with the sandstone "cities" of Cesky Raj and Adrspach-Teplice. This was a rock climber's paradise and some of my favorite hiking. Since much of the countryside is low, rolling hills, dotted with little towns, cycling seems to be a favorite pastime of the Czech people, next to drinking pivo (beer), that is. In fact, I was stopped several times by cyclists offering me a ride on their handlebars!

Since I had neither bicycle, skis nor rock climbing gear, I kept my feet on the ground and enjoyed the countryside on foot. It's not hard to find hiking trails in the Czech Republic, many with signs at major crossroads and markings along the way. The few times I managed to get lost were because I hadn't paid close enough attention to the markings, which may be anywhere (trees, posts, sides of houses or buildings, etc.). If you haven't seen a marking in 50-100 meters, you probably need to

backtrack. One warning though: these trails can go anywhere. You may be walking through beautiful forests, meadows along rivers and dirt roads. But, you may just as easily spend several kilometers walking along a heavily traveled paved road. This is not only unpleasant scenically, but also rough on the feet no matter how good your boots may be.

My favorite hiking area was in the Czech Paradise (Cesky Raj) in Northern Bohemia. I spent two days hiking in this region, using the town of Jicin as my base. The first day I took a train to the little hamlet of Ktova, from where I could see the ruins of Trosky Castle sitting majestically on the hilltop above the town. The trail to the castle was steep, passing country houses, meadows covered in spring flowers, and climbing through the woods beneath the castle. Only two towers of the castle remain, but I enjoyed scrambling around the rock ruins and the views from the one tower open to the public. From there, I followed the trail for 7 kilometers to the rock formations of Huboskalske Skalni. This part of the hike took me through some forested areas, along country lanes, a few kilometers of paved roads, then back on the wide dirt path leading to a vista overlooking the Hreba Skala. Huge sandstone and volcanic basalt pinnacles rose from the valley below. Everywhere, rock climbers were scaling the peaks. It was an impressive sight. Past the overlook, the path continued into the woods. I was hiking along serenely, mostly alone, when suddenly I stumbled into a carnival-like setting. There were rides, food stalls and people everywhere. It took me several minutes to realize I was at Valdstejn Castle. To enter the castle, I crossed a ravine on a stone bridge lined with statues. Inside, people were dressed in period costumes, making and selling various crafts. It was a bit kitschy but kind of interesting. There wasn't much of the castle to see, but the chapel was beautiful and the setting, on the edge of the Hreba Skala, was magnificent. From there it was only a few kilometers to the town of Turnor and the train back to Jicin.

The next day I hiked around the larger rock formations of Prachovsky Skaly. Unlike the Hreba Skala, where you only view the rocks from above, these trails climbed up and down among the sandstone towers. At times you are above the rocks, looking into a valley of

pinnacles and rock climbers. At other times, you walk at the base of the rocks, marveling at their heights as you wind your way among the thin labyrinth of passageways. There are several different trails to choose from, all well marked and easy to follow. In fact, they were almost too well marked. There was a bright green metal railing running along many of the paths. At first I was annoyed by this, but there were actually quite a few steep, sloping stone steps where a handhold was useful, if not a necessity. Still, I would have preferred a more natural railing, or at least a color that blended better.

As much as I enjoyed hiking the Cesky Raj, if you only have a short time in the Czech Republic, go directly to Adrspach-Teplice, in the far northeast corner of the country near the Polish border. There are actually two separate clusters of rock formations, but they comprise a single nature reserve, 15 kilometers east of Trutnov. There is an agonizing, slow yet scenic, little train connecting Trutnov, Adrsplach and Teplice. Using Teplice as my base, I was able to hike both rock cities in four hours of non-stop awe and wonder.

The trail began along a forested stream, gently climbing for about one kilometer to the former site of the 13th century Strman castle, destroyed in 1447. Nothing is left of the castle, but I climbed a series of metal and wooden ladders to an overlook—not a climb I would recommend to anyone with a fear of heights or vertigo! The trail continued through the pine forest, eventually reaching a chata (hut). Here the trail split to form a loop. The rock formations had gradually been getting larger and I was now surrounded on all sides. At one point, several of the rocks were leaning together, forming a high ceilinged cave of sorts. With the exception of an overactive imagination, I was completely alone in this damp, dark, eerie place. The only sounds were my footsteps and water slowly dripping from the rock walls. I kept expecting some mythical creature to leap out from behind a rock.

At the northeast end of the loop, I deviated from the normal tourist trail and headed for one-half kilometer on a green trail, then veered south onto a blue trail. For the next five kilometers or so, I was on the type of

*Continued on page 18*

hiking trails I love, varying terrain or fairy tale forests with bright green foliage, up and down hillsides, through rock “gorges,” sometimes marshy with slippery rock and roots. Always a challenge and never dull.

Suddenly, I found myself standing atop an overlook of the rock city of Teplice. The view was even more spectacular because I wasn’t expecting it. From here the trail widened and eventually descended into Wolf Gorge, merging with the trail to Adrspach on the valley floor. I assumed the 2.5 kilometer walk to Adrspach would be relatively flat and easy. I was in for a surprise. Walking through the gorge, I was surrounded by pine forests with glimpses of huge sandstone rock jutting up behind the trees. The forest eventually gave way, and I was back among the rocks again. The trail alternated between dirt, sand and small log “sidewalks”, some of which were in bad shape from last year’s flooding. I came to a fork in the trail with no indication of which way to go, so I took the route that looked most interesting. I clambered up, down, around and through the rocks on a series of bizarre wooden ladders. The steps were thin, narrow planks of wood, and the ladders tilted at all angles, some completely

vertical, others almost horizontal. In a couple of places, the ladders were broken or missing and I had to find my own route up to the next level. To my surprise, the bottom of one of the ladders was a pond! Three thin logs had been haphazardly nailed together as a makeshift bridge. It didn’t look too stable, but there was no other choice. This was definitely not a trail for the average tourist out for a stroll!

After the pond, the trail began to have a more “tourist” feel, with signs and wider paths. The sign indicating I had reached Adrspach Skaly was in several languages, butchered English being one of them. I took the “way of sightseeing” loop trail, which once again wound me up and down through rock formations. Along the way there were signs pointing to different rocks that had been named. It was great fun to me to observe that someone else thought a particular formation resembled names like Lovers, The Mayor, The Jug, The Globe and my favorite, Elephant Square. With a little imagination you could definitely see the trunks of large and small elephants surrounding you in this little rock plaza. Even after so many hours of walking among rocks, I was never bored. I

spent most of the last hour with my mouth agape, sometimes laughing out loud, sometimes in complete awe at what I was seeing.

As reluctant as I was to leave this mystical place, reality and the last train back to Teplice beckoned. This was one hike where I was glad to have been alone. The silence and solitude added an element of mystery and myth that wouldn’t have been present with even one other person along. It was a special hike and one I’ll remember for a long time to come.

*The author of this article, Michelle Potter, is a PATC member-in-exile, currently on walk about in various foreign parts. She has shared her adventures with friends by reporting thus far from cybercafes in Europe. Michelle is a back-to-back finisher of PATC’s Dogwood Half-Hundred, a Field Team Leader with the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group and a sometime assistant trail overseer on the popular Old Rag Mountain Ridge Trail under the tutelage of the legendary Andrea (Lemon Drop) Dollar, who is currently pushing her own through-hike into New England. □*

## End of the Trail Festival

The Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its first annual End of the Trail Festival at Hidden Springs Campground and the Northern Timber Cruisers on Outer Bates Street in Millinocket, Maine. The festival, which will take place September 25-27, will include exhibits, speakers, demonstrations, an outdoor skills contest, and food. For more information, call the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce at 207/723-4443.

## Answer:

High Point, which is in the Bull Run mountains.



## TRAILHEAD

The most significant rewards for trail-builders and overseers are not material. The intimate knowledge of a small section of woodland, the pride of a well-maintained footpath, and the sincere appreciation of passing hikers are pleasures that increase with time and effort. The club sweetens the pot, however, by throwing in a few perks. Trail maintainers receive discounts on gear, overseer patches and t-shirts, and access to the assortment of club tools and facilities. This year the pot is even fatter. Overseers and crew members who put in significant amounts of hard work and sweat will be provided with a "Trailblazer" rocker patch and a small pocket knife. Criteria for receiving the awards will be left mainly to the discretion of the District Managers with guidance and suggestions from the Supervisor of Trails and Trails Coordinator. Needless to say, those overseers who've decided to farm nettles on their sections will be ineligible.

One trail crew that will undoubtedly receive a bag of patches and knives is the Timberwolf Crew, aka the Beckett family. The Becketts took over the Pocosin Hollow Trail last summer. The trail had been ravaged by the Great Flood of '95 and again in 1996 by Hurricane Fran. The Timberwolves have worked hard and diligently to return the trail to its former state. The crew (named for the family dog, a German Shepherd - timberwolf hybrid) includes dad Bill (Crazy Wolf), mom Tina (Lone Wolf), and their three daughters; AnnMarie (White Wolf), Stephanie (Gray Wolf), and Amanda (Little Wolf). Trail work trips are planned as family activities and often involve a weekend at one of the club cabins. The Becketts prove the old adage, "the family that whacks weeds, cleans waterbars, and clears blowdowns, stays together."

In June, the Timberwolves joined the Cadillac Crew to help build 180 feet of boardwalk in the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Battlefield Park. The Cadillac Crew rounded out the month, on the 27th, by returning to their Shockey's Knob relocation project. There, twelve members of the crew "valiantly battled heat and ticks to build 300 new feet of trail." Sunday work was rained out by a day-long deluge.

June found many of the club crews celebrating National Trails Day '98. The Blue and

White Crew turned out 23 hard working souls for their White Oak Project. The crew split into four groups and tackled a stream crossing project (led by GripHoist artist Pete Gatje and Link Trail Overseer Jack Magarrell), a weeding crew (manned by Ron Kutz and Susan Cahill), a treadway rehab group (expertly directed by Central District man-about-town Mike Dyas) and a waterbar cleaning group. The weather cooperated beautifully and many workers retired to the Meadows Cabin for brews and stews. The B&W Big Chief thanks Hoodlum loaners Bernie Stalman, John McCrea, and topher bill for their energy and expertise.

In August, club members from the West Virginia Chapter will be heading to Montana for a backpacking trip in the Many Glacier area of Glacier National Park. We look forward to seeing the slide show at the Chapter's monthly meeting at Highacre on their return.

The club recently received a letter of thanks from a hiker who wanted to recognize the efforts of an AT overseer who helped him and his dog in a time of need. The aging dog had been a routine hiking companion but, on the hot day in late-May, had become dehydrated and overheated. The timely appearance of the overseer, who had finished weeding his section and offered a lift to the hiker and his

dog to the Blackburn Trail Center, was credited with saving the dog's life. The hiker expressed sincere thanks to Chris Brunton for the helping hand he extended and said, "If Chris is typical of the people you work with in the PATC, you must be very proud." He is, we are, and thanks, Chris, for your good work.

Heidi Forrest (Trails Coordinator) and Pete Gatje (Supervisor of Trails) want to remind all overseers that September 30th is the deadline for work reports for this fiscal year. It is extremely important that all work (and travel hours) be reported accurately and completely by that date. The club's government partners receive funding based on our volunteer contributions and the ATC maintains records of club work. Please be sure to submit your work reports before September 30th.

Due to time restraints and other commitments, this editor will be stepping down as of the September issue of the *PA*. Anyone interested in continuing the Trailhead tradition of cutting-edge, up-to-the-minute trail reporting may call headquarters to find out the details and responsibilities of the job. In the meantime, keep sending those crew reports to The Trailhead Bldg., c/o Kerry Snow, P.O. Box 1169, Olney, MD 20830 or to [kerrysno@sprynet.com](mailto:kerrysno@sprynet.com). □

—Kerry Snow

## Volunteers - Appointed in June Trail Overseers

Phil Schroeder	SNP South Blue-blaze District Manager
William Gunning	AT - Woodrow Rd. To Shippensburg Rd.
Robert M. Clark	AT - Hogwallow Gap to Marshall Mountain Saddle
William Ragsdale	Austin Mountain Trail
Frank A. Deviney	Riprap Trail
Dennis DeSilvey	Rockytop Trail
Ethan DeSilvey	Rockytop Trail
S. V. Dove	Staunton River (lower) Trail
Frederick B. Mohr	Saddle Trail
Steve Paull	Catlett Spur Trail

# TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings July 7, 1998. Contact the District Manager for the region that interests you.

**VIRGINIA NORTH AT** (Map #7 & 8)  
[CALL CHRIS BRUNTON AT 703/560-8070]

**Appalachian Trail**

Loudoun Heights Trail to Gov. Stevenson Junction [.40 miles]

**VIRGINIA SOUTH AT** (Map # 8 & 9)

[CALL ED MCKNEW AT 540/622-6004 OR  
HEIDI FORREST AT 703/242-0693 x 12]

**Co-overseer - Appalachian Trail**

Route 638 to the Powerline [2.3 miles]

[Overseers for new AT Sections call]

**SNP CENTRAL AT & BLUE-BLAZE** (Map # 10)

[CALL KERRY SNOW AT 301/570-0596]  
**AT**

Spitler Knoll Overlook to Fishers Gap [1.30 miles]

**Co-overseers - Ridge Trail**

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

**Catlett Mountain Trail**

Hannah Run Trail to Hazel Mountain Trail [1.2 mile]

**Catlett Spur Trail**

Hannah Run Trail to Hazel Mountain Trail [1.1 mile]

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

[CALL ROB LAUCHNER AT 804/794-1038]

**Rocky Mount Trail**

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

**Hightop Hut Access Road**

Smith Roach Gap to Hightop Hut [0.7 miles]

**Gap Run Trail** (upper)

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

**Gap Run Trail** (lower)

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

**MASSANUTTEN NORTH** (Map # G)

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

**Massanutten Mountain East Trail**

Camp Roosevelt to Gap Creek Trail [3.0 miles]

**Sidewinder** (upper)

Glass House to Tuscarora Trail

**Sidewinder** (lower)

Glass House to VA 678

**MASSANUTTEN SOUTH** (Map # H)

[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477]

**Massanutten Mountain South Trail**

TV Tower Road (FR375) to Pitt Spring [3.4 miles]

**Massanutten Mountain South Trail**

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail [3.3 miles]

**Morgan Run Trail**

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

**Second Mountain Trail**

Boone Run Trail to Kaylor Knob [1.1 miles]

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

[CALL LLOYD MACASKILL AT 703/978-4070]

**Co-overseers - Tuscarora Trail**

Pinnacle Powerline to Larrick Overlook [1.40 miles]

**Co-overseers - Tuscarora Trail**

Larrick Overlook to Lucas Woods [2.3 miles]

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

[CALL RICK RHOADS AT 703/239-0965]

**Tuscarora Trail**

US 340 to SNP boundary [1.10 miles]

**Tuscarora Trail**

Waites Run Road to Mill Mountain Trail [3.30 miles]

**Tuscarora Trail**

Glass House Trail to Elizabeth Furnace [2.20 miles]

**Tuscarora Trail**

White Rocks Trail to Cedar Creek [2.70 miles]

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

[CALL MARK ANDERSON AT 202/462-7718]

**Co-overseer - Western Ridge Trail**

Bluff Bridge to Military Rd. [2.7 miles]

**Co-overseer - Valley Trail**

Military Rd. to Boundary Bridge [2.2 miles]

**Co-overseer - Valley Trail**

Bluff Bridge to Boulder Bridge [1.4 miles]

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