



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 32, Number 8
September 2003

75 Years of Service

Birch Run: The North Chapter Builds a Shelter

Archimedes is said to have claimed that, given a lever long enough and a place to stand, he could move the world. Members of the PATC North Chapter took him at his word two years ago when we used a mighty timber to jack up one of the old Birch Run Shelters; we then replaced the bottom-few courses of logs due to rot and insect infestation. At the time of the repair it became evident that the old shelters were well past their prime, offered no ventilation for drying, and thus were destined to rot quickly and forced hikers to eat and sleep in a very confined, dank, smelly area during heavy rain. "Give me a rock bar long enough and a place to drive, and I will replace these shelters," claimed Shelter Overseer Dave Trone to his loyal henchman and Co-Overseer, and the quest began.

Planning Begins

Beginning in March of 2002, Dave e-mailed clubs from Maine to Georgia in search of inspiration for the perfect shelter design, googling inquiries and searching the Internet gamely until his fingers bled. The response from various clubs was very helpful, and

See *Birch Run*, page 4



Birch Run Shelter in southern Penn. Pictured are (l-r) Dave Trone, Bill Jones, Jim Stauch and Al Black. More pictures of the construction of the new Birch Run Shelter can be found at www.patc.net/chapters/north/.

Photo by Dave Trone

Weeds, Weeds, and More Weeds

Thanks to all the recent rains the wild woods are taking over! Overseers are busy as bees this month trying to combat the weeds. Have you ever considered helping out on the trail – but didn't want to commit to taking on the responsibility permanently? Now's a great time; the need is greater than ever. Many trails are in danger of being overgrown and are begging for a good weed whacking. Pick a place, and contact a District Manager near a trail you are interested in to see if they need some extra hands. Or check out the Forecast for numerous trail work trips where bigger vegetation might be on the menu. Feeling supercharged? Check out the Help Wanted list on the last page of this issue, or, go to http://www.patc.net/about/mail_add.html for the name of a District Manager near you. See you on the trail! ☐



Laura's doing a great job at making the weeds behave. You too could lend a hand at keeping our trails tame.

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Tuscarora Trail Land Management: Lloyd MacAskill

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Potomac Appalachian

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Council Fire

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's regularly scheduled Council Meeting was held on July 8, 2003, at Club Headquarters. President Tom Johnson welcomed Pam Underhill, Superintendent of the Appalachian Trail Park Office, and Bob Gray, Chief Ranger. He also welcomed Sandi Marra, Mid-Atlantic representative for the Appalachian Trail Conference Board of Managers.

Superintendent Pam Underhill expressed her pleasure at attending the PATC Council meeting. She commented briefly on the history and the unique nature of the Appalachian Trail Park, noting the extensive volunteer base required for managing this resource, as well as the multiple state and federal partners involved in the management of the Park. Part of her job is to help ensure consistent policies are in place for the Trail, from Maine to Georgia. She and Bob Gray were visiting to address issues surrounding the safety requirements for volunteers for the Trail.

ATPO Ranger Bob Gray reviewed the development of the safety program, from the 1998 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) and Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO). He noted the five-year renewal for the MOU was pending and that the ATPO wanted to address key items in the safety program. He reviewed the history of the chain-saw and crosscut saw certification course, the

Missoula Curriculum, which was developed by the Forest Service. He also reviewed the requirements for compliance with OSHA regulations and the Best Management Practices of the Forest Service.

The Supervisor of Trails for PATC, Liles Creighton, stated he was dissatisfied with the requirements for numerous reasons, one of which was the cost in equipment. He noted the new standards require unnecessary purchases for long-time volunteers who already own safety equipment. In response to criticism that these requirements are costly for volunteers, Bob noted that a \$144,000 grant had been obtained from the NPS Fee Demonstration Program, some of which had been transferred to the ATC to implement the new safety program. Some had gone to Peter Jensen to train the trainers for the course. And some funds had already provided training to volunteers, awarding helmets, chaps, and first aid kits to those volunteers who completed training.

The Mid-Atlantic representative for the ATC Board of Managers, Sandi Marra, stated the ATC fully supports the Missoula training program. The ATC is currently seeking ways to defray the costs of training to volunteers, as well as to make sure training is available. However, they find the timing for the required implementation to be a problem.

See Council Fire, page 8

HEADQUARTERS

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

Address: 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180
Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.
Phone #: 703/242-0315 24-hr. Activities Tape #: 703/242-0965
To receive an information packet: Extension 10
To leave a message for the Club President, Tom Johnson: Extension 70
Club e-mail: info@patc.net **Facsimile #:** 703/242-0968
World Wide Web URL: http://www.patc.net

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

Tom's Trail Talk

A Walk in Pennsylvania

Whenever I can manage it, I try to get out to see what is happening in the Club. This can be difficult in a 7,000-member trail club with a lot going on. But it is invariably rewarding, and often one sees much more than expected. You just have to choose your spots carefully.

The Fourth of July was one of those rare days this year when no rain was predicted. My project that day was to see the new Birch Run Shelter in southern Pennsylvania. It was near completion, so I had heard, and one of the old shelters (there had been two) was still standing. Great day to take a hike!

My companions numbered two: Candy Christner, a Tuscarora Trail maintainer, and my son-in-law Jason Kendrick, a new member of PATC. We tussled over the starting point. If we started at Big Flat, it was just over a mile hike into the shelter. If we started at Caledonia, it would be 10 miles just to reach the shelter – another 1.2 miles to Big Flat. And it was uphill. Of course we started at Caledonia.

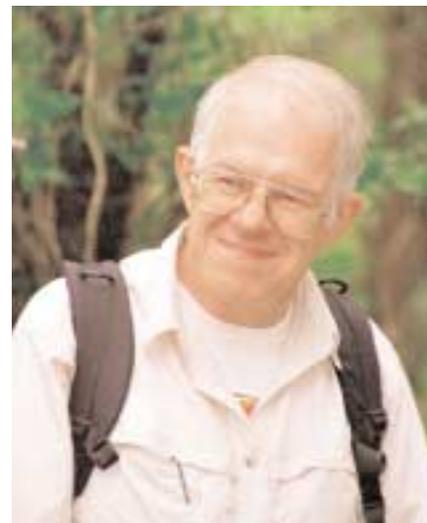
Our first reference point after leaving Caledonia was Quarry Gap Shelter. It is always a pleasure to happen upon Quarry Gap. It is one of the best-maintained shelters on the AT, a tribute to the Overseer, Jim Stauch, who devotes constant attention. In fact, this hike was the first time I had ever hiked through Quarry Gap without seeing

Jim. We sat for a while at the shelter and contemplated the bubbling brook outside. Tranquility reigned. But it was not time for lunch. We moved on, kind of wondering where Jim was.

After we reached the ridge we moved quickly over smooth level trail, an uncommon occurrence in Pennsylvania. About lunchtime we reached Milesburn Cabin, one of PATC's oldest. We chatted with the family that had rented the cabin for the weekend. While we were there hubby arrived after a bike ride. Once again we were treated to a babbling brook, tranquility, and a very friendly dog who was overnighing with the renters.

Moving on, we reached Birch Run by mid-afternoon. I was stunned by the magnificence of the new shelter. The grandeur of the design, the roof overhang that seems to enclose the entire clearing, and the double bunk accommodations that invite backpackers into its depths, mark it as one of the most capable of shelters.

The construction crew was there doing some finishing work. They had just stained the outside, and the stain was still wet. David Trone, who was in charge of the project, greeted us. With him was Bill Jones. They were out there working on the Fourth. David said that Jim Stauch and Al Black had also played key roles in the new Birch Run construction.



After a very pleasant chat with David and Bill we moved on, and in about 20 minutes were at Big Flat. A thunderstorm was moving in, and we didn't tarry long. But we did see a lone figure there, cutting grass at the parking lot. It was Jim Stauch! Now we knew why Jim had not been at Quarry Gap. As we talked with Jim an unexpected thunderstorm moved in. Well, so much for the weather prediction.

I invite everyone to take a look at the new shelter. It sets a very high standard for all future AT shelters. Congratulations to David, his crew, and the North Chapter for a fine job, and to Frank Turk for managing such an outstanding shelter construction effort throughout PATC's area of responsibility. □

—Thomas Johnson

Let's Hear it for Twenty Years of Pigs and Beer!

Please join us for the 20th Annual Blackburn Pig Roast, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 11-12, 2003, at Blackburn Trail Center, near Round Hill, Va. The organizers – who will admit to being no more than 18 years old when the first Pig Roast was held – will be the same as always: Rick Portal with help from Tim Rahn and Nancy Hughes. Registration this year is once again being taken by Trailboss Chris Brunton and Sandi Marra.

As is the Saturday evening tradition, black beans and rice, potato au gratin, and apple crisp will accompany our Cuban-style roast pig. Happy hour will lead off the evening with Rick's famous tamales. In addition, Tim will make sure anyone waking up Sunday morning still hungry will be taken care of with his quality breakfast fare. Anyone wanting to participate in the Friday night Pig grease down and seasoning (an event worth experiencing at least once in your life) are welcomed! Dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday are up to each individual.

In keeping with our family-oriented events, we will have planned activities for children of all ages, culminating in our annual jack-o-lantern contest, complete with scary stories and prizes for all. Of course all attendees can take a hike along the AT or simply enjoy the changing leaves from our front porch.

Overnight accommodations include bunk space inside the trail center (first-come, first-served) and tent sites outside on the grounds. And all are included with the low reservation fee. Confirmation with directions will be sent once a reservation is received.

Members and friends interested in attending the event should complete the registration form on page 4, and send a check for \$25 per adult and for children over 10 to Sandi Marra, 9000 Piney Grove Dr., Fairfax, VA 22031. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SANDRA MARRA. Info: Chris Brunton, (trailbossbtc@msn.com) 703/560-8070. □

Birch Run, from page 1

finally Dave became enamored of the "Nantahala Shelter" of the Nantahala Hiking Club (see www.maconweb.com/nhc). The pictures of the Wesser Bald Shelter (a "Nantahala Shelter") were especially inspiring, and it was decided to copy the concept of sleeping area and eating areas that are separate but under one roof.

In May of 2002 the paperwork began, and Dave developed a working plan in consultation with Bill Jones (Overseer of Toms Run Shelters) and Jim Stauch (Overseer of Quarry Gap Shelter). Bill Jones contacted Karen Lutz (ATC Mid-Atlantic rep) and the folks at Michaux Forestry Headquarters, Mike Kusko and Gary Zimmerman. Karen Lutz explained the procedure we should follow under the guidelines of the ATC, PATC, and the DCNR. Pete Brown, PATC North District Manager, also lent crucial guidance. Neal Mishler, Forester at Michaux State Forest, reserved the right to review the plans and to be able to suggest changes and was eager to schedule an on-site visit.

The project suffered a setback in early June of 2002 when Bill Jones was struck by a heart attack, but there's no keeping a salty old Master Chief down, and one almost imagines him straining for his power tools from his bed. Bill recovered with astonishing speed, however, and the shelter plans came together almost as quickly over the course of the summer of 2002. In the first weeks of June, Frank Turk's response to the

initial design was enthusiastic, and Dave, Jim, Pete Brown, and Gary Zimmerman met at the shelter site to discuss plans and logistics. Meanwhile, Karen Lutz and Morgan Sommerville (ATC Southern AT rep) agreed to have the Nantahala plans sent to Dave for no charge. In July Dave, Jim, and Bill sketched up plans and developed a materials list; the main structural items were to be 44 15-foot milled logs from Kuhns Brothers, and it should be noted that Edie Seaton, our Kuhns representative, was a gem throughout the process.

Accessing the Site

In early September it was determined that it would be better to come in to Birch Run from the powerline access road (Fegley Road) rather than from Big Flat, because of the shorter distance, the width of the AT along this stretch, and the lack of private property concerns. Jim, Bill, Mike Kusko, and Neal Mishler then walked the AT from Fegley Road to the shelter site. Mike and Neal voiced some concerns but approved the route, and Jim and Bill then went to Boiling Springs and received Karen Lutz's verbal approval. The completed project plan was then sent to Frank Turk, and in December the PATC Council approved the new shelter and included \$6,000 for the construction thereof in its 2003 budget. Soon thereafter Dave gleefully ordered the logs from Kuhns Brothers and began to look forward to spring as though Santa himself were to deliver them.

We could have used Santa's sleigh last winter up at Birch Run, of course. A couple of February work trips planned to clear trees for truck access to the worksite had to be postponed, and Jim took advantage of inclement weather to drop by a local Kuhns Brothers construction site to gather building ideas. Eventually we managed to widen the trail for access, and on the first Saturday in April, construction began in earnest. El Presidente Pete Brown himself dropped the large tree at the back of our building site, and we all lived to report his feats of logging magic (whew!). We also dug 12 pits for sonotubes for the concrete substructure of the shelter and finished preparing the trail to become a highway. This was also the day that Al Black (master carpenter extraordinaire) stepped up to the fore and began being revered by the rest of the worker bees as nothing short of a god in a toolbelt; Al is now the Overseer of Antietam Shelter, and what a lucky break for Antietam!

Jim, Bill, Dave, Frank, and Henry Horn met the next week to go over the materials, and it was determined that a few more logs would make for a snugger shelter. Through the good offices of our guardian angel Edie, however, all was well, and Kuhns generously donated 10 additional logs plus delivery at a nominal fee. The first Saturday in May was dedicated to pouring concrete, which Lowe's delivered complete with sonotubes and rebar; all went well, if you discount a little hole stretching in a few places.

See Birch Run, page 6

Make Plans Now for the Twentieth Annual Blackburn Pig Roast

Blackburn Pig Roast — Saturday and Sunday, October 11/12, 2003

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____ Number of reservations: _____ @ \$25.00 each

Total enclosed: _____

I will also be bringing _____ # children aged 10 and under (for whom there is no charge)

Include a \$25.00 payment per person for each reservation with checks payable to Sandra Marra and mail to:

Sandra Marra, 9000 Piney Grove Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031.

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to make your check payable to Sandra Marra.

Food and Fun Help PATC Protect the Trail

If someone asks you for a good reason to attend the next PATC New Members Barbeque, give them more than one, give them a thousand. As in \$1,000. That is how much this year's celebration of food, fun, and the Appalachian Trail returned to the Club's coffers.

Held July 12 and 13, on a rare, almost totally rain-free weekend at Blackburn Trail Center, the 2003 Club cookout was a gathering of four generations of hikers and trail maintainers. The almost 100 attendees comprised a mix of young and old, hikers and trail maintainers, long-time Club members and nonmembers who attended to see what PATC might be about.

According to event organizer Caren Rothstein-Robinson, the event had two purposes, both of which were met.

"We hold the barbeque to raise money for the Club," she said, "especially for the Conservation Fund. We also do it to draw new members because the new blood helps keep the energy level of the Club high."

A Meal to Savor

The star attraction that brought in the people and their checkbooks was Dean Caraway's Texas-style barbeque brisket, slow-roasted over hardwood from the center's woodshed. It was accompanied by grilled chicken, baked beans, potato salad, green-leaf salad, and assorted snacks prepared by co-grill master Blaine Robinson and volunteer cooks Karen Caraway, Dave and Sanda Howland, Becky and Earle Hunter, and Sandi Marra.

Providing a nice close to the meal was a dessert contest entered by 13 talented attendees who competed for fame, glory, and three cooking-related prizes. According to Rothstein-Robinson, "the dessert contest was a nice touch that added an extra 'home' feeling to the festivities."

She said the donated desserts also boosted the Club's profit margin by reducing overall food costs. Other key donations that helped boost the event proceeds were kegs of Wild Goose Pale Ale and Amber Lager from Frederick Brewing Co. and three cases each of Dominion Brewing Co.'s special root beer and ginger ale. A boxful of trail equipment



Photo by Becky Hunter

PATC's next generation of volunteers relaxes in Blackburn Trail Center's main room after a hard day of food and play.

(highlighted by two water-resistant anoraks from Campmor and a \$30 gift certificate from L.L. Bean) provided the prizes for the ever-popular "50-50" raffle.

Hikes and Games

As befits a trail organization, a variety of hikes of varied length, difficulty, and pace were offered. Because of the annual barbeque's increasing family focus, this year's get-together gave the more than one dozen kids who attended games on the front lawn, arts and crafts for fun, and also a scavenger hunt throughout the Trail Center grounds.

The scavenger hunt, which first appeared on the event a couple of years ago, provided the inspiration for a note of poignancy. Long-time Club member Bob King raised an extra donation specifically ear-marked for the Trails Lands Fund by auctioning off selected rare coins from his personal collection.

A Club member since 1954, Mr. King read about a previous barbeque scavenger hunt in the *PA* newsletter and started to think of ways he could help secure the environment for the AT and other trails he had spent his youth maintaining. The idea he hit upon meant parting with more than a dozen of his favorite coins – including three (a Mercury

dime, a Standing Liberty quarter, and a Walking Liberty half-dollar) from 1927 when PATC was founded.

"It never ceases to amaze me the creativity that people show in bringing entertainment and activities to the Club and this event," said Rothstein-Robinson.

In the end this creativity, combined with the willingness of new and long-time Club members to donate for the trail while enjoying good company in the great outdoors, resulted in \$963.38 being raised for the Club from the fun and frolic. A last-minute donation from "Trail Boss" Chris Brunton permitted event treasurer Lisa Still to present the Club with a check for an even \$1,000. With this came the additional funds personally raised by Bob King with his silent auction.

According to the barbeque organizers, this year's donation to PATC was the largest yet from this popular annual event. But perhaps, even more important, was the opportunity the barbeque gave to spend a beautiful weekend on the trail with some pleasantly surprised thru-hikers and dozens of men and women who form the often-unseen community that makes the trail possible. □

—George Still

Book Review: Time For Everything

Time for Everything: A Six-Year Adventure on the Appalachian Trail, by George Meek, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 2003, 148pp, 8 appendices, index.

Meek, a life member of PATC, was a section hiker, doing the AT in varying lengths over six years. For two years, he did several small mileages in fairly local areas plus one long section of 115 miles from Katahdin to Monson. The rest of the time was further distances from the D.C. area, so each segment took in greater mileage.

In one appendix, George provides a sample hike plan that would be most helpful to prospective thru-hikers. From his plan, he knows ahead of time his elevation gain and descent each day, which prepared him psy-

chologically for the day ahead. The equipment list, including weights, covers everything you will need.

Meek starts the book at the finish line and the excitement of that event, which was in Front Royal. His trail name was Poet, and he includes several of his poems; he wrote a very nice verse on the completion of his hike. The book's format is based on the biblical passage of "a time to sow and a time to reap," and the chapters follow this framework. George reflects on his challenges, training, eating, people, trail magic, and bears, to name a few. There are lots of tidbits of information that will make any hiker's journey easier and more pleasant. This book is available in PATC's store. □

—Carol Niedzialek

Book Signing Come Celebrate!

You are cordially invited to celebrate the release of PATC's newest book: *Time for Everything: A Six-Year Adventure on the Appalachian Trail*

Former PATC Recording Secretary George Meek's book presents a special view of the AT experience from a section-hiker perspective.

Meet the author, ask him about section hiking, and pick up a personally autographed copy (\$7.20 for Club members, \$9.00 for nonmembers). Cookies, brownies, and punch will be available.

Date: **Wednesday, Sept. 10**

Time: **7:30-9:00 p.m.**

Place: **Club Headquarters**

(118 Park St. S.E., Vienna, Va.)

Birch Run, from page 4

Workers Get Going

Adams County Nursery took delivery of the logs from Kuhns early in the month and stored them until Memorial Day weekend, when the real festivities began! After a Friday evening drop-off at the Fegley Road intersection by ACN, Dave and Al took loads of logs through the gathering gloom and mist back to the worksite, balanced precariously in the beds of their pickups. All was uneventful until the "One Last Load" gods cursed our happy band with a flat tire as the darkness and rain gathered strength. All was not lost, however, and Al was once again the man of the hour, singing in the rain like Gene Kelley while changing a tire in record time!

It took eight working days from that rainy night on Memorial Day weekend for the shelter to become fully functional. "I've got some tools," cried Al; "I've got a generator," sang Bill. "Let's put up a shelter!" chimed in Dave and Jim. The crew worked very well together, and our few minor injuries quickly healed. Sure, Bill suffered some minor lacerations and bruises when Al fell on him, but if a heart attack couldn't kill him, Al certainly couldn't! And what's a rafter dropped on Chris' head? It's not like he uses it! All in all we were a very lucky, jolly band, and great fun (and quite an education under the tutelage of Al) was had by all.

Kuhns Brothers donated another five logs to plug up an unintended skylight, and Chris Fee and Brad Black took an early morning drive up the Susquehanna to take advantage of the great generosity provided by Kuhns (15 out of 59 logs were free!). Thanks are due to Kuhns and Edie, of course, and also to Donald B. Smith Roofing, whom Al convinced to donate the sheeting for the shelter roof. Bill also worked overtime coating the top and bottom of the flooring prior to installation, and boy, does that floor shine! Special thanks to Santa and his little helpers: Al, Jim, and Bill, as well as to all of the elves from the North Chapter who made this shelter the showpiece that it is: Al Black, Barb Black, Brad Black, Chris Fee, Jim Stauch, Pete Brown, Dave Trone, Sam

Trone, Abbie Trone, Jay & Katie Sexton, Bill & Carol Jones, Ron Burge, Pat Wolf, Neal Watson, Eric Haller, Chris Baugher, T.C. Senseney, and other names that I may have missed.

Thanks also to Frank Turk for support throughout the project, and to Tom Johnson, who visited the shelter on the 4th of July and was generous in his praise of the design and construction. The next day the last of the old shelter was removed, and the repair of the erosion that was the result of torrential rains combined with 4x4 trucks has already begun by many willing hands from the North Chapter. This work will go on for the next few months, but already the trail is much better, and the shelter is a thing of beauty. Thanks to all who turned a dream into reality! □

—Chris Fee, Co-Overseer and Henchman

The shelter dedication is scheduled for 09/13/2003; all are invited, especially the North Chapter members who assisted in the project.

For information on the dedication, please contact David Trone at tronefam@blazenet.net

Attention Raven Rocks Hikers:

We have received complaints about hikers parking illegally on Raven Rocks Road (VA 601). The road parallels the AT north of Snickers Gap, and there is access to the AT at the MCI Tower Road. However, as shown on the current PATC Map 7, there is no parking allowed on the road and hikes must run all the way to Snickers Gap. Please – make your plans accordingly!

Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature: Sails, Slugs, Fungi Appreciate Wet Weather

It's been a wetter-than-average season. We were certainly due. The rainfall that we've had this season has many implications. Of course, the herbaceous growth is going bananas; just ask any trail Overseer. It has also certainly increased the seasonal population of fungi, for better or worse. The good news is that the rain supported the growth of the fungus *Entomophaga maimaiga*, intentionally introduced to feed on the unintentionally introduced gypsy moth larva, or caterpillar. The bad news is the flowering dogwood is really taking a beating. In fact, the fungus that affects this tree is still flourishing. (At least it has minimal impact on the alternate leaf dogwood, our other native arboreal dogwood, and no impact on the six or so native dogwood shrubs.) You can also presume our native American chestnut, beech, and butternuts have suffered at the hands of their host-specific fungi.

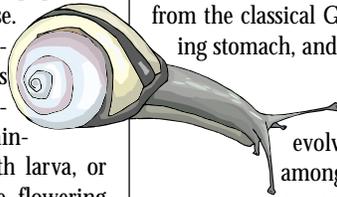
The cooler, wetter season has also slowed the impact of the hemlock woolly adelgid, not that the hemlocks can last much longer in this region anyway. Maybe the release of the Japanese ladybird beetle (*Pseudaecymus tsugae*) will slow the spread of the adelgid to our north and west. Wouldn't it be nice to imagine this coccinellid beetle actually controlling the adelgids? Time will tell. But at \$2 per ladybird beetle, it doesn't seem likely.

Slugs, Snails Happy

Another implication of the rain is the proliferation of slugs and snails. You may have noticed the damage in your home gardens. Those holes in the middle of the leaves of hosta, violets, and impatiens are likely the results of slugs (most chewing insects start on the edges of leaves). And, wouldn't you know it, most of our urban slugs were introduced.

Slugs and snails are related to clams, oysters, squid, and octopi. In the animal kingdom, slugs and snails are members of the Phylum mollusca. This Phylum is an extremely diverse group. With more than 50,000 species, the molluscs rank second only to the Phylum arthropoda in total species. While the majority of molluscs are marine, a large number of species are found in freshwater and terrestrial habitats. The molluscs include at least seven classes (you remember, Kings Play Chess On Fine Green Silk?) including the bivalvia (clams, oysters, and mollusks) and the

cephalopoda (squid and octopi). But our slug and snail friends are in the class gastropoda (snails, slugs, conchs, and a few others). Gastropods are by far the largest class, comprising more than 40,000 species, or 80 percent of the molluscs. The word is derived from the classical Greek word *gastros* meaning stomach, and *podos* meaning foot.



The slug form has evolved a number of times among the land snails. Slugs are not snails that have crawled out of their shells, but are the end products of a long line of evolutionary changes in which the shell was progressively reduced. While slugs do not have the protective shell, they have a pliable worm-like shape that can easily crawl into small cracks and crevices.

How Gastropoda Cope

Slugs and snails are nocturnal. During the day they seek shelter beneath pieces of wood, plants, rocks, decaying logs, and soil duff, trying to find protective moist sites. They are extremely susceptible to drying out. Native slugs stay in the forests, where they feed on decaying wood and leaves and fungal hyphae. The great majority of land snails are herbivorous, feeding on decaying leaves and wood and fungal hyphae. However, there are a few carnivorous species that feed on other land snails, including one common throughout the Eastern United States. Depending on the species, slugs can live one to six years. Snails can live from two to 20 years.

One adaptation enabling land snails and slugs to survive on land is their ability to produce plenty of slimy mucus. Mucus prevents moisture in the animals' bodies from being soaked up by the dry terrain being traveled across. Also, it protects the animal's fleshy underparts from sharp objects. Snails and slugs can actually glide across the sharpest razor blade without cutting themselves. They can also produce a heavy viscous mucus from their body for self-defense.

When dry weather comes, snails and slugs bury themselves in the soil or find some other well-protected spot. Snails plug up their shell holes with mucus that hardens, and slugs

secrete a sort of mucous cocoon for themselves. Then through the dry spell the animals remain in a state of suspended animation, or aestivation. Like hibernation, their body processes slow to a point almost like death. However, there's enough life for them to become active again once enough rain comes to dissolve the mucus and soak into their bodies.

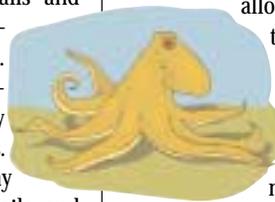
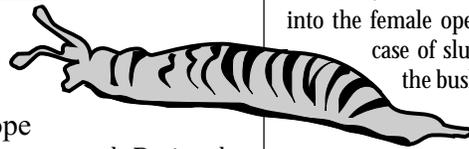
Snail Sex

Most land snails and slugs are hermaphroditic, possessing both male and female parts. In some species, an individual may behave as male for a while, then as a female. When snails mate, two individuals pull up next to one another, arrange themselves so that the male part of one is opposite the female part of the other, and then each ejects male sperm into the female opening of the other. In the case of slugs, a slow-speed chase in the bushes ends with the two suspended by a mucous rope, hanging in mid-air, alone in their own little world of ecstasy. The literature suggests that self-pollination does occur in both the snails and slugs, but it's not common.

Speaking of snail sex, would you believe a third of the species shoot darts into each other's female reproductive parts? Or at least, they try to. With good reason, copulating snails commonly are seen jostling, in an attempt to hit but not be hit by these love darts. These darts are the equivalent of being stabbed with a hypodermic needle! The benefit to the shooter is that the darts contain mucus that temporarily contracts a part of the female reproductive system in a way that allows a greater number of sperm to reach her storage area and survive. Researchers have found that about one-third of all love darts either fail to penetrate the skin or they miss the target completely.

There's one more thing that I have to mention about a slug's mucus. Apparently, the slime is a natural anesthetic. If you lick a slug, your tongue will go numb. In fact, some Native Americans used to put slugs in their mouths when they had a tooth ache and let it crawl around. I guess I'll have to try that some day. Boy, that'll be a special moment. □

—Bob Pickett



16th Annual SNP North District Overseers' Workshop

Sept. 13-14, Pinnacles Research Station

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

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

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

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol
presents

BACKPACKING 202

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

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

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

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

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

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

Council, from page 2

Pam Underhill summarized that the issue illustrates the challenges of partnerships. She stated the partners involved would need to continue to work together to make progress and satisfy everyone's needs. Tom Johnson presented the ATPO guests with PATC pens, concluding the presentation.

Finance

Treasurer Gerhard Salinger distributed the monthly budget report for April 2003. He noted that 95 percent of the shelter maintenance budget had already been spent. Council approved a motion requesting funds from the Endowment to replenish the unrestricted accounts of the Shelters/Cabins/Cabin Land Fund, the Trails Land Fund, and the Headquarters Fund. The allocation will be distributed to the three funds, as listed above, in a 40, 40, 20 percent split.

Trails and Lands

Supervisor of Trails Liles Creighton announced a vacancy for the District Manager position for SNP Central District side trails. Tom Lupp distributed updates to the AT Local Management Plan, reviewing some of the changes, notably the approval of covered cooking spaces at shelters. Two copies of the complete 230-page management plan are available for review at Headquarters. Tom also reported that the worm fence at Turners Gap had been

installed last month. For assistance with this project, he thanked Charlie Graf from PATC, Bob Gray from the ATPO, and the C&O Canal for storing and delivering the materials, and he noted a Harpers Ferry NPS Ranger was present as well. The next step, he announced, is to build a handicap-accessible path to the chapel.

Facilities

Council approved a motion allocating funds from the unrestricted Shelters/Cabins/Cabins Land Fund to paint Highacre and install new gutters. Mel Merritt reported Cliff's House renovation is on schedule. He informed Council that the cabin on the Johnson tract could be brought into the rental system quickly. It will be converted from two bunks to four, and a cook shed may be added to the side porch.

Other Business

Blackburn Center: Chris Brunton notified Council that a Loudoun County Sheriff had removed a hiker from the AT for reported thefts.

Northern Shenandoah Chapter: Lee Sheaffer distributed copies of the chapter's newsletter. He reported from a successful hike for Congressional staffers to Bears Den; 30 people were on the hike.

Conservation Committee: Jeff Percy announced the first work trip for ecological

inventory was scheduled for mid-August; the tract was yet to be determined. He is currently reviewing the issue of the Western Maryland Railroad right-of-way, owned by the C&O Canal, as a proposed railtrail.

Maryland AT Management Committee:

Charlie Graf announced the Annapolis Rocks dedication on June 30 was a success. Thirty-five people, including ATPO representatives Pam Underhill and Bob Gray, as well as AP reporters, attended the ceremony. At the dedication, Charlie awarded commendations to volunteers Jack Thomas and John Akerly, who made outstanding contributions to the project. Charlie also reported progress from cabin work at Tulip Tree and John's Rest. He noted work at Eaton Cabin was delayed by weather. The contractor for Eaton Cabin first has to finish a rock wall; volunteers will then be needed to proceed with the project. Charlie reported on a recent tour of Rosser Lamb Cabin, which looks good.

The July Council meeting was attended by six Club officers, seven committee Chairs, two chapter representatives, two section representatives, one staff member, and the following guests: Sandi Marra, Mid-Atlantic representative for the ATC Board of Managers, and from the Appalachian Trail Park Office – Superintendent Pam Underhill and Chief Ranger Bob Gray. ☐

—Secretary Georgann Smale



Hikers Notebook

Common Name: Fly Poison

Scientific Name: Amianthium muscaetoxicum

Family: Lily Liliaceae

The tall stalks of the Fly Poison plant are very common along the trails of Virginia in June and July, particularly at elevations of about 1,000 to 2,000 feet. The plant is characterized by small white flowers that are initially white, but then turn to green and eventually purple as they age.

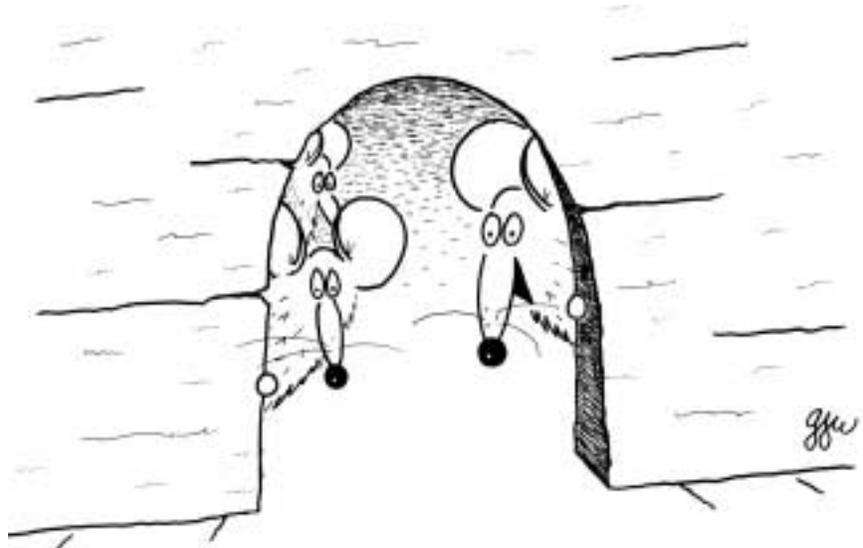
Potpourri: The name fly poison is not a coincidence. The entire plant, but most especially the bulbs, contain a poisonous alkaloid. In colonial times, the alkaloid poisons from the plant were ground into a paste and mixed with sugar to kill flies. As with many modern chemical pesticides, the sugar would attract the fly that would then be poisoned by the plant derivative. And hence the name.

The lily family is a large group that generally consist of three petals, three sepals (the leaves at the base of the flower), six stamens (the pollen-bearing male part of the flower) and a long pistil (the egg-bearing female part of the flower).

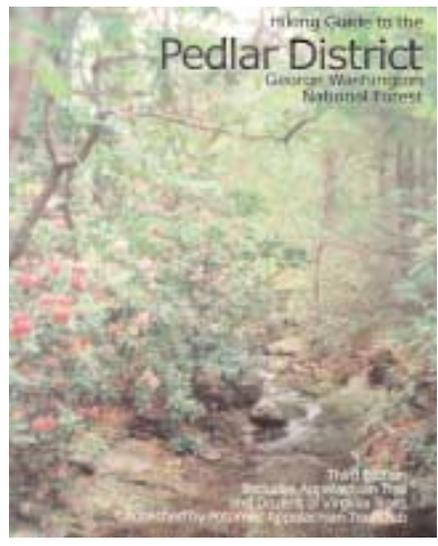
As with most plants of the lily family, the Fly Poison is a perennial that survives the winter as a bulb. □

—William Needham

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



"OK!...THEY'RE LOCKING UP THE CABIN AND GOING ON A DAY HIKE! YOU KNOW THE PLAN! LET'S MOBILIZE!"



Pedlar District Hiking Guide Revised, Map Set Available

The newest edition of the Hiking Guide to the Pedlar District is now available. Because of increased printing costs the new guide is priced at \$7.20 for members, and \$9.00 for non-members. We would also like to announce the creation of the Pedlar Guide set, which includes Maps 12 and 13. The price for the guide set is \$14.40 for members and \$18.00 for non-members. When you purchase the set you receive a larger discount compared than when purchased separately. Please feel free to call your order in today to our Headquarters at 703/242-0693.

Calling All Insurance Professionals

When you joined PATC, you probably didn't realize that your expertise could be used for anything but digging out waterbars. However, one of the Club's major expenses is its insurance policy, and this year will see some major changes. We need your expertise to advise us on the best course to take. Please respond to the Club President, Tom Johnson, at johnts3@juno.com, or call the Club at 703/242-0693 and leave a voice mail message on extension 40.

FORECAST

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

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

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

Chapters

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

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

Ski Touring Section

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

Mountaineering Section

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

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

PATC Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

Meetings

Meetings

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

New Members (PATC) – First Wednesday

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

Mountaineering Section – Second Wednesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

PATC Council – Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol – First Tuesday

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

SEPTEMBER

1 (Monday)

DEADLINE - October Potomac Appalachian Material due to Editors

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to PA@patc.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

2 (Tuesday)

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

2 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Shenandoah National Park, VA

From Meadows Cabin Parking climb over Doubletop for view, then down newly mapped trail to the Rapidan and Hoover Camp, up Mill Prong Trail to AT north returning via Stony Mountain Trail and Upper Dark Hollow Falls Trail. 16 miles, 4000 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (Chrisnolen@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

3 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Battery Kemble, DC

Back for another year, the Easy Hikers will hike a 4-to 5-mile circuit on the Battery Kemble and Glover Archbold trails and the C & O canal towpath. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at Battery Kemble Park. Bring lunch and water. Directions: From MacArthur Blvd., turn NE (left if inbound, right if outbound) onto Chain Bridge Rd. Proceed to park entrance on right. Follow road to parking area. INFO: Gary Abrecht (Gabrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

3 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Mid-Week Hikers

Call for location

The Mid-Week Hikers do hikes of about 8 to 12 miles over varied terrain. They carpool to and from the trail head. INFO: 703/242-0965, PATC's voice hotline, for details on the hike, meeting place, departure time and leader.

3 (Wednesday)

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

6 (Saturday)

HIKE - K9Trailblazers

Clarksburg, MD

Little Bennett Regional Park. We'll hike at a moderate pace for a 5-mile loop in the woods and meadows of Little Bennett Park. We'll travel on rocky trails and old forest roads, mostly unpaved, with a few short but fairly steep climbs (~100 ft elevation change) and a few stream crossings on wooden bridges. This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on leash and scoop after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead. Bring snacks, and water for you and your dog. Visit www.k9trailblazers.org for more details. INFO: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org) 301/482-2468 or Jeff Bolognese (jabolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

6 (Saturday)

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

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

9 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Circuit Hike, Strickler Knob Massanutten Mountain, VA

North of Rt 211. About a 15-mile, circuit hike featuring an 1100' bushwhack up the west side of Strickler Knob. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

9 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Family Hike, Manassas Battlefield Centreville, Virginia

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

9 (Tuesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Carderock, MD

To Great Falls. A 6-mile hike along picturesque section of C&O Canal. Meet at 10:15 a.m. Take Exit 41 off Beltway (Interstate 495) and follow signs to Carderock. Go to third parking lot. One small rocky stretch. Lunch will be at the halfway point. Bring plenty of water. Group will return to starting point after lunch. INFO: Jim Flanigan (jflanigan@aol.com) 202/554-3775.

10 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Mid-Week Hikers

Call for location

The Mid-Week Hikers do hikes of about 8 to 12 miles over varied terrain. They carpool to and from the trail head. INFO: 703/242-0965, PATC's voice hotline, for details on the hike, meeting place, departure time and leader.

10 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Saturday)

HIKE - Dark Hollow Falls

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join us for an enjoyable and moderate hike to two beautiful waterfalls in the park, 6 miles and an elevation gain of 1400 feet. The hike will take us to the Rose River and Dark Hollow Falls and around Big Meadows. The scenery should be great so don't forget your camera. INFO: Michael Thimblin (hiker@thimblin.net) 703/912-5099 or Rose Serino (reallyrosie1@yahoo.com) 703/255-5087.

13 (Saturday)

HIKE - Family Hike

Appalachian Trail, MD

Black Rock/Annapolis Rock section. Wolfsville Rd. to I-70/Rte 40. 8.5 miles, moderate hike, elevation 400 ft. We will be hiking the crest of a portion of the South Mountain in Maryland. After leaving Wolfsville Rd. we will be on a newly built section of the AT. We will see views at Black Rock/Annapolis Rocks on this hike. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the AT parking lot along Rte 40. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855.

13 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

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

13 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Washington, DC

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

13 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Service Project, REI Montgomery County, MD

Little Bennett Regional Park, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Maryland National Capital Parks & Planning is teaming up with REI's Bailey's Crossroads, College Park and Fairfax stores for our annual Service Project. We have lined up trail maintenance and park cleanup projects for this year's effort, and we need your participation to make this project a success. Everyone should have stout footwear, two quarts of water, lunch, insect repellent, a hat, and long pants. Tools will be provided, but if you own a bow saw, rake, or pruning shears you are encouraged to bring them. Unfortunately regulations do not permit children under 14 to participate. Children aged 12 -18 must be accompanied by a parent or organized group leader. Please stop by the store to register for this event. Registration insures each volunteer an event t-shirt and helps us make sure we have enough tools and supplies. INFO: Mark Nelson, (mnelson@rei.com) or Mal Fordham (mfordha@rei.com) 703/379-9400 or 301/982-9681.

13 (Saturday)

CLASS - Nepal, Bears Den Trail Center Bluemont, VA

Don't miss a rare opportunity to meet Jwalant Gurung, native Nepalese hiking guide and owner of Crystal Mountain Treks in Kathmandu, and learn about trekking the Khumbu (Mount Everest), Annapurna, Manaslu, and Dolpo Regions, and about new areas open to tourists. Claudine Weatherford will speak about her first hiking experience in Nepal. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., \$5 per person, includes refreshments. RSVP/INFO: Rob Carey (bearsdencenter.org) 540/554-8708.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Hike Leadership Training course Triangle, VA

Prince William Forest Park. The Trail Patrol is hosting a Hike Leadership Training course. The two day course uses classroom and hands-on instruction to teach participants the essential skills for leading safe, enjoyable hikes with minimal environmental impact. The topics to be covered include: Medical Emergencies, Planning, Personal Equipment, Leave No Trace, Leadership Skills, Standard Procedures, Emergency Procedures, and Navigation and Map Reading. INFO: Ben Fernandez (bmf Fernandez99@earthlink.net) 703/327-9788.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid Alexandria, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this eighteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$140. Registration is limited to 25 people. RSVP/INFO: Christopher Tate (<http://wfa.net>) 703/836-8905.

FORECAST

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday) ✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Madison, VA

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

16 (Tuesday) ✂ CLASS - C&O Canal, REI Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. History, recreation, and fun along the C&O Canal Hey,ey,ey,ey lock! Standing in the early morning sunlight next to one of the C&O Canal's restored and working lift locks, you can almost hear the canal barge captain announcing his arrival to the lock keeper. Karen Gray, First Vice President of the C&O Canal Association, has been hiking and biking on the C&O Canal towpath since 1977, and has been studying the history and engineering of the C&O and other Eastern U.S. 19th-century canals. Karen will discuss resources for hikers and bikers along the canal as she follows the towpath and reviews its general history and engineering, why it was built, and its several eras as a transportation route, problematic government property, and finally as a National Historical Park. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

16 (Tuesday) ✂ HIKE - Vigorous Hikers George Washington National Forest, VA

From VA 613 climb Massanutten Ridge on East Sherman Gap Trail, descend to Elizabeth Furnace for lunch then climb over Shawl Gap returning to east side. About 12 miles and 2500 ft climb. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

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

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

17 (Wednesday) ✂ HIKE - Mid-Week Hikers Call for location

The Mid-Week Hikers do hikes of about 8 to 12 miles over varied terrain. They carpool to and from the trail head. INFO PATC's Voice Hotline 703/242-0965 for details on the hike, meeting place, departure time and leader.

18 (Thursday) ✂ HIKE - In-Between Hikers Langley, VA

Scotts Run to Turkey Run Park, Langley, VA and return. A moderate/fast 10 miles over varied terrain and several stream crossings. Boots recommended. Joint hike with Sierra Club MWRP. From I-495, Exit 44, go west on Va 193 (Georgetown Pike) 0.6 miles to Swinks Mill Road, turn right into main parking area. Starts 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch/water. No pets. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.



20 (Saturday) ✂ HIKE - Waterfall and Wild Flower Series Great North Mountain, Liberty Furnace, VA

The fourth of the Waterfall and Wild Flower Series will be a 12-mile circuit to with a total elevation gain of 2300 feet on Laurel Run Spur, Falls Ridge and Great North Mountain Trails. There will be a short, but difficult, bushwhack down to the falls and back. PATC Map F. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127.

20 (Saturday) ✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Riverbend Park Great Falls, VA

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Riverbend Park Visitor Center on the Potomac River. For one day, PATC, together with the Potomac Conservancy, is helping Fairfax County maintain and rebuild Riverbend Park's trail system. Riverbend Park is just upstream of Great Falls National Park. After the work trip, the park is hoping for a future relationship with some volunteer group to help maintain its trails. Bring water, lunch, and work shoes. If any PATC member is interested in leading a group to maintain Riverbend's trails, please call. INFO: Bruce Glendening (bglendening@yahoo.com) 202/267-8011.

20 (Saturday) ✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Yankee Clippers Trail Crew

Tuscarora Trail, PA
For meeting place and other details, call or e-mail Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

20 (Saturday) ✂ HIKE - In-Between Hikers, Rock Creek Park Washington, DC

Please join us for a closed circuit, moderately paced, 12-mile hike on the Valley and Western Ridge Trails in Rock Creek Park. We will visit Fort DeRussy (civil war fort), Jusserand Memorial, Rock Creek, and have lunch at Pierce Mill. Bring water and lunch. INFO: Don Titus (donalddtitus@earthlink.net) (h): 301/652-6806 (w): 443/479-2564.

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

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

21 (Sunday) ✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - C&O Canal Potomac, MD

Join us for a half-day work trip on the Ford Mine Trail at the C&O Canal. This will be an easy introduction to trail maintenance that will leave you time for an afternoon of hiking or biking on the towpath. Meet at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center, in the fenced courtyard at the back, at 9:00 a.m. Bring water and work gloves. INFO: Georgeann Smale (gsmale99@yahoo.com) 301/581-9584.

23 (Tuesday) ✂ HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Shenandoah National Park, VA

Enjoy climbing Piney Branch to Link Trail loop around on Sugarloaf Trail and AT, returning on the Piney Ridge Trail. About 14 mi. 3000 foot climb with options to shorten. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

24 (Wednesday) ✂ HIKE - Easy Hikers Wheaton Regional Park, MD

Enjoy about 4 miles hiking through Wheaton Regional Park in Wheaton, Md. with a stop at the fabulous greenhouse. Meet at 10:15 a.m. near the miniature train station. Bring water and lunch. Directions: take I-495 to Silver Spring, Md. and exit at Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97) north. Travel about 2.5 miles north on Georgia, pass the regional library, right on Shorefield Rd (at the traffic light). Take Shorefield Rd. into the park and turn right to the train station. INFO: John Giblin 301/585-5172.

24 (Wednesday) ✂ HIKE - Mid-Week Hikers Call for location

The Mid-Week Hikers do hikes of about 8 to 12 miles over varied terrain. They carpool to and from the trail head. INFO PATC's Voice Hotline 703/242-0965 for details on the hike, meeting place, departure time and leader.

24 (Wednesday) ✂ CLASS - Fall Colors in the Alleghenies, REI Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Out beyond the Shenandoah you enter a land of steep and twisted ridges with narrow, winding valleys between. Fall comes on sooner and more quickly there, and it's a real adventure to hike, bike, and backpack through the bright foliage on warm afternoons. Early morning views from the ridge tops are spectacular. Come along for an evening's tour and bring your notebook. Photographer Ed Neville will show you great places to go adventuring in the Alleghenies! INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

25 (Thursday) ✂ CLASS - Backpacking 202 Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This is the first of three group planning meetings for the Columbus Day weekend backpacking trip. Pre-registration is required. INFO: Alex Lampros a.lampros@att.net) 703/719-7846 evenings 7:30-9:30, weekends until 9:30: (Between Aug 23 and Sep 6, contact John Browne (jbrowne11@COX.NET) 703/425-5645.

27 (Saturday) ✂ CLASS - Mushroom Field Day Shaver Hollow, VA

Be our guest for a day of learning about the mushrooms of our Blue Ridge community. We will base our foray at the Tulip Tree Cabin, located just outside the boundaries of the Shenandoah National Park near Luray, VA. Our instructor will be Dr. Robert

Hunsucker, one of the most knowledgeable naturalists in the mid-Atlantic region. Both classroom and field studies will be included in the day's program. We may even have a mushroom tasting event if the pickings are good. This is another of the special field days presented by the PATC on the grounds of the noted authors and naturalists, Darwin and Eileen Lambert. RSVP/INFO: Bob Pickett (pickett@usna.edu) 301/681-1511.

27 (Saturday)

HIKE - Signal Knob

George Washington National Forest, VA

Come join us for a 10 mile loop hike, elevation change 2200 feet, to Signal Knob. We will take the Signal Knob trail and pass both the Buzzard Rock and Fort Valley overlooks on our way to Signal Knob. Up on Signal Knob we will see where Confederate soldiers stood and kept watch for approaching Union soldiers. From there we will hike along Little Passage Creek on our way to the Big Blue Trail and back to the start. INFO: Mike Thimblin (hiker@thimblin.net) 703/912-5099 or Vince Ferrari (ferrari3@ix.netcom.com) 301/249-2210.

27 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

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

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

Tuscarora Trail East of Berkley Springs, WV

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

30 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Shenandoah National Park, VA

A 15-mile circuit with 3700-foot ascent begins at Hawksbill parking, goes south on the Skyland-Big Meadows Trail, to the Rose River Loop Trail, up the Dark Hollow Falls Trail, to Big Meadows for a big lunch, returning on the Lewis Spring Trail to the AT, ending with climb of Hawksbill. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931.

30 (Tuesday)

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

OCTOBER

1 (Wednesday)

DEADLINE - November Potomac Appalachian Material due to Editors

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter due. Send Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net and all other articles to PA@patc.net. NOTE: Do not send photos or articles to headquarters. E-mail for address.

1 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Meet Ed Viesturs, REI Fairfax, VA

Tour & Book Signing with Ed Viesturs. 7:00 p.m. Come visit REI's new Fairfax store on Wednesday,

Oct. 1, at 7:00 p.m., for a special presentation by Ed Viesturs, America's leading high-altitude mountaineer. Ed is the only American, and one of only a handful of climbers internationally, to stand atop 13 of the world's 14 8000-meter peaks. Ed climbs without the use of supplemental oxygen, adding to the mental and physical difficulty of his climbs. Ed will be showing stunning photography from his climbing career as well as phenomenal new pictures from his recent summits of Nanga Parbat and Broad Peak. He will also be signing his new book, *Himalayan Quest*. Tickets are available at the REI Fairfax store, 703/266-7655, beginning Friday, Sept. 12, for \$5. Ticket proceeds will be donated to the Central Asia Institute, a non-profit group supporting community-based programs in education, women's empowerment, public health, and conservation in remote regions of Central Asia. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

1 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers National Arboretum, DC

The Easy Hikers will hike about four easy miles through the Arboretum. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the main parking lot immediately inside the R Street entrance. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway south from the Beltway. At the split with I-295, bear right on New York Avenue toward Washington. Continue 2 miles to Bladensburg Road, a major intersection. Turn left and go 0.4 miles on Bladensburg Road to R Street, NE. Turn left and go 0.3 miles to the Arboretum entrance gate. INFO: Nancie Coan (Nanco4000@yahoo.com) 202/338-4580.

1 (Wednesday)

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

2 (Thursday)

CLASS - Backpacking 202 Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This is the second of three group planning meetings for the Columbus Day weekend backpacking trip. Pre-registration is required. INFO: Alex Lampros a.lampros@att.net) 703/719-7846 evenings 7:30-9:30, weekends until 9:30; [between Aug. 23 and Sept. 6, contact John Browne (jbrowne11@COX.NET) 703/425-5645].

2 - 6 (Thursday - Monday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew Appalachian Trail, VA

The Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew will be spending five days rebuilding an eroded section of the AT in the Roller Coaster area. We will be building rock steps, water bars, check dams, and some cribbing. This is a great opportunity to learn how the experts do this type of work. The crew will be based at the Blackburn Trail Center during their stay. Come for a day or two, or all week. INFO: Chris Brunton (trailbossbtc@msn.com) 703/560-8070.



4 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

The colors are starting to change in western Maryland. Get away from the city for a day of "work", comradeship, and peace in the woods. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

4 (Saturday)

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

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

4 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Park Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. to noon. The end of the work-trip season is drawing near. Get in a trip before it's too late. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) or 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

4 - 5 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Leave No Trace Trainers course Car accessible cabin - Shenandoah National Park

This fun weekend course will enhance your LNT back/front country knowledge and enhance your skills to model and teach LNT ethics and practices to others. Instructors are LNT Masters from Trail Patrol. We will be day hiking. Pre-registration required, space is limited. Fee: \$30. INFO: Anniell Miller (amill1@yahoo.com) 703/250-8113 (before 11 p.m.).

5 (Sunday)

HIKE - K9Trailblazers Potomac, MD

Pennyfield Lock, C&O Canal. We'll hike at a moderate pace for 8 miles along and near the scenic and historic C & O Canal and in the surrounding woods. The hike will take us over hilly and sometimes rocky terrain as we pass horse farms and climb up to the Blockhouse Point to eat lunch while enjoying fantastic views of the Potomac (elevation change of ~200 ft). This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on leash and scoop after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead. Bring snacks, and water for you and your dog. Visit www.k9trailblazers.org for more details. INFO: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org) 301/482-2468 or Jeff Bolognese (jabolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

7 (Tuesday)

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

8 (Wednesday)

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

8 (Wednesday)

MEETING - West Virginia Chapter, 7:00 p.m. Highacre Cabin, Harpers Ferry, VA

9 (Thursday)

CLASS - Backpacking 202 Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This is the final group planning meeting for the Columbus Day weekend backpacking trip. Pre-registration is required. INFO: Alex Lampros a.lampros@att.net) 703/719-7846 evenings 7:30-9:30, weekends until 9:30 p.m.; [Between Aug. 23 and Sept. 6, contact John Browne (jbrowne11@COX.NET) 703/425-5645].

FORECAST

9 (Thursday)

**HIKE - In-Between Hikers
Clarksburg, MD**

Little Bennett Regional Park. Joint hike with Sierra Club, MWROP. A moderate/fast 9-mile hike, over varied, rolling terrain. Directions: I-495 to I-270 North, exit at Exit 18, Clarksburg Rd (MD 121). Go right (east) onto Clarksburg Rd., and continue on this road approximately 2.3 miles (crossing Rt. 355) to a small parking lot on the right. Start at 10:00 a.m., no pets. Bring water/lunch. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965; Marjorie Richman (mar0522@aol.com).

11 (Saturday)

**HIKE - Historic Hike
Appalachian Trail, VA**

Hike VIII-Washington Monument/Lambs Knoll section I-70/Rte 40 to Crampton Gap/Gathland State Park. 12.3 miles, difficult, elevation change 800 ft. This section has the first monument built in honor of George Washington our first president. We will also climb around Lambs Knoll with a view to the east of the Middletown Valley with the little town of Burkittsville to the southeast. We will hike south to Gathland State Park home of a famous Civil War correspondent. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the A.T. parking lot along Rte 40. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Note the date change to the SECOND weekend of this month. More details in next month's Forecast. INFO/RSVP: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

11 - 13 (Saturday - Monday)

**BACKPACKING TRIP - Backpacking 202
Location to be determined**

Columbus Day weekend backpacking trip. Pre-registration is required. INFO: Alex Lampros (a.lampros@att.net) 703/719-7846 evenings 7:30-9:30, weekends until 9:30; (Between Aug 23 and Sep 6, contact John Browne (jbrowne11@COX.NET) 703/425-5645.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Stanardsville, VA**

Trail work/Clearing on Vining Tract near Stanardsville, Va. An opportunity to see the arrival of Fall on Columbus Day weekend. The Crew will work on some of the tract trails and possibly reopen some trails since PATC recently acquired an additional 70 acres for the tract. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community meals on Saturday dinner and Sunday meals. Overnight at Mutton Top Cabin. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

11 - 13 (Saturday - Monday)

**BACKPACKING TRIP - Columbus Day
Weekend
Location to be determined**

Weekend Outing, three days, two nights. Pre-registration is required. Applicants must know the basics and have some backpacking experience. Fee: \$40.00 for PATC Members; \$55.00 for non-members. REGISTRATION/INFO: Alex Lampros: (a.lampros@att.net) 703/719-7846 evenings 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., weekends until 9:30 p.m. Between Aug. 23 and Sept. 6, INFO: John Browne (jbrowne11@cox.net) 703/425-5645.

14 (Tuesday)

**HIKE - Vigorous Hikers
Massanutten Mountain, VA**

Massanutten Loop Trail between Woodstock Gap and Edinburg Gap and on Green Mountain Trail. About 14 miles and 2300 feet elevation gain. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 704339-6716.

14 (Tuesday)

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

15 (Wednesday)

**HIKE - Easy Hikers
Great Falls Park, VA**

The Easy Hikers will hike 4-5 moderate miles. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the visitors center. Bring lunch and water. To reach the park, exit the Beltway at Exit 13 onto Georgetown Pike (VA 193). Go west 4.1 miles to the intersection with Old Dominion Drive. Turn right at light and continue 1.1 miles to the visitor center. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

15 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Explore Patagonia, REI
Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. The roads begin to fall apart south of Punta Arenas on the way to Paine National Park. From Torres del Paine to Greys Lake the scale and grandeur make the rest of the world seem ordinary. The wildlife is also unique: large Megallanic Woodpeckers, penguins, nandu and guanacos. Glacial-fed lakes with icebergs and spectacular waterfalls are bordered by wildflowers and stunted, windblown forests. Nestled in this immense landscape are hosterias, small hotels noted for beautiful gardens and excellent cuisine. This is Chilean Patagonia, a world apart. Join local adventurer, Marjorie Richman, for an evening's trek, and find out how you too can explore Patagonia with REI Adventures. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

18 (Saturday)

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

The fifth hike of the Waterfall and Wild Flower Series will be a 10-mile circuit with a total elevation gain is 2500 feet. The Dry Run and Cedar and South River Falls will be visited. There will be less than two miles of bush whacking. PATC Map 10. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@AOL.COM) 410/884-9127.

18 (Saturday)

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

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

18 (Saturday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Fall Frolic
Appalachian Trail, MD**

Don't miss the fall foliage, come out and join this event for fun "work" getting dirty in the woods. 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

18 (Saturday)

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

For meeting place and other details, INFO: Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140.

18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

**CLASS - Wilderness First Aid
Alexandria, VA**

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this eighteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$140. Registration is limited to 25 people. REGISTRATION/INFO: Christopher Tate (http://wfa.net) 703/836-8905.

22 (Wednesday)

**CLASS - Women's Backpacking, REI
Bailey's Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. Women's Backpacking Clinic - Yes! Women ought to experience the adventure of backcountry travel, and on their own terms. Pack, clothing, boots and sleeping bags all now come in models specifically designed by women to perform for women. Join REI's resident women's outdoor adventure specialists for an evening of eye-opening dialogue on gear, skills, destinations, nutrition, and training for enjoyable backcountry adventure. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

22 - 23 (Wednesday - Thursday)

**SPECIAL EVENT - Retreat; Glass House
Fort Valley, VA**

Join the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter for a fall retreat at Glass House with a Pot Luck Dinner Friday night, a hike, and a dinner in a nearby restaurant Saturday night. Enjoy cool evenings and warm company. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/955-0736.

25 (Saturday)

**HIKE - K9Trailblazers
Greenbelt, MD**

Greenbelt Park. This will be a hike at a moderate pace for a 6-mile loop through the woods of Greenbelt Park. We'll enjoy the fall foliage on gently rolling trails (< 100 ft. elevation change) with a few stream crossings. This is a joint hike with K9Trailblazers so well behaved dogs are welcome as long as you keep them on leash and scoop after them. Maps, chocolate, and dog biscuits provided at the trailhead. Bring snacks, and water for you and your dog. Visit www.k9trailblazers.org for more details. INFO: Pat Fuhrer (psfuhrer@k9trailblazers.org) 301/482-2468 or Jeff Bolognese (jabolognese@k9trailblazers.org) 410/247-4434.

25 (Saturday)

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

8:15 a.m. to noon. We are having a picnic as a thanks to our volunteers and to celebrate the end of another work season. Contact Mark Anderson to see what you can bring. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (dc.trails@verizon.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/895-6221.

25 - 26 (Saturday - Sunday)

**TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Shenandoah National Park, VA**

The Crew hopes to complete a new connector trail from Tulip Tree Cabin to the SNP Crusher Ridge trailhead. Tulip Tree Cabin, being built only with hand tools, will hopefully enter the rental

PATC Wins Shenandoah National Park Award

PATC has been recognized as an outstanding partner of Shenandoah National Park and the National Park Service. The organization was recently the recipient of the prestigious 2003 National Park Service Northeast Region Conservation Partnership Award.

PATC is a member club of the Appalachian Trail Conference. PATC assumes responsibility for cooperative maintenance and visitor services along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) and many other foot trails and associated facilities in the Shenandoah National Park and in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. PATC and Shenandoah National Park have been jointly involved in the stewardship of trails since the Park's establishment in 1936.

Recent PATC partnership accomplishments have contributed substantially to the conservation, preservation, and protection of valuable natural and cultural resources and designated wilderness and visitor experiences in Shenandoah National Park. Employing extensive volunteer resources and funding, PATC supports Park operations and manage-

ment in the areas of trails maintenance and management, operations, and maintenance of more than a dozen historic backcountry structures, volunteer patrols of trails, public education in visitor wildland use ethics and wilderness, and protection of Park boundary public trail access. Much PATC support is of immeasurable and intangible benefit to the Park, and estimates of cash and in-kind value of services to the Park in just the past three years approaches \$900,000.

The partnership between PATC and Shenandoah National Park has resulted in an extensive but well-maintained trail system to serve the backcountry visitor and to protect resources from visitor impacts. PATC's substantial service to maintaining and managing the Park trails system continues to be absolutely essential to sustaining the extent and quality of the trails program. A properly maintained trail system is necessary to protect resources from visitor impact and subsequent vegetation loss and soil erosion, and to preserve or enhance the backcountry visitor experience. PATC also assists the Park through The Ridgerunner and Trail Patrol

programs, which provide valuable on-site information to backcountry visitors emphasizing protection of Park resources and a positive visitor experience. Public education about Park and regional natural, cultural, and wilderness resources and the public's role in protecting and conserving resources is the focus of PATC's education program.

PATC has secured public access at two boundary trailheads by using Club funding and lands-planning personnel resources, ensuring that these sites are protected indefinitely for present and future hikers.

PATC was established in November 1927 to help build the AT in the mid-Atlantic region. According to PATC's Mission Statement, "The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, through volunteer efforts, education, and advocacy, acquires, maintains, and protects the Trail and lands of the Appalachian Trail, other trails, and related facilities in the mid-Atlantic region for the enjoyment of present and future hikers." □

—Karen Beck-Herzog,
Management Assistant, SNP



FORECAST

system this year. Bring water and a lunch for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Tulip Tree Cabin. INFO: Trudy Thompson (going2home2@yahoo.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@shentel.net) 540/635-6351.

28 (Tuesday)

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

29 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers
Lake Accotink, VA

The Easy Hikers will hike a mostly level, five-mile circuit hike around Lake Accotink. Meet at the Wakefield Park Recreation Center at 10:15 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Directions to Wakefield Center: Leave the Beltway (495) at Exit 54A (Braddock Road). Go West on Braddock and turn right at the second light into Wakefield Park. Follow the park road to the last parking lot (second lot on left) in front of the Recreation Center. INFO: Bill Burnett (burn2154@earthlink.net) 703/569-2154.

29 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Antarctica, REI
Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Antarctica! Amundsen, Scott, Nansen, Shackleton and Byrd: They all journeyed to the bottom of the Earth for honor, glory, exploration, and science. And while much of the rest of the world had been mapped and explored for centuries, Antarctica was almost totally unknown less than 100 years ago. Even today, with satellite navigation and communications and reliable air travel, weather routinely renders travel impossible. Join adventurer and medical missionary Glenn Geelhoed for an evening's exploration of the bottom of the Earth! INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400. □

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Trail Patrol

Presents

Leave No Trace Trainers Course

Oct. 4 - 5, 2003

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

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

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

Fee: \$30 (nonrefundable)

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

Call for Award Nominations

Honorary Life Membership Awards

At the annual meeting to be held November 11, 2003, PATC will recognize members for their outstanding and extensive commitment to the Club over an extended period. They will be awarded an Honorary Life Membership. If you believe a member deserves the award, please nominate them. Nominees must:

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

Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year Award is given at the annual meeting to that PATC member who most exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism through his or her contribution to PATC during the past year. The contribution can be to any type or combination of Club service activities, e.g., devoting many hours above and beyond the norm to service activities, including travel time, or making an exceptional contribution to a particular project. (Members of the Executive Committee are not eligible for the award.) If any PATC member believes another member should be recognized as the Volunteer of the Year, please nominate them. Include the nominee's name and a clear description of his or her contribution that justifies the award. Include your name and phone number and e-mail address.

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships and Volunteer of the Year Awards must be received at Club Headquarters no later than September 12,

2003. Send nominations by mail (PATC, 118 Park St. SE, Vienna, VA 22180), e-mail (Wiley@PATC.net) or Fax (703/242-0968). Mark nominations Attn: Mickey McDermott, Vice President for Volunteerism. If you have questions, call Wilson Riley, 703/242-0315

Service Awards

Service awards are given to Club members who have consistently devoted time and effort to Club service activities above and beyond the norm. Volunteer leaders who want to recognize those with whom they work should send via mail, fax, or e-mail (Wiley@PATC.net) their list of service awards to PATC Headquarters marked attention Nominations. Include names of the recipients and a short description for each of their service activities. Nominations should be received no later than October 10, 2003. □

Annual Meeting Set for Nov. 11

We've been in full swing in our Anniversary Year so come on out to the Annual Meeting/Dinner on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 11 and celebrate all over again with us. I promise there won't be any singing of the Club song this time. But you never know. We are lucky enough to have it at the Atrium at Meadowlark Gardens again this year!!! If you missed it last year, you've just GOT to be with us this year and see this beautiful place. We may never get this lucky again. Look for the registration form in the upcoming October and November issues of the *PA*.

A small meeting will be addressed with some recognition of awards for exceptional service this past year, but no election of officers, so there will be more time to socialize. And who knows, maybe our esteemed president, Tom Johnson will show up for this one. :-~) □

—Patricia Fankhauser
Membership, Information, Cabins Coordinator

Native Plants and Geology Conference Saturday, Oct. 4 - Sunday, Oct. 5, 2003

Native plant populations and natural communities don't conform to political boundaries. This conference will focus on how the Potomac River connects three states, rather than divides them. For more information, please contact: Meghan Tice, 2003 Regional Conference Chair, cecropia13@msn.com. □

Land Critical to Tuscarora Trail Being Acquired by PATC

PATC is in the process of purchasing the 67-acre Amy Hauvermale tract located several miles south of Hancock, Md. The land, composed of extensive forest and ridges, was owned by the estate of Amy Hauvermale. The land adjoins the 122-acre PATC-owned Ruth Morris Forest through which a mile of the Tuscarora Trail already extends.

The purchase of the Hauvermale land provides many benefits to PATC. First, and foremost, it protects a footpath by permitting hikers on the Tuscarora Trail to continue their wilderness experience on forest trails into Sleepy Creek State Park rather than having to leave the Morris Forest and walk along a state road. Also, the property contains a spring which will provide a secure water source between Hancock and Sleepy Creek State Park. The area around the spring could also be developed as a campground with a shelter for overnight camping.

PATC was fortunate to locate this property. It conserves a wilderness area, provides a forested trail for hikers on the Tuscarora Trail, and contains a spring at a critical location along the trail. □

—Phil Paschall
Chair, Trail Lands Acquisition, and Hugh Robinson

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

FOUND-FLOURESCENT TUBE LANTERN- July 17, 2003 at Olive Green cabin. It is forest green and black, has a remote control, and runs on four D-cell batteries. Mfr. appears to be GE/Eddie Bauer. Contact Bryan Bishop at 703/641-0300 or at ltal@starpower.net.

FOR SALE

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

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

LOST AND FOUND

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

HELP WANTED

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

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

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

EVENING DESK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

ALSO NEEDED:

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

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

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

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

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS?

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

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

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

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

DONATIONS WANTED

LAPTOP AND COMPUTER PROJECTOR NEEDED:

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

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Trailhead

July ushered in some summer days and a break from the bountiful spring rain. Entries in shelter logs now complain of hot, humid days whereas before it was the rain, rain, rain. This year is still being touted as the wettest in the past 100 years and we have yet to experience an extended period of hot weather or a hurricane. All in all, a good year for trail work. Did you take advantage of it?

Online Work trip Reports

Sometimes things do get fixed. For the past couple months, the online work trip report system has been frustrating Overseers and District Managers. Reports are rejected, and the server sends back a batch of rejects for e-mail redirects to District Managers and others. At the end of July, the reporting system was functioning normally. Keep your fingers crossed.

Meeting of SOTs

Liles Creighton, PATC Supervisor of Trails (SOT), attended the ATC General Meeting in New Hampshire on July 28. He introduced a resolution, subsequently adopted, that calls for a meeting of all maintaining club SOTs (or SOT counterpart) at the next biannual meeting, which will be held in Tennessee. The importance of this resolution is that the clubs can start to reclaim direction of trail maintenance, exchange lessons learned, and share other information. Relationships can be formed that will better enable the clubs to act together to obtain Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on tool use and trail issues that affect the people on the ground doing the work.

Trail Vandals

As you hike the trails in SNP you may wonder why the Overseer, or whoever, rolled that big rock into the middle of the trail. You can rest assured that it wasn't a two-legged vandal but one with four legs. The bears in the Park have the propensity to travel the trails as a convenient path to food sources. Mainly seeking ants under the rocks, the bears move or roll rocks, some very large, into the treadway. The rocks, unfortunately, are part of a waterbar or checkdam. Now the poor Overseer who dutifully works the trail with a brushcutter has to stop and rebuild the waterbar or checkdam. So when you come upon a large rock in the middle of the trail, be so kind as to put it back in place. An Overseer will be very thankful.



Photo by Jon Ilnici

Father Bob (pick mattock) and son Rajan (rock bar) Prangani work the rocks on Sugarloaf's Northern Peaks Trail.

Death March

The Blue and White Crew Death March took place on July 5. Brave crew members shouldered their tools and ascended Robertson Mountain to face their fate under a scorching sun and voracious swarms of genetically altered gnats. The trail had been neglected for several years, with laurel encroaching on both sides of the treadway and numerous blowdowns blocking the path. Dan "Mr. Wilderness" Dueweke directed the operation, which required the use of hand tools (Robertson Mountain is a big "W" trail). Survivors of the Death March returned to the Pinnacles Research Station for life-sustaining beer and vittles. After dinner, the crew traveled to Betty's Rock to view the fireworks over Stanley, Va. All agreed that the display was one of the most dramatic they'd ever seen, with some rockets seeming to burst directly overhead (or was that just the life-sustaining beer talking?).

The Blue and White "Away Team" packed their tools and water shoes, later in July, and journeyed to the far reaches of Northern Virginia, along the primeval wilderness of Pimmit Run. Crew members assisted Bruce Glendening in the reconstruction of a stream crossing and set of rock steps at a flood-damaged location on the Potomac Heritage Trail.

Orphan Trail

Below is a description of a poor orphan trail in need of an Overseer who is seeking a challenge. If you think you are the one, contact SNP Central District side trails (south side) District Manager Steve Paull at stevepaull@yahoo.com. Steve recommends you hike the trail before responding.

Jones Mountain Trail (from Cat Knob to Bear Church): Measuring almost three miles in length, this remote stretch of trail should only be considered by strong hikers. A day of work will entail almost 10 miles of hiking (the hike in from Bootens Gap to Cat Knob is approximately two miles). Weeding and blowdown removal are the primary demands. Willingness to use crosscut saws and gas-powered weeders is a big plus. Another plus: availability of friends or family to help you. This is a difficult assignment, but the rewards are many (beautiful remote trail, fine views, close to Jones Mountain Cabin, and a strong cardiovascular system).

Boulder-Moving on PHT

July was declared "boulder-moving" month on the Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT). First, a Boy Scout Eagle candidate and crew completed six smaller boulder crossings to span Donaldson Run, a stream valley trail accessing the PHT. No injuries were reported as

See Trailhead, page 19

Trailhead, from page 18

large rocks and boulders were dragged into place and rock bars were the tools of the day. But the "skipping stone" competitions were the Scouts' highlight.

Second, PATC's Blue and White Crew spent a day rebuilding the largest PHT stream crossing on historic Pimmit Run that empties into the Potomac River at Chain Bridge. No ghosts were seen by Kerry Snow, John Hebbe, Mike Fleming, and Bernie Stalman as they worked in the shadow of the 1826 duel site between Secretary of State Henry Clay and Virginia Sen. John Randolph (two shots fired by each, all missed). Of course, any inadvertent litter from the delivered lunchtime pizza (a luxury of working in the D.C. area) might have floated down to the 1814 hiding place of the Declaration of Independence as the British burned Washington.

But the Blue and White Crew was oblivious to the history surrounding them as they sweated through a hot July day moving big boulders. Instead of dragging the boulders, the Blue and White Crew uses the spectacular "highline" method, suspending the boulders above the stream before dropping them into place. Unfortunately, like the mythical Sisyphus who pushes his rock up the mountain just to have it roll back down, the Blue and White Crew knows its boulders may roll away in the next big flood. Does the Blue and White Crew find happiness or punishment in this fate?

Battlefield Parks Report

The interesting thing about the battlefield parks is the activity in all kinds of weather. When snow is on the ground, tracks are always evident of walkers and runners. Trail bikes are evident as indicated by the tire ruts. Bikes are illegal, but the tracks are still there.

Like all trails, this summer has required a bit of weeding, especially to clear the vines on the Chancellorsville, Gordon Flank, and the Federal Line Trails. And you can be assured that every time the wind blows, trees will fall somewhere on battlefield park trails.

Plans were completed in April for a Boy Scout project to build some waterbars and a foot-bridge on the North Lee Drive Trail at Howison Hill. The project is still in a holding pattern but not because of lack of volunteers. As with any project in the Park, several agencies have to review the project to ensure everything is in compliance. District Manager Frank Hass still hopes to get the project under way before it gets cold.

Wet Relief

The popular Northern Peaks Trail on Maryland's Sugarloaf Mountain received needed treadwork from the Cadillac Crew in early July. Most trails on Sugarloaf began as paths and became trails over time. The lack of erosion control has left exposed sharp rocks in the tread. So armed with rock bars and pick mattocks, the crew constructed a number of waterbars to control erosion and removed rocks from the tread. Relief from this hot and sweaty work came in the form of a refreshing

dip in a swimming pool at Overseer Trudy Thompson's mother's home outside Leesburg. A special thanks to Arlene Thompson for allowing the crew to enjoy the pool at her beautiful home with a great view of Sugarloaf in the distance.

A unique aspect of doing treadwork on Sugarloaf is the constant flow of hikers and watching how they negotiate just-completed waterbars and steps. The hikers test the work in progress, and the crew adjusts the construction when it appears to be awkward or step spacing needs to be adjusted. While working on the trail a couple years ago, a group of Scouts mistook a newly dug drain for the trail and marched off into the woods - some adjustments were made.

Who Cooks for You?

In July, 16 members of the North District Hoodlums loaded up with trail and barbequing tools at Piney River ranger station and set out for the weekend. One crew led by John McCrea installed rock waterbars on the AT between the South Marshall Mountain viewpoints, while another crew under Dick Dugan removed blowdowns and cleared vegetation on the Thompson Hollow and Beecher Ridge/Overall Run Connector trails. Afterwards, the crews met up at Indian Run Hut and broke out the grills ... and the Y-chromosomes went to work, char-grilling meats and veggies for a summer BBQ feast. "Who cooks for you?" a barred owl cried out in the nearby woods. "The Hoodlums," we answered!

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

Volunteers - Appointed in August

Trail Overseers

Linda Cornelius & Russ Damtoft	AT - Marshall Saddle to Gravel Springs Gap
Trisha Christopher	Cedar Run/White Oak Link Trail
Aaron McCommons	Cedar Run/White Oak Link Trail
Bob McCullaugh	Riprap Trail
Dick & Nancy Batiste	Betty's Rock
Chris Schaefer	Tuscarora Trail - PA641 to Burnt Cabins Road
Jim Peterson	Tuscarora Trail - US30 to PA16

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

(UPS-440-280) ©2003,
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.
Published monthly by the
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club,
118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180.
Periodical class postage paid at Vienna, VA.
Postmaster: send address changes to:
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club,
118 Park Street, S.E.,
Vienna, VA 22180
Subscription: (Free with PATC membership)
\$6.00 annually; \$.70 single copies.

Trail, Shelter and Corridor Overseers / Monitors Wanted

Shelter Overseer Wanted

Call Frank Turk, 301/249-8243
E-mail: frankturk@aol.com

Calf Mountain Shelter – SNP South District

District Managers Wanted for

SNP Central Side Trails (North End) – Map 10

US Rte. 211 to Old Rag
Call Dan Dueweke, 703/266-3248
E-mail: danjan@fcc.net

Co-District Manager for DC Metro – Map N

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

Call Mark Anderson, 202/462-7718
E-mail: mhacca@starpower.net

District Manager for SNP South AT – Map 11

US Rte. 33 to US Rte. 64
Call Mike Karpie, 540/785-9553
E-mail: BKPKR@erols.com

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

Tuscarora Pennsylvania – Maps J & K

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

Call Pete Brown, 410/343-1140
E-mail: peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net

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

Call Chris Brunton, 703/560-8070
E-mail: trailbossbtc@msn.com

Appalachian Trail

Trans Mountain Trail to Duke Hollow (1.3 miles)

Rod Hollow Shelter Trail

AT to Rod Hollow Shelter (0.2 miles)

Fishers Hill Loop Trail

AT to AT (1 mile)

SNP North District Appalachian Trail – Map 9

Call John McCrea, 610/352-9287
E-mail: mcreajf@aol.com

Co-Overseers needed on AT sections

SNP North District Blue-Blazed – Map 9

Call Dick Dugan, 703/836-0391
E-mail: rdugan@bellatlantic.net

Elkwallow Trail

Mathews Arm Campground to Elkwallow Wayside
(2 miles)

Thornton River Trail – Co-Overseer

Skyline Dr. to Hull School Trail

SNP Central Blue-Blazed, south end – Map 10

Call Steve Paull, 703/361-3869
E-mail: stevepaull@yahoo.com

Jones Mountain Trail

Bear Church Rock to Cat Knob Trail (2.8 miles)
[For detailed descriptions, see Trail Head]

SNP South AT - Map 11

Call Mike Karpie, 540/785-9553
E-mail: BKPKR@erols.com

Appalachian Trail – Co-Overseers

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

Appalachian Trail

Hightop Parking Area to Hightop Hut Trail
(2.1 miles)

SNP South Blue-Blazed – Map 11

Call Pete Gatje, 434/361-1309
E-mail: pjgatje@aol.com

Riprap Trail

Skyline Drive to Cold Spring Hollow (1.8 miles)

Rocky Mount Trail

Skyline Drive to the upper intersection of the Gap
Run Trail (2.2 miles)

Tuscarora South – Maps F, G, 9

Call Rick Rhoades, 540/477-3247
E-mail: Rrhoades@shentel.net

Tuscarora Trail

Hawk Camp to VA/WV 55 (3.6 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Fetzer Gap to Maurertown (5.7 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Rock marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Shawl Gap to Sherman Gap (2.5 miles)

Massanutten North – Map G

Call Ed Brimberg, 703/430-6481
E-mail: brimberg@cox.net

Massanutten Trail

Kennedy Peak Trail to Camp Roosevelt (3.3 miles)

Massanutten Connector Trail

Massanutten Trail to US 211 (1.8 miles)

Great North Mountain – Map F

Call Hop Long, 301/942-6177
E-mail: theFSLongs@comcast.net

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

Tibbet Knob Trail

Wolf Gap Campground to SR 691 (2.4 miles)

Bull Run Occoquan Trail

Call Dave Fellers, 703/560-2171
E-mail: Fellers_2000@excite.com

Bull Run Occoquan Trail

Little Rocky Run to Johnny Moore (2.0 miles)

Bull Run Occoquan Trail

Bull Run Park to Route 28 Parking Lot (2.5 miles)

District of Columbia – Map N

Call Mark Anderson, 202/462-7718
E-mail: mhacca@starpower.net

Battery Kemble Trail

Macarthur Blvd. To Loughboro Road (1.0 mile)



The Potomac Appalachian

118 Park Street
Vienna, VA 22180-4609

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