



The Potomac Appalachian

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

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New Volunteer Award Announced

Call for nominations

As you all know, the life force of PATC is our volunteers. Every year committee chairs and district managers nominate their hardest working volunteers to be recognized at the annual meeting in November. This year we have added a major new award to distinguish one person who did exceptional work for PATC during the year: the PATC Volunteer of the Year Award.

In its long history as a volunteer organization, PATC has never recognized any one person for his or her contribution to the Club over one year. At a planning meeting last fall, members of the volunteer task group felt it was time to initiate an award to commend one person who unselfishly gave his or her time and energy to the Club in an exceptional way. The Volunteer of the Year Award will be awarded to the person who has gone "above and beyond" in service to the Club. That can mean any kind of volunteerism

from working at the cabins reservation desk, to building cabins, to maintaining trails, to being an active member of Council. To receive the award one must be a PATC member and be nominated by a fellow PATC member. The only restriction is that the nominee can not be a member of the PATC Executive Committee.

If you know someone who spends all their spare time volunteering for PATC or has contributed mightily to a particular project or who has worked as a volunteer for years without much fanfare: this is the time to nominate them as the Volunteer of the Year. Submit your nomination to Tom Johnson, Vice President for Volunteerism. Include the person's name, address and telephone number, your name and telephone number, and a justification as to why you think your nominee should receive this award. Nominations must be received at the Club headquarters no later than Tuesday, October 12th. Send nomi-

nations to Tom Johnson, PATC, 118 Park St., SE, Vienna, VA 22180. If you have questions about the award, you can contact Tom at 410/647-8554 or johnts@erols.com; or Terry Cummings at tcivp@aol.com or 410/489-4594. The recipient will be announced at the Annual Meeting and Celebration November 5.

Honorary Life Membership Award

In addition to the Volunteer of the Year Award, PATC also recognizes members for their outstanding commitment to the Club over an extended period. In 1999, four members received an Honorary Life Membership Award: former President Sandra Marra, former PATC General Counsel Randy Minchew, Publications Chair Jean Golightly and long-time volunteer Marjorie Dexter. Anyone can nominate a PATC member for this most prestigious award. If you think a member has rendered outstanding service or contributions to the Club or its objectives over an extended period and meets the following criteria, send your nomination to be received by Tom Johnson at Club headquar-

See Award, page 3

Update on Rock Creek Cellular Towers

The battle in Rock Creek Park over cellular towers took on new form recently when Senate Minority Leader Thomas Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, attached a rider to the District of Columbia appropriations bill compelling the National Park Service to approve two Bell Atlantic cellular towers in the park. The move came as the National Capital Planning Commission, a regional authority with final say over such matters, for the second time tabled the Bell Atlantic proposal for the towers.

The legislative rider inserted by Daschle doesn't enjoy unanimous support on Capitol Hill. The House didn't include similar language in its version of the D.C. bill, and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, a Mississippi Republican, in late July said he thinks the provision is an improper intrusion on local matters. While these developments hurt the

prospects for the Daschle measure, no provision should be considered dead on Capitol Hill until after lawmakers recess for the session.

The cellular towers are opposed by all key elected officials in D.C. and a host of community groups who operate in neighborhoods around and in the park. The planning commission is composed of federal and local officials and tabled the matter by a 5-4 vote in part because it want additional information on the proposal from Bell Atlantic.

Daschle defends his action by citing safety concerns in the park and recent telecommunications law changes that give strong preference to cellular corporations who want to place towers on federal or state parkland. Bell Atlantic wants to put the towers in developed areas of the park—at the main maintenance

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Recording Secretary: Gerhard Salinger

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SMRG: Bud Hyland

Ski Touring Section: Katherine Stentzel

North Chapter: Steve Koeppen

N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Martha Clark

S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Lynn Cameron

Charlottesville Chapter: John Shannon
West Virginia Chapter: Jane Thompson

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(Council Members)

Blackburn Trail Center: Chris Brunton

Cabins: Matt Ogorzalek

Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf

Conservation: Mary Margaret Sloan

Corporate Donations: Jack Reeder

Endowment: Dick Newcomer

Finance: John Richards

Hikes: Tom Johnson

Internet Services: Andy Hiltz

Land Management: Vacant

Land Acquisition: Phil Paschall & Eric Olson

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Shelters: Charlie Graf, 410/757-6053

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Lloyd MacAskill

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Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting on July 20 at the Club headquarters. The meeting was attended by 22 Council members, 2 staff, 3 Club members, and 1 guest. The PATC membership stands at 6,859. There were 155 new members registered in the month of June.

New Faces

Heather Rosso, an intern, is working on trail related issues. She works in the office two days a week and works with trail crews on weekends. Heather recently graduated from George Mason University and will enter a masters program at Catholic University in the fall.

Matthew Ogorzalek is resigning as Cabins Maintenance Chair, and Bob Butt and Bill Ladd are resigning from the Endowment Committee. Replacements are being sought. Gerhard Salinger and Lisa Still were approved as members of the Endowment Committee, with one more position still open.

Trail Lands

Jim Peterson and Mrs. Simonson thanked the Council and especially Eric Olson for facilitating the purchase of the Simonson Property providing public access to the Pulpit on Tuscarora Mountain. Mrs. Simonson also presented the Club with a check.

The Council approved a motion to make a counteroffer on the 74 acre Lorenz Lewis Property that protects the Trail and provides a cabin site.

The Future of the Club

The Futures Group reported that it had developed a mission and had narrowed its inquiry into possible futures for the Club. It envisions a gradual change to better accommodate volunteerism and relations with government partners. The Council may deal more with policy matters rather than all of the Club details.

Fundraising

Vice President George Still is coordinating the effort to develop annual reports for 1998 and 1999 to be used in a fundraising campaign. The fundraising campaign also led the Donations Committee to develop a mission statement for the Club. The various mission statements were discussed in Council, but the diverse points of view will need some time to coalesce.

PATC's Future with Cabins

The Council discussed the future of the cabins PATC maintains. The overwhelming sentiment is to continue to maintain and build cabins. The cabins make PATC unique among trail maintaining organizations. New cabins would most likely be constructed in Maryland and Pennsylvania on land owned by the Club. Charlie Graf, Chair of the Cabins Committee, is working with a restoration architect to determine the structural status of several of the cabins. Changes in the concessionaire rules for the National Parks may make it easier to work with the SNP on the cabins in the Park.

Budget

John Richards, Chair of the Finance Committee, described briefly the process for constructing the FY 2000 budget.

Volunteer Recognition

Vice President Tom Johnson emphasized the need to recognize volunteers. Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships are due by the end of September, and nominations for the new Volunteer of the Year Award are due by Executive Committee meeting in October. Committee chairs should nominate others for service awards. The Cabins reservation system was modified to permit active volunteers a once-a-year right to reserve a cabin 35 days in advance of occupancy. This policy will not take effect until January 1, 2000.

New PATC Maps

David Pierce, chair of the Maps Committee, displayed the new Maps 11, 12, and 13. These maps now have UTM grid lines on five-kilometer spacing to make them compatible with geographic positioning systems. This will become standard for all PATC maps. □

—Gerhard Salinger,
Recording Secretary

Fall Cleanup

Join Jim Egenrieder for a litter cleanup along the Potomac on both the Virginia and Maryland/DC shorelines Saturday, September 18. This is coordinated with the larger annual Coastal Cleanup held nationwide. For more information, see <http://www.deepwater.org/trails>. 703/558-0001.

Award, from page 1

ters no later than Tuesday, October 12th. To qualify for the award one must: 1. Be a long-time Club member; 2. Exemplify the service aims of the Club (service includes leading trips, serving on committees of Council, serving as trail or cabin overseer, donating time at headquarters, etc.); 3. Have contributed to the Club across a broad range of service activities; and 4. Have generated enthusiasm and inspired others to become active in the Club.

The award includes a personal, written statement from the Council describing the recipient's contribution to PATC, a Life Membership card, an "Honorary Life" rocker bar to wear above the PATC patch, and a special gift of recognition from the Club. For more information, contact Tom at 410/647-8554 or johnts@erols.com, or Terry Cummings at tcivp@aol.com or 410/489-4594. Recipients will be honored at the Annual Meeting and Celebration November 5 along with the Volunteer of the Year. □

—Terry Cummings

Walt's Notes

Stewardship of Our Facilities

Is it possible for us to truly appreciate the labor of love that PATCers of the past devoted to the wonderful cabins, shelters, and other buildings we enjoy today? Of course, those of you who are overseers or crew members on a building project may appreciate the degree of effort it took to restore Corbin Cabin, for example, or how much dedication it took to haul in building supplies and a generator in a foot of snow in order to replace the roof of Tom Floyd Wayside. And of course the work continues on today: the renovation of Gypsy Spring Cabin by the North Chapter in PA; the construction of the replacement for the Hemlock Hill Shelter in MD by Frank Turk's group of students and PATCers, to be dedicated as the Cowall Shelter on October 3; the expansion and renovation of the Blackburn Trail Center in VA by Bruce Clendaniel's volunteers; the construction of

the primitive Tulip Tree Cabin in Shaver Hollow, VA under Charlie Graf's tutelage; the renovation of the Rosser Lamb House by Park Anderson's crew and the building of John's Rest Cabin by Robert Humphrey's group on the Per-Lee/West property in VA; and all the other work done by unsung heroes who replace a privy here and a floor or porch there, all for our enjoyment.

How Do We Appreciate?

Those of us who use cabins and shelters can appreciate the work of volunteers by noting the work done and by keeping Club property in good condition during our stay. Those of us in leadership positions can appreciate the effort being made by recognizing those who do the work. I, for one, plan to spend more time reviewing the state of our facilities: I will visit all thirty-one cabins and

See Walt's Notes, page 12

1999 PATC Annual Meeting and Celebration

You are cordially invited to join the PATC Council and staff at PATC's Annual Meeting.

When: Friday, November 5, 1999.

Where: Old Town Hall, Fairfax, VA

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 per adult/\$8.00 per child under 12
FREE without dinner

For this, the last annual meeting of the millennium, we are planning some extra special events and entertainment. This year we will be celebrating our outstanding volunteers with the Volunteer of the Year Award, Honorary Life Membership awards, and Special Achievement awards.

But we won't bore you with just a bunch of awards and no entertainment—nooo! This year we are bringing back the PATC talent show that was so well received a few years ago. When we thought about doing it the first time, we were concerned about the quality and amount of talent out there, but when the show began we had some first rate entertainers. (Anyone interested in performing should contact the Membership Secretary immediately to get a place on the schedule.) And, in addition to the PATC talent, we are bringing in a professional entertainer to make

this a very special celebration to close the millennium.

But the annual meeting is more than entertainment and awards. There will be plenty of time to meet and talk with members of Council and other fellow members: trade stories, talk about the coming year, enjoy a leisurely time with people you haven't seen in a while, learn what the Club has been doing for the last year. If you want to learn about volunteer opportunities from committee chairs, this is the time when they are available all in one place

at one time. Displays will show what the committees do and how you can get involved.

A delicious buffet dinner is provided, and a cash bar of beer and wine is available. However, if you are not eating, there is no charge to attend.

See the October *PA* for the final details on the night's events, but get your reservations in today—and bring the children. Please fill out the attached form and mail it back to PATC by October 29, 1999. □

REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, November 5, 1999

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Number of adults: _____ Number of children: _____

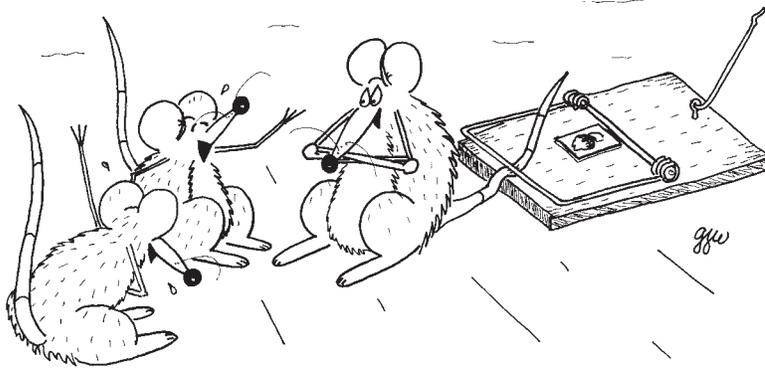
Please enclose a check in the amount of \$15.00 per adult/\$8.00 per child for dinner.
Mail to: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club 118 Park Street SE Vienna, Virginia 22180
Attn: Annual Meeting - Regina Garnett

BECAUSE PATC PAYS FOR DINNERS IN ADVANCE, NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 29, 1999.

Jacques d'Amboise, a legendary figure of the New York City Ballet, embarked upon his Step by Step project on May 29, 1999. He is hiking the entire Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia, stopping along the way in each AT state to teach dance in community centers. In addition to fulfilling a personal journey, d'Amboise seeks to raise money to support the National Dance Institute (NDI), which he founded 23 years ago with the goal of fostering in children a love of the arts, pride of achievement, and a curiosity about the world. D'Amboise has created and choreographed the "Trail Dance," which he plans to teach to thousands of people along the Trail. There will be a how-to video available for those interested in learning the dance. For more information about d'Amboise's planned stops, visit the web site www.ndi4all.org. From the July/August 1999 *Trail Walker*, newsletter of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

—Lynn Witwer

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



"OK! OK! WHEN YOU GUYS ARE FINALLY FINISHED, CAN YOU HELP GET THIS THING OFF OF ME?!"

Recent surveys indicate that there are currently 46 active bald eagle nesting territories located across New York State, versus only one 20 years ago. That one site is still active today and is believed to have at least one hatchling. The adults are different, but the territory remains the same as younger generations replace the old. Most of the state's eagle territories are located in the Catskill Region, though a small cluster exists in the northern Adirondacks. One nest, in the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, has a video surveillance system to allow live-action viewing to the public at the refuge headquarters. From the Summer 1999 *Finger Lakes Trail News*, newsletter of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc.

—Lynn Witwer

Confessions of a PATC Trailblazer in Brazil

I was a secret trailblazer in Brazil.

While I worked for four years in Rio de Janeiro as a news correspondent for the Voice of America, I often visited Tijuca National Park. This is billed as the world's only urban tropical rain forest. Its mountains were replanted with native species more than a century ago, after they had been used for growing coffee.

The park is a paradise for the patient hiker, with dozens of trails, but it has some problems. The only map is several years old and does not reflect old trails that were reclaimed by the forest and new trails that have been cut. The trails have been poorly maintained, with many shortcuts across the few that have switchbacks, and only recently has the park put in a few waterbars. Worst of all, there are no official blazes on any of the trails, only a few discreet cuts with a knife, which means it is easy to get lost.

Many people become lost every month, making it necessary for the rescue squad to conduct a search. I was one of them in May 1996 when a friend and I lost the trail at dusk and had to stay overnight on the slope. The res-

cue squad never found us, but we made our own way out at dawn to reassure our frantic wives that we were alive and well.

Three months before this incident I had written to the Director of the park to propose organization of an Association of Friends of the Forest, with responsibility for blazing and maintaining the trails with volunteers. I subsequently had several meetings with her and her staff over the next year. After some back and forth to agree on the type and shape of blazes, I presented a formal project proposal in May 1997 for the "rational and safe use of the ecological trails of Tijuca National Park," complete with color samples of arrow blazes. The author of the trail guides to Rio, Pedro da Cunha e Menezes, helped me prepare the final draft.

When I didn't hear from the Director, I went to her office and learned that she did not want any blazes on trees, only freestanding signs. At that point I abandoned all efforts to have the project approved.

Blazing By Stealth

Opposition to blazes in Rio's forests comes from two sources—the environmental and

scientific community, which sees them as an intrusion on the pristine beauty, and hiking clubs and professional guides, who see them as an invitation to trail overuse by unqualified and careless people who will cause erosion, leave trash, and probably get lost anyway.

A hiking friend told me that he thought the blazes were a good idea but that if I waited for official approval, I would never get it through official channels. I decided that he was right and took matters into my own hands. I wanted to see if people would get used to blazed trails and like them.

I bought a gallon of blue paint and a brush and secretly set to work with marks roughly like the AT side trails. In January 1998 I blazed the trails to the Hill of the Evil Spirit and Greater Andaraí, the latter being the one on which I had gotten lost. The following month I blazed the longer and more obscure Gypsy Dam Trail, whose course I determined by trial and error from both ends.

Reactions were not long in coming. When I went on the blazed trails with groups, some

See *Trailblazer*, page 16

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ENS Phillip Cowall Memorial Shelter Dedication

Appalachian Trail, Maryland, Sunday, October 3 at 1:00 PM. Contact: Frank Turk: FrankTurk@aol.com , 301-249-8243.

Come join the Dedication of the recently completed ENS Phillip Cowall Memorial Shelter on the Appalachian Trail in Maryland.

The simple beauty of our new Cowall Shelter is another example of what can be done when people commit their time, love, sweat, and energy to complete a common goal. The shelter is situated in a very nice, peaceful setting and sure to delight those who need a place to rest for a while.

The generosity of the Cowall family has made it possible to create this shelter. When the Cowalls initially offered financial support they wanted to somehow reflect the love their departed son had of the Appalachian Trail. In their letter to PATC their purpose was clear: "We are exploring the possibility of making a donation to the PATC in memory of our late son, ENS Phillip Cowall, USCG... Phil loved the wilderness and especially the AT. He had hiked several hundred miles of the AT (mostly in VA), and hoped one day when time allowed to through-hike the entire trail. Since that dream was never realized, perhaps we could help make that journey easier for others."

The Cowalls will be happy to know that at least four 1999 through-hikers were able to contribute to the shelter progress as they took a break from the trail.

Deaf Community Participation in Shelter Construction

This shelter was your typical PATC project in many ways with one notable difference—heavy involvement from the deaf community. While initially some people had communication and safety concerns, it soon became clear that accessibility, communication, and safety were not an issue. In fact, at least one hearing PATC member has begun taking sign language classes, and others have made the effort to communicate in their own creative ways, whether it be with pencil and paper or homemade signs.

Further, one hearing volunteer commented, "this has been a humbling experience to say the least. Now I have an idea of what it's like to be challenged by being in a language mi-

nority."

This shelter was a cooperative effort of PATC and students/staff from the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD) as well as others from the deaf community at large including Gallaudet University, Western Maryland College's Deaf Education Unit, and others. It is yet another example of what Gallaudet University's President I. King Jordan said in 1985, "Deaf people can do anything but hear."

The students were involved with numerous day and weekend worktrips as well as related tasks at school, which included bookkeeping, making tools such as log dogs and a scribe (under the direction of MSSD employee Steve Doleac), and sharpening and maintaining tools.

Thank You to Those Who Helped

The list of in kind contributions is quite extensive, and without this support this shelter would not have been possible. Assistance from volunteer members of Sierra Club's Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program as well as volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 249 from Bowie and Boy Scout Troop from Rockville was important and appreciated.

A local resident by the name of Robert Orndorf was extremely generous in allowing the purchase of his property to extend the AT corridor and ensure the integrity of this section of trail. Prior to settling on his property, Mr. Orndorf extended full use privileges of his tractor to haul material, and when it came time to deliver the logs he allowed work crews to construct an access road through his property.

An added highlight worthy of mention is the financial support used to defray costs of MSSD's participation made possible through an ATC outreach grant. This is the second year MSSD has been a grant recipient.

Please join this special day as we celebrate this remarkable community effort.

Directions to ENS Phillip Cowall Memorial Shelter from Frederick, MD:

- Rte 70 West 11 miles
- Rte 17 North 12 miles (Note: 17 is a winding road also known as Wolfsville Rd.)
- After you cross the intersection with Loy

Wolf Rd and Garfield Rd (around mile 11.5) you'll soon see a small parking lot on left and forked gravel road on right. PARK HERE. (This is the intersection with AT.)

- Walk up the gravel road less than 1/4 mile. You'll see a white, plastic sand/salt barrel, telephone pole, and orange flagged trail on left. Follow this trail into the woods less than 1/4 mile to the shelter. □

—Frank Turk

Phillip Cowall was an Eagle Scout, as are both of his brothers, Seth and Nathan. Phillip also was a 1996 honors graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT and served as a deck officer aboard the USCG cutter Mallo in Honolulu for one year prior to his death in 1997. He was killed on the Baltimore beltway in a motorcycle accident on his way to his new ship assignment, USCG cutter Kukui, which was being built in Wisconsin.

—Cynthia Cowall

BACKPACKING 202

*A Course for INTERMEDIATE/
ADVANCED BACKPACKERS*

Learn how to:

Enjoy the Backcountry
Under Challenging Conditions

Classroom Instruction:

Thursdays, October 7 and 21, 1999
7:00 - 9:45 p.m.
PATC Headquarters
118 Park Street, SE
Vienna, Virginia

Weekend Outing Options:

November 5-7, or 12-14, or
19-21, 1999

Fee: \$45.00 for PATC Members
\$60.00 for non-members

Obtain registration form and more
information by writing or calling

PATC HQ:

PATC Trail Patrol
118 Park Street, SE
Vienna, VA 22180



PATC's 16th Annual PIG ROAST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 is the date for the 16th annual Pig Roast at the newly refurbished (almost done) Blackburn Trail Center. This will be our traditional "Rick Pig and Tim Rahn" Cuban style roast pig with black beans and cold beer. If you have seen Rick and Tim operate before, then we know you will be back. If you have not, then make sure you get in on this once a year special event.

Inspect the Blackburn construction job that you have been reading about and meet some of the construction crew. Because of the construction work, inside bunk space is limited, but we have plenty of tent sites. Just 45 miles west of Tyson's Corner, VA, this weekend event is a great way to spend an end of summer weekend. Meet old friends and make new ones. Families are especially welcomed, but please, no pets. Reservations are a must. Fill out your reservation and mail it with your check to Nancy Hughes, 7312 Willow Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. For additional information, call Chris Brunton at 703/560-8070. □



16th Annual Blackburn Pig Roast Saturday, September 25, 1999

Registration Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____
Number of reservations: _____ @ \$20.00 each
Amount enclosed: _____

I will be bringing _____ children under 12 years of age
(no charge for children under 12)

Include a \$20.00 payment per person for each reservation and mail to:

Nancy Hughes, 7312 Willow Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to make your check payable to Nancy Hughes.

Even turtles are protected. In January 1999, Environmental Conservation Officer Kathleen Maloney received a complaint from a woman who had purchased a box turtle from the Family Pet Center at Crossgates Mall in the Town of Guilderland (NY). The woman later learned from a veterinarian that the box turtle was a protected species, and the sale and purchase were illegal. ECO Maloney investigated the incident and found additional violations involving another box turtle and six un-banded lovebirds. The store manager was charged with two counts of illegal sale of small game species (the turtles), six counts of illegal sale of live un-banded birds, and misdemeanor illegal commercialization of wildlife. The pet store's owning company, DC Retail 1, Inc., of Glastonburg, CT, took responsibility for the violations and settled by consent order for \$700. From the Summer 1999 *Finger Lakes Trail News*, newsletter of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc.

—Lynn Witwer

The New Cougar Controversy: Just What Is an Eastern Cougar?

Despite declarations that the Eastern cat was extinct by state and federal wildlife officials in the early 20th century, sightings in remote areas had never quite ceased. Sparse and scattered at first, by the late 1990s cougar sightings had swelled to such a volume that they are a phenomenon in themselves. Not to mention the elusive nature of cougars, which is so phenomenal as to rank them with the Yeti in Nepal and Nessie in Scotland as a world-class wildlife mystery.

Some of the most credible clusters of sightings occur in the southern Appalachians. Forest cover, as well as deer—the favorite prey of cougars—are once again abundant after the destructive logging and overhunting at the turn of this century. Wooded expanses, especially on the 7 million acres of national forest and parklands stretching from Virginia to Alabama, offer many

secluded recesses for the solitary wanderings that are characteristic of cougars.

Few places in the East present a better chance for cougars to reestablish themselves than does Appalachia, and the great cats, renowned for their ability to adapt to habitats from swamps to deserts, seem to be taking full advantage of it.

One Man's Obsession

"I know they're here," says Todd Lester, a soft-spoken coal miner in Wyoming County, WV, "because I've seen one and tracked several others, including females with kittens, since 1983." Todd was coon hunting when he glimpsed a cougar in the road ahead of him. "When we made eye contact, the cat captured a piece of my heart," he says. Over the past 15 years, the

search for field proof of cougar existence has gradually taken over Todd's life. He devotes most of his free time to tracking all over West Virginia, wherever he's heard of a good sighting. Sometimes his wife and young daughter come along. Their home has become an archive for reports, photos of tracks and deer kills, and plaster casts of tracks, videos, hair, and other evidence of the presence of cougars.

"There's no question that at least one set of tracks that Todd found are cougar," says Dr. Lee Fitzhugh, a cooperative extension agent based at the University of California (Davis), who has specialized in cougar tracking since 1984. "I downloaded, enlarged, and printed the photos of track casts from his Web site." Fitzhugh met Lester electronically when he signed on to the Eastern cougar list server that Lester founded in early 1998.

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Cougar, from page 6

"Some of Todd's tracks are definitely dog, and some could be either dog or cougar," Lee says, "but at least one animal is definitely a cougar."

Todd has collected some of the best—but not the only—credible evidence of cougar presence in the East. A home video filmed in 1992 in western Maryland unmistakably shows a cougar in snowy woods. A game warden near Catlettsburg, KY responded to a cougar sighting in 1998 to find tracks that he identified as a cat too large to be a bobcat. In Vermont, a scat found in 1994 was verified by the National Fish & Wildlife Forensic Laboratory in Oregon as having cougar hairs in it, which were probably ingested during self-grooming. Much of the best evidence, including the Vermont report, involves mothers with young.

Cougar in the East not Recognized as Endangered Species

Although, state and federal wildlife officials no longer routinely dismiss cougar sightings, they do not entirely recognize the Eastern cougar. The official position is summed up by Paul Nickerson, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service official responsible for enforcing the Endangered Species Act in much of the East: "Any cougars in the East are not native Eastern cougars but escaped pets or captives from elsewhere or other subspecies, which are not covered by the Endangered Species Act." Because only the Eastern and the Florida subspecies are listed in the act, agencies are relieved of responsibility for protection of what Nickerson calls "mongrel" animals.

The pejorative term is almost unarguably accurate. Cougars from the Western United States and South America can be easily purchased through legal and illegal dealers, but when full-grown they make unpredictable, voracious pets. There is considerable proof, in the form of wild cougars caught in the East that were declawed or otherwise marked by captivity, that non-Eastern cougars have been introduced. Any remaining native cougars, which surely form a sparse and possibly inbred population, are likely to mate with these immigrants. Nickerson interprets the Endangered Species Act, which was intended to preserve the diversity of life down to the genetic level, to cover only the unique genes that the Eastern cougar subspecies presumably carries.

Pushing For Protection

But Melanie Culver, a doctoral student at the University of Maryland, recently completed a DNA analysis of all 30 cougar subspecies and found that Eastern and Western cougars differ so little that subspecies designations are not warranted. Taxonomists have been too quick to freeze dynamic natural processes into arbitrary human classifications; any cougar able to survive in the wild is capable of filling the Eastern cougar niche, she says.

Todd Lester is currently establishing an Eastern Cougar Foundation to consolidate the scattered data as well as the diffuse constituency of Eastern cougars to more effectively pressure the agencies for recognition and protection regardless of the cats' ancestry.

There is plenty of precedent right next door in the Florida panther project. Not only did the Fish & Wildlife Service invoke the "similarity of appearance" clause in the Endangered Species Act to designate all wild cougars in Florida as protected Florida panthers, but it brought in cougars of a different subspecies from Texas to mate with the dangerously inbred Florida panthers.

Todd also hopes to influence rural residents toward a tolerant acceptance of potentially growing populations of animals that can kill people as well as livestock. "Cougars are part of our Appalachian heritage, magnificent creatures to be proud of," he says, "and we need to learn to live with them." □

—Chris Bolgiano,

author of *Mountain Lion: an Unnatural History of Pumas and People* and *The Appalachian Forest, a Search for Roots and Renewal* (reviewed by Paula Strain in the July issue of the PA)

You Can Help

If you're sure you've seen a cougar in the East, write down the date, place, circumstances (time of day, what you were doing, what the animal was doing), and a physical description of the animal, and call or send it to: Todd Lester, P.O. Box 74, North Springs, WV 24869 (304-664-3812). Email: scb01489@mail.wvnet.edu.

To view Todd Lester's Web site, which has links to other sites with information about cougars and to the Eastern cougar list server, go to: <http://www.geocities.com/rainforest/vines/1318>

If you encounter a cougar while hiking...

1. Don't run away. Running triggers a chase.
2. Stand tall. Open your arms to make yourself big. Speak loudly but calmly. Keep eye contact. Back away slowly, taking care not to trip. Keep children close to you.
3. Fight back if attacked, with sticks, stones, or fists. Cougars can be driven away by resistance.

HEADQUARTERS

HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH 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
To receive an information packet: Extension 10
To leave a message for the Club President Walt Smith:
Extension 40
24-hr. Activities Tape #: 703/242-0965
Facsimile #: 703/242-0968
Club E-mail #: Wriley1226@aol.com
World Wide Web URL: <http://www.patc.net>

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11)
Email: Wriley1226@aol.com
Trails Management Coordinator: Heidi Forrest
(Ext.12) Email: heidif@erols.com
Business Manager: Regina Garnett (Ext. 15)
Email: rgarnett@erols.com
Membership/Cabin Coordinator: Pat Fankhauser
(Ext. 17) Email: pfankh@erols.com
Sales Coordinator: Maureen Estes (Ext. 19)
Email: patcsales@erols.com

Patrons

Capital Hiking Club
Center Hiking Club
Potomac Backpackers
Association
Sierra Club, MWROP
Wanderbirds Hiking Club

Corporate Supporters

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports
Campmor
Casual Adventures
Duron
Hewlett-Packard
Hudson Trail Outfitters

Outdoor Adventure
REI
The Outfitter at Harpers Ferry
The Trail House
Wilderness Voyagers

FORECAST

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the Appalachian Trail (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 Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848 or 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. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on

upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@ininternet.net) 717/765-4833. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Steve Koeppen (patcnorth@mail.com) 410/756-2916 or visit the North Chapter home page (www.patc.net/north_ch.html).

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 to Martha Clark (mclark@visualink.com) 540/665-2101.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre on the first Wednesday of the month; see **Forecast** for up-coming activi-

ties. For further information on chapter activities or to receive the chapter newsletter contact Jane Thompson 301/865-5399.

Ski Touring Section

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

PATC Midweek Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

National Trails Day Events

Hiking Trips

Backpacking Trips

Trail Work Trips

Cabin/Shelter Work Trips

Special Events

Meetings

Cross-Country Skiing

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

Meetings

PATC Council - Second Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - sharp. The PATC Council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the Club. All members are welcome. INFO: Willson Riley (wrliley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Ozana Halik 703/242-0177 or see PATC's website (http://www.patc.net/mtn_sect/).

Conservation Committee - Third Monday

7:00 p.m. For information on the Conservation Committee, or to join its meetings with the Piedmont Environmental Council or Virginia Planners, e-mail Mary Margaret Sloan at mmsloan@americanhiking.org or call her at 703/807-0746.

The Futures Group - Third Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Meets to research, develop, and recommend to membership changes to PATC organization, constitution, and bylaws in order to meet challenges of the next century. PATC members welcomed. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visualink.com) 703/242-0693. x 40

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting) - Last Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Meet in conference room. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press #5.

Meetings

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

Trail Patrol - First Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's good will trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, educating the public on good hiking practices, minimum impact hiking and camping ethics. Patrol members are trained in land navigation, emergency procedures, radio communications and personal equipment. All patrol volunteers are also expected to become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: Mickey McDermott 703/866-0928 or see PATC's website (<http://www.patc.net/patrol.html>).

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. 123 into Vienna, VA and turn east on Park St. (Rt. 675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Terry Cummings (TCIVP@aol.com) 410/489-4594.

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (New Members meeting) - Second Monday

7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Greg Huska (ghuska@rpihq.com) 703/241-4195 (w) or 703/567-7960 (h).

September

1 (Wednesday)

DEADLINE - October Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

1 (Wednesday)

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

4 (Saturday)

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

Enjoy giving back to the AT with a convenient work event close to home. The South Mountaineers work just west of Frederick, MD from 9:00 a.m. until afternoon. Bring water, gloves and lunch. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

4 - 5 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

We may be working on the last two 30 logs to go on top of the cabin walls. This will be a major milestone because the next things that will go up are the rafters. With any luck we will have the cabin under cover by the end of the year. Join our outstanding crew in this labor of love. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

4 - 6 (Saturday - Monday)

 **BACKPACKING - Laurel Fork Wilderness Monongahela National Forest, WV**

About 18 miles along the Laurel Fork of the Cheat River in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. Limit ten backpackers; car shuttle required. Except for scouting the trailheads, this will be the leaders' first visit to this area, so please bear with him. INFO: Dave Wilcox (davewilcox@worldnet.att.net) 703/212-0991.

7 (Tuesday)

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

8 (Wednesday)

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

8 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Scott's Run Nature Preserve, VA

The Easy Hikers will hike 3-4 miles in Scott's Run Nature Preserve. To reach the park, exit the Beltway (I-495) at Georgetown Pike (VA 193) and go west 0.6 miles to Swinks Mill Rd. (on left) and turn right into parking lot. Meet at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

11 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Tulip Tree Cabin to Stony Man summit. This hike will introduce you to the beauty of Shaver Hollow as we begin from the vicinity of the Tulip Tree Cabin and pass the Lambert's log house. We will continue hiking up into the Park, climbing the Crusher Ridge Trail above the hollow to the Appalachian Trail, and finally reach the beautiful views seen from Stony Man Mountain. In the future, this hike may be enjoyed by many other members, once Tulip Tree Cabin has been finished. The hike is about eight miles in total length with an elevation climb, at a slow pace, from 1,600 feet to 4,011 feet. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visualink.com) 540/678-0423.

11 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Metro Cabin John Trail, MD**

Join the Maryland Metrolites for work on the Cabin John Trail. Bring lunch and water. We meet at the Cabin John Park tennis court parking lot just off Democracy Boulevard at 9:00 a.m. INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

11 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew Massanutten Mountain, VA**

On Massanutten Mountain, north half. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.

11 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Tuscarora South Crew Massanutten Mountain, VA**

Put your mark on the trail! Join us for the fulfilling experience of building your own water bars! Tools and instruction provided; all we need is you! INFO: Rick Rhoades 703/239-0965.

11 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - West Virginia Chapter Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

A moderately-paced circuit hike of approximately 11 miles over Corbin Mountain, down Indian Run, and back along Nicholson Hollow. Good swimming hole opportunity. Elevation change of 2000+ feet. INFO: Janet Dombrowski 703/243-4232 (before 10 p.m., please).

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA**

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. Join us for a group dinner and overnight at the Gypsy Spring cabin Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Rock Work (ATC) Scott Farm/Mid-Atlantic Training Center, Carlisle, PA

This ATC rock work session will feature installation of rock waterbars, steps, and cribbing, as well as maintenance of these structures. Instructor - TBA. INFO: John Wright (jwright@atconf.org) 717/258-5771.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ **WORKSHOP - 12th Annual North District Trail Maintenance Workshop**

Mathews Arm Campground, North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

See article in August issue PA for details. RSVP/INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@erols.com) 410/426-2724.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Meadows Cabin, Syria, VA**

Join the Cadillac Crew for a weekend work trip at Meadows Cabin. We'll be reopening an overgrown loop trail nearby and making other horticultural and arboricultural improvements on the grounds of the cabin. Overnight at Meadows Cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Please call by September 3 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA**

Well, I guess I spoke too soon when I announced that our "Mystery Trips" were over last month. Mysterious forces intervened and carried us off to another job during August. Now we are back for sure, and we need your help to catch up. Lots of jobs, both inside and out, for skilled and unskilled helpers. Call us now to reserve your place with the Blackburn Crew. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

12 (Sunday)

CLASS - Basic Rock Scrambling for Hikers Great Falls, VA

This practical, hands-on half day class will provide hikers the fundamentals of route finding and safe movement over rock hazards and obstacles encountered in alpine and rocky environments. It will include scrambling with the use of hands and feet and elementary climbing techniques. Class at Great Falls Park, VA. Limited to 8 people. INFO: Tony Sanders 202/362-3819.

13 (Monday)

 **MEETING - New members (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group), 7:30 p.m.**

14 (Tuesday)

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

15 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Basic Climbing (REI/InnerQuest) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

REI and InnerQuest offer Basic Climbing all year. The course covers all the essential skills for top-roped climbing: anchors, harnesses, knots, spotting, belaying, climbing techniques, body position, and balance. Class size is limited to ensure plenty of individual attention. The course fee is \$65.00. Sessions: September 15, 22, and 29. Space is limited, register early! INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

15 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers Washington, DC**

The Easy Hikers will hike 2-3 miles in the National Arboretum. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in parking lot near R Street entrance. Bring lunch. To reach the Arboretum, take New York Ave. to Bladensburg Rd. Turn left if coming from the Beltway or right if coming from DC. After 0.4 miles, turn into R Street and continue to park entrance. INFO: Beth Partridge 202/636-5655.

15 (Wednesday)

CLASS - "Touring" the C&O Canal Towpath (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Local photographer Ed Neville will take us on an evening's slideshow tour down the Towpath and discuss planning, gear, ways, and means of photography. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

18 (Saturday) (Rain Date: Sept. 25)

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

8:15 - 11:30 a.m. A cooling trend is just around the corner. Help us ready the D.C. trails for scores of fall hikers who hit the trails from their front door steps. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

18 (Saturday)

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

Finally some cooler air! Enjoy the beauty of the Appalachian Trail in Maryland on this work event. Bring

FORECAST

water, lunch and gloves. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

18 (Saturday)

👉 HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #17 Maurertown, VA

A moderately paced 14-mile hike southwest of Front Royal, VA over the Massanutten West section of the Tuscarora Trail between Maurertown and Elizabeth Furnace. Elevation gain is 2,300 feet. A car shuttle is required. PATC map G. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

18 (Saturday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade Wardensville, WV

PATC Map F coordinates (F.9). East side of Great North Mountain, near Wardensville. Join the crew to work on the white blazed trail between Paul Gerhardt Shelter and the fire road. We will drive in to the lower end of the trail from Vances Cove. Not a long walk, but the trail is steep. INFO: Hop Long (theFSLongs@erols.com) 301/942-6177.

18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Hike Leader Training Round Hill, VA

Did you miss the previous hike leader training sessions? If so, it is not too late. The 1999 edition will be conducted at our Blackburn Trail Center. Abbreviated wilderness first aid training, hike planning, hike execution, and introduction to Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group and Trail Patrol contributions to the hiking experience are on the agenda. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast at Blackburn — cost is minimal. All current leaders, anyone contemplating becoming a leader, and the idly curious, are welcome. Reservations/INFO: Tom Johnson (johnnts@erols.com) 410/647-8554.

18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid Arlington, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this sixteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$125. Registration is limited to 25 people. More information and registration at: <http://wfa.net>. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

👉 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

It is not too late to join the Tulip Tree Cabin Crew in construction of a log cabin using the tools of our forefathers. This cabin is being built from the ground up using the materials and methods used by our pioneer forefathers. We have all the tools and we know how to use them. You will too if you join us for a week-end of working, learning and fun. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ Early Appalachian American TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come and help the crew work on the Appalachian Trail in the North District of the Park, working on treadwork and erosion control—rock steps, waterbars, and the like. Tools and guidance will be provided. Bring work gloves, lunch, water, and a smile. Afterwards, we will have a mountaineer's traditional repast in grand fashion at Indian Run Hut with strains of hammered dulcimer around the evening's fire.

Come for the day, stay the evening meal, or spend the entire weekend—plenty of bunk and tent space. The crew meets at 10:00 a.m. at Piney River Ranger Station in the Park. Call for details...or check our web page at <http://www.patc.net/ndhoods.html>. RSVP/INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@erols.com) 410/426-2724.

18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

👉 HIKE/Camp - Natural History Weekend Pedlar District, GW National Forest, VA

Tired of schlepping out to the mountains and back in a day? Wouldn't you rather just sit back after a day's hike, enjoy the evening in the woods, and wake up to another great day of hiking? Join Bob Pickett and friends as we do two popular day hikes and spend the night at the Sherando Lake Campground. We'll take a six mile hike through the St. Mary's Wilderness area on Saturday and an eight mile trip on the Appalachian Trail from Crabtree Falls, over Spy Rock, to the Montebello Fish Hatchery on Sunday. Everyone will be responsible for their own meals. A charge for the campsite will be required. RSVP/INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

18 - 19 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Join the Blue and White Crew in the high country of the Virginia Blue Ridge, where the heat index never rises above 120F. We'll be continuing to rebuild damaged tread on the AT and Side Trails in the District. Tentative overnight location is the Pinnacles Research Station. Please call at least a week in advance for a bunk/dinner reservation for Saturday night. Day-trippers are also welcome. Updated information (and a Blue and White Crew calendar) is posted at <http://sites.netscape.net/kerrysnow/homepage>. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysno@sprynet.com) 301/570-0596 or Charles Hillon (hillon@mnsinc.com).

20 (Monday)

👉 MEETING - Conservation Committee, 7:00 p.m.

21 (Tuesday)

👉 MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.

21 (Tuesday)

👉 HIKE - Vigorous hikers Carderock, MD

First fall hike. A fast 10 miles from Carderock Park in Maryland, just outside the Beltway, to Georgetown. Buy lunch at a local takeout and eat it in a canal-side park. Then walk back the 10 miles to Carderock. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

22 (Wednesday)

CLASS - The New Outdoor Essentials (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. This seminar will introduce concepts and principles to plan, prepare, and enjoy our outdoor adventures with greater safety and less risk. Presented by Christopher Tate. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

23 (Thursday)

CLASS - Geology of Massanutten Mountain (REI) REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. Local earth scientist and photographer Ed Neville will explain the underlying rocks that make the Massanutten what it is. See 9/26 for follow-on hike. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.



23 - 28 (Thursday - Tuesday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - ATC Mid Atlantic Crew Appalachian Trail, Northern Virginia

The ATC Mid Atlantic Crew will again be spending five days building rock steps, water bars and check dams on a section of the AT in No. Virginia. This year we will be working just below Ravens Rock (see PATC map #7) on a section of eroded trail that was burnt over by a forest fire 3 years ago. This crew can show you how to build a trail that will last for years!! Come for a day or more and learn this all important trail craft from the experts. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

25 (Saturday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

25 (Saturday)

👉 HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Massanutten Mountain, VA

Massanutten West Trail. Hike a recently completed section of the Massanutten Mountain West Trail near Edinburg, VA. This trail affords wonderful views of the Shenandoah and Fort Valley, and is a delight to hike. The hike is over rugged terrain, but because of the exceptional trail construction, is not a difficult hike and takes advantage of most of the interesting rock features so common to Massanutten. Come and enjoy the cool, clear air on the first official weekend of fall. Leaders/INFO: Larry & Rita Bradford (bradford@shentel.net) 540/459-3571.

25 - 26 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Shockeysville, VA

Shockeys Knob (Brill Cabin), trail construction. Come help us with the Tuscarora North relocation on Shockeys Knob. Overnight at a local cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Please call by September 19 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

26 (Sunday)

CLASS - Land Navigation (MWROP/Sierra Club) Sperryville, VA

The first of three days featuring classroom study in the use of topographical maps and compass, with practical hands-on outdoor exercises using basic tools of land navigation. Limited to 25 people. Days 2 and 3 scheduled October 3 and 31. More information and registration at: <http://webmentor.com/mwrop/welcome.html>. INFO: Mike Gingerich 703/590-3188.

26 (Saturday)

👉 HIKE - Massanutten Geology Hike (REI) REI, College Park, MD

A follow-up to the Massanutten Geology program at REI on 9/23. All necessary information will be provided at the program on the 23rd. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

28 (Tuesday)

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

28 (Tuesday)

👉 HIKE - Vigorous hikers Massanutten Mountain, VA

Vigorous hike on Massanutten Mt. including the sharp ridge at Buzzard Rocks and Elizabeth Furnace. 17-mile circuit. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

29 (Wednesday)

👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers

Huntley Meadows Park, VA

A two-part hike of 4 to 6 miles, partly on boardwalks over marsh. Binoculars suggested for viewing waterfowl. From Beltway (I-495), Exit 1, take Jefferson Davis Hwy. (US 1) South 3.12 miles to Lockheed Blvd. Turn right and go 3.4 miles to bend in Blvd. Entrance to park is on your left. Parking lot is short distance before excellent Visitor Center where we'll meet at 10 a.m. The additional 2-miler will be from other side of park, at parking lot off South Kings Hwy. just before Telegraph Rd. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Henry Shryock 202/479-4130 or Pauline Le Marie 202/484-2966.

29 (Wednesday)

CLASS - The Land Ethic (REI/Wilderness Society) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. A presentation by Jerry Greenberg of the Wilderness Society on issues of land use, water allocation, and how to plan our communities in a way that promotes quality of life while preserving the living systems on the land. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

October

1 (Friday)

DEADLINE - November Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

TBA (TBA)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade Massanutten Mountain, VA

Date being decided. PATC Map G coordinates (D,7). Join the crew and MORE bike riders to work with the Massanutten Crew on the Massanutten Mountain West Trail between Powell's Fort Camp and Doll Ridge. We will park nearby and have a short walk to the steep trail. INFO: Hop Long (theFSLongs@erols.com) 301/942-6177.

2 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15-11:30 a.m. This is the final stretch. Only one more month of work trips in Rock Creek Park. Don't miss out. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

2 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Metro Cabin John Trail, MD

Join the Maryland Metrolites for work on the Cabin John Trail. Bring lunch and water. We meet at the Cabin John Park tennis court parking lot just off Democracy Boulevard at 9 a.m. INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

2 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Autumn is here. Enjoy the cooler air and inspiring colors of the leaves on this event. Tread repair or relocation work likely. Expect to get dirty and enjoy that process. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

🔪 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

Broad axe, foot adze, draw knife, crosscut saw, half dovetail, hew, birds mouth, half-lap. These are all terms you will become familiar with if you join the Tulip Tree Cabin Crew in constructing a log cabin from the ground up using primitive hand tools. Did you ever consider how convenient it is to be able to go to the lumber yard and buy all of your building material, and then take it home and do your construction with power tools? We have to cut down our own trees and then turn them into building material using axes and broad axes before we can even start to build. Then all of our work is done with primitive hand tools. If you want to get a good appreciation of what our ancestors went through to build their houses or barns join this skilled hard working, fun loving crew. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

2 - 3 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. Join us for a group dinner and overnight at the Gypsy Spring cabin Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

3 (Sunday)

🔪 ENS Phillip Cowall Dedication Ceremony

Please join as we celebrate the recently completed shelter on the Maryland Appalachian Trail. Contact: FrankTurk@aol.com or call 301-249-8243.

5 (Tuesday)

👤 MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

5 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Bull Run Regional Park, VA

Brisk 18-mile hike along the Bull Run Trail from Bull Run Park to Fountainhead Park. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

6 (Wednesday)

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

9 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew Massanutten Mountain, VA

On Massanutten Mountain, north half. INFO: Will Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.

9 - 10 (Saturday - Sunday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Vining Tract, Lydia, VA

Join the Cadillac Crew for a weekend work trip at Morris Cabin. We'll be clearing the vista and repairing trail tread. Overnight at Morris Cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Please call by Oct. 2 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

11 (Monday)

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

12 (Tuesday)

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

12 (Tuesday)

👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Appalachian Trail, VA

A 22-mile hike along the AT from its crossing of VA Rt. 55 up to its intersection with the Dickey Ridge Trail in SNP, then mostly down paralleling Skyline Drive to the Front Royal Entry Station to the SNP. Bailouts possible along the Drive. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

13 (Wednesday)

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

14 (Thursday)

👤 HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Massanutten North, VA

If you only take one hike this fall, this should be the hike! This hike contains more views, more rugged trail, and an awesome view into a deep, narrow canyon. This six-mile relay hike will start at Elizabeth Furnace and some of the surrounding ruins that supported the furnace. At the top of the mountain we will proceed north on the East Massanutten Mountain Trail, passing striking views of Fort Valley and the Page Valley with Shenandoah National Park in the background. We will then travel down a steep, rugged trail, past weathered rock outcrops to the spectacular Buzzard Rock. This impressive rock cliff makes up the east rim of the canyon carved through Massanutten by Passage Creek. Finally, we will proceed to an open view of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. From this vantage point it is a short wooded downhill walk to the north terminus of the Massanutten East Trail. Leader/INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visualink.com) 540/662-1524.

16 (Saturday)

✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

16 (Saturday)

👤 HIKE - Natural History Hike South District Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join Bob Pickett on the 7.9-mile Doyles River Trail. This circuit trail takes you along the Jones Run Trail down past the Jones Run waterfall to Doyles River. Then we'll proceed up the Doyles River past several falls and some mature hemlocks. After passing the spring box for the Doyles River cabin (and source of the Doyles River), we'll return to our starting point via the Appalachian Trail. RSVP/INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

16 - 17 (Saturday - Sunday)

🔪 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

Come out and enjoy the end of the warm Summer weather by contributing to the construction of the first hewed-log cabin ever built by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Some of our old timers built a beautiful round log cabin in Pennsylvania called Michener Cabin, but never have we hewed our logs flat on the inside and outside. Hewing the logs flat adds considerably to the work necessary, but the results are worth the effort. First of all, hewing the logs gives a more pleasing aesthetic appearance because it is more finished-looking and "crisper". In the old days barns and sheds were made of round logs, but houses were almost always made of hewn logs. Secondly, by hewing the logs and chinking properly, the hewn log house is more durable because the water drips off the flat surface of the log instead of running around the curved surface of the log and penetrating the chinking where it can cause rot. If you want to learn more about log cabin building

FORECAST

join us this weekend at Tulip Tree Cabin. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

18 (Monday)

👉 **MEETING - Conservation Committee, 7:00 p.m.**

19 (Tuesday)

👉 **MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.**

19 (Tuesday)

👉 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers Prince William Forest, VA**

A 19-mile circuit hike in Prince William Forest in Northern Virginia, 20 minutes south of the Beltway. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

23 (Saturday)

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

8:15-11:30 a.m. The grand finale. What kind of work will we attempt on the last work trip of 1999? You have to come to find out. Remember, we start early and end before lunch, giving you a great start to the fall weekend. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

23 (Saturday)

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

The beauty of the woods beckons. Enjoy the beautiful colors of autumn and "give back" to the Appalachian Trail. Tread repair or relocation work probable. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

23 (Saturday)

👉 **Meditation HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter**

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

From the vicinity of Chester Gap, experience a meditative hike (approx. four miles) to Fort Windam Rocks and Possum Rest Overlook, with an elevation change of 400'. This hike will include periods of silent walking meditation, as well as other methods for reducing stress and enhancing awareness. Enjoy the sights and sounds of nature, and, hopefully, an inner sense of quiet and contemplation as we hike through mature woods and enjoy the autumn views overlooking the valley. INFO: J R Strother 540/678-0423.

23 - 24 (Saturday - Sunday)

👉 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Vining Tract, Lydia, VA**

Join the Cadillac Crew for a weekend work trip at Muttontop Cabin. We'll be working on the grounds of the cabin. Overnight at Muttontop Cabin. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Please call by Oct. 15 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

26 (Tuesday)

👉 **MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group**

(Business meeting), 7:30 p.m.



30 (Saturday)

👉 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian or Tuscarora Trail, PA**

Location to be determined sometime in October. For meeting place and other details, call Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848.

30 (Saturday)

👉 **CLASS - C&O Canal Photography (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA**

8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Local photographer Ed Neville will present a hands-on, participation-intensive class on outdoor landscape and historical structures photography. Print film, class materials and development services will be provided. Transportation from one objective to the next will be via bicycles on the Towpath. Fee is \$75.00. Registration and INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

30 - 31 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

The weather may be cool now, and we are probably past the peak Fall color, but the woods in Shaver Hollow are beautiful and peaceful. We won't disturb that peace and quiet with the raucous roar of chainsaws or motor generators. We work the old fashioned way, with primitive hand tools. Our work weekend will not contribute to your continued hearing loss from exposure to excessive noise. Preserve your hearing and join us at Tulip Tree Cabin building this one-of-a-kind log cabin. There is an additional benefit of copious aerobic exercise. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

Walt's Notes, from page 3

houses that we own or maintain during the month of October, announcing which ones I think are the best from a user standpoint, and in April I plan to visit, for the same purpose, all thirty-three shelters and maintenance huts for which we are responsible. I plan to discuss my observations with the cabin overseers during a meeting we are planning to have in December at Highacre, that marvelous Victorian house overlooking the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers in Harpers Ferry. I look forward to meeting with the overseers and listening to their views on the state of our cabin operations.

Council Deliberations

The Council has in recent months discussed the status of current cabin and shelter maintenance and the need for additional structures in the future, as resources become available. There is general agreement that there is a need for more facilities along the Tuscarora Trail, and the old Hemlock Shelter may be moved and reconditioned for this purpose once it is available. Council is also considering a major renovation of the Headquarters building in Vienna, VA, based upon plans developed by PATC member Bruce A.

Barberick, Partner of Laughing Dog Studio, Charlotte, N.C. We greatly appreciate the time Bruce has spent driving here from North Carolina and donating his architectural services so that we might make much better use of the building, especially the second floor. Council will also have an opportunity to see PATC property first hand, as we continue to have some meetings outside the beltway. The planning session we had in December for the 1999 work objectives was held at Highacre; in October we will have our Year 2000 Planning Workshop at the Blackburn Trail Center. We are also anticipating having an occasional monthly meeting in different parts of our operational area: a visit is contemplated next year to the Vining Tract, located off US 30 near Swift Run Gap.

What Part Do You Play?

For those members who are not overseers or sit on Council, we are interested in your viewpoint. If you use the cabins or shelters then you may of course write your comments concerning your stay in the logbook. I read a few pages of logbooks when I make visits and gain valuable information from the experiences of those who spend the night. I also encourage you to mail your thoughts to PATC Head-

quarters or contact the appropriate committee chair if you have ideas or suggestions concerning the use or maintenance of PATC properties. Among the topics I wish to discuss with cabin overseers in December are: what instructions should PATC be forwarding to renters of our cabins, what should a user expect when they arrive and use a cabin? Also, what should our standards be concerning the level of maintenance expected of an overseer? Not that I think all rentals should be treated the same. Certainly there is a difference between a primitive cabin with no electricity and a restored house with all the amenities of home. However, I believe that it will be useful to come to an understanding of what kind of experience a person should have when they spend a relaxing weekend near one of the trailheads. I invite you, the user, to participate in this process and send in your comments.

I invite all PATCers to take the time and make the effort to recognize the stewardship of the past by being good stewards of our facilities in the future. Let us all do our part. ☐

See you on the trail,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Walt".

Rock Creek, from page 1

yard and at tennis facilities located near 16th street. Opponents charge the towers are unsightly and unnecessary because Bell Atlantic could place the towers elsewhere outside the park (on apartment buildings, for instance). The towers also don't cover other cellular providers who may want to place similar structures in the park.

The safety issue is a standard line used by cellular companies, who have a significant advertising campaign touting cell phones as a life-saving tool. In Rock Creek Park, however, almost all of the crime cited in statistics by Daschle and Bell Atlantic occurred on the southern-most section of the park, far away from the towers, and in areas with decent cellular service. Instead, the cellular towers are most likely to boost cellular service for commuters from upper D.C. and Maryland who use the park's roads and have trouble keeping conversations going in the northern reaches of the park. Here, the park is wide, less crowded, and a safe place to hike, run, bike, horseback ride, or picnic.

Perhaps the most interesting facet of this fight for those concerned about the impact of cellular towers is that cellular companies don't need 100 foot and higher towers in the park to improve service for customers. Smaller units could be placed on buildings and along the roadways on lighting and other structures. This approach is much more expensive, and cellular companies are interested in setting precedents that help lower the costs of expansion as they attempt to fill in service gaps.

The urban nature of this fight shouldn't detract from the possible implications it could have in more remote settings as cellular companies continue to expand. Stay tuned, and voice your opinion to the Park Service and members of Congress. □

—Mark Anderson
(District Manager for DC Metro Trails)

Obituary

Judy Johnson died July 28th after a brief illness. A PATC member since 1985, Judy served as Club Treasurer and, along with her husband Howard, was an active member of the Cabins Committee at the Vining Tract and the Schairer Trail Center. Her financial skills and avid interests contributed significantly in areas such as Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), Earthshare, and projects for land protection.

SMRG and Trail Patrol: Working Together at the Dogwood

This year's 14th Annual Dogwood 50 K Hike on April 24, 1999 was, according to most reports, another resounding success. That could not have happened without a great deal of support behind the scenes. From registering participants to preparing food to clearing the trail, many PATC members pitched in to support the overall effort. But, for two groups supporting the event, the common thought was most likely, "I hope no one needs us this weekend." This thought did not come from laziness or fear but from the nature of their jobs: to help out hikers in distress.

The Trail Patrol (a standing committee within PATC) and the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group, or SMRG (the rescue section of PATC), are two groups with different yet complementary missions. For Trail Patrol, the main task is to help out hikers, pass along leave-no-trace guidelines, and generally act as guardian angels for hikers they meet during the course of the day. SMRG's daily mission is to be ready to search for and rescue lost persons in any rural or wilderness environment.

At the Dogwood, the groups' tasks would mirror their core missions. Trail Patrol provided sweep teams to check the route of the hike for participants in distress, while SMRG provided medical support and an evacuation capability if needed. The coordination and integration of activities between these two groups was a challenge, but both groups rose to the occasion.

Training For Success

The 1999 Dogwood was not the first time SMRG and Trail Patrol have worked together, but it was probably their best interaction to date. Back in March, SMRG and Trail Patrol planners decided it was a good idea to do some combined training before the actual event. Two training topics were highlighted as critical during the event: land navigation and potential medical problems. In late March, members of Trail Patrol and SMRG gathered in George Washington National Forest to do a survey of the entire course. Before the teams took up their assigned sweeps, SMRG members gave a class on land navigation and use of the map grid system used by SMRG's umbrella organization, the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference. The use of this system would allow Trail Pa-

trol and SMRG teams to pinpoint their location on a map using a series of coordinates. In the event of an emergency, exact locations would be critical to determine routes for evacuation teams.

Another training event was held in early April at PATC headquarters. The first hour of the regularly scheduled Trail Patrol meeting was transformed into a joint Trail Patrol-SMRG medical training session. It began with a discussion of medical injuries that have traditionally occurred at the Dogwood. This was based on the experiences of many SMRG and Trail Patrol members who had supported prior events and treated participants. In addition, members discussed the proper protocols for treating some of the most common injuries associated with this event, from blisters and abrasions to dehydration. Finally, there was an overview of the support that these two groups would provide and a discussion of how the missions would complement each other on the trail.

Dogwood Day

In order to communicate across the relatively large area of the Dogwood event, SMRG communications personnel set up a series of relays at various locations around the course. These were in place and working by Friday evening, despite a punishing thunderstorm that threatened to tear down both tents and radio antennae. On the day of the event, SMRG had established a command post adjacent to the main pavilion being used by PATC as the overall control point for the Dogwood. The command post was used as a joint headquarters for SMRG and Trail Patrol, allowing planners to track the movement of personnel around the course.

Trail Patrol led five sweep teams to cover the entire course throughout the day. These teams consisted primarily of Trail Patrol members but were augmented by SMRG personnel to provide additional medical support. Sweep teams were in constant communication with the command post to relay their progress and provide information on any participants who needed assistance. In addition, SMRG personnel were positioned at pre-designated checkpoints to offer medical assistance to any hiker. SMRG also provided roving evacuation teams whose mission was to carry out any hikers who were unable to continue on their

See *Dogwood*, page 14

Dogwood, from page 13

own. Luckily, these evacuation teams didn't have to be called into service.

In the future, Trail Patrol and SMRG plan to work together on other activities, including some joint training opportunities beneficial to both groups. Each organization is working on an internal after-action review of the

Dogwood event to determine areas that could be improved for the Dogwood 2000. Once completed, the two organizations will come together to review these reports and work on common areas of cooperation for future events. In the meantime, both groups will continue to fulfill their individual missions supporting the outdoor community in the local area.

—Martin Juenge and Kumait Jawdat

If you would like any additional information on these two groups, please contact: Trail Patrol—Mickey McDermott, 703/866-0928, fax 703/284-0968, or e-mail jtmcd@erols.com. Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group—Greg Huska, 703/255-5034, mailbox 5, or e-mail ghuska@rpihq.com. □

Donations

Our heartfelt THANK YOU to those members who have given additional donations with their dues renewal fee and from the goodness of their heart to the individual funds listed below.

Our mission of protecting the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and side trails throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania is assured through generous donations from you. It also helps greatly to ensure that these protected trail lands can be enjoyed by future generations.

Donations received in July

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

Todd Angerhofer	G	Charles and Elisabeth King	T	Jeanne O'Neill and Robert Parker	S/C
Robert and Lauren Dern	T	Elizabeth H. Macdonald		Richard W. Redick	T
Albert and Venus Fleig	T	(In memory of William R. Macdonald)	T	Raul Sanguinetti	G; S/C
Carol and Oliver Flint	T	Walter C. McNamee	S/C	Rutledge Vining	S/C
Dudley B. Gaines	T	Diana Menefee	T	David Zimand	G
Forден M. Hughes	S/C	Bruce S. Nierwienski	T		

We are grateful for the following people who gave generously to the Trail Land Acquisition Fund in response to President Walt Smith's article in the July issue of the *Potomac Appalachian* and his call for help to preserve our trails: John and Kimberly Longstreet, Nicholas Dunten (in memory of Sam Moore), Maureen I. Harris, Albert and Anita Brauer, B. E. Layton, John and Lorraine Wilber, Fred and Margaret Karsten, Glen C. Skaggs (in memory of Sam Moore), Dave and Dorothy Bates, Lester and Edith Bates.

Congratulations and a hearty thanks to our new Life Member, Timothy Wyant. Timothy sent in his dues of \$500 to upgrade his membership to Life Member on July 8, 1999. There are approximately 424 Life Members currently in PATC.

A brief note about DUES RENEWAL NOTICES. The expiration date on your membership card reflects the month in which I generate the dues notices. Your membership will not expire exactly on the date shown, but it will shortly thereafter if the dues notice remains unpaid after that month. I normally generate the dues notices sometime after the 10th of the month, so please be patient if you think your membership has passed the expiration date. If it passes a couple of months, then please contact me as there is a problem we need to correct.

—Pat Fankhauser, Membership Coordinator

PATC Provides Free Trekking Poles and Training

The August issue of the *PA* carried an article on trekking poles and their advantages: a shift of the hiking effort to upper body muscles, adjustable length for ascending, descending, and traversing, a balancing aid when footing is precarious, etc.

The article failed to point out that the Club loans out trekking poles—FREE OF CHARGE! And provides FREE training in use of the pole.

The Club's poles require no length adjustment. A simple shift of your hand along the pole suffices to shorten or lengthen the distance from ground to hand. This gives instant adaptability to varying terrain. During those tiresome traverses of steep slopes, the left and right hands merely slide to the most comfortable position.

Variety

Various poles are available and are described below.

A very sturdy six-foot pole, with a sharp end and a blunt end. You can plant the sharp end between rocks when making a difficult descent of a block field. The blunt end has a round mushroom shape, which can be used to tamp the holes in the tread that are left by the pointy carbide tips of ordinary trekking poles. Ask for a digging iron.

A five-foot pole, also with a sharp end and a blunt end. This comes in wood and fiberglass. Again, either end can be planted in the ground. The sharp end has an all-metal scoop—very handy on those occasional trips

into the bushes when you need a "cat-hole." Ask for a shovel.

A five-foot wooden pole, with a metal attachment at one end. The attachment is a sturdy metal bar mounted crosswise to the pole—the bar has four large teeth. This pole outperforms all ordinary trekking poles, since the toothed bar can be hooked behind an object that is up-trail from the hiker, and the body can be pulled upward. This provides a more thorough workout of upper body muscles during steep ascents. Ask for a firerake. Those of Scottish descent should check out a specialized version called a McLeod.

Other, less versatile poles are available. These
See Trekking Poles, page 16

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

NEEDED: Volunteer Coordinator—a Club member to coordinate volunteer opportunities and place volunteers in jobs. There is currently no placement system to match volunteers with open tasks; you can devise and implement one. No experience needed, just a general understanding of Club activities and a willingness to work. Most work will take place at the headquarters in Vienna. Call Tom Johnson, vice president for volunteerism, at 410/647-8554, or e-mail him at johnts@erols.com.

FREE FIREWOOD!—Available at Highacre. Anyone willing to come and haul any or all of the cut wood from the grounds around the house can have it for free. Necessary to let me know one week ahead of time. Call Pat Fankhauser, 703/242-0693, Ext. 17.

CHAIR, LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE needed to oversee administration, use, and maintenance of PATC-owned property. In coordination with other committees, recommends to Executive Committee and Council land management policy and appointment of Tract Management Committee Chairs; supervises development of Tract Management Plans; Member of Council. Send resume to Walt Smith, President, Hq, Vienna, or e-mail wsmith@visuallink.com

MEMBER OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND needed to assist with six other members, meeting bi-monthly, in managing the Club's \$3 million endowment that provides support for the Club's programs in perpetuity. Appointed by the President and approved by Council. Seeking member with strong financial and/or banking experience who will assist in making decisions affecting the Club's securities. Send resume to Walt Smith, President, Hq, Vienna, or e-mail wsmith@visuallink.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DISCOUNTS FOR HIKE LEADERS. The PATC hikes committee will offer a \$60 discount (or 50% of the tuition, whichever is smaller) on Club-approved wilderness first aid or other applicable training courses to any leader who agrees to lead at least three official Club hikes in the 12 months that follow the training course. So if you have heard about a really terrific training course that might be of benefit to a hike leader, but hesitated to take it because of the cost, this offer might be right down your alley. For details, contact Tom Johnson at 410/647-8554, johnts@erols.com.

BEARS DEN HOSTEL, owned and operated by the Appalachian Trail Conference, is looking for groups or individuals to help with general maintenance of the facility and grounds, in exchange for one night's free lodging. Bears Den is a stone lodge located 250 yards from the AT in Bluemont, Virginia. INFO: Melody Blaney or Patti Landovek, 540/554-9808

FIELD CHECKERS NEEDED to hike trails while proofing copy for the Fifteenth Edition of Appalachian Trail Guide to Maryland and Northern Virginia (AT Guidebook #6). Book covers AT and side trails in MD, Harpers Ferry, Northern VA and WV. Field checkers need only hike as many trails as they like; spend an afternoon or several weekends. If necessary, field checkers may also assist the Editor/Writer in com-

pleting portions of the book. Contact Aaron Watkins (awatkins@rcn.com) 410/740-7082.

EDITOR/WRITER NEEDED to revise second edition of Hikes in Western Maryland. This is a long-term project that can easily be worked around your schedule. Editor will revise trail descriptions and text in previous edition, verifying information with rangers and with assistance from Publications Chair and Maps Chair. Contact Aaron Watkins (awatkins@rcn.com) 410/740-7082.

FIELD CHECKERS NEEDED to hike trails and proof copy for Second Edition of Guide to Massanutten Mountain. The Editor/Writer is currently revising the text. Field checker(s) will hike trails to proof copy for new edition. Field checkers need only hike as many trails as they like; spend an afternoon or several weekends. Contact Aaron Watkins (awatkins@rcn.com) 410/740-7082.

EDITOR/WRITER NEEDED to revise Fifteenth Edition of Appalachian Trail Guide to Maryland and Northern Virginia (AT Guidebook #6). Book covers AT and side trails in MD, Harpers Ferry, Northern VA and WV. Editor will revise trail descriptions and text in previous edition, verifying information with rangers and with assistance and guidance from Publications Chair and Maps Chair. Great summer project. Contact Aaron Watkins (awatkins@rcn.com) 410/740-7082.

THE SALES OFFICE is looking for volunteers interested in working from 12:00 until 2:00 on Thursdays and/or Fridays. If interested, please contact the Sales Coordinator, Maureen Estes, by either calling headquarters at 703/242/0693, ext. 19, or by e-mail at patcsales@erols.com.

HIKE LEADER TRAINING ON TAP. Did you miss the previous hike leader training sessions? If so, it is not too late. The 1999 edition will be conducted Saturday, Sept 18, and Sunday, Sept 19, at Blackburn Trail Center in Virginia. Abbreviated wilderness first aid training, hike planning, hike execution, and introduction to Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group and Trail Patrol contributions to the hiking experience are on the agenda. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast at Blackburn - cost, minimal. All current leaders, anyone contemplating becoming a leader, and the idly curious, are welcome. Contact Tom Johnson, 410/647-8554; johnts@erols.com, to reserve your place.

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING OUTDOORS? PATC has a continuous need for Headquarters Volunteers willing to help out with a variety of tasks — from manning the sales desk in the evening, to providing typing or office support. It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the Club going! INFO: Wilson Riley (wiley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693, Ext. 11.

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

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

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

HIKING VACATIONS

COSTA RICA? PATC members Tom and Steve Johnson (Los Dos Hermanos) will be leading another trip to the fabled land of jungles and volcanoes in February 2000 (theY2K Trip). A few spots still remain for this limited-edition boutique tour, but call soon for info/reservations - locally, Tom at 410/647-8554 (johnts@erols.com) and distantly Steve at SJohnson151@compuserve.com or johnsos@clemson.edu.

HIKE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES of Turkey's Aegean and Mediterranean Coastline with AMC group April 23-May 11, 2000. For prospectus, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to trip leader and long-time PATC member, Donald Erbe, 129 Main St (B-11), Cornwall, NY, 12518 (fax 914-534-2368).

DISCOVER THE LAKE DISTRICT IN ENGLAND. An invitation to fellow PATC members. Come and enjoy a leisurely guided hiking and sightseeing holiday in this beautiful corner of England. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty—land of Wordsworth, lakes and mountains. For more details contact Derek Teasdale on DTeasdale@aol.com or write to 25 Queens Drive, Whitley Bay, NE26 2JU, England (tel 0191-2520752) Call John Mason at 703/450-5009 for local reference.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOLDING KAYAK FOR SALE. Folbot w/sail rig and conversion for one or two paddlers. Excellent condition. Sacrifice \$500. Dave Pugh at pughdave@hotmail.com or 703-319-8937.

THE PATC WEBMASTER MAINTAINS A SPECIAL "MEMBER'S ONLY" E-MAIL LIST. The list is used to distribute special information of interest to the PATC membership, special volunteer opportunities that miss the regular issues of the *Potomac Appalachian*, and other items of note. If you'd like to be added to the list, send an e-mail to PATC Webmaster Andy Hiltz (andy@mgfairfax.r.com), and you'll be included following membership confirmation.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND. Flashlight found at Fowler Hollow Shelter on Tuscarora. INFO: Keith Daly, 304/229-0110.

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 unless we are otherwise advised.

An Apology from the Supervisor of Trails:

With good intentions, Heidi and I tried to recognize the past service of our hardworking and dedicated trail overseers in the July '99 PA. Unfortunately, we have received several notifications from unhappy PA readers pointing out inaccuracies in this list. We now realize that our database is less than perfect for this purpose. Therefore, I apologize to those overseers who were not recognized correctly for their service of over 5 years in the July '99 PA list of volunteers. We intend to try again to publish a new, corrected list (or as correct as Heidi and I can make it) of those volunteers with at least 5 years of service in the October or November '99 PA. To those of you who can help us correct this list with your own or another volunteer's past service as a trail overseer: Please mail, e-mail (heidif@erols.com) or phone Heidi (703/255-4705 ext 12) any information you have to correct this list of overseer service. We will include this information in the new list, correct the database, and mail appropriate rocker bar recognition on the basis of the information you provide. We will take your word on any information you provide. Again, please accept my apology if you or any or your friends were omitted or listed incorrectly.

—Pete Gatje Supervisor of Trails

Trailblazer, from page 4

people said the blazes really helped; others considered them unsightly and unnecessary. I never hinted at who did the job.

Two weeks after I blazed the Gypsy Dam Trail, it gained notoriety. The daughters of the Russian Consul and Ambassador got lost in the forest, with no map or equipment, and were not rescued until the next day. They said they had wandered in the forest to take pictures, got disoriented, and started following my blue blazes. The only problem was that they were going in the opposite direction from their car.

The blazes were noted in Pedro's trail guide written in February 1998. The description of the Greater Andara Trail said: "These blazes, while they last, are an excellent tool for orientation." Unfortunately, they did not last.

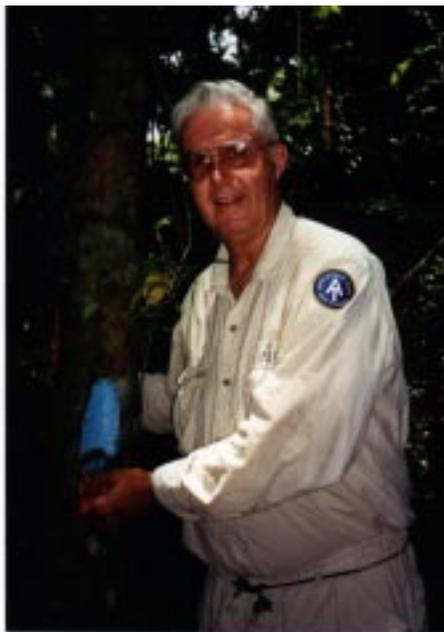
The enemies of blazing were not intimidated by my secret work. They set about to systematically obliterate it. By June 1998 I noted that a 17-minute section of the Greater Andara Trail had every single blaze scraped off the tree. In December 1998 I found that all blazes had been removed from most of the Gypsy Dam Trail. I also found that the only trail signs in the park, on trees on one of the most popular trails, had been taken down.

Pedro was equally unsuccessful in trying to get authorities to accept a proposal for a system of trails in Tijuca Forest, but he did succeed in getting official sanction for marking a short trail to a summit with a view of the Lagoon. A few months before I left Rio, Pedro was named Director of Tijuca Forest. He has signs ready to put up and is waiting only for a letter from a biologist to certify that blazing does not hurt trees. With him in charge, there is hope for a breakthrough in trail marking in Rio.

Just before I left at the end of May, I took 40 people from 14 countries up the highest mountain in the park, Tijuca Peak (3,300 feet). There were still no blazes on the trail, but none were really needed because it had

been widened and all shortcut trails had been closed with logs and wire fencing, with signs saying "Steep shortcuts cause erosion—stay on the proper trail." That is progress. □

—George Meek



Author painting a blaze that was later removed



I offer my thanks to the Blue and White Crew for the fine rock crossings they constructed on the Nicholson Hollow Trail at the Hughes River and Brokenback Run. I am happy to report that following the construction there have been almost no incidents of hikers trespassing on my adjacent property and trampling my vegetation in search of a crossing. A few hikers have commented to me that the crossing is much easier than before. Having tested it on the night of construction, I agreed and told them that they have PATC to thank. Good job, PATC!

—Mel Ellis

This summer the Izaak Walton League will continue its push to build awareness about mountain air quality by hosting information tables in Shenandoah National Park. We are looking for volunteers to help host the tables throughout the summer and invite any PATC members to join us. We plan on having tables set up at Dickey Ridge, Big Meadows and Loft Mountain campgrounds on September 4-6 and 11-12. For more information, contact Jonathan Birdsong via phone at 800/453-5463, ext. 235 or e-mail at jonathan@iwla.org. Additional information can also be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.iwla.org/cleanair>

It's Not too Early to Think about ATC Grants

The Application deadline for Grants to Clubs for 2000 is October 15, 1999. The theme this year is "maintaining the trail for a primitive experience."

The Sperling Trail Shelter Improvement Endowment Fund is a new program. It will provide grant money to clubs up to \$1,000 per year to provide perpetual support from Fund earnings for the maintenance, construction, and rehabilitation of AT shelters.

If you're interested in developing a proposal, Wilson Riley has copies of the guidelines. See Tom Johnson, Vice President for Volunteers to coordinate PATC submissions. □

Trekking Poles, from page 14

resemble walking canes, and are not adjustable in length. The most popular of these is the pick-mattock.

Training

The Club provides individualized on-trail instruction in the use of these trekking poles through its many trail crews, most of which provide monthly training sessions in a location close to your home. To take advantage of this wonderful Club benefit, just call the leader of a trail crew and spend a day with the crew—you'll get to use most of these "poles," and you might enjoy the fun and the exercise. □

—Wil Kohlbrenner

Volunteers - Appointed August 2, 1999

Trail Overseers

George Ivey
Stephanie Bill
Bronna Zlochiver
Tex Herbel
Nick Dunten

Dickey Ridge-MP 2.1 to Snead Farm Road
AT-Beahms Gap to Pass Mountain Trail
AT-Beahms Gap to Pass Mountain Trail
AT-Marshall Mountain Saddle to Gravel Springs Gap
AT-Buzzard Rocks to the southern most Blackburn Trail

The Tuscalachian Loop Is Born

Hail to the Hike Leaders!

One reads much about hikers and trail maintainers but not nearly as much about the unsung efforts of the legions of hike leaders who have introduced many to the joys of hiking. These people rarely get the credit they deserve. Here is an account of a notable achievement by one hike leader.

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.
—Robert Frost

This quote appeared in a short article in the September 1992 issue of the *Potomac Appalachian*, inviting hikers to take the road less traveled by, the Big Blue (now the southern section of the Tuscarora Trail [TT]).

The Big Blue, according to the article, “lies a few miles west of and about a half century behind the Appalachian Trail.” The article went on to describe the trail and the history behind its creation and announced a series of hikes that began on Sept. 19, 1992, at the northern terminus of the Big Blue in Hancock, Md.

Thus began a six-year series of hikes led by

Marcie Silver, which eventually covered 450 miles and defined a new loop on trails maintained almost totally by PATC.

Rain Or Shine, Hikers Push On

There was such an overwhelming interest in the Big Blue hike series that 23 hikers turned out for the second hike in the series (Sleepy Creek). Over the next year-and-a-half, many PATCers had one constant in their lives—another leg of the Big Blue on the third Saturday of every month. We trekked through the George Washington National Forest, looked down on the Shenandoah Valley and the forks of its great river, crossed the valley and the river, and climbed the Blue Ridge through rain, shine, or snow (usually accompanied by Jane’s dog Maude).

One of the most memorable hikes was snowy and slick, inspiring one of the hikers to write a poem that captured the spirit of the series (see page 19). All of this came to a spectacular finish on April 16, 1994, as we hiked up Overall Run past the waterfalls, ending at an intersection with the AT in the Shenandoah National Park.

When the series was nearing completion, Jim Sims suggested that the series continue north

on the Tuscarora Trail (now the northern section of the TT). Having heard that the North Chapter of PATC had taken on the task of opening up Tuscarora, Marcie continued, heading north.

Beautiful Views

On July 23, 1994, the next series began on the C&O Canal near Hancock, Md., with six hearty hikers. Between the dedication of Marcie’s leadership, Jim’s scouting, and the work crews of the formidable PATC North Chapter—led by Charlie Irvin and Steve Koeppen—the series again gained popularity.

Although the trail through this section covers very rocky terrain, the narrowness of the ridges and valleys reward hikers with spectacular views, sometimes simultaneously to the left and right due to “knife edges.” The 1994 hikers were intrigued by the history of the area and mentioned that hiking through Amish country in Spring Run was like a step backward in time. There was no lack of diversity on this 100-plus-mile section. Among the many points of interest were the rocky knife-edge ridge, a large rock outcrop (Jim’s Rock) south of PA 16, the Pulpit (a favorite hang-glider spot) overlooking McConnellsburg, Cowans Gap, the views of Path Valley from Firetower Road and the top of Knob Mountain, and looking down on the PA Turnpike traffic between one’s legs while standing on top of Tuscarora Mountain. On Saturday, Aug. 19, 1995, 11 hikers joined Marcie on the final leg of the Tuscarora Series.

But the circuit wasn’t completed. On Nov. 11, 1995, Marcie began the first hike of the AT from the northern terminus of the Tuscarora to the Big Blue (now the southern section of the TT) at Matthews Arm, in the SNP. This concluding series of hikes had many memorable moments, including a winter hike in snow and through raging streams that led to a bailout halfway through, and a hot and humid May trip when hikers were pounded by hailstones in a thunderstorm that abruptly dropped the temperatures 20 degrees (we were saved by Jim Stauch, the Quarry Run Shelter Overseer, who supplied people with garbage-bag raincoats and a dry place to eat lunch). We saw remains of the old iron industry that once thrived in the region, and Chimney Rocks and Buzzard Peak offered fine views at frequent intervals.

See *Tuscalachian Loop*, page 19

1999 Club Land Acquisition for the Tuscarora Trail

The Club has purchased six acres of land in Fulton County, PA that is adjacent to the Tuscarora Trail on Tuscarora Mountain, just south of US 30. The purchase means that the Tuscarora Trail may be relocated off the road in the area and moved into the woods. This purchase also means that there will be access to the spectacular view to the west, including McConnellsburg, from the interesting rock formation known as The Pulpit.

This recent purchase was made possible by member contributions to the Trail Lands Fund and by a generous donation of \$5,000 by the Simonson family in memory of Richard Simonson. In order to permit more land purchases and easements for the protection of trails and trailheads in the future, please forward your contributions for the Trail Lands Fund to the Club headquarters in Vienna. □

—Walt Smith



Rock formation known as The Pulpit

Photo by Walt Smith

Trailhead

By September, those who have been avoiding hiking in the dry, hot summer days will be looking forward to cooler days with less haze. Great time to check the trails, remove overhanging stuff from the summer's growth, and see what the bears are doing to the rock water bars and drains. The lack of moisture this summer has somewhat limited the growth of some types of trail weeds, but others are ready to take their place. Grasses seem more prevalent than last year and are more difficult to cut than nettles and other longer, soft stem weeds that we usually see. The berries are smaller and less juicy due to dry conditions but still have some flavor. Overseers are still receiving compliments from hikers who appreciate the conditions of PATC maintained trails.

Heidi Forrest, PATC Trails Coordinator, gives us our last warning to submit backlog trail work reports before October 1st so they will be included in the 1999 Government partner reporting year.

Mixed Blessing

With drought conditions persisting in PATC country this summer, trees are stressed, water sources are dwindling, and the risk of forest fires is increasing. Earlier this year, the Weather Service predicted a lot of hurricane activity for this season that has not yet materialized. A couple hurricanes could bring welcomed drought relief. But that could be a mixed blessing, as any overseer who helped clear the damage from Fran in '96 knows.

Radford

PATC trails were well represented at the Biennial ATC Meeting in Radford, VA. As we suffered from lack of rain, the attendees experienced almost a week of rain. Ask Lloyd MacAskill how you bail out a tent after forgetting to put up the rain fly. Liles Creighton witnessed how a master uses a grip hoist sky line to move boulders uphill. Bernie Stalman says the great view from Tinker Ridge was somewhat muted in a rainstorm. All in all, the meeting was the usual great place to meet people and discuss the AT.

Blue and White In Action

On July 24-25, the Blue and White Crew completed a large rehab project on the AT between Dean Mt. Rd. and the South River Fire Rd. The stretch of trail had been badly damaged by the Flood of '95 and the subse-

quent storms of '96 and '98. Over this time, the treadway shrank to just a thin path, most of it on the crib wall. The B&W Crew restored the trail to its original condition, digging new side hill for most of the 1/2-mile length. The project included using Grip Hoist winches to remove two large root balls that had blocked the trail and one 3-ton boulder that had fallen into the path. The temperature stayed above 95 degrees for most of the weekend, but the Crew was blessed by some brief thunderstorms that washed away the first layer of sweat and trail dirt. A motion was rejected to rename the Crew the "Central District Teas Cows".

Future dates for Blue and White outings can be observed on the Crew Web Page <http://sites.netscape.net/kerrysnow/homepage>

SNP North District

While the drought continued in the park, there was no shortness of weeding needed on the AT. Briars and tall grass seemed to persist, in spite of it all, in many trail sections. Overseers racked up many long hours on vegetation removal, and the power brush cutters went through a record number of cutting tips.

On their July work trip, the North District Hoodlums built and rebuilt thirty rock/log/earthen water bars and check dams on the AT climb to the ridge crest just south of the Jeremy's Run trailhead. The 90-degree heat and humidity were oppressive, and massive amounts of water were consumed and then quickly sweated out. After the day's work, the Hoodlums retired to Indian Run Hut for a "Surf and Turf" feast of venison roast, grilled tuna steaks, steamed shrimp, corn-on-the-cob, green salad, and lots more. The crew also did their best to replenish the fluid lost during the day! "We work hard and we eat well!"—that is the Hoodlums' motto.

Progress On The Knob

The Cadillac Crew has started making relatively rapid progress while building trail uphill on the PATC lot on the east side of Shockey's Knob. It should still be another year before the relocation is completely open, due to the logging activities on the property along the ridge top for a mile or so to the north. This actually meshes well with the progress that the crew is making, so check back with the September 2000 Trailhead for details on the opening ceremonies!

Many people have come out with the Cadillac Crew over the years, and everyone works to the best of their ability. However, the work styles and habits differ greatly. Your Trailhead editor could just as well be out there in his dress whites and not have any dirt showing after working all day. At the other extreme, Bryon Lawrence (see photo), an AT through hiker and recent Cadillac Crew recruit, will put in a couple of hours of overtime and come back to the Brill cabin looking like a chimney sweep at the end of a long, hard day! But regardless of the trail workers' condition at the end of the day, there is a lot of great trail being built!



Bryon Lawrence installing rock steps

Belated thanks are due to a couple of other people who have been out with the Cadillac Crew this year: Mr. D. W. Rindt, the father of your Trailhead editor, was instrumental in blazing the relocation northbound from the Old Pack Horse Road to the next trail junction. Alex Privee recently invested over 100 hours of hard work with other members of his Boy Scout troop as part of his Eagle project. This helped to complete the relocation through the rock field on the VA-WV state line.

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@erols.com. □

Obituary

Sylvia M. Geller, member since 1953, passed away June, 1999.

Tuscalachian Loop, from page 17

We crossed the Mason-Dixon Line, passed High Rock and its hang-glidgers, and enjoyed the rich Civil War history as we passed through Washington Monument State Park, Crampton Gap, Weaverton Cliffs, and Harpers Ferry.

After six years and 450 miles, Marcie ended the series on Dec. 20, 1997. The hikers on this series came up with a name for the loop, Tuscalachian Loop, and daughter, Kraemer Sims, designed a blue and white patch. Kraemer took her design from the picture of the PATC maps that form the outline of the Tuscalachian Loop.

To have led the series month after month for six years is truly a remarkable achievement. Perhaps inspired by Marcie, there are two more Tuscalachian Loop series about to be completed. Jack Thorsen and William Needham are on the Tuscarora heading south and will have completed the entire loop when they reach Mathews Arm. Chris Firme of the North Chapter has come up with his own variation of the loop, leading it as a figure 8.

Yes, hike leaders rarely get the credit they deserve. But we can at least say, thanks Marcie!

—*Jim Sims and Jane Thompson*

Big Blue or Tuscarora Trail?

Some years ago, the AT's right of way was being challenged, and it was in danger of being closed, so an alternate route was constructed, bypassing the area of contention. The bypass is now a 252-mile trail, west and north through Virginia and West Virginia, then north and east through Maryland and Pennsylvania. In Virginia, the bypass was blazed blue and was called the Big Blue Trail. In Pennsylvania, the bypass was blazed orange and was called the Tuscarora Trail.

The right-of-way problems on the Appalachian Trail were eventually resolved, and the original AT remains open from end to end. The bypass also remains open and offers hikers a less crowded backpacking route. Trail maintainers finally agreed in 1997 to use one name and one blaze color. The bypass is now called the Tuscarora Trail and is blazed blue throughout.

THE BIG BLUE REVISITED — JAN. 22, 1994

The sun was warm
Later
The sky was bright
It grew dark
Snow was everywhere
Martha timed it right
They found the cars

The roads were slippery
The ice was thin, Jim fell in
Jane grew tense Kurt fell down
The ladies laughed, what a sight
But

The Big Blue beckoned
The sky was black
And away they went
The stars were out

Moonshadows danced in the wood
Sandra found the crossing and
Others found the briars
Played in the snow-covered pastures

Back on the trail
Finally to a restaurant they did go
Up a hill they went
Marcie met Art too
It was nice
A lunch spot on the crest too
Many helpings of fried clams
later drink from the views
Out the door they went

Just as fat and sassy
Maude ate all the dog biscuits as ever
And
Later...yuck!
And

Camera clicked, snowballs flew
Friends
Over the Meneka Peak to Signal Knob
they did press

It just doesn't get any better than this.
Peace, smiles, and contentment
were found in this place
The day was right as they all knew

The snow grew deeper
They were the first ones through
Then it was time to go
And down the hill they went.

—*Kurt Rowan*

What's happening at Shenandoah National Park



If you are wondering what is happening in SNP along the Drive, removal of vegetation is one thing. According to Steve Bair of Shenandoah National Park, scenes like this one at Beahms Gap, Northern Section, will become more commonplace. Park cultural archeologists have decided that restoring the views to what they think they were when the Park was formed are important, and thus scenes like the wholesale destruction of woods NOT below overlooks are part of this plan. This shot was taken in early spring and will have greened up since then. Another major change is being completed at Thornton Gap in an improvement of the entrance station and Park access. □

TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings August 8, 1999. Contact the District Manager for the region that interests you.

NO VIRGINIA METRO (Map # D)
[CALL PETER GATJE AT 703-255-4705]
or Email: pjgatje@aol.com

Potomac Heritage
Donaldson Run to Gulf Branch [1.30 miles]
Bull Run-Occoquan
White Garage to Wolf Run Shoals Road [2.40 miles]

NO VIRGINIA NORTH AT& BB (Maps #7& 8)
[CHRIS BRUNTON AT 703/560-8070]
Crescent Rock Trail
AT to Crescent Rock [0.60 mile]

NO VIRGINIA AT& BB (Maps #8 & 9)
[CALL ED MCKNEW AT 540/622-6004]
or Email: emcknew@aol.com

AT
Davenport Meadow Parking to Dick's Dome Shelter Rd. [1.30 miles]
AT Co-overseer
Powerline to south end of the Waterline [2.40 miles]

SNP NORTH BLUE-BLAZE (Map #9)
[CALL BERNIE STALMANN AT 301/725-8876 or
E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com]
Pass Mountain Trail (upper)
Pass Mountain Hut to "break point" [1.48 miles]
Dickey Ridge Trail
MP 2.1 to Snead Farm Road [2.60 miles]

SHENANDOAH CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZE (Map #10)
[CALL CHARLES HILLON AT 703/754-7388
or E-mail: hillon@erols.com]

Buck Hollow Trail (upper)
Buck Hollow Stream to Skyline Drive [1.70 miles]
Cat Knob Trail
Laurel Prong Trail to Jones Mountain Trail [.50 mile]
Cedar Run Trail (lower)
White Oak Canyon Trail to 2nd stream crossing [1.50 miles]
Corbin Mountain Trail (co-overseer)
Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fire Road [4.40 miles]
Hot Mt.-Short Mt.
Hazel Mountain Trail to Nicholson Hollow Trail [2.10 miles]
Jones Mountain Trail
Bear Church Rock to Cat Knob Trail [2.80 miles]
Jones Mountain Trail
Fork Mountain Fire Road to Cat Knob Trail [.80 mile]
Pocosin Hollow Trail
Pocosin Fire Road to East Park Boundary [2.80 miles]
White Oak Canyon Trail [1st section]
Skyline Drive to First Waterfall Viewpoint [2.30 miles]

SNP SOUTH AT (Map #11)
[CALL MIKE KARPIE AT 540/899-2649]
or Email at BKPKR@erols.com
AT- Jarman Gap to Beagle Gap [2.50 miles]

TUSCARORA [BBNO] (Map # L)
[CALL LLOYD MACASKILL AT 703/978-4070
or E-mail: LloydM3160@aol.com]
Tuscarora Trail
Pinnacle Powerline to Larrick Overlook [1.40 miles]
Tuscarora Trail
Larrick Overlook to Lucas Woods [2.30 miles]

MASSANUTTEN NORTH (Map # G)
[CALL RANDY BUIE AT 540/622-6476
or E-mail: todd.r.buie@trw.com]
Massanutten Mt. East Trail
Waterfall Mountain Trail to US Rte. 211 [1.8 mile]
Massanutten Mt. East Trail
Shawl Gap to Sherman's Gap [2.5 miles]

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH (Map # H)
[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477
or E-mail: weschem@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu]
Massanutten Mountain South Trail
TV Tower Road (FR375) to Pitt Spring [3.4 miles]
Massanutten Mountain South Trail
Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail [3.3 miles]
Morgan Run Trail
Cub Run Rd. to Massanutten Mt. South Trail [1.4 miles]

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN (Map # F)
[CALL "HOP" LONG AT 301/942-6177
or E-mail: theFSLongs@erols.com]
White Rock Trail
Tuscarora Trail to White Rock Cliff [0.20 mile]

DC METRO (Map # N)
[CALL MARK ANDERSON AT 202/462-7718]
Pinehurst Branch
Oregon Avenue to Western Avenue [1.00 mile]
Dunbarton Oaks
Whitehaven Street to Rock Creek Park [1.00 mile]
Valley Trail
Military Road to Boundary Bridge [2.20 mile]
Battery Kemble
MacArthur Blvd. To Loughboro Road [1.00 mile]

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

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