



**POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2013**





## **Table of Contents**

### **Officers:**

President	John Hedrick
Vice President-Operations	Lee Sheaffer
Vice President-Volunteerism	Dick Hostelley
Supervisor of Activities	Rush Williamson
Supervisor of Cabins	Mel Merritt
Supervisor of Communications	Alan Day
Supervisor of Facilities	Mel Merritt
Supervisor of Marketing	Shirley Schultz
Supervisor of Membership	Rick Cantor
Supervisor of Trails	Jon Rindt
Treasurer	Joseph Lombardo

### **Standing Committees:**

Archives and Library	April Miller/Tom Johnson
AT Corridor Management	Tom Lupp
ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership	Pete Brown
ATC 2015 Biennial Steering Committee	Lee Sheaffer
Bears Den Trail Center	Lee Sheaffer
Blackburn Trail Center	Chris Brunton

Grants and Donations

Susan Nelson

Hikes

Christopher Firme

Lands Management

Bill Downes

Maps

Brian Goudreau

Maryland AT Management

Rick Cantor

Naturalist

Dan Pulscamp

Trail Patrol

Murry Moskowitz

**Chapters:**

North Chapter

Robert Wise

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Karen Waterman

**Sections:**

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Steve Weiss



**PRESIDENT**

**John Hedrick**

President: John Hedrick	Prepared by: John Hedrick
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1,385
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 28, 2013

**Overall 2013 has been a very good year. Our Information Technology has matured to the point where we are able to generate meaningful reports in a timely fashion. The Information Technology Committee investigated the feasibility of automating most of the reservation system (call-ins) and determined that there was minimum risk to the modification. Testing is on-going and a roll out is expected by early next year.**

**We were able to obtain approval from REI to use the grant money allocated to a new shelter in the Lee District of the George Washington National Forest on a variety of projects. Some of the funds were used to construct two new composting privies and eight bear poles were manufactured and installed.**

**A new shelter is proposed at Dick's Dome and the paperwork is pending approval at the Appalachian Trail Park Office. Because of manpower shortages to perform the necessary environmental assessment it takes an extremely long time to obtain the necessary approvals.**

**The work on the new shelter in Pennsylvania (Charlie Irvin shelter) is slowly progressing. Moving the material to the site is quite difficult due to the terrain and the large number of logs. The team is doing a great job and continues to recruit "strong backs" to assist.**

**The Lincoln Loggers crew continues to work on the rental cabin in the vicinity of Old Rag. The foundation has been completed and the well has been dug and capped. The kitchen addition has been completed and the logs for the wall are beginning to be placed.**

**The city of Waynesboro in Pennsylvania was approved as an Appalachian Trail Community Town. PATC volunteers were very active in supporting the application.**

**We have continued to conduct a series of informative talks at REI stores about hiking our many trails in our geographical area. These have been well received and we also supported the grand opening of the REI store at Tysons Corner.**

**Our trail and shelter system continues to receive high praise from all hikers. We are very fortunate to have such a large cadre of volunteers to oversee our many shelters and trails.**

**Our 85<sup>th</sup> PATC Awards Banquet was well attended. Wendy Janssen, Superintendent of the Appalachian Trail National Park was our guest speaker. Brian Goudreau, our Maps Chairman, received the Myron Avery award. Dan Dueweke and Malcolm and Lynn Cameron received the Honorary Life Award. A number of Hawksbill awardees were recognized.**

**The GPS Ranger Program was formed by Jim Tomlin. This program has received great support and participation by interested volunteers. We are enthusiastic about the success of this initiative.**

**There are several new faces at the Headquarters. Edna Baden is our Staff Director, and Mona Filchock is our Sales Coordinator. After much study we transitioned our financial system to a more user friendly system, Quick Books. We also decided to outsource our financials and this effort is on-going.**

**Our Headquarters has been undergoing some improvements with window and door replacement and refurbishment of the upstairs bathrooms. Next**

**year we will work on the downstairs bathrooms and improve the heating/air conditioning duct system.**

**Our Chapters and Committees operate at a high level of professionalism. The Potomac Appalachian newsletter continues to provide interesting and informative articles. The Trail Talkers are quite active supporting many area events and explaining the PATC story.**

**Planning for the 2015 Biennial is on-going led by Lee Sheaffer and Rush Williamson. This is a major effort which will require extensive coordination and a great number of volunteers.**

**We have a new caretaker at Bears Den, Dana . She and her husband John are doing a terrific job making the visitors welcome and attending to the many chores that need to be accomplished to keep the facility in good shape.**

**The best thing about being your President is the opportunity to associate with our many dedicated volunteers. They willingly spend long hours helping the club accomplish its goals and it is a pleasure to work with such a great group.**

**Goals for 2014:**

- Improve our financial posture.**
- Actively recruit volunteers for selected positions.**
- Foster close, cooperative relationships between the club, agency partners and the public.**





## **VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS**

### **Lee Sheaffer**

Vice President Operations: Lee Sheaffer	Prepared by: Lee Sheaffer
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 520
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: 10/23/2013

From an operations point of view the club continues to move forward. During the last year the club has maintained its trail system up to the standard to which we have expected and has become an example for all other trail maintaining organizations. Several projects continue which will improve and expand our trails. Our shelters continue to provide solace to all hikers seeking shelter from the elements. Our cabin system has expanded and we continue to look for opportunities to add more properties and improve what we already have. We are in the midst of a major renovation of our headquarters which will make it more comfortable and efficient for our members and staff. We look forward to another year of progress and thank all our dedicated volunteers who have made all our good work possible.





## **VP Volunteerism Dick Hostelley**

VP Volunteerism: Dick Hostelley	Prepared by: Dick Hostelley
Volunteer Hours Reported: 1250	Date: 11/07/13

The Constitution and Bylaws recognize the traditional and still crucial importance of the spirit of volunteerism to the Club's mission

In order to insure that Club membership, outreach, education, and communication programs are handled efficiently and effectively, and the Council goals are met, the VP - Volunteerism:

1. Oversees the operation of the Club's paid staff; supervises the Staff Director.
2. Oversees the implementation of volunteer staffing programs within the Club Headquarters.
3. Oversees programs developed to improve the status of volunteer activities by coordinating with the Supervisor of Membership, Supervisor of Activities, the sections and chapters, and the Trail Patrol, in order to insure that Council goals are met, and tasks and obligations required of the Club are fulfilled.
4. Oversees procedures developed in coordination with relevant committee chairs to insure that volunteer opportunities and programs are shared effectively among club members and the public.

5. Seeks out or creates suitable venues and means to recognize and reward successful volunteer participation.
6. Plans and implements the Club's overall strategy and specific programs to attract and retain volunteers.

During the past year, the Club bid farewell to 4 employees:

1. Wilson Riley – Staff Director of 17 years is enjoying retirement
2. Sonya Breehey – Sought work closer to home
3. Monica Clark – Business Manager enjoying time with her grandchild
4. Justin LaVigne – Joined Backpacker Magazine's "Gear and Go" Team with his wife Patrice

The following individuals joined the PATC staff:

1. Edna Baden – Staff Director came to PATC from North Carolina where she was the Executive Director at the Currituck Heritage Park, a non-profit comprised of the historic Whalehead Club, Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education, and the Currituck Beach Lighthouse. She also served as President of the Board of Directors for the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, a non-profit organization in Corolla, NC.
2. Mona Filchock – Sales Coordinator came to PATC from the private sector where she was an accountant for a Property Management Company. She also has thirteen years of experience in fundraising for schools in Georgia and Virginia.
3. Dana Baxter – Bears Den Hostel/Lodge Manager – Came to PATC via the private sector, where she was a Studio Manager, Project Manager and Graphic Designer.

EXCOM membership changed with the resignation of Jay Jupiter as Treasurer. The new Treasurer is Joe Lombardo. Joe has experience in the public sector as a senior officer in the Agency for International Development and in the non-profit sector serving on several Boards where he was involved in organization management and guiding organizational growth.

During the past year, the Personnel Handbook was revised, reflecting changes in personnel management over the past 2 years. Additionally, position descriptions of Staff Personnel were re-written to reflect the work effort of each position as currently managed.



**SUPERVISOR OF ACTIVITIES:  
Rush Williamson**

Supervisor of Activities: Rush Williamson	Prepared by: Rush Williamson
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1016
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: September 23, 2013

**In FY 2013, PATC's "Trail Talkers" participated in a total of 17 events, staffed by 58 volunteers. Many non-productive events were removed from the list this year, but there were a number of others were added to take their place.**

**Non-active members were purged from the "Trail talker" list and there are 118 wishing to be actively involved with outreach events. The good news is that there are 67 new members have expressed an interest in becoming Trail Talkers.**

**The Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter stepped up again this year and well represented PATC, especially with the library initiative that was held at three libraries.**

**Boy Scout liaison also continued the club's involvement at several Boy Scout events. PATC has had an increasing number of requests by Scout groups, to**

**include Girl Scout and church. To have PATC representative come and give presentations.**

**Goals for FY 2014:**

**Establish a Boy Scout "Trail talker" list to meet the rising demand for PATC to come talk with Units.**

**Move in to the new storage area built for Trail Talker materials and establish an accounting system.**

**The REI outreach program's success is such that it needs its own presentation displays and Activities will cooperate with them to set up their own materials.**

**Facilitate establishing a viable meet up hiking program.**



## **CABINS OPERATIONS**

### **Mel Merritt, Chair**

Cabins Operations: Mel Merritt	Prepared by: Mel Merritt
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 7,747
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 28, 2013

The PATC Cabins Committee met twice this year as is their habit – once in the spring and again in the fall . The Cabins Committee is made up of Six Regional Cabin Supervisors , the Huts Supervisor and the Cabins Coordinator . We also had a great time at our annual overseers meeting at Blackburn Trail Center in April .

In the Northern Region work continued on Little Cove Cabin – the new rustic siding Really looks great . With the renovations of the Kitchen and Bath which is scheduled for next year we finally be finishing up all the major improvements in Little Cove .

In the Central Region Overseer Dave Kirkwood made major improvements to the Trail into Bear Spring Cabin . Renters who will no longer get wet feet wet on the hi hike in will appreciate Dave’s efforts . At Highacre we are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of it’s bequest to PATC by Katherine Fulkerson . The Cadillac Crew helps Overseer and Regional Supervisor Ben Mayock out with regular work trips and this year they removed the abandoned kitchen chimney in preparation for the installation of a new kitchen . Pat Fankhauser and many of the regular renters that make Highacre one of the most popular cabins will find the new Victorian Styled kitchen , which we plan to install this winter , “a dream come True “ .

In the Shenandoah Valley Region , supervisor Thomas Jorgenson took the year off to work on his own house -- and his son’s house -- and the new house that he and Mary moved into last spring . We’re hoping to see more of him next year . At Tulip Tree Cabin overseer Mark Chapin had a work trip to straighten up the leaning cook shed .

You don't want your cook shed to lean too far . New Overseer Randy Flynn at Cliff's House has been busy doing multiple repairs and getting the driveway regraded .

In the Shenandoah National Park Region where Regional Supervisor Glen Tsaparis used a mule team to carry in Mattresses last year it looks like we'll soon be using them again to carry in materials for a Privy for Corbin Cabin Overseer Bill Wentz . Bill also had a very successful work trip with Billy Lancaster and Melanie Wilson , our perennial stove and chimney crew to reline the chimneys . The Park Service is waiting on funding for a new cedar shingle roof at Doyles River Cabin which we are hoping to see done in 2014 .

In the Piedmont Region the big news was that Park Anderson and Peg Manuel Retired as overseers of Rosser Lamb Cabin . Park and Peg took on Rosser over a Decade ago and spent many years nurturing it into the beautiful cabin it is today . It was not easy coming up with a replacement for these two dedicated individuals but we think that the outdoors program of the Blue Ridge School led by Program Director Tony Brown will come close . The Blue Ridge School is a Prestigious Prep School located about 30 miles south of the cabin . We think the students will find their experiences at Rosser Lamb will be beneficial to both themselves and this idyllic cabin . The Old Rag Cabin is now rising from it's foundation thanks to the many dedicated members of the Lincoln Loggers crew it will soon make an excellent addition to our Cabins system in that wonderful location .

The Vining Tract Cabins are all holding up well thanks to their diligent overseers . This fall we had a welder come in to renovate the grills at Muttontop , Conley and Wineberry .

I should also mention the efforts of Chris Jones and the dedicated overseers of our Work Hut System . Their efforts keep the 3 huts in Shenandoah National Park and the one on the Vining Tract in excellent condition so that more of our members have the opportunity to rent our cabins . It is their job to make the work huts as attractive and comfortable for our work crews as the cabins .



**SUPERVISOR OF COMMUNICATIONS:  
Alan Day**

Supervisor of Communications: Alan Day	Prepared by: Alan Day
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 440
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: 10/14/2013

**2015 ATC Biennial Video**

The PATC ATC Biennial committee produced a video for presentation at the 2013 ATC Biennial Conference in Cullowhee, NC. The video has photos taken by PATC members, music composed & performed by Randy "Windtalker" Motz, with voice-over by Lee Manning, edited by Alan Day. This video is at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEM41ENdBqg>

and can be found by searching YouTube for "2015 ATC Biennial" or "2015 PATC"

**Lockwood Steps Video**

There are videos highlighting the use of a grip hoist & stone splitting/dressing now on YouTube at:

### **PATC Lockwood Steps Griphoist video**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3Of8WuoJpc>

### **PATC Lockwood Steps Stone Work**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=832bIuVckv0>

**They can be found on YouTube by searching for "PATC Lockwood"**

### **PATC Wolf Trap trail signs**

**Wolf Trap Trail Performers installed signs made by John Hobler during the Wolf Trap/REI work trip on 14 September 2013. PATC trail signs are a long-term recruiting device as many PATC members cited those signs, when they joined, on PATC-supported trails they may have used for many years.**

**Photos are at:**

[http://home.comcast.net/~alanday/patc/2013-09-14\\_09-47-09.jpg](http://home.comcast.net/~alanday/patc/2013-09-14_09-47-09.jpg)

[http://home.comcast.net/~alanday/patc/2013-09-14\\_10-03-41.jpg](http://home.comcast.net/~alanday/patc/2013-09-14_10-03-41.jpg)

[http://home.comcast.net/~alanday/patc/2013-09-14\\_10-03-55.jpg](http://home.comcast.net/~alanday/patc/2013-09-14_10-03-55.jpg)

[http://home.comcast.net/~alanday/patc/2013-09-14\\_10-18-29.jpg](http://home.comcast.net/~alanday/patc/2013-09-14_10-18-29.jpg)

**Sabrina Morelli, Mike Moran, Jason Fox, Zach Paikin, Alan Day**

**Photos by Alan Day & Tara Paikin**

### **PATC Cabin YouTube video links**

**A search of YouTube video has identified video clips taken by cabin renters that provide an on-site experience. Plans are underway to highlight these clips once the new online cabin reservation system is fully operational. This is a low cost way to enhance the PATC web presence.**

## **Mountaineering Section historical videos on YouTube**

**Researching the cabin clips disclosed very interesting material from the late 1940s & early 1950s on rock climbing.**

### **PATC History of DC Climbing part 1: Great Falls**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZgBDDWaR6o>**

### **PATC History of DC Climbing part 2: Donald's Ducks**

**[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODnoKwF29\\_c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODnoKwF29_c)**

### **PATC DC History of Climbing part 3: Old Rag**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ide2iu4pZc>**

### **PATC History of DC Climbing part 4: Bulgari Rescue**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rguTBMwZ3FI>**

### **PATC History of DC Climbing part 5: Carderock Instruction**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9YrIt7InuQ>**

### **PATC History of DC Climbing part 6: Oscar**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7Dx1ekykK8>**

### **PATC History of DC Climbing part 7: Final Test**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ngvhCfk7RQ>**

## **NPS Volunteer Summit**

**On 28 February 2013, PATC President John Hedrick & Supervisor of Communications Alan Day represented PATC at the NPS Volunteer Summit held at the Barns of Wolf Trap. Park Superintendents & volunteer leaders from all over the NPS Capital region were represented & the meeting allowed PATC to connect with them. Compass Group President Frank Pisch, a professional fund-raiser, outlined methods for raising money by volunteer**

**groups. PATC has taken advantage of follow-up sessions "First Fridays with Frank" where he has expanded the topics in more detail.**

### **Friends of Wolf Trap**

**Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts is supporting the establishment of a Friends of Wolf Trap organization. PATC Wolf Trap Overseer Mike Moran, and District Manager Alan Day have been participating in the planning meetings. Representatives from the adjacent homeowner associations are also participating & have supported linking their trails to the Wolf Trap trail. These linkages represent a significant expansion of hiking opportunities in Fairfax County as they provide connectivity with existing & planned trails. Fairfax County views Wolf Trap as a green-zone in its Tysons development plan & the connections would allow workers from Tysons to hike, walk, & jog to Wolf Trap without using their cars. Mike Moran engaged the Cinnamon Creek Homeowners Association which resulted in their participation in building a trail to Wolf Trap. It is now possible to walk safely to Meadowlark Gardens & on to the Fairfax Cross County Trail.**

### **Public Affairs**

**In recent years, PATC has had difficulty recruiting/retaining a Public Affairs chair. This position is important for getting PATC before the general public. A recent chair has noted that trail & hiking related articles are of limited interest to the large circulation print media. An article about Wolf Trap was submitted by Wolf Trap Trail Performers crew members to their homeowners association newsletters. This has stimulated local resident interest in using the trail & becoming more involved. Local content written by PATC District Managers & Overseers may have a similar effect on recruiting support for their trails. PATC needs to expand its use of social media but this should be updated frequently to maintain interest.**



## **SUPERVISOR OF FACILITIES**

### **Mel Merritt**

Supervisor of Facilities: Mel Merritt	Prepared by Mel Merritt
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported:
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: November 6, 2013

The Supervisor of Facilities oversees all the various groups that work on buildings That the Club owns or maintains for other owners . At this time that includes about 40 cabins and 40 shelters , Headquarters , and two Trail Centers . Although most of these committees are mentioned elsewhere in these reports I will try to touch on some of many activities I am involved in .

PATC Headquarters was improved in 2013 by the renovation of the second floor bathrooms and improvements to the entryway , front façade and reception area . Many thanks to Executive Director Edna Baden who worked with the contractor to achieve excellent results . Next year our goals include improvements to the HVAC system and renovation of the first floor baths .

At Bear's Den Trail Center Dick Hostelly spent many hours assessing maintenance issues on the property as well as renegotiating our lease with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy . Bears Den Cottage was added to the PATC Cabins System which we anticipate should double the use of the cabin .

Blackburn Trail Center had it's access road regraded , which may not sound like much unless you drove up there Before it was fixed ! The Cadillac crew helped out Chris Brunton with maintenance and some minor projects . Next year Chris hopes to replace the roof on the Hikers Shelter .

The Shelters Committee spent the year upgrading their storage facility, making repairs and preparing for a repair project at Old Rag Shelter and a new Shelter at Dick's Dome . The North Chapter Crew have placed footings and are in the process of moving materials in for the new Charlie Irvin Shelter on the Tuscarora . We regret to report that one of the two AT shelters at Tom's Run in Pennsylvania was destroyed by fire in early October - so that re-construction will go on the North Chapters busy itinerary for next year .

The Lincoln Loggers have begun work on Old Rag Cabin under the excellent Leadership of John Corwith and Steve Barber . This year we have seen construction of a stone foundation and the beginnings of the framing . Next year we expect to see the cabin under roof and close to completion . We are still looking for someone willing to supervise the renovation of a fine log cabin near Blackburn Trail Center . The Argo Cabin Construction Crew is beginning to look for a site for PATC's First Tree Cabin and will probably begin construction in 2015 !

Last but not least the Cabins Committee has kept busy with various smaller projects this year . Next year our major project will be a new kitchen for Highacre . The North Chapter Crew has just finished the siding at Little Cove and expect to finish up their work there next year with improvements to the bathroom , kitchen and interior .



## PROMOTIONS AND MARKETING

Promotions & Marketing: Shirley Schultz and Larry Broadwell	Prepared by: Larry Broadwell
Number of Members/Volunteers: 20	Volunteer Hours Reported: 861
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 28, 2013

### PATC Promotion and Marketing in 2013 Presentations at REI Stores And Related Activities

From January through October of this year, PATC speakers conducted **21** evening events at REI stores in the area. With three more slide shows scheduled before year-end, we will finish 2013 with an average of two presentations per month. These talks on area trails and related topics have familiarized REI customers at eight stores – between Timonium, Maryland, and Woodbridge, Virginia – with club activities and benefits.

A dozen speakers covered 10 topics. Eight other volunteers provided support, introducing the speakers, describing the benefits of club membership and encouraging attendees to sign up for more information. PATC's new marketing staff person, Mona Filchok, coordinated supplies such as display materials and handouts. Information systems coordinator Kit Sheffield provided technical assistance on slide presentations and followed up with attendees. Rush Williamson, our "Trail Talkers" chief, served as a speaker, supported other speakers, and advised on materials used in the program.

#### 2013 Presentation Topics

- Best Trails in Shenandoah National Park
- Hiking in Spring
- Hiking in Fall
- Hiking in Winter
- Best Nearby Trails (varied with store location)
- Little Known Trails for Longer Dayhikes
- Backpacking for Women
- The Appalachian Trail in Maryland and Pennsylvania

- Best “Splashdown” Trails (paths with dipping and swimming holes)
- Climbing in the Andes of Ecuador (and around DC)

In addition, two presentations on trail-building and maintenance were planned, but had to be cancelled.

Aside from the topic of the evening, speakers also explained how PATC’s maps and guidebooks help plan outings, as well as the skill-building and volunteer opportunities offered by the club. The number of PATC publications sold by REI and through our website attributable to this effort cannot be calculated, but we know that by December 31:

- Total attendance at these events will exceed 500
- The number of attendees requesting further contact about membership will be near 200
- And attendees at several events went directly to REI’s publication sales area and picked up PATC guides, most often one of the “Hikes in the Washington Region” series and guides to circuit hikes

#### Other Promotional Activities

Articles and notices on the release of new editions of trail guides are run in Potomac Appalachian.

Descriptions of REI events appear in on-line calendars on REI and PATC websites

Announcements of PATC-led outings were sent to the Washington Post for publication in the Weekend section, until the Post cut staff and ceased to run such notices at midyear.

#### Prospects for Related Initiatives

For several of the REI presentations, outlines and Powerpoint CDs have been prepared. Making copies available to members or the public – either for sale or gratis on [www.patc.net](http://www.patc.net) – is a possibility.

#### Organization

Shirley Schulz served as director of marketing & promotion until she moved from the area, and she has continued to advise on the program by email from her new home. The search for a new director is underway. Larry Broadwell currently coordinates REI presentations and prepares calendar and newsletter entries.

## **SUPERVISOR OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Rick Canter, Supervisor**

Committee: Membership Chair: Rick Canter	Prepared by: Rick Canter
Number of Members/Volunteers: 5	Volunteer Hours Reported: 600
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 1	Date: November 1, 2013

### Highlights of the Committee's work in 2013:

- Membership Incentive rolled out in June, 2013. Members in good standing can have their renewal date extended by six months with a qualifying referral of a new member.
- Nine New Members Meetings orienting 19 new members to PATC.
- Memberships up +216 from September, 2012 to September 2013; from 4545 to 4761.
- Members up +327 from September 2012 to September, 2013; from 6502 to 6829.
- Efforts at Membership retention, first implemented in 2011, continue to reap benefits.
- 2013 Annual Awards Banquet to be held on November 12, 2013. Appalachian Trail Park Office Superintendent Wendy Janssen will be the keynote speaker.

### Goals for 2014:

- Simplify Membership categories.
- Continue to encourage the increase in Membership by design and outreach initiatives.





## **SUPERVISOR OF TRAILS**

**Jon Rindt**

Supervisor of Trails: Jon Rindt	Prepared by: Jon Rindt
Number of Members/Volunteers: 750+	Volunteer Hours Reported: 45,514
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 11, 2013

PATC maintains approximately 1071 miles of trails including 241 miles of the AT and 830 miles of side trails in the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and the District of Columbia. PATC has over 750 volunteers overseeing the trails and shelters. PATC coordinates with approximately 40 different federal, state, and local land managers. Updated General Agreements were signed with Manassas National Battlefield Park and C&O Canal National Historical Park.

In fiscal 2013, volunteers contributed 31,467 work hours and 13,947 hours travel time for a total of 45,514 hours in 26 trail districts. Maintenance of the Appalachian Trail accounted for 28,668 hours while the remaining work hours involved the Tuscarora Trail, side trails in Shenandoah National Park, other national, state and regional parks as well national and state forests. Travel hours alone represent an estimated cost of \$70,000 for gas paid for by our volunteers.

In late Fall 2012, Hurricane Sandy resulted in the removal numerous blowdowns from trails primarily in Pennsylvania, Maryland and the northern part of Virginia. Luckily, no major storms have occurred requiring extra blowdown removal and trail repair effort during this years hiking season. However, the wet, mild summer has extended the

growing season resulting more than normal weeding and removal of trailside vegetation.

Work continues on the 7-mile relocation of the Tuscarora Trail on the ridge of Great North Mountain between Capon springs and the Pinnacles area. The opening of the relocation is planned for 2014 and will shorten that section of trail by 8-miles as well as providing some exceptional views. The relocation of the AT on Loudoun Heights is awaiting approval by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and construction should start in 2014. Other new trails or trail extensions are being discussed for Prince William Forest Park, Wolf Trap Park, and the Manassas Mountain area.

PATC supported chainsaw certification classes and conducted workshops for Traditional Tool Sharpening, Rigging, and Trail Maintenance. Jim Tomlin developed a popular training course for the use of handheld GPS units. The so-called "GPS Rangers" have been assisting in identifying trail locations for the Maps Committee and locating blowdowns and other issues for trail maintainers.

Besides normal trail maintenance, PATC's fifteen district related and roving trail crews have tackled a number of projects requiring technical expertise and manpower to construct new trails, reduce erosion, rehabilitate tread, rebuild crib walls, and construct boardwalks. The ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew built rock steps on the north side of Buzzard Knob in the Virginia North District. The SNP North District Crew completed rock steps to the Columnar Basalt formation off the east view from Compton peak. The Massarock Crew constructed a trail relocation for Gerhard Shelter and improved the Little Sluice Mountain Trail in the National Forest Lee District.

Student and scout volunteers have helped to maintain trails and build facilities. Scouts built tent pads for the Tumbling Run Shelter in PA. District Manager Patrick Wilson worked with student groups from Princeton, UVA, and JMU to build and maintain waterbars, and learn how to use crosscut saws.

Hikers on the Great Eastern Trail and the Indian Migration Project passed through our area on the Tuscarora Trail and were assisted by PATC volunteers. The Front Royal/Warren County AT Community organized a big feed for the combat veterans Warrior Hike with assistance from the local VFW and Cooking With the Troops organization.

**Goals for 2014:** (1) Begin construction of AT relocation on Loudoun Heights, (2) Complete Tuscarora Trail Capon Springs relocation, (3) Add moldering privy at Denton Shelter, (4) Begin new shelter construction at Dicks Dome, (5) Continue work on the Charlie Irvin Shelter on the Tuscarora Trail in PA.

**Hours by District**

District	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total Hours	Volunteers
Administrative Hours	369.50	112.65	482.15	52.00
Bull Run Occoquan	865.00	226.35	1,091.35	226.00
Catoctin	596.00	231.90	827.90	172.00
DC Metro	1,945.73	438.00	2,383.73	872.00
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania	1,517.25	304.25	1,821.50	257.00
Great North Mountain	944.95	368.50	1,313.45	97.00
Greater Manassas	244.15	80.05	324.20	88.00
Manassas National Battlefield Park	206.00	73.80	279.80	84.00
Maryland AT	1,040.00	309.25	1,349.25	349.00
Maryland Side-Trail	236.95	124.90	361.85	101.00
Massanutten North	404.25	221.85	626.10	103.00
Massanutten South	497.75	457.00	954.75	106.00
MD Metro	710.40	265.71	976.11	284.00
Morton Hollow Trails	162.50	83.75	246.25	56.00
Pennsylvania AT	1,301.00	368.70	1,669.70	235.00
Pennsylvania Side-Trail	404.25	81.90	486.15	65.00
Pennsylvania Tuscarora - Side Trails	56.50	17.00	73.50	15.00
Pennsylvania Tuscarora North	632.25	266.93	899.18	119.00
Pennsylvania Tuscarora South	378.50	138.40	516.90	75.00
Potomac Heritage & Great Falls	452.60	156.20	608.80	154.00
Prince William Forest Park	1,426.55	518.70	1,945.25	457.00
SNP Central AT	1,538.75	955.45	2,494.20	436.00
SNP Central Side-Trail [North]	2,698.10	1,160.35	3,858.45	556.00
SNP Central Side-Trail [South]	1,503.70	394.25	1,897.95	286.00
SNP North AT	1,048.95	680.87	1,729.82	266.00
SNP North Side-Trail	1,420.55	788.20	2,208.75	377.00
SNP North Side-Trail [North]	2,698.10	1,160.35	3,858.45	556.00
SNP North Side-Trail [South]	1,503.70	394.25	1,897.95	286.00
SNP South AT	1,738.85	1,050.56	2,789.41	517.00
SNP South Side-Trail	1,355.60	766.35	2,121.95	366.00
Tuscarora Central	587.00	307.10	894.10	113.00
Tuscarora Central Side Trails	266.00	179.00	445.00	62.00
Tuscarora South	338.75	191.00	529.75	96.00
Virginia North AT	901.75	299.50	1,201.25	260.00
Virginia North Side Trails	124.00	43.50	167.50	47.00
Virginia South AT	1,100.70	475.35	1,576.05	307.00
Virginia South Side Trails	107.10	54.50	161.60	56.00
Wolf Trap National Park	268.80	48.91	317.71	78.00
<b>Total All Districts</b>	<b>29,390.68</b>	<b>12,725.64</b>	<b>42,116.32</b>	<b>7,944.0</b>

**Hours on the AT & Side Trails**

District	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total Hours	AT Totals	Volunteers
Pennsylvania AT	1,301.00	368.70	1,669.70	1,669.7	235.00
Pennsylvania Side-Trail	404.25	81.90	486.15	486.15	65.00
Maryland AT	1,040.00	309.25	1,349.25	1,349.3	349.00
Maryland Side-Trail	236.95	124.90	361.85	361.85	101.00
Virginia North AT	901.75	299.50	1,201.25	1,201.3	260.00
Virginia North Side Trails	124.00	43.50	167.50	167.50	47.00
Virginia South AT	1,100.70	475.35	1,576.05	1,576.1	307.00
Virginia South Side Trails	107.10	54.50	161.60	161.60	56.00
SNP North AT	1,048.95	680.87	1,729.82	1,729.8	266.00
SNP North Side-Trail	1,420.55	788.20	2,208.75	2,208.75	377.00
SNP South AT	1,738.85	1,050.56	2,789.41	2,789.41	517.00
SNP South Side-Trail	1,355.60	766.35	2,121.95	2,121.95	366.00
<b>Total All Districts</b>	<b>9,542.30</b>	<b>4,444.48</b>	<b>13,986.78</b>	<b>12,809.68</b>	<b>2,639.00</b>

**Hours by Land Manager**

Land Manager	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total Hours	Volunteers
Admin Hours	325.25	88.40	413.65	37.0
Appalachian Trail Project Office	1,983.80	767.30	2,751.10	580.0
ATC Land	35.00	12.00	47.00	8.0
Buchanan State Forest	72.00	14.00	86.00	24.0
C&O Canal Nat. Historical Park [Township-AT]	620.40	226.26	846.66	243.0
C&O Canal Nat. HP [Palisade Metro District]	90.00	39.45	129.45	41.0
Cabin John Regional Park	147.00	20.00	167.00	3.0
Caledonia State Park	75.00	26.50	101.50	24.0
Catoctin Mountain National Park	0.70	0.40	1.10	1.0
Cowans Gap State Park	28.00	5.00	33.00	9.0
Cunningham Falls State Park	342.00	131.80	473.80	97.0
Frederick County Water Commission	152.00	70.10	222.10	43.0
Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania NB Park	1,517.25	304.25	1,821.50	257.0
Gambrell State Park	27.00	3.50	30.50	8.0
George Washington Memorial Parkway	452.60	156.20	608.80	154.0
George Washington National Forest	2,179.70	1,232.35	3,412.05	400.0
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	158.00	27.50	185.50	61.0
Indian Springs WMA	19.50	15.75	35.25	6.0
Manassas National Battlefield Park	206.00	73.80	279.80	84.0
MD DNR- South Mt./Greenbrier State Park	1,211.95	398.65	1,610.60	425.0
Michaux State Forest	1,537.75	415.10	1,952.85	282.0
Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	865.00	226.35	1,091.35	226.0
PA State Game Lands	16.00	25.00	41.00	5.0
PA State Game Lands #124	237.50	110.65	348.15	44.0
PENNDOT	149.25	12.00	161.25	24.0
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	403.95	178.15	582.10	95.0
Prince William Forest Park	1,426.55	518.70	1,945.25	457.0
Private	532.55	304.70	837.25	103.0
Raineyman WL Sanctuary	113.50	37.10	150.60	24.0
Rock Creek Park	1,945.73	488.00	2,363.73	872.0
Shenandoah National Park	10,809.05	6,086.59	16,895.64	2,839.0
Sky Meadows State Park	183.50	102.50	286.00	61.0
Sleepy Creek Public Hunting & Fishing Area	334.25	189.00	523.25	78.0
Sugarloaf	43.00	30.00	73.00	17.0
Tuscarora State Forest	431.50	218.83	650.33	73.0
VA Dept. Game & Inland Fisheries	192.00	102.30	294.30	70.0
Virginia Outdoors Foundation	235.65	78.05	313.70	83.0
Wolf Trap National Park	268.80	48.91	317.71	78.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,390.68</b>	<b>12,725.64</b>	<b>42,116.32</b>	<b>7,944.00</b>

**SNP Hours by District**

District	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total Hours	Volunteers
SNP North AT	1,048.95	680.87	1,729.82	266.00
SNP North Side-Trail	1,420.55	788.20	2,208.75	377.00
SNP Central AT	1,538.75	955.45	2,494.20	436.00
SNP Central Side-Trail [North]	2,698.10	1,160.35	3,858.45	556.00
SNP Central Side-Trail [South]	1,503.70	394.25	1,897.95	286.00
SNP South AT	1,738.85	1,050.56	2,789.41	517.00
SNP South Side-Trail	1,355.60	766.35	2,121.95	366.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,835.00</b>	<b>4,811.92</b>	<b>13,646.92</b>	<b>2,315.00</b>

Shelter Name	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total	Prior Year	Other Totals	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total	Prior Year
Annapolis Rocks Campground	105.00	33.50	138.50	189.10	AT	1,319.35	790.82	2,110.17	1,940.00
Antiétam Run Shelter	27.00	15.50	42.50	11.00	ATPO	317.75	253.00	570.75	931.00
Barclays Run Shelter & Campsite	20.75	21.00	41.75	191.50	SNP Hut	240.50	265.62	506.12	280.40
Basore Ridge Shelter	3.00	2.00	5.00	8.00	SNP Mtce Hut	129.00	123.38	252.38	204.75
Bearface Hut	25.00	63.50	88.50	58.90	TT	369.00	174.50	543.50	406.25
Big Mountain Shelter	8.00	2.00	10.00	4.00	PA	988.60	372.20	1,360.80	731.75
Birch Run Shelter	32.60	18.70	51.30	30.75					
<b>Blackrock Hut</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>18.12</b>	<b>37.12</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>Hours by Land Manager</b>	<b>Work Hours</b>	<b>Travel Hours</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>
Boones Run Shelter	88.00	73.00	161.00	183.00	ATPO	117.25	105.50	222.75	611.50
Burd Run Shelter	2.00	4.00	6.00	14.00	Buchanan SF	10.00	6.00	16.00	18.00
Butternut Maintenance Hut	43.00	39.00	82.00	37.00	GWNF	93.50	79.00	172.50	185.50
Byrds Nest #3	7.00	6.00	13.00	26.00	Maryland DNR	314.00	181.40	495.40	545.10
Calf Mountain Shelter	4.00	2.00	6.00	259.00	Michaux SF	651.10	236.70	887.80	529.00
Charlie Irvin Shelter	195.50	83.50	279.00	12.00	PATC	97.00	79.00	176.00	391.75
Cowall Shelter	7.00	9.00	16.00	31.00	Private	20.75	21.00	41.75	191.50
Crampton Gap Shelter	1.00	3.00	4.00	25.00	Reineman WL Sanctuary	195.50	83.50	279.00	12.00
David Lesser Shelter	56.00	60.00	116.00	236.50	Sky Meadows State Park/Thompson WMA				
Deer Lick Shelter	7.50	11.00	18.50	13.00	SNP	369.50	389.00	758.50	485.15
Denton Shelter	25.50	18.00	43.50	39.00	Tuscarora SF	104.00	39.00	143.00	33.00
Devils Racecourse Shelter	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.50		<b>1,972.60</b>	<b>1,220.10</b>	<b>3,192.70</b>	<b>3,013.00</b>
Dicks Dome Shelter	15.00	15.00	30.00	15.00					
Dugans Hollow Shelter	6.00	7.00	13.00	8.00					
Ed Garvey Shelter	28.00	14.00	42.00	28.00					
Fowler Hollow Shelter #3	99.00	34.00	133.00	27.00					
Gravel Spring Hut	13.50	17.00	30.50	23.00					
Hightop Hut	90.50	78.00	168.50	29.00					
Indian Run Maintenance Hut	43.00	35.00	78.00	87.75					
Ivy Creek Maintenance Hut	23.00	23.38	46.38	18.00					
Little Crease Shelter									
Manassas Gap Shelter	5.00	2.00	7.00	10.50					
Pass Mountain Hut	61.00	46.50	107.50	93.00					
Paul Gerhard Shelter	5.50	6.00	11.50	2.50					
Pine Knob Shelter	103.00	38.50	141.50	35.00					
Pinefield Hut	18.50	24.50	43.00	19.00					
Pinnacle Shelter	7.00	8.00	15.00	54.00					
POGO Campground	8.50	0.40	8.90	36.50					
Quarry Gap Shelter	341.00	48.00	389.00						
Raven Rock Shelter	17.00	45.00	62.00	90.00					
Reese Hollow Shelter	28.00	7.00	35.00	139.75					
Rock Spring Hut	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00					
Rocky Mountain Shelter	54.00	40.50	94.50	3.00					
Rocky Run Shelter (new)	24.00	20.00	44.00	12.00					
Rocky Run Shelter (Orig.)	19.50	17.00	36.50	97.00					
Rod Hollow Shelter	4.00	8.00	12.00	30.00					
Sam Moore Shelter									
Shockeys Knob	2.00	6.00	8.00	18.00					
South River Maintenance Hut	63.00	65.00	128.00	99.00					
Spruce Pine Hollow Campsite									
Spruce Pine Hollow Shelter	8.00	10.00	18.00	127.00					
Tom Floyd Wayside	12.75	2.50	15.25	32.00					
Toms Run Shelter	24.00	5.00	29.00	165.00					
Tumbling Run Shelter	165.00	98.00	263.00	306.25					
Wagon Hill Shelter	5.00	5.00	10.00	6.00					
	<b>1,977.60</b>	<b>1,222.10</b>	<b>3,199.70</b>	<b>3,013.00</b>					



## **TREASURER**

### **Joseph Lombardo**

Treasurer: Joseph Lombardo	Prepared by: Joseph Lombardo
Number of Members/Volunteers: 2	Volunteer Hours Reported: 787
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 1	Date: October 1, 2013

### **Accomplishments October 2012 – September 2013**

- New Treasurer – Joseph Lombardo (June – Sept 2013) replaced Jay Juniper (Oct – May 2013)
- Successful completion of 2012 audit – PATC got clean bill of health; identified significant deficiencies, which are being corrected.
- Brought up-to-date financial reporting to ATC for Bears Den.
- Conversion of accounting system to QuickBooks effective October 1, 2013; which will improve efficiency and allow for direct entry by remote users, such as Bear's Den.
- Identification of payroll provider, which will improve administrative cost efficiency, and improve accuracy in salary payments, tax withholding, and leave accrual and use tracking.
- Contracting out accounting services to improve efficiency and quality of accounting functions. This move improves the professionalism of our accounting functions at a cost significantly below that of carrying out those functions in house.

- 2014 Budget Guidance returns to separate formulation and tracking for capital and operational budgets, which will improve ability to assess budgetary needs for major capital improvements, especially those requiring multiyear commitment of funds.
- Established new account structure to ensure greater accountability and transparent tracking of income from grants and other contributions made for dedicated uses, and expenditures for those restricted funds. Along with this change, modified budget policy to provide for carry over from year-to-year or restricted funding accounts (e.g. Blackburn Center road maintenance fund).
- Consolidated banking services to improve management efficiency and reduce administrative costs associated with multiple bank accounts. In particular, Bears Den now has a banking relationship with local branch, which will make banking services more accessible to Bears Den management and more responsive to their needs.
- Delegated responsibilities for day-to-day management from Treasurer to Executive Director and Business Manager to improve oversight and management efficiency in budget formulation, budget execution tracking, and enhance staff contribution to PATC financial management policy making.

### **Activities for October 2013 – September 2014**

- Establish a Finance Committee to be involved in assessing unanticipated funding request outside the budget cycle, and recommend to EXCOM and/or Council options for financing priority activities. This recognizes that EXCOM and Council set policy for priority activities, and integrates finance and budget into consideration for how to fund such emergent activities that fall outside the budget cycle.
- Develop financial management policies and standard operating procedures to implement reforms designed to address the significant deficiencies cited in 2012 audit. Develop a financial management oversight program, led by the Finance Committee, to provide oversight on the status of implementing PATC's financial management policies and procedures; and to provide guidance for adjusting those that may need refinement and for improving policies and standard operating procedures.
- Coordinate the 2014 budget formulation review process to ensure adequate funding for PATC priorities, as well as establishment of a contingency fund within the budget to cover unanticipated needs that arise during program implementation or for emergent needs that were unanticipated at the time the budget was approved.
- Establish a quarterly or semiannual review process, led by the Finance Committee, of budget area program and budget execution, and recommend modifications within line of activity budgets or between them to adjust to the changing circumstances.



## **ARCHIVES & LIBRARY**

**April Miller & Tom Johnson, Co-chairs**

Archives & Library: Tom Johnson	Prepared by: Tom Johnson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 250
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 0	Date: 24 September 2013

**None of the proposed goals for 2013 were accomplished (see below), but that doesn't mean that nothing was done. The following activities took place:**

1. A draft retention policy document was written, and is in coordination.
2. A comprehensive list of all folders accumulated over 20 years (1991-2010) was made in preparation for retirement to the archives. A certain amount of reduction was made for certain files.
3. Glass slides were photographed and digitized and loaded onto the PATC servers.
4. USGS quads were disposed of to interested parties.
5. Several officers donated document collections, and in each case these were sorted and filed in the archives or in the archives office in preparation for retirement to the archives, depending on the dates of the documents.

6. We slimmed down our collection of periodicals to just those that pertained directly to trails and hiking.

7. We are in the process of actively recruiting volunteers to prepare the 20 years of documents for retirement. A local college has volunteered to provide an intern to work on a retention policy.

**Goals for 2014 (same as 2013):**

Convert storage from the heavy Hollinger boxes to regular archival boxes for ease of handling.

Devise and implement a new storage system for the historical map collection.

Resolve the issue of shelter log storage – keep or pitch.

Convert material from the decade of the 1990s to archival storage.

Find a volunteer to work on library organizational issues.



## **AT CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT**

### **Tom Lupp**

AT Corridor Management: Tom Lupp	Prepared by: Tom Lupp
Number of Members/Volunteers: 39	Volunteer Hours Reported: 540.5
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 5	Date: 10/21/13

The AT Corridor Management Committee monitors and maintains the National Park Service A.T. boundary where it adjoins private property. Working closely with the Appalachian Trail Park Office and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy the volunteer monitors look for and report encroachment issues and make sure the boundary is clearly marked for those who might enter the property. Activities for the past year include:

- Work with monitors to help them perform maintenance on their boundary sections;
- Hold training sessions for new monitors;
- Supplying all monitors with current segment and survey maps;
- Work with Monitors and NPS rangers to deal with hunting & encroachment issues;
- Work with ATC to determine reserved right on NPS easement property.
- Locate new and replacement monitors;
- Help new monitors with field activities;
- Work with volunteers to have entire NPS boundary monitored on an annual basis;
- Remove problem structures in conjunction with ATC;
- Continue with road closures in problem areas;

- Continue with bald management project on Calf Mountain;
- Monitoring of grazing & mowing SUP for Ridenour Property in MD
- Mowing of the open areas near Linden VA, Ovoka Farms VA and Turners Gap MD;
- Installation of rail fence at Fox Gap MD, as part of the overall management plan;
- Have regularly scheduled boundary maintenance work trips;
- Work with ATC staff to recover boundary using staff & volunteers



## **ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership**

### **Pete Brown**

ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Representative: Pete Brown Alternate: Rush Williamson	Prepared by: Pete Brown
Number of Members/Volunteers: 2	Volunteer Hours Reported: 170
Number of New Members/Volunteers: N/A	Date: October 6, 2013

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Committee consists of representatives from each of the mid-Atlantic maintaining clubs that meets with representatives from the Boiling Springs ATC regional office and government partners such as the AT Park office and state and federal land managers. It meets twice a year to provide communication between organizations, voice concerns, approve Trail Community applications, and make recommendations to the ATC Stewardship Council. The Spring meeting was held at the Kirkridge Retreat Center near Stroudsburg, PA. This year's Fall meeting is at the GIANT Food Store on Linglestown Road north of Harrisburg, PA, on October 26<sup>th</sup>. All meetings are open to the public, but only invited attendees are free to join the discussions, and only MARPC members are granted voting privileges.

Among the items presented at the Spring meeting were reports from:

- Stewardship Council
- AT park office, the ATC
- Mid-Atlantic office of ATC
- Regional clubs.

AT Community designation nominations were reviewed and the Pawling/Dover, NY application was approved.

There were presentations and discussions on:

- Recreation use fees along the AT

- ATC natural resource program

- ATC volunteer Resources such as:

  - Project application forms and compliance

  - Local Management Plans forms and approvals

- Community Outreach that included:

  - Kiosk design guide

  - AT Community ambassadors

  - National Trail Day and Family Hiking Day

  - AT Journeys* articles

- Trail maintenance and construction guidelines

- Walk Off the War project for military returning from war zones

The Fall meeting occurred on October 26 in Linglestown, P A.

Items on the agenda are below:

- Stewardship Council update

- TTEC Advisory Council report

- Accessibility issues: ABA Final Guidelines

- New policy direction on special uses

- A.T. Community designation nominations

  - Waynesboro, PA

  - Delaware Water Gap

- NPS-ATC capital plan

- ATC Fall Conservation Department report

- User fees on the A.T policy

- Corridor stewardship program

- Kiosk Style and Design Guide

- Status of state & park cooperative agreements and MOUs

- 2015 Biennial

- ATC membership drive comes to Carlisle, PA

- Club reports



## **2015 Shenandoah Steering Committee**

### **Lee Sheaffer**

Co-Chair Lee Sheaffer	Prepared by: Lee Sheaffer
Number of Members/Volunteers: 12	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1050
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: 10/23/2013

Every other year the Appalachian Trail Conservancy holds a biennial convention somewhere along the trail. In 2015 this convention will be run by PATC and Mountain Club of Maryland and held at Shenandoah University. This conference is a weeklong event in July 2015 and 900 to 1200 people are expected to attend. This event will take a massive amount of planning and a significant number of volunteers to run. In 2011 a steering committee was formed to oversee and plan this event. The steering committee has worked on all aspects of this conference and made significant progress toward a successful event. In 2013 the committee began work to promote and advertise the event at the 2013 conference held at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Several promotional items were ordered and distributed to the conference and research was done in the way of an on-line survey of those attending the 2013 conference. A video was also created to both show and promote the Shenandoah University conference at the 2013 conference. This video will also be used to further promote the event to other organizations and local businesses and governments as the event gets closer to happening. In July, most of the committee attended the 2013

conference and shadowed their counterparts to learn how an event such as this is run, what problems might arise and what procedures worked well. The committee would like to thank the 2013 Steering Committee for their assistance and co-operation. They were both generous with their time and open with their insights into how the event was run.

The committee continues its work and two important aspects are memorandum of understanding with both Shenandoah University and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. PATC has been negotiating with Shenandoah University for about a year and a half and is working toward a detailed agreement which will cover all aspects of this convention. The school is both excited and helpful in this endeavor and we expect to have a signed and detailed document by the beginning of 2014. Work continues with Appalachian Trail Conservancy though at a much slower pace. Since it is a convention to highlight the Appalachian Trail their input and co-operation is paramount in making this event a success. We hope to have a detailed agreement with them as soon as possible.

The work of the event started in earnest shortly after the 2013 convention. The committee is busying itself with details concerning all aspects of the event and sub-committees are being formed to run the many aspects of a weeklong event which highlights the Appalachian Trail and the Northern Shenandoah Valley. This event will require a large number of volunteers and we are asking everyone who can to volunteer for this event. People can volunteer by e-mailing Tom Johnson at [volunteers2015@patc.net](mailto:volunteers2015@patc.net)

By this time next year the committee will need to finalize all activities and establish prices for the 2015 event. We have a deadline with of October 2014 to get all information to the printer to have the event published in the ATC Journeys, the main publication of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. We will also need to have a good volunteer base by that time so that we can begin with the set up and registration of the conference.

The committee has made significant progress to this point and look forward to working with all our partners and volunteers to make this event a memorable one.



## **BEARS DEN TRAIL CENTER**

**Lee Sheaffer**

Bears Den Trail Center: Lee Sheaffer	Prepared by: Lee Sheaffer
Number of Members/Volunteers: 30	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1050
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: 10/23/2013

It has been a significant year for Bears Den. The facility continues to attract many people to both the grounds and the nearby overlook. The hostel, lodge, campground and cabin remain a popular venue for hikers and others seeking a respite from the urban areas nearby. Last spring Bears Den hired a new overseer, Dana Baxter, and she has brought a new enthusiasm and organization to the facility. Under Dana's and her husband Johnny's watchful eye the facility continues to attract customers and hikers in greater numbers. The facility has also undergone quite a few organizational changes which will make it more efficient and more accountable. An inspection of the building and surroundings has identified areas where improvements are needed and PATC and ATC are taking steps to address those areas to keep the historic building functional. We have also changed over our bookkeeping and accounting systems to a more efficient system which also ties the books into the main club and helps in efficiently generating reports for ourselves and ATC. We have placed the cabin into the PATC rental system which will give us more use and improve the maintenance of this structure. We have improved co-ordination between Bears Den and the PATC staff which helps both

operate more efficiently and opens up communication for a more transparent operation. Bears Den is owned by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and operated by PATC under a lease agreement. This lease expires at the end of 2013. Both parties are currently in negotiation to renew this lease for another two years. We fully expect to have an agreement acceptable to both parties before years end.

Bears Den could not operate without the dedicated work of the volunteers who both love the facility and hope to see it prosper. We are grateful to the Friends of Bears Den for all their help in running the facility and for the maintenance and upkeep of the facility and grounds. We are indebted to the Friends of Bears Den and all our other volunteers who have made this facility a jewel in an exceptional location.



## **BLACKBURN TRAIL CENTER**

### **Chris Brunton, Manager**

Our caretakers, Chris Looney and Caroline (Caro) Murray, have worked at Blackburn in 2012 and 2013. Over both years they have provided great service to the Trail Center and have been wonderful ambassadors for PATC. I am pleased to be able to tell you that they will be staying at the Center this winter and will work the 2014 summer season.

In 2013 we again rented the Center almost every weekend through the rental season, November through March, losing only one weekend due to snow. Many of the winter renters were Boy Scout Troops with leaders who are PATC members and who come to the Trail Center for their winter camp out trips. Other winter renters included hardy groups of friends and family groups. In March we hosted a group from the University of Maryland on their Alternative Spring Break. They worked for us on recovering and clearing a section of the National Park Service's boundary.

During the summer/hiking season we had several PATC groups come up to hold meetings and training seminars. Mel Merritt held his annual cabins overseers meeting, and both the Ridge Runner and Trail Patrol groups used the Center for meetings. A PATC member who is working with the Ethiopian Development Council brought a small group up for a retreat. Later, in June, we hosted a group from the Salisbury School who helped us work on our driveway digging out culverts and ditches. And, as always, we were pleased to have PATC's Cadillac Crew back for two visits. Over the Memorial Day Weekend the crew worked with the District Manager to improve a section of the Appalachian Trail at the Bears Den Rocks. The crew then returned for what is becoming their traditional October visit complete with pumpkins and pig. On both visits this hard working crew worked their magic on many needed projects around the Trail Center. As always, their efforts are much appreciated by the manager.

In October we had booked ATC's Mid Atlantic Crew for two weeks. The plan was to have them work on a stone step project on the Appalachian Trail north of Blackburn, a project that has been on the Club's

trail improvement list for several years. Unfortunately, due to the Government shut down, they were unable to work on the AT and we have had to put off this project until next year.

An item that I am pleased to be able to report is that our mountain access road has been re-graded and graveled. Our road is quite steep in places and takes a beating after summer storms and winter snows. For many years we had a local road contractor who specialized in building and maintaining this type of road. Last year he finally decided to retire and sold off his equipment. This was a last moment decision and it was too late for us to find a replacement. During the winter of 2012 and into the first part of 2013 our road was pretty rough, of which our visitors were sure to let us know! After much searching we were able to identify a new contractor who worked on the road in July. We will be hiring him again next year.

Finally, the Center is fully booked for the remainder of 2013 and we already have a significant number of 2014 weekends booked.



## **GRANTS AND DONATIONS**

### **Susan Nelson, Chair**

Grants and Donations: Susan Nelson	Prepared by: Susan Nelson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported:
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 0	Date: October 28, 2013

The most notable achievement of the committee in 2013 was recognition of The President's Club with a formal, elegant and unique plaque. Donors of at least \$50,000 to PATC are considered members of The President's Club.

The plaque was designed and hand-drawn by an Arlington calligrapher, Rosy Baldwin, whose work has been commissioned by many notables in the Washington, DC area including Rep. Nancy Pelosi, First Lady Laura Bush and George Washington University.

The plaque will hang in Club headquarters and hopefully will inspire others to also donate. There are spaces for only two more names on the plaque so another plaque with space for more names will be prepared in 2014. The heading of the second plaque—The President's Club—will be drawn by Ms. Baldwin so the style of the first plaque is maintained.

The committee plans to locate descendants of the donors and hold an unveiling of the plaque for them at a council meeting in 2014.

The other main activity of the committee, the development and mailing of an End-of-Year fundraising letter, designated the funds received in 2013 from the 2012 letter specifically for facilities of the

club. The mailing was made only to club members who had previously donated and to non-members who had rented a PATC cabin.

The mailing to non-members, which included a membership application, was a success, bringing in 15 new members in 2013. This solicitation to non-member renters will be made again in 2013 with a focus on the new Cabins book and the new online cabin rental system. This solicitation will be made by e-mail to eliminate mailing costs.

The mailing only to PATC members who had previously donated did not produce the projected revenue which has been as high as \$20,000 in past years. The conclusion is that End of Year mailings must be made to all members since donors vary widely year to year.

Fundraising was considered during 2013 for a variety of projects but none eventually were deemed ready or needed for fundraising. The project of placing signs along the Wolf Trap Trail was handled by another organization and digitization of club records and the purchase of property along the AT in the Shenandoah National Park were considered projects too expensive for PATC. Lastly, the purchase of a generator for Bears Den was put on hold until a new agreement with ATC which owns the hostel is signed.

The committee participated in an on-line fundraising day in June sponsored by the United Way of the National Capital Area but may not do so again. PATC members in general do not contact friends and family through online social media. Direct mailings by PATC rather than online solicitations generate more donations.



## HIKING COMMITTEE

**Christopher Firme, Chair**

Committee: Hiking	
Chair(s): Christopher Firme	Prepared by: Christopher Firme
Number of Members/Volunteers: 29	Volunteer Hours Reported: 690
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 5	Date: September 31, 2013

### Major Accomplishments:

This was still an active year for the Hiking Committee and the Hike Leaders it serves. Many hikes were held throughout the 2012/2013 season (October 12-September 13). No meetings were held due to the ability of using the internet as our base for communication among the members. Maintaining an excel sheet of hike leaders and hikes for the hiking season.

PATC's Hike Leader community continued to produce hikes of a greater variety throughout 2013. Among these spectacular offerings were Backpacking, Birding, Easy, Family, Geology, Historical, In-Between, Mid-Week, Mushroom, Natural History, Outreach, Series, Vigorous, Waterfall and Wildflower along with the usual weekend hikes covering every trail in PATC's four-state area. This year we had one hike leader who led eleven hikes, we had one hike leader who led seven hikes, two hike leaders who led five hikes, one hike leader who led four hikes and five hike leaders who led three hikes each for PATC during the hiking season. This year we had a total of 69 hikes with 28 hike leaders leading those hikes. With the website, the Hiking Sign-Up Sheet, Hike Leader Guide, and Hike Leader Pages are now readily accessible to Hike Leaders.

This was the fourth year that the hike committee assisted with the Road Scholar program (Elderhostel program) out of Shepherd's Spring in Sharpsburg, MD. The program was to hike the AT in the four state area (four hikes). They held seven programs consisting of four in the spring and three in the autumn. A total of twenty-eight hikes were held. It was quite a successful program and helped with outreach for PATC and the AT. PATC's ridgerunners assisted with the program as well.

In response to the new website we are now allowing our vetting process to accommodate

the ability to submit hikes via the website.

The old policy which is as followed for Committee members to check all submitted hikes for suitability before inclusion in the *Potomac Appalachian* "Forecast" was implemented and is running successfully. With the cooperation of all PATC Hiking Groups and the editors of the *PA* and "Forecast" a new rule was established requiring all PATC hikes to appear in the *PA* for greater co-ordination and liability coverage. With the ability of the new website this policy will have to be updated and the committee to get together and discuss.

This year the hike leader chair continued to help assist PATC Trail Patrol in the hike leader course. This was very successful and will continue in the future with Trail Patrol and Hike Committee working together. Three courses were held in 2013. We are looking at holding more courses in 2014 in anticipation of the 2015 Biannual ATC meeting.

In an effort to express some of PATC's gratitude to for their efforts, the committee awarded service awards to those individuals leading three or more hikes this year. We also had an Hawksbill award given to the most hikes this year which was eleven hikes. Next year, we will continue with the \$10 gift certificate year toward any item in the PATC store for anyone leading five hikes or more and funds are requested in the 2014 Budget. To facilitate overnight camping hikes, the Committee will continue with the availability of preferential cabin rental.

#### **Goals for 2013**

1. Support and improve hiking opportunities within PATC.
2. Respond to Hike Leader needs and concerns.
3. Decrease liability exposure of PATC and its Hike Leaders and increase safety of all PATC hikes.
4. Create a community of Hike Leaders within PATC.
5. Expand the Hiking Program to include Road Scholar program (Elderhostel program), local college outing clubs, singles clubs, ski clubs and youth groups.
6. Continue to develop and encourage greater diversity of hikes offered.
7. Reach out to the local community and the hiking community in particular.
8. Maintain updated hike and excursion "rules" and forms.
9. Continue the contact and coordination between the Hiking Program and the Trail Patrol.
10. Create and implement meaningful award and recognition programs for Hike Leaders
11. Increase new member commitment to hiking activities.
12. Update the sign-up sheet to include hours of the hike leader and to be more user friendly and possible do a small online report form.

## **ACTION PLAN FOR 2014**

1. Create a group mailing list of PATC Hike Leaders.
2. Establish a regular (bi-monthly?) on-line PATC Hike Leader newsletter.
3. Obtain representation on the Hiking Committee from all PATC Hiking Groups and interested members.
4. Continue sponsorship, budget for advertising and request funds for AHS/PATC Congressional Hikes.
5. Promote diversity of hiking opportunities by contacting Backpacking 101 participants, placing ads and articles in the *PA* highlighting hikes with themes, e.g. local history, natural history, singles, backpacking.
6. Facilitate co-leadership of hikes and excursions with other groups by establishing co-leading rules and matching up PATC Hike Leaders with leaders from other groups.
7. Update the hike and excursion rules and forms as needed.
8. Work with *PA* and "Forecast" editors to implement agreed-upon plan for Hiking Committee vetting of proposed hikes.
9. Increase the contact and coordination between the Hiking Committee and the Trail Patrol to promote hike leadership by maintaining contact with the Trail Patrol Hike Leader Training Coordinator.
10. Continue to promote and facilitate interactive Hike Submission form project by maintaining contact with Computer Committee.
11. Establish college-based hikes and outing clubs sponsored by PATC through local contacts and advertising in college newspapers
12. Budget and maintain fund to reimburse Hike Leaders paying for a cabin rental in advance of a planned PATC excursion.
13. Implement Hike Leader Awards and Recognition Program by awarding \$10 gift certificates to 5-time hike leaders. Explore possibility of grant money for PATC caps or rocker patches. Broadcast all PATC benefits available to Hike Leader for their volunteer work.
14. Budget and fund Hike Leader Awards and Recognition Program
15. Contact local retailers to create and distribute a "Hike Leader Discount Card."
16. Follow up on all New Member Interest Forms indicating Hike Leadership interest.
17. Follow up on all Hiking Sign-up Sheets by sending PATC information packets to non-member hike participants.
18. Regularly obtain lists of Hike Leader Training and Backpacking 101 participants from Trail Patrol to encourage volunteer commitment.
19. Provide all Hike Leaders with PATC brochures to hand out to non-members.
20. Explore other club's Hike Leader requirements and tailor PATC requirements to our needs.
21. Continue to improve Hike Advertisement process.

22. Co-ordinate with the Mountaineering and Ski Touring sections to standardize excursion procedures.

### **RESOURCES NEEDED FOR 2014**

5 Hike Leader PATC Store Gift Certificates.....	\$50.00
Excursion Cabin Rental Reimbursement Fund.....	0.00

### **Facilities and Equipment**

1. A current, weekly-updated on-line "Forecast" of hiking activities at the PATC website.
2. An interactive on-line Hike Advertisement Submission form that allows posting with as little as one week advance.
3. An auto-messaging system that sends all Hike Advertisement Submissions to the Hiking Committee to be vetted on-line and forwarded to the Forecast editor. (see attachment)
4. An updateable Hike Leader web page at the PATC website. (see attachment)
5. Advance reservation of cabins for excursions.

### **Staff/PATC Members**

1. A computer programmer who can implement our computer needs.
2. A webmaster who can update the "Forecast" of hiking activities.
3. Cooperation from the PA and "Forecast" editors to acknowledge Hike Leaders' submissions and automatically forward packaged attachments of Sign-Up Sheets and other information.
4. Cooperation from the "Forecast" editor to forward in a group mailing submitted Hike Advertisements for vetting by the Hiking Committee.
5. Help from the New Members Committee in sending PATC information packets to non-member hike participants.
6. Lists of participants of the Hike Leader Training and Backpacking 101 courses from Trail Patrol.



## **LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Bill Downes, Chair**

Chair: Bill Downes	Prepared by: Bill Downes
Number of Members/Volunteers: 26	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1496
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 0	Date: October 1, 2013

The Land Management Committee (LMC) met in March 2013. The meeting was held at the Lambert Cabin on the Shaver Hollow Tract in Virginia. A total of 17 PATC members attended the meeting. Topics addressed during the meeting included: PATC land management policies and procedures, budgeting for tract management, communications, record keeping, reporting of volunteer hours, road maintenance, property boundary marking and signs, GPS and GIS implications for tract management, tract management plans, mowing, illegal dumping, hunting issues, and neighbor relations. Also discussed was the recruitment of new tract managers and the potential of developing a Land Management Crew to assist tract managers with projects and maintenance that require more work than a lone individual can perform.

A land management work trip was held on the Mutton Hollow tract in June. Twenty volunteers participated and contributed over 200 hours of volunteer hours during this work trip. The volunteers cleared brush from former pasture and cropland and followed this with planting vegetation to improve the wildlife habitat and the view from the Vining Cabin.

Several major projects were completed this year. Several large hazardous trees were removed on the Eaton Hollow tract in the vicinity of the Schairer Trail Center. These trees were felled to prevent damage to the cabin and privy. A temporary bridge repair was completed to the bridge on the Aughwick Creek Tract access road. This is the road to the Silberman Trail Center. A permanent replacement of the bridge deck is scheduled for 2014. A major road improvement was begun on the road on the Little Cove Tract. This road improvement project will also be finished in 2014. These activities kept the roads open for tract, cabin, shelter, and trail overseers and crews. Other activities carried out on the tracts this year were mowing, boundary marking, posting signs, maintaining good neighbor relations, and coordinating activities with the cabin, shelter, and trail overseers.

Thanks to all of our Tract Managers, Volunteers, and PATC staff for their continuing work to protect the Club's land.



## REPORT OF MAPS COMMITTEE

Chair: Brian Goudreau	Prepared by: Brian Goudreau
Number of Members/Volunteers: about 100	Volunteer Hours Reported: 2298
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 80	Date: November 2, 2013

### Major Accomplishments:

#### Map printing and digitization:

- |  |            |             |
|--|------------|-------------|
| • Map G digitization (will print early 2014) | January 26 |             |
| • Map 10 new edition                         | January 28 | 9050 copies |
| • Map 5-6 new edition                        | April 29   | 6050 copies |
| • Map 7 new edition                          | April 29   | 6050 copies |
| • Map K new edition                          | July 16    | 2550 copies |
| • Map 2-3 new edition                        | October 14 | 4550 copies |
| • Map 8 new edition                          | October 14 | 4550 copies |

#### Map mobile apps:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • <i>PATC-Maryland-Northern Virginia-West Virginia</i> for iOS | February 25 |
|--|-------------|

### Committee Highlights:

- In September 2012, four concurrent-use copies of ArcInfo with Extensions were purchased to run through October 2013 from ESRI to support GIS data maintenance, new map layouts, and other database development projects. Five licenses were renewed in Oct. 2013.
- In December 2012, Jim Tomlin created the GPS Rangers program, a new subcommittee within the Maps Committee. The program includes formal instruction on GPS data collection protocols and organized GPS surveys by dozens of new volunteers. GPS Rangers track and waypoint data supported every map update in 2013, and the resulting trail reports supported trail maintenance. Future efforts will support Lands Committee boundary activity.
- In January 2013, digitization of Map G was completed. The new map of Massanutten Mountain (North) shows shaded relief and a GPS-compatible grid. It includes a new inset of

Shenandoah River State Park. The map will be updated and printed in December 2013.

- From January through March 2013, a GPS Rangers database schema was partially developed. Work on this GIS database will resume in November 2013.
- In February 2013, PATC's second mobile app was released. *PATC-Maryland-Northern Virginia-West Virginia* (iOS) was produced by International Mapping using content provided by the Maps Committee.
- New editions of Maps 10, 5-6, 7, K, 2-3 and 8 were produced (see schedule above).
- Throughout the year, GPS data collected by GPS Rangers volunteers. The track and waypoint data was collected in an online data storage service called Huddle. Data will eventually be loaded into a geodatabase to be housed online or on PATC-owned laptops.
- Year-end budget will show a small surplus in unused printing funds, and map revenue equivalent to the previous year. Map app sales continue to be disappointing, but our partner is developing new iPad applications in early 2014 at no additional cost to PATC.

#### **Goals for 2014**

- By December 15, 2013, print Map 4 Edition 11 (3750 copies, 2-yr supply).
- By December 15, 2013, print Map G Edition 9 (3750 copies, 4-yr supply).
- By January 15, 2014, print Map 9 Edition 19 and Map 11 Edition 17 (6000 copies each, 2-yr supply).
- By early winter 2014, develop protocols for collection of sub-meter GPS data for field work in support of Lands Committee activities such as boundary maintenance.
- By late winter 2014, release iPad apps *PATC-Shenandoah* and *PATC-Maryland-Northern Virginia-West Virginia* for sale on the iTunes App Store.
- By late winter 2014, migrate GPS Rangers data to a single geodatabase to be housed either online or on PATC-owned laptops.
- By late winter 2014, release new iOS versions of both PATC map apps.
- By spring 2014, release Android app *PATC – Maryland/Northern Virginia* for sale on the Google Play store (if budget is approved by ExComm).
- By March 15, 2014, print Map H Edition 5 (reprint) (1000 copies, 2-yr supply)
- By March 15, 2014, print Map N Edition 5 (1000 copies, a 2-yr supply)
- By September 15, 2014, print Map 1 Edition 12 (4500 copies, a 2-yr supply)
- Yearlong - continue efforts to engage GPS Rangers volunteers in GPS data collection for the Appalachian Trail and other trails.



## **MARYLAND AT MANAGEMENT**

### **Rick Canter and Tom Lupp**

Maryland AT Management: Rick Canter & Tom Lupp	Prepared by: Tom Lupp
Number of Members/Volunteers: 10	Volunteer Hours Reported: 138
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 1	Date: October 16, 2013

The Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee is a consortium of public and private agencies tasked with maintenance and management of the 41-mile segment of the Appalachian Trail in Maryland and the associated 17,000 acres of buffer land known as the Appalachian Trailway.

- Installed first phase of fencing in Fox Gap. Will eliminate parking across the AT.
- Continue discussions and planning of additional fencing and parking management in Fox Gap.
- Began discussions with DNR & SHA on improvement and modifications to the parking area at US RT 40.
- Working with Washington County Parks to improve signage at PenMar Park.
- Respond to new occurrences of graffiti, especially at Black Rock area.

- Attend meeting with various agencies to address issues of crossing CSX railroad tracks in the Sandy Hook area.
- Work with MD DNR and Club Ridgerunner program to ensure the hiring of two ridgerunners.
- Work with Annapolis Rocks overseer to ensure all needed supplies and materials are available to maintain the campground.
- Work with MD DNR to identify and mark hazard trees for removal at Annapolis Rocks Campground.
- Work with ATC & MD DNR to find solutions to land ownership issues at Thurston Griggs Trail Head.
- Work with MD DNR to locate and acquire lands to buffer the trail.
- Continue annual assistance to NPS for the safe running of the JFK 50 race
- Work with ATPO and MD SHPO to find a viable solution for the removal of the Devils Racecourse Shelter.
- Worked with NPS to find a permanent site for the Michigan Brigade Historic Sign.
- Keep abreast of various utility activities that will/may affect the AT in MD.
- Continue to work with Catoclin Mtn Park and City of Hagerstown to find a suitable route to connect the AT to the Catoclin Trail.



## **Naturalist**

**Dan Pulskamp**

President: John Hedrick	Prepared by: John Hedrick
Number of Members/Volunteers: 3	Volunteer Hours Reported: 70
Number of New Members/Volunteers:3	Date: 11/1/13

The Naturalist Committee had a busy year after a long time of having the position be vacant. A top notch working relationship was established with the Conservation and Natural Resources staff at the Mid-Atlantic office of the ATC. The Natural Heritage Site program was reestablished, helping to monitor and preserve rare and endangered plants along PATC's area of responsibility. The committee also began working on monitoring and combating invasive species. More work trips are scheduled for 2014. Finally, the committee saw the establishment of our first phenology site at Blackburn Trail Center. A huge thank you for this goes out to the caretakers at the trail center. The committee also helped recruit volunteers for projects with some partners, including the Smithsonian and American Chestnut Foundation. Plans for 2014 include more work with invasive species and the establishment of a second phenology site. The Naturalist Committee welcomes all interested participants. Information on activities can be discovered by e-mail Dan Pulskamp at [Naturalist@patc.net](mailto:Naturalist@patc.net).





## TRAIL PATROL

Murry Moskowitz

Trail Patrol: Murry Moskowitz	Prepared by: Murry Moskowitz
Number of Members/Volunteers: 43	Volunteer Hours Reported: 7,115
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 4	Date: September 30, 2013

**Patrols.** Continued distributing electronic newsletters to Trail Patrol members providing information on trail conditions, PATC and partner patrol needs, upcoming training opportunities, and upcoming events. Patrolled a total of 2,833 miles of PATC maintained trails; 2,001 miles of the Appalachian Trail and another 832 miles of non-AT trails. Provided a total of 2,548 volunteer hours where members observed, interacted, or assisted 5,737 hikers by providing information to hikers and other visitors on safe and responsible use of the backcountry, conducting light trail maintenance, and providing information on conditions to trail, shelter, and cabin overseers.

**Member training and coordination.** Bought 4 probationary members into active status during 2013. At the end of 2013 there was a total of 43 active members down from 72 at the end of 2012. This reduction was the result of cleaning up our membership roster and eliminating names of members that have stopped attending meetings or stopped participating in patrols or activities.

**Ridgerunners.** Hired and supervised five Ridgerunners in 2013 to educate hikers and backpackers on safe and responsible use of the Appalachian Trail and backcountry; reported trails, shelters, and cabin conditions; conducted light trail maintenance; and assisted public and private partners on special projects. Helped ATC in Ridgerunner recruitment. The Ridge Runners performed a total of 3,524 hours on the trail, patrolled 2,335 miles, plus an additional 391 hour of travel to and from the trail. During this time they observed, interacted with, or assisted 22,035 hikers.

**Leave No Trace.** Conducted two Leave No Trace (LNT) trainer courses for the mid-Atlantic region and hosted a NOLS LNT Master Educator course with support from Shenandoah National Park (SNP), for a total of 10 new Trainers and 8 new Master Educators. Also responded to requests for LNT volunteers to assist with Adopt-A-Crag (Mid-Atlantic Climbers) and BSA youth LNT training.

**Backpacking.** Conducted 1 introductory backpacking class (Backpacking 101) for the public and trained 16 students.

**Hike Leadership Training.** Conducted 4, 1-day, classes for 59 participants. Topics included backcountry medical information, LNT ethics, hike planning, personal gear, map reading, and leadership skills.

**CPR/AED/Wilderness First Aid.** Conducted 5 classes of CPR/Basic Wilderness First Aid and 6 classes on Wilderness First Aid for a total of 61 students trained.

**Provide Partner Support.** Provided support for two SNP partner programs: Wilderness Weekend and National Trails Day. For Wilderness Weekend we greeted over 200 park attendees and informed them about the meaning of Wilderness and where those areas are located in SNP. For National Trails Day we interacted with approximately 145 park visitors providing information about PATC, safe and responsible backcountry use, and lead 6 hikes.



## **North Chapter Robert Wise, President**

North Chapter: Robert Wise	Prepared by: Robert Wise
Number of Members: 355	Volunteer Admin Hours Reported: 378
Number of Volunteers: 277	Date: 10/04/2013

The members of the North Chapter maintain trails, shelters and cabins in Maryland and Pennsylvania. The chapter also leads hikes on a regular schedule during the year. There are two general meetings in the year – one in spring and one in the fall. Officers are elected in odd numbered years at the fall meeting. Between chapter meetings a board composed of the elected officers and committee chairpersons conducts business. The chapter sponsors an annual corn roast to which all PATC members are invited. There are two trail crews in the chapter, the South Mountaineers in Maryland and the Yankee Clippers in Pennsylvania. The South Mountaineers trail crew sponsors a volunteer appreciation meal, the Humiture Fest.

The trails maintained by chapter volunteers comprise about one fifth of the total mileage of trails that PATC maintains. That mileage includes at least 23 bridges. Chapter members also maintain eighteen trail shelters and eight cabins. North Chapter continues to get "blue ribbon" reports from hikers who stay in the shelters of southern Pennsylvania and Maryland that are maintained by our volunteers.

The Little Cove Cabin, which is close to Reese Shelter and about a mile from the Tuscarora Trail, was purchased in 2010 and construction began on refurbishing the cabin. Reconstruction of the outside of this cabin has been mostly completed this year. Little Cove cabin has now been transformed into one of the Clubs

premier cabins. To date, a new floor in the kitchen has been installed, a porch with roof, skylights, and picket railing surround the cabin on three sides and two new entryways have been installed. New wood siding has been installed to the outside and improvements to the bathroom and interior are slated for next year.

This summer, in addition to regular trail work trips, and work on Little Cove cabin, the North Chapter started construction on the shelter dedicated to Charlie Irvin. The shelter is at a site overlooking the Cumberland Valley just off the newly relocated Tuscarora Trail west of Waggoners Gap in Pennsylvania. Work parties have begun the difficult job of transporting the materials for construction over a very difficult trail to the site.

Information about volunteering and additional information about the North Chapter is available on PATC's web-site. <http://www.patc.net/PublicView/>



**SOUTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAPTER**  
**Karen Waterman, President**

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Karen Waterman	Prepared by: Karen Waterman
Number of Members/Volunteers: SSVC; Chapter email list: 115	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1547
Number of New Members/Volunteers: new member interests provided by PATC: 56	Date: September 30, 2013





# SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

*Dedicated to Saving Lives*

118 Park Street SE • Vienna VA 22180 • www.smr.org



## 2013 Annual Report Submitted to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

Section: Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG)	
Chair: Steve Weiss	Prepared by: Steve Weiss
Number of Members/Volunteers: 112	Volunteer Hours Reported: 6,662
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 23	Date: 10/28/2012

### SMRG 2012 Elected Board of Directors:

Office	Office Holder	Email
Chair	Steve Weiss	Chair@smrg.org
Vice Chair	Charlie O'Connell	Vicechair@smrg.org
Secretary	Portia Altimus	Secretary@smrg.org
Treasurer	Robert German	Treasurer@smrg.org
Operations Officer	Trisha FitzGerald	Operations@smrg.org
Group Training Officer	Roy F. Oelschlager Jr.	Training@smrg.org
ASRC BOD Representative	Andrew Hower	ASRCrep@smrg.org
ASRC BOD Representative	Chris German	ASRCrep@smrg.org

### Operations Summary (Nov 2012 through Oct 2013)

Search and Rescue (SAR) mission callouts/requests: 24

SAR missions responded to: 18 (for other callouts, mission was suspended or subject was found before mobilization)

Volunteer hours: 1,962

Volunteer travel miles: 15,662

### Training Summary

Training events: 25

Volunteer hours: 2,260

Volunteer travel miles: 16,120

### Organizational Admin

Meetings: 22

Volunteer hours: 2,440

Volunteer travel miles: 15,400



# SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

*Dedicated to Saving Lives*

118 Park Street SE • Vienna VA 22180 • www.smr.org



## **Priorities for Calendar Year 2013:**

As our new Board of Directors began their work, our Chair asserted some priorities:

- Engage on missions
- Train toward certifications
- Manage our organizational relationships

As specific goals for the organization, our officers agreed to the following:

- Improve alert system
- Improve dispatch system
- Increase number of ASRC FTLs
- More missions
- Increase member engagement

## **Highlights for the Year:**

### ***Operations***

Several local callouts, with notable missions in Fairfax County, Arlington County, Shenandoah National Park, Fauquier County (Sky Meadows State Park), and Shenandoah County. Shenandoah National Park missions were directly related to some responder support we provide during peak times in the Park and our presence in the Park for a full-scale exercise. And the response in Sky Meadows came within a couple months of an outreach effort to the park manager. It has been a long time since we've had a year with so many searches close to home.

We made some significant upgrades to our equipment and capability, adding new technical capability to manage searches (with updated computers, new SAR and GIS software, and compatible GPS units) and refurbishing our response trailer. We updated our alert policy and dispatch documents.

Finally, our members have been part of an innovative effort to develop, field, and support search planning using GIS mapping and analysis tools.

### ***Training***

The highlight of our training calendar this year was a large, full-scale SAR exercise. In August, we planned and executed this exercise at the Pinnacles Research Area, with the full support of Shenandoah National Park. Inviting members from across Virginia and the entire mid-Atlantic region, we hosted roughly 100 SAR personnel by putting them into the field to search for "lost" hikers. Toward the end of the second day of the exercise, SNP requested our support for an *actual* rescue of an injured person on the Cedar Run trail about 1.5 miles from the parking area.



# SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

*Dedicated to Saving Lives*

118 Park Street SE • Vienna VA 22180 • [www.smr.org](http://www.smr.org)



## ***Administration and Outreach***

Our administrative management this year focused on transition to a new web-site hosting service, a successful financial review, and an effort to consolidate a multiplicity of roster-keeping systems that we have been using.

For outreach, we initiated strong engagement with several potential SAR partners. We increased our engagement and visibility in the Virginia SAR Council; had successful outreach discussions with both SNP and Sky Meadows State Park; and we began discussions with Maryland Department of Natural Resource Police toward formalizing a relationship allowing us to respond to more searches in Maryland.

