



2018 Annual Report

This report is a compilation of individual annual reports for 2018 from each of the officers and officials of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. For each area of responsibility within the club, the report includes the number of volunteers and hours of service for the year, followed by highlights of accomplishments and goals for 2019.

Individual reports are included for each of the officers and chairpersons listed below:

Elected Officers

President - Joe Lombardo

Vice President for Operations - Rush Williamson

Vice President for Volunteerism - VACANT

Supervisor of Trails - John Hedrick

Supervisor of Lands - Chris Mangold

Supervisor of Marketing - Emeline Otey

Supervisor of Facilities - Glen Tsaparas

Supervisor of Membership - Steve McLaughlin

Supervisor of Outreach - Randy Motz

Supervisor of Communications - Anstr Davidson

Treasurer - Marc Mantelli

Secretary - Michael Brown

Chapter Presidents

Charlottesville Chapter - Iva Gillet

North Chapter - Dee Utz

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter - Brian Heflin (No Report)

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter - Malcolm Cameron

West Chapter - Dave Jordahl

Section Presidents

Mountaineering - Mark Maier

Ski Touring Section - Robert Swennes (No Report)

Standing Committee Chairs

Cabins Operations - Mel Merritt

Conservation - Lowell Smith (No Report)

Hikes - VACANT

Information Technology - Lee Manning (SEE Supervisor of Communications Report)

Shelters - Henry Horn (No Report)

Trail Land Acquisition - Phil Paschall (SEE Supervisor of Lands)

Trail Patrol - Chris Firme

Appointed Officers with Council Vote

ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership - Pete Brown

AT Corridor Management - Thom Lupp

Maryland AT Management - Thom Lupp and Rick Canter

Other Committees and Activities

Archives and Library - Tom Johnson

Bears Den Center - John Hedrick (SEE Supervisor of Trails Report)

Blackburn Trail Center - Lynn Olson

Cabins Construction and Major Repairs - Bruce Berberick

Cabins Reservation Volunteer Coordinator - Steve McLaughlin

Customer Service Desks - Bill Ryan (No Report)

Endowment - Charlie Balch

Grants and Donations - Marc Mantelli

Land Management - Chris Mangold (SEE Supervisor of Lands)

Maps - VACANT

Naturalist - Dewey Clark (No Report)

Potomac Appalachian Newsletter: Editor - Dan Pulskamp (SEE Supervisor of Communications Report)

Public Affairs - VACANT

Publications - Emeline Otey

SMRG – Mike Bilder (No Report)

Tuscarora Trail - Roger Hanson (Acting) (No Report)

Elected Officers

President - Joe Lombardo

Prepared by: Joseph Lombardo	Title: President
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 806

Major accomplishments of 2018:

- Over 1,500 volunteers logged more than 90,000 service hours. Major categories include:
 - Trails – more than 40,000 hours
 - Cabins and Shelters – over 10,000 hours
 - Trail Patrol – over 7,500 hours

- Improved governance of the Club:
 - Election committee reformed to make the nomination process more transparent to Council and the membership
 - Council reorganized to ensure those who are assigned to serve on Council are better able to focus on the policy and strategic issues facing the Club to ensure long-term growth and stability
 - Continued to strengthen our financial management of Club resources by working closely with Chapters and Special Interest Sections to integrate their financial reporting into our Club’s accounting system
 - Constitutional amendment proposed to close gaps in ability to fill vacant officer positions

- Improved management of the Club:
 - Reorganized staff management to place staff director under supervision of the President
 - New policies enacted to streamline management processes and improve staff morale
 - New staff director hired, who has the leadership and management skills required to support the management of an organization of the size and complexity of PATC

- Improved Club relationships with partner and external organizations, such as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), National Park Service, and donors such as REI and Northwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU)

Goals for 2019:

- Integrate new officers into Club’s governance structures (EXCOM, Council, Committees)
- Work with new Executive Committee and Council to develop and implement an agenda to continue improving Club governance and management
- Negotiate with ATC organization of the Mid-Atlantic Region

- Negotiate new agreement with ATC for management of Bears Den

Vice President for Operations - Rush Williamson

Title: VP of Operations	Prepared by: Rush Williamson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Unfortunately another President resigned this past year and as VP- Operations I filled that role for about two months until a replacement could be found and vetted. EXCOM selected our Treasurer Joe Lombardo to be President and Marc Mantelli was selected to fill the Treasure position. There were no effect on the Board’s operation during this transition period and shortly after the new President was installed an offsite was held and the goals and objectives for the next eleven months were established and as a result much was accomplished with major items in the Strategic Plan being addressed and worked on.

Due to personal reasons the Supervisor of Lands resigned and the position was vacant for about six months until Chris Mangold was found and installed. During this time I oversaw Lands. With the support of Staff, the reorganization and consolidation of all Lands records was begun and completed under the new Supervisor. This effort paid off very quickly as there were a number of Land issues that required timely access to various land documents this year. Shenandoah National Park approached PATC and asked us to facilitate the purchase of a tract of land by the SNP Madison Run fire road (Morton Tract) to be turned over to the Park for a much needed parking lot. Once funding was identified Council approved the effort and it is an ongoing project. As a part of ATC’s Landscape Conservation program ATC came to PATC and asked us to work on procuring a section of land near Calf Mountain. ATC, through a grant has provided use with half of the funds to buy the property. Council approved this action and early 2018 the property will become PATC’s.

Started the process to bring the Sections and Chapters in line with PATC governance and fiduciary policy and rules. This work was turned over to the Supervisor of Membership after the realignment of the Council was completed.

As a member of the HQs Committee facilitated a number of major repairs to the HQ building and have participated on a number of measures to create a five year maintenance and upgrade plan

Co-Chair of the Organization Working Group that looked into the organization and alinement of the various functional offices and committees The Working Group's the goal was not to change the constitution at all and propose as few changes to the bylaws as possible, which was achieved. The goal included clarifying the membership of the Council resulting in Council membership was reduced from 38 to 29. All the positions removed, the sitting chairs the agreed with the reorganization. Next year the Working Group will revise the Council Roles and Responsibility Policy and determined if the By-Laws and Constitution need to be up dated.

Worked with George Washington to Parkway NP so PATC certified sawyers would be allowed to saw on the Potomac Heritage Trail.

Supervisor of Trails - John Hedrick

Prepared by: John Hedrick	Title: Supervisor of Trails
Number of Members/Volunteers: 550	Volunteer Hours Reported: 41,330

Major accomplishments of 2018:

The weather was the biggest factor in influencing trail maintenance throughout the region. For example, the rainfall as of mid-November at Big Meadows was about 88 inches and the average is 55 inches. The combination of rain and several violent wind storms created many blow downs and trail erosion. The weather also caused cancellations of numerous work trips and overseer outings.

A listing of accomplishments by many of our districts and trail crews are below.

Pennsylvania: The Yankee Clippers Crew constructed a double bin composting privy at the Birch Run shelter. A kiosk was constructed giving information about the herbicide treatment along the AT corridor.

Shenandoah National Park Central District (AT and Side trails): The March windstorm brought down hundreds of trees. The wilderness trails required the use of traditional hand tools which took months to complete the clearing process.

Shenandoah National Park North District (AT and Side trails): Hundreds of blow downs were removed and the rain cancelled over a third of the trail crew work including the July crew week and annual maintenance workshop.

Antietam Battlefield: It was a big year for weeding.

Tuscarora Trail Awareness Project: An REI grant has allowed the building of a Tuscarora Trail website and the design and production of three hundred full color directional and informational signs. The signs are being installed along all the Tuscarora Trail.

GPS Rangers: All the surveying of trails and haul roads in Buchanan State Forest and in Tuscarora State Forest was completed. A special project to identify Appalachian Trail emergency access points for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue was accomplished. Eleven GPS Rangers teamed with the USFS to survey trails in Colorado's Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest.

Bull Run Occoquan Trail: Floods caused significant damage in the area requiring the rebuild of grade dips, blow down removal and the rebuild of a 20 foot bridge. A new 45 foot bridge was constructed at Wolf Run and new concrete stepping stones were installed.

AT Northern Virginia (south):: Work was continual on tread restoration, blow down removal and weeding. Construction of the Whiskey Hollow Composting commenced and the AT was rerouted into the Whiskey Hollow shelter.

Mutton Hollow District: Work on the new Mutton Hollow Loop trail commenced.

Maryland AT: Collaborated with the Maryland State Highway Administration to provide a safer configuration of the US 40 trail head parking lot.

Cadillac Crew: The crew completed the new trail between the Huntley and Lambert cabins and commenced work on the one mile loop trail on the Mutton Hollow property. Crew work trips were conducted on the Great Falls C&O Canal, the Tuscarora Trail in PA>, and on the AT in Northern Virginia.

Tuscarora Trail Central: Work on the sign project and recruitment of volunteers continued.

SNP South Blue-Blaze: Many blow downs were removed along with weed removal.

SNP Central Blue-Blaze South: Blow down removal, trail rehab and recruitment occupied the district.

Wolf Trap: The 9th and 10th camp outs for Fairfax County 5th and 6th graders was conducted. Almost half the campers are from Title 1 elementary schools.

Tuscarora South: Assisted George Mason University Engineers for International Development to design and build a 32 foot wooden bridge in the Toms Brook area. Worked with the USFS to replace roofing and other rotted wood on the Paul Gerhard Shelter. Arranged for an arborist to remove several very large limbs overhanging the shelter.

Bears Den: The hiker hostel bathroom and the men's bunk shower room floor were repaired. Coordination with VDOT was accomplished to facilitate the repair and re-design of the culvert at the entrance to Bears Den.

Ashby/Harpers Ferry: The Loudoun Heights Relocation was delayed due to diverting 3 crews to clear blow downs and a lack of funding for three other crews. The rebuilding of the bridge over Morgan Mill Stream was completed.

Goals for 2019: Complete the Tuscarora Trail sign project. Place emphasis on blazing all trails. Work with the USFS, Lee District to arrange for the 90th anniversary recognition event.

Complete the Pogo Campsite project and the Whiskey Hollow privy. Relocate the Dick's Dome shelter to a new home. Complete the Loudoun Heights Relocation.

Supervisor of Lands - Chris Mangold

Prepared by: Chris Mangold	Title: Supervisor of Lands
Number of Members/Volunteers: 19	Volunteer Hours Reported: Unknown

Major accomplishments of 2018:

- Volunteer Update:
 - Appointment of new Supervisor of Lands (February 2018)
 - New Lambert and Huntley Tract Managers Team
 - Ian Corrigan, Bill Fisher
 - Maston Gray new member of Trail Lands Acquisition Committee
 - Patrick Kent – Lands GIS Support
- Surveys and Deeds digitized for Great North Mountain PATC own properties
 - To be reviewed by Jim Tomlin for GPS ranger field follow-up.
- Major Road Maintenance Projects Completed
 - Rosser Lamb road repaired.
 - Vining Cabin (Mutton Hollow)
 - Contract signed for road repair project on and Lambert Property
 - Eaton Hollow (Firestone) – Road Maintenance
- Entry Run
 - Foot access restored to cabins (Special mention Mark Walkup)
 - Culvert replacement planning initiated
- Vining Cabin Invasive Species Project Continuation
 - 4 out of 10 steps accomplished,
 - Rains have delayed effort (July Herbaceous Weed Control not performed until November)
 - Put in cost sharing application for 2019 for USDA
- PATC Property Trail easement lease identification project initiated
 - Identifying trail easement documentation that should reside in Trails domain
- PATC GIS Property visualization project initiated
- Rockingham County Morton Property – keeping ExCom abreast of progress with PATC's
- Great North Mountain 2010 Relocation – Documentation close out. Work to register official easement with survey and deed modifications.
- Garth property purchase approval by Council

Goals for 2019:

- Garth property purchase close out.

- Continue to raise funds to mitigate \$15K purchase gap.
- Maintenance of Vining Tract Roads
- Complete GIS PATC Property Visualization Project
- Complete Vining Cabin (Mutton Hollow) Invasive Species Project Control Phase
 - Final phase will be seeding/planting native species
- Normalize Tract Management Work Trip Reporting
- Hold Tract Managers Meeting
- Professional Survey of Lewis Tract
- Recruit 4 new Tract Volunteers
- Assist GPS Rangers with Great North Mountain Property Surveys
- Complete Capon Springs Resort Trail Easement
 - Register Easement with Hampshire County Court House

Supervisor of Marketing - Emeline Otey

Title: Supervisor of Marketing	Prepared by: Emeline Otey
Number of Members/Volunteers: 14	Volunteer Hours Reported: 648*

FY2018 was a busy year for marketing and promotional activities. A highlight was the continuation of the extremely well received “Hiking with the Experts” series developed and organized by Larry Broadwell and hosted by area REI stores. This series, now having completed a seventh and into an eighth year, is described in detail below. A second notable activity was the publication of a retail sales and members version of the PATC Catalog, designed by Kate Day, to be used as a handout for meetings and presentations. Kate also updated the wholesale edition, which was sent to all vendors who had ordered from PATC in the recent past, and was distributed to new potential vendors. A third activity that kept both the Supervisor of Marketing (Emeline Otey) and the Publications Marketing and Sales Coordinator (Diane Yang) busy was their continued effort to identify marketing opportunities at community events and at individual parks and recreational facilities as well as commercial venues serving hikers. Diane is a skilled marketer whose natural approach to marketing is undergirded by her enthusiasm for hiking and for PATC. She turns every contact with a wholesaler or a potential wholesaler into a marketing opportunity and every hiking foray into a chance to introduce and sell PATC to a new potential outlet. In the past year, Emeline took her traveling emporium of PATC products to The Gathering (a Native American harvest festival in Berryville, Virginia), National Trails Day celebration at Bears Den, a celebration of the Charlottesville Chapter of PATC, and similar events. As noted under the discussion of the REI/PATC speaker series, Emeline also carried a mini-emporium to almost one-third of the scheduled events in that series.

There had been some concern in recent past years that the volume of sales had declined. It is gratifying to note that, largely through the efforts of Diane, there was a major turn-around in FY2018. The Marketing and Publications Committee (formerly the Sales Committee) continued to provide advice related to marketing and publication strategies.

Plans for the coming year are, first, to continue the successful association with REI through the “Hiking with the Experts” series and to look for opportunities to broaden this relationship. We will also look for opportunities to introduce PATC and its programs into parts of our community with which we have no established relationship. Second, efforts to expand the use of a web-based photo resource established in FY2018 to provide photos representing all of the defining aspects of PATC for use in brochures, flyers, on the web, and other settings, will be undertaken. This was a collaborative effort of the Supervisor of Marketing, the Supervisor of Communications, the IT and Membership Coordinator, and a volunteer with expertise in photography and photography management. The resource includes only photos meeting specific technical requirements and for which the photographer provides unfettered

permission for the use of their photos and releases from any recognizable individual portrayed in them.

As noted above, PATC's collaboration with area REI stores, now beginning an eighth year, is once again the high point of marketing and promotional efforts. All aspects of this effort are organized and managed by Larry Broadwell, including coordinating with REI and preparing calendar and newsletter entries. The program continued to:

- Enhance the club's relationship with REI;
- Inform the public about the club, trails in our region, what is found along those trails in various seasons, and how to prepare for a good outing;
- Promote the club also as a useful reference on local and out-of-region adventures;
- Encourage attendees to become members;
- Promote sale of PATC maps and trail guides.

Nine regular speakers (with more in backup roles) delivered 47 presentations at the eight REI stores in our region and to two other groups in FY2018. While each speaker may design their own presentation, many presentations are shared across speakers. A nice refinement implemented this year is the availability of a small set of introductory slides that all presenters are encouraged to use to explain the mission and major areas of PATC. REI continues to emphasize fee-based, staff-led classes; however, stores scheduled more PATC classes in the latest year than in the recent past. Interestingly, LL Bean, a near neighbor of the Rockville REI store, scheduled their first presentation by PATC. Occasionally presentations must be cancelled because of weather or low registration; in such situations REI and PATC work together to find an alternate date. PATC's marketing/fulfillment staff (Diane Yang) coordinated supplies for the events, while information systems coordinator Kit Sheffield assisted on technical matters and followed up with attendees who requested membership information. Total attendance at these events during the 12 months ended Sept. 30 was 824; 152 attendees requested membership information.

The program's general title remains "Hiking with the Experts." There are more than 32 topics plus an additional 17 added this year from which REI program planners or others can choose. The PATC presentation topics offered by REI in FY2018 included:

- Best Trails in Shenandoah National Park
- Best Trails for Spring Hikes (to find/identify wildflowers)
- Best "Splashdown" Trails (paths with dipping and swimming holes)
- Best Trails for Fall Hikes
- Best Trails for Winter Hikes
- Best Nearby Trails (varied with store location)
- Hiking Provence and the French-Italian Alps
- Civil War Trails
- Trekking up Kilimanjaro
- Trekking Patagonia
- Backpacking the Appalachian Trail
- Backpacking the Pacific Crest Trail
- Biking from Pittsburgh to DC on the Great Allegheny Passage and C&O Canal

- Women on the Trail (backpacking)

Whatever the topic of the evening, speakers explain how PATC's maps and guidebooks help plan outings, as well as the skill-building and volunteer opportunities offered by the club. REI no longer orders PATC guidebooks, though some stores continue to sell off old stock of dated editions of our guides; most stores carry some PATC maps. To compensate somewhat, beginning in early spring, stores have allowed PATC's publications chair, Emeline Otey, to set up a table and sell PATC guidebooks and history books, but not maps. Emeline attended 14 of the 47 presentations. This selling opportunity had not turned out to be as fruitful as hoped. Most of the presentations are now in Powerpoint form on club-owned laptops and/or PATC's Google Drive folder.

While the activities described above represent major areas of effort, there are other important marketing and promotional activities contributed by Larry Broadwell and others. These include articles and notices on the release of new and planned publications which are run in Potomac Appalachian; descriptions of REI events in PATC, REI, and Sierra Club on-line calendars; postings to MeetUp websites to attract hikers to outings based on entries in the club's guidebooks; and the display each presenter sets up at all REI events with inexpensive "giveaways" and display samples of our maps, books and other items help to attract attendees to the display table, where some fill in our form to request membership information.

*Marketing Hours: Total 648 hours

REI presentations: Total 529 hours (405 hours on presentations; 124 hours traveling)

Mini-emporiums: Total 129 hours (83 hours organizing and selling; 46 hours traveling)

Supervisor of Facilities - Glen Tsaparas

Prepared by: Glen Tsaparas	Title: Supervisor of Facilities
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: Cabins 5,840 Shelters 2,742

Cabins Chair and Shelters Chair submitting separate reports.

2018 Activities

It has been a busy year at our cabins, shelter and Headquarters. Our cabins and shelters chairs will be reporting on specifics in their areas of operations. I will report on Headquarters and some general items.

This year was especially challenging due to the Spring windstorm that dropped a lot of trees on access roads and trails leading into our cabins. Trees also fell on a few cabins and shelters. Volunteers spent many days clearing these obstacles. Summer rains were also very profound. As of early November Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park had received 84 inches of rain. The normal average is 55 inches a year. A lot of this rain came down in 4" and 8" rain events this summer. The result was a lot of flooding causing extensive damage to the backwoods roads used to access our cabins around Shenandoah. A number of our cabin roads were washed out rendering cabins inaccessible for long stretches of time until repairs to the roads could be made.

We were also busy with Headquarters projects. The parking lot got sealed and painted. Back steps repaired. Tool room door replaced. HQ roof membrane repaired and roof air handlers resealed. New carpet has been ordered for the front entry and cabins reservation/info area. The HQ committee will be working up a long term plan for other HQ improvement projects.

This year we signed a new agreement with Shenandoah National Park that authorizes PATC to continue to operate and maintain the six historic backcountry cabins in the park. The "Interpretation & Education Agreement" as it is known, more clearly defines PATC and Shenandoah's responsibilities for the cabin operations. The agreement also outlines the parks responsibility to provide improved resources and support for our efforts. The past few months Jones Mountain Cabin has undergone major repairs and rehab work performed by the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training center. A new metal roof, porch rebuild and structural elements were replaced. In planning this project, the park engaged us in the meetings planning the project. The agreement will also have PATC and the park working on interpretive information at each cabin so renters will have a better appreciation of the historic background of each cabin.

Other...the old Boxwood cabin on Vining Tract which was becoming hazardous was finally torn down. Next year we will be assessing a couple potential cabins for inclusion in our rental system.

We also have 2 or 3 cabins to assess the potential to be repaired / restored as rental cabins.

Supervisor of Membership - Steve McLaughlin

Prepared by: Steve McLaughlin	Title: Supervisor of Membership
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 150

Major accomplishments of 2018:

In the last year, membership has declined slightly with total membership. We had 7,593 members at the end of September 2017 and just 7,470 members at the end of September 2018. The number of memberships followed a similar pattern with 5,048 total memberships at the end of September 2017, compared with 4,977 at the end of September 2018. The number of members is larger than memberships as it includes multiple family members. As a result, income from memberships is below the targeted budget level of \$145,000 through October of this year.

Goals for 2019:

The lack of growth in membership followed 4 years of steady growth, averaging about 5% annually from 2012 to 2016 or 350 to 300 more members annually. Membership was stable in 2017. The goal for 2019 is \$180,000. This will require about a 10% increase in membership during 2019. Increased membership is our goal in order to generate the income necessary to support our mission. We are considering ideas to increase membership and welcome input from our members. The drop in membership is due primarily to an increase in the number of membership that expire, rather than renew. The number of new members has not dropped significantly during this time. Thus, we believe we need to focus our efforts on renewals, rather than just recruiting more new members.

On average, we lose about 200 members every month, with between 50 and 100 lapsed members getting reinstated in subsequent months. Even if you deduct the reinstatements, we are losing over 1,000 members every year. That is as many as we get in new members every year. We believe we can reduce that figure with more targeted outreach. While we continue to seek new members and get them engaged in club activities, new members are often hard to identify and target. With lapsed members, we know who they are and have their contact information.

This suggests that efforts focused on retention of people who we know support our mission and have given us money in the past are more likely to be cost effective than efforts focused on the

public at large and no one in particular. If we can reduce the number of lapsed members by 50%, we would expect to see membership grow by almost 500 a year.

In order to tackle this problem, I believe we need to establish a committee of volunteers who can actively target lapsed members and encourage them to renew their membership. This requires specific outreach and is too much for any one person to undertake on their own. A group of 4 or 5 dedicated individuals would be ideal. The committee should coordinate activities with the other efforts at outreach, communications, and donations. This necessarily involves close coordination with the Supervisor of Outreach, the Supervisor of Communications, and the Grants & Donations Committee.

Membership has also been tasked with coordinating efforts to communicate with Chapters and Sections and ensure they remain integral parts of PATC operations. To that end, the Supervisor of Membership developed, in cooperation with the Chapter and Section representatives, new criteria to re-certify all Chapters and Sections every two years coincident with the change in leadership of ExCom. Chapters and Sections have a seat on Council, Council reviews the status of Chapters and Sections at least every other year, coincident with the election of corporate officers. This review includes satisfying the following criteria:

- They have at least 20 current PATC members,
- They have an active program, sponsoring at least 6 activities annually,
- The representative must be elected by Chapter/Section members,
- The representative must attend at least 6 Council meetings annually, and
- The Chapter/Section substantially complies with PATC policies and procedures

Certification occurs every two years by filing a brief report to Council at the end of the calendar year, shortly after the PATC election. However, if the Chapter/Section fails to meet the attendance requirement, its seat on Council would be suspended immediately, subject to review by Council.

Supervisor of Outreach - Randy Motz

Prepared by: Randy Motz	Title: Supervisor of Outreach
Number of Members/Volunteers: 70	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1,132
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 64	

Major accomplishments of 2018:

- Pat Fankhauser expanded the library display outreach efforts with a total of eight (8) locations between November 2017 and October 31, 2018.
- Rush Williamson, Ron Burger, and Pete Minderman continued their representation of PATC at local Boy Scout Program launches and the University of Scouting.
- Emeline Otey, Brewster Thackery and Steve McLaughlin represented PATC at three CFC events at the International Trade Commission, the Pentagon and the Department of Commerce in order to expand the number of annual contributions to the club.
- Several PATC members participated in the annual Friendship Fire Company Christmas Parade in Harpers Ferry/Bolivar to reinforce the club's partnership of these AT Trail Communities.
- Members of the Charlottesville Chapter, represented PATC at the Banff Mountain Film Festival in Charlottesville, as well as holding a PATC Open House at Dunlodge.
- Sixteen "Trail Talkers" represented the club at REI's "Get Ready to Backpack Day" at various stores in the DC, Maryland and Virginia area.
- Jim Tomlin led a very successful outreach effort at the Old Rag Cabin where over a thousand people heading up Old Rag Mountain to hike, were informed about PATC and its mission and vision, along with providing water and other drinks to thirsty hikers.
- As in past years, members of the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter, participated in outreach events, such as the Blacks Run and Downtown Clean-Up Day, Staunton Earth Day, Riverfest, and ExtremeFest.
- Kathleen Seiler organized the participation of members of the Waynesboro, PA A.T. Community and PATC North Chapter, at numerous events in the Waynesboro area, such as Earth Day, the 4th A.T. Mason-Dixon Outdoor Festival, Jubilee Day, Blue Ridge Summit

Library Book Sale and Ice Cream Social, and Market Day. All of these events gave PATC vast exposure to the general public.

- Perhaps the largest event of 2018, was PATC's inaugural "National Trails Day Celebration" at Bears Den Hostel. This event, spearheaded by PATC's partner organization, Northwest federal Credit Union, was a very successful venture, despite the threatening weather. Over twenty-four (24) "Trail Talkers" provided a day of fun and information. It is anticipated that this event will again take place in 2019.
- "Trail Talkers" also provided valuable outreach at the ATC "Flip-Flop Festival" in Harpers Ferry, as well as at the annual "In the Street Festival" in Frederick, Maryland; an event that is the largest event that PATC participates in each year.
- Other Outreach opportunities took place at a C&O Canal presentation at the Holiday Park Senior Center, in Wheaton, Maryland, put on by Jim Tomlin, Lee Sheaffer's participation in a community event in Berryville, Virginia, a Leave No Trace presentation by Rush Williamson for the Round Hill Outdoor Program, and a "Hiking the A.T." Presentation at the library in Brunswick, Maryland, put on by Frank Wodarczyk and Patricia Welty.
- And, finally, Rush Williamson participated in the annual ALDHA "Gathering" in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, with PATC's tabletop display and club information.

Goals for late 2018/2019:

- Outreach will expand the number and locations for its library displays.
- Another "Trail Talker" Training Session is scheduled for Saturday, December 8, 2018, with others to be scheduled as the need arises.
- PATC will be setting up its information tent at the newly-renovated parking lot at the trailhead at Rte. 40 in Maryland. In conjunction with ATC, the State of Maryland, and Greenbrier State Park, this outreach initiative will serve to educate hikers heading to the A.T. on Leave No Trace principles, the mission and vision of the club, as well as providing water for thirsty hikers. If this initiative proves successful, additional dates and locations along the trail will be added to the schedule for this type of outreach.
- 2019 will be a year for the development and implementation of outreach activities to reach other demographics than currently served, including youth, Millennials, the Hispanic and black community, as well as other underserved groups.
- The Outreach Committee will continue to develop the club's partnerships with local communities that are members of the ATC AT Trail Communities Program to see that they are provided with PATC-related items for their community outreach events and partner with them in their efforts.

- A strong focus will be put on developing PATC membership and partnerships with the recreation and conservation groups at area universities and colleges.

Supervisor of Communications - Anstr Davidson

Prepared by: Anstr Davidson	Title: Supervisor of Communications
Number of Members/Volunteers: 15	Volunteer Hours Reported: 450

Major Accomplishments for 2018

Potomac Appalachian

The *Potomac Appalachian* implemented two important changes. First, all issues are now in color. Color adds a great deal to the quality of the publication and has been well-received.

The extra expense of color printing has been offset by reducing the size of each issue from 20 to 16 pages. Fewer pages have led to crisper writing and better prioritization of which articles are published.

Editor Dan Pulskamp did an excellent job of managing the publication in the face of changing priorities and volunteers. He will retire from the job at the beginning of 2019. The club thanks him for his great work.

Information Technology

IT Chair Lee Manning and PATC IT Analyst Kit Sheffield continued their excellent support of the club.

Kit migrated all headquarters staff members off of a local email exchange server and onto Office 365. This both reduces risk of downtime (should the local server fail), gives a much-improved user experience for remote email checking, and has reduced the number of valid emails being identified as spam.

Staff Support for Communications

In a major initiative, Council authorized additional hours for two staff members to assist the club's communications effort. Cabin Coordinator Martha Reynolds and Accounting Assistant Rachel Rahm worked as a team to enhance the club's presence on Facebook and the quality of content in the *Potomac Appalachian*. Rachel primarily managed the club's Facebook page and group. Martha authored several articles for the *Potomac Appalachian* that covered important topics which might not have otherwise been addressed.

Goals for 2019

The major goal for the new year is to adjust the focus of the club's communications in light of the leadership elected in November 2018. We need to be clear about what we communicate. There are many things happening in the club, and they should be discussed. What do we say first? What is our focus? That is important and needs to be considered by the new leadership.

Treasurer - Marc Mantelli

Prepared by: Marc Mantelli	Title: Treasurer
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 70

Major accomplishments of 2018:

- Restarted regular monthly finance committee meetings
- Worked with staff and FC on framework for procurement policy
- Oversaw submission of annual budget process, including 2018 revisions, for final council approval.
- Continuation of improvements to overall financial management of organization

Goals for 2019:

- Finalize procurement process
- Work with new grants and donations chair to increase donation revenue to 20% of total revenue.
- Improve management of unrestricted cash.

Secretary - Michael Brown

Prepared by: Michael Brown	Title: Secretary
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 120

Major accomplishments of 2018:

There were several goals for 2018

- Improve submission of reports by EXCOM and Council member
- Standardize the report minute format and optimize/automate the reporting process
- Improve usage and familiarity of the BOX folders for collaboration

BOX usage by EXCOM and Council member has improved and we are getting fewer request for assistance. I estimate the overall usage improvement to be about 3-4 people. We still have 2-3 members who still struggle with the BOX application. The minutes are becoming more standardized and they are still evolving. Reports optimization/automation has been limited. Report submission by EXCOM and Council member is unfortunately decreasing.

Goals for 2019:

The primary goal for 2019 is for a smooth seamless transition to the new Club Secretary. I'll recommend to the new secretary to focus on getting regular report submission from all EXCOM and Council participants and possible focus on a reporting template for EXCOM and Council members.

Chapter Presidents

Charlottesville Chapter - Iva Gillet

Prepared by: Iva Gillet	Title: Charlottesville Chapter
Number of Members/Volunteers: 350 members at large, 500+ members on our email list, and 50+ active members	Volunteer Hours Reported: 3407

Major accomplishments of 2018:

The wet year has been a deterrent to many of our planned activities, washing out hikes and work trips. Last October we hosted an exciting open house with the SSV chapter to celebrate PATC's 90th birthday, with several members of EXCOM attending and Emeline there to sell maps, books, etc. We tried to increase our trail maintenance work trips and to reach a broader audience and have successfully enticed those in their 20's to hike and work with us occasionally, including UVA students. A local Boy Scout Troop worked hard at clearing downed trees around the Vining Tract trails. We have benefitted from 4 work trips with the Cadillac Crew to establish trails in the Mutton Hollow district. We have participated in two invasive species workshops at the Vining cabin, which we also rescheduled due to rain. Many members worked at the Dunlodge cabin work trip.

We offered spring, fall and winter meetings/ pot luck gatherings all at Dunlodge, allowing people to come and see what PATC does and meet fellow members. We have hosted presenters at these meetings, which has been a way to increase awareness of the club. This spring we had Shalin Desai, ATC board member, speak about increasing diversity in the hiking community. In addition, Mark Perschel presented a backpacking basics talk at a local retailer to an audience of 65, with focus on the importance of all hikers helping with the trails. Marit Anderson offered an overwhelmingly popular woman's trail maintenance work trip around Calf Mountain.

We communicate through our blog: <http://patc-charlottesville.blogspot.com/> - posting upcoming activities, hike reports, helpful information for new hikers, and links to help hikers. Our chapter also has a Facebook page and an on-line photo album. We send information about special events (like our two meetings this year) to all people on our email list.

Goals for 2019:

The Charlottesville Chapter plans to:

- expand its offerings for trail maintenance workshops and GPS navigation
- continue to offer weekly hikes
- attend 4-5 outreach events
- organize cabin stay and trail maintenance work trips at the Vining Tract

- focus on consistently educating all hikers on the importance of spending some volunteer time maintaining trails. Recent ice storms in the SNP have made that a clear reality.

North Chapter - Dee Utz

Prepared by: Dee Utz	Title: North Chapter President
Number of Members/Volunteers: 236	Volunteer Hours Reported: 230

Major accomplishments of 2018:

In 2018 the North Chapter was responsible for maintaining 211 miles of the Appalachian Trail & the Tuscarora. It was also responsible for the maintenance of 18 shelters, 23 major bridges, 10 cabins and many side trails. Maintenance was conducted by the Chapter's two trail crews, the South Mountaineers and the Yankee Clippers.

Members attended the annual overseers' meeting held in early April with a discussion on invasive plants and the intrusive Spotted Lantern Fly. Chapter meetings were held in both June and November. Minor changes were made to the Chapter's Constitution and Bylaws to better serve the group.

Monthly work trips were scheduled for both the Appalachian Trail and the Tuscarora Trail with emphasis on invasive foliage, tread work and erosion control. Work trips were most often followed by dinner and continued camaraderie.

In June, the annual corn roast was once again held at Little Cove.

An increased emphasis was placed on safety during work trips. Hard hats were made available for all crew members and a safety plan was laid out on each excursion in case there was an injury or medical occurrence.

Several chainsaw classes were made available to our overseers to encourage proper technique when removing blow downs from the trail.

An annual picnic for thru hikers was held at Pen Mar in mid June and met with great appreciation by those who attended.

The South Mountaineers worked with the Maryland State Highways Administration to reconfigure the US 40 parking lot, increasing safety and limiting the lot capacity to 72 vehicles.

The Yankee Clippers worked with the Michaux State Forest on a project to remove the invasive species on the AT and at Camp Michaux. The crew assisted in the building and placement of kiosks to notify hikers and visitors of the changing landscape.

The moldering privy at Birch Run Shelter was constructed last Winter and a new tool cache was added this Fall.

Attempts were made to relocate the Antietam Shelter from the AT to Cowans Gap, however were hampered by Mother Nature. We hope to have better luck in 2019.

Goals for 2019:

Bi-monthly work trips alternating between the AT and Tuscarora Trails to insure the legacy of the footpath.

Relocate the historic Antietam shelter from the AT to Cowans Gap State Park.

Reconfigure the Pogo Campsite with new tent pads, a moldering privy and a bear pole.

Expand the number of volunteers participating in Chapter activities.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter - Malcolm Cameron

Prepared by: Malcolm Cameron	Title: President, S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter
Number of Members/Volunteers: Unknown** Here is what we do know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60-80 people participate in hikes and meetings • 380 +/- on email list • SSVc Facebook page has 430+ likes) • 42+ member volunteers on trail work 	Volunteer Hours Reported: 858 hr. GWNF N. River Ranger Dist. AT hrs. and Lee District hours ?? -PATC has this.

****We do not know how many long-term PATC members have paid dues for this year and are considered by PATC to be SSVc members.**

Major accomplishments of 2018:

Trail Worktrips: 6 formal work days on SSVc’s AT section: Pinefield Gap to Ivy Creek Overlook; numerous informal work days by individuals on both SSVc’s AT section and other AT sections and side trails.

14 formal work days on GWNF trails on Shenandoah Mtn.; 18 or more informal work days on the same trails by individuals or informal small groups plus work on Massanutten trails

Hikes: 49 hikes, 4 others were cancelled by weather; 19 hike leaders ; Themes included history, waterfalls, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline route in trail viewsheds, mushrooms/lichens, New Years day, wildflowers, swimming, shale barrens, families, full moon, airplane crash sites, and Rails to Trails.

Administrative: Developed an active relationship with Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) for coordinating major trail work needs in the proposed Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area (and embedded Wildernesses) in the GWNF.

Sponsored a SOLO/MEDIC Wilderness First Aid class in Weyers Cave on January 27-28, 2018 with 6 SSVc members attending. The class was full.

Signed a Volunteer Service Agreement with the N. River Ranger District, GWNF on Sept. 12, 2018

Public Outreach: Mark and Betty Gatewood & others manned booths at 4 local festivals; Green Scene in Harrisonburg, Earth day in Staunton, and Riverfest and X-treme fest in Waynesboro plus outreach while leading hikes at Redwing Roots Music Festival in July.

Other Events:

Oct. 15, 2017- attended PATC 90th Aniv. Celebration at Dunlodge w/ Charlottesville Chapter

Oct 29, 2017 – Annual Meeting of SSVC at Cliff's House w/ elections and potluck meal

April 28, 2018- Led 3 hikes at Shenandoah Mtn. Wildflower Tournament w/ Master Naturalists

July 14, 2018- Led 2 hikes with Friends of Shenandoah Mountain and SAWS for Redwing Roots Music Festival, Natural Chimneys

July 24, Hike Planning and semi-annual meeting with potluck at Sherando Lake

August and September- Met the SAWS and Naval Academy Midshipmen crew at 2 of their work locations in the GWNF to talk about wilderness, local GWNF history and the Shenandoah Mtn. National Scenic Area Proposal. We hauled in lots of fresh fruit to them.

Sept. 22, 2018- led a Trail Work Instruction Day with a 36 member church group of all ages from Staunton at the Braley Pond Recreation Area, GWNF and clipped back vegetation on 3 trails.

Goals for 2019:

Continue trail work relationship & planning with SAWS on the GWNF

Get 5 members to attend Wilderness First Aid classes; 3 new & 2 recertifications

Have 2 hike planning meetings w/ picnic or potluck

Continue to attract and train new volunteers in trail work activities

Continue to support the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area Proposal

West Chapter - Dave Jordahl

<u>Prepared by:</u> Dave Jordahl	<u>Title:</u> Chapter President
<u>Number of Members:</u> 150	<u>Volunteer Hours Reported:</u> 242
<u>Number of Volunteers:</u> 21	

2018 Highlights

The West Chapter is meant to serve those residents who live in the area bounded by Frederick, MD/Leesburg, VA west to Hancock, MD/Berkley Springs, WV. However, anyone regardless of where they reside may request to join the West Chapter's yahoo group (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/PATCWest/info>). The group is open to anyone interested in West Chapter events but only current PATC members may post messages to the group. There are about 150 members of the West Chapter yahoo group and most (75%) are PATC members. PATC membership is not required to join the West Chapter yahoo group, although non-members are encouraged to join. The West Chapter yahoo group could be considered a recruitment tool, introducing non-members to PATC and hopefully pique their interest to eventually joining the club.

Trail work trips and hikes are scheduled from March through December. The West Chapter may hold other events such as canoe trips or cross-country ski trips, in season. The West Chapter maintains the blue-blazed Northern Peaks Trail at Sugarloaf Mountain (Dickerson, MD).

West Chapter events are listed in the Potomac Appalachian online calendar, PATC Meetup, and on the West Chapter's yahoo group site. West Chapter yahoo group members receive automatic e-mail reminders of upcoming Chapter events.

Sugarloaf Mountain

The West Chapter oversees the blue-blazed Northern Peaks Trail at Sugarloaf Mountain (Dickerson, MD). A total of 242 volunteer hours were reported on this five-mile trail during 2018, from April 1 through November 18. A total of 21 different volunteers assisted the Northern Peaks Trail overseer (i.e., the West Chapter President) with trail maintenance projects, and a total of 17 days were devoted to working on this trail from March through November. Additional, unannounced visits (3) to the Northern Peaks Trail were also performed during 2018.

A total of twelve organized trail work trips, whereby volunteers were recruited to assist the overseer, were scheduled in the spring and fall, six per season. Volunteers are recruited through PATC Meetup, PATC online calendar, and the PATC-West Chapter yahoo group, and two other Meetup groups that the President is also a member of.

Maryland AT and Side Trails District

The Northern Peaks Trail of Sugarloaf Mountain is located within the Maryland AT and side trails district. Since the 2017 annual report date (November 8, 2017), the South Mountaineers Trail Crew assisted with installing erosion control; check dams & water bars, at a steep section of the Northern Peaks Trail approximately mid-way between White Rocks and the high point at the northern end of the mountain on November 19, 2017.

Central Tuscarora Trail District

The West Chapter President also oversees the High Rock Trail and Mill Race Trail within the Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area; Berkeley/Morgan counties, WV. A total of four visits from March to September were made to these trails during 2018. Sixteen volunteer hours were spent on these two trails during 2018; trail projects involved installation of new erosion control structures and maintenance of existing erosion control structures on the Mill Race Trail, as well as some blow-down clearing. The upper section of the High Rock Trail and the adjacent TT near the High Rock Trail section were cleared of weeds during a summer visit.

Northern Virginia (north half) AT and Side Trails District

Two West Chapter members are overseers of the Loudon Heights Trail (blue and orange sections, respectively). Twelve volunteer hours on seven separate days were spent on the orange-blazed section of the Loudon Heights Trail. Additional time (31½ hrs.) were spent on three adjacent trails; both blue-blazed sections (short & long), and the adjacent AT that provided access from Chestnut Hill Road. Trail projects included blow-down clearing, clipping, weeding, check dam/water bar clearing. Two steep sections of the orange-blazed Loudon Heights Trail are in desperate need of erosion control, logs have even been stashed and stored off direct contact with the soil, awaiting installation. However, the overseer cannot proceed with any trail projects other than what has been approved by the Harpers Ferry National Park Service; the approved projects by the NPS are limited to erosion control devices which are treated posts that are to be installed at targeted areas and put in place with rebar. The NPS has been hampered with proceeding during the past three years due to the unfortunate meeting of inclement weather (e.g., March snows) and the targeted week that volunteers recruited by NPS were available.

During August 2018, the West Chapter President was appointed as co-overseer for the AT between the powerline clearing north to the junction of the AT with the Loudon Heights Trail. This AT section was visited twice in September and once in November, a total of 13½ hours reported; blow-downs were cleared, areas targeted for erosion control flagged, and trailside vegetation clipped as necessary.

Other Trail Districts

In addition to assisting with the South Mountaineers and Cadillac Trail crews, assistance was provided to the Stonewall Brigade Trail Crew during November. The SNP North District Trail Maintainers workshop that the Chapter President regularly participates with every September was cancelled this year due to Hurricane Florence.

Hikes

The West Chapter continued with the AT hikes series within PATC's jurisdiction that was restarted last year (2017). This year (2018) the AT hike series continued south into northern Virginia, north of Shenandoah National Park. Inclement weather forced cancellation and rescheduling of some hikes originally scheduled for the spring to the fall, and one section needed to be rescheduled to next spring. It was a rainy year! A total of six AT hikes (point to point) were completed from March through November, two in Maryland (rescheduled from last fall) and four in northern Virginia. Also, a total of five circuit hikes and two out and back hikes were completed during 2018, from July through November.

Goals for 2019

Continue with Trail projects on the Northern Peaks Trail of Sugarloaf Mountain; making slow, but steady progress in installing erosion control where before there were none, or what was there had deteriorated to non-functionality over the years. There are three areas of the Northern Peaks Trail, one on the west side, two on the east side, that are targeted for future projects with an experienced trail crew, such as the South Mountaineers.

Assist as able with assisting trail crews throughout PATC's jurisdiction.

Continue the AT hike series in northern Virginia, and then extend the series into the northern and central districts of Shenandoah National Park. The northern Virginia AT section between Ashby Gap and Snickers Gap had to be rescheduled twice (spring → fall; fall → spring) due to inclement weather. This hike is now slated to be held during spring 2019.

In addition to the AT hike series, circuit and round-trip hikes, not involving the AT, are planned for December 2018 and 2019.

A better connection between Chapters and District Trail Crews is needed. Currently, Chapters and Trail Crews function as separate entities rather than an interconnected, coherent unit. Trail crews should be affiliated with the Chapter that serves the same geographic area that the trail crew serves.

Section Presidents

Mountaineering - Mark Maier

Prepared by: Mark Maier	Title: Mountaineering Section Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 342	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2018:

11 Monthly Meetings with programs on members climbing trips or instructional content

Instructional trips

Alpine Skills weekend, New Hampshire and Snow Skills Day at Whitetail, MD

New Follower and New Trad Leader weekends

Two gym-to-crag transition clinics

Top rope anchor clinics, four Carderock top rope skills clinics

Major club sponsored trips

Red Rocks, NV; North Cascades (Mts Baker and Shuksan), Washington; Adirondacks State Park, NY; Cannon Cliff, NH

Multiple trips to Seneca Rocks and New River Gorge, WV, various areas immediately local to the DC area

Three expedition grants

Seneca Rocks and Carderock clean up volunteerism

Goals for 2019:

Equal 2018 instructional program

Expand alpine leader base

Complete process of NPS approval and “short-term” Carderock repair

Complete NPS approval of long-term Carderock repairs

Standing Committee Chairs

Cabins Operations - Mel Merritt

Prepared by: Mel Merritt	Title: Cabin Operations Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 5840

2018 Highlights

The Cabins Operations Committee had our two usual meetings in April and October and held the Annual Overseers meeting on April 21st at Blackburn Trail Center.

I know I can speak for all our Regional Supervisors and Overseers to say how much we all appreciate the all the Great work from our new Cabins Coordinator, Martha Reynolds.

The big challenge for PATC Cabins this year was the weather. In April, a windstorm closed several of our cabins in Central Virginia. This was followed by three One -Hundred year storms in three months on the Virginia Piedmont, each of which caused major damages to cabin roads. As if that wasn't enough, we have had over a 50% increase in annual rainfall this year across our area. Although one cabin had to be closed for over 4 months, volunteers have managed to reopen all the rest of the cabins within a week or two. Some roads are still in need of repairs but overall the PATC Tract Managers have done an excellent job keeping the cabins accessible for renters. Our Cabin Overseers have been busy cutting downed trees, fixing roofs and warped floors, treating cabins for mold, and dealing with odd situations like snakes moving into cabins to find a dry place. All these issues, would be extremely rare in normal years! Fortunately, Martha has been able to relocate many of the renters so the closures have had minimal impact on the Clubs income.

Major Projects this year included renovations at Meadows Cabin supervised by Piedmont Regional Cabins Supervisor Bruce Berberick . At Jones Mountain Cabin,

SNP Regional Cabins Supervisor, Glen Tsaparis and Overseer, Matt Murray worked with the National Parks Service Preservation Training Center's staff to make major updates including a new roof, woodstove and cabinetry.

We also welcomed new Overseers at three cabins; Rick Marsalek at Lambert, Ryan Johnston at John's Rest and Co-overseers Tim Ligon and Matt Gentry at Conley. All of them are already demonstrating excellent skills at Cabin Maintenance.

PATC is fortunate to have such an outstanding group of dedicated Cabin Overseers.

Trail Patrol - Chris Firme

Trail Patrol: Christopher Firme	Prepared by: Christopher Firme
Number of Members/Volunteers: 65	Volunteer Hours Reported: 4,737.6

Patrols. Continued distributing electronic newsletters as well as using the Trail Patrol facebook page for Trail Patrol members in providing information on trail conditions, PATC and partner patrol needs, upcoming training opportunities, and upcoming events. This year 40 trail patrol members did 328 trail patrol hikes giving us a total of 2,054.5 miles patrolled on PATC maintained trails. Provided a total of 1,545.6 hiking volunteer hours where members observed, interacted, or assisted 14,196 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. Volunteer travel time was 731.15 giving us a grand total of 2,276.75 volunteer trail patrol hours. Lot of rainy weather prohibited trail patrollers from going out on the trails.

Member training and coordination. Brought 6 probationary members into active status during 2018. At the end of 2018 there was a total of 65 active members of which 40 did trail patrol hikes down from 45 in 2017. We had 21 new folks attend Trail Patrol meetings which gave us the number of 65 attendees. In 2019 we will review our membership again. We do this annually which results in a reduction in our membership roster at the beginning of the year by eliminating names of members that have stopped attending meetings or stopped participating in patrols or activities. In the administration end including our courses and meetings we had a total of 2,461.85 volunteer hours. It was down mainly because we had no backpacking course and one of our LNT courses got pushed into the next reporting period. For next year, we decided to continue to use the cabins for trail patrol training in each of the sections of the AT: PA-Michaux SF, MD, NVA and SNP. This year we held none due to logistic problems. Since it was successful in 2017 we have decided to do this in 2019. This helps to get not just our new probationary members trained but our active members out on the AT and interacting with our new members.

Ridgerunners. Hired and supervised six ridgerunners in 2018 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. We had two in SNP (split

seasons), one in NVA, two in MD one long term and the other short term) and one in PA-Michaux State Forest. This year the six ridgerunners, provided a total of paid 3,968 hiking hours where ridgerunners observed, interacted, or assisted 26,921 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. In the administration portion 234 hours.

Leave No Trace. Conducted two Leave No Trace (LNT) trainer courses for the mid-Atlantic region (the other two were moved into October due to weather) and we continue to host the NOLS LNT Master Educator course with support from Shenandoah National Park (SNP), for a total of 14 new LNT Trainers and 8 new Master Educators.

Backpacking. Conducted no introductory backpacking class (Backpacking 101) for the public this year. In 2019 it will be back at Bears Den for the coursework and the backpacking weekend (split into two groups) will be done in SNP and GWNF.

Hike Leadership Training. Conducted no courses. In 2019, we hope to have two, 2-day classes for 15+ participants. Topics included backcountry medical information, LNT ethics, hike planning, personal gear, map reading, and leadership skills. Currently we are still in the process of reviewing the curriculum from the 2019 season. We have finalized a meetup usage policy for adoption.

CPR/AED/Wilderness First Aid. Conducted 2 classes of CPR/Basic Wilderness First Aid and 6 classes on Wilderness First Aid for a total of 53 students trained.

Provide Partner Support. Provided support for one SNP partner program: National Trails Day. For National Trails Day we interacted with approximately 200 park visitors providing information about PATC, safe and responsible backcountry use, and lead 5 hikes with 16 hike participants.

Appointed Officers with Council Vote

ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership - Pete Brown

Prepared by: Pete Brown	Title: ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Committee
Number of Members/Volunteers: 2	Volunteer Hours Reported: 132

Major accomplishments of 2018:

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Committee consists of representatives from each of the mid-Atlantic maintaining clubs and meets with representatives from ATC, the MARO 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 2018 spring two-day meeting occurred on March 24-25 at the Capital Retreat Center near Waynesboro, PA. It was joint meeting with AT Community leaders.

Items that were on the agenda are below:

- Welcome message from Suzanne Dixon, ATC President/CEO
- Large Landscape Partnership
- Visitor Use Update
- Stewardship Council Report
- NPS Report
- External Threats
- Blue Mountain Resort Update Report
- Volunteer Programs Update
- Highlights of Landscape Discussions
- National Trails System 50th Anniversary
- Facilitated Discussion for Club and Community Involvement
- ATC and MARO Report
- RPC Vice Chair election
- RPC Annual Awards Selections
- Prescribed Burn Policy
- Spotted Lantern fly Quarantine Report
- AT Club Liability Discussion

The fall one-day meeting took place on October 20 at the Giant Food Store Community Meeting Rooms in Linglestown, PA.

Items that were on the agenda are below:

- Stewardship Council Update
- MOU and Volunteer Service Agreement discussion
- ATC Strategic Plan Presentation by Suzanne Dixon, ATC President/CEO
(A surprise reorganization of the ATC Mid-Atlantic Region was presented)
- Economic Impact of AT Pilot Projects

Round Hill AT Community Application
Status Report on Reported Encroachment Mitigation
Compendium of Orders Comment Period for Clubs
NPS-APPA Update
Bear Incident Reporting and Food Storage Policies
AT Desired Conditions Update
ATC Report
New Volunteer Reporting Method
Visual Resources Inventory Update
Nominations for Partners of the Year Awards

Goals for 2019:

The next two-day spring MA-RPC meeting will take place at the AMC Mohican Outdoor Center in Blirstown, NJ, on March 22-24, 2019.

The next one-day fall meeting will tentatively be on October 19 at a location yet to be determined.

AT Corridor Management - Thom Lupp

Prepared by: Tom Lupp	Title: Chair, AT Corridor Management Committee
Number of Members/Volunteers: 37	Volunteer Hours Reported: 884

Major accomplishments of 2018:

- Recruit new monitors to fill vacancies;
- Hold new monitor training and review for experienced monitors;
- Work with monitors to help them perform maintenance on their boundary sections;
- Supplying all monitors with current segment and survey maps;
- Work with Monitors and NPS rangers to deal with hunting & encroachment issues;
- Help new monitors with field activities;
- Work with volunteers to have entire NPS boundary monitored on an annual basis;
- Mowing of the open areas near Beagle Gap VA, Linden VA, Ovoka Farms VA and Turners Gap MD;
- Work with ATC staff to recover boundary using staff & volunteers.

Goals for 2019:

Continue with above activities.

Maryland AT Management - Thom Lupp and Rick Canter

Prepared by: Rick Canter & Tom Lupp	Title: Co-Chairs MD AT Management Committee
Number of Members/Volunteers: 9	Volunteer Hours Reported: 114

Major accomplishments of 2018:

- MD DNR & MD SHA have completed improvement and modifications to the parking area at US 40.
- Improvements near High Rock with graffiti removal and tread repair.
- Fostered a working relationship with DOD regarding proper land management and social issues in the High Rock area.
- Continued discussions and planning for additional fencing and parking management in Fox Gap. Collaborate with MD DNR, NPS and CMHL to address the final solution at Fox Gap.
- 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.
- Partner with MD DNR to locate and acquire lands to buffer the trail.
- Continue annual assistance to NPS for the protection of the resource during the JFK 50 race.
- Keep abreast of various utility activities that will/may affect the AT in MD.
- Continue to work with Catoctin Mtn Park and City of Hagerstown to find a suitable route to connect the AT to the Catoctin Trail.

Goals for 2019:

- Collaborate with MD DNR on planned improvements at Pogo Campsite (2018-2019).

- Continue with ongoing and unfinished above projects from 2018.

Other Committees and Activities

Archives and Library - Tom Johnson

Prepared by: Tom Johnson	Title: Archivist
Number of Members/Volunteers: 4	Volunteer Hours Reported: 271

Major accomplishments of 2018:

Scanning project

The most important archival work is to scan our early records. Although I have trained two new people to do scanning, the scanning project itself has crept forward quite slowly. We still have a long way to go. It is important to regenerate this project. As I have said before, PATC has an archives second only to ATC in size and importance.

Treasury document

The big news in Archives this year has been the receipt of the Treasury book from former member Bill Blackburn. This, the oldest document in PATC, lists several hundred of the original members, with the date each one joined, and their home address. It begins with a \$1.00 donation for dues from Myron H. Avery, on Nov. 22, 1927, the date the Club was established.

Blackburn Trail Center – Chris Brunson

Blackburn Trail Center 2018 Annual Report

Lots of rain and wet hikers this summer, as well a considerable amount of road damage due to the weather. Even with the bad weather we still had a busy season. We counted over 1,200 overnight hikers and several thousand day hikers and casual visitors. This past winter we also were booked every weekend from January through March with member and group renters. This November and December are also booked. Cadillac Crew came up Memorial Day weekend and at the end of October. The spring weekend included projects around Blackburn as well as work on the Loudoun Heights AT relocation. We also had a PATC Rigging Class and an ALDHA Corridor Monitoring crew trip. Trail Patrol held two meetings, and Cabins Committee held their annual planning meeting in April. We also had several scout and school groups using the Center through the year.

The new septic system and the indoor bathrooms were completed in May of this year and the “first flush” occurred on Memorial Day weekend. The Club has signed an agreement with Bill Poindexter of Eco Virginia LLC to handle ongoing maintenance requirements of the system. Eco Virginia is based in Round Hill, making it convenient for us if we encounter problems.

Our stellar volunteers, John Kittridge and Barbara Cook, continue to work on finishing up the new bathrooms and other items around the Trail Center, including the important work of improving freeze protection of the plumbing in both buildings.

Mary Thurman moved in as caretaker in April. A former Ridge Runner, she was excellent with hikers and day visitors. At the beginning of August, Mary was transferred from Blackburn to the Shenandoah National Park to replace Ridge Runner, Joanne Renn, who was this season’s SNP Ridge Runner. Joanne developed a serious knee problem and was unable to continue her patrolling. So, Mary and Joanne switched positions with Joanne moving into Blackburn. She did an excellent job for us for the rest of the month through Labor Day.

Mary moved back as the caretaker in September and wrapped up her season there in October. We have hired a winter caretaker, Jerry Kyle, who some of you might know as he is ATC’s crew leader for both Konnarock and Mid-Atlantic. He will be watching over the Center through January. We are now actively recruiting for a 2019 Caretaker.

Cabins Construction and Major Repairs - Bruce Berberick

2018 Highlights

Major Projects for 2018 included the demolition of Boxwood Cabin. This was accomplished with the help of many volunteers as well as the loan of a skid steer to help with the demo work. While we have repurposed some of the logs and other materials we will continue with the final clean up this winter.

We are also implementing a program to inspect and clean Chimneys at all PATC Cabins. We have engaged a chimney sweep at Meadows as a first test cabin. The work was done in a quick and professional manner and provided us with useful information about the condition of the Chimneys and wood burning stoves. We are currently in the planning stage with the sweep and hope to begin the process in the coming month.

The Cook-shed at Conley Cabin has a new floor. The old rotted wooden floor was replaced with a crushed stone floor using some of the logs from Boxwood as a perimeter frame. The Cook-shed roof structure was reinforced using new structural fasteners and rotted decking, framing and steps replaced. We also examined and patched the Cabin roof which will need to be replaced in the coming year.

Cabins Reservation Volunteer Coordinator - Steve McLaughlin

Prepared by: Steve McLaughlin	Title: Cabin Reservations
Number of Members/Volunteers: 8	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1,200

Major accomplishments of 2018: The Cabin Reservations staff operate the cabin reservations desk 5 days a week for two hours a day, not including travel time, which add an hour or two every day). In addition, we covered some Wednesday night shift for part of the year before that practice was discontinued due to lack of business. Cabin reservations staff handle cabin problems and special reservations, especially those within 7 days. We have a regular crew of 6 people who work every week or every other week, as well as several backups who fill in when needed. This accounts for over 1,000 hours of volunteer time.

In addition, the cabin reservations advisory group provides support to the Cabin Coordinator when dealing with issues that are not resolved by existing policy or require interpretation and application of existing policy to special situations. This occurs at least weekly, if not several times a week. Finally the group provides input on modifications or changes to existing policy. The policy/advisory role accounts for over 100 hours of volunteer time, mostly from the Cabin Reservations Coordinator.

Goals for 2019: Our goals are simple. We strive to provide good customer service to our members and the public with regard to cabin rentals. We need to provide Cabin Desk coverage every weekday as often as possible to ease the burden on staff. We should not miss more than one shift per month. On the policy side, our goal is to respond to Cabin Coordinator inquiries within 24 hours and to apply cabin rules in a consistent and equitable manner.

Endowment - Charlie Balch

Prepared by: Charlie Balch	Title: Chair – Endowment Committee
Number of Members/Volunteers: 5	Volunteer Hours Reported: 12 (Self); 36 (Committee)

Major accomplishments of 2018:

Despite a volatile market year and a 2.7% value decline, the Endowment finished the year in a solidly conservative position with over \$3.5 million in assets.

Grants and Donations – Marc Mantelli

Prepared by: Marc Mantelli	Title: Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2018:

Submitted three grant applications of \$5K or more and were successful on two for total of \$55K.

Land Management - Chris Mangold

Maps - VACANT

Naturalist - Dewey Clark

Public Affairs - VACANT

Publications - Emeline Otey

Title: Chair, Publications Committee	Prepared by: Emeline Otey
Number of Members/Volunteers: 14	Number of Volunteer Hours: 1163

This has been an active and productive year for PATC with regard to publications. The following were published in FY2018:

- **The Diary of a Trail (1st edition):** written by Tom Floyd; reviewed extensively by Sales Committee; edited by Dylan Kilby; reviewed by Emeline Otey; layout and design by Alan Kahan;
- **Great Eastern Trail Guide Book (1st Edition):** written by Tim Hupp; layout and design by Alan Kahan; maps by Dave Pierce;
- **Cabins Book (2018 Edition):** a new edition of this extremely popular book corrected a small number of factual errors, but no other changes were made. Alan Kahan took the lead in the revision with Anstr Davidson, Mel Merritt, Glen Tsparas, and Bruce Berberick;
- **Tuscarora Trail South Errata:** layout and design by Lauren Walsh;
- **90th Anniversary Hike Series (on-line publication):** written by Larry Broadwell and William Needham; maps by Brian Goudreau;
- **Shenandoah Heritage** by Jack Reeder reprinted.

The following publications, new or revised, are in process in FY 2018, will be completed in FY2019:

- **Shenandoah Mountain Trail Guide Book (1st Edition):** written by Tin Hupp; layout and design by Alan Kahan; map work by Dave Pierce (in process);
- **Circuit Hikes in Four States (10th Edition):** Revisions by Larry Broadwell and William Needham; maps by Dave Pierce and David Dickerson; layout and design by Lauren Walsh. (Field work initiated.)

*560 hours writing, editing, researching, laying out, and so forth; 603 hours traveling