



2019 Annual Report

This report is a compilation of individual annual reports for 2019 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 2020.

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Elected Officers

President - Joe Lombardo

Prepared by: Joseph F. Lombardo Jr.	Title: President
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1040

Major accomplishments of 2019:

Below are major accomplishments that I was involve with directly in one way or another. It should be noted that most, if not all, of these involved close collaboration with other officers, committee chairs and staff to bring to fruition. Therefore, while I list these items under that of the President, they should be viewed as Club accomplishments; not that of any one individual. The credit for any success, therefore, needs to be shared with many others, too numerous to mention here, with whom I collaborated with on these matters.

- Brought stability to the governance of the club by ensuring continuity between the previous officers and newly elected officers from the 2018 election. Developed an orientation program for newly elected officers, facilitated our annual officer retreat to set our Executive Committee (ExCom) agenda for the year, and introduced annual work plans for officers and committees to improve accountability to the Club membership.
- Strengthened communication and transparency with members supporting resolutions to publish a draft Council agenda ahead of the meetings and to use the Club's newsletter to provide timelier summary reporting of Council actions.
- Initiated periodic meetings with staff to provide an opportunity for them to hear about major initiatives Council is working on and offer them an opportunity to express any concerns and suggestions staff may have for Club leadership, initiatives and operations.
- Worked closely with the Staff Director on development of personnel policies, performance evaluations, and proposals for salary adjustments and bonuses that would reflect on the staff's important role in fulfilling the Club's mission and operations.
- Guided development of a Constitutional Amendment and Bylaw changes to improve flexibility, accountability and transparency in Club governance, with special

attention to improving the election process based on recommendations from last year's Election Committee.

- With grant funding provided by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), PATC acquired the Garth property to ensure that hikers on the Appalachian Trail would continue to have a natural view of that property. PATC's archivist, Tom Johnson, located the trail notes of the Park Service planner, Dave Sherman, who in the 1980s had identified this property as critical to protect in its undeveloped state so that a hiker's wilderness experience would not be compromised by visible residential or commercial land development.
- With grant funding from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) and the DuPont Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) settlement, the Club purchased nearly 125 acres in Rockingham County. This land acquisition will help protect significant natural communities, supply vital habitat, protect rare species, improve water quality, and provide watershed and development buffers. Some of the more salient aspects of this acquisition include:
 - PATC donated simultaneously with purchase 62 acres to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and deeded to DCR two open-space easements on the remaining 63 acres. The 62 acres donated to DCR will be added to [Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve](#) in Rockingham County, connecting it to the boundary of Shenandoah National Park. This parcel will protect high-conservation value forests and important habitat for migratory birds, while providing a buffer to the numerous rare species already protected by the preserve.
 - The remaining 53 acres will be donated to Shenandoah National Park (SNP) at some future date. This addition to SNP extends an unfragmented forest with its important bird area – a geographical area that is critical to preserve for certain avian species; protects a cave archeologists have determined was a Native American "lodge"; protects the site of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp and its associated large springhouse; protects an additional 1800 feet of the Madison Run trout stream. The entire property is in the Study Area of the Port Republic Civil War Battlefield; it was used by the Confederate Army as its bivouac site the night after the Battle of Port Republic.
 - PATC will retain an approximately nine-acre parcel with a Civilian Conservation Corps constructed cabin located on it.

- Initiated negotiations with ATC on its reorganization and the possible redrawing the Regional Partnership Committee boundaries to be co-terminus with the regional boundaries ATC uses for operational management purposes.
- Represented the Club with the US Congress, National Park Service, and US Forest Service on issues of importance to the Club, such as funding for the infrastructure backlog of the national parks and forests, the sawyer certification program, check-in/check-out procedures, Volunteers in the Park (VIP) program, Club volunteer operations on Federal land during government shutdowns, pipeline construction permitting processes, and other matters of importance to the Club. Results included: development of an innovative donation program to allow Club volunteers to perform critical functions on Federal land during extended government shutdowns; an appellate court ruling that requires the government to improve its environmental assessment processes for issuing pipeline construction permits; and Congressional reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); improvement in the sawyer certification process; and consolidation of PATC's AT responsibilities under a single ATC regional directorship, which will facilitate coordination between ATC and PATC.
- Helped revitalize the Hikes Committee, which has led to significant progress in reinvigorating the Club's hike's program.
- Supported expansion of PATC's social media presence, which has opened up opportunities for the Club to reach and increase its visibility with the general public.
- Represented the Club in the ceremony for Round Hill, VA's induction into the AT Community program, and helped shepherd through ExCom and Council Round Hill's initiative and application to establish a new PATC Chapter – the Blue Ridge Chapter.
- Represented the Club at the ceremony when the US Forest Service recognized the commitment and dedication of our volunteers in April 2019 by awarding PATC the Forest Service Chief's Enduring Service Award for our sustained partnership with the USFS over more than 90 years. This award was made possible because of our volunteers' deep commitment and dedication.
- Supported initiatives to expand and diversify the Club's membership base to provide a more reliable pipeline of future volunteers and PATC leadership.

- Supported the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter's proposal for the Club to expand its area of responsibility to include the George Washington National Forest North River Ranger District to the club's area of responsibility.

Goals for 2020:

- With the passage of the most recent Constitutional Amendment, guide the Club in developing and adopting corresponding bylaws to implement the amendment's provisions.
- Develop with ExCom an agenda that will continue to build on the successes of this year's and past year's efforts to improve Club governance and operations.
- Continue to provide leadership in negotiations with elected leaders; federal, state and local government agencies; and with the trail maintenance community – ATC, sister trail maintaining clubs, donors, and so forth.
- Support the implementation of the recommendation of a forthcoming membership building initiative.
- Support a free and fair election process for the Club's 2020 officer elections.

Vice President for Operations – John Hedrick

Title: VP of Operations	Prepared by: John Hedrick
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 880

Major accomplishments of 2019:

Coordinated with Shenandoah National Park (SNP) to assist in the removal of blowdowns on the AT and side trails. The early storms that closed Skyline Drive, especially in the south, delayed the clearing of trails and it was difficult to get permission from the park to help clear.

The club was able to get special permission to perform maintenance during the Federal shutdown. This involved signing a special agreement with Shenandoah National Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Office (APPA).

The Crapper Crew was busy servicing three composting privies in SNP.

Represented PATC at the Southwest Virginia Regional Partnership Meetings.

Received almost \$10,000 in VA license plate money.

Met with Civil Engineer to evaluate the road to Blackburn Trail Center. We were provided a series of recommendations to improve the road and a follow-up with several contractors will be undertaken in several months.

As head of the Bears Den Committee, worked with Glen Breining (Bears Den Manager) to coordinate reimbursements from ATC.

Continued to serve on the PATC Finance Committee.

Coordinated numerous actions with the PATC shelter lead, including the removal of debris at Whiskey Hollow Shelter, funding for the Maryland barn upgrade, and project planning for the Cowell composting privy.

Met with the owner of the property adjacent to Nethers Road to arrange for permission to install a link trail from the current Old Rag parking lot to the new lot.

Attended Council and ExCom meetings

Assisted in the Tuscarora Trail sign project which involved sign installation, lumber transportation and post/sign preparation.

Worked with Jon Rindt to purchase material and construct a composting privy at the Whiskey Hollow location. Prepared documentation to APPA to obtain approval to close the old Dick's Dome privy and relocate the Dick's Dome shelter to Sky Meadows State Park.

Served on the Shenandoah National Park Association Board to represent PATC.

Performed duties as District Manager SNP blue blaze (south) and as a corridor monitor.

Vice President for Volunteerism – Kirsten Elowsky

Prepared by: Kirsten Elowsky	Title: Vice President - Volunteerism
Number of Members/Volunteers:1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 845

Major accomplishments of 2019:

1. This is the best volunteer position. I thank every amazing volunteer I meet while visiting the Club’s numerous activities throughout this year. Also, I mentioned the establishment of Meetup, Facebook, and Club’s webpages and encouraged the groups’ participation to increase volunteerism.
2. Participated in the establishment of a new PATC Chapter, Blue Ridge, while also working with the North Chapter to improve its visibility.
3. Assisted the Carderock trail rehabilitation coordination with the PATC Mountaineering Section.
4. Worked with three members on conflict resolutions over Club decisions.

Goals for 2020:

1. Increase member volunteer involvement for various projects and leadership position within PATC through coordinated effort with Membership initiatives.
2. Create a Centralized Volunteer Recruitment Management System to organize club-wide recruitment and support Best Practices for recruiting by Supervisors
3. Complete Systematic Review and Update of Volunteer Handbooks for all areas of responsibility

Supervisor of Trails - John Stacy

Prepared by: John Stacy	Title: Supervisor of Trails
Number of Members / Volunteers: 550+/-	Hours Reported: 44,700

Trails by the numbers

- 1 new Meetup group to advertise trail work trips
- 1 television interview
- 1 new trails district – North River
- 2 crew weeks in Shenandoah National Park
- 5+ print media and blog references
- 5 trails meetings of 12+ participants
- 12 new District Managers
- 16+ workshops / training events
- 39 districts
- 64 published crew work trips scheduled by 8 crews
- 76 new miles in North River Ranger District of George Washington and Jefferson National Forest
- 124 items of power equipment on our inventory
- 1145 total trail miles under PATC care
- 8199 volunteer trips
- 44700 trail work hours

Highlights

On April 22, the U.S. Forest Service honored the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club with the presentation of the Chief's Enduring Service Award. The award is part of the Forest Service's national program to honor volunteers in five categories—Citizen Stewardship and Partnerships, Cultural Diversity, Leadership, Restoration, and Enduring Service. The PATC joined five other recipients who were chosen from 56 nominees around the United States. Club president Joe Lombardo accepted the award from Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen during a ceremony held at the agency's headquarters in Washington D.C. The award recognizes work done by PATC for 90 years in the Lee and North River Ranger Districts of George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gwj/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD624777>

PATC is pleased to welcome the new North River trails district. This trails district is located in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest North River Ranger District (NRRD) west of Harrisonburg, Virginia. A 90,000-acre tract of the NRRD is proposed to be designated as the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area (NSA), with expansion of one and addition of three more wilderness areas. The NSA proposal includes the largest roadless area (29,000 acres) in a National Forest east of the Mississippi. It also includes the historic PATC Sexton Cabin site. Shenandoah Mountain Trail is said to have been one of Myron Avery's favorite trails. Lynn and Malcolm Cameron are the district managers. There are 23 trail segments in the district totaling 76 miles. The PATC Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter and the Charlottesville Chapter contributed 1300 hours to trail maintenance in the North River district this year. Please see the 1st edition 2018 PATC Guidebook "Shenandoah Mountain Trails" for hiking information. For guided hikes, trailwork opportunities, and pictures of really big trees, please see the chapter website: <http://www.ssvc.org/>.

Last November a severe storm caused many blowdowns and closed Skyline Drive through Shenandoah National Park. Although the North and Central districts reopened relatively soon, Skyline Drive in the South district had an exceptional number of blowdowns estimated at 100 per mile and remained closed. There was an intensive effort to clear the trail in only a week at the end of November 2018 with about 17 work groups and 43 volunteers. Due to continuing unsafe conditions on the drive, volunteers were unable to access trail sections for some time. Adding to the difficulty was the federal government closure delaying road and public use area clearing and further restricting access. By early February, John Hedrick had arranged permission for volunteers to access the drive through locked gates. Those PATC teams spent many hours working their way south from Swift Run Gap and helped out tremendously. Others helped out on side trails and, by special request of SNP, cleared several loops in Loft Mountain Campground. The South District finally reopened from Swift Run Gap to Loft Mountain on April 17. The full district reopened April 25. PATC contributed substantially in 2019 to clearing trails, cabin areas, and campgrounds.

Tuscarora Trail Meeting – 13 PATC members gathered February 9, 2019 at the South Mountain Hotel in Pennsylvania to discuss and plan PATC strategy for Tuscarora Trail maintenance, improvements, and usage. The members included Trail Patrol, North Chapter, VP Operations, District Managers, VP Volunteerism, GPS Rangers, and the adhoc Guthook application committee. We discussed status, challenges, priorities, plans, and overall strategy. Members confirmed priorities to collect status, complete blazing, to weed (especially briars), to do more effective recruitment, increase publicity, and to work private ownership issues. Plans were developed to organize midweek work trips, to support the REI sign project, to advertise and recruit for the Tuscarora Coordinator position, to supply status reports, update blazes, post to

the Tuscarora site, work outreach, to organize weekend crew trips, and to continue with the Guthook trail app project. Progress was made on many of these items. A follow-up meeting was suggested for Fall 2019, which now proposed for January 2020.

The Tuscarora Trail REI Sign Project is complete! REI funded this PATC project to raise visibility of the Tuscarora Trail. The “Rockbusters” sign crew led by Jim Tomlin installed over 200 signs along the 250-mile trail volunteering 2913 hours over 219 work trips. The “partner” signs include logos and a QR code that goes to the Tuscarora website <https://www.hikethetuscarora.org/>. The first signs were installed 9/29/2018 in Fort Valley, VA. The last sign was installed at the exact halfway point 10/15/2019 in Sleepy Creek WMA with a celebratory lunch hosted by Stacey W. There were 56 volunteers including MVP volunteer Alan Carne, our summer intern Jackson Helling, and Zoe Sollenberger and her mule Vinnie. The USFS Lee District helped with storage, workspace, delivery, and tenting. The town of Hancock, MD helped with storage and workspace. The project was completed a year ahead of schedule!

The PATC GPS Rangers completed their primary mission of collecting detailed GPS data and photos for all trails and all gated roads shown on all PATC maps on March 27, 2019. This includes an estimated 10,000 miles. This surveying began on February 27, 2013. It was estimated that it would take 10 years to do, but was finished in 6 years, 2 months. Thanks go to a core group of 15 volunteers who did 90% of the work. This entire work was done at no cost to PATC; all equipment, logistics, materials, and time were donated by the volunteers.

PATC trail worker Pete Taylor was interviewed by John Rodgers of Harrisonburg’s WHSV Channel 3. Pete showed off some trails, described trailwork, and encourage others to join us. There were some impressive visuals of Virginia AT highlights as well as some shots of PATC’s “Stonewall Brigade” led by Mike Allen preparing for a day of trail work. The clip was posted here: <https://www.wHSV.com/content/news/Volunteers-Clear-Trails-for-Hikers-485281131.html>.

Accomplishments Submitted by Trail Districts and Crews

Alex Sanders, Rock Creek Filibusters

In 2019, the DC Crew's major project in Rock Creek Park was the rebuilding of a bridge on the Melvin Hazen Trail. The existing bridge had been built more than twenty years before, and while the structure was still strong, the environment has changed. The bridge allows hikers to cross a low, muddy area that becomes a temporary lake after every rain, and over the years, sediment built up so that the ground nearly touched its underside. The bridge was often flooded, forcing hikers to avoid that end of the trail; furthermore, debris began to accumulate

on and next to the bridge after storms. PATC and NPS decided that the time had come to replace the structure.

After raising funds from Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F for lumber and other supplies, the Crew ripped out the old bridge in May and began to install a new foundation for a longer, higher replacement. Our wet spring and early summer was a challenge, and we had spend several work trips to secure dozens of posts in the muddy ground. Once the foundations were in, however, and with the assistance of NPS staff, the Crew attached stringers, railing posts, boards and railings. We needed a last-minute infusion of cash from PATC for lumber to finish the railings, but after five months of work, the DC Crew christened a new bridge in September 2019.

Chris Brunton, Appalachian Trail Northern Virginia

Thanks to a very generous donation from the family of Michael Cooper we were able to fund two nine-day work trips for a crew from the Shenandoah Valley Conservation Corps. This crew worked on phase two of the Loudoun Heights relocation and were able to finish and open this section before they left. Hikers are now enjoying this new section.

In September Eagle Scout Samuel Lambert built a 130 foot long boardwalk over a wet and muddy area on the AT north of Keys Gap. Another excellent job now being appreciated by hikers.

Stephanie Danahy, Bear Blazers Crew (Blue and White), Shenandoah National Park

This year we adopted a new crew name and logo as the “Bear Blazers.” Of special note is the continuation of a highly productive relationship between SNP rangers and PATC Bear Blazers. The rangers attended several of the briefings and wrap-up sessions and invited the Bear Blazers to work with a public volunteer day. Our goal for 2020 is to work for greater diversity of the Bear Blazers crew.

Bill Holman, PATC Mutton Hollow Trails

Thanks mostly to the fine work of the Cadillac Crew with help from the Charlottesville Chapter of the PATC and University of Virginia ROTC students a new trail has been finished in the Mutton Hollow District. After two years of work the new Mutton Hollow Loop Trail will now allow Vining Cabin renters a nice easy trail to hike in the hollow. Before if one wanted to hike

they would have to hike up the ridge to the Vining tract's trails. Hats off and my many thanks to the Cadillac Crew for laying the trail out and doing the major construction.

Wayne Limberg, Shenandoah National Park AT North and Hoodlums Crew

It was pretty much a typical year. The North District had a trails workshop in September and crew week in August as reported in the Potomac Appalachian. This was an incredible year for weeds. We may have to alter the work year a bit in future due to climate change and longer, more intensive growing seasons. We are also extending the Hoodlums year a month to include November.

Robert Fina, Bull Run Occoquan Trail 2019

On the Bull Run Occoquan Trail, we had many small projects. There was one major trail relocation of about 1000 feet to more consistently follow level contours. There were two minor relocations of 200-300 feet each. Also, we installed four sections of dirt turnpike. And in keeping with current trail construction standards, we installed dozens of rolling grade dips to improve erosion control with lowest possible maintenance.

Hopefully 2020 will see construction start on 2-3 miles of trail relocation funded with Federal Highways Administration Recreational Trails Program grant money.

Lynn and Malcolm Cameron, South Shenandoah Valley Chapter, DM's North River, GWJNF

One of the accomplishments we are most proud of in the North River District is clearing Dividing Ridge Trail and Bald Ridge Trail on the eastern border of Ramseys Draft Wilderness. This involved collaboration with SAWS and Americorps. We were there working several days this past year. SAWS had a work crew of Naval Academy midshipmen up there for 8 days in 2018 to rebuild a section that had slipped down the mountainside, and we worked to clear everything else. While the midshipmen were there, we hiked up to Bald Ridge, took them a load of fruit, and gave a presentation on Shenandoah Mountain. What fun!!

Another highlight is John Schuster clearing the whole Maple Springs/Chestnut Ridge Trail, which had not been maintained for 9 years. It had been maintained by John Held, a former SSVV president, who died at 59 years from cancer. This was a way to honor his memory.

Don White, Shenandoah National Park, South AT

The PATC performed outstanding work during the South District closure from November 2018 to April 2019. John Hedrick did an outstanding job rounding up chain sawyers who were able to work during authorized hours. Those PATC teams spent many hours working their way south from Swift Run Gap and helped all of us out tremendously. The SNP crews led by Steve Printz and Dave Jenkins performed outstanding work as well.

We experienced more blowdowns following the reopening of Skyline Drive on 21 March. Thanks to the work of our overseers and ad-hoc crews, I believe our people continued our work in the district to meet and exceed the standards expected of PATC. Our Southern Shenandoah Valley and Charlottesville chapters and members such as Marit Anderson, Mark Perschel, Rich Powley, Erin Woodward, Harry Hickock, John Shannon, and Dave Bowen were particularly involved.

For the year, our members who work in the district contributed 3108.9 person-hours in total (2042 work hours + 1066.9 travel hours) maintaining the A.T.

Workshops and Training

Trail Maintainer Workshops at Bull Run Occoquan, C&O, Tucker Inn, SSVC, and others

GWJNF Chainsaw Certification at Edinburg

2 SNP Chainsaw Recertification Classes

2 Pennsylvania Chainsaw Training Sessions

NPS CSMO Chainsaw Great Falls

String Trimmers at Blackburn Trail Center

Traditional Tools at Blackburn Trail Center

SNP North District Trails Workshop at Mathews Arm Campground

Trail Layout Workshop at Blackburn

Rigging Workshop at Blackburn

PATC/FS Chainsaw Class at Huntley Cabin

Supervisor of Lands – Phil Paschall/Chris Mangold

Prepared by: Phil Paschall/Chris Mangold	Title: Supervisor of Lands
Number of Members/Volunteers: ~15	Volunteer Hours Reported: 450 Hours

Major accomplishments of 2019:

1. March Tract Managers Meeting
2. Shaver Hollow Road Work Project Completed
3. Leading Ridge Trail Agreement
4. Lands Files Index Reorganization
5. Mutton Hollow USDA Invasive Species 2020 Grant Approval
6. Management of Tuscarora Trail B&B/Shawneeland HOA Situation
7. Vining Tract Road Work Project Completed
8. Morton Property Negotiations and Acquisition
9. Scharier/Argow Road Work Project Completed
10. Oliphant Tract Manager Appointed
11. Lucas Woods Gate Access re-established
12. 2020 Budget Generated
13. With an ATC-assisted Grant PATC Acquired 10 Acres on Calf Mountain (VA) to Protect the Wilderness Views of Hikers from the Appalachian Trail
14. Site Visit to Consider Protecting Land Adjoining the Appalachian Trail on the Potomac River to Preserve its Undeveloped Green Landscape for AT Hikers

Goals for 2020:

- Recruit More Track Managers for PATC Undeveloped Properties
- Meet Neighbors and Mark Our Common Boundaries
- Acquire Land and Trail Easements to Protect Sections of the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania and Virginia
- Search for Land to establish a Pennsylvania Trail Work Center

Supervisor of Facilities - Glen Tsaparas

GlenTsaparas	Title:Supervisor of Facilities

Major accomplishments of 2019:

This year we continued working on fix ups at the Headquarters building in Vienna. Working with Robert Christianson our staff director, we mapped out a 5 year project plan to upgrade the HQ to make the building a more usable space for both staff and volunteers. In 2019 we replaced fluorescent ceiling lights with energy efficient LED lights in the staff offices and council meeting room. On the front of the building we installed a large PATC logo that lets passersby know who we are. We had our HVAC contractor in to work on the duct work to improve air flow to balance out air conditioning and heating. Roof repairs, back stair repairs and other items were also done.

Mel Merritt our Cabins Chair, Henry Horn Shelters Chair and Bruce Berberick Major Construction and Repairs have been very busy and you can catch up on their projects in their reports.

Goals for 2020:

In 2020 we are looking at replacing the back exterior stairs and other exterior renovations. The “sidewalk to nowhere” next to the rear parking area will go away. Also we will be looking to do some landscaping around the HQ building to improve curb appeal. We may even install more LED ceiling lights for energy savings.

Supervisor of Membership – Michael Brown

Prepared by: Michael Brown	Title: Supervisor of Membership
Number of Members/Volunteers: N/A	Volunteer Hours Reported: 0

Major accomplishments of 2019:

- Worked with Kit Sheffield to reach out to previous members who had not renewed their membership. The campaign was very successful, and we will continue the campaign on an annual basis going forward.
- The new member meetings were moved from Wednesdays to Saturdays due to very low attendance. The Saturday meeting have been successful, with 10-20 members attending.
- Identified a marketing firm, through ATC, to help PATC with a marketing effort in 2020. We now have a strategy and plan in place, pending Council approval, for a three-month marketing effort in 2020.

Goals for 2020:

- Implement the PATC marketing project
- Continue to reach out to chapters and sections to improve the collaboration between the chapters, sections and HQ.
- Analyze and possibly change the PTC membership types.
- Analyze and possibly implement a campaign to move members to lifetime memberships.

Supervisor of Communications - Anstr Davidson

Prepared by: Anstr Davidson	Title: Supervisor of Communications
Number of Members/Volunteers: 13	Volunteer Hours Reported: 300

Major accomplishments of 2019:

Potomac Appalachian

The *Potomac Appalachian* continues to be the club's primary source of information. This year saw a focus on work trip reporting that supports the club's core mission of trail maintenance. The PA was mailed in a timelier manner and continued to be in color.

This year, with the help of the club's staff director, the PA switched companies to print issues. The new printer has improved timeliness and reduced cost.

PA editor Richard Stromberg and co-editor Jim Garlits did an excellent job of managing the publication and its volunteers. Volunteer turnover, particularly in layout designers, continues to be a challenge for the PA. The work must adhere to a demanding schedule that lacks flexibility. Volunteers are understandably subject to "burnout." Despite this, the PA staff produced all issues on time.

Information Technology

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

The club's IT infrastructure supports many functions and serves it well, but information technology is constantly changing and must be reassessed frequently.

Social Media

Social Media Coordinator Rachel Rahm, a member of the club's professional staff, spearheaded the club's social media effort. The club's presence on *Facebook* is now managed and coordinated to further club goals and interests. Rachel also took charge of the club's *Meet Up* site. *Meet Up* has become a useful way to recruit volunteers for work trips. Also, *Meet Up* will support the club's new hikes initiative in 2020.

Goals for 2020

The major goal is to prepare the communications infrastructure for the new club leadership that

will be elected in November 2020. This work will mainly be the designation and recruitment of more volunteers to create a communications strategy and implement it. The next Supervisor of Communications will have overall responsibility for this strategy, but he or she will need more support than is currently available.

IT volunteers and staff will need to continue its ongoing review of the appropriateness of club support in light of changing technology.

Treasurer – Michael Filchock

Prepared by: Michael Filchock	Title: Treasurer
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 75

Major accomplishments of 2019:

- Worked with Finance Committee to draft annual budget for 2020 for Excom and final Council approval;
- Worked with Finance Committee on 2019 mid-year budget revisions for all PATC programs, chapters and special interest groups; for Excom and final Council approval;
- Collaborated with finance team on write-down of water bottles and '70 Hikes' obsolete inventory due to weak sales.
- The finance team decided to switch payroll providers due to the enhanced online time and attendance tracking feature, which is an improvement upon the current system of emailed excel files as timesheets. The new provider is Paychex.
- Worked with Grants & Donations Committee to apply for grants from REI, LLBean and Earth Treks.
- The AT License Plate Grant contributed \$9,525 to PATC's bottom line.
- Presented 'Accountability' information at annual member's meeting showing how every dollar received and volunteer hour committed goes toward PATC programs
- YTD October 2019, the PATC Endowment has returned 15.7%.
- During the period between 12/31/2013 and 10/31/2019, the PATC Endowment increased 38.4% net of fees on a cumulative basis.
- PATC continues to maintain a strong cash and investment position.
- [Include slides from annual meeting: (1) Every dollar received; (2) PATC Endowment Update bar graph showing returns from 2014.]

Goals for 2020:

- Work with Lands Committee on key acquisitions to enhance the club's asset portfolio, in line with the club's land acquisition strategy.
- Continue to seek grant & donations opportunities to assist in fulfilling the club's mission.
- Continuation of improvements and look for ways to enhance the overall financial performance of the club.

Secretary – Steve McLaughlin

Prepared by: Steve McLaughlin	Title: Secretary
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 190 hours

Major accomplishments of 2019:

In addition to preparing minutes for ExCom and Council meetings, I also participated in a number of governance issues. Most notable was the amendment to the Constitution. I understand that attendance at all ExCom and Council meetings is reported in aggregate. I cover additional hours below:

Preparation of minutes and related documentation for approximately 10 ExCom and 10 Council meetings: 80 hours

Drafting and related preparation of Constitutional amendment: 30 hours

Review of election procedures and related activities: 20 hours

Org chart and organizational issues: 20 hours

Other governance work: 40 hours

Goals for 2020:

Bylaws changes, revised Guide to Duties and Responsibilities, more Minutes!

Chapter Presidents

Charlottesville Chapter – Jeff Monroe

Prepared by: Jeff Monroe, Chapter President	Title: Charlottesville Chapter
Number of Members/Volunteers: 350 members at large, 315 hikers on our Meetup list, and 50+ active members	Volunteer Hours Reported: 826

Major accomplishments of 2019:

At the beginning of 2019, the Chapter's major focus was assisting in the cleanup of the South District of Shenandoah National Park following the November 2018 ice storm. The Chapter advertised PATC cleanup outings and many Chapter members provided volunteer hours in that massive effort.

The Charlottesville Chapter continues to promote a robust and varied hiking program designed for both members and as a recruitment device to the Club. In 2019 through October 1, the Chapter hosted 44 events, attracting 117 different hikers. Chapter hikes hosted 421 total participants, totaling just over 3500 total miles hiked. The Chapter has started a sequential AT hike though SNP that has proven to be particularly popular. We communicate future hikes and potlucks through our Meetup site, <https://www.meetup.com/Charlottesville-PATC-Hiking-and-Trail-Work-Meetup/>, and report on past hikes using our blog: <http://patc-charlottesville.blogspot.com/>. Our chapter also has a Facebook page and an on-line photo album.

The Chapter also hosted an "Introduction to using Mobile Phones & GPS applications for Navigation," taught by Charlottesville Chapter member and Triple Crown completer Mark Perschel, and enjoyed co-sponsored hikes during 2019 with both the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club and Lynchburg's Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club.

Work Trips included the following:

- Multiple trips clearing invasive plants at the Vining Cabin Meadow in Mutton Hollow. Chapter member Bill Holman coordinated with the University of Virginia ROTC to host 15 ROTC students with the Cadillac Crew and Charlottesville Chapter to work on trails on the PATC property.
- AT Trail Maintenance group outing at Turk Gap.
- Cellar Mtn Trail (GWNF) reclamation in St. Mary's Wilderness, in coordination with Wild Virginia and SAWS (Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards). A second outing is scheduled for December 1 to complete this reclamation.

- Two Great Eastern Trail section reclamations in the Warm Springs District, GWNF – one combined with an October campout in Douthat State Park, and a June National Trails Day outing to the same trail section – a formerly impassible section of the GET. This trail section receives no local maintenance.
- Charlottesville Chapter members also joined the Cadillac Crew to finish a new hiking trail at the PATC's Mutton Hollow Tract.
- The Charlottesville Chapter also sponsored or participated in several work trips to help clean up trails in the South District of Shenandoah National Park, including trips on Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, working on blue blazed trails like the Wildcat Ridge Trail and the Turk Mountain Trail.
- Several Chapter members have helped the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter with work on North River Ranger District trail maintenance.

Charlottesville Chapter hosted its annual summer picnic and potluck at Dunlodge Cabin. This year featured PATC Historian Tom Johnson talking about the early days of the PATC. Over 60 people attended this year's edition of an annual tradition. The annual Christmas Party, also to be held at Dunlodge, is scheduled for Sunday, December 15.

Goals for 2020:

The Charlottesville Chapter plans to:

- continue recruiting new members to our hiking program, which seeks to then attract additional dues paying PATC members
- continue its offerings for trail maintenance workshops
- continue to offer weekly hikes
- 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.

be ready and available to help clear SNP and GWNF in the event of trail access issues like 2018's ice storm.

North Chapter – Dee Utz

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

Major accomplishments of 2019:

1. A push to recertify many of our A sawyers to B, allowing for more flexibility in tree removal along the trail.
2. Increased activity along the Tuscarora Trail to open up trouble spots, allowing hikers a more consistent experience.
3. The disassembly of the Antietam Shelter and its transportation to its new location in Cowan's Gap.
4. The resurrection of the North Chapter web page and the introduction of the North Chapter on Facebook.

Goals for 2020:

1. Support and retain volunteers by sponsoring local workshops on trail maintenance, safety issues, and special interest sessions.
2. Enhance communication to maintain group camaraderie and mentor new members.
3. Attract community interest via personal interactions and social media.
4. Increase number of members and volunteer hours reported.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter - Malcolm Cameron

Prepared by: Malcolm Cameron	Title: S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter President
Number of Members/Volunteers: Approx. 85 active members/ 45 Volunteers Approx. 400 on e-mail list	Volunteer Hours Reported: PATC has our hours for SNP trails. 1233 additional hrs. including administrative, hike planning and leading, public outreach. GWNF-N. River Ranger Dist. Trail work 1300 Hrs.

Major accomplishments of 2019:

Trail Worktrips: 5 formal work days on SSSVC's AT section from Ivy Creek Overlook to Pinefield Gap; 3 additional work days were for helping SNP and PATC clear blowdowns from the Nov. 15, 2018 ice storm. Many informal work days by individuals and small groups on other AT sections or side trails.

We now have a retiree, Jeff Bolander and his son who will be taking over as overseers/coordinators of SSSVC's section of the AT.

There were 10 formal work days on GWNF trails in North River Ranger District and at least 19 more informal work days on those trails by small groups or individuals. Several overseers worked on their trails in the Lee Ranger District.

Hikes: We had 52 SSSVC hikes, 3 were cancelled by weather; we had 15 hike leaders with various theme hikes including wildflowers, waterfalls, airplane crash sites, New Year's Day, fall colors, renovated trail checkout, National Scenic Area, spaghetti dinner hike, historic fire towers, ACP route visibility, native spruce forest, and butterflies. We also led hikes for the Wildflower Walks with Headwaters Master Naturalists and at the Redwing Roots Music Festival.

Administrative: We sponsored a MEDIC/SOLO Wilderness First Aid class in Bridgewater on January 26-27 with 5 SSSVC members attending.

We continued to develop our partnership with Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards(SAWS) for maintaining trails on the GWNF N. River Ranger District which became official PATC trails in June. SAWS once again brought Naval Academy midshipmen to the

Ramseys Draft Wilderness and made much needed improvements on Bald Ridge. SAWS will be providing us with USFS approved crosscut saw training in early 2020.

We presented a motion to Excom. and Council along with Charlottesville Chapter in June which called for PATC to support the 4th Circuit Court's decision on vacating the USFS permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to cross the AT. The motion passed and PATC is working with the ATC on any possible actions or clarifications.

Public Outreach: The Gatewoods and others manned a SSVc/PATC booth at several local festivals including Staunton Earth Day and Riverfest in Waynesboro. We also promoted SSVc during hikes at the Redwing Roots Music Festival in July.

Other Events:

Dec. 3, 2018 – SSVc's Annual Meeting and Potluck at Bridgewater Town Hall; well attended.

Feb. 23, 2019 – Annual Spaghetti Hike and Dinner at the Radloff's

April 27, 2019 – Shenandoah Mountain Wildflower Walks; SSVc members led 3 short, family friendly hikes in wildflower hotspots for the Headwaters Master Naturalists.

June 30, 2019 – Hosted 2 Council members on a field tour of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline route across the Blue Ridge and AT; then attended Charlottesville Chapter's Annual Picnic meeting.

July 30, 2019 – SSVc's annual Sherando Lake meeting and picnic

Sept. 7, 2019 – Shenandoah Mountain Trail Maintainers Hike/Picnic and Meeting with John Stacey; attended by GWNF North River Dist. Ranger and SAWS representative.

Goals for 2020:

Expand SSVc's trail work projects with SAWS and continue to work with Americorps.

Recruit more overseers for N. River Ranger Dist. Trails.

Continue offering Wilderness First Aid, CPR and other training for members.

Develop a program to assist and encourage new hikers. Reach out and improve youth and young professional involvement.

Start an SSVc newsletter. The first issue will be out Dec. 1, 2019.

Have PATC do a Hike Leader training session locally for SSVc and Charlottesville.

Set up an outreach booth at one of the SNP special event days.

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> 296
<u>Number of Volunteers:</u> 21	

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 259 volunteer hours were reported on this five-mile trail during 2018, from March 31 through November 30. A total of 32 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.

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 Volunteers Meetup, PATC online calendar, and the PATC-West Chapter yahoo group, and two other Meetup groups that the President is also a member of.

Also, during the previous year, 2018, but after the submission of the 2018 annual report that covered volunteers hours reported through November 18; 37 additional volunteer hours were performed during December 2018 and January 2019 at Sugarloaf Mountain for a total of 296 volunteer hours spent at Sugarloaf Mountain since the submission of the 2018 West Chapter annual report through November 30, 2019.

South Mountaineer Trail Crew

The West Chapter President assisted the South Mountaineers trail crew from March through June 2019 on seven separate days. The first session in early March involved clearing blow-downs on the AT from Wolfsville Road to US Route 40. The other six sessions were spent assisting with creating new camping pads at the Pogo campsite along the AT in Maryland in cooperation with the Maryland Park Service. The long-time leader of the South Mountaineer Trail Crew resigned in June 2019 and the current status of this trail crew is unclear to the West Chapter President.

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). Twenty-seven volunteer hours on five separate days were spent on the Loudon Heights Trail. Two steep sections of the orange-blazed Loudon Heights Trail are in desperate need of erosion control. The Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has provided pressure treated posts that are intended to be solely used for erosion control on the Loudon Heights Trail. The HF-NHP has been hampered with installing these erosion control devices during the past four years due to inclement weather and lack of staff and volunteers to install these devices. The AT relocation is of higher priority and during late summer of 2019, Phase 2 of the relocation was completed. Completion of Phase 1 is still pending.

The West Chapter President also visited the AT section between the Loudon Heights Trail junction to the powerline clearing. A total of 32 hours reported; blow-downs were cleared, areas targeted for erosion control flagged, and trailside vegetation clipped as necessary.

Other Trail Districts

The SNP North District Trail Maintainers workshop that the Chapter President regularly participates with every September was held this year. I was placed on the crew that installed and repaired stone erosion control structures on the Overall Run Trail.

Cabins

The West Chapter President, with friends, assisted with construction of a new moldering privy for the Mutton Top Cabin late April 2019.

Hikes

The West Chapter held several hikes during 2019. Five hikes were led by the West Chapter President during 2019 which included hikes within the Michaux State Forest along the Appalachian Trail, the annual summertime Sunset Rocks and Pole Steeple Circuit hikes followed by cool-off swims at Fuller Lake and Laurel Lake in July and August, respectively. One AT section hike in northern Virginia was held during early October 2019. On December 7, the West Chapter President led a circuit hike at Catoctin Mountain Park and noted several blow-downs and clogged erosion control devices that were reported to Park staff at the end of the hike.

Goals for 2020

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 that will require the assistance of an experienced trail crew.

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

Continue with leading hikes; usually circuit hikes with the four-state area within PATC's jurisdiction. The West Chapter President took the PATC hike leader training course in 2005 and will seek to determine whether re-taking the course is required or certification as a hike leader is required.

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.

Lastly, since being asked by two former West Virginia Chapter presidents to take over the reins of leading the Chapter in 2005, and then changing the name of the WV Chapter to the West Chapter to better reflect the geographic distribution of the membership; the current state of the West Chapter has evolved such that the President is doing everything with little assistance from other Chapter members. With the formation of the Blue Ridge Chapter effective January 2020; the potential for merging the West Chapter with the Blue Ridge Chapter appears to be prudent. The new Blue Ridge Chapter currently involves a limited geographic area of northern Virginia centered around Round Hill, VA; west-central Maryland (e.g, Frederick & Hagerstown areas) is excluded which was where most of the West Chapter members had resided. The West Chapter President intends to attend the spring 2020 quarterly meeting (April) of the new Blue Ridge Chapter to discuss the potential of merging the Chapters and encouraging that the new Chapter have a trail crew associated with the Chapter, similar to the North Chapter which has the Yankee Clippers Trail Crew associated with it.

Section Presidents

Mountaineering - Mark Maier

Prepared by: Mark Maier	Title: Mountaineering Section Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 339	Volunteer Hours Reported: 384.5

Major accomplishments of 2019:

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

Instructional events

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

Wilderness First Aid training, two days

New Follower and New Trad Leader weekends

Two gym-to-crag transition clinic

Top rope anchor clinics

Major club sponsored trips

Adirondacks State Park and Shawngunks, NY

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

Wilderness First Responder grant, Two Single Pitch Instructor exam grants, one expedition grant

Obtained approval (jointly with MidAtlantic Climbers and American Alpine Club) from National Park Service for Carderock belay area renovation. Supported renovation construction at Carderock with volunteers and materials.

Participation of members in trail and climbing access clean up and conservation events

Governor Stable

Cunningham Falls

Carderock (3 days, extensive construction)

Sugarloaf, MD

Great Falls, VA

Annapolis Rocks, MD

Old Rag, VA

Seneca Rocks, WV (trail renovation and construction)

Northwest Branch

Goals for 2020:

Equal 2019 instructional program

Expand alpine leader base

Complete NPS approval of long-term Carderock repair

Ski Touring – Robert Swennes

Prepared by: Rob Swennes, Ski Touring Section	Title: Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 179	Volunteer Hours Reported: Approx. 20

Major accomplishments of 2019:

The Ski Touring Section offered 16 Nordic skiing trips to Club members and other ski enthusiasts during the winter months of 2019. Due to the variability of snow availability in the January – March period, 4 of the trips needed to be cancelled due to lack of snow. A dozen trips took place. Most of the trips were planned to recognized snow locations in West Virginia (esp. Canaan Valley), Maryland, and southern Pennsylvania. Six scheduled trips were to locations outside of the mid-Atlantic region. These excursion trips were to the Tug Hill region of upstate New York, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, an early February trek in Maine that combined both day excursions from a rented cabin and a hut-to-hut course in the latter part of the excursion, a week-long trip to the Laurentians north of Montreal for daily skiing at a different ski touring center each day, skiing at the Garnet Hill trail system in New York, and a second excursion trip to Maine for skiing and snowshoeing near Sugar Loaf Mountain in early March. All but perhaps one of these excursions were to places where STS skiers had travelled in previous years.

The Section annually hosts one or two trail maintenance work trips in the fall to prepare trails for skiing in advance of winter's arrival. This year volunteers provided weekend trail improvements at the White Grass Ski Touring Center in Canaan Valley, WV.

The Section schedules several meetings and activities during the course of each year in addition to the ski trip schedule. Trip leaders meet in late August to prepare a list of prospective ski trips for the following winter months. The trip coordinators for the Section put in a lot of time and effort to identify trip leaders and try to spread the trips over almost all weekends during the ski season. The Section's annual Ski Fair takes place at PATC headquarters on the first Saturday afternoon in November. The majority of ski trip reservations are made at Ski Fair. The months of December – early March are when the ski trips take place. Following the winter season the Section hosts an annual business meeting for the election of officers and discussion and action on a varying number of issues of interest to the Section. After the annual meeting those attending shift smoothly into an apres-ski social that allows people to share memories of the

just concluded ski season and offer suggestions as to possible ski trips that could be planned for the following winter.

The Section is suffering from a loss in total membership over the past several decades. New members joining are less than old members leaving. The Section leadership has been working to identify new ways to bring younger generations into the winter sports that this group champions. Cultural changes as well as the impact of climate change during the winter months has made this effort harder. The Section has maintained a Nordic skiing Meetup group on line for almost a decade. But even though there are over 300 people signed up as “members” of that group, few actually sign up to participate in Section ski trips.

Goals for 2020:

- Work with younger Section members to make our Meetup group a stronger vehicle for drawing experienced and prospective Nordic skiers and snowshoers into the Section to participate in scheduled trips.
- Upgrade the STS website (<http://www.patc.us/chapters/ski/>) and identify a new webmaster for the Section.

Standing Committee Chairs

Cabins Operations - Mel Merritt

Prepared by: Mel Merritt	Title: Cabin Operations Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 181	Volunteer Hours Reported: 7295

Major accomplishments of 2019: As The Major source of Income for PATC, Cabins Operations continues to keep the Cabin Coordinator and the six Dedicated Members of this Committee busy. The six District Overseers on the committee each oversee multiple overseers at six to eight cabins. This year has seen it's share of the usual and unusual challenges, and the initiation of a regular chimney sweeping initiative, since our former volunteer sweep retired.

In the North District; Milesburn Cabin has a new Cook stove, Hermitage has new windows and Dawson has new siding. Co-Overseers have been appointed at Hermitage, Michener and Little Cove Cabins. Cabin Overseer, Jim Peterson has found us a good chimney sweep and initiated a regular maintenance schedule.

In the Central District; Olive Green Cabin got a new wood stove and porch floor and Catoctin Hollow got a new refrigerator. A Co-Overseer was appointed at Catoctin Hollow and a new overseer at Sugar Knob.

In the Piedmont District; Horwitz Cabin has a new bathroom floor. Rosser-Lamb and John's Rest Cabins, which were temporarily shut down due to extensive flood damage to their access roads are back in the system again thanks to Tract Manager Mark Walkup. Mark has also been working closely with the Piedmont Environmental Council to get grant funding for a bridge to replace the washed out road on the Trout Stream at John's Rest.

In the Shenandoah National Park District; District Supervisor, Glen Tsaparis worked with a Park service crew to get a new roof on Range View Cabin. Glen has now gotten the Park Service to replace three much needed roofs in the past three years. Noah Green, the new Overseer at Rock Spring has jumped in to keeping it one of the favorite cabins in SNP.

In the Vining District; Mutton Top Cabin got a Memorial Privy built by a bunch of Scotty Wernek's traveling companions, who fondly remember when a faulty latch accidentally trapped Scotty in the privy at Lambert Cabin. Overseer's Tim Lignon and Matt Gentry made a lot of improvements at Conley Cabin including a new roof.

In the Shenandoah Valley District; Thanks to overseer Lee Bowen, Huntley Cabin recovered quickly from a mid-winter freeze up. Robert Humphrey Cabin got new appliances and one cabin got a new co-overseer. District Supervisor, Thomas Jorgenson enlisted the help of a Troop of

Boy Scouts to set things right after the Robert Humphrey Cabin's privy blew over. No doubt - a unique Good Deed.

The Cabins Operations Committee wishes to thank Cabin Coordinator, Martha Reynolds and over 65 Dedicated Volunteer Overseers for the continued success of PATC's ever increasing cabins system.

On a sad note The Committee remembers Robert Humphrey who passed late last year. Robert's contributions to PATC and the Cabins System are immeasurable. It is thanks to him and the continuation of his legacy by Volunteers like him that the system continues to thrive and grow.

Goals for 2020:

Our Goals for 2020 include replacing the roofs at, Milesburn and Hermitage Cabins with long lasting metal roofing. We are also hoping to replace the shingle Roof at Anna Michener Cabin with the help of Volunteers.

The Porch at Highacre should also receive a much needed renovation and improvements are planned for the kitchens at Meadows and Bear's Den Cabins.

And of Course we will be assisting Cabins Construction Chair, Bruce Berberick in fitting out the next PATC Cabin near Crozet Virginia.

Conservation - Lowell Smith

Prepared by: Lowell Smith	Title: Chair, Conservation Committee
Number of Members/Volunteers: 11	Volunteer Hours Reported: 670

Major accomplishments of 2019:

Researched and analyzed major issues that could potentially affect PATC’s interests in protecting the Appalachian Trail. Reported on these to the EXCOM and Council, and developed PATC policy positions for their consideration.

Supported and advanced implementation of adopted PATC policy.

Maintained liaison with ATC staff on issues of common organizational interest.

Established communications with other organizations that share PATC’s interest in protecting the Appalachian Trail.

Made progress on developing an effective organizational structure for the Conservation Committee.

Goals for 2020:

Continue and expand the efforts documented for 2019, with particular focus on expanding the committee’s structure to make it more effective and efficient in meeting future needs to protect the AT.

Hikes – Rush Williamson

Prepared by: Rush Williamson	Title: Hike Chairman
Number of Members/Volunteers: 85	Volunteer Hours Reported: 461

Major accomplishments of 2019:

The Hike Committee was reestablished January 2019 after about five years. Rush Williamson was appointed Chair and Deb Coleman, Chris Firme, Jeff Monroe, and Emeline Otey agreed to serve on the Hike Committee. Because there was really no organized hike program besides Chapter hikes, the three long established mid-week hiking groups and the occasional Hike leaders who did hikes on their own, the Committee reviewed what was documented and how the Chapter and the Mid-Week groups ran their programs. The major functions were identified that needed to be established to create a viable hike program – 1. a Hike Leaders Guide Book, 2. improving/restructuring the Hike WEB page, 3. upgrading the hikes reporting system, 4. revising the Hike Signup Sheet and Liability Waiver form. 5. implement an on-line PATC Hike Form, 6. create and 7. exclusive on-line Hiking Meetup site/group, 8. review existing Hike Leader lists and determine who was active and who was not trained but leading hikes, and 9. reestablishing Hike Leader Training.

The Hike Leaders Guide Book took the longest and was the most difficult project, taking the Committee more than eight months to publish. Emeline Otey led this important effort and is the basis of how the hikes will be conducted and the Hike Leaders will be trained.

WEB Page and On-line Reporting - Thanks in large part to Anstr Davidson and Kit Sheffield the Hikes WEB sites were revised and updated and for working on the on-line system. Money was authorize to modify the WEB page software to accommodate on-line reporting. Much time and effort went into revising and implementing the on-line Hike Signup Sheet and Liability Waiver form. A special thanks to the Strenuous Hikers and Charlottesville Hikers for testing the new reporting system all Hike Leaders reported that they like the new system. An added benefit is there was a 30% increase of reporting from these groups.

The On-Line Meet-Up Group came up in September, many thanks to Racheal Rahm for making this happen.

All Hike Leader trip reports and existing Hike Leader data bases were reviewed to determine who trained hike Leaders were and who was actually leading hikes. Chapters and the mid-week hiking groups were contacted to determine the people who were on their lists. A new up dated data base was created.

Trail Patrol held two Hike Leaders training Classes and we have fifteen new potential Hike Leaders and hopefully this will result in more week end hikes.

Goals for 2020:

Establish a vibrant and diverse week end hiking program

Ensure all active Hike Leaders are trained or era Grandfather as Hike Leader

Encourage Hike Leaders post their hike(s) on the PATC calendar and Meet-Up page

Ensure Hike Leaders use the on-line Reporting system and the revised Hike Signup Sheet and Liability Waiver form

Strive for each Hike Leader to lead at least two hikes a year

During the summer have at least one hike a weekend in the Washington DC area.

Shelters – Henry Horn

Prepared by: Henry Horn	Title: Shelter Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 73	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2019:

This year has been a challenging, but a productive year for the shelter crew.

We replaced logs at Rob Hollow shelter this spring as our first job of the year. This job also had us replacing the sleeping deck as well. The floor joist were rotten on the ends and were separating from the shelter itself.

Our second job of the year was putting a new roof on the Tom Floyd Wayside shelter. We also repaired the deck and the railing. The picnic table was completely rebuilt.

We were involved in constructing a new moldering privy at the Pogo Campground in Maryland. As of this date the privy is not finished as there is much ongoing work in the area with construction of tent sites and trails. At the present time there is no trail leading to the new privy. The plan is to finish the new privy in early April of next year so as to have the whole area open to the public at the beginning of next hiking season.

The final project of the year was the repair and rehabilitation of the barn off of Route 40 in Maryland, also known as The Simpson Barn. This has turned out to be quite an extensive project as the condition of the roof was in much worse shape than was originally thought. The barn now has a new roof on it, along with much of the supporting structure holding the roof up has been replaced. This project too will be completed in the spring. New doors need to be constructed and one end of the barn needs to be completely restructured. This will take several work trips to accomplish.

Goals for 2020:

Finish up the privy at Pogo Campground.

Finish up the Simpson Barn.

Construct a new moldering privy at the Ensign Cowell shelter once we have the approval.

Repaint the shelter roofs with Cool Seal in the Shenandoah Park.

Trail Patrol - Chris Firme

Trail Patrol: Christopher Firme	Prepared by: Christopher Firme
Number of Members/Volunteers: 50	Volunteer Hours Reported: 5,651.71
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 6	Date: September 30, 2019

Patrols. Continued distributing electronic newsletters as well as using the Trail Patrol facebook page for Trail Patrol members, plus adding in the PATC facebook page, which helps spreads the word on our Trail Patrol for PATC. This also helps in providing information on the trail conditions, PATC and partner patrol needs, upcoming training opportunities, and upcoming events. This year 40 trail patrol members did 300 trail patrol hikes giving us a total of 2,319.2 miles patrolled on PATC maintained trails. Provided a total of 1,606.35 hiking volunteer hours where members observed, interacted, or assisted 10,516 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 875.91 giving us a grand total of 2,482.26 volunteer trail patrol hours. This year we had two trail patrollers do hikes out on the Tuscarora Trail, the Great North Mountain and the Massanutten. This really help the district managers in knowing which sections needed work. Many thanks go out to Richard Heath and Moshen Salehi for their reports throughout the year. This year I added info on these to two trail patrollers plus tables on our hikes broken out by trail sections and for the Appalachian Trail broken out by sections (districts).

Hikes	Hours	Grand Total	Miles Hiked	Miles Hours	Grd HRS
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Moshen Salehi:

29	182.6	1283	328.6	102.5	285.1
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Richard Heath:

74	533.8	2809	826.1	357.9	891.7
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2018-19 PATC Trail Totals

NAME OF TRAIL	# of Hikes	Hours	Contacts	Miles	Travel Hrs	
Appalachian Trail	188	1025.4	8988	1405.9	528.15	
Catoctin Trail	17	68.9	102	86.3	43.1	
Tuscarora Trail	43	295.4	307	478.6	215	
Massanutten	13	92.9	154	129.6	40.5	
Great North Mtn	3	20.4	4	30.7	14	
Other Trails	36	103.35	961	188.1	35.16	
						G Total
Totals	300	1606.35	10516	2319.2	875.91	2482.26

2018-19 AT PATC Trail Totals

NAME OF TRAIL	# of Hikes	Hours	Contacts	Miles	Travel Hrs	
Appalachian Trail-SNP	111	660.3	7564	892.4	391.3	
Appalachian Trail-NVA	12	79	254	98.4	35.6	
Appalachian Trail-MD	36	157.7	811	213.2	56.35	
Appalachian Trail-PA	29	128.4	359	201.9	44.9	
						Grand Hrs
Totals	188	1025.4	8988	1405.9	528.15	1553.55

Member training and coordination. Brought six probationary members into active status during 2019. At the end of 2019 there was a total of 50 active members of which 32 did trail patrol hikes down from 40 in 2018. We had five new folks attend Trail Patrol meetings which gave us the number of 197 attendees for eleven meetings. In 2019 we reviewed our membership again. We do this annually which results in a reduction in our membership roster at the beginning of the calendar 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 3,169.45 volunteer hours. It was up mainly because we had both a backpacking course in the spring and we had a hike leader course and a new navigation course both held in September. Our LNT courses are still very well attended each year. This year we added a navigation course taught by Tom Wallace at the Blackburn Trail center. This is our first go and it was quite successful with a full class of eight students. On cabin usage 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 one at Gypsy Springs cabin. None other were held due to logistical reasons throughout the year. 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 2019 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 3,848 hiking hours where ridgerunners observed, interacted, or assisted 24,855 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 242 hours.

Leave No Trace. Conducted five Leave No Trace (LNT) trainer courses for the mid-Atlantic region and we continue to host the NOLS LNT Master Educator course with support from Shenandoah National Park (SNP), for a total of 29 new LNT Trainers and 8 new Master Educators.

Backpacking. Conducted our introductory backpacking class (Backpacking 101) for the public this year. We had ten students for the course work but only eight for the backpacking weekend. 2020 we 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 one 2-day course in 2019 at Blackburn Trail center. We had nine registered but only five went through the course. In 2020, we hope to have two-three, 2-day classes for hike leaders. 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. These courses are being conducted by both Seleena Devore out of Frederick, Md and Matt Rosefsky out of Charlottesville Va.

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 4 hikes with 10 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: 138

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 2019 spring two-day meeting occurred on March 23-24 at the AMC Mohican Outdoor Center in Blirstown, NJ.

Items that were on the agenda are below:

- Rapid Response for Disasters
- Visitor Use on the AT: Visitor Use Management Zoning Matrix
- Vista 2020 Update (Note that as of the fall meeting VISTA has moved to 2021)
- Corridor Management
- AT Community Economic Assessment/Geotourism Update
- Club's 1 Success and 1 Challenge
- ATC Program Staff 1 Success and 1 Challenge
- Safety: VIP After Action Review
- ATC Interim Reorganization
- Strategic Planning: What does the trail and trail management need
- Shutdown Impacts
- Nominating Committee
- RPC Survey Responses

The fall one-day meeting took place on October 19 at the Chambersburg, PA, visitor center.

Items that were on the agenda are below:

- Stewardship Council Report
- Asset Inventory Release & Updating Discussion
- ATC Organization Check-in (Sandi Mara indicated no changes for about a year)
- Capital Planning: Funding projects in the Mid-Atlantic

Supporting Priority Projects for the AT
Update on Scott Farm
Q & A Session with APPA & ATC
Club's 1 Success and 1 Challenge
Communities 1 Success and 1 Challenge
AT Saw Program Update
ATC Program Staff 1 Success and 1 Challenge
Closing the Communication Loop on Encroachments
Check-Out/Check-In Discussion
ATC Strategic Plan Update
RPC Nominations: Rush Williamson has been nominated for chair
Volunteer Safety Reminders
Training Needs Brainstorm
Spotted Lantern Fly Information

Goals for 2019:

The next two-day spring MA-RPC meeting will take place at Fairview Lake YMCA Camp, Stillwater TWP, NJ, on March 20-22, 2020.

AT Corridor Management - Thom Lupp

Prepared by: Tom Lupp	Title: AT Corridor Management, Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 38	Volunteer Hours Reported: 391.15

Major accomplishments of 2019:

- Recruit new monitors to fill vacancies;
- Work with monitors to help them perform maintenance on their boundary sections;
- Supplying all monitors with current segment and survey maps;
- Work with New APPA NPS Ranger Kurt Spears;
- 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 2020:

Continue with above activities.

Maryland AT Management - Thom Lupp

Prepared by: Tom Lupp	Title: MD AT Management Committee, Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 11	Volunteer Hours Reported: 126.5

Major accomplishments of 2019:

- Fostered a working relationship with DOD & Washington Co. 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.
- Use Trail Talkers at US RT 40 to distribute Leave No Trace materials.
- Continue to work with DNR to finish upgrades to the Pogo Campground.
- Work with ATC to plan out a proposed Annapolis Rock loop trail.
- Work with NPS on the Keep Tryst/CSX crossing.

Goals for 2020:

Continue with ongoing and unfinished above projects from 2019.

Other Committees and Activities

Archives and Library - Tom Johnson

Archives & Library: Tom Johnson	Prepared by: Tom Johnson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 2	Volunteer Hours Reported: 156
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 1	Date: 3 November 2019

Accomplishments:

1. Scanning continued with one volunteer, Dave Stewart. He finished the five boxes of Myron Avery records, and moved on to the rest of the boxes. But Dave is from Vermont, and I don't expect to see him again. We need volunteers to complete the task. PATC archives are the second-largest collection in existence (ATC has the largest) and nearly equals ATC's collection in importance. It is essential to complete the job.
2. Tom Floyd, a former supervisor of trails, donated a very large collection of documents – completely unorganized, dirty, with evidence of rodents. That collection has been organized and accessioned (minus the rodents).
3. We have made little progress organizing our library. The collection needs to be weeded (some weeding has taken place) and the card catalogue needs to be digitized to make it accessible on the web. Several librarians have poked around the edges of this job, but so far no one has plunged in.
4. I've created a new section in the archives for documents accessioned since the last accessioning project in 2015.

The future:

1. Finish scanning the documents.
2. Digitize the card catalogue. There is web software that can be used for this job if we can find a librarian familiar with it.

Bears Den Center – John Hedrick / Glen Breining

Prepared by: Glen Breining	Title: Caretaker Bears Den Lodge and Hostel
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2019:

1. Widening of the culvert to allow better access to the entry way.
2. Re-Landscaping of said culvert. Making it more presentable from the road
3. Painting all the outside wood .
4. Painting 90% of the inside trim of the house.
5. Overseeing of the generator repair to include the fabrication of a protective steel house
6. Expanding the site on Hipcamp therefore increasing the camping sales 200%
7. Expanding AirBnB thus increasing sales 15%
8. Maintaining a high grade on the road at all times. This has been helped by the Brewery allowing me to use their bobcat
9. Updated roof estimates and initiated inspection reports for entire house. This will enable to develop a maintenance schedule

Blackburn Trail Center – Chris Brunton

As expected 2019 was another busy season. We hired Dave and Donna Seeley as our season caretakers and they did an outstanding job for us. This season's Ridge Runner was Witt Wisebrum. Witt was based at Blackburn and he patrolled from Harpers Ferry to Front Royal. He send great info and photos of problems along the trail. Witt is a Triple Crowner ! This winter Will is our winter Caretaker and will be keeping an eye on the Center for us.

During the winter months, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, we hosted 16 rental groups BSA troops, Friends and Family, including a group of friends who come to the Center to celebrate their 14th. Thanksgiving weekend. We also hosted several training classes. Leave no trace, Hike leader training, Traditional Tools by Dan Dueke, small units maintenance and repair, Better trail design and lay out, rigging, all of the last led by Robert Fina and Martha Beckton. In July Jim Fetig held two Ridge Runner meetings. Something he does every season.

From late June into July we hosted two trail crews from the Shenandoah Valley Conservation Corps based in Harrisonburg, VA. This Crew stayed for two nine day visits during which time they worked on phase two of the Loudoun Height relo. They were able to finish this whole section and it is now a new part of the Appalachian Trail. An excellent and well done project.

The Cadillac Crew made three visits to Blackburn this season including their annual Memorial Day Weekend. On each trip they would split into two crews with one working on phase one of the Loudoun Heights relo, led by Dan and Ellen Feer, and the other doing many well needed maintenance projects around the Center.

In September we had a Boy Scout troop rebuild a tent platform up in the group campground as an Eagle Scout project. Last winter a dead tree had fallen and crushed half of the platform. The Eagle Scout and his crew did an excellent job of rebuilding and the platform is now ready to be used. In late October we had a second Eagle Scout project. This time the Scout and his crew built a 130 foot boardwalk over a wet and muddy section of the AT just north of Keys Gap. Again, another outstanding project by this energetic crew. My congratulations to both boys on becoming Eagle Scouts. Also in October we received an interesting visit by Randy Stark. Randy is an international Game Warden Instructor and has brought groups to Blackburn several times over the years. This time he hiked in with a group of 12 wardens from around the US and some from South Africa and Botswana.

As always I really appreciate all of the crews and volunteer who spend their time working t the Center. This is what make the place look so great.

Cabins Construction and Major Repairs - Bruce Berberick

Prepared by: Bruce Berberick RA	Title: Cabins Const. & Repairs Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 26	Volunteer Hours Reported: 596

Major accomplishments of 2019:

Cabins Constr. Committee engaged 26 Volunteers on 8 projects including a New Cabin Design, Footbridge Design and Rock Hop install, window and bathroom repairs, finishing the cleanup of the Boxwood demo site, a roof replacement and starting up the new Chimney Sweep program.

Conley Cabin was a major focus with 2 projects which replaced the old rotted wood floor on the Cookshed with a new gravel floor using recycled timbers from the Boxwood Cabin demo as well as a new roof with new fascia boards, removing the rusted old gutters and repairing the rotted porch floor framing and new steps for a total of 9 volunteers providing 280 hours of time alone on those projects.

Goals for 2020:

Project goals include the renovation of the Bathroom at Horwitz, which was finished Nov.8th, a Kitchen renovation and upgrade for the Meadows cabin and the Bears Den Lodge, a Bathroom renovation at Glass House and the completion of the interior up fit at Crozet Cabin. We are also looking at repairing issues discovered during the recent Chimney sweeps on Rosser Lamb, Mutton Top, and Morris Cabins.

Cabins Reservation Volunteer Coordinator - Steve McLaughlin

Prepared by: Steve McLaughlin	Title: Cabin Desk Coordinator
Number of Members/Volunteers: 10	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1050 hours

Major accomplishments of 2019:

The Cabin Desk Volunteers work approximately 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year for two hours each. In addition, they have to travel to and from HQ which I understand is booked at an hour each way. Thus, the total to staff the cabin desk is 1,000 hours (5 x 50 x 2 x 2).

In addition to that, I spend time working with the Cabin Coordinator on scheduling and issues that arise out of the cabin rental program, develop policy guidance and apply that guidance. That averages about an hour a week or a total of 50 hours.

Goals for 2020:

More of the same!

Customer Service Desk – Bill Ryan

Prepared by: Bill Ryan	Title: Customer Service Desk
Number of Members/Volunteers:11	Volunteer Hours Reported: 432

Major accomplishments of 2019:

- Retained a good bunch of well-trained, versatile and committed volunteers
- Provided the ONLY evening hour representation at the Club for off-the street walk-ins who would otherwise not stop by because they are unable to visit during daytime hours
- Acquired and deployed a sandwich board to advertise Club desk hours and increase foot traffic into the club

Goals for 2020:

- Increase number of desk volunteers by 20% to support evening hours
- Align evening customer service desk with on-going/regularly scheduled PATC club meetings

Schedule some Saturday desk hours to support/coincide with PATC club weekend training and outreach sessions

Endowment - Charlie Balch

Prepared by: Charlie Balch	Title: Chair – Endowment Committee
Number of Members/Volunteers: 5	Volunteer Hours Reported: 14 (Self); 40 (Committee)

Major accomplishments of 2019:

The Endowment increased from \$3.48 million to \$3.88 million (\$400,000 or 11.5%) over the one-year period from 10/31/2018 to 10/31/2019

Goals for 2020:

Maintain and conservatively grow the Fund.

GPS Rangers – Jim Tomlin

Prepared by: Jim Tomlin	Title: Chair, PATC GPS Rangers
Number of Members/Volunteers: 12	Volunteer Hours Reported: 775

Major accomplishments of 2019:

- Completed all GPS surveying of all trails and all gated roads shown on all PATC maps in April. This required six years and two months of surveying. Opened champagne!
- Completed 3 days of high-precision GPS surveying of trailheads, parking, and other features for 2019 revision of Shenandoah National Park Circuit Hikes Guidebook.
- Supported the production of other PATC hiking guides as requested.
- Supported Hike Leader Training – Navigation class portion.
- Not a formal PATC activity, but 10 PATC members GPS surveyed for one week in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument as volunteers for the National Park Service and the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters.

Goals for 2020:

- Resurvey the entirety of the North District of Shenandoah National Park. This was the first District that we surveyed in early 2013 when the GPS Rangers were brand new, and the full procedures were not worked out yet, i.e. we are missing some features and photos.
- Continue to be on call for surveying after major weather events or for special projects, as requested by District Managers, the Supervisor of Trails, and VP of Operations.
- Surveying of all social/outlaw/user-created trails in Michaux State Forest, as requested by Michaux SF staff.

Naturalist – Rob Lamar

Prepared by: Rob Lamar	Title: Naturalist
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2019:

Appointed Naturalist in June, 2019.

Reviewed activities of past PATC Naturalists, current resource management monitoring and protection activities within the club, and needs and expectations of club partners with regard to PATC resource protection activities.

- Met with Michelle Miller and Marian Orlousky, ATC on invasive plant control, rare species monitoring, restoration, and trail maintenance.

- Met with Jake Hughes, invasive species and restoration biologist and Wendy Cass, Botanist of SNP on invasive plant control including the establishment of a PATC exotic plant spray team and PATC trail maintenance in areas of rare and threatened plant species

Initiated contact with regional conservation organizations including the Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society and Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) to discuss area of cooperation between these organizations and PATC to protect and monitor our natural resources. Met with park neighbor with regard to controlling invasives within the Duke Hollow area (Virginia).

Presented information at fall district manager’s meeting on the need to balance trail maintenance efforts with the protection of trailside native plant life.

Participated in and supported Vining Tract invasive species control and meadow restoration efforts.

In corporation with ATC, mapped and removed wavyleaf basketgrass on APPA land south of Route 522 (Virginia) and south of Route 50 (Virginia)

Worked with James Ackerson on his Trumbo Hollow/school group initiative to control invasive plants within this ecologically significant area.

Served as Member of Conservation Committee. Worked and advised chairperson of committee on a variety of conservation issues. Developed online survey to send to new PATC members who express an interest in conservation/resource projection activities.

Wrote article for December/January issue of the PATC newsletter on invasive species control and trail maintaining.

Goals for 2020:

Coordinate invasive species removal events throughout the spring, summer and fall of 2020. Recruit and train volunteers to lead invasive removal events within the PATC footprint. Several training events are in the planning stage.

- In cooperation with the Virginia Native Plant Society, a garlic mustard removal event is planned for early April, 2020 at Thompson Wildlife Management Area. This event will also be used as training for PATC members wishing to lead other invasive removal events later in the year.
- In cooperation with the ATC, a wavyleaf basketgrass workshop will be planned for late spring, 2020. This invasive is the “latest and greatest” threat to our eastern deciduous forest. Education, monitoring, and control efforts will be initiated.

NPS has identified areas of high ecological significance on APPA lands due to the presence of Rare, Threatened or Endangered (RTE) species. Work with ATC staff to establish stewardship plans for these ecologically significant areas. Recruit volunteers to manage these areas (control invasives, monitor RTE species, educate other PATC members including boundary patrol and trail maintainers who work within these areas.)

Work with interested trail neighbors, Blue Ridge PRISM, PATC leadership, and ATC to promote Stewardship areas on private lands surrounding trail as part of PRISM’s Area Stewards program. This cooperative program fosters the cooperation of neighbors to pool resources and expertise to control invasives on their properties.

Investigate with ATC and NPS (APPA and Northeast Region) resource management staff the idea of establishing a PATC exotic plant control team.

Continue to establish lines of communications and cooperation between the PATC Naturalist and the resource management staffs of PATC partners, other regional conservation organizations, and PATC members.

Continue the support of the Vining Tract meadow restoration efforts. Work with ATC to identify other restoration projects within the trail corridor

Increase PATC membership awareness of resource protection and monitoring efforts and opportunities through articles in the PATC newsletter, website and other social media outlets.
Improve the reporting procedures for PATC resource monitoring and protection activities.

Potomac Appalachian Newsletter: Editor – Richard Stromberg

Prepared by:Richard Stromberg	Title: Potomac Appalachian Newsletter: Editor
Number of Members/Volunteers: 12	Volunteer Hours Reported: none

Major accomplishments of 2019: Published 11 newsletters

Goals for 2020: Publish a newsletter every month

Publications - Emeline Otey

Prepared by: Emeline Otey	Title: Publications Committee Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 7	Volunteer Hours Reported: 778

Major accomplishments of fiscal year 2019:

The major accomplishment of fiscal year 2019 was the publication of a very special 10th Edition of one of PATC's most popular pocket guidebooks: Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania

This guide, known by many as simply the 4-States book, includes many of the iconic hikes found in our beautiful mid-Atlantic region. Two things that make this edition so special are that all of the inside photos, 27 of them by editors Larry Broadwell and William Needham, are in color, and it has a stunning cover photo reflecting fall in Hazel Country by Barbara Southworth, used with her permission. As in prior editions, the guide features 25 circuit routes in the four-state area complete with trailhead GPS coordinates using the NAD83 system, and a detailed topographic map by Dave Pierce for each route. Three of the entries are entirely new. Others have been revised to vary routes described in prior years. Still others have been updated to reflect reroutes, historical research, and more. While some of the circuits are less familiar than others, all comprise a dayhiker's dream book.

The experienced team of mapmaker Dave Pierce, co-writers and editors Larry Broadwell and William Needham, and layout designer Lauren Walsh -- all working under publications chair Emeline Otey -- gathered photos and assembled them to illustrate the richness of the trails. Among the more unusual shots to appear in any of PATC's guides is a photo taken on a Pennsylvania route by William Needham. It shows two male timber rattlesnakes writhing in the middle of the trail. After much speculation about the performance, a curator of reptiles at the National Zoo was consulted. He explained that the rattlers were contesting for the favors of a female, no doubt waiting in the brush nearby. Such contests might go on for hours, the curator added, with the males jockeying to gain height over their rivals. Unlike other mating contests, he concluded, timber rattler "fights" rarely end very badly for either contestant. "They are very careful not to bite," he said.

Also of note for fiscal year 2019 was the revision of another of PATC's most popular pocket guidebooks, the 18th edition (2019) of Circuit Hikes in the Shenandoah National Park. The revisions to this guidebook were completed by the editor, John Hedrick, in fiscal year 2019;

actual publication occurred in early fiscal year 2020. Alan Kahan was the layout designer of this edition. The guidebook describes 29 of the most popular hikes found throughout the North, Central, and South Districts of the Park. It includes all of the information users need to select the most appropriate hike for their interest and abilities. The thumb-nail description of each hike includes the length, the time required to complete the hike, the difficulty rating (easy, moderate, and strenuous), and the elevation or sum of the ascents on the hike route. This information is followed by the trailhead GPS coordinates using GMS 84 datum for each hike (new to this edition; provided by Jim Tomlin and Scott Cates based on the work of the GPS Rangers [hours for their work counted elsewhere]), a turn by turn description of the hike route, and a two-color map showing the route. Also included for many hikes are alternative routes that may differ in length or difficulty from the primary route described.

Goals for 2020:

At present, the goals for fiscal year 2020 are to revise the following hiking guides:

- Tuscarora Trail: A Guide to the South Half in Virginia and West Virginia
- Tuscarora Trail: A Guide to the North Half in Maryland and Pennsylvania
- Hikes in Western Maryland