



POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB 2021 Annual Report

President

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

Major accomplishments of 2021:

- Provided vision and leadership to guide the Club through the COVID-19 pandemic and reopening of the Club's activities, programs, and operations.
- Conducted an orientation program for newly elected Club officers.
- Represented the Club:
 - At the Elkton, VA A.T. community program induction ceremony
 - Round Hill, VA annual A.T. Festival
 - English-Spanish bilingual RioPalooza Family-Friendly River Festival at the Elizabeth Furnace Recreation Area in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest
 - In discussions and negotiations with ATC and with various land managers on matters of interest to the Club and to strengthen our partnerships with these important partner organizations.
- Appointed Club representative to the Virginia State Trails Advisory Committee. This representation will provide our Club a voice in the Commonwealth of Virginia decisions related to the development and implementation of a statewide system of attractive, sustainable, connected, and enduring trails.
- Facilitated the annual ExCom planning retreat over two half-day virtual sessions. Outcomes listed below are results achieved throughout the year. Details on accomplishments may be found in reports by individual supervisors and committee chairpersons with responsibility for the respective areas identified:
 - We decided to set up several working groups to focus on several areas: policy; information technology; membership; land acquisition priorities, including a possible new trail center; land management; communications; and outreach.
 - **Outcomes achieved:**
 - Council established new information technology and public relations committees
 - Council approved new land acquisition and land management policies
 - Club outreach program revitalized and achieved several major successes

- We decided to continue our search for a General Counsel and consider setting up a legal advisory committee to look at officer insurance coverage, registration and other regulatory issues, and other legal matters, particularly during this period when we are still without a general counsel.
 - **Outcomes achieved:**
 - Club has enlisted the services of a new General Counsel
 - Club established a legal advisory board to provide complementary and diversified legal services which will continue under the direction of the General Counsel
 - Club reviewed and confirmed it has adequate insurance coverage for officers
 - Club contracted with a firm to provide charitable contribution solicitation registration advice and services and work is ongoing to complete registrations in the various jurisdictions where we wish to conduct fundraising activities

- Our finance committee undertook a review and developing recommendations for how we can close our annual operating deficits.
 - **Outcomes achieved:**
 - This is an ongoing process that requires striking the right balance between keeping fees and prices affordable to our members while seeking additional revenue to ensure the financial health of the Club. Some of the achievements to date are found in the following bullet points:
 - Sales and marketing secured new clients to help grow retail sales of books and maps
 - The Club is now selling digitized maps through an outside vendor
 - Cabin rental fees were adjusted to reflect increased costs for labor and materials for cabin maintenance and repairs
 - The Finance Committee has been developing recommendations for the Club to consider as it embarks on the 2022 budget to further strengthen the finances of the Club
 - Importantly, the Club received a clean audit, attesting to the proper stewardship of the Club's finances

- We continued to investigate how to handle our archives and how to best reactivate our hikes program.
 - **Outcomes achieved:**
 - Arrangements have been made for support from a university professor and academic intern to handle our archives.
 - The hikes program has been reactivated and revitalized; hike leader training has resumed, and Club and Chapter hikes are taking place again

Goals for 2022:

- Plan for key anniversaries:
 - PATC's 95th Anniversary
 - Tuscarora Trail's 60th Anniversary

- Develop more comprehensive policies for financing Club’s operations
- Put in place policies and operations for the 2022 Club officer elections

Vice President of Operations

Prepared by: Jim Tomlin	Title: PATC VP of Operations
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 786

Major accomplishments of 2021:

- Summarized and prepared a response letter to WV DOT for the WV-9 widening project, which will sever the Tuscarora Trail and could condemn several PATC-owned properties and requiring the moving of two PATC-built and owned shelters.
- Designed, prepared, and distributed new information signage for PATC maintenance of trails, moldering privy instructions, and warning info for trail and shelter springs.
- Analyzed several PATC-owned property boundaries and PATC-held easements issues.
- Paid for new custom windows and new furniture for Blackburn Trail Center.
- Developed a spreadsheet of Tuscarora Trail North District points for road access, parking, and shelters for TT District Manager.
- Began discussions with Andrew Lee at Harpers Ferry NHP (HAFE) about resurrecting the expired MOU between HAFE, ATC, APPA, and PATC.
- Consulted with ATC to attempt to prevent them from blocking the installation of a new sign at the Tuscarora Trail southern terminus, which was approved and designed by NPS/SHEN.
- Completed trail use & stewardship survey from U. of Maryland, Dr. Brown.
- Performed analysis and wrote a summary about PATC youth involvement.
- Assisted with Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail support letter.
- Organized and led a guided tour of the AT and TT to Andrea Sachs, Washington Post reporter.
- Attended GIS Committee meetings, participated in assembling their 2022 budget request; attended GIS training session for new volunteers; planned PATC map strategy for 2022; helped with getting software licenses updated.
- Reviewed and participated in SNP backcountry fee proposal response.
- Prepared a VP of Operations 2022 budget request.
- Reviewed existing Tuscarora Trail-related committee documentation as a starting point for recreating a TT Committee.

Goals for 2022:

- Continue work with GIS Committee to be able to produce PATC paper and digital maps.
- Assist with developing a Guthook/Far Out app for the Tuscarora Trail.
- Continue work on developing plans for a Volunteer Center/Training/Storage facility.
- Continue work on re-establishing the Tuscarora Trail Committee.

Vice President of Volunteerism

Prepared by: Anstr Davidson	Title: Vice President for Volunteerism
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 130

Major accomplishments of 2021:

The year saw a continuation of the club’s commitment to volunteerism. The work of the club was performed by its many volunteers who make area trails better for those seeking to enjoy the outdoors. The club’s small, but skilled paid staff supported this work.

Other parts of this report highlight the varied work that PATC volunteers performed. While trail maintenance is the core activity of the club, volunteers worked in many other functions to support the overall goal of helping people enjoy the outdoors.

For the most part, volunteers were able to conduct outdoor activities with fewer COVID restrictions than last year though large group activities were still curtailed. Indoors activities were another matter. Meetings and work planning were primarily remote. Club volunteers continued to feel the impact of the pandemic.

The pandemic particularly impacted the volunteers at club headquarters in Vienna, Virginia. Headquarters had closed in March 2020, and volunteers had been abruptly sent home. In July 2021, volunteers came back to the headquarters building to do important work. They staffed the cabin desk, mailed items that had been ordered from the online club store, and performed other tasks to support the work of the club. This small group of dedicated volunteers is vital to the financial welfare of the club as it contributes to the significant income from cabin rentals and store sales.

During the reporting period, 604 volunteers filed one or more work trips through the club’s online reporting system. With an average of 1.74 volunteers per work trip, the total volunteers who reported work would be 1,051. These volunteers performed a total of 85,158.4 work hours. This is up from last year, which was significantly impacted by the pandemic, but very slightly down from 2019, the last full pre-pandemic year:

Year	Reported Hours	# of Volunteers Filing Work Trips
2018-19	86,782	693
2019-20	68,533	553
2020-21	85,158	604

Goals for 2022:

The data above are “not less than.” We do not know the actual hours worked because work hours go unreported or are merely conservative estimates. A better designed and more user-friendly reporting process would greatly improve our data. Better data would enhance our ability to support and recognize our volunteers and will be the object of a major initiative in 2022.

Supervisor of Trails

Prepared by: John Stacy	Title: Supervisor of Trails
Number of Members/Volunteers: 800	Volunteer Hours Reported: 46,026

Major accomplishments of 2021:

Increased year-over-year volunteer hours to 46026 from 36492. Hours by trail district are included at the end of this report.

Some exceptional accomplishments are described below – The Compton AT rehabilitation project, bridgework and windstorm recovery in Pennsylvania, bridge replacement at Elizabeth Furnace in GWJNF, and completion of the GWMP Turkey Run C-1 access steps. Of course, every district has

completed essential work on our mid-Atlantic trails to keep our trails passable and make them better for our users.

Compton Appalachian Trail Rehabilitation

The North District Hoodlums trail crew completed the AT rehabilitation project between Compton Peak and Compton Gap. This was done over several work trips by both the Hoodlums and the ND week crew totaling over 600 hours. The work included installation of rip-rap to keep hikers on trail and preserve historic CCC installed cribbing, rehabbing of waterbars and checkdams, installation of new waterbars and grade dips, rebuilding four and installing three new multi-step staircases. Project was originally envisioned to take two years but completed in one. Hoodlums get it done!

Pennsylvania Bridges and Blowdowns

The Pennsylvania North Chapter successfully addressed challenges for the Old Forge Picnic Area and Antietam Creek Bridges. On 2-3 July, volunteers spent 250 hours installing a new bridge over one of the channels of Antietam Creek at the Old Forge picnic area. Of special note on this were design contributions from Jeff Fertich of Structural Engineering Resources, Gettysburg, PA. Mr. Fertich designed the highly efficient truss structure and loaned a key tool to install special-purpose hardware. Two photos follow.



Photo by Tawnya Finney



Photo by Tawnya Finney

This work was done in the Old Forge Picnic area that had recently had tornado-like straight winds that blew down and weakened many trees. The PA North chapter completed heroic efforts just 2 weeks before in late June 2021 to remove over 20 large blowdowns. The trees weren't done falling as sometime between July 3 and July 7 another tree fell and destroyed a second bridge within 100 feet of the one just complete. The damaged bridge is shown in the following picture. In the picture you can see the recently completed bridge on the trail just beyond. The second picture shows the additional picture of another leaner hanging over the bridge and adding to concerns that hikers should not be on the bridge. The trail was closed and rerouted with about a half mile detour around the destroyed bridge.



Photo by Tawnya Finney



Photo by John Stacy

Then by the beginning of August, the PA North Chapter arranged to have the leaner removed and the blowdown cut. Dennis Le Compte did this essential work. They removed the damaged portions and used a grip hoist to pull the bridge into a useable position. Please see the following pictures. The detour was removed and the trail returned to use.



Photo by David Trone



Photo by David Trone

We and all AT hikers should be deeply grateful to the PA North Chapter for their effective tree removal and bridge work.

We're pleased to report this fall that the Appalachian National Scenic Trail office has funded replacement supplies for the damaged bridge. At this point, all supplies have been received. The Pennsylvania chapter is waiting on some environmental approvals and, of course, an acceptable weather window, to replace the bridge.

Elizabeth Furnace Bridge Work

Members of George Mason Engineers for International Development completed construction of a replacement bridge in the Elizabeth Furnace Day Use Area of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. The work was done in cooperation with PATC via procurement, tools, onsite support, and lunches by district manager John Stacy, Stephanie Danahy, and trail maintainer Glenn Palatini. The work trip reports show 1051 work hours and 322 travel hours over 10 GMU/PATC days and 12 more PATC days in 7 weeks. There were several additional support days with Forest Service assistance for dead tree felling and UTV transport. As a standard Forest Service design, the bridge is built with large, heavy wood components (many custom-milled), heavy steel reinforcements, and hardware purchased to formal specs. The bridge location is 0.4 miles from the nearest vehicle parking. These points make each step significantly harder than many bridge efforts. Despite these challenges, all problems were solved with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. The end result is strikingly impressive. Please see photos below. The work is funded through a grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, through direct support from the Forest Service, and by the PATC trails budget. There were also support hours through welding work at George Mason University.



Photo by John Stacy



Photo by John Stacy

C-1 stairs

Robert Fina led the crews that rebuilt the steps between the George Washington Memorial Parkway Turkey Run C-1 parking lot & the Potomac Heritage Trail. These heavily used steps were damaged during the 2011 earthquake & are a major access trail for PHT hikers. Planning started in 2018 & required environmental/cultural impact assessments. GWMP provided funding, logistical & administrative support for this project. This project has been successful because of the GWMP/PATC partnership.

This is the largest, most technically complex trail structure ever completed in the DC metropolitan area entirely with volunteer design, planning, management, and construction. This was an exceedingly challenging worksite, including high visitor volume, very steep terrain and resident rare and endangered species. All of these challenges, including working through a pandemic, were surmounted over a period of two years with over a thousand hours of volunteer labor, with zero injuries, and minimal disruption to the environment and visitors. Please see photo below.



Photo by Robert Fina

2022 Goals

- Complete easements for 5 properties to protect the Tuscarora Trail on Great North Mountain.
- Continue to support district managers with essential equipment and supplies for their districts.
- Support and accomplish essential training.

I'm pleased to include accomplishments and goals by district below. Thank you.

John Stacy

Supervisor of Trails

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

PATC Trails District Accomplishments and Goals

Pennsylvania, Yankee Clippers – Pete Brown, Dave Trone

2021 Accomplishments

- The following AT side trails were greatly rehabilitated or reconstructed: Blueberry Trail, Dead Womans Hollow Trail, and the Ramble Trail.
- The Rocky Knob Trail had new signs installed with increased hiker activity from continued trail care.
- Charlie Irvin Shelter has seen reduced porcupine activity with the addition of salt blocks
- Extensive rock work continued on the Tuscarora Trail from Waggoners Gap south to Charlie Irvin Shelter.
- Tuscarora Trail work continues in the Tuscarora State Forest as a result of the May, 2019 microburst and consequent timber salvage operation.
- Cleared numerous blowdowns within a week after a June, 2021 windstorm pushed over numerous trees and closed the AT near Old Forge State Park.
- Toms Run Shelter privy was emptied but the septic service claimed its pumper truck was damaged and will not assist in the future.
- Birch Run Shelter and privy had the following tasks completed: moved toilet to other side; installed roof snow guards; replaced spouting, broken deck board, and damaged picnic boards; cleaned out underground gutter lines, upgraded main fire pit; and installed metal on picnic table for cooking stoves.
- Greatly improved communication between Ridgerunners, District Managers, Maintainers, Michaux Rangers, and ATC.
- In May, 2021 DM Dave Trone had a productive in person meeting with Michelle Blevins (Michaux State Forest) and Michele Miller (ATC) to discuss different matters.
- The replacement bridge over Toms Run was completed in May, 2021 as a Boy Scout Eagle project.
- The Big Flat trailhead had 6 tons of 2B stone used to fill large and deep potholes plus numerous split rail fence and posts were replaced due to vehicle accidents and age. In August, 2021 DM Dave Trone met by Zoom with ATC Regional Manager Michele Miller, NPS Facility Keith Stegall, and ATC Acting Chief Ranger Kurt Speers to discuss ways to prevent vehicles from crashing into the Big Flat trailhead parking lot.
- Replaced the south bridge over Antietam Creek.
- The north bridge over Antietam Creek was severely damaged by a blowdown and the AT was detoured. The blowdown and damaged bridge sections were removed and the undamaged section was stabilized so the AT was able to continue across bridge. After a successful application process, NPS awarded emergency funding for a replacement bridge. As of 09.30.21, the bridge materials had been purchased and the wood was drying. The bridge will hopefully be constructed in November, 2021 if the PA DEP permit and wild trout stream waiver are received.
- Cleaned out Antietam Creek upstream of damaged north Antietam bridge a few days before the arrival of Hurricane Ida.
- DM Dave Trone continues to take on more DM duties as DM Pete Brown eases into retirement.
- Focus at Tumbling Run Shelter - massive effort to reduce car camping, no overnight parking signage installed, more active support from Michaux State Forest Rangers, Ridgerunner Darrel Decker assisted greatly with providing the purpose of the AT shelters, continued friction with Outward Bound organization in abusing the use of AT shelters and surrounding area.
- The old Antietam privy was dismantled and the site rehabilitated.
- Monthly Tuscarora Trail worktrips focused on sections that had no maintainer or the maintainer was recovering from health issues.

2022 Goals

- Sand out graffiti on Birch Run Shelter interior and seal surface.
- Build a moldering privy at Deer Lick Shelter.
- Have PennDOT install guard rails at the Big Flat trailhead parking lot.
- Empty Rocky Mountain Shelter privy which may require an upgrade to the access road.
- Construct replacement north bridge over Antietam Creek.
- Have a PATC Ridgerunner work from mid-May, 2022 to mid-October, 2022 due to increased hiker activity.

Maryland AT/AT Side Trails & South Mountaineers Trail Crew – David House

2021 Accomplishments

- Installed over 300 erosion control devices this past year (many in stone) consisting of rolling grade dips, checkdams, waterbars & drainage ditches.
- Installed several hundred yards of stone pavers in the AT behind newly installed checkdams.
- Completed erosion control work on the AT from the Griggs Trail to Black Rock Road.
- Completed erosion control work on the AT from Black Rock Road to the top of the first incline.
- Completed erosion control work on the AT south of Wolfsville Road to the top of the ridge line.
- Performed erosion control work on the AT within the first mile south of the Griggs Trail.
- Performed erosion control work on the AT both sides of the fiber optic line south of Crampton Gap.
- Performed major erosion control work (over 1000 man-hours) on the AT between US40 and Annapolis Rock.
- Performed significant erosion control improvements on Sugarloaf Mountain.
- Helped the Shelter Crew repair the Himes Store and Yourtee roads to access the Garvey Shelter with supplies.
- With the assistance of MD DNR hazard trees were felled around most campgrounds and shelters. We also cleared many hazard trees and low leaners along the AT in MD while addressing blowdowns on a regular basis.
- Filled a vacancy for the MD Heights Trail with 2 Maintainers and provided orientation training.
- Participated in the bi-monthly MD AT Management Committee meetings.

2022 Goals

- Complete the major erosion control work between US40 and Annapolis Rock.
- Rebuild the switchbacks between Weverton Road and the Weverton Cliffs BB Trail. This was planned for 2021 but not completed pending ATC input on a relocation to bypass some of the upper switchbacks.
- Address all blowdowns and seasonal weeding needs in a timely manner.
- Participate in the bi-monthly MD AT Management Committee meetings.

Catoctin Trail District, Old Scouter Crew – Rush Williamson

This is the first full year the Maryland AT Side Trails District was reorganized taking the Catoctin, Old Misery, and Cat Rock trails and placing them in the newly formed Catoctin District. The new District's tool cache, located in the Manor at Cunningham State Park, has been cleaned out and remaining tools inventoried. All the chain saws and weeders that required maintenance and were turned in and repaired. Two additional weeders were purchased so when the crew goes each has their own weeder. Each member has their own loppers. All ten (10) of the District's sections have a Maintainer now.

In spite the COVID restrictions by the end of the year all of the trails were visited and maintenance was performed. All except a small portion of the Catoctin Trail in the National Park and one section of the trail in Cunningham State Park has been cleared of Barberry Bushes, the staffs at both Park are very impressed and delighted at this accomplishment. The Old Scouter Crew were requested by Catoctin NP to train a seasonal Park Crew on the Barberry pullers, they will be clearing other large sections with in the Park. The District Manager has personally visited the three Land Managers who host the Catoctin Trail and they all said they are very pleased with the state of the trails and Catoctin Mtn NP has said they are very appreciative of the support the Old Scouters Crew has given to the Park in general and the help removing dead falls from some of their other trails. The District Manager has participated in a number of trail planning meetings as Catoctin MTN Park is working on a long range trail strategic plan.

Ashby/Harpers Ferry-Rte 50 AT/BB, Chris Brunton and Rob Lamar

- Completed rehab of trail through Rod Hollow. 330 feet of existing boardwalk was rehabbed. Many boards replaced and loose boards refastened.
- An additional 270 new feet of boardwalk built.
- Rock hops were constructed at four creek crossings. Three on the AT and one on the blue blaze trail to the Rod Hollow Shelter.
- A leaking clear roof panel at the Rod Hollow Shelter was replaced.
- A new trailhead parking lot built under the power line at the trail crossing on Morgans Mill road. This parking lot was funded by ATC, PATC and Clarke County.
- Hazard tree removal at several of the shelters and campgrounds and parking lots.
- New Keys Gap sign installed at the parking lot. Sign was made and installed by John Kittridge and Barbara Cook,
- An Eagle Scout rebuilt a tent platform that had been badly damaged by a falling tree last winter.
- Ongoing work proceeded with the Loudoun Height relo thanks to the Cadillac Crew. if plans work out, we hope to have this project finally finished by Spring of 2021.
- On March 5t. we held a District meeting at the Bears Den Hostel for our trail, shelter, boundary, and Cabin maintainers. Discussed current trail status, issues, and future goals. Meeting provided a good opportunity for volunteers to meet, interact and collaborate with others in the district.

Mosby District, Rte 50 – SNP AT/BB, Jon Rindt and Maston Gray

For Mosby District (VA South AT & side trails), 2021 has been a normal maintenance season. No major storm events and nothing special to highlight except for the continuing issue of clearing dead Ash trees.

SNP North District (AT, Blue Blaze, Hoodlums) – Wayne Limberg, Noel Freeman

2021 Accomplishments

- Despite Covid-19 restrictions, bad weather, and a temporary gas shortage, the Hoodlums work crew managed to hold a work trip in all its normal months (March through October). To reduce the likelihood of Covid-19 transmission, crews were kept to six or seven and the Hooldums did not engage in their normal social activities.
- Completed a North District crew week in July with 7 participants, assisted by four day workers as well as two ACC crews on two days. An energetic crew and ideal weather meant that work was done during all 5 days.
- Held a successful 2021 North District Training Workshop in September. It included 29 participants, many from other districts. Most of the participants had little to no previous trail maintaining experience.

- Completed the AT rehabilitation project between Compton Peak and Compton Gap. This was done over several work trips by both the Hoodlums and the ND week crew totaling over 600 hours. The work included installation of rip-rap to keep hikers on trail and preserve historic CCC installed cribbing, rehabbing of waterbars and checkdams, installation of new waterbars and grade dips, rebuilding four and installing three new multi-step staircases. Project was originally envisioned to take two years but completed in one. Hoodlums get it done!
- Completed rehab of AT on south side of Compton Peak.
- Repainted and repaired end gables on Indian Run maintenance hut and installed new stove chimney.

2022 Goals

- Get access to and set up the tool room at Piney River Ranger Station that was promised by the park. If this cannot be done, move all three of the toolboxes at the ranger station to the same location.
- Fill vacant trail maintainer positions for the AT and Blue Blaze trails.
- Get back to after work social activities outdoors for the Hoodlums crew.
- Replicate project-focused approach and work done on Compton on other AT and BB sections.
- Organize and hold North District Training Workshop in September.
- Have a ND summer crew week; two if feasible.

SNP Central AT – Mike Hiller, Scott Christensen

Maintainers for Shenandoah National Park AT Central District successfully returned to trail maintenance activities as the COVID-19 restrictions eased. Work crews were active in all 23 sections in our district throughout the year and effectively performed all fundamental trail maintenance activities for the 34.6 miles of Appalachian Trail between Thornton and Swift Run Gaps. The heavier than normal rains experienced this year required most sections receive more than two full weedings we historically require. Trail conditions are in excellent shape, and we do not anticipate any significant reconstruction undertakings.

2021 Accomplishments

- Staffing levels are at 100% with 34 Central District AT maintainers with two serving as Co-District Manager as well as supporting trail maintenance for a total of 36 volunteers.
- Central District AT Maintainers supported several Bear Blazers initiatives this year striving to attract new members as well as refocus work crews to align with current essential needs within SNP with overall emphasis on the wilderness sections of the central district.
- Several Central District AT Maintainers certified as Sawyers with SNP Staff.
- Tool caches at Swift Run, Big Meadows and Thornton Gap are maintained by Patrick Wilson, Ray Miller, and Jeff DeTroye. All tool caches are fully stocked and organized.
- Central District maintainers assisted SNP on our annual summer work trip in August 2021 completing much needed waterbar reconstruction on Lower Hawksbill trail. Crews also supported weeding efforts in wilderness areas identified by SNP as overgrown.
- Ray Miller and Scott Christensen identified and implemented solutions to safely store fuel within the Big Meadows tool cache. This ensures that we are following safe practices consistent with park safety requirements.

2022 Goals

- Emphasis for 2022 will be placed on continued essential maintenance, blowdown removal, weeding and waterbar maintenance and reconstruction. We will continue to advocate for necessary training that will keep our crew current with best practices. Invasive species awareness will continue to be a priority for our district.
- Our district will continue to support and advocate for Bear Blazers initiatives to assist with needed maintenance and recruitment.

SNP Bear Blazers Crew – Stephanie Danahy

2021 Accomplishments

- Bear Blazers supported SNP in 2021 with monthly weekend work trips from May through September. The normal schedule was modified due to COVID pandemic. However, several significant work trips were successfully held in the park. Including the following: trail crew week, the annual invasive weed pull, weeding weekends and trail maintenance weekends.
- One significant work trip was the annual invasive weed pull. The Bear Blazer team continues to get direction from Ranger Jake Hughes the Biological Science Technician at SNP. Of the 350 nonnative plants in Shenandoah, roughly 35 (10%) are considered problematic invasive species. Executive Order #13112 on Invasive Species instructs all non-defense agencies to control invasive nonnative and not permit new infestations.
- Though it is not humanly possible to eliminate all invasive nonnative species at this time, SNP is engaged in several strategic actions including inventory, control, monitoring, and site restoration. The Bear Blazers have played a significant role in the control of invasives and restoration of native wildflowers along Millers Head Trail. In 2019 the Bear Blazers team pulled over 1,200 gallons of invasives (garlic mustard and yellow rocket) from the edge of this 0.8-mile trail. This year we returned only to extract 300 gallons of invasives. The annual weed pull is effectively eliminating invasives from target areas within the park.
- The Bear Blazers team also focused on standard trail maintenance weeding and water bar cleaning. These activities were supported over several weekend group trips. The Bear Blazers trail week was also used to support weeding in remote area of SNP. The rangers at SNP identified several trails that needed weeding in the back country. These trails can only be maintained with manual tools, so the trail week was spent honing our skills with swing blades and loppers.

2022 Goals

- Continue multi-year invasive control efforts under the guidance of Jake Hughes
- Run a full program of crew work trips
- Assist the park as possible with crib wall modification and monitoring.

SNP Central BB – Map 10 [north] – Patrick Wilson, Buz Groshong, Josh Fuchs

New co-District Manager: Joshua R. Fuchs

New Maintainers:

- Marty Martin (Broad Hollow)
- Megan Noonan (Corbin Hollow)
- Andy and Valerie Bernat (Miller's Head)
- Molly McKinley and Brian Napier (Lower Hannah Run)
- Jonathan Pellish and Claire Mahoney (Leading Ridge)
- Tracey L. Heibel (Hot-Short Mountain)

Currently seeking maintainers for Upper Nicholson Hollow Trail

SNP Central BB – John Hedrick

We had some maintainers step down so the main effort was recruitment. Hopefully there will be more stability next season. Otherwise business as usual.

SNP South AT, Trail Doctors Crew – David Bowen and Patty McInerney

2021 Accomplishments

- 2021 Statistics – PATC AT maintainers in the South Shenandoah National Park volunteered a total of 3,009 hours maintaining the District's 46.3 miles of the Appalachian Trail, way up from last year's COVID-impacted 2,244 hours. Of these, 1,075 were travel hours as our maintainers come from far and wide for the privilege of working on the Trail.
- Project Management - We started the year by implementing a project management tool, developed by McKinsey & Co., a leading management consulting firm. This tool is essentially a "dashboard" showing the status of each of our 27 sections of the Appalachian Trail and is sent to all maintainers on a regular basis. The dashboard starts out the year with all sections in a "red" status, (assuming the trail is impassible), moves to "yellow" and eventually to "green" status as maintainers complete maintenance trip reports on their sections. Through the use of this tool, maintainers can see at a glance the status of their section compared to the status of all the other sections in the District. This tool has been well received with one maintainer commenting, "This is the coolest thing I've seen since attending a Grateful Dead concert in 1979!"
- New Crew Name - After soliciting ideas and voting on a new name for our trail crews, we adopted the crew name of "Trail Doctors", a fitting description of the work that we do. We will move forward this year by adopting an official logo and getting that put on some customized wearing apparel.
- Chain Saw Certification - We were successful in getting two of our maintainers chainsaw-certified to saw in the Shenandoah National Park this year, a major accomplishment. The new sawyers went to work immediately, taking out many large blowdowns reported by our maintainers on their sections. We will again be represented at another Shenandoah National Park chainsaw class in December.
- Equipment Update - We were also fortunate in being able to replace all of our safety helmets, as our old ones were out of date, some of them considerably. We also added two new Stihl trimmers to our tool cache, the result of John Stacy and Heidi Forrest doing some excellent research to find a Stihl dealer that had some trimmers in stock.
- Community Support - We hosted some students from the Shenandoah Valley Governor's School who were interested in doing trail maintenance as part of a community service project. The visit was to assess at trail section to see what maintenance was required and develop a plan to do the required maintenance. We were assisted by Jessica Kusky, the Director of Volunteers at the Park who accompanied us on the trail assessment.
- Next Year Goals - Our goals for next year include improving our communications and working harder to get new volunteers involved and bringing them up to speed on trail standards and maintenance techniques and teaching the use and maintenance of various maintenance tools and equipment. We have a trail section that lost its maintainer this year and we will take this section over to use as a "demo" section for training and education.

SNP South Blue Blazed, Map 11 – Jim Surdukowski

A major accomplishment for the past year was getting the newly reclaimed Rocky Mount loop back to standard. This was the result of 250 hours of work by myself, Leigh, Beau Gambold and Steve Woofter.

Goals for this year include cutting back vegetation overgrowth on Rip Rap and Brown Mountain trail. These trails are each 5 miles long with no boundary access.

Tuscarora Central, Map L, Devils Nose Crew – Bill Greenan and Gwen Grisham

2021 Accomplishments

- Completed 13 Devils Nose Crew Trips.
 - Cleared miles of trails.
 - Built dozens of rolling grade dips and knicks.
- Felled the remaining dead trees at the Spruce Pine Hollow Campsite and reopened.
- Added new trail signs on the Floyd Tract.
 - Frye Path
 - Laurel Run Trail
- GPS Rangers finished the TT Central sign inventory.
- Made 4 Leopold benches and placed out at two campsites.
- Recruited 3 new maintainers.
- Gwen received her chainsaw certification (level A).

2022 Goals

- Continue with the Devils nose Crew
 - Clearing trail
 - Tread repair (install new grade dips and knicks)
 - Finish clearing vegetation and blowdowns North of the Biby Trail.
- Build and install a small PATC information kiosk on the Biby Tract.
- Move trailer at Shockey's Knob Shelter.
- Add steppingstones to stream crossings (including numerous wet weather crossings).
- Continue to investigate route options.
 - Basor Ridge area.
 - Just South of US 50 (Back Creek Crossing)
 - Between Ruth Morris Forest and Hancock MD.
- Recruit new maintainers.
- Add new trail signs.
 - Water sign near Dugan Hollow Shelter
 - Spring sign at Shockey's Knob.
 - Rock Cave Trail
 - TT sign at the Jct. of Grape Hill Road.
 - Replace Signs at Lucas Woods Campground

Tuscarora South, Map F, G, 9 – John Stacy

2021 Accomplishments

- Worked with George Mason University student group Engineers for International Development, the Forest Service, and maintainer Glenn Palatini to replace a bridge on the Shawl Gap trail section

- Maintainer Mike Custodio greatly improved the Sherman Gap – Veach Gap section clearing blowdowns, removing invasives, regular end-to-end weeding, accomplishing a reroute around a bog, and improving drainage
- Established regular water drops at Paul Gerhard Shelter, the 48/55 intersection, and Dry Gap for users unable to access water in this section. The spring at the shelter is unreliable. This was an experiment that drew a lot of positive log entries and texts.
- Received an award for a proposal to the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance for the bridge replacement
- Rerouted the Tuscarora west of Massanutten Mountain as a landowner revoked permission for the trail to pass their property. The northbound reroute goes south on the Massanutten Trail, west at Woodstock Tower to the town of Woodstock, and north at Swartz road to rejoin the trail at Harrisville Road. A possible reroute to improve this detour is under consideration.
- Trained and assigned several new maintainers

2022 Goals

- Close on easements for Great North Mountain by working with Lands Acquisition
- Fill vacant trail maintainer positions
- Win a grant from the National Forest Foundation, potentially for fuels reduction, invasive species control, and bridge repair and maintenance

Massanutten North - Map G, Anstr Davidson

2021 Accomplishments

- The district continues to be a great place to hike in peace and without crowds. Most of the trails have few users. There are, however, a few popular trails. Highlights included work on those trails.
- The Cadillac Crew came back to the Buzzards Rock trail to continue work from last year on a switchback that had been damaged by erosion and shortcutting. The crew made things right with their usual expertise. The Buzzards Rock trail is very popular with hikers and rock climbers. The club's Mountaineering Section participated in the work.
- Three maintainers held a work day on the Signal Knob Trail, another popular destination, to clear encroaching brush. The trail leads to the historic view from the top of the north end of the Massanutten Mountain. It is popular with many users including mountain bikers.
- Special effort was made on the Gap Creek and Scothorn Gap trails. Last year, the Forest Service improved these trails using a powered earth mover. This year, we put special emphasis on clearing the trails and finishing the work. These trails lead to very popular view sites and see a great deal of traffic.
- We continued to maintain the Lion's Tale Trail, a half mile path designed for blind and disabled users. This trail is popular with school groups.

2022 Goals

- The district has several maintainer vacancies. We will make a push to fill those.
- Several trails need their blazes updated and signs repaired or replaced.

Massanutten South - Map H, Paul Boisen

In 2021 the Cadillac Crew visited the South Massanutten twice. On the first trip they addressed erosion problems on a very steep section of the Massanutten South trail near the Fridley Gap parking lot, installing waterbars using some substantial stones. Unfortunately, a 5-trunk tree fall subsequently

interfered with one of the installed water bars; the treefall has been made passable, and will be fully cleared by early 2022. On the second trip they improved the Morgan Run trail, which had just been reblazed by its overseer. The work on this second trip included extensive side-hilling and the diversion of a spring off of the trail.

In 2022 we should see the Boone Run Shelter repainted in an Eagle Scout project, and I hope to install rolling grade dips on the top 1/3 of the Morgan Run trail (which is often waterlogged). I had hoped to finish blazing all intersections this year, but now it seems like 2022 will be the year when that work finishes. I have made paint and brushes available to my overseers, and two of them have been blazing this year.

Great North Mountain, North Mountain Brigade - Map F, Mike Allen

- April 2021 – North Mountain Brigade (NMB) Group activities included trail maintenance along both Stony Creek and Cedar Creek Trails. Work included spring cleanup and water diversion.
- May 2021 – NMB Group activities included trail maintenance along Stack Rock and Laurel Run Trails. Work included the removal of old rock bars and replacement with new grade dips.
- June 2021 – NMB Group activities included trail maintenance along Mill Mountain and Tibbet Knob Trails. The primary activity consisted of weeding along both trails. Some brushing was also performed along Tibbet Knob in preparation for the Cadillac Crew Work Trip to follow later in the month.
- September 2021 – NMB Group activities included trail maintenance and preparations for annual Big Schloss 50K Trail Race. Work, including brushing, weeding, and blow down removal, along Bucktail Cutoff, Halfmoon, Mill Mountain, Bib Schloss Cutoff, and Tibbets Knob Trails.
- October 2021 – NMB activities included trail maintenance along the Little Sluice Mountain Trail. Major brushing and weeded was required to remediate the impacts of recent controlled burns adjacent to the trail.
- November 2021 – NMB activities included trail maintenance activities along the Bucktail Trail. Work included the start of what will be a multi work trip effort to restore washed out tread along Halfmoon Run, near the Capon Bridge intersection.

North River, Lynn & Malcolm Cameron

2021 Accomplishments

- We organized a Crosscut Saw Training/Certification in April and were able to get 9 Trail Maintainers certified as B level sawyers. This training was conducted by Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS).
- SAWS also conducted a 2-day tread work training for North River Trail Maintainers. We learned how to dig out sidehill to make a more sustainable tread, and we extended a switchback to lessen the steepness of a section of trail and did some rockwork to reinforce the switchback.
- We have 35 Trail Maintainers, several of which were added this year. Recruitment is going well, and we are continuing to build capacity.
- We maintain 90 miles of trail in the North River District.
- Our chainsawyers have done an excellent job of supporting our trail maintainers by removing blowdowns upon request.
- We led 19 worktrips altogether to either remove blowdowns or clip back vegetation.
 - We led a worktrip to help Charlie Huppuch maintain the Confederate Breastworks Interpretive Trail. This included cleaning out the trenches.

- Marit Anderson and I led a Wild East Women work trip in Ramseys Draft.
- A crew led by Jim Fye opened up the 3.5-mile Crawford Knob Trail. This took multiple worktrips and over 30 volunteers to accomplish. The day they broke through and finished they called their crew the Golden Spike Crew and Jim gave everybody a golden spike (long nail spray-painted gold)
- We worked with Tim Hupp to revise the *PATC Shenandoah Mountain Trails* guidebook, which was just published.
- I am serving on a North Zone Recreation Strategy committee.
- I have been asked to make a presentation at the National Wilderness Workshop in Nov. The title is "Hand in Glove": Wilderness Stewardship and Advocacy in the Shenandoah Mountain Campaign. I will be talking about PATC's work on SM trails and how this has benefitted the campaign and how the excitement about designating the Shenandoah Mountain NSA has attracted more trail maintainers.
- The GPS Rangers collected data on all the trails we maintain and some additional trails in the North River District.
- The SMNSA campaign is going well. We expect to see legislation introduced soon.
- We are set to order about 30 t-shirts for the Shenandoah Mountain Trail Crew today.

2022 Goals

- Goals for next year include building more capacity. Some trail maintainers have too many miles. Rather than taking on more trails, we would like to divide up the ones we have into smaller chunks.
- We also plan to organize a crosscut saw workshop to be led by SAWS on April 9-10, 2022.
- We want to focus more on tread work next year in addition to brushing our trails.
- We want to get people trained to do rigging and use a Maasdam.

Prince William Forest Park, Spooky Beavers Crew, Mark Ellis

FY 2021 Accomplishments

- The Spooky Beavers had a successful trail season with Prince William Forest Park during Fiscal Year 2021 (1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021).
- We continued to partner with the park staff to execute the latest COVID-19 safety protocols during individual and group work outings as directed by the National Park Service during individual and group work outings.
- The 37 miles of hiking paths continued to be affected by "Mama Nature" via aftermaths of various storms and ever present vegetation growth, soil erosion, and rotting of timber structures. The Spooky Beavers partnered with the park staff and several local Boy Scout Troops to remove and replace four footbridges, all over 20 feet long, and installed 5 new bog bridges up to 25 feet in length. The crew used our new Maasdam rope puller to safely bring down a danger tree that was hanging over one of our newly built footbridges! Significant hours were expended to control vegetation growth along both forks of Quantico Creek.
- We worked closely with the park staff to identify opportunities to relocate trail sections destined to erode into Quantico Creek or where existing trail maintenance techniques will ultimately fail to completely mitigate dangers to hikers. Four of them are in progress of regulatory reviews.

FY 2022 Goals

- Looking forward to FY 2022, the Spooky Beaver will continue to partner with the park leadership via an annual trail maintenance plan that will help both partners to forecast and prioritize future trail maintenance activities.
- The relocation of portions of the Laurel Loop Trail and Birch Bluff Trail (about .8 miles of new sidehill trail construction) is the first of the trail relocation projects to receive NPS approval. We hope to have assistance from the Cadillac Crew in the spring to help complete this relocation and others as they are approved by NPS.
- The crew plans to sponsor a trail maintainer workshop in the spring, targeting PATC trail maintainers who volunteer south of the Potomac River. We will continue a dialogue with the park leadership to co-host a sawyer certification training during FY 2022.

Bull Run Occoquan Trail, Robert Fina

2021 Accomplishments

- Built two new twenty foot long bridges near Wolf Run.
- Relocated about 1000 feet of trail near Evans Ford.

2022 goals

- Build 400 feet of gravel turnpike through boggy section of field downstream of Kinchloe soccer park
- Solve stream crossing issue at Cub Run.

Potomac Crew, Robert Fina & Martha Becton

2021 Accomplishments

- Our main focus this last year was completing the C-1 Step project at Turkey Run in GWMP.

2022 goals

- Work on bridges C&O /Palisades district.

Tree Crew and Training, Robert Fina & Martha Becton

2021 Accomplishments

- Removed hazard trees at:
 - Bear Spring Cabin
 - Huntley Cabin
 - Denton Shelter
 - Humphrey Cabin
 - Tuscarora campground

2022 goals

- Continue hazard tree work at shelters and cabins and camp sites.
- Continue training recruiting/training folks for the work

Training

2021 Accomplishments

- Maasdam Training Workshop at Blackburn Trail Center
- Two Grip Hoist workshops at Blackburn Trail Center including dragging and highline
- Rolling Grade Dip workshops at Bears Den and Blackburn Trail Center.
- Several maintainer training classes at BROT, AT, and C&O

2022 goals

- Continue with trail skills workshops (rigging, sustainable maintenance practices, sustainable trail design and layout, etc)
- Improve reach of training program.
- Coordinate stone workshop.

Manassas National Battlefield Park, John Price

153 hours, 73 volunteer visits.

2022 goals

- Update General Agreement with the park.

Greater Manassas Area and Bull Run Mountain, Mike Custodio

2021 Accomplishments

- Cleared multiple and unusual number of downfall caused by multiple storms
- Finished constructing water diversions where necessary
- Trained staff in Trail Maintenance techniques
- Assist Staff in boundary surveys, cemetery maintenance, and preparing for special events
- Advised Staff in development of new trail plans, including current Trail Maintenance plans

2022 Goals

- Recruit, train, and assign Individual Maintainers
- Plan, design, and implement new trails
- Assist with parking lot relocation and accompanying structures, including storage shed and new access trail...
- Rehab/replace warped footbridges

Long term goal

- Update MOU agreement

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Peter Hedrich

A microburst had a big impact on a 2-mile section of a Fredericksburg Park trail. There were 96 trees across the trail and more across the park road. Due to the number and size of the trees, the NPS opted to have a contractor clear the trail along with the road. We were left with cleaning up the minimal debris plus tread repair from four uprooted trees. The trail was closed for two months.

We are making progress on 260 feet of boardwalk to address several chronically wet areas that have not been addressable with less intensive measures. Preliminary layout is done and the NPS has ordered the needed materials that are expected to arrive in early December. I will get with our work group to decide on times to do the work, likely after the holidays.

Wolf Trap NPFPA & PHT/Turkey Run Park, W. Alan Day

Wolf Trap Trail Maintainer Allen Hoffman oversaw the site location & installation of trail counters by Boy Scout Troop 55 Eagle Scout Tyler Donohue. Wolf Trap provided funding for this project. The data collected by the counters will help Wolf Trap document park visitor use.

Potomac Heritage Trail and Turkey Run Park, John Schell

PATC maintains the Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT), a 9.5 mile trail along the Potomac River from the Theodore Roosevelt Island to I-495 and the Great Falls Park

- Our nine Maintainers are replacing all trail directional signs containing destination points and mileages, made and installed by volunteers many years ago. Most of these signs are in poor condition, broken or rotted. A system of directional signs that are easy to read and to follow will benefit trail users and help them make safe decisions.
- We are designing and installing two large trail Information Boards; the start of the PHT, and one at its Glebe Rd crossing.
- We have repainted all of the trail blazes and place the logo of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail on the post of all trail signs both on the PHT and the Great Falls Park section of the trail.
- We have worked hard with the National Park Service to print and distribute excellent trail maps of the PHT.
- One of our Maintainers, Glenn Tobin, recently received the 2020 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award from Arlington County. This recognition is provided annually to honor outstanding volunteer efforts in support of the health, sustainability and functioning of Arlington's parks, including the PHT.
- The Cadillac and Potomac Crews, along with dozens of volunteers completed the new stairs and trail repair from the PHT along the Potomac River up a steep and long slope to a parking lot along the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The stairs are 145 feet long and rise almost 50 feet with grades between 22% and 50%, which is extremely steep. The work began in December 2019 and was completed in October 2021. Robert Fina designed and managed the construction of the project and the National Park Service allocated \$20,000 for purchasing the materials and leasing equipment. The NPS and PATC are conducting a Ribbon-Cutting celebration soon.

District of Colombia – Map N and Rock Creek Filibusters, Alex Sanders, Fritz Gottschalk, and Brian Opdycke

2021 Accomplishments

- Replaced an undersized culvert on the lower Glover Archbold Trail that was always getting clogged with sediment from too much stormwater runoff with a lined trench and a short bridge
- Built a turnpike on the upper Valley Trail where the trail had become perpetually muddy
- Extended a raised path on the upper Valley Trail to allow hikers to avoid another perpetually muddy area and closing off the multiple paths that had been created to avoid the mud
- Replaced cribbing along the Theodore Roosevelt Side Trail
- Re-routed a section of the Pinehurst Branch Trail away from deteriorating and vulnerable stream crossings and onto higher ground within the park

2022 Goals

- In 2022, we are planning on repairing an eroding stretch of the Normanstone Trail, and if we receive the grant funds sought through the local ANC, building a long turnpike on the upper Western Ridge Trail to raise the trail surface above an often muddy and highly trafficked area (and subsequently narrowing the trail corridor; it has grown very wide over the last couple of years).

MD C&O Canal Palisades, Potomac Crew, Martha Becton

2021 Accomplishments

- Reinstated volunteers
- Established a working group with Park staff to address priorities
- Worked with other park volunteer groups to adjust BGT-A blazing scheme in response to increased visitor usage

2022 goals

- Long-range plan for BGT-B (ongoing safety issues caused by weather events)
- Replace hiking bridges across district
- Implement infrastructure improvements along BGT-A and BGT-C
- Long-range plan for signage and wayfinding along BGT-A
- Rebuild chainsaw team to work across the district
- Work with Park to address hazard trees at busy trail heads

PATC Chainsaw Program, Martha Becton

2021 Accomplishments

- Conducted one recert and two full-certification classes
- Established reciprocity per the March 2021 FS/NPS MOU with C&O Canal
- Began working towards reciprocity per the March 2021 FS/NPS MOU with PRWI and CATO

2022 goals

- Recruit and train additional instructors (this has already begun)
- Establish a coherent and consistent chainsaw policy communication framework between PATC and our partners
- Continue work on establishing reciprocity per the March 2021 FS/NPS MOU with all of our NPS partners
- Conduct certifications/recertification and trainings to meet club/partner needs

See Training under Bull Run Occoquan Trail, Robert Fina

See Potomac Crew under Bull Run Occoquan Trail, Robert Fina

Montgomery County Parks, MD, Lynn Gallagher and Zoe Sollenberger

153 hours, 54 volunteer visits

Antietam National Battlefield Parks, Old Line Crew, Mary Ann Lepore

Accomplished regular maintenance.

Most of our projects were put on hold due to Covid, but also due to the park using the donation money to overhaul all the trails over the next 3 years. They have hired a professional outfit to do this which has negated any piece meal projects we were going to do.

Maryland Piedmont District, Jim Tomlin

The MD Piedmont District enjoyed its first full year of existence in 2021. All trail sections were assigned new Trail Maintainers. The entire trail system at Monocacy Natural Resource Management Area was heavily brushed twice to discourage multiflora rose regrowth after the trails were reclaimed in 2020 after very long-term neglect. Trails were kept clear and freshly blazed. Plans are ongoing for official ribbon-cutting and several major trail upgrades in 2022.

Mutton Hollow, Map 11, Bill Holman

There were three maintenance trips to Mutton Hollow open to those who are members of the Charlottesville PATC Hiking and Trail Love Meetup group this year. The CCC Road was cleared from Morris to Johnson cabins in January, and the annual spring and fall cleaning of the trails. The University of Virginia Air Force ROTC students had spring and fall maintenance trips to clear the Mutton Hollow Loop Trail. The majority of the new trail head signs were put up, but there are about a dozen left to do next year. The Vining Cabin field had at least three trips to continue to fight the invasives and plant wild flowers for all to enjoy next year.

Next year finish the trail signage, blaze trails (didn't get to it this year) and find a replacement for the Butternut Tool Shed. And as always, keep the Mutton Hollow trails clear for the pleasure of those who come to hike this special place.

Cadillac Crew, Dan and Ellen Feer

The Cadillac Crew completed many successful worktrips as the roving crew within the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Please see individual district accomplishments, including Ashby/Harpers Ferry, Massanutten North, Massanutten South, Great North Mountain, and Potomac Heritage Trail/Turkey Run, for additional information.

Tool Room

Keeping tools in order and in good shape, including sharp (when appropriate!).

Helped Heidi with some inventorying and breaking out blaze paint into smaller containers, and Rob with some odd jobs around the office.

Reported volunteer hours for 2021, 10/1/2020 to 9/30/2021

Hours by District

District	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total Hours	Volunteers
Administrative Hours	669.80	202.25	872.05	136
Antietam National Battlefield Park	156.10	106.60	262.70	94
Bull Run Occoquan	1,230.30	468.55	1,698.85	363
Catoctin	823.22	330.17	1,153.39	212
Cedar Creek & Belle Grove	-	-	-	-
DC Metro	1,680.03	371.20	2,051.23	733
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania	182.61	73.74	256.35	93
Great North Mountain	846.85	341.35	1,188.20	209
Greater Manassas	236.10	60.75	296.85	64
Manassas National Battlefield Park	77.20	76.20	153.40	72
Maryland AT	2,789.49	616.56	3,406.05	720
Maryland Side-Trail	922.20	247.28	1,169.48	281
Maryland Piedmont District	170.60	79.50	250.10	54
Massanutten North	487.50	247.75	735.25	152
Massanutten South	282.00	155.50	437.50	59
MD C&O Palisades	177.70	91.30	269.00	69
MD Montgomery Co Parks	107.00	45.70	152.70	54
Mutton Hollow	192.75	92.50	285.25	76
North River	3,758.25	1,091.45	4,849.70	587
Pennsylvania AT	1,633.95	599.20	2,233.15	454
Pennsylvania Side-Trail	460.00	121.00	581.00	95
Pennsylvania Tuscarora - Side Trails	24.50	15.50	40.00	9
Pennsylvania Tuscarora North	594.38	174.82	769.20	122
Pennsylvania Tuscarora South	552.25	286.25	838.50	84
Potomac Heritage & Great Falls	1,853.70	296.68	2,150.38	303
Prince William Forest Park	872.25	346.10	1,218.35	339
SNP Central AT	874.00	689.05	1,563.05	272
SNP Central Side-Trail [North]	1,436.05	778.50	2,214.55	373
SNP Central Side-Trail [South]	555.50	427.85	983.35	207
SNP North AT	1,451.75	709.35	2,161.10	314
SNP North Side-Trail	651.13	315.25	966.38	142
SNP South AT	1,932.95	1,076.45	3,009.40	598
SNP South Side-Trail	1,012.55	528.15	1,540.70	272
Tuscarora Central	807.00	361.25	1,168.25	197
Tuscarora Central Side Trails	126.75	64.50	191.25	60
Tuscarora South	1,751.40	620.90	2,372.30	330
Virginia North AT	1,603.50	669.20	2,272.70	405
Virginia North Side Trails	153.50	87.90	241.40	64
Virginia South AT	1,145.80	530.25	1,676.05	385
Virginia South Side Trails	186.00	68.50	254.50	86
Wolf Trap National Park	77.00	15.97	92.97	37
Total All Districts	34,545.61	13,480.97	48,026.58	9,176

Hours on the AT & Side Trails

	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total Hours	AT Totals	Volunteers
Pennsylvania AT	1,633.95	599.20	2,233.15	2,233.2	454
Pennsylvania Side-Trail	460.00	121.00	581.00		95
Maryland AT	2,789.49	616.56	3,406.05	3,406.1	720
Maryland Side-Trail	922.20	247.28	1,169.48		281
Virginia North AT	1,603.50	669.20	2,272.70	2,272.7	405
Virginia North Side Trails	153.50	87.90	241.40		64
Virginia South AT	1,145.80	530.25	1,676.05	1,676.1	385
Virginia South Side Trails	186.00	68.50	254.50		86
SNP North AT	1,451.75	709.35	2,161.10	2,161.1	314
SNP Central AT	874.00	689.05	1,563.05	1,563.1	272
SNP South AT	1,932.95	1,076.45	3,009.40	3,009.4	598
SNP South Side-Trail					
Total	13,153.14	5,414.74	18,567.88	16,321.50	3,674

Hours by Land Manager

Land Manager	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total Hours	Volunteers
Admin Hours	618.30	191.25	809.55	159
Antietam NBP	156.10	106.60	262.70	94
Appalachian Trail Project Office	2,626.80	1,154.50	3,781.30	829
ATC Land	69.50	30.50	100.00	31
Audubon Cliff Jones Field Station	11.00	9.00	20.00	9
Buchanan State Forest	119.50	63.00	182.50	28
C&O Canal Nat. Historical Park [Towpath-AT]	59.60	47.00	106.60	19
C&O Canal Nat. HP [Palisade Metro District]	177.70	91.30	269.00	69
Cabin John Regional Park	107.00	45.70	152.70	54
Caledonia State Park	174.00	31.00	205.00	21
Catoctin Mountain National Park	240.97	83.67	324.64	51
Cedar Creek And Belle Grove NHP	-	-	-	-
Clarke County, VA	236.00	88.50	324.50	89
Cowans Gap State Park	6.00	4.00	10.00	2
Cunningham Falls State Park	413.50	164.00	577.50	108
Frederick County Water Commission	-	-	-	-
Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania NB Park	182.61	73.74	256.35	93
Gambrills State Park	168.75	82.50	251.25	53
George Washington Memorial Parkway	1,853.70	296.68	2,150.38	303
George Washington National Forest	3,294.65	1,399.80	4,694.45	797
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	636.25	211.55	847.80	128
Indian Springs WMA	10.50	6.00	16.50	3
Manassas National Battlefield Park	77.20	76.20	153.40	72
MD DNR - South Mt./Greenbrier State Park	4,080.84	1,050.94	5,131.78	1,154
MD State Highway Admin.	30.75	11.70	42.45	16
Michaux State Forest	2,885.45	1,146.00	4,031.45	970
Monocacy Natural Resources Mgt. Area	170.60	79.50	250.10	54
North River Ranger District	3,758.25	1,091.45	4,849.70	587
Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	1,230.30	468.55	1,698.85	363
PA State Game Lands	19.83	8.17	28.00	6
PA State Game Lands #124	430.75	221.75	652.50	60
PENNDOT	32.00	7.00	39.00	6
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	4,031.75	1,945.00	5,976.75	1,714
Prince William Forest Park	872.25	346.10	1,218.35	339
Private	1,242.50	628.75	1,871.25	472
Reineman Wl Sanctuary	289.00	56.65	345.65	47
Rock Creek Park	1,680.03	371.20	2,051.23	733
Shenandoah National Park	8,637.78	5,118.25	13,756.03	2,512
Sky Meadows State Park	205.00	119.50	324.50	87
Sleepy Creek Public Hunting & Fishing Area	383.25	148.25	531.50	118
South Mountain State Park	737.25	316.75	1,054.00	131
Sugarloaf	557.50	146.95	704.45	105
Tuscarora State Forest	288.55	129.50	418.05	82
VA Dept. Game & Inland Fisheries	334.50	162.70	497.20	120
Virginia Outdoors Foundation	236.10	60.75	296.85	64
Wolf Trap National Park	77.00	15.97	92.97	37
Total	43,450.86	17,907.87	61,358.73	12,787

SNP Hours by District

	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total Hours	Volunteers
SNP North AT	1,451.75	709.35	2,161.10	314
SNP North Side-Trail	651.13	315.25	966.38	142
SNP Central AT	874.00	689.05	1,563.05	272
SNP Central Side-Trail [North]	1,436.05	778.50	2,214.55	373
SNP Central Side-Trail [South]	555.50	427.85	983.35	207
SNP South AT	1,932.95	1,076.45	3,009.40	598
SNP South Side-Trail	1,012.55	528.15	1,540.70	272
Total	5,811.05	3,500.00	9,311.05	2,722

Supervisor of Lands

Prepared by: Thomas Taylor	Title: Lands Supervisor
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 350

Major accomplishments of 2021:

Completed a review of the PATC organizational structure regarding land use. Discovered that no consolidated list of owned property, leased property, or property where the PATC had constructed improvements existed. Discovered that PATC had a policy statement for land use and management, but that the document had not been updated since Nov 13, 1984, despite the goal of “timely reviews.” Worked with PATC staff, PATC leadership, PATC committees, and PATC members to define the PATC’S land acquisition and management goals and endeavored to update the policy to reflect those goals. After extensive meetings and iterations, proposed to EXCOM a new Policy for Land Acquisition, a new Guidelines for Land Acquisition and Stewardship, and a new Guidelines for Land Management and Maintenance to replace the policies established by the 1984 document. Shepherded the documents through the approval process; the PATC council adopted those policies and guidelines. Worked with PATC staff to incorporate the policy and guidelines into new PATC Land District areas that respected the traditional PATC trail and cabin boundaries and yet comply with the directives of the new policy and guidelines.

Began to identify the looming pressures on the Tuscarora Trail as an existing, PATC maintained, through-trail connecting to the AT at both termini. Discovered that, regarding the Tuscarora Trail, a conflict exists between a diagram of PATC organizational structure and the duties and responsibilities document outlining the duties of the Lands Supervisor. Brought that conflict to the attention of PATC leadership and asked for guidance and resolution.

Goals for 2022:

Implement the Guidelines for Land Acquisition and Stewardship. This will require identification of targeted lands for acquisition and locating/confirming volunteers to act as stewards of those lands. Publish the Land District boundaries as adopted by the PATC council as specified in the Guidelines for Land Management and Maintenance and implement those guidelines. Implementation will require locating/confirming land managers for all lands upon which PATC has an interest. Pursue clarification of the duties and responsibilities of the Lands Supervisor vis-a-vis the Tuscarora Trail. Support creation of a charter for a PATC Tuscarora committee that advocates for the continuation of the Tuscarora Trail as a through trail and which connects to the AT at both termini. The committee should be tasked with identifying and proposing the avenue most likely to succeed in implementing this goal, regardless of the nomenclature as the Tuscarora “trail,” the Tuscarora “route,” or the Tuscarora “corridor.”

Supervisor of Marketing

Prepared by: Nancy Doyle	Title: Supervisor of Marketing and Sales
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Accomplishments of 2021:

There were no marketing accomplishments during fiscal year 2021.

Sales signed a three-year contract with REI, established a business relationship with the A.T. Heritage Museum in PA, recently re-established a business relationship with the ATC, and replaced the 8-10 retail businesses lost during the Covid-19 epidemic. Sales revenue for 2021 is expected exceed the highest revenue generated when the ATC purchased 40% of PATC publications, but, of course, will not generate a profit sufficient to cover the overhead imposed by the Finance Committee.

Goals for 2022: None

Supervisor of Facilities

Prepared by: Hedrick	Title: Supervisor of Facilities
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 320

Major accomplishments of 2021:

- Attended all EXCOM and Council meetings.
- Participated in numerous Southwest Virginia Regional Partnership meetings via ZOOM.
- As Chair of the Bears Den Committee had numerous visits and discussions regarding the operation of the facility.
- Attended a number of Finance Committee meeting concerning the 2022 budget and the mid-year 2021 budget adjustments.
- Worked on a number of cabins, to include the Janet Kohl , Crozet and Butternut Cabins.
- Coordinated with the National Park Service regarding the removal of the Dicks Dome shelter and the actual work to remove the shelter. The work involved four trips to disassemble and remove the debris.
- Picked up milled lumber to replace rotted lumber on the Bearfence shelter and coordinated the work trip to perform the work.
- Worked on the Pogo privy.
- Maintained the Calf Mountain and Byrd’s Nest shelter pending recruitment of volunteers.
- Participated in pre-inspection of the School House Cabin in West Virginia and prepared documentation for the approval of the purchase.
- Attended Shenandoah National Park Agency partner meeting and the SNP trails meetings.
- Met with the National Historical Preservation Group to assess the work on the Rock Spring Cabin.
- Picked up signs from the sign maker for distribution within PATC.
- Received chain saw certifications from the National Forest Service and Shenandoah National Park.
- Checked the temporary reroute of the AT in the vicinity of Skyland and recommended changes to SNP.
- Prepared a Motion to Council concerning the increase in cabin rates.
- Used the Big Gulp to pump the privy at the Cowell privy.
- Arranged for the Crapper crew to empty five privies.
- Represented PATC at meetings with SNP to discuss future fee increases and the arrangement to help mitigate overcrowding at Old Rag.

GOALS:

- Visit all cabins in 2022.
- Prepare documentation for the possible rental of cabins at South Mountain and at Elizabeth Furnace.

Goals for 2022:

HQ

Prepared by: Hedrick	Title: HQ Committee
Number of Members/Volunteers: 4	Volunteer Hours Reported: 130

Major accomplishments of 2021:

The following reflect the accomplishments by the PATC Staff Director in overseeing the HQ operation.

- Installed PATC ballot box near front entrance.
- Performed necessary repairs to pass fire marshal inspection.
- Completed drainage project at HQ with a considerable savings.
- Changed trash and recycling pick up and changed HQ cleaners.
- Prepared a plan for staff and volunteers to return to HQ.
- Coordinated the completion of numerous minor repairs, including replacing utility sink faucets, fixed fire door, fixed back door, electrical upgrades, and the replacement of the outdoor light fixture.
- Acquired free furniture from a DC law firm.
- Participation in the HQ Committee review of the Capital budget and maintenance budget for 2022.
- Continued to inventory and dispose of excess HQ equipment.
- Oversaw the work of a George Mason intern involving an archival assessment and the digitizing of the library card catalog.

GOALS for 2022

- Continue to involve HQ Committee in future projects.
- Oversee minor repairs in HQ.
- Assist in overseeing archival assessment and library reorganization.
- Work with across street tenants to resolve the parking issue.

Goals for 2022:

Supervisor of Membership

Prepared by: Jeff Monroe	Title: Supervisor of Membership
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2021:

Membership, along with lots of assistance and direction from PATC staff members Rob Aldrich, Kit Sheffield and Annie Zimmerman, planned and implemented the second virtual PATC annual meeting – after first planning for a regular meeting. The meeting went very well, and featured speaker Mills Kelly, Professor of History at George Mason University – who spoke about “Virginia’s Lost Appalachian Trail” - was particularly well received. The report on Zoom indicates the Annual Meeting attracted 151 unique viewers, with a high of 138 at any single point in time. A video of the entire meeting is available on YouTube by searching for “PATC Annual Meeting.”

New member meetings remained in a virtual format and was a big success. There were 10 meetings, and they moved from Saturdays to the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Just one month’s meeting, the New Members Meeting on April 7, included over 30 participants. This single month

surpassed the entire 2014 attendance of 27 participants over 8 in-person meetings. Since New Member Meetings moved to Wednesday evenings in March, attendance has exceeded 135 participants. The goal of each New Member meeting is to provide new members with direction and contact information to fulfill their volunteering interests. To that end, a revised Powerpoint presentation was developed for these meetings, with the assistance of Annie Zimmerman.

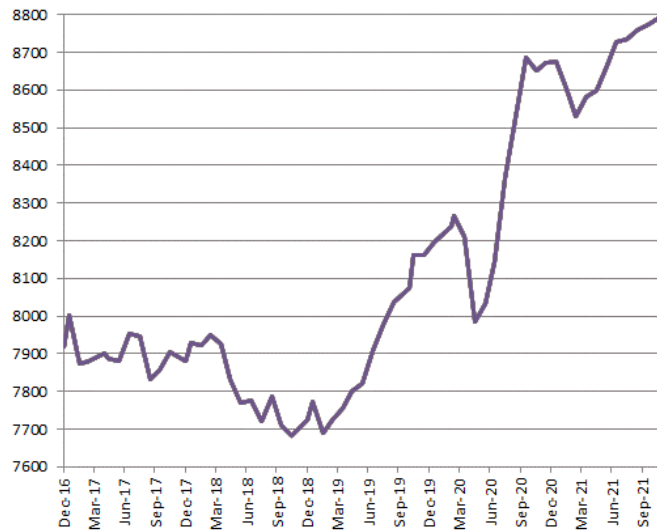
Extensive work was undertaken to navigate the approval process for a simplified PATC Membership Category system – something identified as a goal for Membership way back in 2013. This remains a goal for 2022.

Analyzed the existing “Associate” membership, which directs customers of the Northwest Federal Credit Union to the PATC and currently lasts for six months before the member must either obtain a regular membership or drop from the PATC’s active membership rolls.

Authorized sending out postcards to any members who dropped their membership in the previous calendar year (Jan-Dec, 2020). These went to former members who already ignored two dues reminders before they dropped and one “we miss you” letter afterwards. Previous research determined that the Club receives about \$3 for each \$1 we spend. We only send these to people in the Eastern Time Zone, as analysis indicated that the Club does not obtain adequate returns for people who have moved further from the DC area.

Membership continues to grow, though not at the same pace as occurred during the height of the Pandemic.

Total Members - Five Year Trend



Current members by membership type are listed below:

Couple Primary	896
Couple Second	898
Family - Primary	560
Family - Second	524
Family Other	989
Honorary	7

Honorary Life Member	59
Individual	1816
Individual Life	586
Life Couple Primary	138
Life Couple Second	145
Life Spouse Primary	6
Life Spouse Second	12
Non-Profit Youth Grp	15
Organization 26+ Emp	0
Organization Small	3
Senior - Individual	809
Senior Couple Prim	549
Senior Couple Second	549
Student	16
Subs Only Primary	22

Goals for 2022:

Continued work on the consolidation of membership categories – due for Council vote in December. After the consolidation occurs, focus will switch to reassessing the annual dues amounts, as Individual and Couple rates were last increased in 2016-17, Life memberships have not increased since 2006-07, and many other categories have not changed since they were instituted in 2008. Membership revenue actually declined in 2020 from 2019, despite the growth in membership.

New Member Meetings will continue to be held virtually for the foreseeable future, given the increased visibility and range this format gives. (Attendees in 2021 included members from Louisville KY to Tidewater VA to Delaware – many of whom never would have attended a physical meeting.)

Expansion of new member outreach is in the works – initially including a New Member Hike sponsored by the Charlottesville and Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapters and targeted at PATC members identifying those Chapters as interests when they join the Club. A hike is scheduled for Sunday, December 5, 2021 and additional such hikes may occur if response warrants the activity.

Supervisor of Outreach

Prepared by: Kristine Villatoro	Title: Supervisor of outreach
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2021:

Outreach has worked hard this last year to come up with new ideas for outreach events and attending new venues.

- We hosted a National Trails Day event in Hancock in June where we had about 100 people come by our table and talk about PATC, Tuscarora Trail, hiking, biking among other things.
- PATC hosted an outreach table on Fathers Day for the Fish Fry Float in Strasburg, VA
- PATC hosted a family day event at Bears Den on August 8 for AT Vista celebration of the AT and the 100th anniversary of Benton MacKaye's article titled "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning," originally published in the October 1921 edition of the Journal of the American Institute of Architects.
- We also hosted a table at Round Hill AT Festival. This year the event was held in September (11/12) for two days. During the 9/11 we had about 100+ people come through our table and talk about PATC, Hiking, backpacking and general information.
- During the same weekend as Round Hill Festival, we also hosted a both in Frederick MD for their Into the Streets Festival. That event also saw a number of people visiting the table.
- On September 18th, PATC helped celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month at the RioPalooza Bilingual River Festival at the George Washington-Jefferson National Forests. Co-hosted by our Partners at the Potomac Riverkeeper Network along with the National Park Trust and the Hispanic Access Foundation, the festival was a free, public day for conservation advocates and the local community to learn more about watershed conservation in both Spanish and English.
- PATC held its 1st Women's Trail Summit in Maryland in October at Sheppard Spring. We had about 35 women signed up to attend the event which included talks about Trail/shelter maintenance, winter hiking, Leave No Trace, backpacking, Forest Therapy & Invasive species. We are slated to hold our 2nd Women's Trail Summit at Bears Den on April 30 2022!
- PATC held its first hiking/Trail maintenance challenge in honor of the 100th anniversary of Benton MacKaye's article titled "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning," originally published in the October 1921 edition of the Journal of the American Institute of Architects. As of today, we have 185 signed up for the challenge with 69 finisher with one canine!

Goals for 2022:

Supervisor of Communications

Prepared by: George Neighbors	Title: Supervisor of Communications
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major Accomplishments of 2021:

- **Formed Communications Team**
The Communications Team consists of George Neighbors, Rob Aldrich, and Annie Zimmerman. The team collaborated and coordinated on Club promotional and communications needs.

- **Brand Consolidation**
Worked with Day and Night to create new branded Club stationary (including electronic letterhead and stationary), and a fresh, updated logo.
- **Content Calendar**
Created a content calendar via TeamUp to track important trail holidays, Club events, and other dates of interest for promotion on social media and website.
- **Communications Toolkits and Guidelines**
Created several helpful documents to guide Club volunteers, staff, and leaders:
 - **Branding Guidelines and Style Guide**
 - **Promotion Guide**
 - **Elevator Speech Guide**
 - **Social Media Toolkit**
- **Increased Hours for Communications Coordinator Position**
The Communications Coordinator position increased from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week, effective January 1st, 2021.
- **Partnership with the *Potomac Appalachian***
Created the “PATC Profiles” series, which spotlights a particular area of the Club and our outstanding volunteers to celebrate all the remarkable work accomplished in each area of the organization. Worked with the PA editors each month to provide revisions and edits. Made changes to the “About PATC” section on the back of the newsletter, guided by the revisions to the PATC boilerplate.
- **Launch of the PR Committee and IT Steering Committee**
 - Initiated, recruited and stood up a PR Committee to strategize and support Club efforts with media for promotions, coverage and crisis management at the Club and chapter levels.
 - Reimagined, recruited and stood up an IT Steering Committee to strategize and support Club IT assessment and modernization of website, InfoSec, systems and infrastructure.
- **Social Media Series**
Created two new weekly series: MacKaye Monday and Where-Is-It Wednesday. MacKaye Monday, in conjunction with the MacKaye AT 100 Challenge, highlighted challenge participants and finishers, and told their stories from the trails. Where-Is-It Wednesday was conceptualized as an opportunity to engage with our Facebook members and followers, by posing a mystery location each week for them to guess. It has been well-received, and in the process, we’ve acquired a number of beautiful photos of our cabins and shelters from members.
- **Social Media Expansion and Growth**
Between the aforementioned new weekly series, posting on trail holidays such as National Take A Hike Day, and promoting our Facebook at outreach events, we grew our Facebook membership by 13% this year. We now have 5,274 Facebook Group members and 2,957 Facebook Page followers.
- **Revised New Member PowerPoint**
Updated the New Member presentation to make it more user-friendly and welcoming. This included use of our official branded colors and the new logo, adding recent photos, and revising the language throughout.

Goals for 2022:

- **Website Redesign**
- **Support planning efforts for TT60 and PATC’s 95th**

- **Continue boosting engagement on social media**

Treasurer

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

Major accomplishments of 2021:

- Another clean audit
- 2021 Mid-year budget adjustments
- Hired new Finance Assistant
- 2021 Annual Meeting Treasurer’s Presentation
- 2022 budget preparation

Goals for 2022:

- Achieve another clean audit
- Work with officers, staff and volunteers to maintain financial stability in support of operations.
- Work with Finance Committee to seek more grant opportunities.
- Hire a permanent Finance Coordinator replacement or make the current arrangement work with only contract staff.

Secretary

Prepared by: Steve McLaughlin	Title: Secretary
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 240 hours

Major accomplishments of 2021:

In addition to preparing minutes for ExCom and Council meetings, I also participated in a number of governance issues. Most notable are ongoing efforts to revise elections procedures in light of the pandemic lessons learned and development of policy documents on membership in sections and chapters, conflict of interest, and the preparation for elections in 2022.

Preparation for and attending 10 ExCom and 10 Council meetings: 80 hours

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

Drafting and related preparation of multiple governance initiatives: 80 hours

Goals for 2022:

Complete revisions to Bylaws elections procedures, revise Guide to Duties and Responsibilities, Record Management policies, review the role of the Archivist, more Minutes!

Blue Ridge Chapter

Prepared by: Kristine Villatoro	Title: Blue Ridge Chapter President
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2021:

- 2021 didn't see much happening with BRC. We did however have a Trail maintenance workshop given by Bill, Abby & Gwen where we had about 8 people show up to take the workshop!
- We will be taken over the side trails at Bears Den. I hope this year we will start to work on the trails
- We held a couple of meetings with our annual meeting being the biggest draw.

Goals for 2022:

- Next year I hope to hold some Open House events at Bears Den!

Charlottesville Chapter

Prepared by: Bill Holman	Title: Charlottesville Chapter President
Number of Members/Volunteers: 96	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1343

Major accomplishments of 2021: The Charlottesville had 21 hikes involving 138 people and 16 maintenance trips involving 105 people this year. We have increased the number of hikes and maintenance trips this year as Covid restrictions were easing up. There was a turn out of 41 people to the Chapter's Dunlodge picnic social, one of the largest gatherings in years. The Chapter also hosted a Hike Leader training class at Dunlodge. Goals for 2022: We hope to continue increasing the number of hikes and maintenance trips this coming year based on how active Covid will be. With the Hike Leader Training program in place, we are recruiting more hike leaders in the Chapter to help

North Chapter

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Prepared by: Jean Stephens	Title: President, Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter
Number of Members/Volunteers: 142	Volunteer Hours Reported: Administrative: 435 Hike Leaders: 553 Trail Maintenance: PATC has hours recorded by trail maintainers

Major accomplishments of 2021: In 2021 the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter (SSVC) continued a strong hiking program. We offered 61 hikes in Shenandoah National Park (SNP), the George Washington National Forest (GWNF) North Ranger District and Lee Ranger District, and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. We added three new hike leaders this year, bringing our total of hike leaders to 12. SSVC also worked on developing a strong trail maintenance program. We offered 11 trail maintenance days which were all well attended. One trail which was the highlight of this year was the Crawford Knob Trail in the GWNF. This trail had become closed off by vegetation. Our volunteers put in over 300 hours of work to open the trail again. We have also continued to maintain a section of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in SNP. Many of our members also individually maintain sections of the AT and shelters in SNP. This year, SSVC worked to encourage participation and celebrate our 35 years as a PATC chapter by offering a "35 Miles for 35 Years" patch to any PATC member who hiked 35 miles on official PATC hikes

this year. The “year” ends on December 10, but we currently have 23 members who have earned the patch.

SSVC worked with PATC's Outreach program this year and participated in the AT Vista Days by holding two hikes along the AT. We also held a Family Fun Day at Sherando Lake with several hikes offered, time for swimming in the lake, and a picnic at the end of the day. We held a Trail Magic Day to offer AT Thru-hikers food and drinks during their trek. We participated in the ATC dedication of the town of Elkton as an official AT Trail Community.

SSVC held their Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 4 at a park in Waynesboro, VA. We had 32 members attend and offered a hike and picnic.

In January 2021, SSVC co-sponsored a Wilderness First Aid Training Course with Walkabout Outfitters. The course was held in Harrisonburg, VA. Three SSVC members completed the course.

Goals for 2022: For 2022, SSVC hopes to continue its strong hiking and trail maintenance programs. We would like to train some new hike leaders.

SSVC is looking forward to holding at least one Trail Magic Day this year. We are planning on participating in PATC's 95th Anniversary Celebration with hikes and a picnic.

We are in the planning stages for co-sponsoring a Wilderness First Aid training again in January 2022. SSVC would like to start a Meet Up group as a means for registering for hikes. We were using one in 2020 which we closed down during the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to use this as an outreach tool for more members, especially younger members.

We are hoping to train several new hike leaders.

We are hoping to hold a crosscut saw certification course for trail maintainers

Mountaineering

Annual Report for PATC Mountaineering Section – 11/29/2021

Membership as of November 29

- a. 421 members for PATC-MS
 - b. I do not know how many are PATC members. I have attached a list of PATC-MS members. If you can let us know that will help with outreach next year.
2. Accomplishments
- a. 61 events for the year
 - With 890 participates
 - with 324 unique participants
 - b. 65 events during the year
 - 19 Local Climbing Trips
 - 2 Meetings for business
 - 8 Road Trips – Out of State Climbing Trips
 - 11 Social Gatherings
 - 18 Skills Workshops
 - 5 Volunteer Days – trail work and outreach

- Plus 12 Excom Meetings - open to the members
- c. Updated our Website to a modern mobile friendly platform that can be maintained by our volunteers with less annual expense for licensing.
- d. We started several initiatives to encourage more women leaders in our organization
 - Started a Women’s Leadership grant and awarded \$200 each to 5 women for traditional lead climbing and leadership development
 - Hosted 8 social events for women climbers to encourage more trips lead by women climbers
 - Actively recruited women into leadership roles
- e. Expanded our ExCom to include 4 additional At Large members.
This was done to help with implementing large projects and to help develop future leaders. The full board includes a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.

3. Goals for 2022

- a. Increase trail work – 5 trail work days
- b. Increase outreach – 5 days work with outside groups like Boys/Girls Scouts and veterans
- c. Increase ties to main club – work with Club to increase awareness of the benefits of joining PATC – invite Outreach to speak at a PATC-MS function
- d. Increase Leadership training – develop more trip leaders and increase the skills of our current leaders.

Ski Touring Section

Cabins Operations

Conservation

Hikes

Prepared by: Iva Gillet	Title: Hikes Committee Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 9	Volunteer Hours Reported: 250

Major accomplishments of 2021:

A new hikes committee was formed with representatives from a variety of segments of the hiking community including chapters, local hiking clubs and hikes organizers. The committee met weekly by Zoom throughout the Spring of 2021. Members strategically edited the Hiking Handbook and posted on the PATC website for public use. Significant time was devoted to developing new hike leader curriculum in Power Point format for a revamped Hike Leader Education class, which was shortened to two hours, and offered in person and virtually to deal with the challenges of the pandemic. Leader education was expanded to on the trail learning.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, there were 79 hikes reports submitted, with the majority from the Southern Shenandoah Valley chapter.

The components of PATC Hike Leader certification now is composed of: taking Red Cross basic First Aid; participating in the Hike Leader course, online or in person; reading the Hike Leader manual; and planning and completing all components of leading a successful hike with oversight and feedback from a certified hike mentor. In the later part of 2021, two online courses and one in person course were offered, so that 30 new participants took the course. The committee decided that we would charge \$20 for the course to ensure sufficient buy-in so that attendees were invested enough to show up.

Additional courses are planned for December 2021.

Goals for 2022:

- Offer courses both online and in person as needed, we expect quarterly.
- Continue to search for additional facilitators for the course.
- With the expertise of the staff and communications team, develop a certificate and other suitable items for those who complete all requirements to become a hike leader.
- Formulate a plan to organize hiking groups in the NOVA and DC areas to mirror the formats chapters have.
- Work with the communications team to advertise hiking opportunities in our area and to promote hiking options to new and existing members. Use new member interest sheets while enthusiasm is fresh.
- Continue to refine lists of current certified hike leaders.
- Increase number of hike reports submitted.

Information Technology

Shelters

Prepared by: Henry Horn	Title: Shelter Chairperson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 62	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2021:

It has been quite a busy year, with many accomplishments. As usual we would not have accomplished so much without our great volunteers!

- Repaired the floor at the Garvy Shelter and refinish the floor.
- Built a new deck on the Ensign Cowell Shelter.
- Replaced the Porch decking and supports at Highacre cabin in Harpers Ferry.
- Replaced gutters on the Hermitage and Anna Michener cabins in Pennsylvania.
- Pumped out the privy at Ensign Cowell Shelter
- Repaired the Himes Store road by putting 22 tons of rock on the road to make it passable.
- Cleared the road to Pogo campground three time due to blow downs.
- Repaired and coated with sealant 4 shelter roofs in Shenandoah Park.
- Finished and put into service the new privy at Pogo campground.
- Removed the old Dicks Dome Shelter.

Goals for 2022:

Build a new mouldering privy at Ensign Cowell shelter.

Trail Land Acquisition

Trail Patrol

Trail Patrol: Christopher Firme	Prepared by: Christopher Firme
Number of Members/Volunteers: 33	Volunteer Hours Reported: 2,535.7
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 0	Date: September 30, 2021

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 spread 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 25 trail patrol members did 226 trail patrol hikes giving us a total of 1,797.4 miles patrolled on PATC maintained trails. Provided a total of 1,201.75 hiking volunteer hours where members observed, interacted, or assisted 8,571 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 643.55 giving us a grand total of 1,845.3 volunteer trail patrol hours. This year we had one trail patroller doing hikes out on the Tuscarora Trail, the Great North Mountain, North River District and the Massanutten. This really help the district managers in knowing which sections needed work. Many thanks go out to Richard Heath for his reports throughout the year. This year Richard Heath completed hiking all the PATC maintained trails. This feat is truly amazing in dedication to Trail Patrol and the valuable reports being submitted by him to the PATC.

Richard Heath:

Hikes	Hours	Grand Total	Miles Hiked	Travel Hours	G Tot Hours
73	454.1	3396	743.2	316.2	770.3

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	
Totals	300	1606.35	10516	2319.2	875.91	G Total 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

2019-2020 PATC Trail Totals

NAME OF TRAIL	# of Hikes	Hours	Contacts	Miles	Travel Hrs	
Appalachian Trail	157	810.7	7760	1173.4	465.2	
Catoctin Trail	3	6.8	48	15.8	6	
Tuscarora Trail	1	2	35	1.2	2	
Massanutten	12	77.9	314	128.2	49.9	
Great North Mtn	1	8.6	176	9.4	5.1	
Other Trails	161	238.8	4574	308.1	61.8	
						G Total
Totals	335	1144.8	12907	1636.1	590	1734.8

2019-2020 AT PATC Trail Totals

NAME OF TRAIL	# of Hikes	Hours	Contacts	Miles	Travel Hrs	
Appalachian Trail-SNP	95	496.5	5990	688.2	344.5	
Appalachian Trail-NVA	9	63	234	85.9	31.5	
Appalachian Trail-MD	30	158.7	1290	246.4	68.1	
Appalachian Trail-PA	23	92.5	236	152.9	21.1	
						Grand Hrs
Totals	157	810.7	7750	1173.4	465.2	1275.9

2020-2021 PATC Trail Totals ***

NAME OF TRAIL	# of Hikes	Hours	Contacts	Miles	Travel Hrs	
Appalachian Trail	143	796.35	6743	1172.5	408.65	
Catoctin Trail	9	45.4	93	47.5	18	
Tuscarora Trail	7	36.3	147	55.9	20	
Massanutten	4	27.5	116	51	13.9	
Great North Mtn	2	14.1	231	17.4	9.1	
Other Trails	61	272.1	1231	453.1	173.9	
						G Total
Totals	226	1201.75	8571	1797.4	643.55	1845.3

2020-2021 AT PATC Trail Totals

NAME OF TRAIL	# of Hikes	Hours	Contacts	Miles	Travel Hrs	Grand Hrs
Appalachian Trail-SNP	85	499.75	4832	679.7	299.95	
Appalachian Trail-NVA	2	12	19	22.7	4.9	
Appalachian Trail-MD	19	121.6	1223	186.8	59.4	
Appalachian Trail-PA	37	163	669	283.3	44.4	
Totals	143	796.35	6743	1172.5	408.65	1205

Member training and coordination. Brought no probationary members into active status during 2021. At the end of 2021, there was a total of 33 active members of which 25 did trail patrol hikes down from 28 in 2020. We had no new folks attend Trail Patrol meetings through zoom meetings which gave us the number of 91 attendees for eleven meetings. In 2021 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. Due to the COVID19, in the administration end, which includes our courses and meetings, we had a total of 690.4 volunteer hours, which was down due to conducting no courses for 2021. 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. None were held. This does help 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 2021 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. This year 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 season the six ridgerunners provided a total of paid 3,432 hiking hours where ridgerunners observed, interacted, or assisted 32,207 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 174.5 hours.

Leave No Trace. Due to COVID19, we conducted no Leave No Trace (LNT) trainer courses for the mid-Atlantic region nor hosted the NOLS LNT Master Educator course which is done with support from Shenandoah National Park (SNP).

Backpacking. Due to COVID19, we did not conduct our introductory backpacking class (Backpacking 101) for the public this year.

Hike Leadership Training. Now being conducted by the hikes committee.

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. Normally we provide support for one SNP partner program: National Trails Day. Canceled by the park due to COVID19.

ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership

Prepared by: Kathy Seiler	Title: ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 25

Major accomplishments of 2021: Attended via Zoom the Spring and Fall MARO-RPC meetings and reported discussion points pertinent to PATC Council; also, brought PATC concerns to those MARO-RPC meetings

Goals for 2022: Continue to serve in current position’s duties

AT Corridor Management

Prepared by: Tom Lupp	Title: AT Corridor Management
Number of Members/Volunteers: 37	Volunteer Hours Reported: 245

Major accomplishments of 2021:

- Dealt with COVID restrictions which did impact field work and training;
- 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 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.
- Got insurance reimbursement for accident damage at Big Flat, PA

Goals for 2022:

Continue with above activities.

Maryland AT Management

Prepared by: Tom Lupp	Title: MD AT Management Committee
Number of Members/Volunteers: 10	Volunteer Hours Reported: 54.8

Major accomplishments of 2021:

- Due to COVID restrictions we have continued with meeting via Zoom. This has encouraged additional attendance by members.
- Fostered a working relationship with DOD & Washington Co. regarding proper land management and social issues in the High Rock area. This has resulted in an organized graffiti clean-up and enhanced surveillance.
- 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.
- 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 2022:

- Continue with ongoing and unfinished above projects from 2021.

Archives and Library - VACANT

Bears Den Center

Prepared by: Glen Breining	Title: Caretaker of Bears Den
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 400

Major accomplishments of 2021:

Became profitable.
 Increased Our Airbnb reservations by 22%
 Increased Hipcamp by 30%
 Launched a B-Chord Music festival camp over and will carry that into 2022 to only become bigger
 Utilized the QR code on all aspects of Bears Den. To include the information Kiosk, the maps and the website.

Goals for 2022:

Install major drainage system out front where driveway meets road
 Expand Airbnb from 110 days a year to 140 days a year.
 Seek out more weddings for property
 Install Picnic Tables on the last 2 lawns to facilitate more guests camping on lawn
 Expand Hipcamp reservations
 Expand B-Chord Music Festival Camping

Blackburn Trail Center

Prepared by: Chris Brunton	Title: Blackburn Trail Center Manager
Number of Members/Volunteers: 3	Volunteer Hours Reported: 859

After the long lock down of 2020, we were excited and pleased when we were able to finally open Blackburn up again this Spring.

At the end of 2019 we hired Brandon Anderson as the winter caretaker, and he has stayed with us through both the 2020 and 2021 summer and winter seasons. We appreciate his work. We are also happy to report that we have hired new caretakes who are scheduled to arrive in March of 2022.

Thanks to an REI grant, obtained by John Hedrick for PATC to support the Blackburn Trail Center, we were able to expand our road contractor’s scope this year. He enlarged and rebuilt the hairpin corner and installed several new culverts. Next year we are hoping to put in extra work on the first steep climb coming up from the fields.

We received a wonderful donation from a PATC member, who asked to remain anonymous, to pay for four new windows in the main room of the Center. The windows were installed by Robert Fina, Barbara Cook and John Kittridge along with several other volunteers. This has improved insulation while still keeping with the historic looks of the original windows. Our sincere thanks go out to this member.

Ted Lantow, a Boy Scout from Purcellville, VA, came to us looking for an Eagle Scout project and we were happy to work with him. He supplied us with two new picnic tables and a heavy-duty fire pit all of which his crew had to carry in pieces up to the group campground on the north blue blaze trail. A big

improvement to the campground and we send out our thanks to Ted for an excellent Eagle Scout project.

We had to replace the hot water heater and several plumbing fixtures. This was an expense we hadn't planned for, but which were helped by hiker donations. Sadly, our big commercial kitchen stove that has been in use for over 25 years also quit working. A big loss! We are currently looking for a replacement and hope to be able to resolve this by next Spring if we can come up with funding.

This winter our rentals are booking fast, and I expect to see renters every week through the end of March.

This summer season was busy supporting several trainings including chainsaw, Leave no Trace. hike leader, and high line operation. Our ATC Ridge Runner, Witt Wisebram, was based at Blackburn from Memorial Day through Labor Day and kept us up to date on trail conditions and problems. We also hosted several trail crews, including the Cadillac Crew and the Mid Atlantic Crew.

Hiker season was busy with a large number of hikers. As usual, we saw large numbers of thru-hikers, section, and weekend hikers as well as a large increase in day hikers.

My personal thanks go out to Barbara Cook and John Kittridge who spent numerous hours doing maintenance work both inside and outside the Center (plus racking up 3,250 travel miles), and to the Cadillac Crew for giving us four weekends of their skilled work and wonderful company. There is no way I would be able to run the Center without them!

Cabins Construction and Major Repairs

Prepared by: Bruce A Berberick	Title: Cabin Const. and Repairs
Number of Members/Volunteers: 15	Volunteer Hours Reported: 977.5

Major accomplishments of 2021:

This year the Cabins Construction Committee worked on the new Jarman Gap and Kohn Cabins to renovate and prepare for entry into the Cabin Rental System.

Goals for 2022:

Goals for the upcoming year include the completion of the 2 new cabins, renovation of the Glass House Bathroom, preparing Butternut Cabin to become a new rental cabin on the Vining Tract.

Cabins Reservation Volunteer Coordinator

Customer Service Desks

Endowment

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

Major accomplishments of 2021:

The Endowment increased from \$4.01 million to \$4.94 million (\$930,000 or 23.2%) over the period 10/1/2020 to 9/30/2021.

Goals for 2022:

Maintain and conservatively grow the Fund.

Finance (see Treasurer’s report)

GPS Rangers

Prepared by: Jim Tomlin	Title: Chair, PATC GPS Rangers
Number of Members/Volunteers: 20	Volunteer Hours Reported: 2,298

Major accomplishments of 2021:

- The free GPS Rangers 2-day training class was held twice, in July and August.
- Completed the resurveying of all of the trails in the North District of Shenandoah National Park.
- Began resurveying all trails on PATC Map 5-6 using more accurate GPS equipment.
- Continued the Tuscarora Trail High Accuracy resurveying project with a professional Trimble GPS giving submeter accuracy. The goal is to provide better information about the entire trail route and property ownership
- Performed a training weekend in Green Ridge State Forest in Maryland in October.
- Surveyed and inventoried all trails in the PATC North River Ranger District, GWJNF.

Goals for 2022:

- Continue the Tuscarora Trail High Accuracy surveying project with two new Trimble DA2 Catalyst GPS antenna/receivers.
- Complete resurveying of all trails on PATC Map 5-6.
- Begin the Appalachian Trail Visitor Use Assessments for NPS/ATC. This may entail resurveying the entire AT in PATC’s jurisdiction.
- Establish a permanent display at the southern terminus of the Tuscarora Trail in SNP.
- Collaborate with WV Highlands Conservancy on Dolly Sods Campsite Inventory project.
- Perform C&O Canal hiker-biker campsite layout surveys for providing more info to Park visitors.
- Perform other surveying tasks as requested, such as for Guidebooks, Maps, Lands, etc.

Land Management – VACANT

GIS

Natural Resource Advisor

Prepared by: Rob Lamar	Title: Natural Resource Advisor
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported:

Major accomplishments of 2021:

From 10/01/20 to 09/30/21, PATC volunteers spent 2,323 hours working, at least partially, on invasive plant removal activities both on PATC lands and the lands of our partner agencies. A special shout-out

to the continued efforts to remove barberry at Catoctin Mountain Park and garlic mustard at Shenandoah National Park.

Periodic invasive plant workdays along the AT in Virginia north of Shenandoah NP continued to receive good participation and make progress, along with our regular Invasive Plant volunteers, of greatly reducing targeted invasives within 15 feet on either side of the AT centerline.

A joint PATC- Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS) garlic mustard pull was held at Thompson Wildlife Management area in March 2021. We continue to build strong relationships with the VNPS and the Virginia Master Naturalists.

In December 2020, PATC Natural Resources, together with Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Land Trust of Virginia, Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority, and the Piedmont Environmental Council presented a “Conservation Easements in the Blue Ridge” webinar. The webinar is available for viewing at https://blueridgeconservation.org/easement_webinar/

The now annual Wavyleaf Basketgrass workshop was conducted at Sky Meadows State Park. Trained volunteers spent the summer walking the AT north of Shenandoah NP into Maryland looking for this relatively new, but very concerning invasive species. Small occurrences of wavyleaf were mapped and removed. Large occurrences were mapped and our appropriate land management partners were notified. Invasive mapping was accomplished using our new ArcGIS mapping system. This represented a significant improvement over the EddMAPS mapping app. Among the many benefits of the new mapping system was the improved data transfer between PATC and its many partners in this project (including NPS, ATC, MD DNR, VA DCR, and VA WRC) Improved data transfer increased the effectiveness of state and federal herbicide spray teams. PATC received permission from VA WRC to use the club’s Virginia/West Virginia certified commercial applicator to spray wavyleaf occurrences in Thompson Wildlife Management area. PATC wavyleaf spray operations were also conducted in the vicinity of the PATC Huntley cabin and on WV land adjacent to Harpers Ferry NHP.

Efforts continued between PATC, ATC (Marion Orlousky, Ryan Seltzer) AAPA (Jim VanHaden, Denise Nelson) and NPS (Nathan Wender) to begin a PATC spray program on AAPA land to augment the current efforts of the Mid-Atlantic spray team.

On PATC lands, volunteers continued to expand their efforts to protect/restore our native landscapes and reduce the presence of invasive species.

On the PATC’s 200+ acre **Vining Tract** in Greene County, Virginia, volunteers invested over 100 hours on invasive plant control efforts. Efforts included the removal of wavyleaf basketgrass in the vicinity of the Conley cabin site (first discovered in late 2020) and the removal of other invasives (wineberry, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, honeysuckle, and *Ailanthus*) along the tract’s access paths and roadways which can act as vectors for invasive spread into other parts of the tract and neighboring lands.

This was a big year in PATC's management of ten acres surrounding and below the Vining Cabin in **Mutton Hollow**, with the planting of a five-acre meadow. The journey to this point began four years ago with the support of funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Vining family, technical guidance from the Blue Ridge PRISM, and contract services from the Virginia Forestry and Wildlife Group. Tract managers Thomas Jorgensen and Mark Walkup mobilized all these resources and enthusiastic PATC volunteers over the past four years to take a former pasture that was overgrown with

Tree of Heaven, Princess Tree, Multiflora Rose, Autumn Olive and other invasive plants, and ready it for planting with a mix of native grasses and wildflowers that will support wildlife and pollinators, and offer users of the cabin a fantastic view from the its front porch.

The meadow was planted on June 24 with four grass species, including purpletop and little bluestem, and 17 wildflowers, including milkweed, aster, partridge pea, monarda, mountain mint, yarrow and others. Until the natives can become well established, work will continue on invasive management. An August mowing of perilla mint and jimsonweed prevented these invasive annuals from going to seed. Later in the season, a team of PATC volunteers used backpack sprayers to control occurrences of mullein, oxeye daisy, spearmint, thistle, etc. To protect this meadow establishment, PATC volunteers also continued to suppress invasive plants on some five acres surrounding the field as they have since 2018. Work included garlic mustard (April), and Japanese stiltgrass (August) removal. Work on stiltgrass control was extended down a newly established trail that is now serving as a vector for the spread of this pernicious plant.

On the PATC's 250-acre **Entry Run Tract** in Greene County, Virginia, volunteers invested hundreds of hours over many work trips in 2021 to help protect and restore the Tract's ecology. The highest profile effort focused on replacing an earthen dam culvert pipe bridge (washed out in 20218 floods) with a new bridge that allows free passage of fish — particularly the native Eastern brook trout — to their upstream spawning grounds. Located at the public access Entry Run Trail head, the bridge also allows safe stream crossing by hikers and cabin renters seeking to enjoy the trail network into the Shenandoah National Park. Funded and constructed by a strong public-private partnership, the project not only restored natural habitat, it continues to educate the public — through trailhead kiosk information — about needed solutions to fish passage impediments.

While not receiving as much publicity, also important were the many work trips organized by the Tract Manager to address invasive plants on the Tract and trail network. Small groups pulled wineberry, autumn olive, garlic mustard throughout the year. In October the Tract Manager led a 16-person crew from the Sierra Club to kill a large area of ailanthus sprouts and wineberry vines. Neighbors of Entry Run were also enlisted in the process, helping to ensure long-term engagement and cooperation.

On the PATC **Eaton Tract**, contractual spraying of wineberry, autumn olive, multi-flora rose and other invasives was performed along the entry road and small meadow on the tract.

PATC, at the request of ATC, continues to take the lead in monitoring of rare plant populations along the AT corridor north of Shenandoah into PA. Several new volunteers were recruited and trained to monitor two large populations of Nodding Trillium in Virginia. An additional occurrence of this S2 state threatened species, whose southernmost range is northern Virginia, was found, mapped and added to the annual monitoring program. The new ArcGIS mapping software provided a substantial improvement to data collection and distribution.

Natural resource educational efforts continued via the club's newsletter, website, and club meetings. The ongoing COVID pandemic resulted in the cancellation of a number of planned work trips and educational activities. We are all hopefully for the more "normal" 2022.

Goals for 2022:

In 2022, efforts will be continued to protect and preserve the natural resources of both our PATC lands and the lands managed by our various partners. We will continue to foster and expand good working

relationships with our many partners (including ATC, NPS, SNP, VA WRC, VA NCR, MD DNR, WV DNR, etc) and other regional conservation organizations (including PEC, Land Trust of Virginia, VNPS, Master Naturalist, etc.)

Wavyleaf monitoring will be expanded with the goal of slowing the spread of this problematic invasive grass. We are hopeful that the PATC spray team on APPA property will become a reality in 2022. NPS is planning to use this program as a model for the 30 other AT maintaining clubs.

Landscape restoration and invasive plant control efforts will continue on PATC lands (including the Vining, Entry Run, Eaton, Lewis, Oliphant, Glasser, and Mutton Hollow, etc.). Invasive plant management must be a continual process - the gains of one year can easily be lost if there is not sustained monitoring and follow-up treatments. Plans are to encourage ALL Tract Managers to manage their tracts to reduce invasive encroachment and protect and enhance their native natural resources. We plan to expand work (and relationships) with our PATC and AT neighbors in 2022 to encourage control of invasive plant spread.

Educational efforts, highlighting the great natural resources on the lands of the PATC and our land management partners, will be continued through the PATC newsletter, website, workshops and communications with PATC Land Managers and District Managers.

Potomac Appalachian Newsletter

Prepared by: Richard Stromberg	Title: Potomac Appalachian Editor
Number of Members/Volunteers: 2	Volunteer Hours Reported: 343

Major accomplishments of 2021: Published 11 newsletters

Goals for 2022: Publish monthly newsletters

Publications

Prepared by: Emeline Otey	Title: Publications Committee Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 34	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1826 (163*)

Major accomplishments of fiscal year 2021:

We began fiscal year 2021 with the completion of new editions of two of our popular pocket hiking guidebooks - “The Tuscarora Trail: a Guide to the North Half” and “The Tuscarora Trail: a Guide to the South Half” - and our ever popular PATC Cabins Book. Work on these new editions largely took place during fiscal year 2020, but was completed at the beginning of fiscal year 2021.

We were especially glad to have the new editions of the hiking guidebooks because of the increasing popularity and use of the Tuscarora Trail during the pandemic when the Shenandoah National Park was closed for a period of time, and when hikers were looking for less crowded options to the Appalachian Trail.

John Stacy, district manager of the southern section of the Tuscarora Trail, and Bill Greenan, district manager of the central section, were the revision editors of the south half guidebook; Pete Brown,

district manager of the northern section, was the revision editor of the north half guidebook. Alan Kahan, graphic artist, did the layout and design for both the revised guidebooks; and Dave Pierce, cartographer, provided GPS coordinates support.

The new edition of the cabins book, to which two new cabins – Jarman Gap and Janet Kohn – were added, followed the same format that has been so popular with the two previous editions. Leading the team was Alan Kahan with contributions from Mel Merritt Bruce Berberick, Anstr Davidson, and cabin coordinator Martha Reynolds.

In fiscal year 2021 we completed new editions of two of our pocket hiking guidebooks, brought a new edition of another of our pocket guidebooks to its final stages before publication in January 2022, and to reprint with minor corrections two additional titles listed below.

- Shenandoah Mountain Trail Guide (second edition)
- Hikes in the Washington Region: Part A - Northern Maryland Counties (seven edition)
- Hikes in Western Maryland (fifth edition) - to be completed in early fiscal year 2022
- Guide to Massanutten Mountain Trails (sixth edition) – reprint
- Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania (tenth edition) - reprint

The second edition of “Shenandoah Mountain Trails: A Guide to Trails on Shenandoah Mountain in Rockingham, Augusta, and Highland Counties Virginia” was published in August 2021. PATC’s interest in Shenandoah Mountain has extended from the club’s early years when it organized bus trips to Ramsey’s Draft and Reddish Knob for hiking outings. These long bus trips indicate how strong the club’s interest was in these early days given the condition of roads at the time and the distance from Washington, DC. In 2019, PATC added the North River District to its area of responsibility for trail maintenance, with Lynn and Malcolm Cameron serving as district managers. The new edition by guidebook author, Timothy Hupp, and co-editors, Lynn and Malcolm Cameron, with updated maps by Dave Pierce and layout and design by Alan Kahan, now includes the Confederate Breastwork Trail, and omits some relocated trails that are not yet on the National Geographic map of this area (there is no PATC map for it). Shenandoah Mountain, part of the Allegheny Mountain Range, is located west of the Shenandoah Valley in the North River Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest; and extends 72-miles northeast to southwest from Hardy County, WV to Bath County, VA. The guidebook covers the central section of Shenandoah Mountain between Rt. 33 and Rt. 250 in western Rockingham, Augusta, and Highland Counties. This large wild area has a network of over 150 miles of trails, many of which were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The trails range from long, challenging hikes to short, easy hikes suitable for families with children. Numerous loop hikes and shuttle hikes in addition to out and return destination hikes are laid out in the guide book. These trails offer an exceptional hiking experience in terms of scenic beauty, challenge, rich diversity of plants and wildlife, and the opportunity to find solitude. The geology and soils on Shenandoah Mountain are notably different from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east. The differences in soil and rainfall accommodate certain plants and animals not found on the Blue Ridge. Since the Shenandoah Mountain area is National Forest, the trails are multi-use, with hunters, mountain bikers, and horseback riders sharing most of the trails. Mountain bikes are not permitted in Wilderness.

The seventh edition of PATC’s classic guide to trails in Maryland, “Hikes in the Washington Region Part A: Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington Counties,” was published in September 2021. This guide is

one of three highlighting hiking opportunities close to the Washington metropolitan area, most of which are routes that can be easily done in just part of a day. Part B covers trails in Northern Virginia and Part C covers trails in the District of Columbia and Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Hartford, Howard, and Prince George's Counties in Maryland. With the extensive experience and expertise Larry Broadwell and William Needham, co-editors, Dave Pierce, cartographer, and Alan Kahan, graphic artist, brought to the team it is not surprising that this new edition is superb in the quality of the content and its presentation. The new edition has 25 carefully selected entries, including four new hikes and many old favorites that have been carefully updated. The hikes comprising the volume are a mixture designed to appeal to hikers of any level. The hikes fall into five geographic clusters: Potomac River Valley; Northwest Branch and Rock Creek Valley; Monocacy Basin; Cabin John, Seneca Creek, and Patuxent River Valleys; and Catocin and South Mountains, Harpers Ferry, and Antietam. Before beginning the description of the first hike in each cluster, the co-editors provide an informative and highly readable description of the geology and history of the area and the flora and fauna that are characteristic of it. Most of the routes that made the final cut of all those considered are circuits. The descriptions of the hikes include the length, the amount of elevation gain, and the WGS84 coordinates for the trailhead parking. The descriptions also include information about the type of tread (e.g., natural, paved, crushed rock), stream crossings, and any especially rocky sections or steep climbs. This is followed by a turn by turn description of the route. This detailed information allows the guide user to decide which of the hikes will be most appropriate choice for their skill and energy level.

The fifth edition of another of our pocket hiking guidebook, "Hikes in Western Maryland," is nearing completion under the hard work of a team put together and directed by editor, Judith McGuire, and will be published in January 2022. She has drawn upon many hikers new to PATC, and provided an opportunity for these individuals and families to learn the skills and steps that go into our guidebooks. Western Maryland has an abundance of wonderful hiking trails including day hikes and multi-day backpacking trips, level strolls, and demanding climbs, linear hikes, and circuits. Many of these trails have historic sites and others allow for a dip in a stream or lake along the way. There are various options for camping along the trails or nearby. The new edition adds three new trails (Big Slackwater, Cherry Creek Loop, and the Cranesville Swamp), changes some trails, and eliminates some hikes (Swallow Falls/Herrington Manor Trail, Great Eastern Trail in GRSF, and the Western Maryland Rail Trail).

The fifth edition of "The Guide to Massanutten Mountain Trails" was reprinted with corrections in November 2020. The editors of this guidebook were Carol and Joe Stiepler.

The tenth edition of "Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia Maryland, and Pennsylvania" was reprinted with corrections in March 2021. The editors were Larry Broadwell and William Needham, the cartographer was Dave Pierce, and the layout and design artist was Lauren Walsh.

Goals for 2022

The five publications listed below will be revised or reprinted in 2022. The impact of the outstanding contract with REI for distribution of our publications, developed and implemented as a result of Diane Yang's superb and persistent efforts, and the great increase in the number of people on the trails in our area as a result of the pandemic are still being felt. Careful attention has been and will continue to be paid to the outflow of our hiking and trail guides as impacted by these two factors.

Four of the five publications in the 2022 budget are revisions (new edition); one is a reprint. Four of the five publications are carried by REI. (Only "These Hills Were Home" is not carried by REI.)

- Hiker’s Guide to Civil War Trails in the Mid-Atlantic Region (second edition)
- Circuit Hikes in the Shenandoah National Park (nineteenth edition)
- Tuscarora Trail: A Guide to the South Half in West Virginia and Virginia (eighth edition)
- Guide to Great North Mountain Trails (reprint, third edition)
- These Hills Were Home: A Walking History Guide to the Blue Ridge Mountains of Northern Greene County and Western Madison County, Virginia (second edition)

*Hours worked on publications but reported under other categories.

Tuscarora Trail

Cabin Desk Coordinator

Prepared by: Steve McLaughlin	Title: Cabin Desk Coordinator
Number of Members/Volunteers: 10	Volunteer Hours Reported: 60 hours

Major accomplishments of 2021:

The Cabin Desk was not staffed during the pandemic (all of 2021). The total hours worked by cabin desk volunteers was approximately 50 and it consisted of regular correspondence with the Cabins Coordinator and other on usage issues, basically 5 hours of messaging and policy issues a month.

Goals for 2021:

PATC has reorganized the volunteer staff. This position should be re-evaluated to see how it fits with the new HQ operation post-pandemic. We still need a policy person and advocate for renters, but we don’t need someone to coordinate the volunteer schedule.