



**POTOMAC
APPALACHIAN TRAIL
CLUB**

**Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
2022 Annual Report**

Elected Officers

President – Joe Lombardo

Prepared by: Joseph Lombardo

Title: President

Number of Members/Volunteers: 1

Volunteer Hours Reported: 1040

Major accomplishments of 2022:

- The club lifted all pandemic restrictions and resumed normal operations.
- PATC successfully conducted its first club officer election via electronic voting, resulting in lower costs and broad member participation.
- Council established a fundraising committee.
- The club prevailed in a legal dispute, resulting in PATC being awarded a fair portion of a deceased member's estate designated for the club.
- The club created the lifetime achievement award to honor posthumously those who have made significant contributions to the club.
- Club leadership engaged with external stakeholders to ensure agreements, legislation, and policies respect the club's rights and role in the cooperative management system.
- Council approved the 2023 budget—the first balanced budget in many years.
- Club established a business process improvement working group.

Goals for 2023:

- Strengthen the club's finance strategy to fund PATC's operations while ensuring member affordability.
- Modernize our IT systems and business processes to improve our operational efficiency.
- Develop strategies to expand our membership and cadre of volunteers.

VP Operations – Jim Tomlin (no report)

VP Volunteerism – Anstr Davidson

Prepared by: Anstr Davidson

Title: Vice President for Volunteerism

Number of Members/Volunteers: 1

Volunteer Hours: Approx. 150 hours

Major accomplishments of 2022:

- 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.
- The pandemic continued to impact 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.
- In 2022, the club recorded _____ volunteers who performed _____ work hours. Those volunteers recorded _____ hours of travel time. This is up from last year which was more significantly impacted by the pandemic, but down from 2019, the last full pre-pandemic year. See table below:

Goals for 2023:

- The data above are "not less than." We do not know the actual hours worked because many 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 should be the object of a major initiative in 2023.
- The club is committed to volunteerism. It is not clear, however, what effort in this regard should be centralized under the vice president or managed by work groups. That important issue will be in the hands of the new management that will take office in January.

Supervisor of Trails – John Stacy

Prepared by: John Stacy

Title: Supervisor of Trails

Number of Members/Volunteers: 800
(estimated)

Volunteer Hours Reported: 48,087

2022 Accomplishments

Maintained 1185 miles of trails sorted into 709 unique sections and assigned to 41 districts. There are 17 active crews. We have 44 designated land managers, including National Parks and Battlefields, National Forest districts, state, county, and nonprofit organizations. We also have numerous private landowners.

Facilitated training in Shenandoah National Park of 4 Chainsaw Safety, Maintenance, and Operations (CSMO) instructors and certified 15 CSMO operators, completing a short but significant transition from previous certification processes.

Maintained a successful collaboration with National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA). Submitted our final report to National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance on the Elizabeth Furnace Bridge Replacement, funded by NWSA, USFS, PATC, and private contributions. Won a new \$17K grant from NWSA to work in the National Forest to control invasives, repair bridges, and improve tread working with PATC volunteers, FS Staff, ACC Crew, and public volunteers.

Celebrated the completion by PATC of the GWMP C1-PHT connector steps with the National Park Management, PATC members and staff, and public.

Participated in planning, proposing projects, and leading at least three groups in the Love Shenandoah! event supported by the Trust and SNP management. One result of this work was to build a relationship with a JMU volunteer group leading to them adopting several sections of trails near Harrisonburg.

Trail system at Monocacy Natural Resource Management Area was formally dedicated by the State in April.

Supported Lands Acquisition in the review and discussions on new easements for the Tuscarora Trail.

2023 Goals

Support a successful, straightforward transition to Rush Williamson, our newly elected Supervisor of Trails.

Prepare and gain approval for an effective budget to ensure adequate resources for execution by the 2023 Trails organization.

Complete the many specific and valuable goals described by each district below.

Pennsylvania North Chapter – AT Map 2-3, 4 – AT Shelters, Trail, Side Trails

Yankee Clippers Crew

Dave Trone and Pete Brown

2022 Accomplishments

1. The number of workhours was 4,696 (3,386 work + 1,310 travel).
2. A Group Use document addressing camping abuses at AT shelters was developed with the assistance of ATC and Michaux State Forest personnel. The number of infractions by the Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School was greatly reduced.
3. A majority of North Chapter sawyers were recertified.
4. Hazard trees were removed from Tumbling Run Shelter, Deer Lick Shelter, Rocky Mountain Shelter, Birch Run Shelter, Toms Run Shelter, and Gypsy Spring Cabin. This project is ongoing.
5. A new bridge over Antietam Creek was constructed.
6. Strong efforts to eradicate bed bugs (later identified as bat bugs) from Birch Run Shelter was made. The chemical applications failed and the shelter was ultimately closed.
7. Many sections required more weed whacking than previous years due to the increased loss of the canopy.
8. The ATC Visitor Use Management project was initiated.
9. The roof at Quarry Gap Shelter was repaired. It had been damaged by a falling tree limb.
10. The North Chapter maintained a good rapport with ATC, Michaux State Forest, and the Friends of Michaux State Forest (FOM). The following North Chapter members remain on the FoM Board: Tawnya Finney, Chris Firme, David Trone, and Dee Utz.
11. David Trone, District Manager, participated in a trail video produced by The Cumberland Shop located in Shippensburg, PA. See https://fb.watch/8WoYix-k_7/.
12. The access road to Rocky Mountain Shelter was improved in preparation for pumping out the privy.
13. The Rocky Mountain Shelter privy was pumped out with the help of John Hedrick, Henry Horn, Big Gulp, and Michaux State Forest personnel.

2023 Goals

1. Advance the moldering privy projects for the following shelters: Deer Lick, Rocky Mountain, Quarry Gap, and Toms Run.
2. Continue the hazard tree project with more of a focus on AT trailheads and parking areas. The North Chapter will take the first step by identifying and mapping hazard trees. Michaux State Forest and ATC will handle the actual tree removal.
3. Repair the hammock structure(s) at Toms Run Shelter.
4. Remove the old shingles stacked next to Hermitage Cabin.
5. Keep abreast of controlled burns near Big Flat and Dead Womans Hollow.
6. Assist with the removal of graffiti in and near Chimney Rocks.
7. Have trail signs made by a PA person.
8. Put more information on the North Chapter website (www.patcnorth.net).
9. Prevent bats from living in Birch Run Shelter in an effort to prevent the return of bat bugs.
10. Have the Big Flat AT trailhead parking lot graded and then stone spread.

11. Have a stone wall in Caledonia State Park rebuilt so the AT will no longer require a detour just north of the AT/US30 crossing.

Maryland Appalachian Trail/AT Side Trails - Map 5-6

Southmountaineers Crew

David A. House

2022 Accomplishments

1. Installed over 150 erosion control devices this past year (most in stone) consisting of rolling grade dips, checkdams, waterbars & drainage ditches.
2. Installed several hundred feet of stone pavers and step stones in the AT behind newly installed checkdams.
3. Performed major erosion control work (over 750 man-hours) on the AT between US40 and Annapolis Rock.
4. Performed significant erosion control improvements on Sugarloaf Mountain.
5. Assisted ATC with clearing major brush in and around the Michigan Field adjacent to the AT near Fox Gap.
6. 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.
7. Filled vacancies for the MD Heights Trail, Northern Peaks East on Sugarloaf and several AT sections with 5 new Maintainers and provided orientation training.
8. Participated in the bi-monthly MD AT Management Committee meetings.
9. Participated on the Advisory Committee for Boonsboro MD to pursue becoming an "AT Community".

2023 Goals

1. Complete the major erosion control work between US40 and Annapolis Rock. Then move on to other AT sections in need of rehab.
2. Rebuild the lower switchbacks between Weverton Road and the Weverton Cliffs BB Trail. This was planned for 2022 but not completed as ATC is planning a relocation to bypass some of the upper switchbacks which I understand will be budgeted for 2025.
3. Address all blowdowns and seasonal weeding needs in a timely manner.
4. Participate in the bi-monthly MD AT Management Committee meetings.
5. Participate on the Advisory Committee for Boonsboro MD to become an "AT Community".

Catoctin Trail District - MD Map 5-6

Old Scouter Crew –

Rush Williamson

2022 Accomplishments

This is the second 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 District cache, located in the Manor at Cunningham State Park, has been inventoried twice and all the chain saws and weeders that required maintenance have been repaired. The Catoctin, Old Misery and Cat Rock Trails blazing have been refreshed. All ten (10) of the District Maintainers are still active, but one probably will need to be replaced this year. The District now has five certified sawyers, three got their certification this year.

All of the trails were visited and maintenance performed at a very high level, so much so that both the Catoctin NP and the two State Parks have highlighted PATC's work in numerous Park newsletter articles as well as personal emails from senior management of both Parks. The entire Catoctin Trail in the National Park and Cunningham and Gambrill State Parks 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 help out on non – PATC trails a couple of times. The District Manager has personally visited numerous times the three Land Partners 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 Map 7,8

Chris Brunton and Rob Lamar

Virginia AT North District - 2022 Annual Report

Oak decline particularly on the ridge tops north of Snicker Gap and ash mortality in the more mesic sections of trail continued to result in a never-ending series of blowdowns on the trail. Blowdown removal and routine clipping and general maintenance continued to comprise much of our trail maintenance activities in the district.

The District hosted the Cadillac Crew for multiple work weekends both at the Blackburn Trail Center and Bear Den hostel. The Crew worked on:

- Trail north of Keys Gap installing a series of water diversion features; and
- Trail rehab on trail section north of Snickers Gap.

Hosted the Appalachian Trail Conference's (ATC) Mid-Atlantic crew for several weeks of work on constructing a rock staircase up a particularly steep section of trail just south of Buzzard Hill.

Hazardous tree removal operations were performed by Robert Fina/Martha Becton and their crew in the areas of the Lesser shelter, Sam Moore shelter, Rod Hollow shelter, and Blackburn Trail Center.

Met multiple times with ATC staff to plan improvements and possible relocations on heavily used trail

sections north and south of Snickers Gap and in the vicinity of the waterfall in Reservoir Hollow.

Planning for a long needed hiker foot bridge over Hwy7 at Snickers Gap has started. Both zoom calls and on-site visits have been made this year by VDOT, NPS, ATC and PATC. Our guess is that we are looking at a 5- to 7-year project but at least it's under way.

This season we have had to carry out 5 different abandoned tent sites. These look like they have been lived in for several months and then the occupants simply walk away leaving piles of trash including old clothing, blankets, food items, kids' broken toys and piles of empty containers, bottles and food jars. Most likely this is a sign of the times but very unfortunate and another burden on our volunteers.

Hosted three Introduction to Trail Maintenance workshops conducted by Kris English, ATC Technical Trail Specialist at the Blackburn Trail Center and Bears Den hostel. All three workshops were well attended and benefited both existing District volunteers and newcomers to the PATC.

Supported a series of District-wide Trail improvement work days on various trail segments within the District. Two special concentrations of multiple day work trips focused on 1) the blue-blazed trail from the Snickers Gap commuter lot to the AT and 2) the AT within Fent Wiley Hollow.

District invasive plant volunteers continued their work mapping and removing invasive plants in the vicinity of the trail. For the first time, the club received approval from ATC and APPA to use chemical treatments to control targeted invasive plants. With an approved Pesticide Use ^[L]_{SEP} Proposal for the area north of Ashby Gap to Snickers Gap. numerous work trips were completed along the trail south of Duke Hollow, in Duke Hollow, Rod Hollow and Reservoir Hollow, and the internal trail system in the vicinity of the Bears Den hostel.

Mosby/Rte 50-SNP AT/BB - Map 8, 9

Jon Rindt and Maston Gray

The past year in Mosby (VA South AT) district was normal with respect to maintenance and no new construction. The only unusual action in the district was in October 2022 when the ATC Open Area Program team spent a week mowing, clearing views, and expanding the edges of the APPA Ovoka Tract. They will return next October to continue the work.

SNP North AT - Map 9

Wayne Limberg

SNP North BB - Map 9

Hoodlum Trail Crew

Noel Freeman

2022 Accomplishments

Even at the worst of the pandemic dedicated Shenandoah National Park North District trail maintainers had kept their work hours at pre-Covid levels despite park closings. 2022 saw the North District back in full swing in 2022. Trail maintenance hours for both the AT and BB trails in the North District back to pre-pandemic levels in 2022. This was largely due to the park service relaxing some its restrictions on crew size and facility access which allowed the ND Hoodlums to field larger weekend crews and expand participation in its summer crew week in July. The Hoodlums had a record turnout in April and potlucks were back. Climate change and Covid variants, however, reminded the Hoodlums that they were not entirely out of the woods. In May, the Hoodlums, in consultation with the park service, had to cancel a work trip for the first time because of extreme heat.

The Hoodlums continued their multi-year effort to rehab AT sections in the ND, focusing on North Marshall and Beahms Gap to Neighbor Mountain. The addition of six new maintainers was a real plus as was SNP volunteer coordinator Leah Cawthorn arranging for two Youth Conservation Corps and a visiting ACC women's crew to lend a hand.

With new recruits and volunteers, training was once again a priority. In April the ND and CD hosted two trail maintenance workshops run by ATC instructor Kristen English as part of a new ATC training initiative. A reporter from the Christian Science Monitor who was doing a feature on volunteer work in the parks during the pandemic also attended. His article was picked up by Apple News; with 150,000 hits, it gave PATC a nice publicity boost. In September, the Hoodlums' 35th trails maintenance workshop was once again a sellout.

SNP Central AT – Map 10

Mike Hiller and Scott Christensen

Maintainers for Shenandoah National Park AT Central District (CD) successfully managed all trail maintenance activities throughout FY 2022. 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. There has been an increase in trail use this year as hikers returned to pre-pandemic activities. Weather events seemed normal and there were not serious events requiring immediate intervention such as blow downs, washouts etc. Feedback from ridge runners and trail patrol was overall very positive. Trail conditions are in excellent shape, with one exception discussed below. We anticipate only one significant reconstruction undertaking.

2022 Accomplishments

- Staffing levels are at 100% with 34 Central District AT maintainers with two serving as Co-District Managers (DM's) as well as supporting trail maintenance for a total of 36 volunteers.
- CD had a total of 1,764 hours of volunteer effort for FY 2020!
- Stephanie Danahy was CD's top performer putting in a total of 104 working hours in our district!
- CD DM's certified several chain sawyers this FY. Classed are now led by our own PATC trainers.
- CD AT Maintainers supported several Bear Blazers initiatives this year working 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.
- CD maintainers and leaders supported several invasive species initiatives with SNP personnel.

- CD DM's coordinated and supported training efforts sponsored by Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). ATC staff led a full day class on trail maintenance fundamentals that included tool safety, use and care, as well as emphasis on erosion control techniques.
- CD DM's coordinated an introduction to trail maintenance workshop in June 2022. There were 12 participants some included potential new recruits. Workshop included walking a section of trail noting its features and challenges and perform hands on activities to practice tool use and trail improvements.
- Tool caches at Swift Run, Big Meadows and Thornton Gap are maintained by Ray Miller and Jeff DeTroye. All tools caches are fully stocked and organized. One new addition to mention is the fuel storage locker in Big Meadows. This should be considered a safety accomplishment for PATC.

2023 Goals

- The AT near Jewell Hollow overlook is beginning to show signs of erosion and washout. The trail is passable but there are at least two locations where the trail is rapidly eroding toward the downslope. A field repair is not, at least in my limited experience, sustainable. The section likely was constructed with a retaining wall or cribbing that has washed away. The area above the slope appears to have been cleared recently at some point to provide improved views for the overlook and water is not retained by any natural features such as trees. I believe the erosion will continue to a point that the section will need to be closed if some intervention is not planned soon. I think there are options to, (1) relocate the trail toward to upslope and construct a cribbing wall with drains, or (2) attempt to build back a cribbing wall with drains. Some consideration should be given for the water runoff from the overlook downslope as well. I feel this would be a big project.
- Emphasis for 2023 will be placed on continued essential maintenance, blowdown removal, weeding and waterbar maintenance and reconstruction. We will continue to advocate and coordinate both internally and externally with the ATC for fundamental trail maintenance training that will keep our crew current with best practices. Invasive species awareness and maintainer support 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.

Bear Blazers Crew

Stephanie Danahy and Alex Lampros

The Bear Blazers supported SNP with various aspects of trail maintenance delivering over 300 volunteer hours to Shenandoah National Park central district in the 2022 season from May to October.

- 20-22 May invasive weed removal 10 people 70 hours
- 10 -12 June weeding weekend for member trail sections 54 hours
- 8-12 Jul trail maintenance 50 hours
- 12-14 Aug weeding weekend 50 hours
- 9-11 Sept Water bars and tread work 28 hours
- 14-16 Oct last crew weekend water bar and winter trail preparation multiple blowdowns cleared 45 hours

The season kicked off in May with the Bear Blazers' annual SNP invasive weed pull. Coordination with the park staff was especially critical to making the invasive weed pull a big success; every trail section – over 5 miles identified by SNP ranger Jake Hughes was cleared.

Mary's Rock to Byrd's Nest 3 (1.1 miles)

Horse Stables to Little Stony Man Parking (3.4 miles)

Passamaquoddy Trail (1mile). -- cleared the entire trail. The group also geolocated and reported 2 areas as potential treatment areas where the invasive weeds cannot be controlled by hand.

In support of keeping the trails open several members of the Bear Blazer crew received chainsaw certification with the park. The chainsaw skills augment traditional crosscut and axe skills across the crew. This year saw several storms and numerous blowdowns blocking our trails. Since Blue Blazers maintain trails on both the AT and in the wilderness both we continue to use both crosscut and chain saws to clear trails.



Blowdown in a Wilderness Area before PATC Contributions

Bear Blazers District Managers organized a Basic Trail Maintenance Workshop. This 1-day workshop included "classroom" and field setting learning the basics of safety, trail assessment, tread maintenance, blazing, hydrology, drainage and brushing. Through the workshop and other efforts, the DMs recruited new members to the Bear Blazers.

Bear Blazers also adopted an orphaned trail section in SNP and worked to maintain this new section on various weekend trips through combined efforts from the crew.

Planning for 2023 includes development of a proposal to improve drainage in a section of the AT on one section of the Bear Blazers trails; continuing recruitment of new members, invasive weed pull and

working to maintain our assigned SNP trails while enjoying friends, keeping current on trail maintenance, learning new skills, and visiting Shenandoah National Park.

SNP Central – North Side Trails – Map 10 [north]

Patrick Wilson, Eugene “Buz” Groshong, and Josh Fuchs

2022 Accomplishments

- New maintainers assigned
 - Bernard DuCharme, upper Nicholson Hollow
 - Jason Henderson, Crusher Ridge
 - Chris Jones, Meadow Spring
 - Chris Hook, Catlett Spur
 - Joe Phillips, Robertson Mountain
- All trails (except Broad Hollow) have active maintainers
- Individual accomplishments
 - Approximately 75 waterbars on upper Nicholson Hollow thoroughly dug out for the first time in many years
 - Years of overgrown woody vegetation finally cut back on:
 - Robertson Mountain
 - Upper half of Broad Hollow
- Three days of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) work on Corbin Cabin Cutoff and Middle Nicholson Hollow

SNP Central BB – Map 10 [south]

John Hedrick and Matt Murray

This period was fairly routine. Most of the work was weeding and removal of some blowdowns. Because there was no big storm we didn't experience significant trail damage. Matt stayed busy removing blowdowns in our district as well as helping in the south. Our major goal for this season will be recruiting for a few vacant positions.

SNP South AT – Map 11

Trail Doctors Crew

David M. Bowen and Patti McInerney

2022 Accomplishments

- 2022 Statistics – The District's 538 maintainers logged 1,725 work hours and 904 travel hours for a total of 2,629 total hours this year, the third largest number of hours of the PATC's 41 districts. We led all the SNP Districts in both total hours worked and number of volunteers. Some of our maintainers come from long distances in DC and Maryland for the privilege of working on the AT.

- Full Cadre of Maintainers – we closed out the year with all 27 sections of our 46-mile stretch of the AT having dedicated maintainers.
- Chain Saw Certification - We were successful in getting another one of our maintainers chainsaw-certified to saw in the Shenandoah National Park as well as any other any other National Park Service Park this year.
- ATC Conference – Dave Bowen represented PATC at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Volunteer Leadership Meeting held at the Mountain Creek resort in August.
- Equipment Update - We were fortunate in being the recipient of a new Stihl FS90 trimmer, donated by one of our maintainers this year. We were also able to relocate our self-propelled DR brushcutter up to the Simmons Gap tool cache where it is now inside and attached to a battery charger for immediate use. We trained several maintainers on this significant piece of equipment and it received more use this year than in the past 3 years. We have several trail sections where this brushcutter can significantly reduce the trimmer work for our maintainers.

2023 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 would like to increase the diversity of our maintainer corps and will be working on that.

SNP South Blue blazed - Map 11

James Surdukowski

2022 Accomplishments

Vegetation control on some remote sections of trail including Rip Rap, Brown Mountain and the backside of Rocky Mount. This was accomplished with several crews.

Small crews and individual efforts filled in for maintainers out for medical reasons and a long-distance hike on the N.C Mountain to Sea trail.

2023 Goals

Keep all trails staffed and perform waterbar rehabilitation.

Tuscarora North – Map K, J

Chris Firme

With the Tuscarora work trips we had eight work trips with 38 volunteers contributing 221.5 hours and mileage hours of 85 hours for a total of 306.5 hours. With the Tuscarora Trail including all maintainers, we had 242 volunteers contributing 1,264.8 hours and mileage hours of 447.16 hours for a total of 1,711.96 hours.

- I started off with the maintainers working on the section from Rte 16 to Rte 456 and in fact they put in 453.75 hours of volunteer work trip time on the trail. Major congratulations to them.
- With the work trips we concentrated on the sections north and south of Cowans Gap State Park. Blazing and blowdown removal was done in one work trip from Cowans Gap State Park to just south of Rte 30 with three groups of volunteers.
- Later, on in the summer another one was held for weedwhacking and blowdown removal on the section along Rte 30 and south of the hang glider site to the Buchanan SF boundary.
- Earlier, in the spring one trip was held on the Amberson Ridge and all blowdowns were removed and blazed checked on.
- The maintainers from Hemlock Rd to Rte 641 have kept their sections, opened, and blazed this year.
- Moving north from Warner Trail to McClures Gap, the one big blowdown was taken care of and weedwhacked and Al Musser has volunteered to take it over as a volunteer.
- The Rheinman Wildlife Sanctuary has been weedwhacked and reblazed but will need attention here soon.
- At the Charlie Irwin shelter, Michael Leahy is busy putting in rock steps to the privy. He has continued working on the treadwork for the TT in his section by putting in rock placements. He has been awarded the Hawksbill award for his work.
- Going north the blowdowns have been removed north of Sterretts Gap by Nick Erway and company.
- Though we are in a new fiscal year the last two work trips have been held on the section from Fannettsburg Rd to the high-tension powerlines. We have had two work trips so far; first one was held on a Saturday, and we went from Fannettsburg Rd not quite to the towers over the PA Turnpike-Tuscarora Tunnel.
- One big blowdown remains but it is passable, and we still have 0.3 miles left to go to the tower.
- The midweek work trip we went from the towers north reblazing, as far as the Buchanan State Forest boundary corner 0.9 miles, and blowdowns were removed within 1.4 miles with only 0.4 miles left on the ridge to be done and on the blazing, we have 0.8 miles left to complete.
- On the fancy signs the ones that have been vandalized have been reported to PATC, are in process of being remade and Jim Tomlin will be putting them up. I have been documenting all signs, both fancy and wooden ones along the Tuscarora Trail with photos.
- So many thanks go out to the many volunteers who have put in countless hours in on the trail. See below the hours for the fiscal year of October 1, 2021, through to September 30, 2022.

TUSCARORA TRAIL TRAIL/SHELTER WORK TRIPS

TRAILS	WORK HOURS	TRAVEL HRS	TOTAL	VOL
PATT-Side Trails	20	15	35	8
PATT-North	643.05	165.51	808.56	138
PATT-South	601.75	266.65	868.4	96
TOTALS	1264.8	447.16	1711.96	242

TUSCARORA TRAIL TRAIL/SHELTER WORK TRIPS

AGENCY	WORK HOURS	TRAVEL HRS	TOTAL	VOL
Audubon Cliff Jones FS	21	11	32	10
Buchanan SF	133	75.4	208.4	37
Cowans Gap SP	45.5	26.5	72	14
Indian Springs WMA	3	4	7	2
Nature Conservancy	6.25	3.5	9.75	5
PA SGL	59	21.91	80.91	18
PA SGL 124	453.75	193.75	647.5	61
PENNDOT	26	7	33	6
Private	10.25	3	13.25	1
Rheinman WS	280.5	39.25	319.75	48
Tuscarora SF	226.55	88.85	315.4	128
TOTALS	1264.8	474.16	1738.96	330



TT Work trip 10/15/2022 Otto the otter checking out the view of PA Turnpike on the Tuscarora Trail.

Tuscarora Central-Map L

Devils Nose Crew

Bill Greenan

2022 Accomplishments

- 11 Devils Nose Crew work trips completed.
- 1 Cadillac Crew Work Trip in Sleepy Creek WMA.
- Biby Trail head – Worked with the County to expand the usable parking area.
- Hazard trees Felled at 2 shelters (Barclays Run, and Dugan Hollow).
- Stained Dugan Hollow Shelter porch and repainted the privy.
- Stained Shockeyes Knob Shelter and picnic table.
- Hancock Trail Days-Worked on the Tuscarora Trail on the Ruth Morris Tract for the scheduled hike.
- Worked to reestablish relations with various landowners for trail easements and trail/shelter access.
- Most of district clear of tree blowdowns.
- Cleared miles of trail (Using trimmers and loppers).
- Re-dug hundreds of feet of backslope and tread.
- Built dozens of new rolling grade dips, knicks in the trail.

2023 Goals

- 11 Devils Nose Crew work trips planned with additional trips possible.
- Hazard trees to be removed from 2 Shelters (Shockeyes Knob, and Spruce Pine Hollow).
- Trail relocations between the PATC's Barclays Run Shelter property and Pinnacle Property.
- Repairs to the Spruce Pine Hollow/Meadow Branch Bridge.
- Eagle Scout project to build three new tent pads at Lucas Woods Campsite.
- Shockeyes Knob Spring – Build a new cover and clear around spring.
- Finish clearing all tree blowdowns in TT Central District.
- Clear remaining trail sections that are hard to get to or that do not have a maintainer.
- Continue to work on getting legal easements where there are handshake agreements currently.
- Continue to work on getting the road sections off the road and into the woods/fields.
- Install parking signs at the new parking area at the Biby Wilderness Trailhead in Shawneeland.
- Install new and replacement trail signs at numerous sites.
- Put in a trail kiosk at the Biby Wilderness Trailhead to educate people about PATC, trail work, trail educate on private property, and the parking situation.
- Repair Shockeyes Knob Privy.
- Repair/Paint privy at Lucas Woods Campsite.
- Establish a usable access to the "Double Powerline" at Capon Springs.
- Provide corrections/updates to the new TT South Guidebook.
- Provide corrections/updates to the new Map L.
- Pinnacle Shelter/Privy- clean and stain deck, paint sleeping deck, repair privy and install hardware cloth.

Tuscarora South – Map F, G, 9

John Stacy

2022 Accomplishments

- There were 153 volunteer visits in total across the district, contributing 1157 hours.
- Completed Elizabeth Furnace Bridge Replacement and Final Report funded by National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA), USFS, and PATC.
- Maintainers James Rice, Stephanie Danahy, Michael Custodio, and Greg Bayens all had 10 visits or more to maintain each of their trail sections
- In addition to regular Tuscarora Trail work, we completed painting projects at the CXT Toilets at Lions Tale, removed graffiti at Storybook Trail, kept the accessible trails clear and trash-free at Storybook and Discovery, and repaired and replaced two broken interpretive signs on Storybook and Discovery.
- Maintained three water stations along an 8-mile dry section of the Tuscarora Trail, resulting in positive comments from hikers including “you saved my hike.”
- Won a competitive proposal from NWSA to mitigate an invasive mile-a-minute patch, repair four bridge entrances, improve several tread sections that suffered serious erosion, and address some orphaned trail sections. The work will be performed by PATC volunteers, several days of FS staff, two weeks of an ACC crew, and 5 public meetup events. The work is one of only two projects awarded in the FS Southeast Region.
- Rerouted the trail through Woodstock, VA, when permission was withdrawn for the Tuscarora Trail in Toms Brook. Continued discussions with the landowner, assessed reroutes to bypass the property, and planned a visit to flag the potential reroute. Held discussions with local property owners and the Forest Service about how to proceed.

2023 Goals

- Complete new NWSA Project by deadline of June 30, 2023.
- Fill open maintainer positions.
- Complete and implement plan to improve current detour west of Massanutten Mountain.

Massanutten North - Map G

Anstr Davidson

Anstr Davidson is our District Manager for Massanutten North.

The trail maintainers of the North Massanutten Trail District contributed to maintaining important trails in the Lee Ranger District. The Massanutten Mountains provide an alternative to the more crowded Shenandoah National Park. The district has remote, little-used trails for those seeking solitude. It also has several popular trails that provide iconic views.

Volunteers provided about 500 hours of work to maintain the trails. The PATC worked with other groups to keep the entire trail system in good shape.

Massanutten South – Map H

Paul Boisen

Massanutten South district had 330 hours of volunteer work and 170 hours of travel time, for a total of 500 hours volunteer work. This included several worktrips for painting the Boone Run Shelter (paint

provided by PATC; before/in-progress pictures below). It also included a visit from the Cadillac Crew to repair waterbars on a steep section of the Fridley Gap trail. During the last month of the Fiscal Year, the District Manager for Massanutten South was notified that he could stand for C sawyer certification at the Konnarock Camp in Sugar Grove, VA in October. He subsequently obtained C certification (crosscut), and will now explore opportunities to conduct sawyer training, to include recertification events for the 20+ crosscut sawyers in the neighboring North River district.



Boones Run Shelter Before and In-Progress Painting

Great North Mountain - Map F

North Mountain Brigade Crew

Mike Allen

2022 Accomplishments

- October 2021 – General trail maintenance along the Little Sluice Mountain Trail including brushing and weeding in areas affected by 2020-2021 controlled burns by the Forest Service. General trail maintenance along the Sulfur Springs Trail including blowdown removal and brushing.
- November 2021 – Began major effort to restore washed out section of Bucktail Trail near the Capon Trail intersection. Work included construction of a low rock embankment with rock backfill to re-establish the trail washed out by Halfmoon Run. Brushed and weeded upper end of Bucktail Trail.
- April 2022 – General trail maintenance along Little Stony Creek Trail primarily including cleaning and repair of grade dips, with some minor brushing, and weeding along lower mile of trail.
- June 2022 – General trail maintenance along Bucktail Cutoff and Halfmoon trails including weeding and brushing at the trailheads. General trail maintenance along Mill Mountain and Big Schloss Cutoff Trails including seasonal weeding and brushing along the ridgeline section of Mill Mountain.
- September 2022 – Yearly trail maintenance along Halfmoon, Bucktail Cutoff, Tibbet Knob, and Long Mountain Trails including weeding, brushing, and blowdown removal in preparation for the Big Schloss 50-K Trail Run.

North River

Shenandoah Mtn Crew
Lynn & Malcolm Cameron

2022 Accomplishments

- Collaborated with SAWS to organize a 2-day Crosscut Saw Workshop to certify 10 new sawyers in April 2022. This included organizing 3 day-long opportunities for pre-training by Paul Dickens. 2021 Certs assisted with the pre-training. NRD now has about 20 certified crosscut sawyers. In addition, 3 certified sawyers were recertified at this Workshop.
- Led Daikin Corporation on a worktrip. The Daikin volunteers are using their employee benefit of 2 days of paid volunteer work to join with PATC to do trail maintenance.
- June 2022 – Dug out 375 feet of side hill on a remote section of Shenandoah Mountain Trail, 10 Volunteers, 3 PATC leaders.
- Cleaned up a garbage dump at Stribling Springs near Bear Draft Trailhead. Collaborated with equestrians and FS technicians to clean up this dump.
- Made and installed wooden signs at 4 remote trail intersections in Ramseys Draft Wilderness. In some cases we replaced stolen signs we had put up only a year before.
- Installed numerous Carsonite signs at trailheads on PATC-maintained trails in North River District.
- Mounted Great Eastern Trail markers at trail heads and intersections in numerous locations.
- Provided monthly Basic Trail Maintenance Training in 2022 within the North River District. This was held at Trimble Mountain Trail.
- Recruited JMU LIVE, a student service group, to join PATC and adopt a 2-mile section of Shenandoah Mountain Trail North and the side trail to High Knob.
- Held an ice cream social for Trail Maintainers and the Shenandoah Mountain Trail Crew at Smileys in Bridgewater. Very well attended.
- Completed 5327 volunteer hours from Oct. 1, 2021-Sept. 30, 2022.
- Recruited new trail maintainers and expanded PATC's responsibilities by adding a few more trails.
- Developed a web page of resources for FS paperwork that PATC worktrip leaders need to complete.
- Two PATC trail maintainers led a group of American Heritage Girls (scouts) on a worktrip.
- Crosscut and Chain sawyers provided excellent support for trail maintainers by removing blowdowns across the North River District.
- Maintain a well-equipped and well-organized tool cache in a tool shed at the North River Ranger District. All tools are cleaned after use.
- More trail maintainers and sawyers are taking a leadership role in leading worktrips.
- Removed graffiti with Elephant Snot. This was a successful first effort.
- PATC hikers have identified and reported new patches of Mile-a-Minute and Wavyleaf
- Basketgrass, the first occurrences on Shenandoah Mountain. We removed the Wavyleaf and have removed some scattered, new Garlic mustard infestations on Shenandoah Mountain Trail. We collaborate with Headwaters Master Naturalists on invasive removal.
- Lynn Cameron led Senator Kaine and his staff on a hike on Shenandoah Mountain Trail in land that will be protected by the Shenandoah Mountain Act of 2022, introduced in March 2022.
- Led a large group of volunteers from a Staunton Church in doing trail work at Braley Pond. 5 PATC leaders, about 20 church members. Included crosscut saw work, clipping back vegetation, and cutting small blowdowns.

- Reported carved stone markers on the SMT to the GW/Jeff archaeologist and hiked in to show her where some are located. She decided how to protect one of the small stone marker found in a fire ring. Also, one of our trail maintainers cracked the code for the stone marker numbers: Mile marker/quarter mile (i.e. 24/3 = Twenty-four and $\frac{3}{4}$ miles). The starting point is the southern end of Shenandoah Mountain in Bath County and extending north to. FR 95.
- Malcolm Cameron and Gary Flynn made a presentation on trail maintenance to the Weyers Cave Ruritans on Oct. 14, 2021.
- District Managers participated in public outreach event for Great Eastern Trail at High Knob Parking on Oct. 2, 2021, organized by Tim Hupp, President of GETA.
- Lynn Cameron and Tom Engle made a presentation to National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance's 2021 National Wilderness Workshop; "Hand in Glove": Wilderness Stewardship and Advocacy in the Shenandoah Mountain Campaign', November, 2021. Featured PATC's trail maintenance efforts in Ramseys Draft Wilderness.
- Lynn Cameron served on the GW/Jeff North Zone Recreation Strategy Committee, which met monthly from August 2021 to present.
- Lynn Cameron served on a Wilderness Partner panel for the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Workshop in Harrisonburg, VA in August 2022 and led participants on a hike in Ramseys Draft Wilderness. This training was attended by Wilderness managers from across the country.

2023 Goals

- Educate Trail maintainers and hikers on the worst invasives and encourage them to report them to FS biologist and to District Managers.
- Collaborate with the FS on removal of the large patch of Mile-a-minute on Wild Oak Trail section C.
- Continue to improve signage by making and installing signs.
- Develop more worktrip leaders.
- Expand our efforts to control erosion through treadwork.
- Remove large, complex blowdowns between Jerry's Run and Hiner Spring in Ramseys Draft Wilderness.
- Address long segments of trail by splitting them up or adding more co-maintainers.
- Schedule the Cadillac Crew to work on a project in the North River District, most likely erosion control on Springhouse Ridge or Grooms Ridge.
- Consider writing a grant proposal for National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Legacy Trail Fund, modeled after the successful grant written by John Stacy. It would include invasives removal and trail improvements.
- Have several Trail maintainers attend the rigging course offered by PATC, or possibly arrange for training in the North River District.
- Explore additional opportunities to engage college students in trail work
- Have another ice cream social at Smiley's.
- Attend the Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley "The Outdoors is Yours" program on Dec. 1 to reach out to people of color as potential volunteers.
- Attend Recreation planning meetings organized by 1) Rockingham County on Nov. 29 and 2) Harrisonburg on Dec. 2.

- The new emphasis on outdoor recreation and supporting funding and grants for localities and non-profits is offering a flood of opportunities to engage potential volunteers and get work done. We need to manage and coordinate our limited resources to participate selectively.

Pr. William Forest Park

Spooky Beavers Crew

Mark Ellis

2022 Accomplishments

- The Spooky Beaver crew continued our close working relations with the Prince William Forest Park Superintendent and his staff to maintain the 37 miles of hiking paths in the parks.
- In early January 2022, the park sustained severe damage from a heavy snowfall of over 14 inches within 24 hours. The Superintendent asked for PATC's help in clearing the trails. In coordination with the Supervisor of Trails, PATC volunteer sawyers and swampers from other districts responded to our plea for assistance. Over a period of 5 weeks, PATC volunteers daily cleared the 37 miles of hiking path of blowdowns and damaged trees.
- In support of the park's goal to relocate about a mile of the Laurel Loop / Birch Bluff Trails that was eroding into the stream, the crew hosted "Building Grade Dips" and "Building New Trail" workshops. Many thanks to Robert Fina, Martha Becton, and Mike Custodio for their trail-building expertise to improve the crew's experience in these areas. The crew eventually completed 75% of the work to relocate the trail sections.
- We also engaged outside groups to help with major projects. For example, in coordination with the National Parks Conservation Association, we hosted employees from an area company services company to help the crew move timber and other building materials to build three new footbridges for the relocated sectioned sections of the Laurel Loop Birch Bluff sections. An area-wide Girl Scout high adventure group helped perform significant maintenance on the High Meadows Trail.
- Individual maintainers also benefited from training opportunities offered by the park staff. Twelve members of the crew received excellent First Aid/CPR/ED training from the park staff. Three sawyers were recertified for another three years by the park staff.
- As maintainers left their positions, new volunteers were recruited and trained.
- We worked closely with club leadership to hold an initial sawyer training class, but unfortunately, the class was canceled due to adverse weather. We look forward to holding a class in FY 2023.

2023 Goals

- The crew will work with the Park Superintendent and his staff to develop a comprehensive trail management plan for the coming year.
- We plan to complete the Birch Bluff/Laurel Loop Trails relocation project, and the park expects at least two more relocation projects will be approved in FY 2023.
- We will continue working with outside groups to help with larger projects and will continue to seek opportunities for the crew members to receive additional trail building and maintenance training and experiences.
- We will continue to recruit new volunteers. We will host at least one new sawyer training class.

Bull Run Occoquan Trail

Potomac Crew

Robert Fina

2022 Accomplishments

- Relocated 500 feet for boggy trail near Evans Ford Rd
- Built 450 feet of gravel turnpike and puncheon at Kinchloe area
- Restored washed out crossing at Popes Head creek
- Prefabricated, carried in, and assembled 20 foot bridge Hemlock area.
- Built numerous grades dips.

2023 Goals

- Several more relocations planned for 2023

Tree Crew

- Removed blowdowns on the cliff at the Carderock climbing area.
- Dropped hazard trees along the BROT, Mosby Camp Ground, Blackburn Trail Center, Milesburn Cabin, Denton Shelter, Sam Moore Shelter, Manassas Gap Shelter, Tom Floyd Shelter, Rod Hollow Shelter, Dugan Hollow Shelter, Little Orleans Cabin, David Lesser Shelter, Morris Barn and Johnson Cabin, Barkley Run Shelter. Total of 145 trees.
- Cleared ice storm damage on the Mt Vernon trail.
- Cleared blowdowns on the PHT

More of the same for the coming year.

Trail Skills Training

- Conducted eight, one day trail maintenance and trail construction workshops.
- Approximately 80 students taught.

More of the same for the coming year.

Other

- Completed Turkey Run Steps

Manassas Nat. Battlefield

John Price

PATC contributed over 220 volunteer hours on 21 miles of adopted trails.

Bull Run Mountain Natural Area Preserve

Mike Custodio

2022 Accomplishments

- Maintained trail system as Preserve Staff was going through a personnel change period, twice
- Mentored and instructed new Staff in trail maintenance and construction procedures and techniques
- Rehabbed sections of trail damaged from UTV use
- Assisted in a difficult repair of rotten timbers from the Confluence footbridge
- Assisted Staff in layout, design and flagging of new trail system
- Assisted in reduction of invasive species within targeted vegetation plots
- Assisted in storm clean up efforts
- Assisted private landowner of Highpoint (summit of Bull Run Mtn) and Preserve Staff in successfully removing illegal solar powered communication device anchored just below crown of a pine tree.

2023 Goals

- Co-lead with Staff on implementation of construction of new trail system, and naturalization of old trails to be closed
- Co-coordinate and train with Staff on volunteer crews in trail construction
- Assist in design of new trail access and circuit loops within new parking lot area if/when new lot starts and completes.

Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP

Peter Hedrich

The Fredericksburg Battlefield Parks team is fully staffed with five volunteers including myself. We have not had any turnover in the last year which is great.

We had a couple of challenging storms this year starting with the 15 inches of heavy snow that closed I-95 and brought down dozens of trees on our trails. Holly trees and evergreens took a beating and it took several days to cut them all off the trails. Also had some large trees in the mix. Surprising how much wet snow can weigh on the trees.

We also had a microburst in Fredericksburg with about 20 large trees downed across the trails. Sadly, with these and storms from the previous two years, the woods around the trails mostly in Fredericksburg are a changed landscape in many areas. The openness is requiring more maintenance work for ground cover growth. Probably provides nice diversity for wildlife though!

I also organized my first real work trip of my tenure here. There are several perennially wet areas on the trails that we were able to address. I had hoped to raise them just a few inches with gravel, which I think would have worked fine, but the NPS permit specialist felt that boardwalks would be a better

solution. After about a year of permitting and materials acquisition (provided by NPS), I assembled a crew of six and we built about 200 feet of boardwalk in four sections in a day. Our progress was greatly aided by the fact that the NPS staged the materials for us on each location with my guidance the day before.

We have one damaged boardwalk/bridge that needs to be repaired this winter before the stream starts flowing again. I have arranged for materials with the NPS and will get it done this month most likely. It is safely passable at this time.



Volunteers at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP, including two maintainers, 4 local hiking club members (2 PATC members), and District Manager Peter Hedrich

Wolf Trap NPFPA & PHT/Turkey Run Park

W. Alan Day

Alan Day is our District Manager for this section.

Our active maintainer Allen Hoffman made 15 visits to the Wolf Trap trail in this year, contributing 58 hours, removing tree litter, picking up trash, repairing and monitoring a trail counter, removing blowdowns, trimming vegetation, and reporting significant conditions to the Park Service for their action.

PHT & Turkey Run Park

Thomas McNulty

Pete Neal

PHT North

2022 Accomplishments

1. Stairs from PHT up to C-1 parking lot were officially finished.
2. New maintainers assigned to both the Water Gauge to Turkey Run Sections and just this week, another maintainer has taken over the Dead Run to Live Oak Dr. Section.
3. Signs have been approved and worked on for the entire PHT, we are checking with Stephen from NPS on their progress.
4. In progress and works with NPS engineers to improve the crossing of Pimmit Run on the PHT. Plan is to either move the crossing or add a bridge.
5. Trails thru Turkey Run Park were officially added to our scope.

2023 Goals

1. After receiving new signs, install them throughout PHT.
2. Work with NPS Engineers and Trail Supervisor on plans/progress for Pimmit Run crossing.
3. Identify and assign 1 and preferably a team of two maintainers for the VA123 to Water Gauge Section (2 miles). Also work on assigning a maintainer for the Turkey Run Park trails.
4. Work further with Stephen and NPS Engineers on improving or building a better crossing at Turkey Run. Due to erosion, the south side has become extremely dangerous and steep.
5. Work on a better path up out of Dead Run towards Live Oak Dr.
6. Build a new bridge across I-495 water run-off ditch as the erosion has become more apparent and the bridge is starting to see its age.

PHT South

2022 Accomplishments

1. We have undertaken several all-hands-on-deck outings aimed at reducing invasives, especially kudzu, (non-native) honeysuckle and English Ivy. We have been fortunate to have some volunteer groups join the efforts including Scouts and Navy Federal Credit Union employees. Much was accomplished and much, much more needs to be done (see #1 Goal, below).
2. We had a number of very large blow downs blocking the trail from the summer storms. We were able to chainsaw through and clear, again, with multiple maintainers working together.
3. One very, very large tree fall took out the steps going down to PHT from along Windy Run. NPS was great in getting it moved pretty quickly--within a couple weeks-- utilizing equipment from up on GWMP).

2023 Goals

1. Invasives, kudzu in particular, continue to, in some places, overwhelm the trail. One of our maintainers got his license from NPS to use herbicide, which will necessarily be part of the solution. We will work with NPS and volunteer groups to get many boots on the ground as the invasives emerge next year.
2. The large tree fall on the steps along Windy Run was cleared, as mentioned, above, but significant damage was done to the relatively recently installed handrail. We are working with NPS and a local contractor to get that repaired.
3. There are a few spots where erosion is affecting the trail and people are starting to reroute themselves. We are exploring steps to strengthen the existing trail, or more deliberately find a new route.
4. Will install signs as mentioned in PHT North Goals.

District of Columbia – Map N

Rock Creek Filibusters Crew

Alex Sanders

Brian Opdycke

PATC enjoyed another productive and successful year in Rock Creek Park. Our volunteers provided over 1700 work hours on Rock Creek trails in 2021-2022 and made significant improvements on trails all over the park. We worked on projects on the Western Ridge Trail, Valley Trail, Whitehaven Trail, Pinehurst Branch Trail, Wesley Heights and the Battery Kemble Trail. Among our many projects were the construction of an elevated treadway in a 150-foot section of perpetually muddy trail. On a well-traveled stretch of the upper Western Ridge Trail, years of heavy use and excessive soil compaction had turned the tread into a perennially muddy and widening mess. Users were steadily expanding the trail in an effort to avoid the mud and creating greater impacts on a sensitive forest tract. After agreeing on the prioritization of the project with its NPS partners, PATC successfully applied for a small grant from ANC 3/4G to purchase lumber and rebar. Over three work trips in the spring, PATC volunteers cleared out the area of debris, installed the lumber as liners, and used NPS-provided RC-6 as fill to create a new tread. We then hauled in blowdown debris to block off the area along the sides to encourage users onto the new tread.

2023 will likely be a transitional year as our longtime NPS liaison and friend, Ken Ferebee, is retiring at the end of 2022. The Park has not yet hired a successor. We plan on focusing on small projects while we develop a relationship with our new liaison.

MD C&O Canal Palisades– Map D

Potomac Crew

Martha Becton

Martha Becton is our District Manager.

PATC contributed on 16.5 miles of adopted trails.

Robert Fina taught trail maintenance classes in October and November, including rehabbing water bars into grade dips, building new grade dips and lateral drains, and doing general maintenance training.

The Cadillac Crew completed a weekend work trip in February, successfully building a 30 foot bridge, cleaning some timber stairs, cleaning grade dips and drains, and improving the tread surface.

Multiple maintainers weeded, removed blowdowns, and observed and reported conditions for follow up.

Montgomery County Parks -MD

Lynn Gallagher

The Cabin John trail is very easy to manage because the maintainers are very conscientious and Jim Corcoran (from Montgomery Parks) has a good budget and staff to do the heavy work. There is a lot more we could do, but because Montgomery County is very interested in establishing and maintaining bike trails and has a professional bike trail designer on the staff to lay out reroutes we help mostly by doing routine maintenance and reporting problems. The county supplies everything we need and we bring our own clippers, etc.

The most exciting event of this year was the Cabin John Creek Challenge - a through hike from Goya to the river. It was a big success. I hope it will be an annual event.

Antietam National Battlefield Parks

Old Line Crew

Mary Ann Lepore and Meredith Matczak

We had two maintainers retire this last year and I was able to replace them quite quickly. The park rerouted the Cornfield and West Woods trails and added spurs to connect them. They are currently using an intern group to rehabilitate the Final Attack trail due to erosion. The other trails on the southern part of the battlefield will also undergo rehab and have spurs added. Next year, the middle of the battlefield will be worked on along with trail hub signage on the whole battlefield.

Maryland Piedmont District

Jim Tomlin

2022 Accomplishments

- Trail system at Monocacy Natural Resource Management Area was formally dedicated by the State in April.
- Two additional Trail Maintainers received chainsaw certification.
- Trails were brushed and cleared and reblazed as needed.
- Two trailhead kiosks were built.

2023 Goals

- Relocate short sections of trails to avoid steep sections and muddy sections.
- Begin the formal process of establishing engineered bridges over Furnace Creek.
- Install new signage at trailheads and trail intersections.

Mutton Hollow– Map 11

Bill Holman

2022 Accomplishments

- 12 Trail maintainers reported about 320 work hours.
- There were two group maintenance trips in the spring and fall. A spring and fall trip with the UVa Air Force ROTC students to the Mutton Hollow Loop trail.
- Three invasive plants removal trips to the Vining Cabin meadow and the Mutton Hollow roads/trails.
- Worked with Cabins to take down and cut up dead Ash trees that were threatening a number of cabins on the Vining tract.
- Located a replacement tool box for the power tools, but still need a second one for the hand tools.
- Added eight new trail signs and replaced a number of old signs.

2023 Goals

- Add at least twelve more new trail signs.
- Refresh blazing on a number of trails.
- Investigate using color coding of the trails to make them easier to identify and follow.
- Coordinate with the Land Managers Thomas Jorgensen (Mutton Hollow tract) and Charlie Gutberlet (Vining tract) and Cabins Manager Tim Ligon area future projects.
- Setup an Invasive Plant Team that deals with trails needing them removed properly.
- Evaluate rerouting some difficult to follow trails due to the terrain.

Cadillac Crew – Roving

Dan & Ellen Feer

2022 Accomplishments

- 63 crew members participated in at least 1 project
- 7 first time participants
- 11 work trips executed
 - 1 trip to West Virginia
 - Devil's Nose trail
 - 1 trip to Maryland
 - C&O Canal
 - 9 trips to Virginia

- Entry Run and Quercus Trail loop
- Fridley Gap trail
- Heyward Community Forest
- Keys Gap (2)
- Morgan Run Trail
- Snickers Gap (2)
- Shairer Trail Center
- 1656 work hours logged

2023 Goals

- 75 crew members participating in at least 1 project
- 10 first time participants
- 12 work trips executed
 - 2 trips to West Virginia
 - TBD
 - 1 trip to Maryland
 - C&O Canal
 - 9 trips to Virginia
 - Bears Den (2)
 - Bull Run Occoquan trail
 - Massanutten
 - Morgan Run trail
 - Snickers Gap (2)
 - TBD (Lodging confirmed) (2)

Power Tool repair Transport

Jeff DeTroye

Jeff does an impressive and timely job moving tools from Vienna to Shenandoah National Park and back to allow easier repair and maintenance by Diesel Bob. This saves the club a great deal of money. Jeff's work makes the transportation time much more efficient.

Tool Room

Pete Neal

Pete is a regular volunteer in the Headquarters Tool Room, ensuring that tools are in good condition, sharpened, and that shortages are addressed.

Chainsaw and Crosscut Training Activities

Martha Becton

Recertified sawyers through PATC program: 9

Newly certified through PATC program: 7

Cancelled Oct 2022 class due to weather but planned for 2023: 8 sawyers to be newly certified with FS curriculum

Wayne Limberg, John Stacy

Chainsaw Safety, Maintenance and Operations (CSMO) Report

In November 2021, Shenandoah National Park adopted the new USFS's Chainsaw Safety, Maintenance and Operations (CSMO) certification course which meant that PATC sawyers would have to be retrained and certified. If not, no chainsaw work could be done by PATC on park trails. On November 29, 2021 nine PATC volunteers gathered at SNP Headquarters for the first Shenandoah training including PATC of the six-module, four-day course covering chainsaw safety, maintenance and operations. In March 2022 four of the newly certified sawyers were trained as CSMO instructors and certified to train and certify NPS and PATC sawyers under the new protocol. As part of their training, the four co-instructed a CSMO course later in March, certifying an additional six PATC sawyers plus about 10 NPS staff. One additional PATC sawyer was certified over the summer. In total, the CSMO certification represents over 700 hours of classroom and field training. This intensive effort fully prepared us to continue to maintain our trails with chainsaw blowdown removals where required and allowed without a gap.

Newly certified CSMO instructors are Wayne Limberg, Jim Fetig, Josh Fuchs, and John Stacy. In addition, Martha Becton and Robert Fina are certified as CSMO instructors through C&O Canal National Historic Park. Martha is qualified to train instructors.

Lynn and Malcolm Cameron

Crosscut Training

Lynn and Malcolm Cameron collaborated with Southern Appalachia Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) to organize a 2-day Crosscut Saw Workshop to certify 10 new sawyers in April 2022. This included organizing 3 day-long opportunities for pre-training by Paul Dickens. PATC now has about 20 certified crosscut sawyers. They saw in both Forest Service and National Park lands.

Paul Boisen was certified as a Level "C" crosscut sawyer. Paul will now explore opportunities to conduct sawyer training, to include recertification events for the 20+ crosscut sawyers in the neighboring North River district.

PATC Trail Leadership- 3/14/2023

Pennsylvania – AT Map 2-3, 4 TT Map J, K

Yankee Clippers Crew

Dave Trone

Pete Brown

Maryland Appalachian Trail/BB - Map 5-6

Southmountaineers Crew

David A. House

Catoctin Trail - MD Map 5-6

Old Scouter Crew - SCOUT LIAISON

Rush Williamson

Ashby/Harpers Ferry-Rte 50 AT/BB Map 7,8

Chris Brunton

Rob Lamar

Mosby/Rte 50-SNP AT/BB - Map 8, 9

Jon Rindt

Maston Gray

SNP North AT - Map 9
Wayne Limberg

SNP North BB - Map 9

Hoodlum Trail Crew
Noel Freeman

SNP Central AT – Map 10
Mike Hiller
Scott Christensen

Bear Blazers Crew
Stephanie Danahy
Alex Lampros

SNP Central BB – Map 10 [north]
Patrick Wilson
Eugene “Buz” Groshong
Josh Fuchs

SNP Central BB – Map 10 [south]
John Hedrick
Matt Murray

SNP South AT – Map 11
Trail Doctors Crew
David M. Bowen
Patti McInerney

SNP South Blue blazed - Map 11
James Surdukowski

Tuscarora Trail Committee
H Shindle

Tuscarora North – Map K, J
Chris Firme

Tuscarora Central-Map L
Devils Nose Crew
Bill Greenan

Tuscarora South – Map F, G, 9
John Stacy

Massanutten North - Map G
Anstr Davidson

Massanutten South – Map H
Paul Boisen

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

North River
Shenandoah Mtn Crew
Lynn & Malcolm Cameron

Prince William Forest Park
Spooky Beavers Crew
Mark Ellis

Bull Run Occoquan Trail
Potomac Crew
Robert Fina

Manassas Nat. Battlefield
John Price

Greater Manassas Area & BRMtn
Manassas Bullrunners Crew
Mike Custodio

Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP
Peter Hedrich

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

PHT & Turkey Run Park
Thomas McNulty, North
Pete Neal, South

District of Columbia – Map N
Rock Creek Filibusters Crew
Alex Sanders
Brian Opdycke

MD C&O Canal Palisades– Map D
Potomac Crew
Martha Becton

Montgomery County Parks -MD
Lynn Gallagher
Zoe Sollenberger

Antietam National Battlefield Parks
Old Line Crew

**Mary Ann Lepore
Meredith Matczak**

**Maryland Piedmont District
Jim Tomlin**

**Mutton Hollow– Map 11
Bill Holman**

**Cadillac Crew – Roving
Dan & Ellen Feer**

**Power Tool repair Transport
Jeff DeTroye**

**Tool Room
Pete Neal**

Supervisor of Lands – Thomas Taylor (no report)

Supervisor of Marketing – Nancy Doyle

Prepared by:Nancy Doyle	Title:Supervisor of Marketing
Number of Members/Volunteers:7	Volunteer Hours Reported:400

Major accomplishments of 2022:

The primary focus of 2022 has been to work with the GIS committee updating and redesigning PATC maps and preparing to offer them in digital form. The map cover now has a photograph, new text, a vertical orientation for display purposes, and a QR code leading to a PATC landing page. Chris Mangold and Alan Kahan made major contributions to this effort. Diane Yang negotiated highly favorable printing prices. She also explored options to reduce costs and inventory by combining maps, standardizing map size, and comparing types of paper.

A full review of all products available for sale at the PATC webstore resulted in a decision to discontinue all ATC products and most third-party products.

Goals for 2023:

Print and promote six revised maps (9, 10, 11, J, K, and L) with the newly designed cover in both paper and digital forms. Upload those maps, plus Maps F and N onto Avenza. Explore other platforms for our digital maps.

Select products of high interest to members to replace discontinued products, factoring in ease/cost of packaging, breakability, and postage.

Supervisor of Facilities – John Hedrick

Prepared by: John Hedrick	Title: Supervisor of Facilities
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 365

Major accomplishments of 2022:

Accomplished 7 work trips with Crapper Crew. These included servicing moldering privies, work on Ensign Cowell Shelter and Pogo Shelter new privies.

Coordinated with ATC/APPA and DM’s regarding APPA Capital Plan.

Attended various Committee Meetings, including Cabins, Bears Den, and Headquarters.

Represented PATC at the Southwest Virginia Regional Partnership meetings. Several of the meetings were in-person and involved major travel.

Conducted two trips with the Forest Service to assess the Sugar Knob privy and dug out the debris.

Prepared project plan for a new moldering privy at the David Lesser shelter.

Worked with the cabins and shelter lead to prepare their annual budget.

Participated in the interview and selection of a new cabin coordinator.

Reviewed leases on the Vining/Dunlodge houses and the proposed South Mountain cabin.

Participated in on-site visits with ATC/APPA regarding possible land acquisitions.

Prepared project plan for the lease of the Konigsberg Cabin and attended numerous on-site visits with the Forest Service.

Recruited new maintainers for shelters and conducted on-site orientation visits.

Attended EXCOM and Council meetings via ZOOM.

Coordinated with cabin and shelter lead on various issues involving facilities.

Picked up and distributed signs made by out sign maker.

Arranged for the manufacturer of several bear poles and delivered them to Maryland.

Goals for 2023:

Continue to assist in recruitment of maintainers.

Visit and inspect all PATC cabins.

Ensure adequate funding for major facility projects are available.

Work closely with new EXCOM members.

Supervisor of Membership – Jeff Monroe

Prepared by: Jeff Monroe	Title: Supervisor of Membership
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 245.5

Major accomplishments of 2022:

Membership, along with lots of assistance and direction from PATC staff members Rob Aldrich, Mary Flowers and Annie Zimmerman, planned and implemented the 2022 PATC Annual Meeting, which was

virtual this year - just as in the previous two years. A video copy of the meeting is now available online on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3bUXb-fnR0&t=231s>

The meeting went very well, and featured speaker Ranger Angela Crenshaw, Manager, Rocks, Susquehanna & Palmer State Parks, who gave a talk entitled "*Harriet Tubman: The Ultimate Outdoorswoman*" that several members proclaimed was "inspiring."

The report on Zoom indicates the Annual Meeting attracted 113 unique views and 151 total users, with max of 103 concurrent views.

New member meetings remained in a virtual format all year and, as a result, attracted interested new members from far and wide – far beyond PATC's traditional physical footprint. There were a total of 10 meetings held in 2022, occurring every month except during the summer months of July and August when attendance has been historically low. All meetings occurred on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM except the December 2022 meeting, which moved to Thursday to accommodate members unable to meet on Wednesdays. Through the end of November, over 80 new members attended such meetings during 2022 (I do not have data for January, 2022).

After a year of extensive work to create a simplified PATC Membership Category system, something identified as a goal for Membership way back in 2013, I quit attempting to gain ExCom and Council approval and dropped the issue, even though dues for some categories have remained at the same level since 2008. Perfect is the enemy of the good.

At both the beginning and end of 2022, surveys went out to new members, first those who joined in 2021, and the second survey covered members who joined in the first 10 months of 2022. The surveys were almost identical, with only small tweaks between years (and future surveys, if sent, would have additional tweaks). In 2021, 90% of respondents stated that they were happy with their membership, and in 2022, 95% expressed satisfaction with membership in the PATC. In 2021, over 56% of new members had participated in some way with the club (group trail work was named by the most respondents), and in 2022 nearly 52% of responding new members had participated in some way with the club (cabin rental was named by the most respondents).

Comments applying to Membership in the latest survey included:

I have not yet been able to participate but appreciate the new member meeting opportunities!

The new member onboarding process has been great!

The ONLY thing I am disappointed about is your printed/in my mail box newsletter....couldn't this be available online?

I have been working with staff during October and November to develop a plan to encourage migration away from mailed newsletters to members.

Supervisor of Outreach – Kristine Villatoro

Prepared by: Kristine Villatoro	Title: Supervisor of Outreach
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1-10	Volunteer Hours Reported: 663

Major accomplishments of 2022:

We had a great year this year.

We participated in 8 Festivals/Parades etc. to include:

- Bull Run Blue Bell Festival (April 10)
- Flip Flop Festival (April 23)
- SNP Show the Love (April 23)
- Front Royal Earth Day (April 23)
- Round Hill AT Festival (June 11)
- Into the Streets (Sept 17)
- AIDHA Gathering

We hosted (9) events:

- First Day hikes (January 1)
- Galantine Winter Zoom Call (Feb 10)
- Women’s Trails Day (April 30)
- PATC Family Day (5/15/22)
- Hancock Trails Day (6/4/22)
- Hike Lunch & Learn (6/12/22)
- PATC Open House (7/16/22)

We hosted 2 hike challenges

- Tuscarora Trail 60 Challenge (156 sign up for challenge)
- Fall forward Hiking challenge

Goals for 2023:

My goals is to help grow the outreach program and host events/talks utilizing other areas of the club.

I am working on the calendar for next year so far these are the events that we will be attending:

- Flip Flop Festival (April 22, 2023)
- SNP Show the Love (April 22, 2023)
- **Kids to Park Day (May 20, 2023)**
- **Hancock Trails Day (June 3, 2023)**
- Round Hill AT Festival (June 2023)
- National Public Lands Day (Sept 23, 2023)
- #optout Day of Service (November 24, 2023???)

These are potential events that could be hosted by chapters

Bull Run Blue Bell Festival
Front Royal Earth Day
Into the Streets

2023 Hike Challenge

I am working on our hiking challenge for 2023...Hope to have that figured out by next week, will update if it is completed!

2023 Women's Trail Summit

Spring Women's Trail Summit TBD

PATC Trail Summit

TBD (First PATC Trail Summit) right now looking at 4H Center in Front Royal for fall

Supervisor of Communications – George Neighbors/Jim Fetig (no report)

Treasurer – Michael Filchock (no report)

Secretary – Steve McLaughlin/Michael Brown (no report)

Chapter Presidents

Charlottesville Chapter – Bill Holman, President

Prepared by: Bill Holman	Title: President, Charlottesville Chapter
Number of Members/Volunteers: ~325, 20+ active	Volunteer Hours Reported: ~240 hours

Major accomplishments of 2022:

The Chapter sponsored 51 events during 2022: 29 hikes, 15 work trips and 7 outreach events.

Trail work has been done in the Shenandoah National Park, North River District of the George Washington NF and Camp Holiday Trails for disabled children.

John Shannon and Marian Styles on the Chapter's AT section from Rockfish Gap to McCormick Gap in SNP.

Mark Walkup on trails in Entry Run Tract near Stanardsville, where he is the district manager and coordinated numerous trips for the removal of invasive plants from the Mutton Hollow area.

Marit Anderson and Mark Perschel on their AT section in SNP from Turk Gap to Crimora LakeOverlook.

Jeff Monroe and Barbara Martin on sections they maintain in Ramseys Draft Wilderness west of Staunton.

Barbara Martin has coordinated with the Southern Chapter a number of hikes and work trips.

Marit Anderson has led a number of work trips just for women which were very popular. Bill Holman, Mutton Hollow district manager of trails organized two seasonal clearing of the trails. He has been working with Tim Ligon of cabins in the removal of dead Ash trees that were threatening to fall on a number of cabins.

The Chapter had two socials in the spring and fall at Dunlodge where it also hosted a hike leader training class. There were two work trips to Dunlodge for a much-needed cleaning that had not been done in two years. Jodi Frederiksen and Dave Abdallah twice set up an information table at a new outdoor gear store called Public Lands in Charlottesville.

The Chapter's Meetup site, Charlottesville PATC Hiking and Trail Love, has 635 members and growing.

Goals for 2023:

Elected for the 2023-2024 term are:

Mark Perschel - President

Marian Styles - Vice President

Margaret Helber - Treasurer

Dave Abdallah - Outreach

Jeanne Siler - Media Coordinator

Jody Frederiksen - Social Media

Iva Gillet - Social Director

Barbara Martin - Hiking Coordinator

Marit Anderson - Trail Maintenance
Coordinator

The Chapter is working to recruit more hike leaders hopefully leading to more people to do trail maintenance. Work trips will continue to be a priority, which are scheduled at least once a month.

This is the statement from Mark Perschel, the in-coming president:

“Many years ago, someone had a Crazy Dream to create a hiking trail from Georgia to Maine. Then some Crazy people decided to form the PATC to maintain the new trail. Crazy people of Charlottesville wanted their own chapter to serve the hiking community.

Today we have the opportunity to continue that dream. I believe every one of us decided to join together to satisfy our individual desire to serve. It could be maintaining a trail, leading a hike, picking up trash, writing a story, hosting a party. It could be an individual or group activity. We could even do something as a chapter that we have never done before.

What is your passion to serve? How can our club help you fulfill your desire to serve? Maybe something a little Crazy.”

North Chapter - Dee Utz, President (no report)

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter – Jean Stephens

Prepared by: Jean Stephens	Title: President, Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter
Number of Members/Volunteers: 181	Volunteer Hours Reported: Administrative: 510 Hike & Worktrip Leaders: 779 PATC has trail maintenance hours on file

Major accomplishments of 2022:

In 2022 the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter (SSVC) had an active hiking program. We offered 72 hikes in Shenandoah National Park (SNP), along the Blue Ridge Parkway, in the George Washington National Forest (GWNF), both North River Ranger District (NRRD) and the Lee Ranger District, and in several Virginia State Parks. We also held one bike ride as a chapter as several of our members are bike riders. We added two new hike leaders this year bringing our total of hike leaders to 14.

SSVC continued its trail maintenance program. We offered 5 trail maintenance days, including two as joint projects with Charlottesville. Many of our members individually maintain sections of trail on the AT in SNP and in the GWNF.

In 2022, SSVC tried to encourage more hiking and trail maintenance in the NRRD of the GWNF. PATC's area covers 90 miles of trails in the district. We developed a patch for the NRRD 90 Challenge which could be received after either hiking 90 miles of trails or maintaining trails for 90 hours or a combination of both. By the end of the fiscal year we had five PATC members who had completed the challenge.

SSVC participated in several outreach opportunities this year. We had booths at Earth Day Staunton, Riverfest in Waynesboro, and at the Boy Scout's OA Conclave at Camp Shenandoah.

We had representatives at the SNP Appreciation Days working with students from James Madison University on improving waterbars. We worked with the Harrisonburg AT Trail Community Group to host a Trail Magic Day for AT Thru-hikers at South River Picnic Area in SNP. In addition, a presentation was given on PATC and the Tuscarora Trail at the Massanutten Regional Library and another at the Bridgewater Retirement Community on Adventures on the AT and Local Hikes to Enjoy.

SSVC held their Annual Meeting at Mountain View Park in Grottoes, VA. It was a cool, rainy day and attendance was small at 12 members. We had an enjoyable time with a picnic before the meeting. We also held a Family Day Picnic at Natural Chimneys Park in Augusta County with approximately 20 people joining in the short hikes and picnic.

In January 2022, SSVC co-sponsored a Wilderness First Aid Training Course with Walkabout Outfitters. The course was held in Bridgewater, VA. Several SSVC hike leaders and trail maintainers completed the course.

Goals for 2023:

- SSVC would like to continue their strong hiking and trail maintenance programs.
- We are hoping to train several new hike leaders and trail maintainers this year.
- SSVC will hold at least one Trail Magic Day this year. We will also be participating in several outreach events in 2023.
- We are in the planning stages for co-sponsoring another Wilderness First Aid training in early February 2023.
- SSVC has voted to maintain a portion of the Shenandoah Mountain Trail in the GWNF as a chapter project starting in 2023.
- We are still looking for ways to attract younger members to the group for both hiking and trail maintenance.

Blue Ridge – Kristine Villatoro

Prepared by: Kristine Villatoro	Title: Blue Ridge Chapter
Number of Members/Volunteers: 236	Volunteer Hours Reported: 222

Major accomplishments of 2022:

We have about 236 members listed as BRC members, but only have a handful that actually show up at meetings and events. This year has been very slow and hoping to somehow improve attendance to meetings, events and workshops next year.

I will be reaching out to the other chapters to try to get ideas what they do!

Goals for 2023:

My goal is to increase participating in the chapter by hosting more hikes, work trip days at Bears Den as well as family-oriented programming.

Host a monthly Open House/New Member Meeting.

Host a monthly hike.

Host a monthly work trip.

Host a family camping trip either at Bears Den or Elizabeth Furnace.

I also plan to start succession planning as this will be my last year as president so, will need to find volunteers who would be interested in stepping up to run for office both with the chapter and with the club.

Section Presidents

Mountaineering – Caroline Mosher

Prepared by: Caroline Mosher	Title: Mountaineering Section
Number of Members/Volunteers: 373	Volunteer Hours Reported: 25

Major accomplishments of 2022:

- Provided multiple educational grants to climbers, improving the skills and expertise of our members
- Completely rehailed our website and membership database
- Hosted a Wilderness First Aid course at a discount to club members
- Raised \$400 for The Seneca Project and Wilderness Kids Alexandria at the Anniversary Party Raffle
- Hosted an educational climbing day for Wilderness Kids Alexandria
- Hosted an educational climbing day for the general public
- Hosted 10 hiking trips
- Hosted 30 climbing trips

Goals for 2023:

- Improve jointness with the parent club
- Conduct 3 crag/climbing area cleanups in conjunction with other climbing groups in the area
- Continue to provide educational grants to club members
- Host outreach events for youth and disadvantaged groups

Ski Touring Section - Robert Swennes (no report)

Standing Committee Chairs

Cabins Operations - Mel Merritt

Prepared by: Mel Merritt	Title: Cabin Operations Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 88	Volunteer Hours Reported: 9677

Major accomplishments of 2022:

Added Janet Kohn and Jarman Gap cabins to the system.
Replaced privy at Johnson cabin.
Renovated bath at Glass house.
Repainted Highacre and replace electrical panel.
Prepared Trout Run Schoolhouse for 2023 opening.
Held regular Cabin Committee meetings in April and September.

Goals for 2023:

Add Trout Run Schoolhouse to cabin system.
Renovate Maryland State Park cabin at Crampton Gap and add to system.
Renovate Forest Service near Signal Knob and add to system.
Assist in preparations for new cabins book.
Hold first post-COVID, in-person Cabin Maintainers Meeting on April 15.
Hold regular Cabin Committee meetings in Spring and Fall.

Conservation - Lowell Smith

Prepared by: Lowell Smith	Title : Conservation Committee Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 7	Volunteer Hours Reported: 545

Major accomplishments of 2022:

1. Maintained surveillance to identify issues that could adversely affect the sustainability of the AT environment, and that of other PATC maintained trails, or the trail experience of trail users.
2. Actively worked with other interested organizations to achieve introduction of Congressional legislation that would create a Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area.
3. Actively worked with other interested organizations to advocate for protection from inappropriate development of the mountainous terrain in Loudoun County.
4. On a case by case basis drafted PATC comments on proposed administrative projects.

Goals for 2023:

1. Continue to pursue the above listed activities.
2. Explore opportunities to pursue an active PATC advocacy presence with elected and administrative officials so as to more effectively advance PATC interests.

Hikes – Iva Gillet

Prepared by: Iva Gillet	Title: Hikes Committee Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 10	Volunteer Hours Reported: 160

Major accomplishments of 2022:

The Hikes Committee presented 4 Hike Leader Training courses during this 2021-2022 time period- 3 virtually and one in person. Twenty four individuals paid \$20 for the course and to date at least 6 have completed all the components for full certification. Several individuals have contacted me about completing the hikes with a PATC mentor.

The course continues to receive high praise. It would be helpful to have additional course instructors, but we are fortunate to have Bob Malkowski, Michael Martin, and Jeff Monroe who are skilled Zoom presenters with excellent technical and organizational talents.

Goals for 2023:

COVID concerns limited our in-person offerings, but as COVID has lessened in 2022, we hope to have greater response to the in person offerings, as we include optional hikes following the course, as well as the opportunity of overnight stays and the networking in meeting other PATC hike leaders. It would be helpful to have additional course presenters, though our current group hasn't complained yet.

I will work with PATC staff to develop "swag" for hike leaders who have completed all the requirements so that we can promote the recognition of our hike leaders when seen on the trails.

I am working to collect information so that mentors can be found more easily in a variety of places after student completion of the course. Identifying those who are willing to coach the hiking protocol is complex and needs frequent adaptation.

I plan to update our website with links of hiking groups with PATC certified hike leaders.

Information Technology - Lee Manning (no report)

Shelters - Henry Horn

Prepared by: Henry Horn	Title: Shelter Chairperson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1,600

Major accomplishments of 2022:

Repaired the road at Bear Spring cabin so people could access the cabin without wading through large, wet areas. Repaired the road at Ensign Cowell Shelter so a new privy could be built. Built a new moldering privy for that location. Emptied three large moldering privies and helped pump one privy tank at Big Mountain Shelter. Mowed the grass at the AT barn and killed the grass and weeds surrounding the barn. Undertook numerous trips to survey various shelters and privies.

Goals for 2023:

Construct two new moldering privies and replace the roof on the old Rocky Run shelter. I am sure the cold winter months will also provide us with additional work!

Trail Land Acquisition - Phil Paschall (no report)

Trail Patrol - Chris Firme

Trail Patrol: Christopher Firme	Prepared by: Christopher Firme
Number of Members/Volunteers: 36	Volunteer Hours Reported: 3,169.7
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 3	Date: September 30, 2022

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 24 trail patrol members did 224 trail patrol hikes giving us a total of 1,823.6 miles patrolled on PATC maintained trails. Provided a total of 1,331.2 hiking volunteer hours where members observed, interacted, or assisted 9,985 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 641.5 giving us a grand total of 1,972.7 volunteer trail patrol hours. This year we continue doing hikes out on the Tuscarora Trail, the Great North Mountain, North River District and the Massanutts. This really helps 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 did sixteen hikes in the NVA section of the AT since we were asked to check on the three highly used areas in NVA. Below take, a look at the numbers for the AT. We also found out that the reporting system for NVA the lists serv was missing some email addresses links.

Richard Heath

Hikes	Hours	Grand Total	Miles Hiked	Travel Hours	G Tot Hours
: 62	412.2	2940	691.9	239.5	651.7

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	
Totals	188	1025.4	8988	1405.9	528.15	Grand Hrs 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
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	
						Grand Hrs
Totals	143	796.35	6743	1172.5	408.65	1205

2021-2022 PATC Trail Totals

NAME OF TRAIL	# of Hikes	Hours	Contacts	Miles	Travel Hrs	
Appalachian Trail	169	1000.6	8883	1271.1	522.2	
Catoctin Trail	4	17.4	27	25.4	6	
Tuscarora Trail	20	143.3	85	221	49.1	
Massanutts	3	22.2	101	35.6	16.2	
Great North Mtn	1	8.1	129	9.8	5.8	
New River District	3	13	4	16	3	
Other Trails	24	126.6	756	244.7	39.2	
						G Total
Totals	224	1331.2	9985	1823.6	641.5	1972.7

2021-2022 AT PATC Trail Totals

NAME OF TRAIL	# of Hikes	Hours	Contacts	Miles	Travel Hrs	
Appalachian Trail-SNP	92	497.8	6790	618.4	350.7	
Appalachian Trail-NVA	16	109.2	577	170.5	55.4	
Appalachian Trail-MD	21	154	1120	211	57	
Appalachian Trail-PA	40	239.6	396	271.2	59.1	
						Grand Hrs
Totals	169	1000.6	8883	1271.1	522.2	1522.8

Member training and coordination. Brought in three new active trail patrollers in 2022. At the end of 2022, there was a total of 36 active members of which 24 did trail patrol hikes down from 25 in 2021. We had some new folks attend Trail Patrol meetings through zoom meetings which gave us the total number of 96 attendees for nine meetings. Normally we review our membership list but due to COVID we are waiting till the end of 2023 to do it. When we do it, it usually, results in a reduction in our membership roster at the beginning of the following 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 still down due to conducting no courses for 2022. 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 year. 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 seven Ridgerunners in 2022 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 but lasted only two weeks, two in MD one long term and the other short term) the one RR their season was shortened due to family issues and in PA-Michaux State Forest we had two who did a split season. Also, the one RR had a shorten season due to insect issues at Birch Run shelter. This season the seven ridgerunners provided a total of paid 2,320 hiking hours where ridgerunners observed, interacted, or assisted 18,804 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 547.0 hours. Jim Fetig is retiring, and Dan Hippe is replacing him.

Leave No Trace – Due to COVID19, we conducted no Leave No Trace (LNT) trainer courses for the mid-Atlantic region, but the NOLS LNT Master Educator course which is done with support from Shenandoah National Park (SNP) was held in the spring.

Backpacking – We did not conduct our introductory backpacking class (Backpacking 101) for the public this year due to the fact our course leader got an opportunity to go out west.

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.

Appointed Officers with Council Vote

ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership – Kathy Seiler

Prepared by: Kathy Seiler	Title: MARO rep
Number of Members/Volunteers:1	Volunteer Hours Reported:28 1/2

Major accomplishments of 2022:

I attended (virtually) both the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 MARO meetings as well as a few of the monthly call-ins. Sent in reports and emails pertinent to PATC from ATC and also posed various points of concern from PATC to ATC.

Goals for 2023:

New rep will be working with MARO on future goals for communication and structure of the many aspects of caring for the Trail with ATC and its partners, and also fresh looks at the A.T. Community program.

AT Corridor Management - Thom Lupp

Prepared by: Tom Lupp	Title: AT Corridor Management
Number of Members/Volunteers: 37	Volunteer Hours Reported: 339.9

Major accomplishments of 2022:

- 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 to provide assistance with habitat management for the rusty patch bumblebee, on Ovoka Farms VA
- Work with ATC staff to recover boundary using staff & volunteers.

Goals for 2023:

Continue with above activities.

Maryland AT Management - Thom Lupp

Prepared by: Tom Lupp	Title: MD AT Management Committee
Number of Members/Volunteers: 11	Volunteer Hours Reported: 52.35

Major accomplishments of 2022:

- While COVID restrictions have been lifted we are continued with meetings 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.
- Work with ATC to plan out a proposed Annapolis Rock loop trail.
- Work with NPS on the Keep Tryst/CSX crossing.

Goals for 2023:

Continue with ongoing and unfinished above projects from 2022.

Other Committees and Activities

Archives and Library (no report)

Bears Den Center - John Hedrick

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

Major accomplishments of 2022:

Renegotiated Dumpster Contract saying company 720.00 a year

Put up satellite dish for Starlink and started getting unlimited wifi at 1/3 the price we had before. Thus saving 2,160.00 to start in 2023

Canceled Dish Cable and installed a 36.00 antenna thus saving company 1,800.00 starting in 2023

Painted Privy on Lawn by house, painted hostel bathroom and installed new ceiling tiles, and painted office ceiling.

Split the usual ton of wood. Cut down over 10 trees this year that were hazardous

Goals for 2023:

Advertise more so We can load up on Christmas party and maybe not have December the slowest month of the year. We are going to do 5 Christmas parties in 2022 so maybe double,

Come up with a more comprehensive pricing structure. Especially since weddings fall under the full house rental and that is only 525.00. Way to cheap for Weddings.

Put in a drainage system for the front of the driveway where it meets the road.

Blackburn Trail Center – Chris Brunton (no report)

Cabins Construction and Major Repairs - Bruce Berberick

Prepared by: Bruce Berberick	Title: Cabin Const. and Major Repairs
Number of Members/Volunteers: 14	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1850

Major accomplishments of 2022:

This year the Cabins Construction and Major Repairs Committee finished the construction of the new Cabin at Jarmans Gap and put it into the rental system, we cleaned and prepared Butternut Cabin and

put it into the rental system, we replaced the posts on the Cookshed as well as replaced the stairs, rotted deck band joist and repaired the outdoor stone cooking area on Conley Cabin. We renovated the Bathroom at Glass House Cabin including new window, shower, plumbing, finishes and paint. We built a new Privy at Johnson Cabin, we met with the crew working at Trout Run Schoolhouse to determine best course of action to provide needed life safety modifications to the cabin as well as looked the Pocosin Cabin rotted log issues and planned to a trip to repair the damage.

Goals for 2023:

Our goals for the coming year, many of which have already been accomplished are to Repair the Logs at Pocosin Cabin, install new egress windows and life safety features at Trout Run Schoolhouse, install a new cookstove, stovepipe and tilework at Conley Cabin, install new hardwood flooring at Mutton Top and Huntley Cabins. We will be reinforcing the floor structure for the Screen Porch at Glass House, updating the Kitchen at Bears Den Cottage and doing an interior renovation to Lambert Cabin. We will be replacing a recently discovered rotted foundation log at John's Rest Cabin as well as expanding the moldering privy box. Our largest project goal for the coming year will be performing the work needed to get what will be our new cabin near Signal Knob, the Koenigsberger Cabin, including a new Privy, new door and steps to the existing porch and interior renovation and updating.

Endowment - Charlie Balch

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 2022:

The Endowment decreased from \$4.94 million to \$4.13 million (\$810,000 or 16.4%) over the period 10/1/2021 to 9/30/22.

Goals for 2023:

Maintain and conservatively grow the Fund.

Finance – Michael Filchock (no report)

GPS Rangers – Jim Tomlin (no report)

Land Management – (no report)

GIS – Chris Mangold (no report)

Natural Resources Management – Rob Lamar

Prepared by: Rob Lamar	Title: Natural Resources Advisor
Number of Members/Volunteers: ~325, 20+ active	Volunteer Hours Reported: ~240 hours

Major accomplishments of 2022:

In 2022, natural resource management work continued on PATC lands and the lands of our many land management partners. This work included natural resource inventory and monitoring, invasive species management and public education.

From 10/01/21 to 09/30/22, PATC volunteers spent 3,254 hours working, at least partially, on invasive plant removal activities both on PATC lands and trails and the lands/trails of our partner agencies. A special thanks to the Old Scouters Crew for their great work battling Barberry in Catoctin Mountain Park, John Stacy and Stephanie Danahy for their work with USFS on mile-a-minute control along the Tuscarora Trail, and Mark Walkup and Laurie Potteiger for their contagious passion, hard work and excellent stewardship of PATC lands and trails.

PATC continues to lead rare plant monitoring and mapping efforts on APPA land in Northern Virginia and Maryland. Due to the diligent efforts of volunteer monitors, several known occurrences of the S2 State Threatened Nodding Trillium (*Trillium cernuum*) were discovered to have a larger range than previously reported.

Working with the National Park Service's Appalachian Trail office (APPA) and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), PATC began to identify ephemeral ponds on APPA lands in Northern Virginia with the hope of future bio- monitoring of these significant ecological resources. After several years of planning with both ATC and APPA, PATC received permission from APPA to add chemical control efforts to our toolbox for controlling non-native invasive plants on APPA lands. A PATC Invasive Plant Management Team (IPMT) under the supervision of a state certified Commercial Applicator and with a approved Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) began chemical control of a number of targeted invasive plants in the area north of Ashby Gap to Snickers Gap in Northern Virginia. The IPMT also worked on lands adjacent to NPS land in the vicinity of Sky Meadows State Park and in West Virginia spraying large infestations of the invasive wavyleaf basketgrass. PATC is the first club among the 31 AT club partners to operate a IPMT on Trail lands.

Invasive plant volunteers in the Virginia North AT District continued to map and mechanical remove target invasive species in the vicinity of the trails of that District.

In early July, the annual Wavyleaf Basketgrass workshop was conducted at Sky Meadows State Park. Trained volunteers spent the summer months mapping and removing wavyleaf infestations in the vicinity of the AT from north of Shenandoah National Park into Maryland. In 2022, we saw a substantial increase in the number and size of wavyleaf occurrences. We continue to share our wavyleaf mapping data with our partners including APPA, ATC, MD DNR, VA DWR, VA DCR and work with all these partners on wavyleaf chemical and/or mechanical control efforts.

In addition to working with our government partners, we continued in 2022 working with other nonprofit conservation groups including the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS), garlic mustard

removal, Sierra Club, invasive plant control, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, native plant rescue, Blue Ridge Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM), landscape restoration and invasive plant management, Piedmont Environmental Council, grassland management, the Clifton Institute, grassland management Stewardship of PATC lands in 2022 included much important work on invasive plant management and landscape restoration.

Tract Manager Mark Walkup leveraged efforts with neighbors, PATC volunteers, and partner organizations to reduce the threat of invasive plants on the 250-acre Entry Run Tract that borders SNP. A Harrisonburg Boy Scout Troop worked a full day pulling wineberry vines in open areas and along trails near Rosser Lamb Cabin in Feb, taking home knowledge of conservation efforts. Supporting an ongoing partnership, two Sierra Club teams of 15+ volunteers returned in May (to pull garlic mustard and wineberry) and in Oct to pull wineberry and treat Asian bittersweet. Volunteers began a multi-year treatment plan to contain a Japanese stilt grass infestation that threatens to spill down from the Rosser Lamb access road and the Pocosan Mt Road into relatively “clean” areas of the ER Tract. Using backpack sprayers, teams applied a grass-selective herbicide to newly emerging plants in June and then again in August to kill the stilt grass before it seeded. With continued monitoring and treatment, the stilt grass colonies could be significantly diminished in 2023, and only appearing in isolated areas in years beyond. Along the ER trail network, volunteers spent dozens of hours pulling invasive plants and gaining knowledge of how to apply these techniques elsewhere.

Organized by Tract Manager Charlie Gutberlet, volunteer teams gathered several times to target invasive plants in selected areas of the Vining Tract. Facing a concentrated tangle of multiflora rose (MFR) and Asian bittersweet near Waymond’s Barn and Morris cabin, teams experimented with a manual and mechanical cut-stump treatment with glyphosate and also a spray application to the leaves (glyphosate/triclopyr). Both treatments were successful in knocking back the invasives, particularly the MFR. Volunteers continued to treat a small outbreak of Japanese wavy leaf grass — a particularly virulent invasive — near Conley Cabin as well as above Mutton Top Cabin. This rapidly spreading grass is one of the main threats to the SNP and any area it invades and was treated by spraying (sethoxydim/clethodim/glyphosate). Separate teams of Mutton Hollow Trail Maintainers met throughout the year to pull wineberry along the 11 miles of trails in the network. In a model of cooperation, the respective managers — for Lands, Cabins, and Trails — are collaborating to identify, prioritize, and treat a range of invasive plants that threaten roads, trails, and cabins throughout the 250-acre tract bordering SNP and lying immediately uphill of the Mutton Hollow tract.

After four long years of preparing the 6-acre meadow below the Vining Cabin on the Mutton Hollow Tract, Tract Manager Thomas Jorgensen finally celebrated the first blooms of newly planted native plants and grasses. A dedicated team of volunteers has worked with Jorgensen to implement this pilot project. The goal was not only to restore a meadow, but also to generate learning and build a cadre of specially-trained volunteers who can extend PATC’s capacity in land management techniques. The team receives invaluable guidance from Jim Hurley of the Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, an expert and local neighbor. Volunteers monitored the growth and spread of the re-introduced natives, and team met several times in 2022 to spot-spray and hand-pull invasive plants that emerged in the meadow. We also expanded treatments into the perimeter of the meadow’s forested border — and above the Vining Cabin — to prevent invasive plants from spreading into the meadow. The multi-year USDA funding — combined with generous contributions from the Vining family — is now successfully expended. Follow-on activities will focus on “weeding” the meadow, with plans for an occasional controlled burn and/or bush hog treatment.

Bittersweet removal continued along the roadbed and between the roadbed and creek on the Lewis Tract. Bittersweet removal also continued on the Glasser Tract in the vicinity of the blue blazed trail from the AT to the Glasser cabin and in the forest between the AT and the blue blazed trail.

On the Kohn Tract, which the PATC manages under a 10-year lease from Clarke County, VA, Cabin Maintainer, Christa Brusen spent many, many days removing invasive shrubs and vines from the woods surrounding the property's 8-acre meadow. Several Meetup groups also participated in invasive removal. PATC and Jeff Feaga, Clarke County planner met with numerous groups including USDA, VA Department of Forestry, Clifton Institute, and the Piedmont Environmental Council to learn more about grassland management and begin inventorying the natural resources of the property.

On the Eaton Tract, PATC met this summer with representatives of PRISM, USDA, and Shenandoah National Park (SNP) to discuss increased stewardship activities on this 200-acre Tract bordering SNP. Later, this summer, Jean Stephens assumed the lead role for stewardship and invasive plant management on the Eaton Tract. Jean and other PATC volunteers began removal of invasive trees, shrubs and vines in the vicinity of the Schairer Trail Center and the meadow below this cabin. PATC met with Matt Wolanski, senior area forester for the Virginia Dept. of Forest to discuss the possibility of future prescribed fire as part of a comprehensive meadow management plan.

Goals for 2023:

In 2023 we plan to continue our efforts with natural resource inventory and monitoring, invasive plant management and public education.

The activities of the PATC IPMT will be expanded. A series of additional Pesticide Use Proposals will be submitted to APPA with the plan to increase spraying efforts from SNP to the Maryland state line. As the invasive spotted lantern fly continues to expand its range, chemical control of its preferred host, the Tree-of-Heaven, becomes increasingly important. Likewise, herbicide spraying provides the only practical control method for established "hot spots" of Wavyleaf Basketgrass as we continue to slow the northern expansion of this problematic invasive. We will continue and, hopefully, expand our coordinated spray efforts with the NPS IPMT's in the Northeast and National Capital regions. Currently, our IPMT efforts are limited by the lack of state certified commercial applicators. We will continue to recruit new volunteers interested in state certification (VA, WV, MD, PA) and facilitate the training and testing in conjunction with NPS and the appropriate state agency.

Stewardship efforts on PATC managed lands will continue. Invasive plant removal must be viewed as a long-term project in order to shift the balance towards native landscapes. In addition to the PATC tracts where stewardship activities are on-going, it is hoped to expand conservation efforts to additional PATC tracts threatened by invasive plants. Planning is ongoing at the Horvitz Tract and work will begin on Autumn Olive removal on the dam and below the pond on that tract.

We will continue to work with the VA DOF and others to develop an ecologically sound, long term management strategy for grassland habitats on PATC managed and owned tracts.

Educational efforts to alert our members and the general public of the threat of the invasive Spotted Lanternfly and Wavyleaf Basketgrass will continue. Working with the Penn State extension office we will produce a PATC specific educational handout on the Spotted Lanternfly to display in PATC cabins, shelters, and bulletin boards.

We will continue to build and expand our relationships with the resource management staff of our land management partners and the staff and volunteers of other non-profit conservation organizations.

Potomac Appalachian Newsletter: Editor – Richard Stromberg

Prepared by: Richard Stromberg	Title: Potomac Appalachian editor
Number of Members/Volunteers: 2	Volunteer Hours Reported: 0

Major accomplishments of 2022:

Published 12 newsletters

Goals for 2023:

Publish 11 newsletters, monthly, except February

Publications - Emeline Otey

Prepared by: Emeline Otey	Title: Publications Committee Chair
Number of Members/Volunteers: 15	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1208*

Major accomplishments of 2022:

In 2022 we published new editions of two of our hiking trail guidebooks (described in detail below); a new edition of our walking trail guidebook and a new edition of another hiking trail guidebook, both to be available in early 2023; and reprinted one of our most popular history books. For ease of reference, this information is presented below:

- Hikes in Western Maryland (fifth edition) – new edition, description below;
- Hiker’s Guide to Civil War Trails in the Mid-Atlantic Region (second edition) – new edition, description below;
- These Hills Were Home: A Walking History Guide to the Blue Ridge Mountains of Northern Greene and Western Madison County, Virginia (second edition) – new edition, will be available in early 2023;
- Circuit Hikes in the Shenandoah National Park (nineteenth edition) – new edition, will be available in early 2023;
- Shenandoah Secrets (reprint) - printed in 2022.

In addition to the above, we began again publishing online versions of our publications catalog, one version for wholesalers who distribute our publications and one for individuals who wish to purchase

our publications. Updated versions of the catalogs will be published two times a year – spring and winter.

Hikes in Western Maryland

The fifth edition of **Hikes in Western Maryland**, edited by Judith McGuire with maps by David Pierce, and layout and cover design by Alan Kahan, reflects many hours of hiking, writing, editing, and cartography by PATC volunteers and friends. 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. Each of the 25 chapters begins with a description of the hike, including the length of the hike and often shorter or longer options, and the WGS84 coordinates for trailhead parking. The descriptions also include information about notable features of the area through which the hike passes and any potentially difficult aspects of the route e.g., stream crossings, steep climbs. This is followed by a turn by turn description of the route. This edition adds three new hikes and eliminates three from the prior edition; changes and updates were made to other hikes.

A hike of special interest to highpointers, those who attempt to ascend the highest points in all 50 states, is the hike described in Chapter 25, Hoyo Crest/Backbone Mountain Trail. Aspiring highpointers can collect three high points within one day by starting with Pennsylvania (Mount Davis) 50 mi north of here, then visiting Hoyo Crest, and finishing with West Virginia's Spruce Knob 56 mi to the south (a drive up). (See <http://highpointers.org/us-highpoint-guide> for more information.) The Maryland high point, at 3,360 ft at Hoyo Crest on Backbone Mountain, is just 500 ft from the West Virginia border.

The editor of this guide, Judith McGuire, is committed to the practice of *Leave No Trace* (<https://lnt.org/learn>) for preserving our wild spaces and protecting ourselves when enjoying them. She provides a list of tips to urge hikers to practice *Leave No Trace*; these tips include planning ahead and preparing for the terrain, weather, and emergencies; if hiking alone giving someone else your itinerary and leaving a copy in your car; if traveling with others, keeping your group small; traveling and camping on durable surfaces whenever possible; and many more. Information about potential hazards such as ticks and hunting seasons as well as information about camping within state parks and forests is provided.

Hiker's Guide to Civil War Trails in the Mid-Atlantic Region

The second edition of **Hiker's Guide to Civil War Trails in the Mid-Atlantic Region**, is written and edited by Larry Broadwell and William Needham. The first edition of this trail guide, published in 2015, was written and edited by Larry with contributions from William; for the second edition, William was co-writer/co-editor. Patrick Wamsley, whose encyclopedic knowledge of the war contributed to the first edition, suggested more routes as candidates for inclusion in the new edition and provided historical anecdotes on new trails. From his home in New Hampshire, mapmaker Dave Pierce used Google Earth and sources he developed over decades with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency to improve maps. Alan Kahan, graphic artist, updated the design for the new edition. Like the first edition, the new guide draws on the knowledge of PATC trail maintainers and hike leaders, as well as park staff and reference works. The stunning photo of Chancellorsville that is the cover of the second edition is by Theresa Rasmussen and used with her permission.

The success of the first edition and a variety of developments led to a year-long project to produce this second edition. The first edition marked a departure from the club's usual approach to our trail guides.

The second edition reflects the same unique approach: rather than focusing on scenery and natural history in the region covered, it focuses on routes that pass sites of historic events before, during, and after the Civil War. It covers many of the best war-related sites in the four-state area where PATC builds and maintains over 1,000 miles of trail. The information about each of the routes is unique both in coverage and in detail. Along with the usual trail directions and maps, the guide features an Events/Significance section for each route to explain context, and within the trail description, the places where events or action occurred. More than the usual number of photographs are included to depict key action points. This format results in a volume almost twice the size of the standard PATC trail guide. To produce a detailed, accurate historical account of events surrounding the Civil War required a commitment of many hours. For nearly a year, Larry and William conducted interviews and did field work, measuring distances between landmarks, recording coordinates, photographing scenes in all seasons, driving to and walking the routes, and researching the significance of what occurred on or near them. The well told history and detailed trail instructions are evidence of the degree of their effort.

Like the first edition, the new edition describes the evolution of the war and, in some cases, hour-by-hour developments on battlefields. It provides context for actions of commanders on both sides and also follows the moves of less-known figures. The second edition includes several new routes and revisions to nearly every route from the first edition to provide new perspectives. Most of the routes are circuit hikers; those that are point-to-point may require a car shuttle or a reverse hike in which one retraces their steps back to the beginning of the hike.

Goals for fiscal year 2023:

The following five publications will be revised or reprinted in 2023.

- Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Cabins (2023 edition): revision;
- Tuscarora Trail: A Guide to the South Half in West Virginia and Virginia (8th edition): revision;
- Shenandoah Mountain Trails (second edition): reprint;
- Lost Trails and Forgotten People (third edition): reprint;
- Shenandoah Secrets (revised 1998): reprint.

Note: The impact of the contract with REI for distribution of our publications, developed and implemented as a result of Diane Yang's superb marketing talents and persistent efforts, and the great fluctuation 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.

*Some publication-associated hours reported elsewhere.

Tuscarora Trail Committee

H Shindle

2022 Accomplishments

Trails

- PATC Maintainers volunteered over 4,645 hours including travel to perform maintenance on the Tuscarora Trail. Over 70 volunteers were associated with this maintenance work.

- A separate, distinct Tuscarora Trail Northern District with a new District Trails Manager was instituted from the previously combined North Appalachian Trail-Tuscarora Trail District.
- Involved with the PATC GIS Committee on updating PATC Tuscarora Maps “L”, “K” and “J”
- Started gathering update information and corrections for the PATC Tuscarora Trail South Guide Book update that is scheduled for early 2023.
- Provided general Tuscarora Trail related information to the unaffiliated hiking Tuscarora Trail “Hiiker” Navigation Application.
- Accomplished placing a donation link on Tuscarora Trail “Hiiker” Navigation App of front screen to the direct PATC Donation Page, with no contractual or sponsorship being implied.
- Commenced scouting “Basor Ridge” relocation.
- Commenced scouting West Virginia “Route 1”/River Road trail relocation.
- Commenced scouting “Dolls Ridge” relocation scouting trip in late Fall
- Gathered a consolidated replacement signs order across the Districts.

Lands

- Instituted two new Tuscarora Lands Districts with associated Lands Manager under Supervisor of Lands direction.
- In process of transferring Lucas Woods property to PATC from The Nature Conservancy with PATC Lands Acquisition oversight.
- Several easements are in process to be signed by the owners.
- Pending meeting with “Caskey Highlands” property owner to discuss a PATC Right-Of-Way from Shockeyes Knob to Sleepy Creek WMA in West Virginia.
- Addressed motorcycles on the Tuscarora Trail as well as boundary conflicts with Cove Property.
- Boundaries partially confirmed by PATC GIS.

Facilities

- Started a Lucas Woods Eagle Scout Project with a Scout from Winchester, Virginia. Project consist of new tent pads and to be completed in December 2022.
- Shockeyes Knob Shelter repaired and stained through a Devils Nose Crew work trip.

Communication

- Held the 2nd Annual Hancock Trails Day celebrating the Tuscarora Trail’s 60 Anniversary in Hancock, Maryland on June 4th, 2022. Trail and hiking related speakers, organizations and vendors participated in the activities with over 120 people attending during the event.
- Provided support to the PATC Communications Staff for the weekly “Tuscarora Tuesday”
- Facebook posting that shared Tuscarora related stories of hikers, maintainers and places.
- Instituted the monthly “What in Blue Blazes?!” article in the PATC Potomac Appalachian.
- Newsletter sharing Tuscarora Trail related stories and news.
- Provided a Tuscarora Trail presentation to the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association at their annual “Gathering”.
- Developed a standard PATC Tuscarora Trail Power Point Presentation for future speaker use.
- Tuscarora Trail Committee gained oversight and responsibility of the “Hike The Tuscarora” website and associated “GoDaddy” and “Wix” accounts.
- Responded to many Tuscarora related questions posed through the “Hike The Tuscarora” website.

- Supported PATC Staff and Outreach with the “TT60 Challenge” in celebration of the Tuscarora Trail’s 60th Anniversary.

2023 Goals

Trails

- Develop a simple overall Trail Condition Report based upon the PATC Trip Report Trail Sections. The intent of this document is to prioritize maintenance and improvement along the trail for individual maintainers, District Trail Managers, Trail Crews and the Supervisor of Trails.
- Increase PATC volunteers and the associated maintenance hours over the previous year’s benchmark of 4,065 Hours by 10 percent.
- Explore dividing the Tuscarora Trail Northern District into two new Districts to align with the PATC Tuscarora Trail Trip Reporting Sections of #5131 (PA North Tuscarora) and #5132 (PA South Tuscarora).
- Update and publish PATC Tuscarora Maps “L” in 2023 in conjunction with PATC GIS.
- Continue work to publish PATC Tuscarora Maps “K” and “J” in 2024 in conjunction with PATC GIS.
- Provide update information to publish PATC Tuscarora Trail South Guide Book in early 2023.
- Continue scouting “Basor Ridge” relocation.
- Finalize West Virginia “Route 1”/River Road trail relocation in conjunction with PATC Lands Acquisition oversight.
- Continue “Dolls Ridge” relocation process.
- Finalize Biby Trailhead parking area in conjunction with Shawneeland Development.

Lands

- Develop a simple overall Lands Report based upon the PATC Trip Report Trail Sections. The intent of this document is to prioritize land protection and acquisition along the trail for District Land Managers, District Trail Managers, the Supervisor of Trails and the Supervisor of Lands.
- Finalize transferring Lucas Woods property to PATC from The Nature Conservancy with PATC Lands Acquisition oversight.
- Finalize Capon Springs Easements.
- Obtain PATC Right-Of-Way on “Caskey Highlands” property from Shockey’s Knob to Sleepy Creek WMA in West Virginia with PATC Lands Acquisition oversight.
- Finalize Cove Property boundary/Right-of-Way marking by PATC GIS. Relocate trail, if required.

Facilities

- Develop a simple Facilities Report based upon current, future and proposed Facilities actions.
- Plan to include possible future primitive camp sites and shelter locations in each District. The intent of this document is to prioritize existing facilities maintenance as well as new facilities along the trail for District Land Managers, District Trail Managers, the Supervisor of Trails and the Supervisor of Facilities.
- Complete Lucas Woods Eagle Scout Project pending with a Scout from Winchester, Virginia. Project consist of new tent pads.
- Repair Shockey’s Knob Privy and remove trailer used for original construction.
- Explore installing water cache lockers along dry trail sections near road access.

Communication

- Organize and hold the 3rd Annual Hancock Trails Day Anniversary in Hancock, Maryland on June 3rd, 2022. Provide trail and hiking related speakers, organizations and vendors during the event. Include a PATC lead hike in the local area.
- Hold a Tuscarora Trail Committee Meeting annually; proposed during the Hancock Trails Day.
- Provide support to the PATC Communications Staff for the weekly "Tuscarora Tuesday"
- Facebook posting that shared Tuscarora related stories of hikers, maintainers and places.
- Continue the monthly "What in Blue Blazes?!" article in the PATC Potomac Appalachian Newsletter sharing Tuscarora Trail related stories and news.
- Maintain the "Hike The Tuscarora" website and associated "GoDaddy" and "Wix" accounts.
- Respond to Tuscarora related questions posed through the "Hike The Tuscarora" website.
- Provide continued support of associated PATC Staff and Outreach actions.