

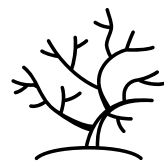
JOHN HEDRICK

nominated by Glen Breining

I was asked to write a letter telling all the things that I thought about John Hedricks. I don't have enough good words to say about the man. I have grown to respect, honor and flat-out love working for him and with him.

When I first met John, I was volunteering for Dana and Johnny, the caretakers of Bears Den. I was cleaning the kitchen, and this somewhat intimidating man came up to me and introduced himself. I quickly told him who I was and for the sake of levity, I commented on the fact that he looked just like General Schwarzkopf. Well John quickly informed me that he had worked for the general and that he really didn't like him at all. I quickly put my head down and left the room.

John could come across as very intimidating at times but once you knew him, he had a heart of gold and would stick up for anything or anybody he believed in. Since I have been at Bears Den, he has been the President, Vice President, Liaison for Bears Den and many more numerous positions. I think my favorite job he does is the Crapper Crew. A group that gets together, puts on HAZMAT suits and cleans out privies when they get to overflowing. If that doesn't speak devotion to the trail nothing does. He lives and dies for PATC and the Appalachian Trail therefore I just think that he is a shoo-in for the Myron Avery Award.





JOHN HEDRICK

nominated by Anstr Davidson

I nominate John Hedrick for the Myron Avery award in recognition of his outstanding volunteer work over the past year.

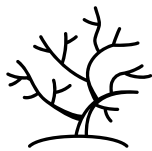
His extraordinary efforts spanned many areas of the club--cabins, trails, shelters, coordination with other agencies and groups, and many other. John's nearly full-time volunteer work for the club continues past his long service as an elected officer and warrants this award.

That work includes:

- Led the "Crapper Crew" to perform the important but not-very-pleasant job of emptying privies at cabins and shelters.
- Chaired the all-important Nominating Committee.
- Mentored his successor as Supervisor of Facilities and continued to do much work on cabins and shelters.
- Served as Chair of both the Bears Den and Blackburn Committees.
- Coordinated and led the work of lands managers during the vacancy in Supervisor of Lands position.
- Worked with the Lee Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service to open the Fort Valley cabin for use by PATC renters. The cabin quickly became very popular.
- Made it his mission to improve the Lions Tale Trail -- an accessible path designed for the visually impaired.
- Editor of the past several editions (including the most recent) of the club's Appalachian Trail Guide to Shenandoah National Park.
- Performed almost any job that a pickup truck can do -- deliver fire rings, trail signs, storage boxes, refurbished chainsaws, etc.

John continued to work, advise, and facilitate with skill. John uses gentle, but firm one-on-one discussion to promote beneficial work for the club. It is hard to say "no" to John. He gets work done and is a fantastic recruiter.





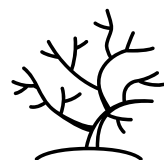
JOHN HEDRICK

nominated by Rob Lamar

John Hedrick continues to be an outstanding contributor to PATC. For over a decade on ExCom, he was ineligible for this award, but in his first year off the committee he has shown no sign of slowing down, but instead, stepping up. When the elected Supervisor of Lands resigned, John stepped in as Acting Supervisor and immediately took on several complex land issues. He engaged the right volunteers, provided strong guidance, and delivered excellent results.

In addition to this role, John serves as the Club's Election Chair, chairs the Blackburn Trail Center Committee, and leads the "Crapper Crew"—a responsibility he takes great pride in, and one that is both essential and often underappreciated. He is also Co-District Manager of the Shenandoah National Park Central Blue-Blazed District, maintains trails himself, and in 2025 has led trail work not only in his district but also on multiple trips to Massanutten North and the Virginia South AT Districts.

With his deep knowledge of PATC operations, John importantly continues to mentor fellow PATC leaders and provide invaluable advice. I can't think of a more worthy recipient of the Myron Avery award.





JOHN HEDRICK

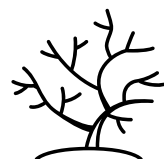
nominated by Jeff Monroe

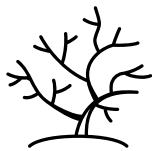
I would like to nominate John Hedrick for the 2025 Myron Avery Award.

In December, John stepped down for the last time as an elected officer of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. For more than 26 years, John set an unmatched example of leadership and involvement in the most important aspects of the PATC.

Over the past three decades John has been one of PATC's most dedicated members; having served at various times as the club's President, Vice President of Operations, Supervisor of Trails, Supervisor of Facilities, a District Manager, a Corridor Monitor, a Ridgerunner, a crew chief, a shelter maintainer, and both a blue blaze and AT trail maintainer. John was also the Primary PATC Representative for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Virginia A.T. Club Regional Partnership Committee and was revered by other club representatives for his depth of experience and wide range of knowledge.

John Hedrick is also the editor of the past several editions of the Appalachian Trail Guide to Shenandoah National Park, published by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.





JOHN HEDRICK

nominated by Mark Walkup

When the Supervisor of Lands unexpectedly resigned, leaving a portfolio of important issues, John Hedrick volunteered to serve in the role until the Club could find a permanent replacement. John recognized the Lands team needed urgent leadership on multiple complicated transactions and challenges. With his typical efficiency, John mustered the team, prompted collaborative action, and rekindled critical, time-sensitive land acquisition and conservation projects. John's selfless intervention and careful diplomacy saved initiatives threatened by apathy and ignorance.

Facing a strategic planning process that misunderstood the Lands portfolio and other Club dynamics, John infused rationality, reminded leadership of tradition and history, and respectfully countered ill-advised recommendations.

The unexpected load of Lands policy work did not slow him down from his other active PATC commitments. He served with the "Crapper Crew," a duty for only the bravest. He joined countless Cabins restoration projects. He represented the Club at sensitive local government meetings, successfully negotiating resolutions to threats to Cabin operations. As District Manager, he led the work of his crew of South Central Blue-blaze trail maintainers.

Perhaps most important, John continued to mentor volunteers and leaders, offering wisdom, strategic vision, and encouragement.

