

P.A.T.H.

NEWSLETTER



APRIL

PIEDMONT APPALACHIAN TRAIL HIKERS, INC.

1993

BLIZZARD OF '93 BURIES A.T. !!!

The Blizzard of 1993 blanketed the Appalachian Trail (and other places) with up to 63 inches of snow on March 13th! I'm sure everyone saw the news stories about the kids from Michigan that were stranded in the Smokies. The Class of '93 thru-hikers should certainly have a unique story to tell about their experience on the Trail. You might even have seen the story about two Greensboro men (one of them, Gene Greer, is a new PATH member), who were on top of Roan Mountain (accidentally?) in an AT shelter during the storm. However, you may not have heard that all of this snow also knocked down PATH's March Blowdown Maintenance Trip, as well as a few more trees. Henry Ford reports that he had 32 inches of snow in Max Meadows. Even if our dedicated volunteers had been able to get to the trailhead, they probably would not have been able to find the blowdowns under all that snow. This means that PATH will need a really strong turn-out of volunteers for the April Maintenance Trip in order to ready the Trail for Spring hikers.

As you make plans for warmer weather and longer days, consider adding a few Maintenance Trips to your calendar. PATH schedules maintenance trips on the third weekend of every month, so that members can plan ahead. These trips are a lot of fun, the company can't be beat, and you'll go home feeling good about having contributed to the Trail. Call one of the contact people listed in the schedule. Let them know that you are coming so they can plan ahead. Join us in April!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (As of 1 APR 93)

100 current (dues are paid) members

136 about-to-expire-unless-they-pay-93-dues members

25 new members during 1st quarter of 1993

39 active or interested in trail crew

4 participating in 1993 backpacking/dayhikes

As you can see, we have quite a large number of new members who have joined PATH this year, compared to the number of current members. Through PATH's dayhikes, backpacking trips, maintenance trips, or by simply getting to know each other, the current members should help these people take full advantage of what PATH has to offer. Come out and show your support of PATH activities. And invite a friend to join you. Ignorance of the valuable resource that we have in the Trail is the greatest threat to the outdoor experience that we love.

IT AIN'T LIKE IT USED TO BE ...

Those of you who have not been on a work trip, or have failed to show up the last few years, TAKE NOTE!

We don't do things like we used to!

Gone are the sling-blades and bush-axes. Instead we have weed-eaters (with harnesses), chainsaws, and long-handled snips. Compared to earlier models, this is lightweight equipment. We still have pulaski's, but forget about them for now. Trail building will come later. Right now our sights are set on blowdown removal.

We will endeavor to give volunteers a minimum amount of trail distance to cover. Bring along a friend and you can make your share even lighter.

While working on the Trail, you are covered by insurance through the Volunteers in the Forest Program (VIF). This even includes operating a chainsaw once you have completed a USFS certification course.

If you would prefer to stay in camp Saturday, that's fine also. Just show up! We want numbers. There are several motels, supermarkets, and eating places in the area if you are so inclined. Our base camp in Stony Fork campground has hot showers and restrooms but no electric hook-ups.

Bring gloves and any extra equipment you $\,$ can so there will be plenty to go around.

Please join us. Not only do we need your help, we look forward to the fellowship.

Yours for good trails, Henry Ford

ON THE TRAIL TO RECOVERY...

Dear PATH Members and Friends: March 26, 1993

My sincere appreciation for your concerns. I was lifted up about noon on 3-17-93 and my landing was made more comfortable due to the large umbrella of support I received. I was discharged 3-24-93 from Moses Cone.

Dr. Peterson's report - "lymph node clear - prostrate removed (malignancy confined to the prostrate) - recovery expected." An eight to ten week convalescence.

Sincerely, Ken Rose

ATC NEWS -----

1993 Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting Was Held April 2-4

The 1993 S.R.M.C. meeting was held April 2-4 at a retreat center near Brown Summit, NC. For those who have never attended a S.R.M.C. meeting, it is a weekend filled with informative presentations and discussions concerning the management of the Southern Region of the Appalachian Trail. The topics covered included: shelter design and location, blazing policy, handling complaints, outreach, water quality, cooperative management, a trail crew safety policy, our impact on the environment, and 1993 Konnarock projects. What an earful! You can see why it took a whole weekend for the meeting, and could easily have been longer. It was all very interesting and a great way to get motivated for the spring season.

One of the most entertaining highlights was Teresa Martinez' presentation of "The Impact Monster." This is an audience participation presentation designed for K-5 age kids which educates about the impact that people have on the environment. Most of the SRMC attendees were apparently in their second childhood (or still in their first) as everyone thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. PATH members attending included Jim Wood, Parthena Martin, Gordon Burgess, Don Childrey, Dan Booker, and Randy Sample.

"Deep South '93" - ATC General Meeting Will Be Held June 12-18

The 29th General Meeting of the ATC will be held at North Georgia College in Dahlonega, Georgia. Activities available at this gathering will include: 100+ hikes, excursions, workshops, exhibits, speakers, entertainment, and children's activities. A keynote speech by former Senator Gaylord Nelson, who introduced the original legislation for the 1968 National Trails System Act, will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of this important Act. For more information on "Deep South '93" you can call: Parthena Martin at 919-967-4449 (pm)

or write:

DEEP SOUTH 93

PO Box 33396

Decatur, GA 30033-0396

This week of activities will be a lot of fun and you do not have to be a member of ATC to attend.

ATC Board Of Managers Meeting Is Coming Up April 23-25 In Harper's Ferry, WV

Anyone interested in attending the A.T.C. Board of Managers Meeting in Harper's Ferry, WV on April 23-25 should contact Parthena Martin by April 21. Parthena is a P.A.T.H. member and a board member for the Southern Region of the ATC. She can be reached at 919-967-4449 (pm).

PATH MEMBERSHIP

Please check your mailing label to see if your dues are paid up to date. CMP or CMP-1 above your name means that this is your last newsletter. PATH is not able to send out a newsletter and maintain our section of the AT without the

membership dues and volunteer efforts of club members. If your dues are overdue, take this opportunity to update your personal info on the membership form and send it along with your dues to the address at the top of the membership form.

If you have paid your dues, congratulations! However, you are not off the hook. A club with members who do not participate is just a list of names on a piece of paper. We want to see your faces, and more! By "more", I mean your friend's faces too. Invite someone you know to join you for a walk or on a PATH activity. Education through participation is the best way to enjoy and protect the natural environment we love.

If you are not currently a PATH member, let me extend to you an invitation to join us. PATH offers you the chance to meet other outdoor-loving people. This newsletter will inform you of numerous dayhikes and backpacking trips that you can participate in. PATH also offers you the opportunity to give something back to the Appalachian Trail through trail maintenance trips. Join us now and see how much fun you have been missing.

USFS NEWS-----

Chainsaw Certification Course Draws A Crowd!!

On March 6-7 the Jefferson National Forest hosted a Chainsaw Certification course, near Roanoke, VA, for club volunteers. They were expecting around 15 to 20 people. However, more than forty eager volunteers arrived to be trained! The original intentions had been to serve the local clubs, but when this crowd arrived, the local volunteers graciously agreed to let the ones who had traveled further receive the training. The local volunteers had another course scheduled just for them (at a secret time and place!)

The surprising popularity of these chainsaw courses fits in well with the new emphasis on safety. Volunteers are such a vital key to trail maintenance, we certainly would not want to lose any of them to preventable accidents.

We can only wonder whether this interest in chainsaws is due to increased awareness of trail maintenance needs or just the primal urge to wield power tools.

Five PATH members were certified through this course. For those who are interested in receiving this training, there will be a course held at the Sugar Grove Work Center on May 1-2.

Another Chainsaw Certification Course Scheduled For May 1-2 at Sugar Grove Work Center

In case you missed out on one of the previous certification courses, here is one more opportunity! May 1-2 is the date for the next course. It will be given at the Konnarock Base Camp / USFS Work Center located near Sugar Grove, VA. There are bathhouses at the Center and meals will be provided. The "pods" will be available for housing (unless 80 people show up this time). Be sure to call ahead and let them know you are planning on attending as soon as you can.

Contact:

Paul Dore Rt. 1, Box 303 Marion, VA 24354 (703)-783-5196

OUTINGS AND EVENTS SECOND QUARTER 1993

APR 17-18 APRIL MAINTENANCE TRIP

It will be especially important that P.A.T.H. has a good turn-out for this trip. Our March Blowdown Trip was snowed out by the Blizzard of 1993. Therefore we will probably have even more blowdowns to clear away. As always though, we will have fun. There will be a cook-out Saturday evening. If you can, bring along something to go with the meal such as chips, dessert, or drinks.

We will be car-camping at the USFS Stony Fork Campground and heading out to different trail sections during the day. Come join us for a day or for the whole weekend. Contact one of the following if you are coming so we can plan for the cook-out and the trail crews.

Jim Wood (919)-469-0820 Gordon Burgess (919)-723-9819 Don Childrey (919)-439-6204

APR 17 TENT DEMO DAY

A Tent Demo Day will be held at Paddling Unlimited's Pfafftown location. There will be some manufacturer's representatives on hand to answer questions.

For more info call (919)-945-3744.

APR 24-25 CHESTNUT RIDGE BACKPACKING TRIP

A trip over the beautiful Chestnut Ridge. This trip will be approximately twelve miles in length. The leader is limting this trip to 8 people so contact him quickly if you are interested. This trip is sponsored by the Sierra Club.

Leader: Bill Sims (919)-272-7971

MAY 1-2 CHAINSAW CERTIFICATION COURSE

A Chainsaw Certification Course will be taught by the USFS at the Sugar Grove Work Center/ Konnarock Base Camp near Sugar Grove, VA. You need to let them know as soon as possible if you are interested. See the "USFS NEWS" article for more info or contact:

Paul Dore (703)-783-5196

MAY 1 BOAT DEMO DAY

A Boat Demo Day will be held at Tanglewood Park. This is sponsored by Paddling Unlimited.

For more info call (919)-945-3744.

Trip Reservations -- Remember that to comply with the Trail Use Decision approved by the ATC, dayhikes are limited to 25 participants and overnight trips are limited to 10 participants. These limits are designed to protect the trail environment. Maintenance trips are not limited. If you are interested in going on an outing, please contact the leader in advance to reserve your space. If you decide to cancel out, please advise the leader in advance.

The Appalachian Trail Conference highly recommends that hikers wear blaze orange in areas where hunting seasons are open.

MAY 15-16 MAY WILDFLOWER MAINTENANCE TRIP

Come enjoy the early summer wildflowers as we walk the trail (and do a little trail maintenance). This trip will mostly be light work involving some weed cutting and removing a few limbs from the Trail. We will be car-camping at the USFS Stony Fork Campground. There will probably be a group heading into Wytheville to eat at a steakhouse Saturday evening.

There will be a brief Board Meeting on Saturday so all officers should try to attend. Contact one of the following if would like to join us:

Jim Wood (919)-469-0820 Gordon Burgess (919)-723-9819 Don Childrey (919)-439-6204

MAY 23 FALLS LAKE DAYHIKE

This dayhike will follow a loop using the Falls Lake Trail and two miles of road walking. There will be good views of Falls Lake. The trail is located just north of Raleigh. This dayhike is sponsored by PATH.

Leader: Jim Wood (919)-469-0820

JUN 5 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY UWHARRIE TRAIL DAYHIKE

Mark this date on your calendar now as the first National Trail Days. Scheduled to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, this nationwide event will unite trail users, trail advocates, and the outdoor industry in a day spent enjoying trails of all kinds.

PATH will be marking this event by sponsoring a twelve-mile dayhike on the southern portion of the Uwharrie Trail. The Uwharrie Trail is located in Montgomery County; approximately 1 1/2 hours from Raleigh, 1 1/4 hours from Greensboro, and 1 hour from Charlotte. We will be hiking from NC 109 to NC 24-27.

Leader: Jim Wood (919)-469-0820

JUN 12-13 LINVILLE GORGE BACKPACKING TRIP

This will be a trip into the beautiful but strenuous Linville Gorge Wilderness Area. Located between the Blue Ridge Parkway and Lake James, north of Morganton, NC, Linville Gorge was one of the three original Wilderness Areas set aside. Some of the sights will include: Table Rock, Hawksbill Mountain, the Linville River, and possibly a distant view of Grandfather Mountain. This trip is sponsored by the Sierra Club.

Leader: Bill Sims (919)-272-7971

Responsibility for Safety -- There are certain risks which are inherent in any hike or other Club activity. Each PATH, Inc. member, guest, or non-member hiker agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her safety and the safety of minors accompanying such persons. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant on hikes. Each such person agrees to hold harmless and free from blame the hike leaders, and the PATH, Inc., its officers and members, for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participation in hikes or other Club activities.

MORE OUTINGS....

JUN 12-18 APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE

The 29th meeting of the ATC. This event will be held at North Georgia College, Dahlonega, GA. See the "ATC NEWS" article for details or,

write: DEEP SOUTH '93

PO Box 33396

Decatur, GA 30033-0396

JUL 3-5 CAR CAMPING AT WHITE ROCKS CAMPGROUND

We will be dayhiking on some of the surrounding sections of the AT and perhaps some on some others trails as well. The White Rocks Campground is located in the Pembroke/ Mountain Lake region of Virginia. This is a PATH sponsored trip.

Leader: Jim Wood (919)-469-0820

JUN 19-20 JUNE MAINTENANCE TRIP

Come join us again in June for our monthly Maintenance Trip. We will be car-camping at Stony Fork Campground. Contact one of the following if you would like to join us:

Jim Wood (919)-469-0820 Gordon Burgess (919-)-723-9819 Ken Rose (919)-299-4046

JUL-AUG KONNAROCK VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW / PATH WORKTRIP

An ATC Konnarock Volunteer Trail Crew will be assisting P.A.T.H. with some major trail maintenance in the Crawfish Valley area for one week near the end of July. More specific dates will be given later. The Konnarock Crew will be working from Wednesday until Monday. Come join these volunteers from across the country as they help out on our section of the Trail. Possible activities include some sidehilling, a short relocation, turnpiking, and installing waterbars. Sound interesting? It truly is. The crew leader provides expertise on trail building and can help teach club members the proper way to build a good trail. If you give five days of effort with the Konnarock Crew this summer, you will receive a coveted Konnarock t-shirt and a year's worth of membership in the ATC. More details will follow.

SEP 4-6 1993 MULTI-CLUB MEET

This year's multi-club meet will be hosted by the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. The location will be Wesley Woods in Townsend, TN. Facilities will be bunks or tents, your choice, and there will be showers available.

The SMHC has promised to show us some new trails in the Smokies that we have not hiked before.

For more info or registration forms, contact:

SMHC / Multi-Club PO Box 1454 Knoxville, TN 37901

or call:

Bill Kerr (615)-922-3920

POSTCARDS FROM THE TRAIL...

Doughton Park

Kathy Bobseine reports that she and three other P.A.T.H. backpackers had an enjoyable trip to Doughton Park on January 30-31.

"We started at the Snack Bar off the Blue Ridge Parkway and walked to the top of Bluff Mountain. The views from Bluff Mountain were panoramic and accented by the wind-gnarled trees. We could see Grandfather Mountain and the Grayson Highlands area of Virginia along the horizon. The only rough section of trail was on the descent from Bluff Mountain. The trail dropped over a short rocky escarpment that was covered with some of the slickest ice I've encountered in a long time. Fortunately, it was only a short stretch of trail and did not cause any major problems.

We descended to the camping area using the Grassy Gap Fire Road. Once in the valley, there were four stream crossings to be negotiated. We crossed with "mostly" dry feet and set up camp along the stream. The history of the site was hinted at by a small gravesite and several building foundations nearby.

The next day we crossed the stream for the last time and ascended the Cedar Ridge Trail. The footpath was very well graded with lots of impressive stonework. We had excellent views of Stone Mountain State Park as we climbed to the Brinegar Cabin area. Doughton Park really is a hiking jewel along the Blue Ridge Parkway."

Kathy was accompanied by Jim Wood, Mariana Morris, and John Hunt.



IF WE COULDN'T LAUGH AT OURSELVES...

HIKING ON THE "WTHITT" TRAIL

Most backpackers have one common purpose behind their outdoor ventures: To get away from it all. The "WTHITT" Trail provides an excellent opportunity to 'get away from it all.' Literally. And surprisingly enough this trail is much closer than you might think.

I recently went on a two-day backpacking trip with a friend and we found ourselves hiking on this trail. We were having such fun that we ended up making it a three-day trip. Fortunately it was on a three-day weekend and we were able to extend our trip without serious consequences.

Getting to the "WTHITT" Trail is not very difficult. Many times it shares a trailhead with other trails. When it doesn't start at a trailhead, you can almost always find access at numerous points along other trails. In fact, it is often easier to get on this trail if you are not looking for it.

No matter how you manage to get yourself on the "WTHITT" Trail, you will soon notice that it has many unique qualities that you will not find on other trails. There is a sense of freedom that will slowly overtake you. If you left home to get away from it all, you will soon realize that you may have succeeded beyond your wildest expectations.

You will soon notice the lack of litter and other evidence that people have been there before you. Very rarely will you ever come across a candy wrapper or a drink can. There are no eroding footpaths, trail blazes, or direction signs. Such pristine surroundings offer the hiker a chance to enjoy nature the way it exists without the destructive influence of man.

Another feature that you will become aware of is the way the trail seems to wander over the landscape as if without direction. Many trails have been built with the sole purpose of getting hikers directly from one point to another. Not so with this trail, it exposes the hiker to a multitude of interesting features in our country's wilderness areas. For example, there are many places in the wilderness which bear an uncanny resemblance to other sites. If you are fortunate, you will find yourself on a stretch of this trail that will take you to several of these sites, letting you wonder at this natural phenomenon.

You will also notice some common features of basic trail design. Switch-backs, over-looks, and straight-ups are just a few of these features. Switch-backs are intended to make upward or downward progress easier by flattening the slope of the trail. Of course, this increases the distance traveled exponentially. Fortunately, this only serves to expose the hiker to even more interesting locations.

The over-looks provide an opportunity for hikers to observe spectacular panoramas. On many occasions hikers will get to see areas that they did not realize they were anywhere near. By identifying landmarks seen from overlooks, hikers can also gain an insight into the sometimes elusive direction that the trail is following.

Straight-ups provide an opportunity to test your leg muscles and endurance. They are also a good way to gain elevation quickly. Sometimes the hiker encounters straight-ups that are extreme and are only intended for the more dexterous and desperate. In these cases there is usually an alternate route for the less adventurous and those not adept at rock-climbing.

In addition to straight-ups there are also straight-downs. Straight-downs require a special style of walking. In some ways this style is easier than walking on flat ground. It resembles the

way baseball players walk to a base if they are trying to beat a fast throw. Depending on whether the hiker is left or right-handed, the opposite leg is folded and tucked under the body. This leg serves as a runner on which the hiker travels downhill. On steeper straight-downs with smooth surfaces, the hiker can merely get into position and enjoy the trip. It is even possible to experience weightlessness on these steeper straight-downs. However, the steeper straight-downs are very rare and more often turn out to be over-looks.

Hiking this trail usually results in the hiker getting much dirtier than he normally would on other trails. This is due to the fact that you are getting much closer to nature. In particular, much closer to tree limbs, rocks, and turf. Some people have referred to hiking on this trail with the unglamorous term 'bush-whacking.' However, if 'bush-whacking' is used, it should be noted that the second definition is more appropriate than the first. The second definition makes the distinction that it is not the bushes that are being whacked. In any case, it is suggested that hikers wear sufficient clothing to protect them from occasional contact with the scenery.

Hiking the "WTHITT" Trail is often an educational experience. It allows the hiker to examine first-hand the way that ridgelines on a topo map and ridgelines on the ground rarely turn out to be the same ones. Here again is the recurring phenomenon of similar-looking places.

Relating two-hundred feet of elevation on a piece of paper to footsteps on a mountainside can sometimes be difficult to comprehend. Comparing the two while hiking the "WTHITT" Trail is a sure way to lock this knowledge into your memory. Providing, of course, that you are able to recognize when you have climbed those two-hundred feet. Many hikers are simple content to come home with a good feel for how much elevation is too much. Many others are simply content to come home.

No matter what trail features you may stumble upon you can count on them being slightly more strenuous than their counterparts on other trails. How does the old saying go? "If its worth having, its worth working for." Well, this trail must definitely be worth hiking because you certainly will work for it. Hikers can also take satisfaction in the fact that they quite possibly are the first humans to have traveled along that section of trail. Finding quality, low-use areas has become difficult if not impossible in many places and that makes this trail even more special.

The emotions that hikers on this trail experience are usually more intense than those experienced on other trails. The thrill of never-before-seen sights is felt more often. The sense of being away from it all is much stronger. The excitement of being on your own and in control of your life can sometimes be overwhelming. The joy of arriving back at your vehicle or base camp is much sweeter. And sleeping in your old familiar bed back home somehow never felt as good as it does after hiking on the "Where-The-Heck-Is-The-Trail" Trail.

Don Childrey
-inspired by a not-quite-as-planned trip in the
Linville Gorge Wilderness Area with my
equally-misguided friend Brian

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT 78 TROY, N.C.

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers, Inc.

Route 2, Box 5113 Mt. Gilead, NC 27306



P.A.T.H.



The Appalachian Trail is a 2100 mile footpath along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia. In 1965, the Appalachian Trail Conference assigned maintenance responsibilities on 50 miles of the trail to Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers, (PATH), from Va. St. Rt. 670 at the South Fork of the Holston River north to Va. St. Rt. 623 atop the picturesque Garden Mountain which encircles the enfire Burkes Garden area.

CMP Vaughn H. Thomas 2922-E St. Marks Rd. Winston-Salem, NC 27103

PATH Membership Form for 1993

Send to: PATH Treasurer, 3304 Arrowwood Dr., Raleigh, NC 27604

Name						
Address						
City		State _	Zip			
Telephone						
PATH Membership Dues:						
New ()	Renewal	()	Gift ()			
Individual - \$7.50	Family - S	\$10.00	Student - \$5.00 \$			
Donations PATH is a 501(c)(3) organization \$						
Member Information						
Occupation						
Age			Married?			
Interested in:						
Dayhikes?		ATC				
Member?						
Backpacking?		Other cl	ubs?			
Trail crew?						

Appalachian Trail Conference Membership

For PATH members, annual ATC dues are \$18.00.

Regular ATC dues are \$30.00/Family, \$25.00/Individual.

You can send your ATC dues in with your PATH dues. Make ATC membership dues out to "ATC".

1993 PATH BOARD MEMBERS

1//0	ALARAE DO VIAL	TANKS TANKS TANKS	ALD.
President	Jim Wood	919-469-0820	Cary
Vice President	Chris Bracknell	919-876-5348	Raleigh
TreasurerChuck N	orth 919-876-	5442 Raleigh	
Secretary	Vaughn Thomas	919-768-3314	Winston-Salem
Editor	Don Childrey	919-439-6204	Mt. Gilead
ATC Coordinator	Parthena Martin	919-967-4449	Chapel Hill
Consultant	Dan Booker	919-349-5893	Reidsville
AT Field Rep	Mike Dawson	703-544-7388	Newport, VA
		703-544-7645	Newport, VA
Trail Supervisor	Ken Rose	919-299-4046	Greensboro
Trail Master	Henry Ford	703-637-6767 N	Max Meadows, VA
Trail Monitor	Gordon Burgess	919-723-9819	Winston-Salem
Trip Chairpersons			
Triangle	Jim Wood	919-469-0820	Cary
Triad	Bill Sims	919-272-7971	Greensboro
Beartown Wild.	Barbara Council	919-852-1967	Greensboro
Legal Advisor	Dave Bland	919-851-1641	Cary
Board Members:			
'93 Ken Rose	'94 Henry Ford	'95 Gordon l	Burgess
'93 Doris Ford	'94 Jeff Brown	'95 Hazel M	onroe
'93 Parthena Marti	in '94 Gaylen Dave	es '95 Steve W	illiams
'93 Nancy King	'94 David Emrey	'95 Bill Bou	dman

Emergency Phone Numbers for PATH's Section of the A.T.

Virginia State Police

Local 288-3131 or 1-800-542-8716

Please report all incidents promptly to a PATH officer or field representative. It is very important that ATC be notified as soon as possible.