

# PATH



# WAYS

PIEDMONT APPALACHIAN TRAIL HIKERS


CLUB NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 1999

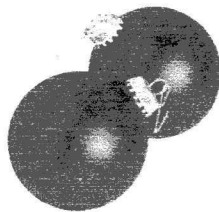
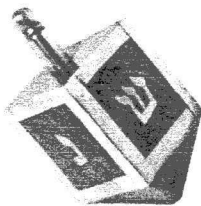
## 1999: YEAR OF THE WORKHORSE

*by Paul Clayton - president*

PATH has once again put in an astronomical number of volunteer hours in the accomplishment of its appointed tasks if I read Ken Rose's spreadsheet right, — 5,720 of them. And I know that doesn't begin to reflect the true amount of time that club members have devoted to our calling. It certainly doesn't include all the time designing t-shirts, planning Radford 99, baking cakes for the trail neighbors picnic, writing letters, responding to e-mail questions, meeting with the Forest Service, visiting with the camp hosts, and just generally spreading the word about PATH and the Appalachian Trail.

Our involvement with the ATC Biennial Meeting is over for a few years, but beaver ponds are turning into a way of life. There is no end to side-hilling, and we haven't replaced all our bridges — yet. The brush is threatening to overwhelm Chestnut Ridge, overlooking Burke's Garden and blotting out the view. Plus, we need to remember our heritage and get the old trail along the crest of Walker Mountain reopened.

I wonder if anyone can remember the first PATH Konnarock project. According to my records, in 1983 PATH had the Konnarock crew for two days (time was strictly rationed back then), which was enough to build the privy at Knot Mole Branch Shelter. 



### Leading us into the Millennium

The following PATH officers and appointments were made during the Nov. 22 annual meeting of PATH at Mt. Gilead, N.C.

#### PATH OFFICERS-2000:

*President-* Paul Clayton  
*Vice President-* Parthena Martin  
*Secretary-* John Hartpence  
*Treasurer-* Harrison Marks

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

1998-2000-Karen Worthington, John Mitchell,  
Bill Medlin

1999-2001-Bill Boudman, Gene Greer, \*Vaughn Thomas, Tony Roberts

2000-2002-Don Childrey, Clint Kawanishi, Marcia Cope, Brent Forbis

#### SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Trail Supervisor- Bill Boudman  
Trail Monitor Coordinators-Gordon Burgess, Barry Hester, and Marcia Cope  
Newsletter Editor-Karl Kunkel; Carla Osborne - layout editor

The Official Webmaster of PATH- Tony Roberts

# On the Net



*Editor's note: Much of the communication that transpires among Path members is done by e-mail. Not everyone has e-mail, so we want to make sure those people are kept in the loop, since so many good ideas, thoughts and suggestions get transmitted by e-mail. Periodically, we will gather some of the messages and get them in print. Some will have been edited for length.*

From Paul Clayton, Path president, referring to the October worktrip: We had a tremendous worktrip - a good turnout, new members, old friends, hard work, beautiful weather and complete success with our bridge renovation project. The club has come a long way in the last few years, with the Partnership Shelter, the beaver dam project and now the bridge renovation to demonstrate our ability to handle just about anything that comes our way.

What would you think about the club one day having some property in southwest Virginia, with its own campground and meeting room? Something like the Konnarock facility, but with several nice campsites for those who prefer "real" camping to the pods?

This would be a long-term commitment of time and money. Is PATH up to it?

What would we need to look for? How could we afford it? Could we please everyone? Is there any need for such a thing? You can contact Paul Clayton with your ideas at his home address:

Paul Clayton  
2513-C Miller Park Circle  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

or if you want them published, contact:

Karl Kunkel  
PATHways editor  
1508 Waverly Street  
High Point, NC 27265

## An organized person

From Doc Branham — Oct 99:

"I really do enjoy my association with fellow members of PATH. Dawgdays was great, but for some reason this past weekend was by far the best experience I have had with youse guys (and gals). Everyone gets a pat on the back. Even the dogs provided us with entertainment. Perhaps a special award can be given to them at the November meeting.

There are always a few people who rise to the top like butter fat in milk or like crude oil in Alaskan waters or like..... You get the idea.

I want to recognize the aforementioned risers. Bill Boudman( architect and civil engineer) provided the club with blueprints for the Lick Creek Project. I have seen them; you might ask to look at them next meeting. Perhaps Tony could put them on our website.

Linda Francis is also a riser. She managed to feed the masses two nights with something called dump stew. It was great. Thanks Linda.

Bill Medlin: you da man. I think Bill is considering putting a sprocket and chain on the generator so we can ride the generator into the next project. My input would be to use an idea that Pontiac now uses. Wider is better. Pulling the generator out of the woods on Saturday resulted in a lot of lost time, because the cart kept falling over. Lengthen the rear wheel axle about 4 inches and you'll be driving excitement.

Most thru hikers seem to get bored easily after stomping the trail for weeks on end. I also think that as a southern maintaining club we are really spending too much time on our bridges. They really are too nice for thru hikers. Let me explain before you kick me out of the club. North Pounders do not appreciate our bridges, they expect them. From the moment they leave Springer Mountain (Ga. - southern terminus), they tread across nice bridges. By the time they get to our section, their mindset is one of expectation not appreciation. South Pounders leave Mt. Katahdin (Maine - northern terminus) not knowing what a foot bridge is until they reach the South. When they get to our section, most of them don't even use the bridges. There is no challenge to a foot bridge. They don't expect them. So, our bridges are by-passed. South Pounders simply walk down the bank, cross slick rocks and up the other side. In summary, neither North Pounders nor South Pounders appreciate our work. I



suggest a compromise . Hang a large rope from a limb above the stream or river and attach a Nalgene bottle. Place an alligator in the stream. The thruhiker can hold onto the bottle and swing across the river to the opposite bank. The spoiled Nouth pounder will still be able to cross the river and appreciate PATH's effort. The South Pounder will appreciate the challenge and will also recognize our club's effort. Our club will be able to spend more time in camp socializing.

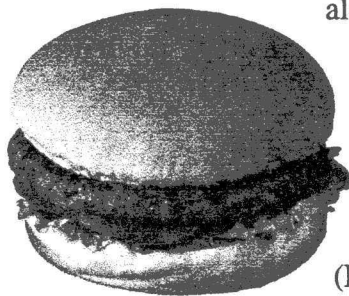
Slogan: An organized person is someone too lazy to look for their stuff!" 🐢

## **T-Shirts and Food Share the Stage at September Cookout**

O'Lystery, Va. — White paint for blaze-painting, custom-designed t-shirts and exotic cuisine all contributed to a memorable September work trip and Neighbor's Cookout. The cookout, held at the O'Lystery shelter on Hwy 42, honors the residents in that area who have supported PATH efforts and hikers.

Most of the crews took up paint brushes that day to paint or touch up white blazes on the trees. The cookout duties were headed up by chefs Marcia Cope and Paul Clayton, and they got lots of help in the K.P. department from other PATH members. Walter Trogden (Sanford)

also helped with supper.



The 1999 PATH t-shirts were handed out and they received raves from PATH members for the creative design and color. The front was designed by Walter Davis (Burlington) and the back, with

the year's activities listed in review,

by Marcia Cope. The color was picked by Linda Francis. Producing the shirt was a team effort. Linda handled all of the ordering and distribution — not a small task, with so many orders to fulfill and so much money to collect. Thanks, Linda!

John Hartpence noted the clean-up efforts and evening's activities: "It really was a team effort by everyone. It is so nice staying in camp and socializing around a good meal." 🐢

## **Dear friends from PATH,**

I have a new job! I am living in Harpers Ferry, W.Va. and working at the ATC headquarters as their new Senior Editor. I work on the guidebooks, editing Appalachian Trailway News and other newsletters, and scouting out new book projects for the ATC.

It's a very exciting opportunity, and a chance to put all my energies into the Trail doing the thing I'm best at. I hope you'll all feel free to let me know what you think of the results, and to contribute to ATC periodicals and publications when it's appropriate.

I hope you'll look me up the next time you come through Harpers Ferry. You'll probably see me at Worktrips next year (unless for some reason the ATC doesn't want staff belonging to maintaining clubs), even though you haven't seen much of me this year, and I STILL haven't paid my dues. (Sorry Harrison! The check is in the mail.)

As Arnold said, "I'll be baaaaaaaaack. . . "

Robert Rubin

Harpers Ferry, WV

mail to: RHYMWORM@MINDSPRING.COM

## **OBITUARY**

Long-time PATH member Betsy Novicki, 50, died of breast cancer on December 20. She was active with the group for many years participating in a range of projects.

The family would probably appreciate cards from individual PATH members. Send cards to: The Novicki Family, 504 Pinecroft Drive, Raleigh, NC 27509. Contributions can be made to: American Cancer Society, 11 South Boylan Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27603 or Hospice of Wake County, 1300 Saint Mary's Street, Raleigh, NC 27605.

We do not have any other information at this time.

We hope to include comments and remembrances from PATH members in our next issue. Please free to send me your thoughts. --Karl Kunkel

# *At One with Nature*



## **— and Beaver Pond**

*by Doc Branham with Vaughn Thomas*

Vaughn and I decided to make a daytrip to Davis Path shelter on Saturday (Sept. 25, 1999) to complete a little project. It was a picture perfect day. As we rode the backroads to our destination, the air became slightly cooler as we approached the parking lot just south of the shelter. The sky was the perfect fall blue with almost no clouds to hide the bright sun. The pasture had been recently cut and huge bails of shredded wheat were obstacles for the Explorer. I ran into one on purpose.

We tried to maneuver around the fresh cow pies with success, but when I stepped from the vehicle without looking, my Texas made a nice imprint in something soft and warm. To the east, the young cows were looking back at us.

The air smelled wonderful. There were no flying insects to aggravate us. The goldenrod was in full bloom. It was mixed with chicory, Queen Anne's lace, closed gentian and numerous other wild flowers.

We hiked slowly to the shelter, stopping frequently to let Vaughn catch her breath. After arriving at the shelter, we finished our projects and returned to the car. I was anxious to see if the cows had broken into the Explorer; they had only tried to lick their way into the vehicle. There was cow mucous on every window. One female had been primping because there was mucous on the side view mirror.

We rode back to the parking lot. I strolled down the AT toward the beaver pond. The wildflowers were about waist high, particularly the goldenrod. As I got closer to the pond, which was still obscured by the flora, I heard a beaver whack the water. Suddenly there was the snort of a whitetail. I was out of view of both.


Suddenly four pairs of ducks flew from the pond. The whitetail came into my view. When she saw me, she ran toward a fence. Trying to jump the fence, her attempt failed. She paced nervously near the fence. I continued toward the puncheon. The walkway that our club built in the early part of the year was doing the job. The water beneath was full of small, black tadpoles. I walked to the bridge hoping to see a beaver. No luck.

There were dozens of beautiful birds and the occasional flying insect. I thought back to our club meeting to decide what to do with the beaver dam. There were several choices that could be made. I think inside my conscience I wanted to trap the beavers and take them elsewhere. When we were sloshing in the cold, the rain and the snow to build the walk, I really wanted to trap the beavers. After yesterday, I think we made the right decision. The beavers have their home to which they are entitled and we have been able to maintain the AT for foot travel. Most important, we have not prevented mother nature from doing what she does best. The pond created by the beavers has provided a habitat and water source for deer, insects, amphibians, and fowl.

A natural process can be a beautiful thing for all creatures including man.

Vaughn and I took a back road to Wytheville. The small farm houses were preparing for Halloween. Pumpkins and corn and straw were being collected in front yards. There were beautiful white fences that protected the freshly cut pastures. As the road turned into gravel, the isolation was euphoric. The road suddenly turned into blacktop as we were forced to go under the interstate. I asked Vaughn if she wanted to eat supper at C.J.'s or Wendys. We had the special at C.J.'s.

We headed back to Winston-Salem and a nice comfortable bed. I thought what a perfect day.

Looking to get away? Try the beaver pond at Dry Run. The pizza at C.J.'s is an added bonus. 





# For the Bookshelf

*Review by Karl Kunkel*

UNMANAGED LANDSCAPES: Voices for Untamed Nature,  
edited by Bill Willers.  
Island Press, [www.islandpress.org](http://www.islandpress.org)  
\$19.95 (paper), \$35 (cloth), 256  
pages, July 1999

Americans love to manage. And that propensity has woven its way deeply into the fabric of the country's environmental structure, government-owned lands and its many parks and forests — maybe too much.

This book chronicles the voices of environmentally concerned writers who feel that we need to back off and let nature manage itself for a change. This anthology is a who's who of nature writers, philosophers, environmental activists, professors, concerned citizens and the occasional curmudgeon. The contributions, almost 50 of them from the 19th century to the present, range in length from a few paragraphs to several pages. Some are passages from well-known works, such as Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring."

A passage from William O. Douglas, the deceased former Supreme Court justice and nature advocate, stresses the need for "a new conservation ethic if we are to have sanctuaries of wilderness left commensurate with the need." David Orr, a professor of environmental studies, argues that it is the humans that need to be managed, not the planet.

This anthology, in addition to offering some interesting points of view regarding minimalist land management, is a wonderful introduction for readers to some of the environment's most articulate and persuasive defenders. And it is a reminder that this issue, with such a rich history, is not limited to being a faddish concern. 🐾

## PATH Members Take Center Stage at REI

*By Brent Forbis*

RALEIGH — On the weekend of Nov. 6-7, PATH members Dan Cassidy, Karen Worthington, Scott Thomas and myself participated in AT Trail Day at REI in Raleigh. REI had organized the event through Janie Currie, REI special event coordinator. Several thru hikers gave testimonials of their experience on the trail, what lead them to do it, and how it has changed their life today. In addition, a slide show could be viewed that illustrated some of the scenic beauty of the trail.

Dan constructed an outstanding model of log cribbing supplemented with photographs of work in the Smokies that really complemented the "Holly Grail" (PATH's display board). We also had a model of dry stack stone cribbing and photos and cutaway illustrations that seemed to interest even the youngest hiker. These details captured their attention, as many people did not realize what actually is done to maintain and construct the Appalachian Trail.

I would sincerely like to thank Dan, Karen and Scott for their help and participation in this event. I think we all had a great time meeting people that had interest in the AT Trail. REI will be having additional workshops in the weeks to come on various subjects regarding hiking. 🐾

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"Well! I didn't realize road rage had reached the hiking trails."

*Wall Street Journal, September 27, 1999.*

## Keep the Date

Get your calendars and Day-Timers out to pencil in the following Konnarock work dates for 2000:

**July 13-17** Crawfish Valley Rehab

**July 27-31** Lynn Camp Creek Rehab

**August 3-7** Crawfish Valley Rehab

Special thanks for your patience on this issue. The holidays have sneaked up on us once again. Putting a newsletter together with one person in Raleigh and the other in High Point isn't the easiest task. Remember, your input and stories are what makes the newsletter what it is. And we need the pages filled with your voices. Thanks and Happy New Year!

Karl and Carla

Karl Kunkel  
1508 Waverly Street  
High Point, NC 27265  
karlkunkel@aol.com

### **PIEDMONT APPALACHIAN TRAIL HIKERS, INC.**

POST OFFICE BOX 4423  
GREENSBORO, NC 27404-4423

*Don't forget to visit the PATH website at <http://www.path-at.org/>*