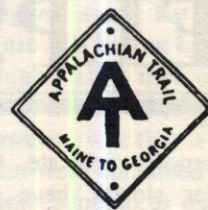




PIEDMONT APPALACHIAN TRAIL HIKERS



MARCH 1994

BLOWDOWNS, BARBER-CHAIRS, AND WOODHOGS

It's almost time for the first maintenance trip of 1994! The March Blowdown Trip. Mark your calendars now for March 19-20, and plan to join P.A.T.H. as we clear the trail of winter blowdowns. (*What's a blowdown?* It's any tree or limb that has been blown down during a storm or toppled by ice, snow etc.)

Wait a minute, you say. Those pictures look like a lot of that four-letter-word thing we do during the week. It's not as bad as it appears. PATH has members who have been trained to run woodhogs safely. (What does exercising animals have to do with blowdowns? Nothing, of course. One nickname for a chainsaw is 'woodhog', from the way a sharp saw eats right through a log.) Chainsaw certified members will handle the cutting of blowdowns and barber-chairs. (Does this mean that there are now barber shops along the AT? Let's hope not. Sometimes when a tree falls over it breaks in such a way that it resembles a reclining barber-chair. This condition presents a potentially dangerous situation to the chainsaw operator, as there are many stresses put on the wood in a barber-chair condition.)

What would I do if I came along? You would mostly dayhike. Someone

will need to carry an extra quart of fuel or pint of oil. Someone can roll the cut logs out of the way or throw fallen limbs off of the trail. Someone usually carries a pair of pruning shears to trim back small limbs if necessary. But mostly you will just walk and enjoy the outdoors and meeting new friends.

How far will I 'just walk'? Doesn't PATH have about 50 miles of the AT to clear? Normally the 48+ miles of trail are split up into sections a couple of miles long. Groups of volunteers are then assigned to each section.

Where will we camp? PATH volunteers gather at the USFS Stony Fork Campground. Stony Fork is just a few miles from I-77, north of Wytheville, VA. (Take the last exit before the tunnel and turn left.) The campground has bathhouses (hot water!). Car-camping is the rule (car-camping has no rules.) A tarp is always hung over the picnic tables at PATH's main campsite. Some volunteers cook at the campground, others go into Wytheville for breakfast or supper. Lunch is eaten on the trail.

Will this last all weekend? Saturday is spent maintaining the trail. Sunday can be spent pleasure hiking, car-touring, or even maintaining again. (Sometimes all of the trail is not cleared, due to breakdowns, running out of fuel, etc.) If all of this is not enough to convince you that you might enjoy volunteering with PATH, read on. There are many aspects of PATH. There are backpack trips, those listed in the schedule and those cooked up while maintaining the trail. If you are

interested in broad trail-related issues, consider attending the Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting. There you will learn more about the unseen forces and people that have put (and keep) the AT on the ground.

Whatever your preference is, the main thing is to be involved. If you only help by renewing your membership each year, at least that

is a start. To use a familiar cliché, the more you put into PATH, the more you will get out of it. There are too many possibilities of how you could benefit from being involved with PATH to list them here. Just imagine what could happen when you get a bunch of people together who share common interests, love being outdoors, and love hiking.



Clearing a blowdown on Garden Mountain last April.

HELP!

Incoming reports indicate that the recent winter storms have left our section of the AT in worse condition than when Hurricane Hugo went through! There are many trees down as well as numerous large limbs that could not withstand the snow and ice load. Cleanup of Hugo's damage took months to complete. If you can help PATH by going up any of the weekends in March before the regularly scheduled Blowdown Trip, we may be able to clear the Trail before our April Maintenance Trip. If you can help, contact Gordon Burgess at 910-723-9819.



Ken Rose and Dan Booker cutting trail through one of Hugo's blowdowns.

PATH'S EXPEDITION TO THE SAVAGE MOUNTAIN

Noon 14 JAN - A group of PATH members gathered in Winston-Salem to begin a winter expedition to snowclad (we hoped) Mt. Rogers. An inspirational viewing of K2: The Movie, was held to psyche up the team. Five hearty mountaineers, including several infamous Duffbusters, departed for the remote region surrounding Virginia's highest peak.

Mid afternoon 14 JAN - Coming from Charlotte, a sixth team member arrived at base camp (parking lot.) As snow began to fall, he started up the trail broken only a short time earlier by the advance team. Fortunately, the 4-5 inches of snow did not hinder the progress of the expedition.

Late afternoon 14 JAN - Advance basecamp was established in the Old Orchard shelter. Two team members returned to basecamp to ferry more supplies back advance camp. While they were gone, the others hung tarps to fortify the encampment on the eastern edge of the windswept orchard. Snow continued to fall as the wind intensified.

10 PM 14 JAN - Two more team members arrived at basecamp despite a foot of snow. Temperatures in the mid-teens and 10-15 mph winds accompanied these two mountaineers as they left for advance camp. The trail broken by the advance team was barely discernible in the drifting snow. Hiking by headlamp proved to be an unusual experience, as the world was reduced to the size of the lamp beam. On this night the experience was even eerier. The frozen trees were moaning and squeaking in the bitter wind. Snowflakes would suddenly appear on one side of the lamp beam, streak across in front of your face, and then disappear just as suddenly on the other side. Windblown ice crystals on the periphery of the lamp beam reflected the light and appeared to be twinkling lights off in the trees.

11 PM 14 JAN - Eventually one of the elusive twinkling lights remained steady. Pushing on through two foot drifts, the

late arrivals made it to advance camp, guided by a wind-shaken candle lantern in the shelter. Waking one of the sleeping forms, they made their presence known. An offer was given to make room in the shelter, but the night hikers opted to pitch a tent. Perhaps it was because the unchinked log shelter did not appear to offer much wind resistance. Perhaps the snow covered sleeping bags inside made "shelter" seem questionable. Or it could have been because some of the sleeping forms refused to wake up and move. Despite increasing winds, 12 inches of powder snow, and frozen ground a tent was finally erected. The late arrivals lay back to sleep at 12:20 AM.

Daybreak 15 JAN - Morning arrived with winds of 20-30 mph and even stronger gusts. Four degrees Fahrenheit greeted the tent occupants as they struggled to rise. The "sheltered" team members were slapped awake with six degrees below zero and wind. While snow was melted for water, the merits of good mittens, down booties, and two sleeping bags were discussed. Unfortunately, eight sets of the above were not present.

A team meeting was called to review the situation. The forecast called for temperatures to plummet to twenty below the next night with wind chill in excess of forty below. Various team members reported certain digits and limbs trying to go numb if not numb already. A decision was finally reached, after little hesitation. The expedition would take home not the summit, but many lessons learned and 160 unfrozen digits.

Midmorning 15 JAN - The expedition team retreated from the mountain through wind driven snow and sunshine. The beauty of the scenery and the wonderfully dry snow raised thoughts of going back up. These thoughts and trail-tough bravado flavored the conversation at the restaurant in Sparta where the team reassembled for lunch. However, while walking back across the parking lot to the vehicles, the sharp winds and temperatures of three degrees cut away any regrets of sleeping at home that night.

Don Childrey

ARE WE THERE YET?

By Mark Clayton

Nature unleashed its fury. Driving snow and sleet stung our faces, the wind swirled around us grabbing at our packs, our parkas, our gear, as if telling us that we didn't belong on the mountain, we weren't welcome. I'd lost sight of my partner who was laying rope in front of me. The white-out forced me to focus only on the ice axe in my mittened right hand as I punched it through the mountain's hardpacked snowy crust. And on my left hand as it slid the ascender along the rope - the only life-link between us. As if in a dream, a blurry figure appeared out of the corner of my eye. It came hurtling past me through the snow, yanking me off my feet as it pulled me down the mountain with it! We were falling!

Alright, OK. I admit it. Maybe I got a little carried away. But if you've got a minute I'll tell you about PATH's September Mt. Mitchell trip.

After a brief discussion on bear safety, during which we each silently tried to figure out who we could outrun, Bobby Bass, John Locke, Paul Clayton, and I left the Black Mountain Campground and headed up the Mt. Mitchell Trail. When you start out at 3,000 feet and are heading toward the summit of the highest peak east of the Mississippi at 6,684 you should expect a little elevation gain. Of course, there is the ol' gravitational multiplier rule of physics to consider as well. It states, "the amount of labor required to break the earth's gravity is directly related to the number of hours driven to reach the trailhead, plus the number of hours of t.v. you watched over the summer when you should have been exercising, added to the number of pounds of useless toys and gadgets that you put in your pack thinking this would finally be the chance you'd get to use them." So in layman's terms: after only a few minutes on the trail it seemed as if the earth's gravity was much stronger than I ever remembered. A short trek led us to a beautiful campsite near Higgin's Bald by which the evening hours slipped by as tale after tale was told in the comfort of a roaring fire.

The aroma of bacon and western omelets lingered in the forest of hemlock and spruce as we broke camp and began a long day of "peak bagging." After countless rest stops, pulse checks, and murmurs of "Are we there yet?", we finally made the summit of Mitchell. What a view! What a view there would have been had the 70 mph winds not been blowing the clouds off the Pacific Ocean and directly onto Mt. Mitchell. To the east we'd have seen this ridge and that mountain, to the west this ridge and that mountain, to the south this ridge... well, you get the picture. After 7 1/2 miles of elevation gains and losses, and bagging six 6,000 ft peaks, we set up camp on a small windy knob in Deep Gap. At dawn Deep Gap yielded a magnificent view to the east of the sun peering up over the distant ridges while the moon and stars still crowded the dark western sky.

Sunday's intense clear blue sky shared with us a different look at the mountain, as it turned out to be an "easy day," better downhill than uphill, with John and Bobby getting a chance to see why I call Paul, "Jogger." So on this trip Bobby gets the award for the backpacker who looked most like a cross between Little Red Riding Hood and the avenging wiener form Oscar Meyer. Adults and children alike ran screaming into the woods at the sight of Bobby and his bright red over-the-backpack poncho. John gets the award for

carrying the biggest, meanest, ugliest snack bar east of the Mississippi, of which most of us are still having nightmares. I believe it was some kind of high carbo mix of digested protein, hazardous waste, and spent nuclear fuel rods. And it sure looked tasty! His finding however, was that it took more calories to chew and digest it than were contained in the bar itself. So he washed it down with Gatorade to maintain his energy level. And of course Paul/Jogger gets the award for setting new standards in downhill trail speeds. He also gets the emergency medicine award for his willingness to amputate any frostbitten fingers or toes that we might have encountered. Thanks Jogger, I'll take a rain check if that's OK. As for me, well I was just along for the fun of it, and that it was.

So, if you have never participated in a PATH sponsored trip, please consider it. Here are a few keys to why PATH trips are so much fun...

1) Everyone walks at a different pace but we all end up at the same camp for dinner and socializing, so don't worry about being too slow or fast.

2) We all look out for our fellow trip partners and are there to render aid if needed.

3) Everybody has a story to tell, and most of them are hilarious.

4) Somebody has been somewhere you haven't and can shed some light on making a trip there exciting and fun.

5) Someone wants to go to the same place you do, so you have just found a trip partner.

6) Helpful hints and tricks of the trail to enhance your future trips can be learned from the other backpackers.

Until now I've usually been a solo packer but with PATH I look forward to many more group trips to come.

TAX TIPS FOR VOLUNTEERS

PATH and ATC are both 501 (c)(3) organizations (translate that as non-profit charitable organizations.) Therefore all expenses you incur in helping and charitable donations made directly to them are deductible if you itemize. Including:

-- Membership dues in excess of the value of any product or service received. The ATC, for example has established the value of its newsletter at \$15. Any dues paid over that amount would be deductible. At the present time PATH has not established any set value on its publications. Use your discretion.

-- Worktrip expenses such as equipment you bought to specifically work on the trail. If you use it for personal use also, it would be very hard to justify the deduction to the IRS. Work gloves, paint brushes, new blades for hand saws, pruning shears, etc.

-- Travel expenses such as mileage on your personal vehicle. For 1993 taxes the IRS allows a \$0.12/mile deduction. Count the mileage from your point of departure to the worktrip, miles accrued while working and mileage back home. Meals are not deductible. NOTE: mileage for pleasure trips is not deductible.

-- Travel expenses to attend business meetings relating to PATH's or ATC's mission. Same rate as above.

-- If you don't itemize, there is no way to deduct your donations. But on behalf of PATH, thanks for your help anyway!

Kathy Bobseine

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

MARCH 6 MEDOC MOUNTAIN STATE PARK DAYHIKE

A hike of nine miles on easy trails in this state park that is one and a half hours north-east of Raleigh. Great views from the firetower. Sponsored by PATH.

Leader: Jim Wood (919)-469-0820

MARCH 12-13 SHINING ROCK WILDERNESS AREA BACKPACKING TRIP

It may be spring in the valley but winter will reign on these high peaks. limited to 6 people. This will be a strenuous trip. Sponsored by PATH. Contact the trip leader by March 5.

Leader: Kathy Bobseine (919)-781-4051

MARCH 19-20 SPRING BLOWDOWN MAINTENANCE TRIP

Come join us on PATH's most important maintenance trip of the year. We will be clearing the trail of blowdowns to prepare it for the thru-hikers. See the cover story for more details.

We will be car camping at USFS's Stony Fork Campground. If you can join us contact one of the following to let them know you are planning to attend. They can give you more detailed directions if you need them.

Gordon Burgess (910)-723-9819

Ken Rose (910)-299-4046 by 9:00 pm Wed.

Jim Wood (919)-469-0820 Thurs.

APRIL 9 SOUTHERN REGIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

This year's SRMC meeting will be held at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. See the article about SRMC for more reasons why you might not want to miss this.

APRIL 16-17 APRIL MAINTENANCE TRIP

Come join us on PATH's April maintenance trip. We will be clearing the trail of late winter blowdowns. We may even run into some early thru-hikers.

There will be a short board meeting Saturday after the crews return from the trail.

We will be car camping at USFS's Stony Fork Campground. If you can join us contact one of the following to let them know you are planning to attend. They can give you more detailed directions if you need them.

Gordon Burgess (910)-723-9819

Ken Rose (910)-299-4046 by 9:00 pm Wed.

Jim Wood (919)-469-0820 Thurs.

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. 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.

APRIL 23 9TH ANNUAL DOGWOOD HALF HUNDRED HIKE

The 9th Annual Dogwood Half Hundred long distance hike will take place on Saturday, April 23, 1994. As in the past, the hike will be sponsored and planned by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club of Vienna, VA.

This year's hike will again take place in the George Washington National Forest. Both the start and finish will be at the Powells Fort Camp and a combination of trails in the forest will be used to form a circuit hike totaling approximately 32 miles.

An informational package and registration forms may be obtained by writing a postcard to PATC, "Dogwood Half Hundred", 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, VA, 22180. Include your name, address and phone numbers on the card.

For more info call Chris Brunton at 703-560-8070.

APRIL 24 UWHARRIE TRAIL DAYHIKE

We will hike from SR 1306, over Dark Mountain, to NC 109. This trip will be about eight and a half miles. The trail is moderate. Come enjoy early spring in the Uwharrie Mountains. Sponsored by PATH.

Leader: Jim Wood (919)-469-0820

APRIL 29-MAY 1 A.T. BACKPACKING TRIP: Winding Stair Gap (US 64) to Wesser

A backpack of twenty-eight miles through a particularly scenic region of the Appalachian Trail south of the Smokies. A strenuous trip with outstanding views from Wayah and Siler Balds. Wesser is also a neat place to visit. Limited to four people. Reserve by April 23. Sponsored by PATH.

Leader: Kathy Bobseine (919)-781-4051

APRIL 30-MAY 1 ATC BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

This meeting will be held at ATC headquarters in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. See "Notes from Harper's Ferry..." for more details.

MAY 14-15 JULIAN PRICE MEMORIAL PARK

Saturday we hike five miles on the picturesque Boone Fork Trail, camping in the park. Sunday we'll explore trails near Linville Falls. This is a Sierra Club sponsored trip.

Leader: Danny Lineberger (919)-575-4439

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....

MAY 21-22 MAY MAINTENANCE TRIP

A spaghetti dinner will be prepared by Steve Williams and family on Saturday night for all the volunteers. A small donation will be accepted to cover the cost.

JUNE 4 MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK DAYHIKE

Eight to ten miles of hiking in this state park southwest of Asheboro. Good views of Lake Tillery, Falls Dam, and from Morrow Mountain.

Leader: Jim Wood (919)-469-0820

JUNE 18-19 JUNE MAINTENANCE TRIP

There will be a short board meeting Saturday afternoon.

JUNE 26 UMSTEAD STATE PARK DAYHIKE

The hiking distance will vary inversely with the temperature. Nothing spectacular, just a good chance to stretch your legs.

Leader: Jim Wood (919)-469-0820

RENEW YOUR DUES NOW!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES FOR 1994.

THANK YOU.

GRANTS FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

The ATC has a pilot program, titled "Grants for Outreach Program." This program is intended to increase awareness and proper use of the AT by urban youth, the disabled, youth at risk, and other non-traditional users of the AT. If you have any ideas for programs that could be done by PATH or yourself, please contact Jim Wood, at 919-469-0820. An example of a program for which funding might be provided is an inner city youth hike outing on the AT. More details on this program can be found in "Notes From Harper's Ferry..." elsewhere in this newsletter.

Publication of this newsletter has been made possible in part by:

APPALACHIAN OUTFITTERS

2447 Battleground Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27408
910-282-8251

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WHAT DOES P.A.T.H. STAND FOR?

Maybe it's Puerile Appalachian Treasure Hunters? No.
How about Pretty, Angelic, Tip-toeing Hikers? Not.
Pass All Trail Heads? No way!
Piedmont Apple Tree Huggers? Nope.

Try Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers. That's it!
That is what the acronym stands for, but what does the organization stand for? Let's look in the "Articles of Incorporation" of PATH.

"III. The Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers Appalachian Trail System (herein referred to as "PATH's AT System") shall include the following components:

1. That portion of the Appalachian Trail assigned to PATH (as it changes from time to time) by the Appalachian Trail Conference.

2. All lands of the Appalachian Trail Corridor which adjoin the Appalachian Trail assigned to PATH.

3. All other lands which have for whatever reason been assigned to PATH for management by the National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail Conference, or any other entity or individual.

4. All improvements located on the above lands, including but not limited to, trails, roads, huts, shelters, houses, and gates.

The purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

a. To protect, improve, maintain and manage PATH's AT System as a natural resource for the benefit of the public.

b. To provide to the public through the use of PATH's AT System, a resource for recreational, educational, and scientific activities.

c. To educate the public in the methods and techniques of safe and enjoyable hiking and backpacking, and the need for adequate trail systems and buffers.

d. To provide assistance to the Appalachian Trail Conference, and other Appalachian Trail maintaining organizations in the management of the Appalachian Trail and associated lands.

e. To organize activities for the enjoyment and education of the members of the corporation and the public.

f. To improve, maintain, and manage trails outside of PATH's AT System.

g. To encourage the members of the corporation and the public to undertake scientific, educational, and recreational activities on PATH's AT System.

h. To supplement, complement, and aid private and public efforts to achieve conservation purposes which affect the Appalachian Trail or PATH's AT System.

i. To preserve the natural beauty of mountain areas and to protect natural flora and fauna in their habitat.

j. To undertake all activities which are incidental to the foregoing purposes and to raise funds for the implementation of said purposes."

Of course, this is a generalized idea of what PATH does. The details are for you to discover through participation. All PATH members share a love for trails and the trail experience. They care enough to volunteer their money and/or time to keep the Trail available for all to enjoy.

What then does P.A.T.H. stand for? PATH is essentially all about the sharing of the trail experience.

KONNAROCK TRAIL CREW

PATH depends on volunteer efforts to accomplish its duties as stewards of the AT. However, some of the Trail's maintenance needs require more than just warm bodies. This is where the Konnarock Crews come in. The ATC operates a Trail Crew program that provides trained crews to assist the local clubs with major maintenance projects. These crews are made up of volunteers from around the country and beyond. They spend a week at a time on the Trail. They are provided with food, transportation from headquarters, and shelter. Without them, PATH would not be able to tackle the larger maintenance needs of the Trail.

The staff of ATC's Southern Region office provided these details of the 1993 Konnarock Crew Season accomplishments:

"We had a great season, reporting 10,352.5 hours of work, and meeting 116 crew volunteers and 172 club volunteers in the woods. Highlights from this year include the completion of the Apple Orchard relocation, the Pond Mountain relocation, the Wilburn Ridge relocation, parts of the Spivey Gap and Doll Flats relocations, the Elk Mountain relocation, the Crawfish Valley rehabilitation project (PATH's), the Fox Creek Cribbing project, and the closing of the existing Trail on Wilburn Ridge. Overall totals for the 1993 season

include: 239 rock steps installed, 16 rock waterbars built, 1668 square feet of rock cribbing built, 42 log steps built, 32 log waterbars installed, 230 square feet of log cribbing, 16,466 feet of sidehill dug, 8,108 feet of Trail cleared, 132 feet of puncheon built, 15 drainage dips put in, built thru 9 switchbacks, nearly completed the Brown Fork Gap Shelter and the Laurel Creek Bridge, built 62 feet of crush and fill, built 14 checkdams, rehabilitated 2040 feet of existing tread, built 64 feet of junk crib, used the rock drill to drill holes for handrails and chiselled 9 steps out of a rock face."

Wow! For a firsthand report of how much fun working with a Konnarock crew can be, find one of PATH's own Duffbusters and ask them. If any of this sounds interesting to you, there are two ways you can participate. You can contact the ATC office for a Konnarock Crew application, or you can come out as a club member when PATH is scheduled to have a Konnarock Crew. The Konnarock work week is Thursday through Monday, to allow for weekend participation by club members. PATH's Konnarock project this year will be the renovation of the Chestnut Knob Shelter. Exact dates will be set April 10 at SRMC.

For more information and a Konnarock application contact:

Mike Dawson, ATC
P.O. Box 10
Newport, VA 24128

BEYOND THE PULASKI....

THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Many people picture a dirt-covered, pulaski-swinging, nut-and-twigg-eating, hiker-gone-fanatic when they think of a trail maintainer. Of course we all know that is not true. Real maintainers will occasionally dip themselves in a creek if they become dirt-covered. I would dare to say that most people have heard of the Appalachian Trail. Some of them could probably tell you where it is. Even fewer could tell you how it got there. And unfortunately, less than that could tell you how it stays there.

On April 9, an excellent opportunity to learn a lot about trail management in a short amount of time will be available to you. Once a year a meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference Southern Regional Management Committee (SRMC) is held.

The formal charge of the SRMC is:

To bring together [ATC] Board Members, club leaders, ATC staff, and cooperating agency representatives to discuss issues of regional interest, particularly those relating to the protection and management of the Trail and adjacent lands; to resolve specific problems as they arise on a consensual basis, insofar as possible, and to refer to the Board of Managers only those issues having Trailwide policy implications.

Specific tasks:

**Serve as a forum for discussion of pertinent issues.*

**Encourage club and agency conformance to adopted Trail standards and policies, including those relating to local management planning, corridor monitoring, NEPA compliance, etc.*

**Assist in identifying needs for new policy, guidance, or technical assistance from ATC and cooperating agencies*

Sarah Davis, ATC Vice Chair for the Southern Region, describes the meeting like this: The weekend provides a unique opportunity for the managers of the Appalachian Trail in the Southern Region to gather to share information, debate issues of regional importance, and plan for the future of the Trail. It is always an interesting, stimulating conference for those who attend. Members of the SRMC include representatives from the federal and state agencies, maintaining clubs, and ATC staff and volunteers.

What all of this boils down to is simple. You will meet a lot of the people who make things happen with the AT and you will hear a lot of topics about trails discussed.

The Appalachian Trail Project is a result of cooperative efforts between government agencies (US Forest Service, National Park Service), private organizations (Appalachian Trail Conference), and local volunteer clubs (PATH.) Learning how this unlikely partnership works is one thing you can pick up at the SRMC meeting. Finding out how other clubs operate is another. Realizing how you fit in as a part of the AT Project is probably the most exciting part of all.

The main SRMC meeting is on Saturday. Lodging and meals can be purchased in various packages or individually. Contact Jim Wood for more details. Reservations must be made by March 23. I would urge every member to attend a SRMC meeting at least once.

Notes From Harper's Ferry...

Parthena Martin

The ATC Board of Managers met November 19-21, 1993, at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Much of the meeting was spent discussing the protection and management of the AT corridor. As of September 1993, 97 percent of the Trail footpath was protected, leaving 48 miles remaining to be protected. Although that doesn't sound like a lot, it involves approximately 18,000 acres. The ATC and the maintaining clubs are continuing to work with the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service in land-acquisition reviews and optimal-location reviews as a part of the land-acquisition program. In Virginia during the past year, the NPS purchased 107 acres in Clarke County, and has worked out an exchange for another 25 acres in southern Virginia. These acquisitions will eliminate the likelihood of road crossings, and will protect the view from the Trail.

The board also discussed various management projects such as the trail-crew and ridgerunner programs, bridge and river crossings, criteria for utility line crossings, and water quality. In VA, NC, and TN, ridgerunner programs are operating on Catawba Mountain, Roan Mountain, and in the Great Smokies. Another ridgerunner program is being discussed for the Elk Park area, which would be supported by the USFS, the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club, and the ATC. Also in Virginia, the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club is working with the USFS and the ATC to construct a footbridge across the James River, so that the AT can be removed from Route 501.

The Grants-To-Clubs Committee recommended, and the board approved, \$17,000 in grants to 12 AT maintaining clubs. Included in this was a grant of \$3,000 to PATH for the renovation of Chestnut Knob Shelter. The ATC also received \$7,500 through the NPS for a Grants-For-Outreach Program, and this has just been matched by another \$7,500 from Eastern Mountain Sports. This money will be awarded to clubs to fund programs that reach out to groups that are not typically involved in using or caring for the Trail, including youth, inner-city residents, older citizens, minorities, people with disabilities, and residents of communities along the Trail. Proposals are due April 1, 1994, and will be reviewed during the April board meeting.

Finally, the board is currently engaged in a strategic planning process to develop a 5 year plan that identifies the objectives, strategies, and needs for realizing the basic mission and goals of the ATC. All of the ATC committees met during the board meeting to engage in this strategic planning process and to discuss their goals for the next 5 years.

All club members are welcome (and in fact encouraged) to attend the ATC board meetings, as well as the SRMC meeting and the Southern Multiclub Meeting. Dates for the ATC board meetings in 1994 are April 30-May 1, and November 19-20. Anyone who would like to attend can carpool with me. The food is free and housing is nominal. It's interesting to meet people from the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regions of the Trail and it puts what we do as a club in much bigger perspective.

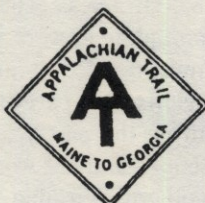
Please contact Parthena Martin at 919-967-4449(H) or 919-541-4042(W).

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 entire Burkes Garden area.

PATH Membership Form for 1994

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ (394)

PATH Membership Dues:

Individual - \$7.50 Family - \$10.00 Student - \$5.00 \$ _____

Donations -- PATH is 501(c)(3); tax-deductible \$ _____

New () Renewal () Gift ()

Member Information - (optional)

Occupation _____

Age _____ Sex _____ ATC member? _____

Are you interested in:

Dayhikes? _____ Other? _____

Backpacking? _____ How did you hear about PATH? _____

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".

1994 PATH BOARD MEMBERS

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| President | Jim Wood | 919-469-0820 | Cary |
| Vice President | Steve Williams | 704-541-1652 | Charlotte |
| Treasurer | Chuck North | 919-876-5442 | Raleigh |
| Secretary | Vaughn Thomas | 910-768-3314 | Winston-Salem |
| Editor | Don Childrey | 910-439-6204 | Mt. Gilead |
| ATC Coordinator | Parthena Martin | 919-967-4449 | Chapel Hill |
| Consultant | Dan Booker | 910-349-5893 | Reidsville |
| AT Field Rep | Mike Dawson | 703-544-7388 | Newport, VA |
| | | 703-544-7645 | Newport, VA |
| Trail Supervisor | Ken Rose | 910-299-4046 | Greensboro |
| Trail Master | Henry Ford | 703-637-6767 | Max Meadows, VA |
| Trail Monitor | Gordon Burgess | 910-723-9819 | Winston-Salem |
| Trip Chairpersons | | | |
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| Beartown Wild. | Barbara Council | 910-852-1967 | Greensboro |
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Board Members:

| | | |
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| '94 Henry Ford | '95 Gordon Burgess | '96 Ken Rose |
| '94 Jeff Brown | '95 Hazel Monroe | '96 Mark Clayton |
| '94 Gaylen Daves | '95 Steve Williams | '96 Parthena Martin |
| '94 David Emrey | '95 Bill Boudman | '96 Paul Clayton |

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.