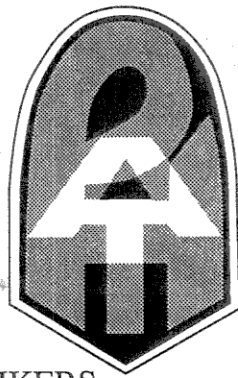


PATH

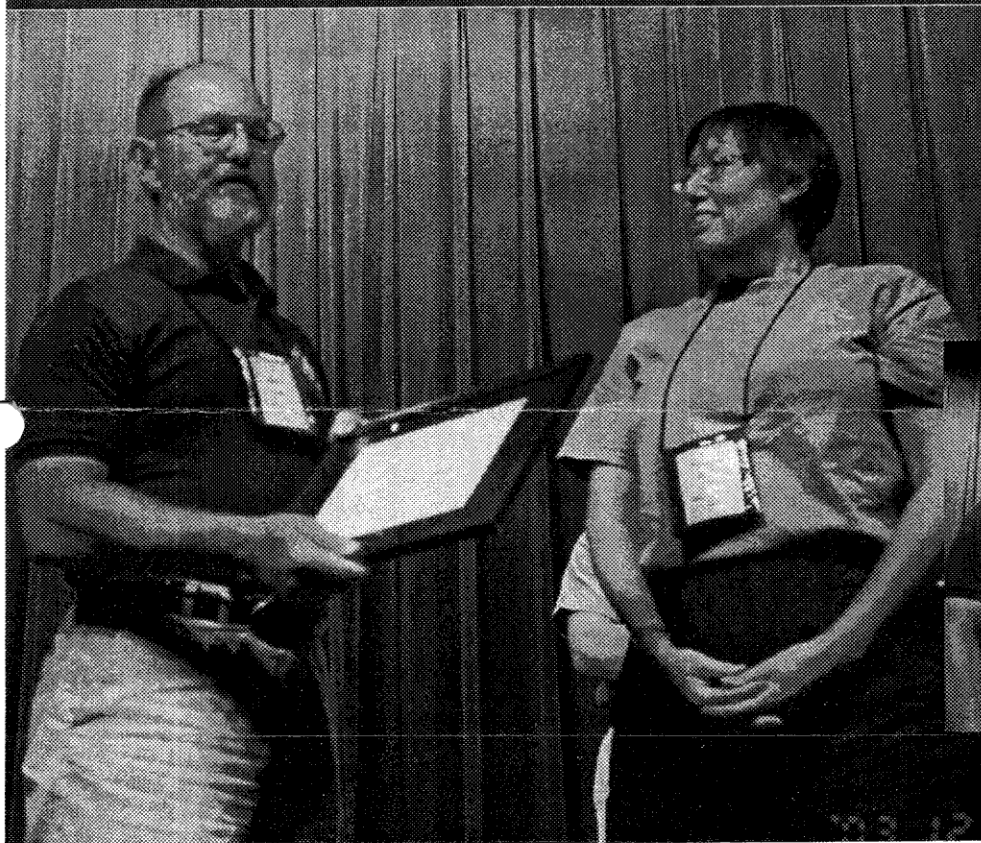


WAYS

PIEDMONT APPALACHIAN TRAIL HIKERS

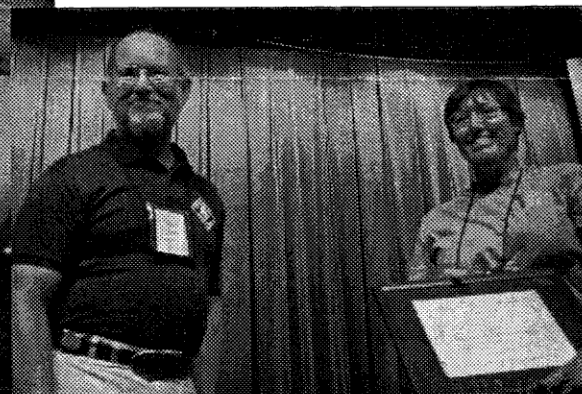
CLUB NEWSLETTER • FALL 2001

ATC Conference 2001



SHIPPENSBURG
UNIVERSITY
OF PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA 2001
SHIPPENSBURG



Parthena Martin is recognized for her outstanding efforts as a steward of the Appalachian Trail.

by Karl Kunkel

SHIPPENSBURG, Pa. — PATH's own Parthena Martin received a well-deserved rousing ovation during the opening ceremonies of the bi-annual Appalachian Trail Conference held here in mid-July.

Parthena, PATH president, was elected as an honorary member of the Appalachian Trail Conference board of managers in recognition for "Distinguished Contributions to the Appalachian Trail." She was cited for her many volunteer activities over the past several years, including her six years on the ATC board of man-

agers, the shelter at the Mt. Rogers Visitors Center, her leadership as president of both PATH and the Old Dominion ATC and her chairmanship of the ATC Radford (Va.) 1999 conference.

Other PATH members got awards, too. The following were recognized with Silver Service Awards for 25 years of active service: Henry Ford, Doris Ford, Hollyce Kirkland and Ken Rose.

The day's opening ceremony also featured a slide show by author Edward Bernbaum, who spoke on the religious/cultural significance of mountains throughout

the world and the importance of preserving these mountains. He described the ATC as an important part of the preservation of the Appalachian Mountains. He is involved in preservation projects in three regions of the U.S. — the Smokies, the Rocky Mountains and Mount Rainier — trying to bring Native Americans and other residents together to stress the cultural importance of these mountains to everyone.

PATH was well-represented at the conference. Over 12 members were in attendance. By contrast, a past president of the N.Y./N.J. club, with over 38,000 members revealed that he only counted six of his club members there.

Most PATH members wisely camped out, except Kunkel, who opted for a hot, stuffy dorm room. Clint Kawanishi fell in love with pirogues, a Polish dumpling stuffed with mashed potatoes. Robert Rubin, editor of "Appalachian Trailways" magazine, was also there.

Several PATH members were on the 8-mile Gettysburg battlefield hike on Sunday. The group hiked through several key battlefields, including Pickett's Charge, Little Round Top and Devil's Den. The group was led by Richard and Louise Sis of Harrisburg, Pa., both in period dress. They are members of the Susquehanna club. He is also a Civil War reenactor (blue

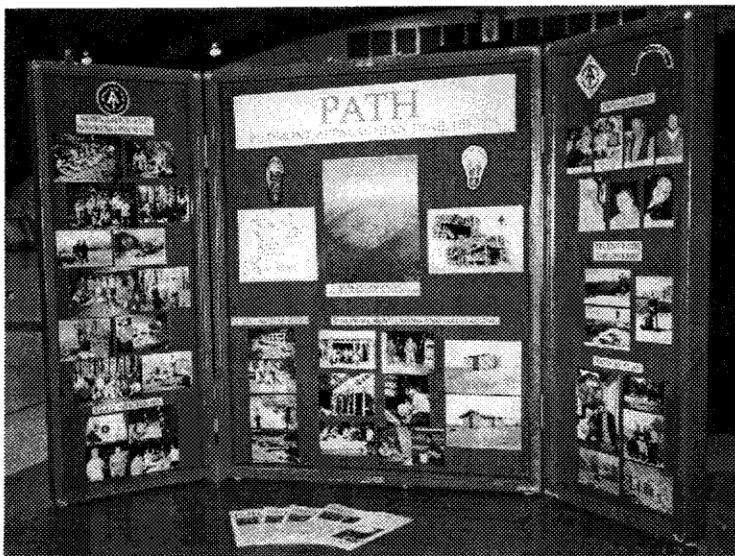


Above: PATH members pose with a member of the Susquehanna Club who takes part in Civil War reenactments. Below: The Holy Grail

side) and makes his own ammo for his Civil War era guns. He gave each hiking participant some surplus lead bullets he had molded. He had been an extra in the movie "Gettysburg," appearing for 7 seconds - following a 7-day shooting schedule. Louise was an extra in the movie "Girl Interrupted," which was shot at the Harrisburg State (mental) Hospital.

PATH's Holy Grail (the folding display board of PATH info and photos) was on display at the conference and held its own with the displays of other clubs. The Holy Grail, however, is heavy and cumbersome, so PATH is looking at lighterweight, easier-to-handle display cases.

Workshops included astronomy, public relations and AT history, and several PATH members attended workshops, in addition to their hikes. The hosts provided excellent evening musical entertainment. The first night was Raising Kane, a group of young people from Hershey playing folk tunes. Saturday night were Irish



Continued on page 10

September Work Trip Blazingly Good Time



by Karl Kunkel

Mid-September was a time of crisp, clear weather without a cloud in the sky: perfect weather for a work trip and the Trail Neighbors' Cookout. Only four days after the Sept. 11 tragedy, most PATH members were eager to escape the TV and get in some constructive trail work, relaxation and socializing.

About 40 people showed up for the annual white blaze-painting ritual or do some stone work. The newly revamped equipment shed at the Wytheville Forest Service facility ran smoothly with Gordon Burgess and Bill Boudman at the helm. David Stelts proudly displayed a sonogram of his next child. David described his prenatal child as the size of a soybean. Bill B. at first thought the sonogram was a map of a weather system.

Paul Clayton was this year's Wolfgang Puck, as he manned the grill at the O'Lystery shelter for this year's

Trail Neighbors' dinner. Chicken and pork chops and some great casserole from Walt Davis and his wife filled everyone up, including our guests of honor — several neighbors who live near the AT and have helped us out many times over the years.

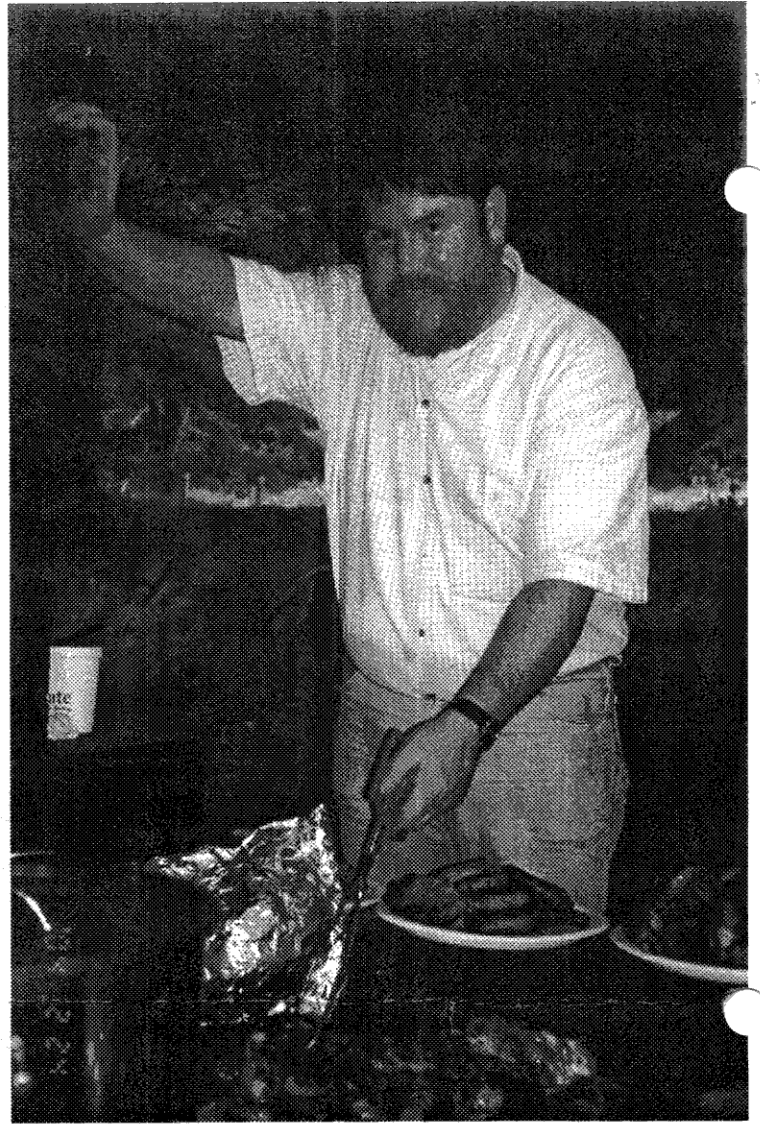
The evening's excitement was provided by an over-pressurized Coleman stove, which sent flames high enough to burn away any cobwebs in the rafters. This "reporter," armed with a camera, stood in awe of the flames, neglecting to capture the event on film. Fortunately, Clint Kawanishi, equipped with a fertile imagination and Photoshop, a computer program, was able to provide us with a "creative interpretation" of the scene.

PATH member Danny Shields, a Wilmington area resident, was unable to attend because of his wife's medical condition. Our thoughts are with the Shields as



Above: PATH's trail neighbors

Right: Chef Paul Clayton at Trail Neighbor's Cookout. You can catch Chef Clayton on the Piedmont Food Network weekdays at 11 am. Check your local listings.



she continues her chemo sessions.

Gordon Burgess's "Carolina blue" 1973 VW Bug has a new owner, this "reporter," who promises to keep the Bug visiting Stoney Fork regularly. The Bug wouldn't have it any other way, having made the trek for well over two decades.

Many members commented that the weekend was one of the best ever. 🐾



*Gang -
Give Carla
Osborne a big hand
for her page-layout
efforts next time you
see her!
- Karl Kunkel*

Susan Zachary on white-blaze detail near Knot Maul Shelter-September worktrip

PATH Pioneers

(Editor's Note: PATH has a rich history of involvement in the preservation of the Appalachian Trail. Since the group formed, circa 1965, many "PATH Pioneers" have helped drive the group forward. This article is the first in what we hope will be a series of profiles for PATHways in which we can recognize these people — both active and inactive.)

by Karl Kunkel

Bob and Lib Conner have a trunkload of memories of PATH — and they are sharing some of those memories with the group. Not long ago, the Connors donated a stack of ancient PATH newsletters to Parthena Martin, president, so that a more thorough and detailed history of PATH and its members can be chronicled.

The Connors, retired and living in High Point, still belong to PATH — and have since about 1966, shortly after the group formed. Their most active years extended into the mid 1980s.

The Connors are rooted in hiking. In fact, it was on an Explorers Club hike that they first met, during the 1930s when they were students at Duke University. In Bob's professional life, he was an architect. When they married, they settled down in Lib's hometown of High Point, where he worked. There, looking for some fellow hikers in the Triad area, they stumbled upon PATH, a group that was still in its infancy.

When they married, they settled down in Lib's hometown of High Point, where he worked. There, looking for some fellow hikers in the Triad area, they stumbled upon PATH, a group that was still in its infancy.

Most of the approximately 50 members at that time lived in the Triad. Having a member on the roster living in Chapel Hill was a pretty big deal. That compact community made commuting to worktrips much easier and made recreational hiking much more practical. Look



Bob and Lib Conner, PATH Pioneers

through one of those early newsletters and one will see a staggering number of planned events on each monthly schedule. Some were worktrips, but many were day hikes throughout North Carolina and Virginia. Bob and Lib described themselves as day hikers, taking in a small chunk of the AT at a time. For many years, each annual PATH meeting was held at Muir's Chapel United Methodist Church in Greensboro. PATH member Harriet Mattes was always in charge of the meals at that event, Lib recalled.

Bob has many good memories of experiences and people connected with the AT. He is particularly appreciative of a married couple, Willie and Monie Repass, who had a farm near Groseclose, Va., (near I-81, where the AT crosses underneath). In those days, the AT cut through their pasture land, and the Repasses were hosts to thru-hikers and trail maintainers, alike. When PATH members were working, the Repasses always appeared with ice cream for them. The Connors recall reciprocating by bringing along extra 7-Ups for the Repasses, who were often working in the fields. Bob, a Pennsylvania native, would pass along a shoo-fly pie (molasses-based) whenever he could whip one up for them. "They were our best friends along our section of the AT," Bob said. "They always welcomed people to stay at their farm."

When PATH members were stumped on how best to paint a white blaze on the Interstate underpass so it would show up to hikers, it was Willie Repass who came up with a solution. Paint a blue square on the concrete column and paint the white blaze inside it.

One of the Conners' most memorable events was to participate in an aerial shot of some of the AT in the late '60s. PATH was directed to lay down large white sheets along the AT so they would be visible from the air. Shortly after that, the shots were used to help bring the National Scenic Trail Act into being, an act that would protect the AT.

"It has been suggested we do this during the winter, though, when there are no rattlesnakes," Bob said.

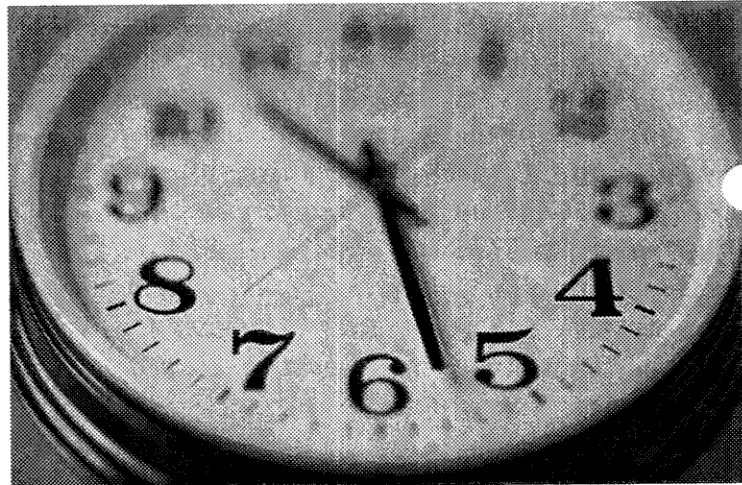
Their PATH activities predate Interstate 77, gateway to Wytheville, and predate the AT's relocation along the ridge overlooking Burke's Garden. They have never seen the shelter overlooking the garden. At the time, the AT traversed Big Walker Mountain (U.S. 52). It was eventually relocated to the Burke's Garden area due to lack of water for hikers.

Today, the Conners keep active in local outdoor activities, hiking when they can.

One project Bob would like to continue is to find some ancient Indian petroglyphs (drawings) on stone walls about nine miles southwest of Tazewell, Va. Tazewell is the county seat for Burke's Garden and is located north of the garden. Pulling out a sheaf of yellowed, century-old papers that he has been studying, Bob figures these petroglyphs are in the Hungry Mother State Park area, near Marion. He said that years ago he figures he got very close to them, but was never able to find them. If any PATH members want to search with him, he would open for the expedition.

"It has been suggested we do this during the winter, though, when there are no rattlesnakes," Bob said.

Lib keeps her editorial pen sharp as the newsletter editor for the Friends of State Parks, a non-profit group promoting North Carolina's state parks. 🐢



Time Machine

by John Hartpence—Secretary

Going through some old newsletters I found some interesting things:

- Dues for 1973 were — Student - \$.50, Individual - \$2.50, Family - \$3.00
- In 1977, Bill Medlin was the Trail Director
- In 1985, Ken Rose was the Trail Supervisor and Gordon Burgess was the Trail Master.
- In 1986 John Haven of Groseclose, Va, was killed in a hunting accident. He had allowed hikers to use his "tin building" in Davis Hollow. For three summers the Konnarock Crew used this building as a base camp while working on Davis Path Shelter and Trail relocation.
- In 1987 Barbara Council was the leader for PATH of Beartown Wilderness. She did this for many years
- On March 28-29, 1987, Path had 45 members present for the Maintenance weekend. Some of those attending were: David Emrey, Gordon Burgess, Ken Rose, Hazel Monroe, Chuck North, Kathy Bobseine, Chris-Wanda and Karissa Bracknell, Dan Booker, Henry and Doris Ford, Marvin and Hollyce Kirkland, and Vaughn Thomas.
- I found the following people were officers in Path (p-president; vp—vice president; s-secretary; t—treasurer)
 - 1977-p-Tom Harmon, vp-Charles M. Adams, s-Maxine Blackwood, t-Henry Ford
 - 1978-p-Tom Harmon, t-Henry Ford
 - 1979-p-Jim Morris
 - 1981-p-Jim Morris, vp-Bill Sims, s-Kathy Chatfield, t-Ruth Huffaker
 - 1982-p-Ken Rose, vp-Hazel Monroe, s-Kat. Chatfield, t-Ruth Huffaker

Continued on page 10

Dawg Days, Big Days

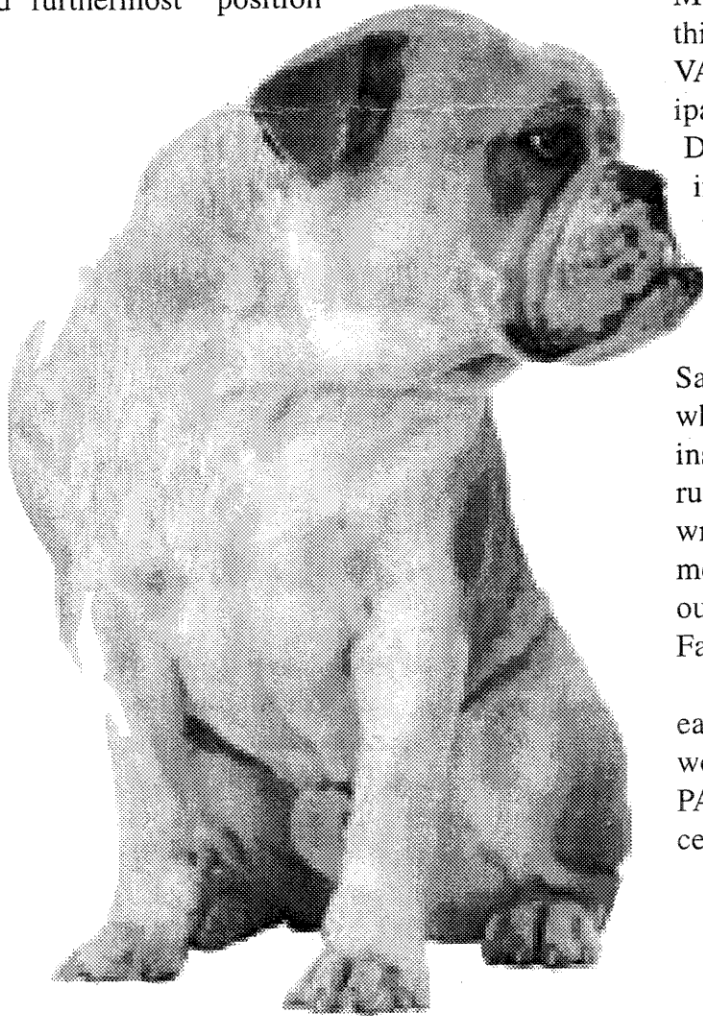
We dig the "AT"!!!!

by Marcia Cope and Barry Hester

POOR VALLEY, Va. — Sidehillers outnumbered non-sidehillers 16 to 10 as PATH's 4th annual effort produced several hundred feet of fresh sidehill on the Appalachian Trail. Despite daily dampness and drizzle (read as humidity and rain) Dawg Days again did its duty.

Once every 365 days, dedicated sidehillers and novices, including some who don't even like to sidehill, come together for just one day to wield pulaskis and fire rakes as they repair the damage nature does to the United States' premier hiking trail!

Betsy Truscott, Parthena Martin, Karen Worthington, and Doc Branham each won a "free" Dawg Days T-shirt from a drawing that consisted of only "Sidehillers". Trevor Cope was bumped from his "traveled furthest" position



by Karen who likewise flew into North Carolina all the way from Seattle for the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers once-a-year Dawg Days event.

Everyone arrived bearing food and/or drink, and the "party" atmosphere prevailed throughout the weekend, despite the daily hard work and nightly rain. Thanks to Mark Stanley, who led "Roof Raising of the Orange Tarp," our kitchen remained dry and was popular with both man and beast!

Valerie Hurt (new member from Richlands, Va) was grateful for the orange tape that kept her from tangling and tripping on the tie-outs. She was also instrumental in resupplying and/or supplying us with what we forgot or ran out of as she made several trips in/out of camp to stay on top of family concerns. She may have put in more miles than those who came from Raleigh! Mosquitos were not the problem we had feared during this very wet summer in Poor Valley, and the road - VA625/FS222- was in much better condition than anticipated. That was a far cry from FS282 at our inaugural Dawg Days Event in '98. Second to extensive flooding along the trail, a number of other projects included the removal of debris from the center pier of Lick Creek Bridge by Tony Roberts, Paul Haag and several others on Friday afternoon. Barry Hester and Bill Boudman led a crew across the creek on Saturday morning to clean the "muck" out of the trail where it had settled as the flood waters abated. As they installed cribbing to divert hikers onto higher ground, a rumor bounced around that there just might be a "muck wrestling" match on Saturday night! Also on Saturday morning, Bill Medlin led a crew with chain saws to cut out the remainder of the log jam at Lick Creek Bridge. Fantastic job, guys!

And finally, the most important words we can say to each of you: You are appreciated more than our simple words can express for the part you played in making PATH's Fourth Annual Dawg Days event a howling success. Thanks!🐾

Boot Camp

Several active and prospective PATH members gathered at the Chapel Hill residence of Parthena Martin and Clint Kawanishi September 22 for a primer on backpacking. The course was a prelude to a one-night backpacking trip they were scheduled to take the following weekend at Cold Mountain, near Lynchburg, Virginia.

The session covered clothing selection, packing techniques, meals, footwear, hygiene, sleeping bags and tent selection. PATH member George Cole, who has been into ultralight backpacking for several decades, shared his knowledge of the subject by showing his 18-pound backpack, hydration system and hammock-and-tarp sleeping unit. Most of his gear was custom-made, including a poncho with zippers he uses for rainy weather. George is an editor of an educational website dealing with minimalist backcountry camping: backpackinglight.com 🐼



George Cole, standing, shows inquiring minds his custom-made backpack.

PATH News

PATH in the News

PATH got a boost in publicity Sept. 23 when the *News & Record*, Greensboro's newspaper, ran a short news article on PATH receiving storage space at the U.S. Forest Service facility in Wytheville and a \$900 grant from the Appalachian Trail Conference headquarters. The money was used to build a workbench, wall off of the storage area and install a separate door. PATH member Jon Firebaugh was mentioned in the article as the organizer of the project. In the article, Bill Boudman, PATH's trail supervisor, explained that the work area would make trail maintenance much more efficient.

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

Snug as a Bug

Hard-working PATH members may soon be cool in the summer and toasty warm in the winter, thanks to **Comfortemp**, a new, nonwoven fiber developed by Frisby Technologies, a Winston-Salem company. The material can be used in outdoor clothing to help regulate body temperature.

So, sue me...

Frisby Technologies, a Winston-Salem company, is being sued by Outlast Technologies, a Boulder, Colo., company, for patent infringement. Earlier this year, Frisby introduced ComforTemp Non-Wovens, a material designed to keep outdoorspeople cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Outlast claims it was there first with its "encapsulated phase change materials." 🐼

(Long, Green) Tunnel Talk

Men's Journal (June, 2001) ran an article on cabins the Potomac AT Club rents to the public along the AT from central Virginia to southern Pennsylvania. Rates for non-members of the PATC range from \$10 to \$55 a night. The club maintains 28 of them. One, Highacre, an 1886 Victorian in Harpers Ferry, WV, has electricity, heat and plumbing.

Developers of the partially complete **American Tobacco Trail** had an exhibit at the June/July Eno River Fest in Durham, N.C. The 23-mile trail, along an abandoned rail line, will eventually traverse urban, rural and suburban landscapes in the Durham area. The trail was once a route tobacco farmers would use to get their crops to Durham for processing.

Appalachian Life Magazine is a publication hikers and lovers of the mountains might enjoy. PATH was sent a complimentary copy of the April/May 2001 issue. Articles included a story, poems, an article on mountain music, historic travel and a profile of little Vardy, Tenn. A one-year, six-issue subscription is \$20 (to "OSF Publishing"). For information, contact the magazine at www.appalachianlife.com or 423/639-2031. Mailing address is OSF Publishing, P.O. Box 1442, Greeneville, Tenn. 37744.

PATH member and hiking author **Allen De Hart** was guest speaker at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Winston-Salem in June, promoting his "Hiking North Carolina's Mountains-to-the-Sea Trail" book and telling people about the 1,000-mile trail. His lecture chronicled the 25 years it has taken to bring the trail this far in its development. He shared some of the stories and photos of his two-month trek of the trail in 1997. Want an easy \$150? That's how much money he found in small bills along the highways and roads he walked as part of the trail. A box of memorabilia he found on the trail, which he showed, included a Sept. 1968 Playboy, a garter belt thrown by a bride to him, eyeglasses and a pocket calculator. For information on Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail, contact 3585 U.S. 401 South, Louisburg, NC 27549 (phone - 919/496-4771).

Billy Bob Medlin deserves a big hug (or pat on the back) for finding several electrical fixtures for the storage room at the Forest Service station in Wytheville. He saved PATH several hundred dollars.

Mount Rogers: Outdoor Recreation Handbook by Johnny Molloy (Menasha Ridge Press. 320 pages. \$16.95. paper), has created a thorough guide to this 140,000-acre park in southwest Virginia. PATH's maintaining responsibilities start in this area.

Blue Ridge Country magazine's July/Aug 01 issue offered an interesting column by editor Kurt Rheinheimer entitled "Trail Magic: It starts with your first step." He describes his experience with the AT when taking his 19-year-old son to Amicalola Falls State Park in Georgia so the son can begin a 1,250-mile trek to Virginia. He mentions some of the characters he runs into who are embarking on their thru-hike and describes the experience the AT can provide as a valuable one.

Smithsonian magazine's July 01 issue features "Bed and Breakfast," an article detailing the comforts of the AT's Fontana Hilton shelter at Fontana Dam, 163 miles north of Springer Mt., Ga. Included in the article are brief profiles of thru-hikers winding their way north, including PowerBar, a hiker determined to save food weight by packing only PowerBars.

PATH contacts:

President
Parthena Martin
Chapel Hill
919-967-4449

John Hartpence
Secretary
Salisbury
704-645-1273

Karl Kunkel
Newsletter Editor
High Point
336-882-8711

Bill Boudman
Trail Supervisor
Raleigh
919-782-3117

Paul Haag
Vice President
Winston-Salem
336-922-3664

Tony Roberts
Treasurer
Greensboro
336-292-5090

Carla Osborne
Newsletter Layout
Raleigh
919-571-1580

Continued from page 2

musician and humorist /storyteller Seamus Kennedy and Scottish fiddling champion Elka Baker. Sunday night were the History Alive! boys featuring Richard Pawling (server6.hypermart.net/historyalive/). In period costume, they told stories and played songs that had been popular throughout America's history, with a special focus on Pennsylvania, such as the Erie Canal.

The Canadian province of Quebec manned a booth promoting the new International Appalachian Trail. The IAT runs north from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to the Gaspe peninsula in Quebec, adding an additional 417 miles to the AT. The \$3 million project was started over five years ago and formally opened June 23 of this year. The trail has 22 insulated shelters with stoves and 24 campsites, each with toilets and three 12'x12' tent platforms. One representative had already hiked between Key West, Fla., and Gaspe twice.

Another rep pulled out three sample ribboned medals - gold, silver and bronze - which will be awarded to anyone hiking from Key West to Gaspe, Springer Mt. to Gaspe, and Katahdin to Gaspe, respectively. 📍

Continued from page 6

1983-p-Hazel Monroe

1984-p.-Bill Sims

1985-p-Bill Sims, t-Ruth Huffaker

1986-p-Bill Simms, vp-Kathy Bobseine, t-Ruth Huffaker, s- David Bland

1987-p-Kathy Bobseine, vp-Danny C. Booker, s-David Bland, t-Ruth Huffaker

1988-p-Kathy Bobseine, vp-Danny C. Booker, s-David Bland, t-Ruth Huffaker

1989-p-Danny C. Booker, vp-Chris Bracknell, s-Vaughn Thomas, t-Beverly Underwood

1990-p-Danny C. Booker, vp-Chris Bracknell, s-Vaughn Thomas, t-Beverly Underwood

1991-p-Danny C. Booker, vp-Chris Bracknell, s-Vaughn Thomas, t-Bill Sims

1992-p-Danny C. Booker, vp-Chris Bracknell, s-Vaughn Thomas, t-Bill Sims

1993-p-Jim Wood, vp-Chris Bracknell, s-Vaughn Thomas, t-Chuck North

1994-p-Jim Wood, vp-Steve Williams, s-Vaughn Thomas, t-Chuck North

I Thought that this might bring back some memories to our senior members. 📍

**PIEDMONT
APPALACHIAN
TRAIL
HIKERS, INC.**

POST OFFICE BOX 4423
GREENSBORO, NC 27404-4423



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

27103-1934

