

PATH

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers



WAYS

Late Summer 2002

Summerfest 2002

by John Hartpence



Chatfield Shelter after a long workday.

After a year of planning and preparation by Andy Mitchell and Billy Bob Medlin, Summerfest 2002 was finally here. June 11-17 was a week of hard work and fellowship for those attending. And some attendance records may have been broken. We had 54 workers over the week. Workers traveled from as far away as Florida, Staunton, Va., Georgia, and the North Carolina coast to work on the Chatfield Shelter Project.

Summerfest's main projects included the rebuilding of the privy, beautification of the grounds, new rock steps to the shelter and the privy, and a rock wall to raise the ground in front of the shelter. All of the projects were successfully completed.

Cynthia Crotwell, a former Konnarock crew leader, rock wall specialist, and an officer in the Georgia AT Club, was brought in to direct the rock work. PATH workers spent the week hauling large rocks - some over 500 pounds - with the grip hoist or rock carriers. These rocks were set in place in the steps or the wall.

The old privy was torn down after suspending the old roof in the air about 10 feet off the ground. A new privy frame was built and the old roof was lowered on to its new home. It fit perfectly. Billy Bob had the privilege of being the first person to use the privy.

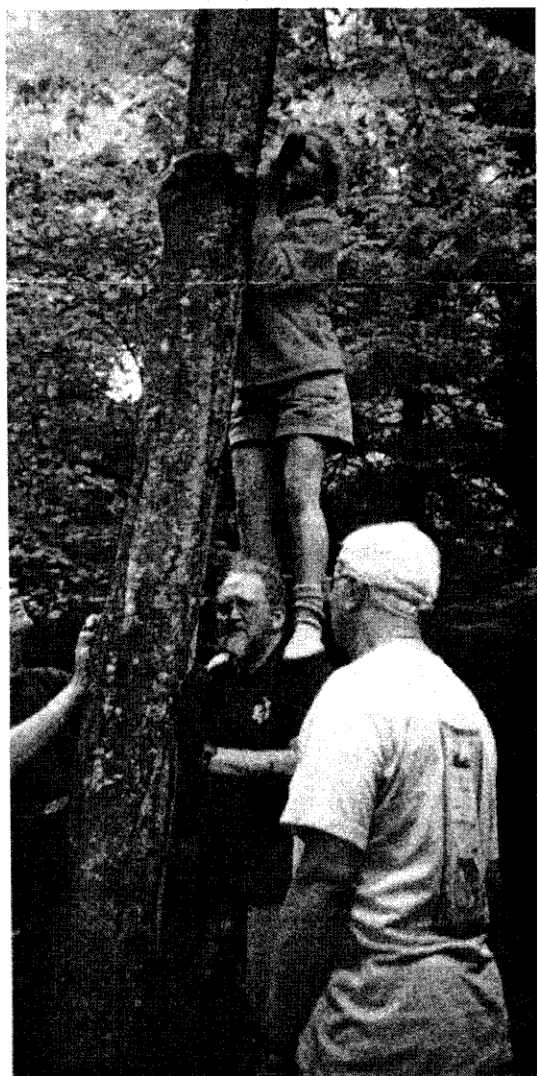
Chatfield Shelter was named after Louise Chatfield, a charter member of PATH and twice



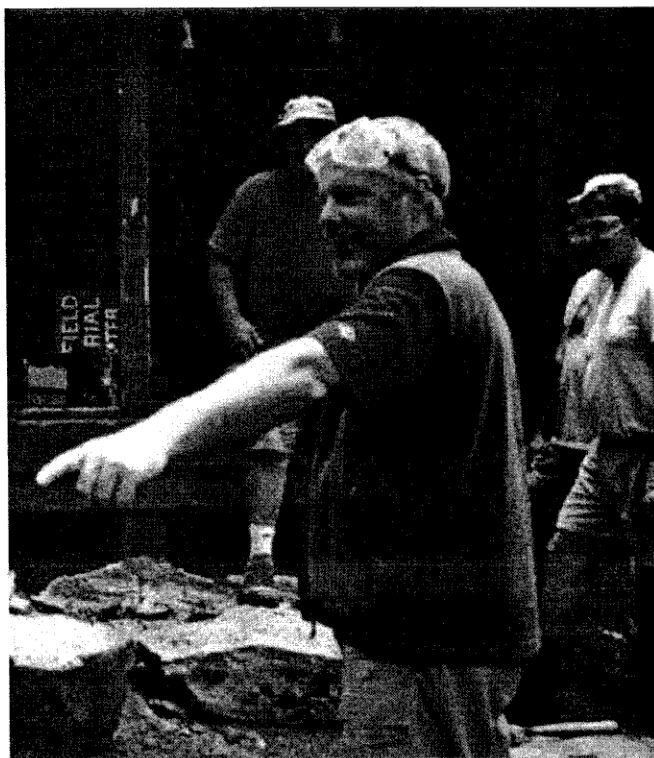
president of the club: 1972-73 and 1976. Louise was also a conservationist and the first chair of the North Carolina Trails Committee.

The shelter had its beginnings on Monster Rock, located at Big Walker Mountain on US 52 (up the road from the Stoney Fork Campground). It was moved to Glade Mountain (Va. 86) in the late 70's when the trail was taken off Big Walker Mountain due to lack of water. In 1986 the shelter was moved to its present location. It was dedicated to Louise in April, 1986.

On Saturday a new sign, made by Barry Hester, was put on the shelter, rededicating it to Louise.



Amy Roberts gets a boost from David John.



Summerfest Director, Andy Mitchell.

We camped at the Konnarock facility in Sugar Grove, where we had full use of the facility after the workers at Konnarock went out on the trail Thursday morning. Chef Medlin and Assistant Chef Mitchell headed up the cooking duties. They had many assistants to make coffee, pancakes, eggs, potatoes, salads, set up for meals and wash dishes. Thanks to all for their great help. Special thanks to Keith Morgan! He became the Camp Director, staying in camp while the rest of us went up to the mountain. He set up for meals, went shopping for food and supplies in Marion, and cleaned up after the meals. Thanks KEITH!!!

Art and Ruby Cushing, our former hosts at Stoney Fork, were our special guests at the buffet. After supper we socialized. However, after a hard day's work PATH members began going to bed starting at 8pm.

We put in over 1400 volunteer hours. Andrew Mitchell designed a spectacular Summerfest shirt, and those were passed out during the August worktrip to workers who order them. Thanks to everyone who attended Summerfest. I know Louise would be proud of the work done.



PATH Member Bob Sloan Completes the AT

by Jim Chambers

On Friday, July 26 of this year, PATH member Bob Sloan of Charlotte completed the Appalachian Trail, section-hiking the entire distance over a nine-year period.

Bob first began hiking nine years ago. He came into my office one day in the summer of 1994 and asked if I would take him on backpacking trip. I was looking for a backpacking partner and was eager to do it. I planned what I thought was an easy trip of about 20 miles near Elizabethton, Tennessee. I hoped an easy walk would get him interested enough to try backpacking again.

Bob, his son Todd and I arrived Friday afternoon at the parking lot on US321 and began the two mile flat walk around Watauga Lake to the Watauga Lake Shelter. After about 15 minutes, Bob was on his hands and knees throwing up in the bushes. He was white as a sheet and I thought he was having a heart attack. The next afternoon when we reached Turkey Pen Gap, about a mile from Iron Mountain Shelter, Bob announced he couldn't go any further. He asked Todd to come back and carry his pack to the shelter. I was convinced Bob had taken his last hike.

I was shocked when Bob came into my office the following week and asked when we could try it again. From there, we began scheduling monthly weekend trips and one or two extended trips each year. Bob continued to struggle with conditioning and his stomach. He hates trail food.

Bob acquired the trail name "Blue" after he discovered that blue-blazed side trails sometimes lead to restaurants and hiker hostels that serve food. It was a task to keep Bob following the white blazes of the AT rather than chasing the blue blazes. Bob would eat a trail meal and throw up. He could eat food from any greasy spoon and hike for miles with no problem.

Bob quit the trail "forever" at least a dozen times. He swore he would never backpack again in the slush and snow of Georgia; in Virginia where the trail seems to just go on forever; in New York when the temperature was in the high 90s and all the springs had dried up; in Vermont when the black flies were so thick we couldn't eat lunch; and in New Hampshire where the climbs are 4,000 feet and they don't know the meaning of switchback.

However, Bob always came back. We hiked through sleet and snow in the Smokies with fog so thick you could hardly see your hand in front of your face. We hiked through a whiteout snow storm in Virginia and camped in Thomas Knob Shelter with the temperature below zero. We hiked through the sweltering heat and drought in the mid-Atlantic states in July. We hiked through innumerable thunderstorms with lightning dancing in the sky and sometimes in the trees above us. We crossed Mt. Lincoln in the Whites with hurricane force winds blowing us off the trail. Bob fell on the rain slick trail of Mt. Success and spent the night in Gentian Pond Shelter with a broken arm. We fought through a swarm of New Hampshire mosquitoes to get to the Gorham hospital the next day.

Finally on Friday, July 26, 2002, Bob climbed Mt. Katahdin in Maine, completing the last five miles of the AT. Though at times Bob struggled, he walked every step of the 2,168 miles that comprise the Appalachian Trail. It takes tremendous determination, fortitude, initiative and resolve to accomplish this feat. Bob transferred from Charlotte to Kennesaw, Georgia, in August. I'm going to miss being able to walk into his office to clear my mind by taking a virtual hike on the AT. I wish him luck in his move to Georgia and congratulations on completing the AT.



That Cool Alaskan Summer

JUNEAU, Alaska — Susan Andreatta has spent her summer working on a cruise liner along the Alaskan coast - a far cry from the weeds and



hawthorns of the AT. She is scheduled to return to North Carolina in early October, with plans to participate in the October work trip.

Those PATH members with email were able to read of her adventures as she posted them. For those without, here are a few excerpts:



-Today was another extraordinary day in Southeast Alaska. Our crew took two groups of people out to find the wild creatures. As we motored past Admiralty Island - known to the Tlingit Indians as KOOTZNOOWOO - which means "Fortress of the Bears" - we saw four large brown bears lounging about on the shore.

Brown bears are the ones sometimes known as grizzlies. Well, they were quite nonchalant, just resting and munching a few skunk cabbage. We were safe in our boat.

-Near Skull Island, we found two humpback whales moving along side by side. One was quite a bit smaller than the other. It appeared to be a mother and a calf. They swam along rather docilely for a while. Then, the mother swam away from the calf, and the calf, realizing its independence, cut loose. It put on an unbelievable show, leaping about, jumping out of the water, flipping over, waving its pectoral fin, doing the back-stroke, breaching again and again.

-Today, we saw Orcas—maybe ten of them. They came up so close to the boat that we could look right down their blow holes. We could hear them breathe. Several of them swam UNDER our boat. It was so exciting!

-I love the people in Juneau. Everyone is straightforward. What you see is what you get!! No one is putting on airs or trying to be something they are not.

-The very first Alaska Salmon ever caught by Susan Andreatta was caught in Pelican, Alaska. The woman who runs the gift shop and cafe closes the cafe in the winter and then begins sewing. She makes hats and gloves and dolls out of various animal skins.

Alaska is an amazing place!



A Groovy Thank You

Dear Trail Maintainers,

This is to say thanks for all your efforts in maintaining your section of the Appalachian Trail. I thru-hiked in 2001, and it was a glorious experience. I know how much more difficult it would have been if your volunteers had not committed many, many hours to maintaining, rebuilding, and cleaning the trail, shelters and trailheads from Georgia to Maine.

When I summarized my trip to family and friends, and listed many of the "facts" of my hike, I thought long and hard about my favorite parts of the trail. It was impossible to identify a specific best place, area, or thing. I loved so many different things about the whole trail. Technicolor landscapes, friendly trail towns, extreme weather, kind people, quiet pleasures the list seems endless and brings a smile to my face even now.

Please use this donation as a tiny contribution toward whatever helps your efforts. Unfortunately, with thanks and a small check to 31 trail maintenance clubs, my budget won't allow more. I support the AT overall through the Appalachian Trail Conference, and I'll continue my financial support of the trail that way. I don't wish to become a member of your organization right now, although I may inquire about volunteering with one of the clubs in my area in the near future.

Mostly I want to say Thank You for all you do that allows me and thousands of others such an adventure!

Warm regards,

Robin "Groovy" Johnston
1308 Clifton Lane
Nashville, TN 37215

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 21

September Worktrip - Trail Neighbors Cookout, O'Lystery shelter, Va. 42. Contact Bill Boudman (919-782-3117) for more information.

Saturday, October 19

October Worktrip - Contact Bill Boudman (919-782-3117) for more information.

Sunday, November 17

PATH Annual Meeting and Potluck - Four Seasons Mall, Greensboro. Contact Gene Greer at ggreerjr@aol.com.

For the most up-to-date information on PATH activities, join the PATH email mailing list. See <http://www.path-at.org/maillist.html> for subscription information.

Buck Passes Away

by Gordon Burgess

PATH is saddened to lose trail neighbor, Buck Repass. He died July 27. He lived with his wife, Sue, on Virginia 610. Many of us got to know him through the relocation of the trail from Virginia 610 onto his land. We hold many happy memories of Buck and Sue. They were always helpful to us.

In case anyone wants to get in touch with Sue, here is her address and phone number:

Sue Repass
270 East Ridge Road
Wytheville, Virginia 24382
Phone: 276-625-7221

Those Ground-Pounding Dawgs

by Marcia Cope

A very special thanks to those who turned out for our Fifth Annual Trail Dawg Days Sidehilling Event August 2-4. Katie (Marcia's daughter) and Zanna (granddaughter) brought four-legged dawgs.... three in number, made a run to the

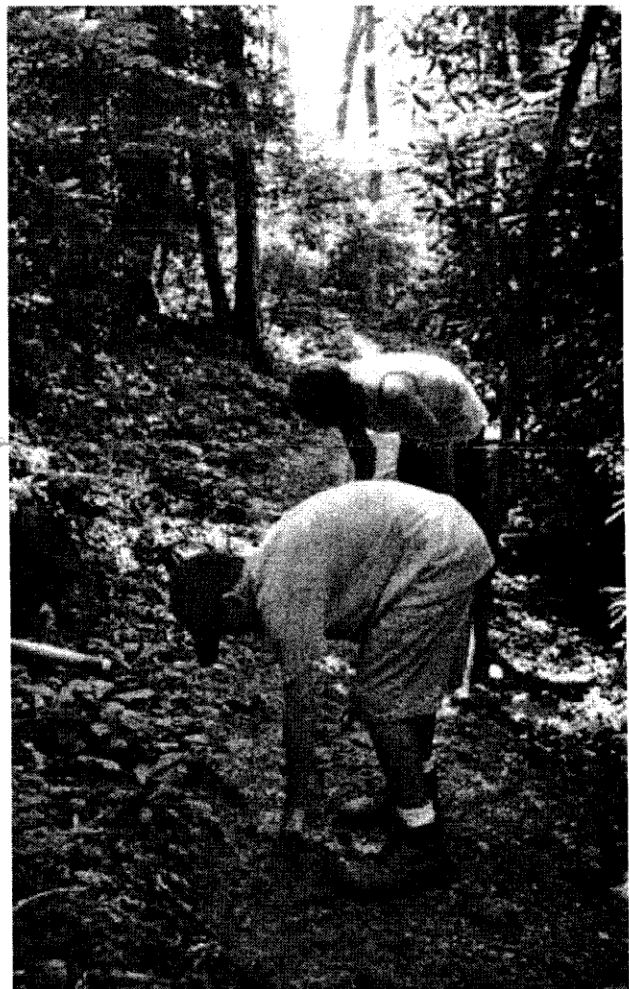


Dawg Days sidehilling involved some work, and some rest.

market for the menu item that was forgotten, and started the Saturday evening meal while nine more dawgs dug 100+ feet of sidehill (some with cribbing). I won't even mention who partook of Elixir (or how much)!!!

A few things I will mention include: sixteen minus seven is NOT eleven!!!; our porch sleeps at least four dawgs unless you include the four legged ones as well (which upped the ante); the smallest dawg can bark the loudest (especially after dark); dawgs eat nearly anything... "bones and sticks with cheese" was quite popular; plus we had the best campfire we have ever had, according to Matt Brown.... Marie seemed to think so too!

We are already considering using our cabin again as a basecamp. That really worked well since most of the crew stopped over at Stony Fork for showers. It circumvented an enormous amount of work setting things up.... and who knows.... maybe by next year we will have the bunkhouse ready for at least four participants!



Assume the sidehilling position!

Jeff Brown brought the biggest crew, Karl Kunkel drove the furthestmost distance (bet he doesn't get that distinction any too often!), and I would be hard put to say who had the most fun.... but I surely hope it was our



young folks. We had six adults this year and five participants under twenty one!!!

Our roster included (in the order of appearance): Marcia Cope, Joe Levsen, Katie and Zanna Floyd, Paul Clayton, Marie Minor, Jeff, Matt and Andy Brown, Andy Runan, and Karl Kunkel.

(This season, the Dawg Days pack focused on some serious sidehilling on a stretch of AT a bit north of O'Lystery at Va. 42. The dogpound after work was the Marcia Cope estate near Bland, Va. — Editor)



Trail Dawg Days '02 ended with a Feast at Marcia's!

Get Well, Jinny

(On August 9, PATH received a card from Jinny Worthington, an employee with the U.S. Forest Service in the New River Valley District, who has worked very closely with our club over the past few years.)

Dear PATH friends,

What a beautiful treat the bouquet of flowers has been! They arrived shortly after I arrived home from the hospital, and now add incredible color and cheer to our dining room table.

Such a nice boost to my spirits after two very difficult weeks in the hospital. I am getting stronger by the day now, and hope to be back on the trails by mid-summer. I have promised my family a trip to Chestnut Ridge & my girls keep eye-

ing the calendar wondering which weekend it will be!

I can't express how much the beautiful flowers and your kind note have meant to me. The healing power of friendship and prayer is truly remarkable. Thank you all for your kindness and support!

With Warm Regards,

Jinny

Message from the Editor

If you detect a change in appearance and design in this particular issue, give a big nod to Don Childrey, one of our previous newsletter editors who volunteered to be the layout editor for this issue. But give a big nod to Carla Osborne, too. She has been our Raleigh, N.C., layout editor for the past four years or so and has done a fantastic job. But, as a working mom with a jammed Daytimer, she needed a well-earned break in the action. Carla, thanks mucho for your efforts! You are a real gem for PATH.

In this issue, you will notice many bylines. I like that. Several PATH members and hikers submitted articles or letters, so we have tried to get them all in. That much participation is good. This newsletter is a mirror of PATH, and the club has many voices and points-of-view.

You will also notice the wide range of events in which PATH has been involved this summer and the number of new members that have joined. I'm fairly new myself, having joined about seven years ago, and it is good to see people plunge into this AT maintenance effort with such zeal. We are all volunteers and do what we can. Some of us are at every worktrip, while others fit in whatever volunteering we can do. It may be a one-afternoon gig of lugging rocks at Summerfest 2002 or wielding a pulaski during the sidehilling project of Dawg Days. It may be a written contribution to PATHways or, in the case of members who can't make it up to the AT, it may be a bit of moral support. Whatever we can contribute helps in the big picture.

I'm very proud to be part of PATH. Whenever I'm talking with someone, wherever they happen to live in the U.S., eventually the conversation rolls around to hobbies and recreation. I always tell people about PATH and the AT, and I always get positive comments about it. Plenty

of people out there know something about the AT but have never been on it. So, we in PATH, have a great opportunity to help them make a tangible connection to the AT by telling them about it.

The most effective AT billboard and conversation piece I "own" is Gordon Burgess's 1973 VW beetle. That's the light blue tank that Gordon has used for about 25 years on worktrips, scooting around southwest Virginia. I inherited Ol' Blue last Fall and have been trying to carry on the tradition. I don't have Gordon's finesse behind the wheel, but I do attract some attention regularly in parking lots, thanks to Ol' Blue. Inevitably, someone comes up to me to tell me about the Beetle they grew up with, and we swap stories. And inevitably, the attention turns to the faded blue circular AT logo Gordon placed on the rear window many years ago. I tell every one of those people about PATH and the AT. Who knows? Maybe they will show up at Stony Fork.

Karl Kunkel
High Point, NC



New Members

PATH would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the club in recent months.

Michael Poore, High Point
Brian Clark, Mebane
Izzy Percy, Greensboro
Craig Brock, Charlotte
Timothy Vogel, Durham
Theodore Bachman, Greensboro
Snow Hinton, Jamestown
Marta Clark, Charlotte
John Taylor, Lewisville, NC
Rhonda Utermohlen, Elm City, NC

A Summerfest Reflection

by Andrew Mitchell

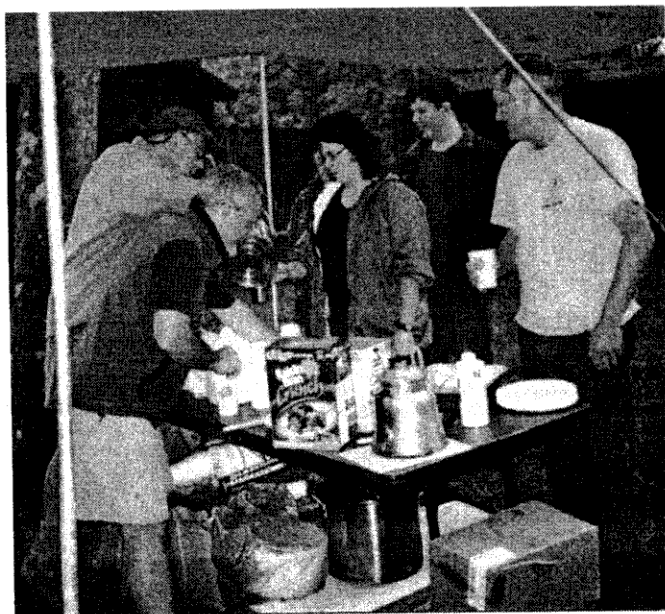
Do you ever walk away after a work weekend and wonder if anyone ever really notices or appreciates all the hard work and efforts exerted by you, the volunteer? Do they just step across those rock-and-locust water bars without a second thought, or climb those rock steps backfilled with hours worth of hauled and sledge-crushed rock? Well, this past weekend I returned to Chatfield to check and see what effect the recent rains had on our Summerfest 2002 rehabilitation.

Everything is looking good! Just for kicks, I read back through the recent register entries and was pleasantly surprised and want to share them with you. We do make a difference and our efforts are noticed. Just read on...

6/13 — "Got here in rain and stopped for night. Lots of construction going on. Maintenance volunteers look to be doing lots of work, will be nice when done. Thanks Guys and Gals for your work." ByPass7Alaska

6/14 — "Nice work on the shelter! But where do all the big rocks come from?" Idaho-4

6/16 — "Thank you trail club maintainers. It is amazing how much work you are doing here, far from modern help. And for free. Thank you." Jester



Summerfest volunteers enjoy a big breakfast to start the day.

6/16 — "Wow. What a great shelter! Kudos to all the maintainers!" Unknown

6/18 — "In for lunch. Nice stone work!" Tom in the Woods

6/20 — "Nice spot." Sir Barry

6/21 — "Well don't see any tent sites here. Guess I must move on." Slider (Well, there are hikers that want to tent at Chatfield. I must get that tent site sign put up in August!)

6/22 — "Stopped for early lunch. Love the landscaping. Great use of natural waterseal (rocks)." Moses

So now you know!



What is PATH?

PATH is a nonprofit trail club that maintains a section of the Appalachian Trail in southwest Virginia. **PATH**'s members live in North Carolina and Virginia, with the majority living between Charlotte, NC and Raleigh, NC.

PATH also sponsors day hikes and backpacking trips for members and others who might be interested in learning more about trails, hiking, and enjoying the outdoors.

For more information check out the **PATH** website at <http://www.path-at.org/> or contact **PATH** President Parthena Martin at 919-967-4449.

Notes from the mail-drop:

Dear Piedmont Hikers,

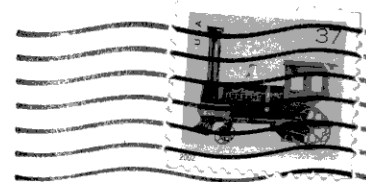
Oct 2001

This month, I completed a thru-hike of the A.T., and I want you to know how much I appreciated your club's trail work. Without the many hours you and other clubs volunteer, thru-hiking would not be possible. Thank you so much for your time & efforts!

Julie "Samwise" Crawford
GA-ME 01



Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers
PO Box 4423
Greensboro, NC 27404



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

