

PATH

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers



WAYS

Spring 2003

A Tasty April Worktrip



During the April worktrip, PATH members played in the mud all day and then played with their food.

by John Hartpence

SUGAR GROVE, Va. — We enjoyed a healthy attendance of 39 people for this April worktrip, considering this was Easter weekend. Three new members joined us.

Early in the week, Bill “Attila” Boudman, Kathy Lee and Clint “Hawthorn Man” Kawanishi got the trails ready by walking Va. 86 to Va. 622, marking where the trail needed waterbars, dips and berm (thick surface covering) removal. Attila also met with Dave Hrlicka, USFS liaison, to check the flooding and beaver damage at Lick Creek. Thursday, Paul Haag and John H. worked the trails and joined the cleanup crew at Konnarock base camp. Friday night, 12 people had dinner at Los Palomos Mexican Restaurant

in Marion, Va.

Saturday morning, 20 people had breakfast at Sugar Grove Diner. Projects that day included the following: Va. 86 south — installed 14 rock and locust waterbars; Va. 622 north - installed 22 waterbars; cleaned trailheads of litter; cut blowdowns at Va. 644; installed three waterbars at Chatfield shelter; installed four waterbars between Va. 644 and Settler’s Museum; cut blowdowns on Gullion Mountain; and at Va. 601 south — pruned trail and installed a waterbar.

David and Martha Emrey consulted with Mr. and Mrs. Repass at Va. 747 about the two cemeteries in the Tilson Mill area (Va. 610). PATH may help to clean up these cemeteries in the future.

A Tasty April Worktrip ...



L to R: Pat Hutchins, Dave Emrey and Jory Hutchins kick out the jams.



Saturday night was a terrific buffet, with over 40 people attending, including four thru-hikers (one girl from Denmark) and two of the Konnarock cleanup crew (Dean and Hammer). Handling the buffet was Chef Walter Davis, Susan “Mother Superior” Andreatta (leaving the following week for Alaska) and Sheila Tysinger. Footstomping entertainment was provided by the father-and-son team of Pat and Jory Hutchins. Jory is a 12-year-old wizard on the fiddle. His father manned the guitar.

Editor’s Note: A big personal thank-you to two new members who brought some unusually nice dishes to the buffet. Tod Bachman of Greensboro brought a sensational hummus-and-pita tray, both of which he made from scratch. Brian Gates of Winston-Salem provided a terrific peach cobbler he baked on-site in a Dutch oven.

Bryan Gates and David John discover an ancient, carved tree seat.

PATH - 2003

Calendar of Events

June 19-23 — Summerfest: Installing helical piers in swamp at Beaver Dam II, behind Cumbow's Restaurant, I-81, Groseclose, Va.

July 17-21 — Konnarock: Burke's Garden. Chestnut Ridge-to-Walker Gap relocation.

July 24-28 — Konnarock: Burke's Garden. Chestnut Ridge-to-Walker Gap relocation.

July 26 - August 1 — national conference of the Appalachian Trail Conference. New Hampshire.

August (first weekend) — Dawg Days AT work project (probably sidehilling north of O'Lystery).

August 15-17 — Worktrip

September 19-21 — Worktrip

October 17-19 — Worktrip

November — PATH Business Meeting and potluck for all members and families.

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

March - A Great Start

SUGAR GROVE, Va. — PATH's first official worktrip of 2003 set a record for attendance: 66. This figure included seven new members and five dogs. Also present, but not in the attendance record, were 10 Virginia Tech students, under the leadership of Jodi Bickel, our assistant ATC representative.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the early birds (Bill "Attila" Boudman, David John, Jim Houck, Andy Stoy, Jack Bookman, John Hartpence and Walt Davis) walked and cut all the trails from Walker Gap (in Burke's Garden) to South Holstein River. On Friday, a group removed some of the bigger blowdowns by chainsaw at Walker Gap. Later that day, Attila, Andrew Mitchell and John H. met with the New River Valley District and the Mt. Rogers' District to plan for 2003.

Saturday morning, a group of 25 met at Sugar Grove Inn for breakfast. The Boy Scouts from Sanford, under the leadership of Ralph Meeks, cooked at base camp. Attila, our trail coordinator, handed out assignments, sending out six groups. The weather was great: sunny and in the 60s.

Projects included checking dams, cleaning out waterbars, cutting briars, painting blazes and clearing the trail. All 57.5 miles of PATH's AT section were walked this weekend.

Saturday night, over 55 hungry people (and a few hungry hounds) enjoyed a buffet under the direction of Chef Walter Davis, our social director. PATH patches were handed out to new PATH members and the Boy Scouts. Andrew Mitchell talked about the upcoming Summerfest II project, and Marcia Cope discussed the Dawg Days work weekend in August.

- John Hartpence



Hot off the Press! — SW Va. Trail Guide Published

The Third Edition of the ever-useful “Appalachian Trail Guide: Southwest Virginia” has just been published by the Appalachian Trail Conference. The architect and field editor for this edition (and previous ones) is PATH’s own

Vaughn Thomas. She meticulously put this 222-page essential guide together over the past two years. The pocket-sized paperback, targeted to hikers, offers a step-by-step descriptive guide to the approx. 275-mile section of

southwest Virginia. Four clubs maintain this section: Mount Rogers, AT Club, PATH, the Outdoor Club of Virginia Tech, and the Roanoke AT Club. The guide contains photos and a history of that part of Virginia and how it was settled over the years.

Contributing editors, many of whom are PATH members, are as follows: Doc Branham (her husband), Zack Brock, Herb Carlton, V. Collins Chew, Tim Ehling, John Hartpence, Dave Hrdlicka, Karl Kunkel, Douglas Ogle, Charles Parry, Bob Peckman, Charles Phillipi, Dave Thomas and Steve Yonts.

The edition is dedicated to a deserving Mike Dawson. For those new to PATH, Mike was, for many years, the ATC representative for PATH’s stretch of the AT and a longtime liaison between the ATC and PATH. It was he who helped PATH and other maintenance groups plot out work projects and needed trail relocations and wade through streams, creeks and governmental regulations. Mike is now blazing trails in the Pacific Northwest.

The book is available at fine outfitting retailers everywhere and through the ATC.

The Adventures of Doc and Vaughn

The husband-and-wife hiking team of Doc Branham and Vaughn Thomas has been entertaining email-connected PATH members with their escapades as they weave their way up the AT for a thru-hike.

They started the trek in early February from Springer Mountain and have been checking in with us, on or off the trail, since then. By early March they had arrived at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in Wesser, N.C. where Doc wrote, “Vaughn and I really appreciate the thoughtful emails. The Internet is a positive force in that respect.”

They later sent a transmittal from Damascus “Trail Town” Va. They plan to be in New Hampshire later this summer for the biannual ATC conference.

Online Member Directory

Did you know that the PATH Member Directory is available online in the Inside PATH section of the PATH Web site? The directory is password protected so it’s only available to other PATH members.

Log in to Inside PATH at www.path-at.org/members/ to view the directory or to update your contact information when necessary.



Aerial Survey of 1968 and 1969

In 1968 and 1969, the Appalachian Trail Conference undertook the detailed mapping of the AT in order to place this map in the Federal Register. This was part of the process of legislation that established the Appalachian Trail as a National Scenic Trail, providing for the trail's permanent protection.

The clubs put out white plastic panels at strategic points along the trail in order to make identification from aerial photographs easier. The clubs received very specific instructions for placing the panels, as follows:

"Where more than one trail exists and where the trail forks, a panel should be placed approximately 500 feet from the fork and along the trail to make certain the interpreter follows the correct trail."

"Care must be exercised in selecting locations for placing panels. Panels must be placed in locations where they will be visible on the photography and not obscured by evergreens or thick growths of trees."

Several additional paragraphs of detailed instructions followed. This project was supervised by Colonel Lester L. Holmes, Administrative Officer of the Appalachian Trail Conference.

Because of bad weather in New England, attention was shifted to the south in December of 1968, catching the southern clubs by surprise, as they had expected to do their work in early spring. PATH started work on December 8th, and placed the last of their panels in a blizzard on Sunday, December 15th, 1968. Gerald W. Barnett of the

Forest Service, Wythe District, came to the assistance of the PATH crews with his four-wheel-drive vehicle.

After the panels were set, pilots flying at 9,000 feet above the ground took aerial pho-

tographs of the trail. The photographs were spliced together in long rolls, and club members attempted to locate the trail in areas where it was not visible.

Evidently some of the clubs were not as diligent about removing the panels as they were about setting them. Ed Garvey remarked on seeing panels still in place during his 1970 through-hike, described in his classic book "Appalachian Hiker".

In this time when many a hiker carries his own Global Positioning System, beaming down his location to the nearest few feet from a satellite high overhead, it is interesting to think back on the days when the clubs helped make the first accurate map of the Appalachian Trail.

by Paul Clayton

PATH to Receive Award Money from Mitchell

Andrew Mitchell, PATH's hardworking Summerfest director, has targeted PATH as the beneficiary of a \$1,000 Alliance Award from his employer, Schneider Electric North America. The award is the highest recognition given to community volunteers employed by the company.



BOOK REVIEW

The Real Environmental Crisis

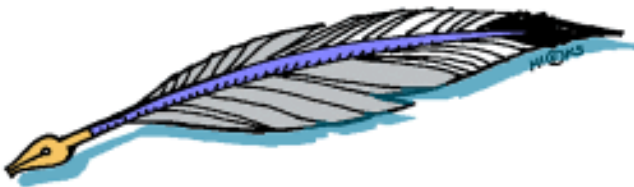
by Jack M. Hollander

Univ. of Calif. Press

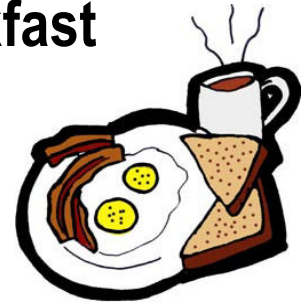
\$30, 235 pages

Affluence doesn't harm the environment; poverty does. That's the premise of Hollander's book on our environmental woes. He argues that wealthy nations can afford the luxury of an environmental ethic, adjusting their habits and technologies for the sake of nature or conservation or exploiting resources more efficiently. Poor countries must use the meager tools they have, and those may be inefficient. "Affluence is essential to bringing about an environmentally sustainable world," he writes. Hollander also argues that the media coverage of global warming is biased, that the U.N. is highly politicized and that evidence of global warming is only suggestive. Even if global warming is real, the proposed cures run the risk of doing more environmental damage by curbing the economic growth that lifts people out of poverty.

Mark Stanley shared the following poem written by Wytheville, Va., resident Liza Field, from a new book of poems she wrote about Earth. Liza was a major force in preserving the 20,000-acre Big Survey outdoor preserve south of Wytheville.



Triangle Breakfast Meetings



It took us a while to get our act together, but here is the scoop on the breakfast gathering of PATH folks in the Triangle.

PATH members in the Triangle area (Chapel Hill, Raleigh, Durham, and anywhere else nearby) have started meeting weekly for breakfast at Le Coco Restaurant. We gather at 7:00 am on Tuesdays. We would love to increase participation and welcome anyone who wants to join us. We're usually there til about 8:30. In order to include those who cannot make a weekday, we meet at 9:00 am on the first Saturday of the month.

Le Coco is on Hwy 55, south of the Hwy 54/55 intersection, near Research Triangle Park, in the Greenwood Commons Shopping Center. From I40, take exit 278 and travel south a mile or so. Greenwood Commons is on the right.

The Hiker's Blessing

May land be your meat
and love, your bread.
May night be your drink,
and stars, your salt.
May rain be your grief,
the wind, your bed.
May wood be your strength,
and coals, your core.
May God be your way —
your legs, the door.

by Liza Field

PATH Helps UNC-TV

"From the Earth to the Air": PATH goes on public TV to raise funds for UNC-TV in February. In the foreground is Barry Hester.



RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — A hardy group of PATH members helped put some big numbers on the board, as they fielded on-air phones during the month-long fund raiser for UNC-TV.

Sunday evening, March 9, many of the members put in over four hours, responding to phone calls and taking pledges from throughout North Carolina and parts of Virginia and South Carolina. During program breaks, the cameras scanned the volunteer phone area in the studio, so all of the hardworking PATH participants got plenty of screen time, including one flamboyant gentleman dressed head to toe in an eye-catching, hot-pepper outfit. Hint: his initials are B.B.

The participants were as follows: Andrew Mitchell, Kim Wall, Barry Hester, David John, Linda Robinson, Mickey Brooks, Jon Firebaugh, Bill "Too Hot to Handle" Boudman and Karl Kunkel. Carla Osborne, PATH member and employee at the station, put in plenty of behind-the-scenes work to make her PATH-mates feel right at home.

by Karl Kunkel



*Mickey Brooks and
Bill "Hot Pants"
Boudman.*



Wytheville's Hidden Treasures

WYTHEVILLE, Va. — Get off the Interstate and discover what you have been missing in the rearview mirror. Wytheville, that city we dart past on our way to PATH functions, has a lot to offer for those of us that want a complete mini-vacation.

The historic downtown business district on East Main Street offers Olde Towne, with numerous retailers, such as Crockett's Country Store, The Log House Restaurant & Gift Shop, The Farmer's Daughter Gifts & Framery, Fran's

Dutch Foods and — of course — Donut Express. For handmade country crafts, drop in on Get Wythe It. Main Street itself has its own rich history. The street was part of a major route that originated in Philadelphia, Pa., and was a path for settlers heading for the western frontier. One of the oldest continuously running movie theaters in the U.S., the Millwald Theater, was built in 1928 and retains many of its original features. For walkers — and that's most PATH members — full-color brochure is available for a Historical Walking Tour that identifies over 50 historic structures downtown.

One stop should be the birthplace of Edith Bolling Galt, who became First Lady when she married Woodrow Wilson.

One Wytheville area PATH member urged visitors to check out the 30-foot-long, yellow "Big Pencil" pointing visitors to the Wytheville Office Supply store.

Civil War buffs will want to tour the Haller-Gibboney Rock House Museum, which was a Civil War site (check out the bullet hole in the parlor), and investigate the Battle of Wytheville

The third Saturday in June (isn't that a work weekend?!) to the fourth Sunday is Wytheville's annual Chautauqua Festival. The downtown

fest includes musical acts, hot-air ballooning, arts and crafts and children's activities.

Got a thing for herbs, mon? Then put a visit to Beagle Ridge Herb Farm on your list. This farm, about 15 miles from town, grows and packages herbs, seasonings, dried flowers and bath products. The owners have transported a 113-acre hunting camp into a wooded retreat, organic herb farm and educational center. For directions and events, contact 276/621-4511 or www.beagleridgeherbfarm.com

New York's Broadway may be hundreds of miles away, but fine musicals are not. The Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre (I-81 and I-77) offers fine performances and dinners.

If you can't stop at Wytheville this next worktrip, try some of the businesses on the outskirts. Collector's Lane, with 300 dealers, is an antique shopper's heaven. It is located on East Lee Highway, between Exits 77 and 80, paralleling that famous stretch of highway in which a driver can say he was driving north and south at the same time (I-81 north and I-77 south).

Collector's Lane is home to Snoopers Antique Mall, Old Fort Antique Mall and Ms. Gerta's Antique Mall. All of them are open seven days a week.

by Karl Kunkel

Editor's note: This write-up doesn't even touch the surface. So, for more complete information about Wytheville, contact Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau by

calling 877/347-8307,
or email cvb@wytheville.org
or www.visitwytheville.com



What is PATH?

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers, Inc., is a nonprofit club that maintains a 58-mile section of the Appalachian Trail in southwest Virginia. PATH's members live in North Carolina and Virginia, mostly between Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina. The AT is a 2,000-mile-long footpath that runs along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia. The AT is maintained by more than 30 volunteer groups, such as PATH.

PATH looks after 58 miles of the AT in the southwest Virginia counties of Smyth, Wythe, Bland, and Tazewell.

Members typically meet at a Friday night camp-out, the third weekend each month during the spring, summer, and fall. Saturday mornings, the members are assigned to teams that clear weeds, saw through fallen trees, rebuild footbridges and relocate portions of the AT. The group usually meets in either the US Forest Service's Stony Fork Campground, in the Jefferson National Forest in Wythe County, Virginia or at the ATC's Konnarock Work Camp near Sugar Grove, Va.

Members also sponsor day hikes and backpacking trips for members and others interested hiking, and the outdoors and host an annual cookout with our "trail neighbors" each fall.

PATH volunteers are men, women and children of all ages, as well as unseen volunteers that support our mission through monetary contributions. PATH brings people together that share common interests and become new friends.

To make the PATH experience more enjoyable for the interested, we recommend contact with a PATH member before a first outing.

The PATH member can suggest proper equipment and clothing and help with directions.

PATH's annual dues are \$15.00 for an individual, \$17.50 for a family, and \$10.00 for students. Any donations to PATH, are tax-deductible.

PATH has a website (www.path-at.org) which provides information that allows members and friends to communicate with each about the trail, maintenance, hiking, camping, and gear.

Contacts:

- * President: Parthena Martin 919-967-4449 (Chapel Hill)
- * Vice President: Paul Haag 336-922-3664 (Winson-Salem)
- * Secretary: John Hartpence 919-839-8623 (Raleigh)
- * Treasurer: Tony Roberts 336-202-5090 (Greensboro)
- * Newsletter Editor: Karl Kunkel 336-882-8711 (High Point)
- * Newsletter Layout: Don Childrey 919-816-9042 (Cary)
- * Web Page Editor: Tony Roberts 336-292-5090 (Greensboro)
- * Trail Supervisor: Bill Boudman 919-782-3117 (Raleigh)
- * Trail Monitor Coordinators: Gordon Burgess 336-723-9819 (Winston-Salem); Marcia Cope 336-760-0887 (Winston-Salem); Barry Hester 336-767-3300 (Winston-Salem)

Our mailing address is:

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Good Turnout at Triad New Members' Dinner

KERNERSVILLE — We had a good turnout for the New Members' Dinner on March 6 with a fairly even mix between new and existing members. Seven new folks show up throughout the night. It seems the article written by the Winston-Salem journal prompted the most curiosity. Most said they will try to make one of the

next two trips.

If you run into the following people at either the camp site or Forest Service in Wytheville please welcome them: Robin Cooper, Dwight Levi, Susan Collie, Susan Smith, Shawn Small, Mike Petitpas, Brian Gates, Betsy Flag.

—— Paul Haag

Welcome New Members

PATH currently has 199 members including the following who have joined the club in the last couple of months. Welcome, we can't wait to see you on the trail!

Susan McCaskill, Cary

Joshua Allen, Holly Springs, NC

Gena Wall family, Apex, NC

Staci Johnston, Winston-Salem

Robert Niss, Peterborough, NH

Dwight Levy family, Wilksboro, NC

Gregory Scott family, Raleigh

Damon Presley family, Oakwood, VA

Jamie Toler, Charlotte

Susan Collie family, Winston-Salem

Kathy Lee, Durham

Laura Zemaitis family, Morrisville, NC

Tim Sherrill, Moncure, NC

Jerry Schrader family, Raleigh

Bryan Gates family, Winston-Salem

Dora Morgan family, Morrisville, NC

Gary Weaver, Winston-Salem

John Cooper, Kannapolis, NC



Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED