

PATHWAYS

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers

Early Summer 2004



PATH's May Worktrip: Puncheons and Picnics

STONY FORK, Va.

The 37 workers at the May13-16 worktrip enjoyed a productive weekend with great weather. On Saturday evening, PATH hosted a spring Trail Neighbors' Picnic at the Settlers Museum as a way of meeting and thanking local residents in that area. PATH turned out en force, but there were no trail neighbors. The picnic ran until Saturday night when thunderstorms rolled in.

The major projects for the weekend were:

1. Installed 53 waterbars and check dams from Davis Path Shelter to the blue trail at the bottom of the mountain.
2. The puncheons were cut at Va. 747 (Arten Repass's' House) and the corridor at Va. 610.
3. Fifty feet of sidehilling were done beyond the Davis Path Shelter.
4. The moldering privy was almost finished at Chestnut Knob. It works!! Dean says that it flushes now!!

5. Work was done on the Turnpike at US 11 going south and sidehilling was done by Beaver Dam #2.

6. Sidehilling was done on Gullion Mt.

7. Bill Boudman (Attila the Beloved) and Bobby Bass visited the two cemeteries in the Tilson Gap area and found the old plank road on Tilson Gap.

8. Steve Yonts, the owner of Tilson Mill, has made contact with Emory and Henry University (near Marion), and they are going to help in the oral history project for the Mill Area. PATH has a USFS Grant for this project.

The Trail Neighbors Picnic (Mt. Rogers Ranger District) was held at the Settlers Museum.

PATH had a good turn out for this. Hot Dogs, sausages, and chicken were prepared for the picnic. We had all the picnic trimmings to go with it. We had as our guests: Teresa Martinez and Sarah Ashton from the ATC, Ginny Williams



May's worktrip included a wait for the evening's cuisine.

L to R, foreground: Sarah Ashton, ATC Regional Program Assistant, Blacksburg (and also rescuer of kittens); Karen Worthington, visiting from Oregon; Dean Kanipe; and Paul Clayton. In the background are John Hartpence, Bobby Bass, and just a bit of Barry Hester's shoulder. Photo by Parthena Martin



(USFS Ranger - Mt. Rogers Ranger District) and her daughter and six members of the Virginia Outing Club. It was a great picnic with wonderful food and fellowship.

The only problem was there were NO Trail Neighbors. As the evening wound down we were hit by a strong thunderstorm. This rain caused many of our members' tents to get wet on the inside. Thus, they decided to head for home around 10 p.m.

The workers in attendance, including two new members, were as follows (with number of days in attendance : Jim Houck (Florida)-10, Karen Worthington (Oregon)-4, David John-3, Paul Kelly, Bob and Rob Normandy, John Hartpence-2, Paul Haag, Andrew Mitchell, Tom Dillon, Betsy Truscott, Steve Coombs, George Rendle, Will and Barb Burke (Ohio), Will Merritt-new--Winston-Salem, Bobby Bass-3, Clint "the Slave" Kawanishi, Parthena Martin, Bill "Attila the Beloved" Boudman-4, Dean Kanipe, Amy Roberts, Renee Clark, Steve Yonts-2, Martha and David Emrey, Chris Bracknell, Craig Brock, Phil Myers-new--Charlotte, Paul Clayton, Marie Minor, Jeff and Brandon Tysinger, Phil Williams, Kim Wall, and Barry Hester.

We had a very successful work trip. Thanks to all who attended and worked this weekend.

(Editor's Note: Bill "Attila the Beloved" Boudman, our trail supervisor, usually gets in the word, whether we want it that way or not. So.....)

Thanks to Paul Haag and Renee Clark for putting on a fabulous spread Saturday evening with Jeff and Brandon Tysinger as their invaluable assistants.

Sorry that no neighbors came to share in it with us, but those PATH

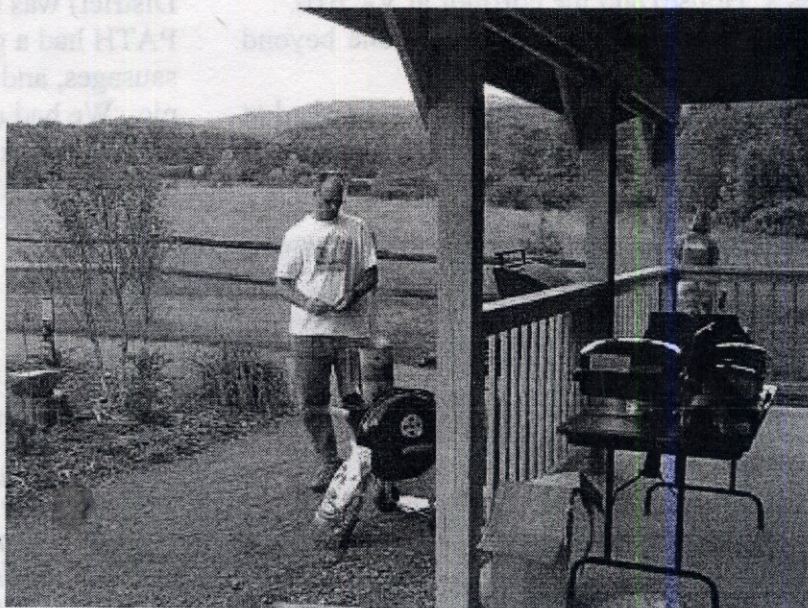
members sure do appreciate a fine meal. Their loss is our gain (in Kg). Maybe we will have to use a house-to-house canvas next year.

Nebo, Dexter, and the Heathens really enjoyed the under-the-table pickings. They have voted to have fixings like this each trip. Thanks goes out to Jim Houck, Bobby Bass, David John and Karen Worthington (all the way from Oregon) for coming up early. This early and preliminary work makes it possible for us to accomplish so much on our club worktrips.

Thanks goes out to Steve Yonts for the big tour of the Tilson Gap area. Those four Southern Belles from Winston-Salem were really impressed with PATH -- and Steve.

Thanks for all your work, folks. I have received more compliments from hikers this year about the quality of our trail.

by John Hartpence - secretary



Paul Haag rubbed two sticks together -- and used a blowtorch -- to get the grill started, while PATH members enjoyed the mountain scenery.



Message from the President

One third of our work season is done, and I think we have had a great and productive time. Digging in the dirt and building privies is always fun.

I participated in the Southern Regional Management meeting in March and met many of our club and agency partners. By all accounts, the clubs and the agencies are doing a good job of maintaining the trail and looking to the future of our trail. We cannot rest on our laurels, but need to continue to adapt to our environment. I have faith that the ATC will guide us wisely, with input from the clubs. There will be more need for administrative duties going forward, so if digging is not your cup of tea let me know.

It is good to see old and new faces on each trip. I hope as the year goes on, more members will be able to come out and participate in a work weekend. Whether you help for one day or three, the hard work and support provided is always appreciated.

Summerfest is coming up in June, and that is always a fun time where any skill level can play. The first day of summer is June 21st, so you never know what you will see then. The Konnarock crew will be helping us in July.

Have a good summer. Let me know if you have any questions or input. See you on the trail!

by Paul Haag



PATH 2004 Calendar

Summer Fest / June Worktrip

Thursday, June 17 - Monday, June 21

Summer Fest is a 5-day, Konnarock-like event which will be based out of Walker Gap this year. Summer Fest will be held in conjunction with the regular June Worktrip.

Konnarock on PATH section

Thursday, July 15 - Monday, July 19

PATH and Konnarock will be working on the Poor Valley Rehab project. Club members are invited and encouraged to join the crew to learn advanced trail maintenance techniques.

July Worktrip

Saturday, July 17

July Worktrip based out of Stony Fork.

Trail Dawg Days 2004

Friday, August 6 - Monday, August 9

Serious sidehilling for those who love to dig in the dirt. Work to be done North of O'Lystery. Get yourself another t-shirt!

August Worktrip

Saturday, August 21

August Worktrip based out of Stony Fork

Southern Region Multi-Club Meeting

Saturday, September 4 - Monday, September 6

Site to be determined

September Worktrip

Saturday, September 18

September Worktrip and Trail Neighbors picnic

October Worktrip

Saturday, October 16

October Worktrip based out of Sugar Grove



March Worktrip Kicks Off the Season

SUGAR GROVE, Va.

Forty-four workers, including nine new members, attended the first worktrip of the season March 18-21. We were blessed with beautiful weather -- sunny -- 50 to 70F. Some of our members came up as early as Tuesday to get everything ready for the weekend. Most of the trail was walked and problems were located. Even with the bad storms (snow, ice and wind) there were only a few blowdowns.

We were not able to do the work for the relo on Va. 86 on Thursday due to scheduling conflicts with the ATC and U.S. Forest Service. On Friday, Bill "Attila" Boudman, Jim Houck and Will Burke laid out flags and stakes behind the Partnership Shelter to mark places for putting water bars, check dams, dips and unclogging streams. Andrew Mitchell and John Hartpence went to Chestnut Knob to check locations for the new privy. They found the trail in good shape.

The new relo has weathered the winter. The parking area at Va. 623, at the top of the gravel road going down into Burke's Garden, is very heavily eroded and needs reblazing. Trash needs to be picked up in that area.

On Saturday morning, about 15 of our members went to the Sugar Grove Diner for breakfast. Thirty-two workers went to the area behind the Partnership Shelter to correct the badly eroded area. The boy scouts (From Sanford, NC) and their leaders put out 2.5 tons of crushed rock in the low areas. Sixty feet of crush fill were put in. The crews put in 28 waterbars and check dams.

Volunteers dug 240 feet of ditches and completed 120 feet of turnpike. Four stream crossings were cleaned out, and rocks were put in for easier crossing. Rock channels were done in some areas. Andrew Mitchell and Paul Kelly walked from the Settler's Museum to Va. 86. They assessed the trail in this area.

David John, David Faucette, Betsy Truscott and Dean Kanipe cut blowdowns.

Saturday evening, members were treated to another great buffet under the direction of Walt Davis. Thanks, Walt, for another great job!! PATH Patches were handed out to new workers. After supper, members socialized in the dining hall.

Members attending were the following:

Bill Boudman-5, Jim Houck-5, Clint Kawanishi, Andrew Mitchell-3, Walt Davis-3, six Scouts and three leaders (Sanford, NC), Bryan Gates, Kathy Pontz (new-Kernersville, NC), John Hartpence-3, Amy Roberts-2, Jeff Tysinger, David John, Kevin Mar, Linda Robinson, David Faucette, Mark Stanley, Phil Williams, Steve Coombs, Paul Kelly (new-Dobson, NC), Jean Farley (new-Bland, Va.-Photographer newspaper), Kyle Vertereas (new -Columbus, Ohio), Wendy Stephens (new-Columbus, Ohio), Marta Clark (new- Charlotte, NC), David Clark (new-Charlotte, NC), Will Burke-2, Paul and Elliot Haag, David Hicks, Dean Kanipe, David and Martha Emrey, Valerie Hurt, David Hiscoe (new-Raleigh, NC), Steve Yonts, Barry Hester, Bridget Lick (new-Winston-Salem, NC), and, course, Seven Dogs.

by John Hartpence



April Worktrip: Sun and Fun

SUGAR GROVE, Va. --

We had beautiful weather for this one. It was sunny, and the temperatures were in the 70s. On Saturday we had 56 workers, including four new workers.

Tuesday through Friday, workers prepared the projects for Saturday. Locust logs were cut for check dams, stakes, and water bars. The USFS's Dave Hrlicka, Ranger of New River Valley, along with a crew led by Andrew Mitchell, took the privy to Chestnut Knob.

The following projects were done on Saturday. Andrew Mitchell's crew finished the Chestnut Knob privy. Bill Boudman, Jim Houck and John Hartpence led a crew behind Partnership Shelter to correct water problems.

Nine Water Bars, 27 Check Dams, and two water crossings were installed. Bobby Bass and Bob Normandy cut two blowdowns at Poor Valley and one at Lick Creek.

The Clint Kawanishi group went to Va. 86 and installed nine waterbars.

Chris Bracknell and Doc Branham cut five blowdowns at Davis Path and two blowdowns at the Kegley property.

Saturday evening Walt Davis put together another great buffet. We fed about 26 people.

The following people attended the weekend:

Bill Boudman-5, Andrew Mitchell-3, John Hartpence-3, Linda Robinson-3, Paul Haag-2, Jim Houck-3, Steve Yonts-2, Andy Stoy-2, Ken Pugh, Keith Morgan, Margaret Wainwright, David Hiscoe, David Hicks, Amy Roberts, Cindy and Terry Keller (St. Louis, Mo.), Bobby Bass, Steve Coombs, "Doc" Branham, George Rendle, Chuck Davis -2, Walt Davis-3, Barbara Council, Clint Kawanishi, Bob Normandy, Chris Bracknell-2, Dean Kanipe, Marie Minor, Stacie Johnson, Paul Clayton, Sharon and Ryan Key,

Gary Hunt, Paul Kelley, Carole Carr-New York AT Hiker-3, Linda Lampe-Chapel Hill (new), Mark Stanley, Dave Hrlicka, Phil Williams, Herb MacDonald and grandson Andy, David and Martha Emrey, Boy Scouts-7 (Greensboro), Boy Scout Leaders-3, Jon Firebaugh-Boy Scout Leader & PATH member, Marcia Cope and her granddaughter.

by John Hartpence - secretary



AT-Theme NC License Plates

For any AT lovers still wanting to apply for an AT-theme North Carolina auto plate, there is still time to sign up. I received an update letter from I. Clark Wright, Jr., a New Bern, NC atty, who is handling this proposal. 300 applications are needed, and they are not there yet. But they do have a final tag design approval. It's very impressive and colorful. ATC will receive \$20 annually for each plate purchased.



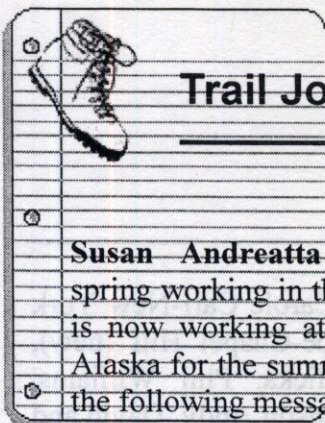
For more details and to check out the final design and color schemes go to www.appalachiantrail.org/trailnews/nc_plate.html

Contact Clark at icw@wardanddavis.com or 252/633-1101.

Karl Kunkel

As of 5/24 have about 2/3 of total needed.





Trail Journal

Susan Andreatta spent part of her spring working in the Virgin Islands and is now working at Mt. Denali park in Alaska for the summer. Susan submitted the following message on May 19:

"The leaves are just popping out on the Aspen trees. The wild crocuses are blooming and the mama grizzly and her two cubs have been seen digging for roots on the river bar at Teklanika in Denali National Park and Preserve. All signs of spring in the far north."

Linda Robinson, PATH vice president, is in Peru on a humanitarian trip.

John Hartpence, PATH secretary, is the grandparent of Hayes, a young lady born to Lauren and John's son Ken. Hayes was born March 28 and weighed 6 lbs, 13 oz. This is Ken and Lauren's second child.

The Sanford (NC) Herald has been posting entries about a Sanford-area teacher **Barbara Duffy**, 51, who is attempting to thru-hike the AT. An entry she posted from Hot Springs, NC., appeared in the paper in April. There, she met "One Leg," the hiker with the bionic leg that was featured on CNN.

Gordon Burgess' light blue 1973 V W (tended by Karl K) keeps rolling along -- to the delight of an auto parts store in High Point and a Thomsville mechanic who can finally take that vacation.

Ron Croft reports, "It's been over 31 years since I have been hiking, camping or backpacking. In Oct. of this year for the first time, I will try to hike 30 miles of the AT. This is something I have wanted to do since the early 70's. Always found a reason to put it off. After my mother and father died within 14 months of each other, I came to realize that life is too short!! It is now or never, so I went ahead and purchased all my

camping equipment. Will be leaving for the AT around the first of Oct. 2004.."

Ron submitted the following poem as guidance:

"Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

So -- work like you don't need money,

Love like you've never been hurt,

And dance like no one's watching."

~ author unknown

Jean Farley, a Virginia PATH member, has the publishing bug. She and other nature-oriented residents in Wythe County and surrounding areas are launching the "Conservnet Gazette," a local environmental electronic newsletter. The first issue of the quarterly paper will be available in late June.

"It would be great to get some more emails added to our list. Basically, it's about environmental issues going on in the area, and what people can do to help. I was also planning on putting the PATH work weekends in the calendar of that newsletter."

If interested in receiving the e-newspaper, contact conservnet@earthlink.net You will be added to the list.

"It would be great if they mentioned that they saw the information in the PATH newsletter so we know where they heard of us," Jean said.

Go for it, Jean! It sounds like a great idea. You know you'll get a lot of support from fellow PATH members.

Emily Firebaugh, daughter of Jon and Karen Firebaugh, has earned her Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. For her final Project, Emily planned and implemented a self-esteem weekend at Keyauwee Program Center for 12-14 year old girls. Activities included the climbing wall, various self-esteem building activities and a guest speaker from Family Life Council. After her troop dissolved, Emily continued on her own as a solitary Scout for two years to complete her Gold Award. She is a freshman at GTCC and plans to transfer to Western Carolina University and major in Parks & Recreation and minor in Psychology.

Vaughn Thomas reported on May 23:

Doc and I hiked from Wind Rock to Pearisburg over three days about a month ago. We stayed at

the Holy Family Hospice in Pearisburg the night we arrived, and then camped at Pine Swamp Branch shelter the first night out. On our second day, Doc saw a mother bear and two cubs (at a safe distance!), a first for him. The second night, we camped at a nice campsite with spring about 1.5 miles north of Rice Field shelter. That shelter has a neat composting privy. No roof-just a platform and a wall that shields the user from view from the shelter!! The third day, we hiked into Pearisburg to our car and came home! ad a great time and beautiful weather. Our other recent adventure was attending Trail Days. Saw some hikers we met on the Trail last year and had fun visiting with them.



PATH SECTION LEADERS 2004

NORTHERN END TERMINUS - I-77 & US 52

I-77& US 52 TO 615 (7)

Hester, Barry
Cope, Marcia
Harmon, Amy

VA 623 - Walker Gap (4.9)

Truscott, Betsy
Roberts, Tony
Ferris, Steve
Farley, Jean

Walker Gap - Edge of 2nd meadow (3)

Kanipe, Dean
Normandy, Bob
Jaskolka, John
Brock, Craig

USFS 222 - Pond -end of 1st Meadow Chestnut Ridge (3)

Stanley, Mark
Hurt, Valerie

USFS 222- Poor Valley - Lynn Camp Bridge (3.3)

Bass, Bobby
Stoy, Andy

VA 42 (O'Lystery) - Lynn Camp Bridge (3)

Haag, Paul
Kunkel, Karl

VA 42- O'Lystery - 610 (2.7)

Bookman, Jack u
Coombs, Steve

610 TO Crawfish Valley (2.8)

Firebaugh, Jon
Hicks, David
Yonts, Steve

617 - Davis Pass - Crawfish Valley (2.7)

John, David
Faucette, David

Davis Pass - Crawfish Valley (2.7)

Thomas-Branham, Vaughn
Branham, Doc (William)

VA 615 - US - 11 - 617 (3.7)

Boudman, Bill
Hartpence, John
Bracknell, Chris

VA 615 -USFS 86 (4.7)

Mitchell, Andrew
Rendle, George
Forbis, Brent

USFS 86 - MRNRA (US - 16) (4)

Kawanishi, Clint
Stelts, Dave
Trogdon, Walter
Robinson, Linda

VA 16- Mt. Rogers NRA - VA 601 (4)

MacDonald, Herb
Morgan, Keith

601 TO 670 Bridge (3.9)

Martin, Parthena
Dillon, Tom
Tysinger, Jeff
Davis, Walt

SOUTHERN END TERMINUS - 670 HOLSTON RIVER



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 campout, 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. Dues can be paid online through PayPal, by directing the payment to payment@path-at.org. Or mail them to:

PATH Treasurer Renee Clark
3785 Field Sedge Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

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: Paul Haag 336-922-3664 (Winston-Salem)
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- * Secretary: John Hartpence 704-645-1273 (Salisbury)
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- * Newsletter Editor: Karl Kunkel 336-882-8711 (High Point), karlkunkel@aol.com
- * Newsletter Layout: Karen Firebaugh kfirebaugh@triad.rr.com (Greensboro)
- * Web Page Editor: Tony Roberts
- * 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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Summerfest 3 June 17- 21

The June worktrip will be **Summerfest3** and held at Garden Mountain. The event --Thursday, June 17 through Monday, June 21 -- will be led by Betsy Truscott with Chef Jim Houck heading up the ever-important kitchen duties. This year we will stay at Walker Gap, in the heart of scenic and historic Burkes Garden.

This is one event you don't want to miss. Big things get done during this time, and you'll want to be part of it!



Sara chats with someone from VA Tech Outing Club

Sara was also the hero of the evening. While things were winding down, we learned that someone had dumped 3 kittens at the Settlers Museum. One had already been killed by a car, and the other two were hanging out around the picnic area. Maria, Sara and Renee went out the rain, found the two remaining kittens, and Sara took them home with her. Yeah Sara!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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