

PATH

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers



WAYS

Spring 2008

Photo Contest Winner

Several readers recognized the two gentlemen in the Gordon Burgess photograph in the last issue of PATHWAYS. The first to reply was our former club President and long-time member, Danny Booker, who sent me this email:

On the left is Bill "Too-Tall" Sims, still in Greensboro with a realty management firm, he joined Path in the late 70's. And on the right is David Bland who lives in Cary and is an attorney for the Nature Conservancy. Dave has also been a member since the late 70's and should still be. He incorporated PATH to a non-profit status in the early 80's.

Chris and Rhonda Bracknell also recognized Bill and David. And Tom Dillon emailed to add that the picture was probably taken at Muir's Chapel United Methodist Church in Greensboro, where many of the annual meetings were held in the early years of the club.

Yes, Tom, you are right. My notes show that the picture was taken at the PATH Annual Meeting at Muir's Chapel on January 26th, 1986. Other pictures from the same day show that Danny and Tom both attended that meeting, as did Gordon Burgess, Bob Conner, Walter Taylor, Henry Ford and Barbara Council.

Dues are Due (Past Due!)

If you haven't yet sent in your dues for 2008, please remit to our new club Treasurer, Jack Bookman at 4421 Whitfield Road, Durham, NC 27707. You can also pay via Pay Pal from the website. To renew via PayPal, direct your renewal to payment@path-at.org. Membership dues are \$15.00 annually for an individual, \$17.50 for a family, or \$10.00 for a student.

Weekend Fun

By Tom Dillon

Are you looking to broaden your horizons beyond trail work? Southwestern Virginia has a host of activities to keep you busy through the year.

You can find music, maple syrup, nature study and much more just off our section of the Appalachian Trail. Here is a list of some annual goings-on that can be sampled on those weekends you're not working on the trail:

Whitetop Mountain Maple Festival, the fourth Saturday in March at the Mount Rogers Fire Department on U.S. 58. Yes, maple trees are tapped for maple syrup on Mount Rogers. This is an annual event, so mark it. Call (276) 388-3422 for information.

The Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally, the second weekend in May at the Konnarock Civic Center in Konnarock, Va. Includes a Friday night dinner and talk and a series of Saturday field trips delving into natural history and scientific topics all across the region. Call (800) 628-7202 or (540) 783-5196.

Appalachian Trail Days, the third weekend in May in downtown Damascus, Va. This is the annual gathering of trail hikers, past and present, that is known up and down the Appalachian Trail. With parades, picnics and much more, it's always a blast. Call (888) 595-2453.

The Whitetop Mountain Ramp Festival, also the third weekend in May at the Mount Rogers Fire Department. It celebrates that pungent wild onion that is found in the spring woodlands. They're available for consumption, if you dare. Call (276) 388-3422.

The Grayson County Old-time and Bluegrass Fiddlers' Convention, usually the fourth weekend in June at the Elk Creek School Ball Park in Elk Creek. (Take Comers Rock Road off U.S. 21 north of Independence, Va.) Visit ecvfd.net/fiddle.

The Chautauqua Festival, the third and fourth weekends of June at Elizabeth Brown Park in Wytheville. With lots of music and food, it's an easy hop from Stony Fork Campground. Call (276) 228-6855 for information.

The Virginia Highlands Festival, through July and August at various locations in Abingdon, Va. This includes a variety of music, drama, dance and other events in Abingdon, just down the road on Interstate 81. Call (276) 676-2282 for information.

Hungry Mother Arts and Crafts Festival, the third weekend in July at Hungry Mother State Park off Va. 16 north of Marion. This is an easy commute from the Forest Service work center in Sugar Grove. Call (276) 783-3161 for information.

The Galax Old Fiddlers' Convention, the entire second week of August at Felts Park in Galax, Va. This is the granddaddy of fiddlers' conventions around the world, but it's much better enjoyed during the week than on Saturday, when the crowds are huge. Call (276) 238-8130 or visit oldfiddlersconvention.org.

Mountain Foliage Festival, the second Saturday in October in Independence, Va. Call (276) 773-9991.

Whitetop Mountain Molasses Festival, the second Sunday in October at the Mount Rogers Fire Department. Call (276) 388-3422.

Settlers Museum News

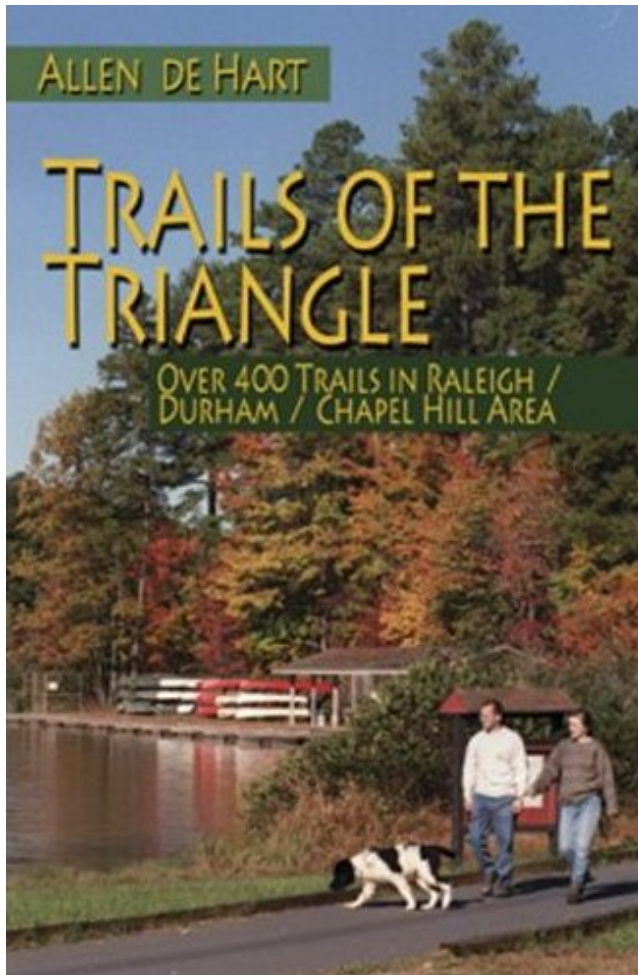
Path members opened their wallets & check books and dug out \$600 to donate to the Settlers Museum in Atkins, VA.

The museum which is along the PATH section of the Appalachian Trail, was founded in 1987.

The purpose of the museum is to tell the story of the people who settled the mountainous southwest corner of Virginia.

The fund drive has been going on since SummerFest 2007.

--*Jim Houck*



"Trails of the Triangle," by Allen de Hart. John F. Blair, Publisher, Winston-Salem. Second edition, 2007. 299 pages. \$13.95

"Thru Hiker's Guide to America," by E. Schlimmer. Ragged Mountain Press, Camden, Maine. 2005. 244 pages. \$16.95

Reviewed by Tom Dillon

We all know about the Triangle, that place of legendary basketball games, traffic jams, relocated Yankees and suburban sprawl. Woe be to those who try to drive through it during rush hour. But there's another side to the Triangle, that of hiking alongside the Eno River or

traversing the Falls Lake Trail or studying plants at the N.C. Botanical Garden or simply strolling or biking one of Raleigh's many greenways.

Allen de Hart introduced us to some of these delights in the first edition of **"Trails of the Triangle"** 10 years ago, and he expands on the theme in this second edition of the book. The book covers more than 400 trails in Wake, Durham, Orange and surrounding counties all the way from Orange to Franklin and Johnston.

The book is complete with handy, easy to read maps of many trails, and it will be a great help particularly to newcomers to the region. It's clear from a cursory read that hikers aren't limited just to places like Umstead State Park and the crowded Shelley Lake Trail in Raleigh. Indeed, there are a number of new trails in the region, notably the extended Mountains-to-Sea Trail, which follows the Falls Lake Trail along the south shore of Falls of the Neuse Reservoir -- and is being extended toward Durham as you read. There's a chapter here on the status of the MST.

Some of these trails are short, like the 92-yard Honeysuckle Lane Trail in Fuquay-Varina, and some are long. The Falls Lake Trail is currently more than 25 miles long. The American Tobacco Trail, a rail-trail going south from Durham, covers 22 miles.

As was the custom in de Hart's other guidebooks -- which of course include "North Carolina Hiking Trails," now in its fourth edition -- the book is divided by who oversees the trails. There are chapters on state park trails, municipal trails, private or university-owned trails, U.S. government property trails (which

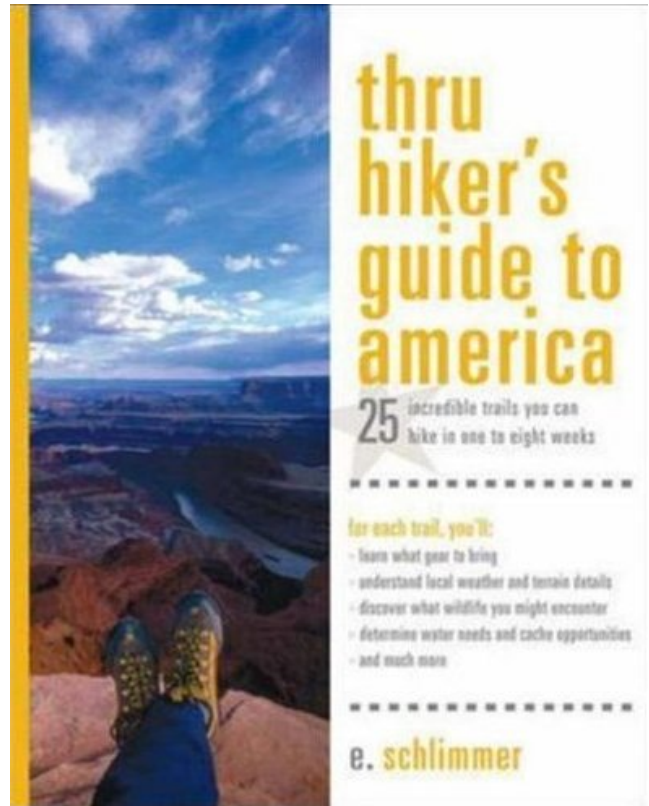
includes Falls of the Neuse) and others. An extra chapter takes the walker all the way to Fayetteville Goldsboro and Kerr Lake, and it all seems pretty complete. Combine this book with de Hart's "Trails of the Triad," and you have what amounts to a trails encyclopedia for the Piedmont.

"Thru Hiker's Guide to America" covers 25 longer trails from 95 to 1,300 miles in length. And while you'll need more than the information here to plan a hike on any of them, the book is quite good for musing. Did you know, for instance, that there's a River-to-River Trail across the southern tip of Illinois from the Ohio to the Mississippi River? Or that the International Appalachian Trail runs on up to Quebec after you leave Mount Katahdin?

Some of these trails are well-known, like the John Muir Trail in California (220 miles), the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin (1,100 miles) and the Tahoe Rim Trail around Lake Tahoe (165 miles). But others were new, at least to me. Did you know about the 1,280-mile Buckeye Trail around Ohio?

The book includes a chapter on North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail (925 miles), one of quite a number of unfinished trails. It gets good marks for scenery particularly in the mountains, though Schlimmer suggests that a thru hike may be better advised when more Piedmont and coast sections are off the roads.

I probably won't ever hike all these trails, but the book certainly did fire my imagination. It's clear many people across the country are thinking about trails.



Tentative 2008 Schedule

March 14 - 16 - Stay at Konnarock Base Camp Club members will arrive on Friday and leave on Sunday, AM.

April 2 - 6 - Konnarock Base Camp Cleanup Jim and Bill will be in camp and any other PATH members that wish to participate are welcome.

April 18, 19, 20 - Stay at Konnarock Base Camp.

May 8 - 12 - Stay at Konnarock Base Camp, Green Building or Mr. Pertee's field In conjunction with our Konnarock work trip at Davis Path Shelter. Most members would show up of Friday evening and Saturday.

May 16, 17, 18- Stay at Konnarock Base Camp.

June 18 - 23- Path Summerfest working on Davis Path Shelter --Base Camp and/or PATH Green Building If this does not work out we have permission to stay at Mr. Pertee's field just below the shelter.

July 17 - 21 - Crawfish Valley with Konnarock working on Gullion Mt. Rehab - Staying in Crawfish Valley and Stony Fork Campground. You will have to set a specific arrival time for the gate keeper to meet you. This camping area will be on a driveable but gated USFS road. This area is a future Wilderness Area. Bring Water.

August 1-3 - Dawg Days - More to follow.

August 15, 16, 17 - Base Camp will be Stony Fork Campground.

September 19, 20, 21 - Base Camp will be Stony Fork Campground.

October 17, 18, 19 - Base Camp will be Konnarock Base Camp.

November 15 or 16 - Will not be in Virginia but North Carolina. Plans are up for discussion and not finalized.

Bill Boudman
PATH Trail Supervisor
(919) 782-3117
bilboudman@aol.com
4819 Deerwood Dr.
Raleigh, NC

PATH Website

For the most up-to-date club information, visit the PATH website at www.path-at.org. You will find worktrip schedules, photographs from recent events, a membership address list, copies of old newsletters and many more items of interest.



Gordon Burgess Photo

Gordon and Don in 1995





Piedmont Appalachian

Trail Hikers, Inc.

Post Office Box 4423

Greensboro, NC 27404-4423