

THE REGISTER

Vol. 24, No. 6 A Stewardship Newsletter

for the Appalachian Trail Summer 2001



“Compassionate Response”

When It's Not an Emergency, Should Maintainers Go the Extra Mile?

By John Wright

A hiker we'll call Bob was enjoying his fourth week on the Appalachian Trail. As he left Rausch Gap and headed north toward Swatara State Park, the September day was sunny and just cool enough for brisk hiking without breaking a sweat. He'd stopped in Duncannon two days before, and he knew it would be clear sailing to his next resupply in Port Clinton.

What he didn't know was that his father had just passed away.

What happened to Bob in 1999 happens to A.T. hikers every year. Somewhere, someone they know and love has become severely ill or has died. All the family gathers together except for that one wayward hiker, who can't be reached. And, when the family frantically tries to contact him, they ask Trail managers and maintainers to help.

Searching for a hiker who has lost a loved one is very different from searching for a lost or injured hiker. It requires what is called a “compassionate response,” as opposed to an “emergency response.” In emergencies, the clubs and ATC staff members are able to call on assistance from local and state police and local emergency services, such as volunteer ambulance and fire companies. Most states have search-

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Crosscut Saws— *Old Tools that Still Have Some Teeth*

By Ben Lawhon and Valerie Shrader

As an A.T. maintainer, would you consider forsaking your modern chainsaw for the ancient crosscut variety? This time-tested tool, in use since the fifteenth century, is a wilderness-friendly alternative to the chainsaw that offers some advantages over its fossil-fuel-driven descendant.

The crosscut saw is lightweight and less expensive than power saws, and maintainers don't need to carry gas, oil, extra bars and chains, *etc.*, into the backcountry. The crosscut is nonpolluting and quiet and thus does not require the use of hearing protection. It also leaves the tranquility of the Trail undisturbed by intrusive engine noise. Another great advantage of crosscut use is that the sawyer has the option of cutting more slowly and can more easily hear the release of tension and feel the forces of compression when bucking downed timber.

The saw is quite effective for both felling and bucking, once the user is properly trained. Crosscuts come in one- and two-person varieties, with differing saw

patterns for felling or bucking. Although the crosscut is safer than a power saw, adequate personal protective gear is still necessary, and the saw should be placed in a protective sheath during the hike to and from the work site. And, ATC staff members recommend that maintainers carry an axe and wedges on maintenance trips, should the saw become stuck.

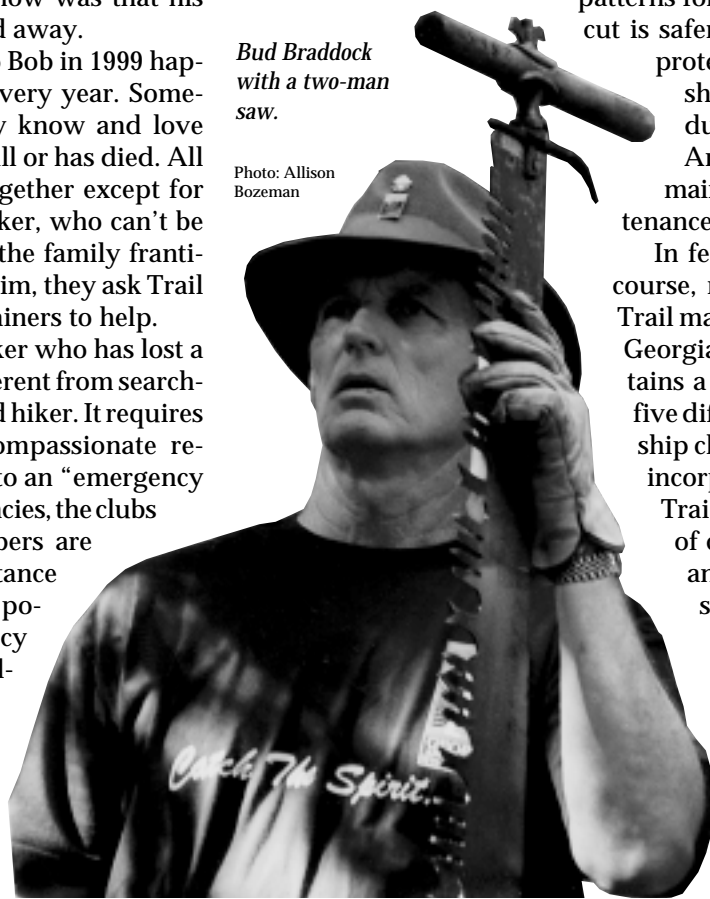
In federally designated wilderness areas, of course, mechanized tools are not permitted, so Trail maintainers must use the crosscut saw. The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) maintains a stretch of the Trail that passes through five different wilderness areas, and its membership chose to “celebrate” its use of crosscuts by incorporating contests into last year's National Trails Day event. In four different categories of contests (Jack and Jill, Jack and Jack, Jill and Jill, and individuals), the club demonstrated the ease and effectiveness with which these tools can be used—and showed that maintainers could have fun at the same time.

Effective crosscut use does require proper training, however, and the

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*Bud Braddock
with a two-man
saw.*

Photo: Allison
Bozeman



From the Editor

I am fortunate in that I have had the privilege of serving not only as president of a Trail-maintaining club, but also as a Trail-maintainer, a member of the Board of Managers of the Appalachian Trail Conference, and as editor of this newsletter. I believe, as I hope you do, that that exposure has given me some insights into the workings of both organizations. I laughed when a very good friend, who was sincerely involved with the workings between the clubs and the Conference, labeled me as a “one-time diehard, parochial, Yankee skeptic” who had “seen the light.” Actually, I was flattered that this person, whom I highly respect, saw fit to comment on the fact that I had learned much, as he also had, over time.

Most club members work for the A.T. in something of a vacuum—they may not be fully aware of the many workings of the Conference. That is really not too much of a surprise, but methinks it needs to be recognized and coped with by those involved. What is needed are education and knowledge.

The Trail-maintaining clubs do a *major* job in caring for the footpath. Many clubs also have ancillary programs in educating and supporting hikers, publishing Trail information, doing corridor boundary-line maintenance and corridor monitoring—and now a new challenge, protecting endangered species.

Many, if not most, club officers are elected to serve for one or two years. Many volunteers serve for years to complete meaningful club work or projects. But, many of us work within the narrow environments and challenges of our individual clubs. We work and worry about our section of the A.T. However, we need to look at the “big picture” of the entire Trail and continue educating ourselves about that big picture if our individual clubs are to be in harmony with all that the A.T. encompasses.

The A.T. is not just the total of our individual sections. We, as volunteers, need to recognize that we work for a *national park!* That privilege, a unique and recognized character of the A.T., is something we need to continue to work for, to justify our stewardship. We have demonstrated over the years that we are capable, willing, and committed to do so. However, we need to focus, not on our individual interpretations of what’s good for the A.T., but on being more knowledgeable about the policies of the Appalachian Trail Conference.

The Conference, as our oversight organization, has a particularly difficult task. How does it work compatibly with the many clubs that actually care for the footpath and yet address its concerns in an organized, productive manner? How many club volunteers are fully aware of just what those concerns are? The clubs are sometimes the first to complain that ATC is not supporting their work. This complaint is simply not true.

I know that the Conference is sensitive to the clubs and that it adjusts many of the things it wants to do in recognition of what the clubs *can do*. ATC often challenges us to rise to new levels of work, new levels of knowledge, and, for many of us, new levels of pulling together as a team to protect and care for our Trail.

There are many concerns, many problems, and many opportunities of which we must be aware. To me, of major importance is for the Trail-maintaining clubs to become more knowledgeable about the different roles they and ATC have, respect those different roles, and work to support the team effort through educating and communicating with club volunteers.

The clubs and the Conference are each vital to the A.T. Harmony and team-playing in our combined work are essential. Understanding our different roles is important, and accepting that each has a key contribution to make for the total success of the A.T. is necessary for the continuing success of the partnership. We need to face up to the fact that the national park nature of the A.T. is something most of us don’t spend much time thinking about—but must. As the corridor is secured, needs are identified other than maintaining the footpath and protecting it from the many potential encroachments that continue to threaten the A.T. We

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[NOTE: The outline of the masthead box above is the size of the official A.T. blaze, 2" x 6", for your reference.]

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Announcements

Southern Region Multiclub meeting—Reminder to southern-region clubs: The Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club will host the annual event August 31–September 3 at Sherando Lake Campground, near Waynesboro, Va. The deadline for registration is August 3. For information and registration forms, contact Rosanne Scott at 757-583-5960, <rosannes@fsap.org>, or Pat Parker at 757-851-9252, <pat.a.parker@larc.nasa.gov>

Wilderness first-aid classes will be conducted in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina by the Wilderness Safety Council, a not-for-profit dedicated to training volunteers in outdoor leadership, safety, and wilderness medicine. Each 18-hour class includes classroom study and hands-on practice and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$140. To register or obtain information, contact the Wilderness Safety Council at 703-836-8905 or on-line at <www.wfa.net>.

September 15–16 Alexandria, Va.
October 6–7 Raleigh, N.C.
October 20–21 Richmond, Va.
October 27–28 Alexandria, Va.
October 27–28 Charlottesville, Va.
November 3–4 Greensboro, N.C.
November 13–14 Charlotte, N.C.

FROM THE EDITOR— *continued from previous page*

must broaden our perspective to a larger view than that of just our own section.

We know our A.T. is special. Working in harmony and understanding will ensure that hikers have the opportunity for their own special time and experience while enjoying our combined efforts.

When a Hike Goes Bad

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article by Old Dominion A.T. Club President Randy Wendell is reprinted from the club's newsletter, The Walker. It makes some very important points about backcountry safety and first aid. Fortunately, the Trail maintainer who is the subject of the story—hike leader Charlie McLaughlin—had a swift recovery from his injuries, with no lasting damage to his sense of humor.

By Randy Wendell

Last September at Multiclub, an annual meeting that is somewhat like a jamboree for A.T. club members in the southern region, an unfortunate incident occurred. The value of that incident as a learning experience warrants its mention here.

But, before I go any further, let it be said that the cosponsors of last year's Multiclub, the Nantahala Hiking Club and the Carolina Mountain Club, put on a well-organized and enjoyable event. Along with warm camaraderie and great food, the sponsors also provided numerous and varied day hikes—and even supplied lunches and transportation to and from the hikes.

Okay, back to “the incident”....

I had decided to join a seven-mile trek that started about midmorning. Since the hike was reasonably short and we were being shuttled there and back, I decided to go light and not bring my first-aid kit. Our club's fast ultra-light hikers have always impressed me, and I figured I could save at least a pound with this decision. (I later regretted this decision as a major mistake.)

Charlie, our hike leader, was just two months shy of his seventieth birthday at the time of the hike, although his strength and demeanor made him seem much younger. He knew this piece of the Trail like the back of his hand and supplied some very interesting and entertaining tales about the area.

We began the hike near Tellico Gap and then continued down the mountain on a blue-blazed trail that was once the A.T. The trail itself wasn't steep and was in pretty good shape, but, at certain parts, it dropped off sharply at the edges. In fact, at one point when I wasn't paying much attention, I slipped on a rock and began going down the side of the mountain. (For a brief moment, I actually felt that my fall would be fatal, and I am relieved that I was able to suppress the high-pitched, blood-curdling scream that was aching to come out.) I climbed back up onto the trail and was further relieved that no one had seen me and that I did have to explain what all the commotion was about. Little did I know just what kind of foreshadowing that slip really was.

Some twenty minutes later, Charlie slipped on a wet rock and fell completely off the trail. I saw his silhouette as he fell, tumbling approximately ten feet before colliding with a tree. Charlie was briefly unconscious from the blow, and several of us scrambled down the hillside to his rescue. The first down to Charlie exclaimed, “Oh, my God!” which pretty much summed up Charlie's state.

Charlie's legs were tangled under him in a way that made us think that at least one of them was broken. His face was covered with so much blood that we couldn't see the actual cuts, and there was also some blood on nearby branches and leaves. How could he have bled so much, so quickly? Charlie lightly moaned and was conscious but somewhat incoherent. We straightened his legs, at his request, but it quickly became obvious that he wouldn't be going anywhere anytime soon.

So now what? As a group, we had trouble thinking clearly; there was too much blood. None of us really knew what to do. Where the heck were Nurse Sally and Nurse Colleen when you needed them? Even with our limited expertise, we figured that a head leaking blood couldn't be good. One fellow in our group, Joe, at least had the good sense to try to get the bleeding stopped. But, guess what? None of us in the group had bothered to bring a first-aid kit. Fortunately, like any

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WHEN A HIKE GOES BAD—
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self-respecting hike leader, Charlie had brought one. Thank goodness.

We used Charlie's gauze and bandages and began applying pressure and tape. Charlie had one large gash on his forehead, one on his brow, and one just below his eye. Joe seemed pretty adept with bandages and tape, but he couldn't stop the bleeding. We quickly ran out of gauze and then resorted to trying to plug the wounds with toilet paper.

It quickly (finally) dawned on us that we needed to go for help. However, other than our semiconscious leader, none of us really knew where we were. We didn't even have maps—mistake number two. Where would we go? And, if we did get back to civilization in a reasonable amount of time, how could we describe Charlie's whereabouts?

Fortunately, one of us thought she had some idea of the area, so we all agreed to let her go for help. Hey, wait a minute! Wasn't there something about never leaving or sending someone alone down the trail? Clearly, we were still rattled by Charlie's fall, but we came to our senses long enough to send two people in search of help.

In the meantime, we continued working on Charlie's injuries, but we never could completely stop the bleeding. Charlie was talking somewhat, but seemed to be hyperventilating, and he said that he felt light-headed. Was he in shock? He stood up once but quickly sat down again.

How could we get him back up to the trail, let alone off the mountain?

To help ease his pain, we gave Charlie ibuprofen. Another mistake. We later learned that ibuprofen, like aspirin, thins the blood, making it all the more difficult to control bleeding. This would be like giving a drowning man a glass of water. In fact, we later learned that, with head injuries, you shouldn't give the victim anything—not even a glass of water.

Was Charlie cold? We didn't think to cover him, and we didn't even ask. In fact, no one in the group seemed to have any extra water, food, or clothing. Those are all essentials on any outing.

Charlie said that his upper back felt sore, and he attributed that to a pulled muscle. We should have kept him still, because it could have been a spinal or neck injury.

Luckily, down the trail, the two women who had gone in search of help met some folks who drove them to a telephone. Three-and-a-half hours after the accident, a group of emergency medical technicians and rescue workers were at Charlie's side. They weren't the fittest group as they huffed and strained up the mountain, but they really knew their stuff. They actually put Charlie on a one-wheeled stretcher and hauled him down the trail to a waiting ambulance. Finally, he was getting proper care.

A few days later, I contacted the Nantahala Hiking Club, and they assured me that Charlie was recovering nicely. A couple of weeks later, I received a warm letter from Charlie. He said that he had received more than fifty stitches in his head and about twenty in his knee. It turned out that his knee was somewhat of a problem because it had a puncture that

went to his kneecap. We had hardly even noticed that injury. He said that his head was so swollen that he couldn't see out of his left eye for several days. Yet he assured me that he was doing well and even humorously referred to himself as the "Flying Hike Leader."

We had done our best, and, fortunately, even with our mistakes, everything worked out. The experience was nothing like the mock first-aid training I've been through. As a whole, our group did a decent job, but we were very ill-prepared. If each of us had been carrying a small first-aid kit, we could have done so much better. Likewise, we should have had more food, water, and clothing and maps, flashlights, and a fire starter.

I'm now convinced that this kind of accident could happen to anyone, anywhere. Even in our semitame mountains, it can take hours to get proper help. It's so easy and tempting to let the hike leader take care of our every need, but ultimately we're responsible for ourselves, and, while in a group, we're responsible for each other.

My recommendation? Be thoroughly prepared for every outing and don't make any assumptions about what the day holds. Carry the extra weight of that first-aid kit. It could save your life or someone else's. Oh, and remember the maps.

Sharpening Gauge

By Pete Irvine

Hand-tool sharpening gauges are now available to each of the ATC volunteer Trail crews. The gauges were made available through long-time crew volunteer Dean Sims of Goulds, Florida. Each of the crew programs—Konarock, Rocky Top, mid-Atlantic, Vermont Long Trail Patrol, and Maine Trail Crew—has received one of the gauges for this year's Trail work, along with explanatory material on its proper use.

The device was developed by the Missoula Technology Development Center of the USDA Forest Service and provides an easy-to-use gauge for proper tool sharpening. Although it was primarily designed for use on firefighting tools in the western United States, the gauge is equally applicable to the pulaskis, axes, shovels, combi-tools, and McLeods used for trail-maintenance work.

Sims is a seventeen-year veteran of the Konarock crew and also has worked with the Mid-Atlantic Crew, Maine Trail Crew, Vermont Long Trail Patrol, and the C & O Canal Crew. Last year, he was named to ATC's 75th Anniversary Honor Roll of Volunteers for his years of service to the A.T.

Sims, who has long been concerned with volunteer safety and tool sharpening, "discovered" the existence of the gauge in the late 1980s and later discussed the tool with Army crews that came to Florida to clean up after Hurricane Andrew. Finally, he saw one of the gauges a couple of years ago, when a crew of smoke jumpers was setting controlled burns near the Konarock base camp.

After Sims' determined efforts to track down a source for

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Accident Reports from 2000

Responding to Critical Incidents

By Bob Proudman

I vividly recall a discussion that I had with ATC's director of Trail management programs, Bob Proudman, in the fall of 1995 when I first assumed the duties of chief ranger of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Proudman was worried that the A.T. was overdue for a major incident. He reminded me that the last major crime to hit the Trail was the murders of Molly LaRue and Geoffrey Hood at the Thelma Marks Shelter in Pennsylvania in September 1990. He reflected that an incident of that magnitude seems to happen every several years. After a serious gulp or two, I sought to assess our ability to respond to or, better yet, prevent critical incidents. I found that a great deal had been done but more could be achieved, particularly by improving relations between Trail managers and their emergency-response partners.

I define a *critical incident* as a serious event that has significant long-term effects on volunteers and employees, Trail users, and Trail communities. It usually extends beyond the capability of the initial responding agency. A critical incident may be a serious crime, a natural event like a hurricane, or a mass disaster.

Managing other kinds of incidents will be addressed in a later column. For the purpose of this column, let's limit our discussion to serious crime on the A.T. Unfortunately, crime is no stranger to the Trail. Since 1974, nine murders have occurred on or near the Trail. There also have been rapes and other serious assaults. Most recently, in May 1996, two women backpackers were brutally murdered in Shenandoah National Park. While that still-unsolved tragedy did not occur on the A.T. itself, and we still do not know if it was Trail-related, the national media widely reported it as an A.T.-related incident. (All the other Trail-related murders have been successfully prosecuted, and I remain confident that the Shenandoah case will someday be solved as well.)

So, what is the true picture of Trail safety today? I believe that, when you compare the numbers of A.T. users in a given year, an estimated three to four million, with the amount of reported crime (around one hundred mostly minor incidents annually), a reasonable person would conclude that hiking the A.T. is not a risky undertaking. According to the recently released survey of Trail users, most hikers (65.2 percent of those surveyed) say they feel very secure while out on the A.T.

Having said all that, we still need to be prepared to deal with the unexpected critical incident. We should have a plan in place and relationships already developed with essential emergency-response personnel and agencies. ATC and its clubs have an effective means of planning for all kinds of Trail activities, the *Local Management Planning Guide*. Through this process, local clubs inventory their resources, identify various issues, develop policy statements for their sections, and implement action plans. As part of each club's local management plan, club officers should determine who the important players are for their area. Are the state police responsible for investigating serious crime? Who is responsible for search and rescue, the fire department, or the sheriff's department? Are township police officers the most likely first responders to incidents along your section of Trail? If so, who are these people, and how can we best assist them in their jobs? At a minimum, they should have current A.T. maps, which ATC will provide free of charge upon request. What is the history of searches within your area? Will recent insect infestations and resulting tree mortality increase the risk of wildfires? Contingency planning for emergencies was recognized as an important club function and adopted as policy by the ATC Board of Managers.

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In 2000, the Appalachian Trail Conference was informed of four hiker fatalities, all in New England:

- In July, a handicapped eighteen-year-old who was hiking with his father and uncle, died near Belter's Bump in Connecticut. Local newspapers reported that the state medical examiner could not determine a cause of death.

- Also in Connecticut, on August 16, a forty-year-old northbound thru-hiker died in Kent. The medical examiner determined that the cause of death was heart disease.

- On the same day in Maine, a forty-eight-year-old man died on Saddleback Mountain while on an Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) hike. The Maine Warden Service and the Air National Guard evacuated his body by helicopter.

- Finally, in November, a day hiker was killed near Bear Rock Falls in southwest Massachusetts, apparently attempting to descend the Mt. Riga escarpment to make a short cut to Mass. 41.

Due to that fatality, the second in five years at that location, A.T. maintainers and local and state officials are considering a number of possible actions, including posting and relocations.

That same area was the scene of a very difficult rescue in June when an eighteen-year-old man suffered a severe head trauma while swimming with friends in Sages Ravine, well off the A.T. More than eighty rescuers from towns in the tri-state area worked to evacuate the young man from extremely steep terrain in the lower ravine.

Due to the challenge of rescues in that area, AMC, ATC, and the National Park Service have worked with local officials to improve the situation. In September, a special roped-rescue course took place for area rescue teams, using funds from ATC and the club. A special area map also has been developed by AMC and ATC to aid rescuers

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New Draft Policies on Ads, Ridgeline Development

Appalachian Trail Conference policies are intended to guide the ATC Board of Managers and staff and to inform Trail clubs, agency partners, and the general public of ATC's position on matters concerning the Appalachian Trail. ATC welcomes input from Trail clubs and other interested parties during the formative stages of policy development. To this end, concerns and comments on proposed policies are solicited through ATC's regional meetings, letters to Trail-club presidents, and publication of draft versions of proposed policies in The Register. If you would like to comment on the two draft policies below, please address your concerns to Bob Proudman at the address on page 2 by September 14, 2001.

The policies were discussed at the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regional Management Committee meetings last fall and at the Southern Regional Management Committee meeting in March. The drafts also will be sent to club presidents. It is anticipated that the final versions of these policies will be adopted at the November 2001 meeting of the Board of Managers.

ATC policies are compiled into a loose-leaf notebook known as the Local Management Planning Guide (LMPG), last updated in 1997. The LMPG is available from the Appalachian Trail Conference free of charge to Trail-club and governmental-agency partners and for a copying fee to others. The Conference hopes to publish the LMPG on its Web site by 2002. If you would like a copy of the LMPG, contact Susan Daniels at ATC headquarters.

Draft Policy on Advertising in the Appalachian Trail Corridor

The Appalachian Trail Conference places a high value on maintaining the natural character of the Appalachian Trail corridor and is well aware that small changes that diminish that character can cumulatively alter the Trail environment to the point where the A.T. is no longer a simple footpath passing through a natural setting. Those principles are embodied in numerous ATC policies.

At the same time, ATC recognizes that many A.T. hikers value the services (e.g., lodging, restaurants, outfitters, and shuttles) that are available in many communities along the Trail. These services may be commercial in nature or offered by so-called "Trail angels" who provide free assistance to hikers. In either case, the contribution they make to the overall experience of hiking the A.T. is important to many hikers, especially long-distance hikers.

In order to maintain the natural character of the A.T. corridor, it is the policy of the Appalachian Trail Conference that advertising is incompatible with the Trail and should not take place within the A.T. corridor. The availability of hiker services outside of the Trail corridor should be publicized through other means, such as publications and trailhead signs.

For the purposes of this policy, advertising is defined as posting materials such as signs, notes, or business cards or distributing flyers, brochures, or similar materials designed

to call specific services, both commercial and noncommercial, to the attention of hikers. Materials that promote membership in ATC or Trail-maintaining clubs or participation in volunteer Trail-management activities and materials that recognize the support of commercial or noncommercial entities for the A.T. are not included in this definition.

The following steps should be taken to implement this policy:

- Trail maintainers, with the concurrence of the agency, should remove any advertisements posted within the Trail corridor on National Park Service or USDA Forest Service lands, including those on signs or bulletin boards or in shelters or other structures.

- On lands managed by other agencies (including state forest, park, and transportation departments), ATC and Trail-maintaining clubs should work with those agencies to develop and implement policies that prohibit advertising within the Trail corridor and authorize Trail maintainers to remove unauthorized signs.

- A.T.-maintaining clubs should work with local businesses and others attempting to post advertising in the Trail corridor to explain the intent of this policy and the other opportunities for publicizing their services to hikers. In areas where voluntary compliance efforts fail, clubs should request enforcement assistance from the land-managing agency.

- Information on hiker services should be included in appropriate publications and other ATC hiker-information materials.

- If a Trail-maintaining club determines that information on the types of services that are available in nearby communities is necessary, such information may be posted at road crossings and trailheads. Signs should not name specific businesses but should indicate the types of services that are available and the distance and direction. In addition, all signs must conform to agency policies. Such signage should only be used where other efforts to inform hikers of off-Trail services have failed.

Draft Policy on Ridgeline and Mountaintop Development

(EDITOR'S NOTE: An earlier draft of this policy ran in the Winter 1999 issue of The Register and was distributed to clubs for comment, but a final policy was not approved by the Board of Managers. This revised version, along with any comments received, will be considered at the November Board meeting.)

The Appalachian Trail Conference seeks to preserve and protect the scenic, cultural, and natural resources of the Appalachian Trail and the Appalachian Trail experience, as defined by the National Trails System Act, the *Comprehensive Plan for the Protection, Management, Development and Use of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail*, and ATC policy. To this end,

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ATC seeks to avoid, minimize, or eliminate the visual, aural, and experiential impacts of ridgeline and mountaintop development upon those resources and will support any and all measures that do so. Developments that are considered incompatible with the purposes and scenic values of the Appalachian Trail and are covered by this policy include ski lifts and trails, buildings, observation towers, golf courses, single homes or subdivisions, and mineral or gravel extraction operations. Other types of development (public and administrative roads; powerlines; pipelines; communications lines, towers, and buildings; wind-energy facilities; aircraft beacons; and roads and utilities serving these facilities) also are considered incompatible and are addressed in ATC's *Policy on Roads and Utility Developments*.

The Conference opposes development on mountaintops, ridgelines, and other visible areas in the foreground and middle-ground distance zones as seen from the Appalachian Trail, unless the visual, aural, and experiential impacts to the Appalachian Trail can be satisfactorily mitigated on-site. (Foreground and middle ground will be determined using the USDA Forest Service's Scenery Management System, as described in *Landscape Aesthetics*, Agriculture Handbook Number 701.)

ATC will oppose construction of any developments covered by this policy on Appalachian Trail corridor lands or those facilities on adjacent lands that could have an adverse impact on the viewshed of the Trail, unless they meet all of the following criteria:

1. Any new impacts associated with the proposed development shall coincide with existing major impacts to the Trail experience.

2. No linear facilities should be permitted to physically cross the Appalachian Trail or be located within the Appalachian Trail corridor or management area unless a reserved right for such a crossing already exists.

3. Any adverse impacts of a proposed development shall be sufficiently mitigated so as to result in no net loss of recreational values or the quality of the recreation experience provided by the Appalachian Trail. To the extent practicable, mitigation shall occur on site.

4. At a minimum, any proposed development should avoid impacts to the following elements of the Appalachian Trail experience: (a) wilderness or wilderness study areas; (b) National Park Service natural areas; (c) Forest Service scenic areas, semiprimitive-nonmotorized areas, or designated backcountry areas; (d) natural-heritage sites; (e) cultural-resource sites; (f) Trail-related facilities, such as shelters and campsites; and (g) alpine zones, balds, wetlands, and riparian zones.

ATC will encourage agency partners and local and regional planning jurisdictions to incorporate those criteria into agency, local, and regional plans and regulations and work with its member clubs to do likewise.

During the planning and regulatory-review processes for those types of developments, ATC, Trail-maintaining clubs, and agencies should make every effort to avoid impacts that would impair the natural, scenic, social, or cultural values and resources of the Appalachian Trail.

ATC will participate, and encourage A.T.-maintaining clubs and agency partners to participate, in public-review processes for all development proposals with the potential to result in significant impacts on the viewshed of the Appalachian Trail.

ATC also will work with agency partners to ensure that, if such developments are authorized, any impacted areas will be restored to the maximum extent feasible. Restoration measures include installation of permanent erosion control and planting of native vegetation. Measures to avoid additional impacts, such as closure of access routes to motorized vehicles, will be taken as necessary.

For facilities proposed within one mile of the Trail, ATC will request local, state, or federal regulatory bodies to include in any authorization necessary mitigation to reduce or eliminate the impacts of such facilities on the Appalachian Trail, including a stipulation prohibiting development of new facilities, or any changes to existing facilities, without prior notification of, and consultation with, the organizations and agencies responsible for management of the Appalachian Trail.

Its opposition to new developments that could impair the scenic, cultural or natural resources of the Appalachian Trail notwithstanding, ATC recognizes that certain existing developments along the Trail have important cultural value and should be preserved. In general, those developments would be recognized by inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Examples include fire towers and structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

CRITICAL INCIDENTS—

Continued from page 5

We have conducted a number of critical-incident management conferences at various Trail locations. In 1997, we held the first Trailwide conference at Shepherdstown, West Virginia, at which more than one hundred police officers, fire wardens, game enforcement officers, and park rangers met with ATC staff members and club volunteers to discuss more effective responses to A.T. critical incidents. Smaller conferences have been held in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maine, with others planned. The chief purpose of those meetings is to foster improved relations between Trail managers and their corresponding emergency-response providers. And, we are seeing results.

Finally, work with your ATC regional representatives. Those dedicated staffers have been around for a long time; they know the different players in a given area, and who has been helpful and receptive to the hiking community. They have responded to A.T. critical incidents in the past and can give you their valuable advice.

Ranger Gray can be reached at the Appalachian Trail Park Office, by e-mail at <robert_gray@nps.gov>, by telephone at 304-535-6171, or by mail at NPS-ATPO, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

The **Appalachian Mountain Club** (AMC) celebrates its 125th anniversary this year and is undertaking a \$30-million capital campaign, with \$23 million in gifts from corporate and individual donors already raised toward the goal. The funds will be used to build a new outdoor-education facility at Crawford Notch in the White Mountain National Forest, upgrade other AMC facilities in New Hampshire and New York, and establish endowments for teaching and conservation efforts.

Heather Clish is AMC's new director of trails and riverways stewardship. She began working at AMC's Boston headquarters in April after four years with the Massachusetts coastal zone management agency. Her duties will include overseeing all AMC trails programs, planning trail and riverway programs, working closely with volunteer leaders to strengthen trail and riverway initiatives, and working to increase member involvement in conservation and stewardship programs.

In Massachusetts, AMC has ceased management of both Bascom Lodge (which it had operated for 18 years) on the summit of Mt. Greylock and the Mt. Greylock Visitor Center (which it had managed since 1993) at the base of the mountain. Under AMC's management, A.T. hikers enjoyed meals, overnight lodging, pay phone, and restroom facilities and could resupply at the small lodge store. The club had been losing money on lodge management for a number of years and had environmental concerns, including waste- and water-management problems and their impacts on the summit environment. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management awarded a one-year contract to a group called Nature's Classroom to provide food and lodging

Dale N. Bosworth became the fifteenth chief of the **USDA Forest Service** in April. Bosworth has served in numerous other positions in the Forest Service, most recently as regional forester of the USFS northern region, headquartered in Missoula, Montana, and as regional forester for the intermountain region in Ogden, Utah, before that. He holds a bachelors of science degree in forestry from the University of Idaho. Bosworth replaces Michael Dombeck, who became Forest Service chief in 1997.

Clara Johnson became supervisor of the **Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests** in Georgia last fall. An Earth Day celebration that included songs and poetry read by second- and third-grade students was held at the Martin Luther King National Historic Site to welcome her to the new position. Johnson is a 14-year veteran of the Forest Service, serving most recently as deputy supervisor of the National Forests in Mississippi, her native state.

ALONG THE TRAIL

services. AMC's southern New England regional trails office is now located at 150 North Street, Suite 22, Pittsfield, MA 01202; telephone, 413-443-0011; fax, 413-443-7900. Jen Lamphere, temporary regional trails coordinator, will manage the Connecticut ridgerunner program, the regional A.T. crew program, and other ongoing projects through the summer.

Since 1998, the American Hiking Society (AHS) has awarded 63 National Trails Endowment grants totaling almost \$200,000. This year, 15 organizations were selected to receive a total of \$40,000, including the **New York-New Jersey Trail Conference** (NY-NJ TC). The club received \$3,000 for building materials to construct a one-mile Trail section, installing nearly 1,700 feet of suspended boardwalk in the final phase of the Pochuck Creek project.

The NY-NJ TC moved its headquarters in February from Manhattan, where it had been located for 80 years, to Mahwah, N.J., where its office building overlooks the Ramapo River. The new address is 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430; telephone 201-512-9348; Web site <www.nynjtc.org>.

At the **Mt. Rogers Appalachian Trail Club's** annual meeting, 20 members were honored by the U.S. Forest Service for their volunteer work in the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area in recent years. An embroidered patch is awarded for 50 hours of service and then rockers are awarded at 100 hours and for each succeeding increment of 100 hours. Volunteers accumulating at least 1,000 hours receive special recognition. Those honored at this year's meeting for 1,000 hours or more were Jack Farley, Glenn Morrell, Haskel Morrell, Clara Wise, and Tom Wise.

SIDE TRAILS

Eighty acres of land have been purchased by Forever Wild, a land-preservation trust in Alabama. Combined with an earlier purchase of 514 acres, that will enable a connecting trail to be built between the Pinhoti Trail in the Talladega National Forest and the southern end of the A.T.

The East Coast Greenway Alliance has released a status report on the East Coast Greenway (ECG), a multiuse trail network through the eastern seaboard's largest cities. The ECG is intended to be an urban alternative to the A.T. It stretches 2,600 miles from Calais, Maine, to Key West, Florida. The report provides an update on the varying stages of development of the trail and detailed information on each segment. For more information or a copy of the report, contact the alliance at 135 Main Street, Wakefield, RI 02879, by telephone at 401-789-4625, or via its Web site at <www.greenway.org>.

CROSSCUT SAWS—
continued from page 1

saws also must be maintained correctly. The Conference offers courses in crosscut use, and the U.S. Forest Service provides training in saw sharpening. Club members interested in expanding their skills to include crosscut techniques should contact their regional ATC office for more information on training opportunities available.

Here are several resources that are available for maintainers on the subject of crosscut saws. Both the U.S. Forest Service publications are available from the USDA Forest Service, Missoula Technology and Development Center, Building 1, Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT 59804-7294, telephone, 406-329-1020.

- *Crosscut Saw Manual*, by Warren Miller. This USFS publication is an in-depth manual on saw maintenance and sharpening but also includes sections on proper use.

- *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance*, by William Birchard, Jr., and Robert Proudman. Our own trail-building book contains a section on crosscut saws.

- *Handtools for Trail Work*, by Richard Hallman. Another USFS publication, this booklet is a thorough guide to hand tools and includes the crosscut saw.

Ben Lawhon served until recently as ATC's associate regional representative for North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia. He now works with Leave No Trace Inc., in Colorado. Valerie Shrader is a public relations assistant for ATC and office assistant for the regional office located in Asheville, N.C.

Bud Braddock competing in the one-man contest.

In the foreground, Cynthia Crotwell (back to camera) and Carole Perry get ready to cut, as Nancy Shofner (seated on log) waits to spray kerosene to lubricate the saw as needed. USFS employee Dave Kuykendall officiates.

Photos: Allison Bozeman



Cove Mountain Shelter Dedication

The new Cove Mountain Shelter, replacing the Thelma Marks Shelter in Pennsylvania where Appalachian Trail hikers Molly LaRue and Geoff Hood were murdered in 1990, was dedicated by the Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) last fall. The timber-frame shelter was made with wood from a barn on land acquired for the Trail by the National Park Service. (See article in the Fall 2000 issue of *The Register*.) MCM and Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club volunteers dismantled it a few years ago, and the wood was stored for this project.

ATC crew leader Bob Smith wrote a dedication, excerpted below, that was placed in a frame joint in the shelter: "In dismantling that barn, we discovered that it, too, was built from members of other structures.... We would snap chalk lines for our joinery, only to find that they fell in lines of the builders before us...."

"What became evident was that this shelter was part of a cycle.... I don't know how many lives have touched these timbers. And, I don't know where the journey will

end for this shelter or these timbers.

"Somehow, I feel journeys never end, and, if we're careful, friends are never lost. Geoff and Molly may have ended their thru-hike here, but their journey isn't ended. In the same spirit that they lived, we have built this shelter. And having finished, we continue our journey, bringing some small part of them with each of us. It is my hope that their gentle, peaceful spirits grace this place and all who pass through here."

Among those attending the dedication were Geoff Hood's mother, Glenda Hood, and best friend, David Hearn, and Molly LaRue's parents, Jim and Connie LaRue. The LaRues later wrote a letter to MCM that reads, in part: "With your hands and your hearts, you collectively transformed a terribly painful memory and place into a beautiful and life-affirming one. We are so grateful to have been included.... You have made that portion of the A.T. whole again, and hikers for years to come will benefit from your efforts and your caring. We are forever grateful."

COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE—
continued from page 1

and-rescue (SAR) teams standing by for such emergencies. Although it is not uncommon for volunteers of local Trail clubs to participate in such efforts, those trained professionals handle SAR efforts in a planned, methodical manner. Unless there are signs that a hiker may be injured or in a life-threatening situation, emergency resources are obviously not available for compassionate response. Protection of public safety requires that they be held in reserve, awaiting “true” emergencies. By contrast, no emergency services are standing by and no unplanned rules are in place for mounting a compassionate search—except to simply try to do the decent thing.

In Bob’s case, while he had just called his wife two days earlier, in Duncannon, he was now completely out of touch. She called the ATC for help; she was referred to the mid-Atlantic regional office in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, where she reported his itinerary and physical description. The regional staff formulated a plan to find Bob. Had he been hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains or Shenandoah National Parks, a

call to the park would have resulted in a similar search by rangers, where backcountry registrations and itineraries can help pinpoint where the hiker might be. However, hikers such as Bob—walking through a patchwork of Pennsylvania game and parklands—cross any number of jurisdictions without a ranger staff available for conducting a search. That is where the clubs and ATC come in.

While the ATC staff members and Trail and member clubs and volunteers have no mandate to respond to such situations, we do have unique capabilities. Detailed knowledge of the Trail can be essential in the initial stages of a search. The most important capability is the volunteers themselves, who know the Trail better than virtually anyone. Give a Trail maintainer information on where a hiker was last seen and his last known location and direction of travel, and he or she will typically pinpoint the hiker’s current location within a mile or two. Trail volunteers might be the only resource necessary if searches only occurred on weekends, but, when the call comes on a weekday, knowledgeable volunteers are often unavailable. When this happens, state parks employees or ATC ridgerunners may provide assistance. In either case, compassionate searchers usually work by leaving notes at shelters and on signs, by posting information along the Trail within parks, and by sending staff members to visit shelters and campsites.

There are times when the hikers themselves may have the most to offer. The “thru-hiker grapevine” occasionally seems faster than the speed of light. After hiking hundreds of miles together, hikers know each other’s hiking styles and plans. Mention a hiker’s Trail name and other hikers can turn on the radar and tell you where he or she is located.

While tapping into the “grapevine” can greatly speed up the search, ATC urges caution regarding spreading the word, to guard against invading the missing hiker’s privacy. Without some discretion, the hiker in question could be the last to know of a terrible family tragedy, and a very personal and emotional matter may have been shared inappropriately with perfect strangers. No matter what resources we use in

a compassionate search, it is often enough to tell those involved that a hiker needs to call family immediately. In short, the fewer people involved and the fewer details given out, the better.

After talking with Bob’s wife, the mid-Atlantic staff met to discuss options. Calls were made first to local club members, to see if anyone was available to walk the Trail section south from Swatara Gap. No one could break away from work, but suggestions were offered on where he might be located at that time of day. Since that part of the Trail is on state game lands, the staff considered whether to call the local wildlife conservation officer, but, by the time he could be contacted and reach the field, the hiker might have gone already. The superintendent of Swatara State Park agreed to post a sign where the A.T. passed through the park, requesting that Bob stop at the park headquarters for a message. Bob saw the message before noon and was on his way home later that day. The total response consisted of a few phone calls and the posting of one sign and resulted in almost total privacy for Bob and his family. That is a good example of one of many little-known services that ATC, the clubs, and our agency partners provide to Trail visitors.

John Wright is an associate regional representative in ATC’s Boiling Springs, Pa., office.

SHARPENING GAUGE—
continued from page 4

the gauges, the Appalachian Trail Park Office of the National Park Service ordered them for the Trail crews. A specialty item of the General Service Administration Federal Supply Service, the gauges may be purchased only by government agencies, not the general public.

Additional information about the hand-tool sharpening gauge is available from the NPS Appalachian Trail Park Office, (304) 535-6278 or <www.nps.gov/aptr>.

Pete Irvine is the Appalachian National Scenic Trail coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service. He works out of the NPS-ATPO office in Harpers Ferry.

Trail Maintenance Quiz

1. When choosing stock for making a sign, be sure to get:
 - a. Green wood.
 - b. Dry wood.
2. The pitch of the stepping surface of a rock step should be:
 - a. Slightly uphill.
 - b. Slightly downhill to allow for better drainage.
 - c. Perfectly level.
3. On steep slopes, the best way to ensure that hikers don’t cut switchbacks is to:
 - a. Use brush to block hikers from cutting the corner.
 - b. Use a stone or log crib wall to create a drop off.
 - c. Post “No Cutting Switchbacks” signs.

(Answers are on page 11)

Ridgerunner Training

By John Wright

Mid-Atlantic ridgerunner training was held at the Scott Farm Training Center near Carlisle, Pa., May 16–20. On the first day, Bob Proudman, director of Trail management programs, and Karen Lutz, mid-Atlantic regional representative, used a “Jeopardy”-style game to present the history and workings of ATC and the cooperative management system. The afternoon session included Leave No Trace (LNT) exercises and a presentation by John Buchheit, ATC’s education planner, about visitor services and educational programs. Wilderness first-aid training was taught Thursday and Friday by Joe LaRue of Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO), a ridgerunner in 1998 and 1999. On Saturday morning, NPS Ranger Bob Gray educated the group about law enforcement along the Trail and personal safety while in the field. The rest of the weekend was devoted to ridgerunner presentations, LNT training, action scenarios, and hiking.

I was joined in leading the weekend portion of training by Jody Bickel, now ATC’s associate regional representative in the Central and Southwest Virginia office. We had help from former ridgerunners Eric

Kindig, who will be ridgerunning on the A.T. for the Green Mountain Club this year, and Sean Crager.

2001 MID-ATLANTIC RIDGERUNNERS

James Dunn—Shenandoah National Park Central and South Districts

Kevin Hogan—Shenandoah National Park North District and Northern Virginia

Matt Smink—Maryland

Jennifer Cook—Michaux State Forest, Pa.

Ross Caruso—Cumberland Valley, Pa.

David Burnett—Lehigh Furnace Gap to Delaware Water Gap, Pa.

Garth Fisher—New Jersey

Levi Mason—New Jersey

Matt Moore—New Jersey

PATC volunteer ridgerunners—
Kumait Jawdat, Mal Fordham, Hal Hallett, Janet Williams, Alexandria Lampros, Chris Firme, Kathleen Greve, and Marcus Medlock.

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club volunteer ridgerunners—
Scott Birchman and Barry Baskin.

Answers to Trail Maintenance Quiz

(Questions on page 10)

1. b. Dry wood. Dry wood resists splitting and warping, will absorb wood preservative, and will rout well.

2. a. Slightly uphill. A slight upward cant is ideal for a stepping surface. It provides greater stability (and therefore an increased chance that the step will be used) for a hiker headed downhill. Level steps work just fine as long as the stepping surface is large enough. Maintainers should avoid having steps with a downward-sloping stepping surface as this makes for tricky footing for hikers headed downhill.

3. b. Use a crib wall to create a drop-off. Brush and signs will work, but they can appear unnatural and intrusive and are not a permanent solution. When designing a trail, if you must have a sharp switchback, it is desirable to build in a steep cribwall out of either rock or logs. If the drop-off created by the crib is big enough, hikers will not be inclined to walk over it. This is best done in the trail-design process but can be retrofitted into an existing switchback.

ACCIDENT REPORTS—

continued from page 5

with future navigation in Sages Ravine and vicinity, including locating old logging roads that will permit future emergency all-terrain vehicle access.

In another significant accident, two Boy Scouts were hit by a car while attempting to cross Pa. 248 at Lehigh Gap in June. Due to highway construction, lane barriers created a hazardous condition in which hikers and motor-vehicle drivers couldn’t see each other. Both hikers’ packs cushioned the blow,

cracking the car’s windshield. The Scouts were uninjured and were released from the hospital the same day. ATC’s ridgerunner was able to offer assistance to both the victims and the troop at the scene.

As a result of that accident, ATC and the A.T. Park Office of the National Park Service have requested assistance from the Federal Highway Administration in evaluating the safety of various A.T. crossings along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. A study is anticipated in 2002–03. Recommendations regarding hazardous crossings are wel-

come from readers of *The Register*.

The October–December issue of *The Catskill Canister* reported that a hiker was struck by lightning in June near Schaghticoke Mountain in Connecticut, which suffered more than its share of incidents last year. Thanks to the quick response of his friends to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the victim recovered. In that case, rescuers from the town of Kent did an outstanding job in aiding in the treatment and evacuation of the victim.

Bob Proudman is ATC’s director of Trail-management programs

ATC CALENDAR

August 15 Ridgrunner Recap, Scott Farm, Pa.
 August 17-21 National Scenic & Historic Trails
 Conference, Casper, Wyoming

September 1-3 Southern Multiclub Meet,
 Sherando Lake Campground,
 Waynesboro, Va.

September 3 ATC Offices Closed—
 Labor Day Holiday

October 1 Copy Deadline, Winter Issue
 of *The Register*

October 5-7 ALDHA Gathering,
 Hanover, N.H.

October 8 ATC Offices Closed—
 Columbus Day Holiday

October 20 Mid-Atlantic Regional
 Management Committee Meeting,
 Boiling Springs, Pa.

October 26-28 New England Regional Management
 Committee Meeting,
 Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vt.

November 17-18 Board of Managers Meeting—
 Location to be Announced

November 22-23 ATC Offices Closed—
 Thanksgiving Holiday

December 25 ATC Offices Closed—
 Christmas Holiday

2001 Volunteer Trail Crew Schedules

Through August 20 Konnarock Crew

Through August 15 Maine Trail Crew

July 16-September 21 Long Trail Patrol (Vermont)

August 30-October 22 Mid-Atlantic Crew

September 7-October 28 Rocky Top Crew (Great Smoky
 Mountains National Park)



Crew Volunteers Needed—
 Volunteers for 2001 Trail
 crews are still needed this
 fall. No experience is re-
 quired, as professional crew
 leaders instruct participants
 in trail-building techniques.
 To learn more or to request
 an application, send a post-
 card with your name and
 address to: Crews, ATC,
 TR-01C/C, P.O. Box 10,
 Newport, VA 24128; call 540-
 544-7388; or e-mail <crews
 @atconf.org>.

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