



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

NEWS OF THE P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 6

JUNE 1982

GYPSY MOTHS!!!

It is that time of year again. UGH.

The following information comes from "Here's how you can help control Gypsy Moth this summer." published by the PA Gypsy Moth Task Force.

The Gypsy Moth was brought to New England from Europe in 1869 as part of a silk-making experiment. Some of the larvae escaped, and the Gypsy Moth has been an increasing problem in the United States ever since.

Gypsy Moth Facts

- Newly hatched caterpillars are easily windblown to previously unaffected areas.
- A mature caterpillar can consume several leaves per day.
- Gypsy Moths currently infest all of New England, parts of Canada, and are rapidly expanding in the Middle Atlantic States.
- Birds, squirrels, mice, skunks, and snakes are the major predators of the Gypsy Moth. They are most effective when Gypsy Moth population are low.
- The Gypsy Moth cannot be eradicated with currently know techniques. It can only be controlled or suppressed.

- Generally, after two or three years, an infestation collapses due to overpopulation and an exhausted food supply, or buildup of parasites.

Four Options for Gypsy Moth Control

1. Area-wide spraying. Contact your county gypsy moth coordinator at your county commissioner's office, and ask if your property qualifies for the cooperative county and state aerial suppression program. [Editor's note: I do not know which states have a gypsy moth coordinator.]

2. Consider private spraying. A list of aerial spray applicators, acceptable insecticides and other data can be obtained from your county coordinator, any DER forester, or your county agriculture extension office. Private aerial spraying is expensive. Ground spraying contractors can be found in the Yellow Pages. May through early June is the best time for spraying.

NOTE: certain chemicals used by private applicators may be toxic to honey bees. Notify bee keepers in your area. Avoid spray drift and never use these chemicals on trees in bloom.

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JUNE 6th: !! PICNIC !!



Ute Christoph [273-5117] is coordinating our picnic.

Date: June 6th

➔ Place: Izaak Walton Park (see map)

Food and Refreshments: Beer will be provided by donation; bring food.

Other: Harold Goldstein (966-9091) will coordinate an auction and a raffle.

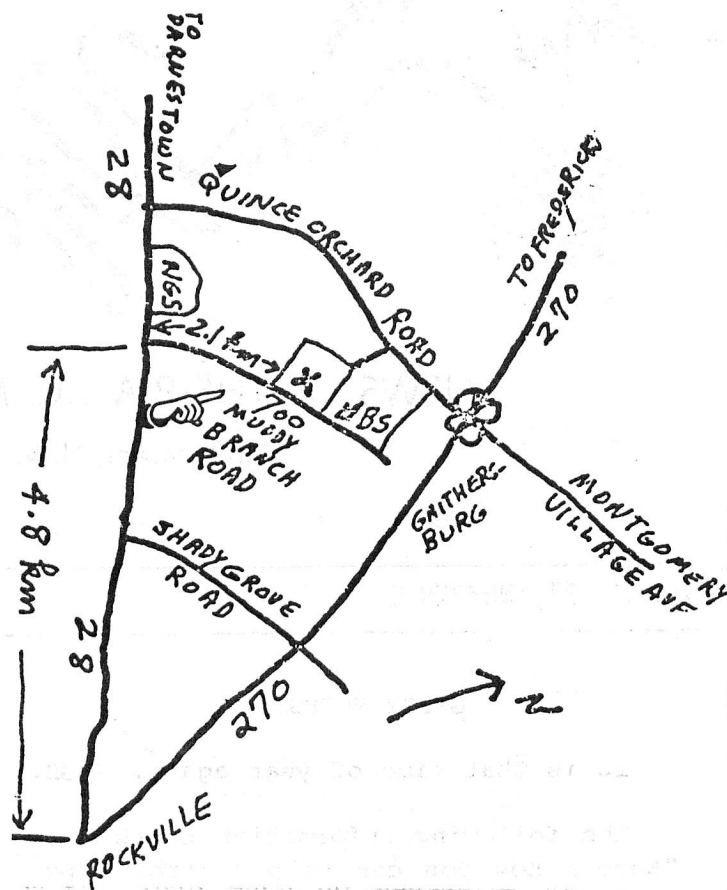
Please bring out-of-door equipment for the auction. We hope to be raffling-off a new rope.

PREVIEW OF JUNE'S MEETING

"Fall Line"

"Fall Line" is a new 12-minute, color movie about a climb up a mountain in California with a descent on skis.

If you missed May's meeting, you missed a really good slideshow and movie about caves and pits in Mexico given by Harold Goldstein.



X MARKS THE SPOT



Up Rope is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, D.C. Climbing articles, letters, and comments are welcome and should be addressed to Patti Lemon, c/o MRC, Inc., 3413-1/2 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. The annual subscription price for nonmembers is \$4. Current PATC members interested in receiving Up Rope may obtain a subscription at no charge. MS members must belong to PATC. Applicants for membership and PATC members can join the MS by obtaining sponsorship from a current MS member. Send subscription and address changes to Mountaineering Section-Secretary, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

MOUNTAINEERING SECTION ACTIVITIES

The MS holds meetings at PATC headquarters (1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.) the second Wednesday of each month except August. There is a brief business session followed by a slide show, film, or other form of entertainment. Sunday trips to nearby climbing areas and/or weekend trips to more distant areas are sponsored every weekend. Check the climber's calendar for scheduled trips.

Beginning and intermediate training are offered once a month. Anyone is welcome to participate in MS activities, although some restrictions may be placed on participation in club trips. The Sunday trips are usually to areas where there is a complete range of top rope climbs. However, we ask that you have some experience or training prior to the trip. The weekend trips are usually for lead climbers only, and you are expected to find your own climbing partner.

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EXECUTIVE MEETING: May 5, 1982

TRIP REPORT

Cancelled.

BULL RUN - April 18, 1982

MAY 12th BUSINESS MEETING

Motion to approve minutes from April's meeting made, seconded, and passed.

Old Business:

1. Stokes Litter: no progress.
2. Conservation donation: Ron Greenberg is still working on this.
3. Picnic: George Merriam, Chairman of the Blue Ridge Section of the AAC, suggested that we combine our picnics this year. A motion was made, seconded, and passed. We will have beer by donation again; please bring your own food, etc., we will have an auction (please bring out-of-doors equipment); and we will have a raffle.
[Editor's note: George's original idea was for our us to join them at Carderock on June 6th. Upon checking of the date, he discovered they were down for June 8th. So, we have invited them to join us on the 6th.]
4. Carderock: There is a poster on the bulletin board at Carderock that explains the plan for this two-year effort; the ties have been set; work has been done in the Cripples area; and John Stannard is working on a walkway across the swampy area on the top.
5. Seneca: Big group going out this weekend to work on the trail.
6. Secretary: Pete Grant will fill in temporarily.
7. Up Rope: Stan Halpin and Meg Harding will begin with the September issue.
8. Training: Don Barnett (521-0528) will take over as our trainer.
9. First Aid Course: Martha Hale is looking for anyone who can tailor a course for us in mountaineering medicine. The Red Cross offers an excellent two-evening modular course.
10. John Teasdale (262-9128) may teach an aid climbing course.

The trip started out well -- beautiful weather and everybody arriving on time behind AO (except for the trip coordinator who was parked around the corner wondering where everyone was). Thanks to Don's great directions -- "Go along here for awhile and then turn right or maybe left" -- no one got lost.

The hike in was not as exciting as it was last July, lacking ticks, poison ivy and brambles, but no one seemed to regret that (but there were fallen trees to occupy us).

We rigged Charlie's Crack (climbed only by Pete), Bull Run Overhang, Double Feature, Sofa, Snicker Snee, and the warm-up wall.

The climbing was great but there are dangers at Bull Run beyond those which are inherent in rock climbing: can and rocks through off the top by local athletes and rope thievery (who could possibly want Charlie's old rope?). So, despite the towing, you cannot expect to be undisturbed there, or even come out with everything you came in with (ropes, dignity, honor, ...).

Among the highlights of the trip were: Charlie's clever riddles (to get our attention off the rock that had just rejected him); Pete happening upon (and through) large piles of bird droppings (he says this often happens to him); and Don being attacked by a maddened wasp and driven off of Double Feature.

There was not much trash to be taken out because the Eagle Scouts had cleaned up the recently, but from the traffic at the top, I imagine that the next PATC group will need to bring a few trash bags.

Participants were: Patti Lemon, Charlie Dorian, Barbara Llewellyn, Don Kocher, William Vanderfeltz, Pete Grant with Karen, Jamie and Helen, and Ute Christoph.

3. Discourage Insect Survival. These methods are most effective where the number of trees is not great.

- Remove shelter for Gypsy Moth larvae and pupae. These include natural objects -- bark flaps and dead branches -- as well as debris, such as old tires, boxes, and cans.
- Diversify your trees and plants. Include species unpopular with the Gypsy Moth as noted in the following.

Gypsy Moth likes: Oak, Alder, Apple, Aspen, Poplar, Basswood, Birches, Box-elder, Red Gum, Larch, Mountain Ash, Willow, and Witch Hazel.

Gypsy Moth dislikes: Dogwood, Ash, Catalpa, Tulip Poplar, Horsechestnut, Locust, Walnut, Sycamore, Cedars.

BUT, when hungry, they will eat anything that is green!!!

4. Interrupt the Insect Life Cycle. These measures take some time and required daily activity during the caterpillar season.

- Destroy newly laid egg masses from August through April. Scrape them from the tree and place overnight in kerosene or ammonia. Specific moth paints and sprays can be used. Avoid home remedies, such as creosote as it may damage the bark.
- Egg masses can be found virtually anywhere a caterpillar can crawl -- not only on trees, but also on buildings, vehicles and lawn furniture. Each egg mass yields approximately 500 caterpillars.
- Trap caterpillars by typing a one-foot wide band of burlap around valuable trees at shoulder height. Fold the upper half of the burlap over the lower. During the day caterpillars will congregate under the fold. Inspect and destroy these caterpillars daily from late May through mid-July. This method is not effective with a large number of trees or a dense caterpillar population.

- From late June to late July, pupae may be collected and destroyed when found. Killing white female moths as they emerge from the pupal stage but before they lay their eggs is also effective. This is fairly easy as the female moths do not fly. This should be done on a daily basis from late June through mid-August.

Caution:

The hairs covering Gypsy Moth egg masses and the caterpillar hairs can cause temporary rashes on some people. Wear gloves to prevent this.

Scales on the wings of adult moths can irritate the respiratory system if repeatedly inhaled. The symptoms are similar to hay fever.

Protect Tree Health

Healthy trees have the best chance of survival during a Gypsy Moth invasion. Maintain favorable soil nutrient and moisture levels.

----- ACID-OUT GRASS

High on a cliff on the Virginia side of the gorge, a delinquent with a rope indulged in some graffiti in a National Park. "It" painted a 10-foot high marijuana leaf on the rock face.

Mike Brown, Palisades District Ranger, would like to have it removed by NOT by overpainting. Before someone defends this painting as a protest against the Establishment, let's be smart and realize the issue is conservation of nature and not advertising one's personal turn-on's in a National Park.

Anyone interested in conservation could do a good deed by calling Mike at his office (299-2945), and offering to remove the painting. Mike will provide an acid for removing the paint.

John Christian

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SENECA: May 15-16, 1982

Constructing steps out of stones can be an interesting endeavor, although rolling large stones across a scree slope can be hazardous to one's health as a group of MS members and other volunteers realized while working on the Seneca trail.

In collaboration with Ray Blum and the Forest Service, the MS has undertaken the project of rebuilding the West End Trail at Seneca Rocks (from Roy Gap Road to Luncheon Ledge). After making surprisingly good progress on trail construction, we retreated to the swimming hole and then to the picnic tables for a gourmet meal.

On Sunday (in spite of the sore muscles and blisters), we spent the day climbing. Those present were Barbara Llewellyn, Ute Christoph, Patti Lemon, Micki Klieber, Joe Farness, Charlie Dorian, James Eakin, Chip Grounds, Pete Grant, John Gregory, Bob Donahoe, and Martha Hale.

NOTE: We made a dent in the rebuilding of the West End Trail. However, there is much more that needs to be done. Seneca is a lovely place, and it would be sad to let it become an eyesore of erosion due to too many climbers on too few trails. Please help by spending a few hours of your time on this worthwhile project.

For further information, contact Dave Atchinson [654-1784]; James Eakin [587-5062]; Martha Hale [762-4769]; or Ray Blum at the Visitors Center in Seneca.

Martha Hale

But, Why Do They Call it Buzzard Rocks?

Drive west on I66 for 55.2 miles, from AO to the US340/522, Front Royal/Winchester exit. Take it, turning left at the "T", then continue 1.5 miles to a stoplight and VA Rt.55 West to Strasburg. Once there, roll on for 5.3 miles to the intersection with VA Rt.674 in Waterlick. The sign points to Elizabeth Furnace and Fort Valley. Head for the Fish Cultural Station after 1.3 miles. Park by the barn, up the road on the right. You're OK as you slide past a "NO PARKING" sign on the gravel road.

Load your pack, bring some water, and head up the hill along the ridge trail just behind the barn. A reasonable 1/2 to 3/4s of an hour brings you to the lunch area. Walk along the ridge to the south, toss over a rope, rap down, and you're on your way up!

And that's exactly what Dave Atchinson, his wife Marta Luz (complete with minus one month old) and daughter Andrea, Barbara Llewellyn and I did on May 2nd. A cooling breeze made the ridge top bearable (and chased away the most flies that I've seen since the inside of the Nelson House), while an entertaining location bribed our eyes. As a low-key expedition, we only twice threw our rope over the west side, but both times we landed good climbs on sandstone. It's not too hard or too easy on the increasingly steeper stratum as you approach the top, but 130' is surprisingly tiring on the toes. Most of the routes are infected with lichen (watch out -- it sure doesn't work like chalk), our second was not. A honey of a route, it may be the one called "Little El Capitan".

Now, what was that question again?


Charlie Dorian

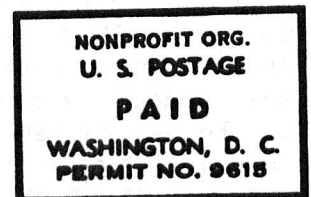
>> PATC / MS and AAC / Blue Ridge Section will combine their PICNICS on June 6th at the Izaak Walton Park. Please be sure to bring things to contribute to our auction. Contact Ute Christoph [273-5117] for more information. <<

CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Date	Place	Coordinator/Information	
6/6	PICNIC	Ute Christoph	273-5117
6/13	Annapolis Rocks	Pete Grant	960-6033
6/20	Bull Run [Please bring TRASH BAGS]	G. Christopulos	525-4061
6/27	Caudey's Castle	Martha Hale	762-4769
7/3-5	GUNKS	Parker Hill	273-5117

- * For trip information, call the leader or Charlie Dorian (362-7523). Day trips are to top rope climbing areas. Weekend trips (designated by *) are to lead climbing areas -- please arrange for your own climbing partner.


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DATED MATTER