



## 2013 Annual Report

*Peter Johnson, MCM President*

**2013 marked the 79th year for the Mountain Club of Maryland.** We had a very busy activities schedule for the year and a robust membership. We ended the year with 745 memberships, with an estimated total of 942 members (based on two persons for family memberships). This is a moderate increase in membership from 2012, and a positive reflection on how our guests and new members view us.

When I compare our activity schedules with neighboring clubs I believe we have the most complete and varied listing. We are primarily a day hiking club, but we also have backpacking trips and kayak trips. We continue our strong historic commitment to maintenance of the Appalachian Trail, and also make local contributions. Our total number of activities was 293, which is slightly higher than last year. We had total participation of 4,392, which included 272 people and 11 dogs. The number of hikers and guests are slightly lower than last year, but our dog hikes have been more successful. Overall our results have been consistent over the last few years.

**There were some changes in the club leadership over the past year.** We welcomed incoming councilor Leslie Marcuse and bid farewell to Gerry Hemming. Diane Mock, one of our two vice-presidents, agreed to also serve as coordinator for environmental events. Liz Kristofferson took on the role of Watershed Hikes Liaison. Duncan Glenday volunteered to update our website, and became webmaster for that effort. Bob Grossman took on two roles. He's heading up our participation in the 2015 ATC conference. He's also coordinator for our trail monitoring efforts at Patapsco. 2013 was a transition year for this position, with Bob taking over from Tom Watts after many years of service. I'm thankful for the efforts of these people, and many others, who contribute to the operation of MCM.

This year the council chose to eliminate the charge for attending the annual meeting and picnic. **Due to years of good management the club has a substantial balance in our accounts.** We've been working in reducing expenses. There have been two major contributions to our reduced expenses. The first is reduced mailing costs due to electronic delivery of schedules and *Hiker High Points*. The second is the elimination of our storage locker for tools. Mike Jenkins currently stores most of them at his house, and saves the club over \$1,000 compared to past years.

**We gave out two awards at the June outing.** John and Sally Heyn received the Hike Leader's award, which was very

appropriate since they were the leaders of our traditional hike before the meeting. Dick Behrens received the Outstanding Service Award. Sadly, Dick passed away just a few months after receiving this recognition.

**We recognized several people with awards at the December holiday party.** Mike Jenkins and Bob Cave were both honored with AT Silver Service Awards for 25 years of work on the Appalachian Trail. Mike was present to receive his award, and stayed at the front of the room to receive the Eleanor Sewell Award for lifetime achievement.

Karen Klinedinst and Steve Williams received the Unsung Heroine and Unsung Hero awards. Duncan Crawford was an impromptu speaker at the holiday party. We had planned to have no speaker. Duncan again provided the computer and projector for the president's presentation. After the award presentations were complete he started with a few vacation

photos. It turned into a very interesting overview of his vacation in Newfoundland.

**As always there were several items related to publicity.** We participated in a partner promotion day at the REI in Timonium, and we exhibited at a health fair in Howard County. We sponsored a hike and a display at the Duncannon Trail Day. We also had a table at the Boiling Springs Foundry Day. We continue to promote electronic communication, and encourage everyone to select e-mail receipt of trip schedules and the *Hiker High Points*. This has significantly reduced our mailing expenses. Finally, we got business cards for hike leaders to hand out. We also got cards for our Supervisor of Trails, Shelters Supervisor and our Monitoring Coordinator.

**There were two environmental service projects this past year.** We again performed a trash cleaning at Loch Raven, and again this was part of Project Clean Stream. The other event was conducted in two parts at Hunters Run. In the spring we removed invasive plants. In the autumn we planted a series of native trees and other plants. This planting serves as an unofficial memorial to our past members. We've received a number of donations in memory of deceased members, and this was a very appropriate way to honor them.

**We continued providing grants from the Miles Fund.** The Miles Fund is named for former member Lester Miles, who bequeathed \$200,000 to MCM. Earnings from the fund are

*(Continued on p. 2)*



(PRESIDENT'S REPORT, continued from p. 1)

used to provide grants to non-profit organizations for projects that fall within the founding goals of MCM. This year grants totaling \$18,000 were given for three projects. One grant was given to the Catoctin Forest Alliance to provide funding for an intern. Another was given to support student trail work for Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Our final grant was given to fund trail etiquette signs throughout local parks. These signs are for multi-use trails, and include our logo. Our records indicate we've now given a total of 27 grants totaling approximately \$57,000.

**MCM is responsible for maintenance of 42.2 miles of the Appalachian Trail and four AT shelters.** The sections of trail we maintain are in PA and MD. There are many

individual maintainers, who take responsibility for a section of trail. We also have work trips for both shelters and trail sections. We have several individuals who put in the effort to get certified as sawyers. There are also several people who contribute by monitoring the boundary. Our Supervisor of Trails, Mike Jenkins, indicates that 68 individuals were involved in AT maintenance with a total time commitment of approximately 2450 hours.

We also perform light maintenance and monitoring of the Valley View and Tall Poplar trails in Patapsco Valley State Park. Tom Watts, who headed up this effort, transitioned responsibility for coordination to Bob Grossman.

Our financial records for the year are summarized below.

<b>Income:</b>		<b>Expenses:</b>	
Membership Dues	13,331	Publications (printing, mailing, postage)	4797
Donations and Patches	3,055	Publicity	502
Guest Fees	508	Trails and Shelters	3060
Savings Interest	22	Administration	1149
Miscellaneous	245	Training (First Aid, etc.)	0
		Partnership Meetings	823
		Annual Lunch Meeting and Holiday Party	1836
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,161</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,167</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Johnson, President, MCM

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014**  
**MCM 80th ANNIVERSARY**

This year marks our club's 80th Anniversary.

We are planning a day of hikes, refreshments, and social activities at Gathland State Park near Burkittsville, MD. We have reserved the covered park pavilion.

Come join us as we retrace the footsteps of our founders' first MCM hike in 1934. We will offer two hikes on the Appalachian Trail from Crampton Gap to Weverton Cliffs. Hikers can choose between a 12-mile out-and-back hike and a 7-mile hike that ends at Weverton. We will provide transportation for hikers from Weverton back to Gathland State Park.

All club members are invited to attend the event even if you are not planning to hike. Please come out and enjoy the park, refreshments, and the company of other club members.

We will provide information about the event on the MCM listserv as we get closer to the date.

We will organize car pools from the Route 32 Park and Ride just north of Interstate 70 (Exit 80). Car pools will depart promptly at 8:00am and return following the event. Car pool cost is \$6.00.

To register for the hikes or the event, please contact Mike O'Connor at 410-871-0066 or email sharonmike2002@msn.com. Please register by Monday, October 13, so that we know how many members to plan for.

**CPR/AED/First Aid Classes**  
**Coming this Fall**

*Leslie Marcuse*

This fall, MCM will sponsor two CPR/AED/First Aid classes through the American Red Cross for Mountain Club hike leaders and trail maintainers. This program will teach skills that participants need to know to give immediate care to a suddenly injured or ill person until more advanced medical personnel arrive and can take over. The class will last just over 5 hours including breaks.

One class is offered on Saturday, September 13th from 9 AM to 2:15 PM. The other class is offered Tuesday, September 30th from 10 AM to 3:15 PM. Both classes will be held at the Red Cross Central Maryland Chapter building at 4800 Mount Hope Drive, Baltimore, Maryland.

Pre-registration is required. The registration deadline for the September 13 class is August 24. The deadline for the September 30 class is September 9. Space is limited and registration will be first come, first served, so please register as soon as you know you are available. These classes will be offered at no charge to hike leaders and trail maintainers. MCM members who are not hike leaders or trail maintainers may fill a class if space is available but will be personally responsible for the \$90 cost of the class.

**To register for one of these classes, see the registration form on page 8.**



## ALONG THE TRAIL

On March 26, twelve intrepid hikers braved the wind and near-freezing temperatures to hike in Greenbelt National Park, which still showed evidence of the snowfall the previous day. They began in Historic Greenbelt (circa 1939); headed along the Greenbelt lake, observing the tree damage resulting from the controversial “coexist with the beavers” policy; hiked across the street and hiked the perimeter trail in Greenbelt National Park before returning. The hike was led by a first-time leader and one hiker was a new member on his first hike.

— Joy Allchin



Twelve hikers explored the top of the Prettyboy Watershed on Saturday, April 5, 2014. On the first loop we hiked to River Valley Ranch, a Rodeo Summer Camp for kids, and then followed the Gunpowder River on an old horse and buggy trail. We found several small pools filled with tadpole eggs and the remains of major beaver chew on trees. On the second loop we went to the Prettyboy Cave with flashlights to view tri-colored bats still in hibernation hanging from the ceiling. After the cave we traveled a short distance to a great waterfall at Betty’s Run. The last loop we viewed the Hoffman historical graveyard with graves dating back to the 1700s and then we ventured through Hemlock Gorge, a beautiful rocky river gorge that makes you feel like you are in New England.

— Caryn Joachim



*Hikers silhouetted against a frozen-over Prettyboy Reservoir on a January hike.*

*Photo: Marcie Schubert*



*Lunch break along the Monocacy...on a lovely April day.*



*The Bluebells and Spring Beauties were in bloom!*

*Photos:  
Wayne Lipscomb*



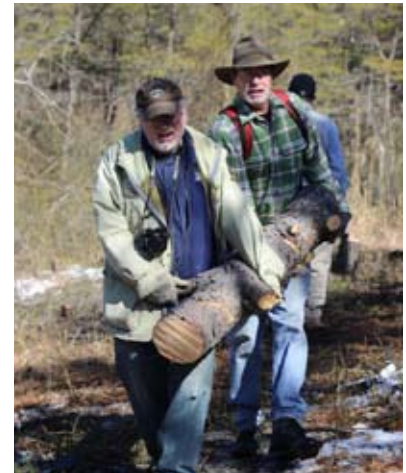
## Serpentine Restoration Continues at Robert E. Lee Park

*Dwight Johnson*

The Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council has undertaken a multi-year restoration project in the serpentine area of the park, which is located just north of Baltimore City. The warm but somewhat wet weekend of February 22 and 23 saw the continuation of that project. Robert E. Lee Park, also known as Lake Roland, has long been a hiking venue for the Mountain Club.

The serpentine area at Robert E. Lee Park is within the same outcrop as Soldiers Delight Natural Area in western Baltimore Co. and it contains some of the same rare and uncommon plants such as Whorled Milkweed and Fameflower, and uncommon animals such as the Falcate Orangetip butterfly, whose larva food plant, Lyre-leaved Rockcress, is abundant in the serpentine. Both of these globally rare prairie grassland plant communities have been threatened in recent years by the spread of

Europeans and African-Americans. At Soldiers Delight the Department of Natural Resources uses fire to remove pine trees. At Robert E. Lee Park, located inside the beltway and close to commercial and residential properties, fire is not an option. Restoration is being done the old fashioned way by cutting had hauling the trees (and greenbrier) out. This takes a lot of work.



*John Eckard and Dwight Johnson hauling a log.*

The Nature Council asked a number of organizations for volunteers and got a tremendous response. Over fifty volunteers including eight MCM members, plus 3 park rangers, worked hard and had fun (I hope), felling trees, removing and chipping branches, and cutting greenbrier. We removed 119 trees, more than doubling the restoration area. Next January, look for another call for volunteers as the project continues.



*John Heyn pulling brush.*

I would like to thank fellow MCM members: **Kimberly Born, John Eckard, Tom Fedewa, John Heyn, Erica Jongen, Don Kempel and Frank Sigwart** for their hours of hard work.



*MCMers on the Saturday morning crew: Kim Born, Frank Sigwart, Dwight Johnson and John Eckard.*

Virginia Pines. These grasslands were historically maintained by human activities, first by Native Americans and then by

### Back to Hunter's Run, May 17

*"We had a great day in the field. Mike (Jenkins) and Bill (Saunders) brought a nice assortment of native trees, and a few black-eyed Susans, so we spent the morning planting. Then we tackled some invasives, including approximately 85 pounds of garlic mustard which I've submitted to the Stewardship Network's Garlic Mustard Challenge. We also checked on all of last years plantings and trimmed any invasives climbing on native trees."*

*Marian Orlousky  
Northern Resource Management Coordinator  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy*





## Project Clean Stream at Loch Raven

Peter Johnson

On Saturday, April 5, MCM once again participated in Project Clean Stream, just one of our many efforts to support local trails. For the third year in a row we cleaned the same section of the Loch Raven Reservoir. For Project Clean Stream it's designated as Loch Raven Zone C. For us it's the southern portion of the Merryman Trail. It's located just west of the bridge on Dulaney Valley Road.

We had 15 participants in the event. This was an adequate number, as the amount of trash is lower than past years. We collected an estimated 500 pounds of trash. We noticed a greatly reduced amount of older trash. This section hadn't been cleaned for several years when we first started. We're now seeing the positive results of our efforts.

We found the usual items—bottles, cans, shoes, tires and underwear. This last item always brings some laughter and speculation. We recovered an old computer monitor. We had

seen one in the water in the past, but had been unable to reach it. This was probably the same one, but we can't be sure.

The primary sources of trash are roadside trash and bank fishermen. The roadside trash includes the items washed downstream. There is essentially no trash on the trails, which speaks very well of the hiking community.

Our cleaning event followed the same format we've used in the past. We cleaned for approximately 3 hours. At the conclusion of the cleaning effort we had a short hike and stopped for lunch. All enjoy the view of the nesting eagles.

Participants in these events invariably become more aware of the trash that's out there. While hiking, especially at a fast pace, it's easy to miss the trash while engaged in conversation or watching the trail. Our efforts, along with many other groups, have helped to make this an area that's more enjoyable and more natural. Thanks to all who participated.



### Ensign Cowall Shelter, April 23

Here is a little blurb about the invasive project hosted by Marian Orlousky of ATC on April 23rd on the AT in Maryland near the Ensign Cowall Shelter.

*“A teacher from Middletown High School in MD, named Sharon Steger, recently contacted me about doing an invasive work project with her students in the spring. Sharon went through the TTEC (Trail To Every Classroom) program and has been interested in getting her students to the Trail for a while now.”*

Marian Orlousky  
Northern Resource Management Coordinator  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy



## What is monitoring?

*Andy Buttles, Monitor Coordinator*

Where the AT passes through unprotected areas, there is a corridor of varying width which borders it. The edges of that corridor need to be checked periodically to ensure that no one has encroached on the land. In the past, people have parked cars and boats, built campsites, built fences, and dumped garbage on AT lands. Recently, old asbestos laden concrete pipes have been found within the corridor, as have some kids target shooting. Last year, we even found workers who had logged seven acres of AT land. Once the monitors discovered these, they were reported, and the problems addressed.

**Where do we monitor?** MCM monitors the AT corridor from roughly Duncannon, PA, to southwest of Boiling Springs, PA, almost to the James Fry Shelter. Not all the trail is moni-

tored, rather only the land that the National Park Service owns.

**Who monitors?** For the Mountain Club, these people are the volunteers who monitor the trail. They all deserve a pat on the back (actually they deserve more, but...): **Dan McQueen** (past Monitor Coordinator), **Christi Hoover**, **Bob Blanset** (who also monitors the White Rocks Trail), **Dave Smith**, **Vern Graham**, **Peter Johnson**, **Ron Cully**, **Lisa Tuzo**, **John Knepley**, and **Barbara Knepley**. **Mike O'Connor** has volunteered to be our newest monitor, and will be taking a section this spring. Over 40 other people have helped assist with monitoring over the years.

## MAN VS. PORCUPINE: Challenges in Protecting Hiking Shelters on the AT

*Bill Saunders and Peter Johnson*

The Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) maintains a stretch of approximately 40 miles of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in Pennsylvania. MCM's responsibility includes taking care of four AT hiking shelters and their accompanying privies. In recent years, MCM has experienced porcupine damages at two of its AT shelters: the Darlington shelter near Enola, PA, and the Cove Mountain



*Damage to the privy...*

shelter near Duncannon, PA. There had been damage at the Cove Mountain shelter, but it had been relatively limited in scope. In 2011, MCM observed more significant damage at Cove Mountain and in particular at our newly-constructed privy. For the first time we saw significant gnawing damage on Darlington shelter and the nearby privy. According to the general literature, porcupines seek the salt present in the glues incorporated in plywood. The Cove Mountain shelter was made with boards from a horse barn. We believe there is salt from horse sweat in the boards.

MCM began a series of steps to deter further damage, coordinated by the club's Shelters Chairperson (previously Peter Johnson, and presently Bill Saunders). Our activities have been somewhat exploratory: if one effort is unsuccessful, we try another idea. Our first step at the Darlington shelter involved painting the outside walls around the base of the buildings with a stain containing animal repellent. This step served as a deterrent on the shelter, but not the privy. When additional damage was observed on the privy, we stapled plastic poultry fencing to the outside as an experiment. This appeared to be successful,

so we implemented a long-term solution and replaced the plastic with galvanized metal garden fencing—designed to keep rabbits and other small animals out of gardens—to the outside of the entire privy building. This fencing served as a protective barrier, 27 inches in height, along the base of the structure. These measures have proven effective, at least temporarily: there has been no new porcupine damage on either the shelter or the privy since the summer of 2012.

However, successful porcupine deterrence at the Cove Mountain shelter proved to be more difficult. The shelter hiking log, as well as direct reports from hikers, indicated that the Cove Mountain “critters” were more aggressive. In addition to gnawing on the outside of the buildings, which hikers compared to the noise of sawing, the porcupines often entered the shelter at night while hikers were present, boldly entering via the wooden steps and climbing to the rafters where they would spend the nights sleeping or gnawing. Not surprisingly, hikers



*...and the aluminum flashing.*

found both the noise and the animals' presence to be annoying or even frightening. MCM's first deterrent efforts at Cove Mountain took place late in 2013. We covered the outside of the privy walls with the same rabbit wire that has been an effective guard at the Darlington privy. To protect the shelter, our volunteers removed the wooden steps and replaced them with more rustic steps built by piling several large flat rocks. There is an eighteen-inch gap between the top stone and the shelter; hikers must step across and up to enter.

*(Continued on p. 7)*

# New members for January–April 2013

ARIS, Brandon	GREEN, Yaitza	LOECHEL, Mark P	RIBAR, Gary & Marybeth
AUSTRAGER, Robin	HARPER, Joseph & Gabrielle	MANZOOR, Lubna	RUEHRIG, Dagmar
BAXTER, Mary W	HARRISON, Steve & Sarah	McCOY, Melvin	SCHIFFER, Barry & Judy
BIRKENRUTH, Todd	HARRISON, Sarah	MILLS, Carol B	SIGWART, Francis
BOEBEL, Amy Jean	JOHNSON, Alice K	MOORE, Dorothy	SNYDER, Mike & Stacy
CHIN, Helen	JONES, Douglas W	NORMAN, Janet	STRATIGEAS, Linda
COE, Michael F	KATAFIASZ, Ken & Rosie	ORWIG, Philip D	TALARICO, Jane
EATON, Jeff & Bonnie	KEEFER, Mark	PARGAMENT, Jackie	PASKOWSKY, Michael
FOYE, Keith A	KOEHNLEIN, Barbra	PEDDICORD, Liz	VELTHUIS, Heather
FREEMAN, Edwin & Erica	KOSTECKY, Kristen	PIERRE, Bobbi	YATES, Bill
FURNARI, Theresa A	LADUE, George	PIERRE, Colleen	
GRAY, Rachel	LOBO, Ken & Christine	PREVAS, Brenda	

*For new members' contact information, log onto the MCM website ([www.mcomd.org](http://www.mcomd.org)) as a member, click on "About Us", then "Document Repository", then "MCM Directory".*

*(PORCUPINES, continued from p. 1)*

We hoped that porcupines would be unable to bridge that gap. We also screwed a strip of brown aluminum flashing across the facing along the front base of the building—so even if the animals could reach across the gap, they would not be able to dig their claws into the wood and pull themselves up into the shelter.

When the spring of 2013 arrived, we found that the local porcupines were not daunted by these measures. Hikers reported that the animals were now climbing up the outside walls of the shelter, squeezing through the space between the walls and the roof, and then resuming their position among the rafters. Unlike our success at the Darlington privy, the critters also refused to be deterred by the rabbit wire. They climbed the fencing surrounding the privy tank and gnawed the plywood and boards above the wire; in some areas they chewed through the plywood to expose the underlying liner of the privy tank on both sides. Gnawing damage on the plywood on the top of the privy tank showed that the animals were even able to climb onto the top of the privy tank.

After observing the latest damage, MCM tried another set of countermeasures. We covered the base of the outside shelter walls (the rear and two sides) with twenty-inch aluminum flashing, in hopes that this would keep the animals from digging their claws into the boards and climbing the outside walls. We also repaired the seriously damaged areas on the sides of the privy tank by covering them with plywood patches. More importantly, we covered the sides of the privy tank with the same aluminum flashing used on the shelter to prevent further gnawing damage, and also to keep the

animals from climbing onto the top of the tank.

So far, these latest efforts have had some success. Since the flashing was installed in June 2013, there has been no more damage on the privy tank, indicating that the porcupines are unable to climb the aluminum-covered sides. Likewise, the hiking logs have contained no new reports of the animals entering the shelter (although there are regular mentions of porcupines loitering outside the building). However, we have observed shredding damage of the aluminum (from their claws or teeth) at the corners of the tank, showing that the porcupines have not given up their onslaught.

MCM has drawn several lessons from our experience to date. First, there is no easy or broadly-applicable solution to prevent porcupine damage to AT shelters. Porcupines can be very persistent, and solutions that are effective at one site may not be sufficient at another. Moreover, as the animal's tactics evolve, human's countermeasures need to do the same.

In addition, even effective measures will need monitoring and repair. For example, the aluminum flashing at the front of the shelter entrance tends to tear from hikers' repeated steps as they enter the Cove Mountain shelter. The tears create a safety hazard and we have found it necessary to regularly make repairs. In the future we will seek to replace that section of flashing with heavier duty aluminum.

In the long term, as buildings are replaced, we will consider whether and how to avoid the use of plywood on the outside walls in order to reduce their attractiveness to our forest friends.

## *In Memory Of...*

**Vance Kopp**

March 5, 1930 – May 10, 2014  
MCM member since 1990

## Deadline for next issue of Hiker High Points

Please note that any news articles, photographs, notices or other material you would like to submit for publication in the next *Hiker High Points* must be received no later than **September 4, 2014**.

Send materials to Rosie Suit's email address:

[rosalind.suit@verizon.net](mailto:rosalind.suit@verizon.net).

Photos should be sent in original size, with caption information: event, place, date, identity of persons in the photo, photographer's name, etc.



# MOUNTAIN CLUB OF MARYLAND

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[email.list@mcomd.org](mailto:email.list@mcomd.org)

## CPR/AED/First Aid Class Registration

Name (as it should appear on Certification): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Class selection** (check one, or if possible, indicate first and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice):

\_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday, September 13 9 AM – 2:15PM**

*For this class, register by August 24<sup>th</sup>.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. 10 AM – 3:15 PM**

*For this class, register by September 9<sup>th</sup>.*

**Class Location: Red Cross Central Maryland Chapter, 4800 Mount Hope Drive, Baltimore MD**

*Registration is a commitment to attend. MCM will reserve a place for you in the class and pay the Red Cross for your participation in the class. If you become ill or have any reason you cannot attend, please contact Leslie Marcuse as soon as possible so she can try to fill your spot with someone on the waiting list.*

**Return form to:**

Leslie Marcuse, 6621 Rising Waves Way, Columbia, Maryland, 21044

**Or return by email to: [lmarcuse100@gmail.com](mailto:lmarcuse100@gmail.com)**