



Myron Avery Award – November 2014

Pete Brown

Pete Brown is District Manager for the North Chapter and has long been looked up to as the leader of this group of trail volunteers. He has created a culture of collaboration and camaraderie that enables this small group to accomplish an extraordinary amount of work. In the last year this has included four major construction projects: remodeling Little Cove cabin, constructing the Charlie Irvin shelter, rebuilding Silberman bridge, and developing a state-of-the art North Chapter website. Under Pete's leadership, the North Chapter Yankee Clippers worked on these projects simultaneously!

This past August, PATC leaders, forest service staff, and other guests joined the Yankee Clippers to celebrate the official dedication of Little Cove cabin. While work on Little Cove began several years ago, this past year Pete organized 10 weekend work trips to complete major renovations to this once decrepit hunting lodge. This beautifully rebuilt cabin features a 3-sided wrap-around porch, gourmet kitchen, custom stone work, finely crafted interior wood work, and many other features. Pete carefully coordinated this complex cabin reconstruction, all of which (except for some electrical work) was performed by Yankee Clippers primarily using materials found on the 160-acre Little Cove property. Thanks to Pete's leadership and coordination, working with construction guru Al Black and cabin overseer Gene Leese, the Yankee Clippers transformed this property into one of the most sought-after cabins in the PATC rental system.

Work on constructing the Charlie Irvin shelter also occurred during this past year. The major challenge was transporting 2 tons of materials across a half-mile newly-created stretch of decomposing granite ridge trail atop the Tuscarora. When hopes of a National Guard helicopter drop vanished, Pete led the effort to carry in the 65 6"x12' logs, 20 80-pound bags of concrete, floor boards, framing lumber, posts, roof deck decking, metal roofing and other materials and tools, as well as the generator to the shelter site. On the day the crew gathered at the material staging area amid the expected grousing, Pete simply picked up a load and everyone else followed. Actual construction of the shelter then began in earnest, with the metal roofing slated for carrying-in and installation in late September.



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The third project involved rebuilding the access bridge to Silberman cabin. Not merely a pedestrian bridge, the Silberman bridge had to be engineered to handle vehicle traffic, including the 40-ton dump trucks that carry stone for the cabin access road. Amidst the other construction worktrips, Pete coordinated multiple Saturday work events where the Yankee Clippers stained bridge timbers, removed the existing bridge deck, and installed the new timbers along with side rails on the 45-foot bridge spanning Aughwick Creek.

Another major “construction” project on Pete’s schedule was redesigning the North Chapter website, which is now informative, creative, and should prove to be an effective recruiting tool. Pete identified a retired IT professional to volunteer to build this state-of-the-art website. Pete then encouraged contributions to the website and along with the web designer, prompted crew members to submit articles and photos documenting the many North Chapter activities.

More important than these projects—and difficult to quantify—is the culture Pete Brown has built among the Yankee Clippers. The norms Pete has established promote a true appreciation of the vast diversity represented by the volunteers he oversees. Members see clearly past the opinions and values that can be divisive, and respect and care for each other. The work gets done because no one wants to let the “other guy” down.

Under Pete’s leadership, the North Chapter is clearly creating impacts for PATC far out of proportion to its size. In addition to the projects mentioned above, Pete started the chapter’s interest in working with land unit managers to tackle invasive plants by bringing Marian Orlousky to the spring Trail Overseers’ meeting. He actively encouraged the expansion of this interest to the point that it is now becoming a focus of the entire club. And of course this is in addition to Pete’s “regular” duties as District Manager, including two worktrips per month to perform trail maintenance on the numerous AT, TT, and side trails the North Chapter maintains. These trails include some of the roughest terrain in all of PATC’s territory.

Pete accomplished all of this while maintaining his own trail sections, attending meetings, and going out during the week to check and perform maintenance on other trails.

The guidelines for nomination of this award indicate that the activities of the nominee be completed in one year. But this year’s accomplishments could not have been achieved by acts in this year alone. They are the result of Pete’s outstanding leadership and efforts during his 20 years of service to PATC.

This nomination is supported by all the members of the Yankee Clippers Trail Crew.