

## Putman Cabin The Spirit Lives On [June/July, 1993 Newsletter]

[This 2<sup>nd</sup> article by Newsletter Editor Jeanne Everitt follows the first one by a year and a half. Again, it is a mixture of history and love for the place, both a celebration and an invitation to all club members to discover it for themselves]

**The Answer:** Quiet (broken only by the rustle of the leaves); secluded (except for an occasional wild animal); beautiful (enhanced by trees, a sloping mountainside and clear water from a bubbling spring).

**The Question:** Describe the Douglas Putman Cabin in 3 words or less.

The idea for TATC's cabin was born with the death of Doug Putman, who at age 24, was killed in an automobile accident. During high school, Doug developed an interest in Scouting which led to his pursuit of hiking the A.T. Many times he'd set off alone, relying on those he met along the trail and at the shelters for companionship.

Following Doug's death, his family searched for a suitable use for his insurance as a tribute to his love of the outdoors. While a student at Richmond's Virginia Commonwealth University, Doug spent much of his spare time on the A.T. section maintained by the TATC. Therefore when looking for an acceptable project, Doug's mother Phyllis P. Sullivan turned to our club for suggestions.

With a gift of \$15,000 from Doug's family, the TATC purchased the 15 acres on which the cabin stands. TATC members built the cabin which was dedicated in 1982, with Doug's family in attendance. Doug's mother was given a life-time membership to the TATC and follows our activities through the newsletter and special events. In a recent letter, Phyllis said, "life will never be the same without my son....but we are so happy that he could provide a shelter for people who love the outdoors the way he did".

Thank you Phyllis for your family's gracious gift. Be assured the spirit of Doug Putman will always remain special to the TATC.

*By Jeanne Everitt*