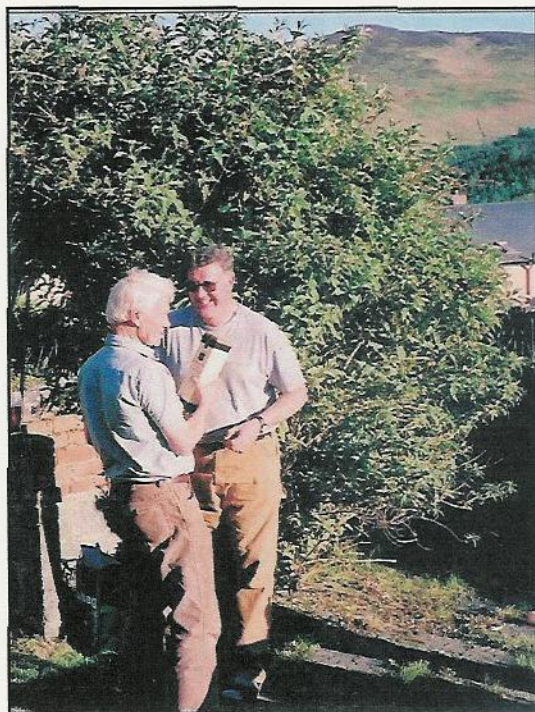


Carlos Fuentes explains: "All the right pieces were available in making our first European and summer Alternative Break project available to students. We want students to become engaged in the communities of which they are or will be part of later in life. We instill within the student volunteers the importance of giving back to society, whether this be local, statewide, national or international."

Student trail team leader, Megan Ann Bell, sums it all up: "I was ecstatic when I found out the Alternative Break program was going to Ireland. I love the outdoors, and trail building, so this trip was ideal and this was a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community while exploring!

Megan says: "I can honestly say that this was the best trip I have ever taken in my life. It was the perfect combination of volunteer work. I loved interacting with the volunteers and getting to know them as individuals. The work was very satisfying. The group enjoyed seeing our progress from start to finish. Everyone got a lot out of the trip and commented on how they wished we could stay longer and do more for it. I would go back in a heartbeat!"

The Irish Sports Council's National Waymarked Ways Committee arranged a farewell barbecue at Glenmalure Lodge for the students. Their work on part of St Kevin's Way went well, during which the students uncovered a lovely pool adjacent to Abhainn Ri and dubbed it with a sign to "St Kevin's Pool".



Bill Murphy presents a 'wee dram' to Gerry Patterson

MOUNTAIN MEITHEAL AGM

At a well supported AGM, held in Dundrum, Dublin on 13 July 2004, the committee was elected as follows: -

Chair:	Bill Murphy
Secretary:	Laurence Lynch
Treasurer:	Frances Hannon
Committee:	Colm O'Callaghan Shay Walsh Mike Dagley Chris Avison Gay Needham

The meeting agreed the annual subscription remains at €20 per year for 2004/5 and that we make every effort to increase the numbers of volunteers needed to work on some excellent projects.