

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com



April 2011 - May 2011

Prez Sez

Yesterday I hiked in the Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve, a beautiful spot near Pickens, South Carolina. My husband and I had been attending the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Southern Partnership Meeting in Hendersonville, NC and stayed an extra day to explore some of the trails down there. My eyes were filled with the natural beauty of the gorge with its waterfalls and awakening spring foliage. I also found myself focusing on the construction of the trail which is maintained by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. I was impressed by the amount of sidehill and switchbacks and by the number of structures (bridges, wooden steps, platform overlooks) that filled the tread. It compared favorably with our section of the AT though we seem to achieve the same high degree of engineering finesse with fewer structures and likely more volunteer hours. I soon found myself recalling a comment made by Pete Irvine, Forest Service Ranger for the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest, at the meeting the previous day. He said that for fiscal year 2010, 6128 individuals had volunteered 213,913 hours on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. For GW-Jeff alone that included 553 people donating 25,765 hours. All of that translates to 12 permanent full-time employees focusing on the AT every day of the year. Pretty impressive, don't you think? Without volunteers, the AT would not be the unique environment and experience that we've all come to treasure.

Other topics covered at the meeting included AT stream crossings and bridge policies, group use on the AT, invasive and exotic species on the AT, updating club local management plans, Trails To Every Classroom (engaging and educating teachers and students about the AT) and the AT Community Partners Program (creating alliances with towns that border the AT). The amount of information covered was tremendous but more important was the sharing of ideas between the southern AT maintaining clubs, the ATC, the Forest Service and the Appalachian Trail Park Office. Though everyone has the same ultimate goal (supporting and maintaining the AT) not all have the same ideas for achieving that goal! Nevertheless, all of these different agency partners can get together, discuss the issues and eventually reach a decision. These meetings involve a lot of talk but ultimately policies are made and implemented and the trail, hikers and maintainers (like TATC) ultimately benefit!

Attending these meetings convinces me that we all play a part in the triumph of the AT-whether we lead trips, dig trail, volunteer at an outreach event or serve as a club officer. What part will you play?

(Continued in next column)

The AT Biennial, **VIRGINIA JOURNEYS 2011**, is only a few short months away. Registration is now open. You can visit the VA Journeys website www.virginia2011.org and register online. The hikes are filling up fast so don't wait too long. Workshops are organized into tracks this time and cover a wide variety of topics. Of particular interest are those sessions emphasizing engaging youth on the trail, the AT Community Partners Program and Volunteer Leadership Development. The only dilemma is not having enough time to attend all of them! Plan to volunteer a few hours to help out with registration, parking, excursions, etc. Information for volunteering is on the website.

I'm looking forward to getting out on the trail for the Walk-Thru in April and Spring Maintenance in May. I hope to see all of you out there as well!

Oh, take a moment and visit the AT website www.appalachiantrail.org and check out the March Volunteer of the Month. I think you'll recognize a very familiar face!

Be safe! Have fun!

Phyllis Neumann

TATC President (president@tidewateratc.com)

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(banner photo by Mark Ferguson)



Visit our website at
www.tidewateratc.com

TATC Club Officers

President	Phyllis Neumann	president@tidewateratc.com	566-4584
Vice President	Jim Newman	vicepres@tidewateratc.com	867-6688
Treasurer	Tim Smith	treasurer@tidewateratc.com	423-8189
Secretary	Helen Buonviri	secretary@tidewateratc.com	613-0751
Trail Supervisor	Mark Connolly	trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com	623-0764
Assistant Trail Supervisor	John Davis	assistantts@tidewateratc.com	366-6628

TATC Counselors

Counselor	Chris Sexton	counselor-cs@tidewateratc.com	484-2827
Counselor	Sandy Butler	counselor-sb@tidewateratc.com	872-9271
Counselor	Nancy Rinkenberger	counselor-nr@tidewateratc.com	623-0334

ATC RPC Representatives

ATC RPC Rep	Ned Kuhns	rpcrep-nk@tidewateratc.com	552-0292
ATC RPC Rep	Mark Wenger	rpcrep-mw@tidewateratc.com	253-0056

TATC Committee Chairs

Cabin	Bob Adkisson	cabin@tidewateratc.com	627-5514
Cabin	Greg Hodges	cabin@tidewateratc.com	439-1552
Calendar	Jane Martin	calendar@tidewateratc.com	363-8464
Education	Bill Rogers	education@tidewateratc.com	484-6001
Hikemaster	Jim Newman	hikemaster@tidewateratc.com	867-6688
Historical	Bob Adkisson	historical@tidewateratc.com	627-5514
Land Management	Bob Giffin	landmgt@tidewateratc.com	495-7002
Local Trails	Bill Buck	localtrails@tidewateratc.com	846-1125
Membership	Mary Hormell	membership@tidewateratc.com	627-2392
Merchandise	Margaret Julian	merchandise@tidewateratc.com	484-0975
Newsletter	Jim Sexton	newsletter@tidewateratc.com	484-2827
Outreach	Mark Wenger	outreach@tidewateratc.com	253-0056
Programs	Dottie Abbott	programs@tidewateratc.com	363-9562
Timekeeper	John and Jane Oakes	timekeeper@tidewateratc.com	467-9633
Tool Boss	Bruce Julian	toolboss@tidewateratc.com	484-0975
Webmaster	Jim Sexton	webmaster@tidewateratc.com	484-2827

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TIME TO RENEW, TIME TO RENEW, TIME TO RENEW, TIME TO RENEW

Membership

March and April are the months to renew your membership in the TATC. Please send your check and application form to the P. O. Box or bring them to the meeting in April. A membership form is included with this newsletter or you can print it from the Web.

There are several new members and some familiar faces from the past who have joined the TATC in the last two months. Greg Seid and Peter Burch (both members from the past) have rejoined as LIFE members. In addition, Ryan Addison & Liliانا Arrington, Keith Koch, Angela Herring, Marisol Morales-Diaz, Mike & Laura McCloughlan, Rus & Veronica Barbour, Nancy Pruden, Ken Veasey, Richard Bachtta, Brooke Schaab, and Richard & Joann McGrew have joined the TATC in the last two months.

Mary Hormell
Membership Committee Chair
membership@tidewateratc.com

Virginia Journey 2011 Registration is Open

Registration for Virginia Journeys 2011 opened March 1, 2011. Plan now to attend at least a portion of this week-long event to be held July 1 — July 8, 2011 at Emory & Henry College in beautiful southwest Virginia. This is the 38th Biennial Conference of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and will feature a wide range of workshops and presentations catering to many interests, excursions, hikes, trail work trips, nightly entertainment and much more. Meet hundreds of fellow hikers and trail enthusiasts; meet the movers and the shakers of the hiking community and learn how things work, and meet the beautiful mountains, cultural and historical treasures of the area.

Visit www.virginia2011.org and learn more. See that it's not only a hiker's dream week, but also offers a rich variety of non-hiking activities that will keep everyone wishing there were more hours in each day.

Registration is open to the public. You do not have to be an ATC member or even a TATC member to attend this event. Volunteers are still needed to lead hikes and excursions, and to staff information desks and perform other functions. Visit www.virginia2011.org for additional information about volunteering.

Don't miss this great event. It is only held every two years and this time it is in our own back yard. Help showcase our beautiful state to those other trail states and showcase the Central and Southwest Virginia Region of ATC.

Trail to Every Classroom

The Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program is a fairly new effort by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). It is a place-based professional development workshop series connecting communities along the Appalachian Trail to promote resource stewardship, recreation, and community engagement.

A Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) is a three-season, multi-disciplinary professional development series for educators aimed at providing the inspiration, knowledge and skills to transform classroom teaching into effective and exciting place-based education. Teachers who participate in TTEC develop their own curriculum that increases student literacy skills and fosters student understanding of, and appreciation for, the public lands connected by the 2,175 miles of the Appalachian Trail. These curricula integrate hands-on study of the natural and cultural resources of communities from Georgia to Maine, addressing concepts in ecology, sense of place, recreation, volunteerism and civics.

ATC is currently looking for club members who would be willing to serve as a liaison or point of contact for TTEC teachers who are seeking assistance in connecting their students to the AT. Ideal volunteers might include members of TATC with an education background or simply anyone with an interest in helping get local area schools more involved with the Appalachian Trail. ATC is also conducting an all expense paid week long TTEC workshop in July for individuals selected to participate in the program.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile program you may contact me (phyllisneumann@hughes.net) or Angie Sheldon, ATC Education and Outreach Coordinator (asheldon@appalachiantrail.org). Visit the ATC website (www.appalachiantrail.org) to read more about TTEC.



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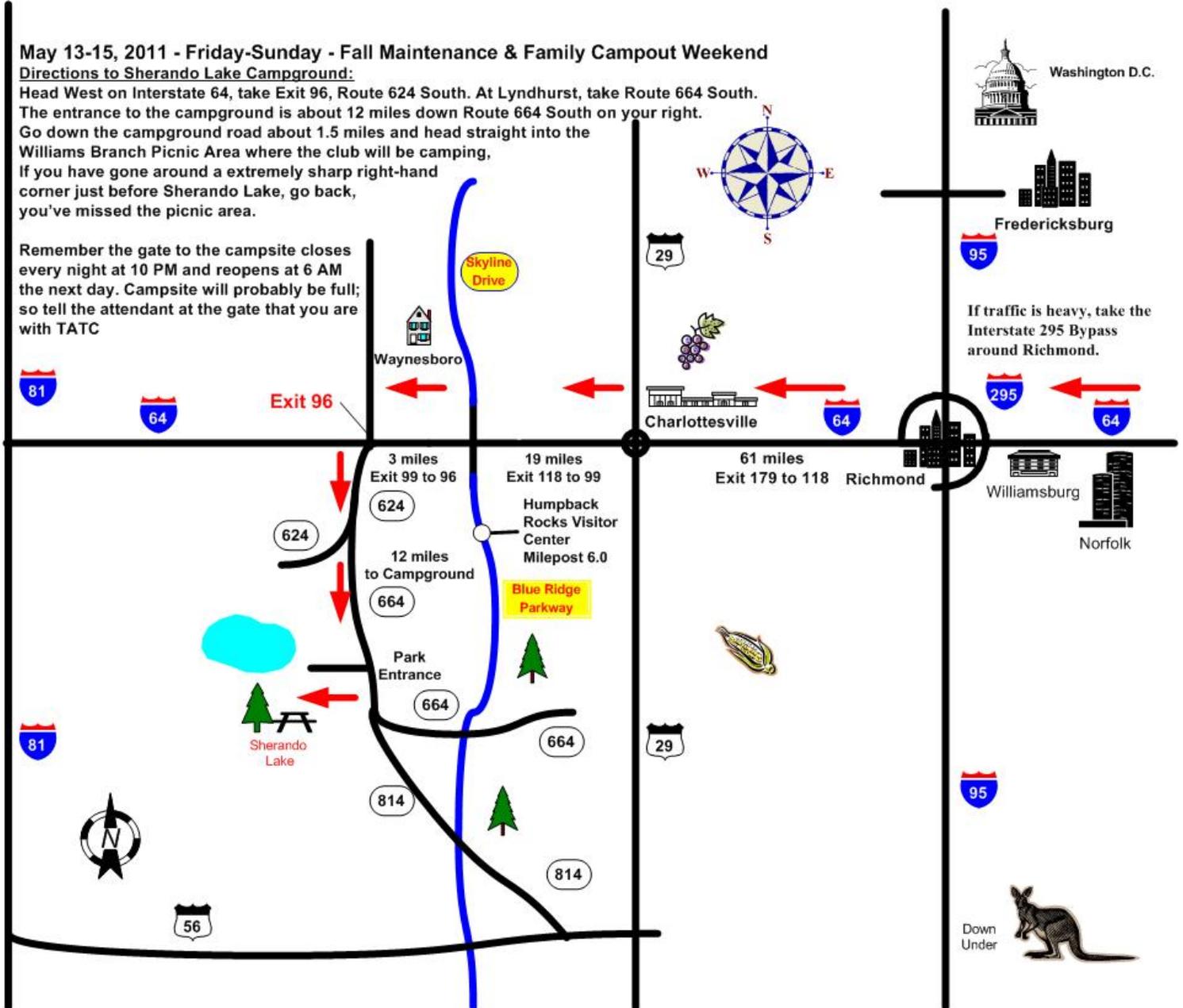


KEEN

Spring Maintenance & Family Campout Weekend May 13-15, 2011 Friday - Sunday

Enjoy the company of like-minded folks as we mix fun with the work of preparing our section of AT for the hiking season. There will be a club-sponsored meal Saturday evening, other meals will be on your own. Bring appropriate clothing, gloves, tent & other necessities. Form-up at 7:45 Saturday morning at our free camping site (Williams Picnic area). If arriving Friday, be aware that entrance gate to Sherando is locked at 10:00PM. Contact Mark Connolly at 623-0764 for more details or to sign-up.

Map:



Cabin Report - 2010

By Bob Adkisson

The 2010 fiscal year for the club ended on Feb. 28th, and the TATC cabin fared very well. Income especially was up - rental fees totaled \$2,345 (this was \$500 better than the previous year, in spite of the fact that the cabin was rented out the exact same number of weekends). By just a smidge, it was the 2nd best year for cabin income ever. The increased income can be attributed to some larger groups staying at the cabin last year, translating into larger rental fees. All in all, last year the cabin was rented 32 weekends; for 17 weekends it sat, vacant, unused, and lonely. There were 3 maintenance / orientation weekend trips, with another, scheduled trip (in Nov.), canceled at the last minute. The cabin was used 47 weeknights last year (weeknight rental is Sunday night thru Thursday night); this was 15 nights better than the previous year. As usual, the cabin is nearly always available on weeknights, and in this area especially, there is the opportunity for greater use by club members - greater usage and no competition! Of course, 17 unused weekends also represents a lot of lost opportunities by club members. The least used months last fiscal year were July and December (each of these months had 5 weekends, and both months 3 out of the 5 weekends went unused). The favorite months were April, May, and October, when every single weekend the cabin was rented. In the spring there was a run of consecutive weekend rentals -13 weekends in a row. Usually there is a similar run in the fall, but this year it was disrupted by 2 vacant weekends, and so fell far short.

The 3 work trips to the cabin went like this:

- In April, 2010, outgoing cabin chairman Steve Babor led a maintenance trip that concentrated on cutting firewood; a new picnic table was also carried in and assembled, and much general inside clean-up work was done;
- In July I led a trip in which we worked on the access road to the cabin, digging dirt and smoothing out some of the rough, rocky spots;
- In September, new cabin co-chair Greg Hodges led an easy going trip in which the wood piles were consolidated and again general clean-up work was done;
- The November work trip was cancelled.

Altogether I counted 6 new club members who came up on one of the 3 work trips, helping with cabin maintenance and qualifying themselves to rent it in the future.

The cabin is so special that this is pretty much our one requirement of new members who would like to use it - to first come up on one of the work trips to discover where it is, how it operates, and how to best take care of it, plus do a bit of work to help maintain it. These work trips are free of charge to those who come (though we might ask you to chip in by bringing a fuel bottle for the lanterns, or a pack of paper towels, etc., the work is hardly ever all that strenuous, and it is only a half mile hike to get there from where you park your vehicle along the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway. There is usually time for some fun hikes, or relaxing, or exploring. Once qualified to rent the cabin, it can be yours anytime in the future- just call (627-5514) to make a reservation or to check on availability; call or email with any questions, anytime.

Greg and I have scheduled 4 maintenance / orientation weekends at the cabin for the coming year. The first one is already almost here: April 15-17. I will lead this trip and we will concentrate on cutting firewood. If you have a chainsaw and would like to bring it and help out, please give me a call and make plans to join us - for all or just part of the weekend. All new members are welcome, as well as regular cabin renters who want to help restock the dwindling wood supply for the coming year. We may go into the nearby town of Waynesboro for dinner Saturday night. Sunday maybe we can get in a short tour of the old Rockfish Gap railroad tunnel (at the time of its construction, it was the longest train tunnel in the world). Greg Hodges had plans to lead a work trip in May, but unforeseen circumstances keep cropping up, and he's had to cancel 2 planned dates so far. Be on the look out (on the TATC website especially) for any new date he comes up with for this trip, sometime this spring or early summer. Greg also has a trip scheduled for the weekend of September 23-25, and then we will co-lead a trip November 11-13.

If you are a new member and anxious both to see our club's impressive cabin and to get yourself qualified to rent it, we hope one of these 4 trips will work out for you - we hope to see you up there. You can stay inside the cabin (it has bunk space for 12), or tent out nearby. All you need is some standard camping gear - nothing fancy required; a sleeping bag and a pad, a change of clothes, some work gloves, food for a couple of meals (breakfast and lunch, especially), and a pack to put it all in (if you don't have a pack, there is a 2 wheeled garden cart inside the cabin that can be used to transport your gear, especially if you want to bring something that is awkward to carry, like a cooler). There is a spring and an outhouse nearby, and the cabin itself is stocked with pots and pans, plates and glasses and silverware, etc. There are also 2 lanterns and a 2 burner, propane fired cook stove.

Again - feel free to call with questions about what to bring, what to expect, how to get there, etc. Also, if needed, it may be possible to arrange a ride with others.

So far, for the April work trip, we only have 5 people signed up. It would be very helpful to have twice that many - cutting and stacking firewood is the biggest chore we have every year, and 'many hands make light work'.

A Season for Maintenance

The forsythia have come and gone, and buds have morphed into leaves on many trees. Daffodils have shown up in banks of blooms and have given way to other flowers. Growth and flowering are gathering energy. We hope to capture some variant of that energy in our membership to go out to our section of the Appalachian Trail for one or more of the maintenance events we have scheduled for this Spring and Summer. These events are based at Sherando Lake Campground, off Route 664 (Mount Torrey Road), south of Lyndhurst, Virginia and Waynesboro. Our section of the A.T. is accessible by driving a short distance from Sherando.

Our first event is the Spring Walk-Through, April 16-17, during which we send out enough people, on a kind of reconnaissance, to find out what has happened to the trails for which we are responsible since the Fall Maintenance. We'll camp in the CCC Kitchen Shelter area, near the upper lake's earthen dam at Sherando. The people we send out on the trails should write down notes on the number of trees downed across the trail and the sizes, the stretches of trail where we'll need to do some cleaning of waterbars, or do some trimming of branch growth, etc. When we summarize all these reports, we'll have a month in between to provide enough prep-time to determine where we should most concentrate our efforts during the Spring Maintenance Weekend, May 13-15, when we camp at the Williams Picnic Area at Sherando. For the Spring Maintenance Weekend, we'll have all our tools available to arm our members for the job of fixing what was discovered during the Walk-Through, and maybe some stuff that's happened in the interval. This is a particularly important event because this, along with our Fall Maintenance, is our greatest club effort at doing what we've been chartered to do: maintain the Appalachian Trail.

So if you go, you'll get a shovel, or rake, or crosscut saw, or pair of loppers, etc., to use for the day with your team. Then, Saturday night, we'll have a large group meal sponsored by TATC to celebrate our day's efforts. And, unless we can get one or more of our previous cooks to assist, we might just have a large pot of chili, rice, and salad.

Mark Connolly
Trail Supervisor
trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

Youth Outreach - Lafayette RiverFest

If one Googles "Riverfest" a list appears with events from all over the USA. Riverfests are family oriented events and checking upon the goal of these Fests an often repeated sentiment proclaims: for area citizens to realize the beauty of their area through parks and rivers. Lafayette RiverFest has just such a goals for their first annual event: To give the Lafayette Watershed community a memorable yearly event supported by smaller year round activities - To offer community identification with the Lafayette River as a place to go for recreation, fun, discoveries, food and tranquility - To provide stewardship opportunities to showcase the river's progress - To engage the entire watershed population in education, stewardship and volunteer efforts.

The Tuesday Group already has contributed to the restoration of the Lafayette River. On May 4, 2010 The Group volunteered to construct Reef Balls at the Gloucester Point campus of VIMS. These very Reef Balls were subsequently covered with spat (baby oysters) and transplanted to the Lafayette River off of The Hermitage on June 28, 2010. Overseeing the Lafayette reef balls the Chesapeake Bay Foundation found to their amazement that the oysters had grown from the size of a flake of oatmeal to 3 inches in just 4 months. One oyster of this size will filter 50 gallons of water per day, thus the oyster removes pollutants from the water, much like a filter in a fish tank. The Tidewater ATC has been offered the opportunity to volunteer at Lafayette RiverFest by assisting at the Water Activities Information Booth. In exchange TATC may distribute our Club Brochures and hopefully attract new members and families.

Volunteers needed:

Water Information Booth: needs 4 volunteers- 2 from 9:30am-12:30pm and 2 from 12:30pm to 4pm

Learning Barge: 2 volunteers- 1 from 9:30am-12:30pm and 1 from 12:30pm to 4pm

Floating Dock: 4 volunteers- 2 from 9:30am-12:30pm and 2 from 12:30pm to 4pm

Lafayette RiverFest Date: April 30, 2011 (Rain Date: May 1,2011)

Location: 500 Block of Mayflower Road in Colonial Place, Norfolk, Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

To sign up: Dottie Abbott/Youth Outreach programs@tidewateratc.com

Become a Certified Sawyer

As one of thirty-one volunteer clubs maintaining the Appalachian Trail, the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club has memorandum of understanding, a kind of contract with the U.S Forest Service. A big part of the contractual agreement between our Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club and the U.S. Forest Service is the focus on the expectation that the volunteers within the various clubs maintaining the A.T. do so with appropriate training and safety. There is particular concern that those using either crosscut saws or chainsaws in the maintenance effort do so as Certified Sawyers, with training conducted by the Forest Service to an established standard. Those who have undergone that training are granted a card recognizing that they have achieved a certain threshold of ability and safety training before they go out to use a saw on the trail. Additionally, the U.S.F.S. certification of sawyers requires as a prerequisite training in both First Aid and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

If you consider that each end of a crosscut saw must have an individual who is a Certified Sawyer recognized by the U.S. Forest Service, you understand that having Certified Sawyers in our club is a critical asset. Just last year, before a fall class that helped us out a lot, we had less than half a dozen individuals in our club certified as Crosscut Sawyers. Although our Tidewater ATC is responsible for a length of less than eleven miles of trail, the majority of the trail, from just south of the Maupin Field Shelter to the southern end of our section of trail at the bridge over the Tye River at State Route 56, is located in the Three Ridges Wilderness Area. One of the characteristics of a Wilderness Area is the assurance that those who enter those areas will not be subjected to the intrusion and sounds of powered equipment or vehicles on their wilderness experience. This is where the U.S.F.S. requirement for using crosscut saws in lieu of chainsaws comes in.

The part of our section of the A.T. between the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway with Route 664 - Reeds Gap - and Maupin Field is outside of the Three Ridges Wilderness Area, and is therefore eligible to be maintained with the use of a chainsaw for removal of any tree obstructing passage on the trail. You can see that it would be handy to have a Chainsaw Sawyer certification card from the U.S. Forest Service if you were on a Spring or Fall Maintenance team that was tasked with clearing away some trees that had been blown down by wind across the trail and the team had been given the club's chainsaw on that part of the trail that is north of Maupin Field. You've concluded that being certified as a Crosscut or Chainsaw Sawyer (or maybe both) by the U.S. Forest Service is an asset to the club. How do you go about it?

Our parent organization, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), headquartered in Harpers Ferry, WV, and with a Virginia Regional Office in Blacksburg, VA, can help both with information and scheduling. Go to the ATC website <www.appalachiantrail.org/>. On the Home page, you can click on "Get Involved" and then "Volunteer" to get to a listing that includes "Training and Workshops." Look on the listing under "Training and Workshops." You'll see a listing of classes and workshops ranging from "New England" to "Mid-Atlantic" to "Central and Southwest Virginia" and "Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee." Unless you're really eager to travel, you can review the classes and workshops offered in "Central and Southwest Virginia" to pick out one that matches your interest and time schedule. Then look over at the left hand side of the page back up near the top, and see that there is a subheading "Sawyer Certification." Clicking on this page will get you access to a blank form for application to a workshop or class, as well as additional information about the prerequisite First Aid/CPR, and getting reimbursement for paying for that class with forms that can be printed out. Other links will familiarize you as student with the classes.

If you have achieved getting a valid First Aid/CPR card, you've taken one barrier out of the way for getting to be a Certified Sawyer. If you haven't yet had the training or if your First Aid card has expired, there is a local class that will assist in this qualification among many. Some of our members have gone to "The Beat Goes On," a First Aid and CPR training center that holds classes usually the second Saturday of the month, located in a Ruritan Club in Kempsville. Try going to the webpage <www.beatgoesoncpr.com/> for information on their class scheduling. Go for the First Aid and CPR for both adults and children. If you take the class and pass, the charge for the class, up to \$65, can be reimbursed by ATC by using a form printed from the "Become a Certified Sawyer" webpage previously mentioned. And, when you later go to the sawyer class, you can show your valid First Aid/CPR card and get your sawyer certification on the spot, if you pass, rather than have to wait to send in a copy of your first aid card later to get them to mail you the Crosscut or Chainsaw Certification.

So - make yourself more valuable to the TATC. Get certified as a Crosscut or Chainsaw Sawyer with the U.S. Forest Service so you can contribute more to helping TATC keep up its section of the A.T.

Mark Connolly
Trail Supervisor
trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com



Activities Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: Most hikes are limited in the number of participants. The hike leader will take reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. You can include your name on the sign up sheets available at each meeting or call the hike leader. If you sign up for an activity and then decide not to participate, please contact the leader in advance.

April 13, 2011, Wednesday TATC General Meeting

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Jim Sexton features a Power Point presentation about the club's Canadian Rockies trip.

April 15-17, Friday - Sunday Cabin Maintenance/Orientation Trip

Bob Adkisson, 627-5514

First of four work trips to the cabin for 2011. Come and help with upkeep of the club's cabin. New members can qualify for independent renting. We will concentrate on chain-sawing firewood. Bring a chainsaw if you have one and wish to help. We will either eat out Saturday night in Waynesboro or possibly share a community meal at the cabin. Call Bob for details or more information.

April 15-17, 2011, Friday - Sunday Appalachian Trail Spring Walk-Through

Mark Connolly, 623-0764

Each of several groups will be assigned a section of trail, doing light maintenance and noting heavier work needed during the maintenance weekend in May. Free camping at Sherando Volunteer Village. Assembly at 7:45 AM Saturday morning. If arriving Friday, be aware that entrance gate is locked at 10:00PM. Bring your own food, appropriate clothing, boots, tent and other necessities.

April 15-17, 2011, Friday - Sunday Hike Tuscarora-Massanutten Loop at Elizabeth Furnace

Mark Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) or markwenger@cox.net

A moderate hike involving less than 13 miles a day and/or generally moderate elevation gain and loss. This is a rain or shine trip. We will leave from 427 Franklin St., Williamsburg at 5:00PM Friday and pick up anyone in Richmond at the Wal-Mart parking lot off I-95 in Ashland exit 92 on the way. We will eat a quick supper on the road and drive I-95 north to 17 then north to I-66 west to exit 6 take 522 south to 55 west to 678 south to Elizabeth Furnace and camp. On Saturday we will hike the Tuscarora west till we intersect with the Massanutten trail for the second time. We will take the Massanutten trail north to the reservoir and camp above the reservoir. This is about 11 miles. On Sunday we will hike north/east the Massanutten trail back to the cars about 5 miles. Get to experience two interesting trails that do not get the attention they deserve.

April 20, 2011, Wednesday 63rd Annual Shad Planking at Wakefield

Jim Newman, RSVP <http://www.Meetup.com/Tidewater-ATC-Meetup> or call 867-6688

This is the granddaddy of Virginia political gatherings. If you are a politics junkie or just a people watcher, this is for you! Enjoy a variety of free beverages, listen to live music, collect "vote-for-me stickers," rub elbows with politicians, observe the media coverage and enjoy a good meal under the pines. Speaker not yet announced. Check www.shadplanking.com for details, updates & tickets (\$20 in advance; \$25 at entrance). We can convoy/carpool by meeting at the Confederate Monument at Isle of Wight Courthouse at noon. For those driving independently, the event is at the Wakefield Sportsmen's Club, 12205 Brittles Mill Rd, Wakefield. Arriving in Wakefield via Rt. 460 westbound, left on W. Main St (Rt. 628). Seven-11 on corner. Proceed 0.6 miles to slight right onto Brittles Mill Rd (Rt. 620). Continue 2.1 miles to directed parking. Goal is to arrive at event a bit before 1:00PM. If penguins can find their offspring among several thousands, we have a fair chance of locating each other in a crowd of a mere 1,000 IF we bring cell phones! Meal included in ticket and is served "when ready" (about 4:00 usually). Website lists menu. Event held rain or shine

April 23, Saturday, 2011 Day Hike at Powhatan Wildlife Management Area

Mark Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) or markwenger@cox.net

An easy hike w/moderate elevation gain & loss. This is a rain or shine trip. We will leave from Williamsburg at 8:00AM Sunday and pick up anyone in Richmond at exit 173 on I-64 at the commuter lot on the way. We will drive 623 south to US250 west to 632 west to US522 south to US60 west to 601 on the left south to the parking lot. We will hike about 12 miles on gentle rolling hills doing one large loop. Pack what you need for a day hike. This is a great day trip to get you ready for Easter.

Continued on Page 10 ...

Activities Schedule

**April 30, 2011, Saturday First Landing State Park Trail Maintenance
Diana Ramsey, 619-0540**

Located off Shore Drive in Virginia Beach, meet with some of your fellow trail club members for some trail work on the Osmanthus Trail. Meet at on the Trails Side of the park at 9:00AM (note directional sign "Trails"). Proceed to the new Visitors Centers parking lot. Work will consist of removing small blow downs & bush trimming. Tools provided. Bring gloves, snack, & water. Lunch to be decided at end of task.

**April 30, 2011, Saturday, 10:00AM-4:00PM Lafayette RiverFest
Dottie Abbott, 363-9562 or programs@tidewateratc.com**

TATC Tuesday group is already invested in this effort by helping at VIMS to construct Reef Balls that were seeded with oyster larva & transplanted to the river. The day promises live music including Norfolk's own Julie Clark, great food and a fantastic menu of activities, all centered around what YOU can do to help make the Lafayette branch of the Elizabeth safe for swimming and eating oysters...by 2014! Yep, that's the goal, and with loads of community partners--including YOU--we'll get there! More than a dozen community organizations join us in presenting River-Fest on the Lafayette, all about understanding and appreciating your home river. Fest site is 500 block of Mayflower Rd in Colonial Place, Norfolk. See website: <http://www.elizabethriver.org/LafayetteRiverFest2011/LafayetteRiverfest.aspx> Click on "Flyer." TATC has been offered the opportunity to volunteer at Water Activities. Info Booth: Two persons, 9:30-12:30 & two, 12:30-4:00. Learning Barge: One person, 9:30-12:30 & one, 12:30-4:00. Floating Dock: Two persons, 9:30-12:30 & two, 12:30-4:00. Please contact Dottie if you can help.

**May 3, 2011, Tuesday - TATC Board of Directors Meeting
Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584**

7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Members are invited to attend.

**May 6-8, 2011, Friday - Sunday Hike Big Schloss and Little Schloss
Mark Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) or markwenger@cox.net**

This is a moderate/strenuous hike involving significant miles and modest to major elevation gain & loss. This is a rain or shine trip. We will leave from 427 Franklin St., Williamsburg at 5:00PM Friday and pick up anyone in Richmond at the WalMart parking lot off I-95 in Ashland, exit 92, on the way. We will eat a quick supper on the road and drive I-95 north to 17 then north to I-66 west to I-81 south to exit 291 east to 11 south to 600 west to 603 west to Van Buren Furnace and camp. On Saturday, we will hike up to the Tuscarora Trail then west to Big Mountain Trail to Big Schloss then backtrack slightly to Big Schloss Cut Off Trail to the road and then to the entrance of Little Stony Creek Trail and camp. This is about 12 miles. On Sunday we will hike the forest road south to Little Sluice Trail over Little Schloss to Bread Road Trail to Cedar Creek Trail to the car which is about 9 miles This has soe big ups and downs each day but it is worth it to do both Schlosses in one weekend.

**May 7, 2011, Saturday New Quarter Park Family Hike - Williamsburg
Bill Rogers, 484-6001**

A family hike of about 3 miles. Bring the kids. The trail offers many turn-backs so folks can hike as long or short as they and the kids like. Bring lunches, lunch beverages, cameras, binoculars, and a piece of plastic or such to sit on during lunch if we're not near a picnic a table. Restrooms available at the starting point. Porta-Potty available at mid-point. Don't forget insect repellent. Trails lead through woods and open fields with some small, gentle hills. Nice views out over Queens Creek and the distant York River. Sorry, trails not suitable for strollers. Directions will be e-mailed. Participation limited. Parents/s or Guardian/s must accompany children. Call Bill for meeting time and place, and to sign on for this fun day.

**May 11, 2011, Wednesday TATC General Meeting
Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584**

7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Program: Hiking the Great Smoky Mountains AT presented by Kevin DuBois

**May 13-15, Friday - Sunday Spring Maintenance & Family Campout Weekend
Mark Connolly, 623-0764**

Enjoy the company of like-minded folks as we mix fun with the work of preparing our section of AT for the hiking season. There will be a club-sponsored meal Saturday evening, other meals will be on your own. Bring appropriate clothing, gloves, tent & other necessities. Form-up at 7:45 Saturday morning at our free camping site (Williams Picnic area). If arriving Friday, be aware that entrance gate to Sherando is locked at 10:00PM

Continued on Page 11 ...

Activities Schedule

May 20-22, 2011, Friday - Monday Cabin Maintenance Trip

Greg Hodges, 757 439-1552 or greg@gregoryhodges.com

Meet at the cabin, ¾ mile off Blue Ridge Parkway as early as 2:00PM on Friday. Bring sleeping bag for hard bunk plus tent if you prefer to sleep outside. Cabin sleeps 12. Community dinner Saturday. Bring food to share plus personal food for other meals. Rent-free cabin stay in exchange for performing light maintenance. Attendance for orientation qualifies new members for cabin rental. Opportunity for hikes, exploration & fun. For more information and directions contact Greg.

May 27-30, 2011, Friday Evening - Monday Backpack Tuscarora Trail

Mark Wenger (Animal) 757 253-0056 or markwenger@cox.net

This is a very strenuous hike, involving 50 miles in three days from Gore, VA to Hancock, MD. Expect some rough trail conditions with major elevation gain & lost each day. We will leave from 427 Franklin St., Williamsburg at 5:00PM Friday & pick up anyone in Richmond at the Wal-Mart parking lot off I-95 in Ashland Exit 92 on the way.

July 1-8, 2011 - The ATC Biennial Conference

Ned Kuhns, rcrep@tidewateratc.com

Emory & Henry College, founded in 1836, will welcome the trail and hiking community to *Virginia Journeys 2011*, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC's) 38th Biennial Conference. The campus encompasses 331 pristine acres and is located one-half mile off Interstate 81 (Exit 26) at Emory, VA. Hosted by the Virginia Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) comprised of the seven A.T. maintaining clubs of Central and Southwest Virginia which includes our own Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC), the conference will bring together some 900 attendees for a week-long event featuring hikes, excursions, workshops, trail work trips, exhibits, entertainment and great opportunities to meet and mix with hikers and trail community leaders from all over the USA. The conference will also feature ATC's Membership Business Meeting at which officers and the Board of Directors will be elected.

NEWS: The ATC Biennial Conference Meeting has a Facebook page. Go to facebook.com & search "Virginia Journeys 2011. You will see lots of pictures of the areas along with suggested local activities. Clicking on "Like It" will enhance our Facebook outreach.

September 23-25, 2011 Friday Evening - Sunday. Rafting the Gauley River

Mark Wenger (Animal) 757 253-0056 or markwenger@cox.net

We will leave from 427 Franklin St., Williamsburg at 5:00PM Friday & pick up anyone in Richmond at exit 173 commuter lot on I-64. We will take I-64 west to Beckley, then 19 north to Oak Hill. We will be camping Friday & Saturday night at ACE Adventures & will be booking our rafting trip through them. There are several trips available but most of us book the marathon which is 23 miles, 110 rapids, both the upper and lower Gauley all in one day. I will be making the reservation June 1 at which time you can make your payment. Go to the ACE website for details. The trip is not cheap, but this is one of the top whitewater rivers in the world, so you've got to be there! We go rain or shine.

Local Trails Maintenance Opportunities: If you would like to receive E-mail notifications about TATC Local Trails Maintenance activities, please send an E-mail to Bill Buck at LocalTrails@tidewateratc.com requesting to be added to the Local Trails E-mail distribution list. Trail maintenance may include weed cutting, brush and tree trimming, removal of small blown down trees, painting of trail blazes, repairing walkways, and creating trails. Other special projects may be performed such as building water bars to prevent erosion, building and repairing foot bridges, as well as building benches and other structures. These skills may also be used to maintain the Appalachian Trail.

Weekday Activity Group: If you would like to receive e-mail notifications of local hikes, bicycle rides, and paddles taking place during the week (usually on **Tuesdays**) please send e-mail to Ellis Malabad malabad2@gmail.com requesting to be added to the "Tuesday Group" e-mail distribution list.

The TATC/Douglas Lee Putman Memorial Cabin is available for rent. You must be a member and first attend an orientation / work weekend in order to rent. The cabin can be reserved 8 weeks (56 days) in advance. Please call Bob Adkisson at 627-5514 if you have any questions, or want to check on availability, or want to make reservations.

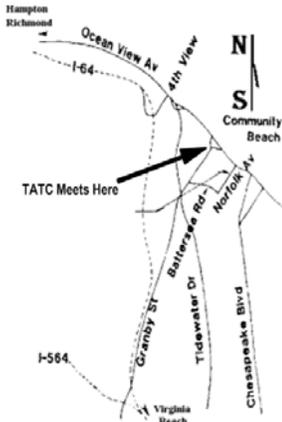
Planning a hike or activity. If you have hike or activities information for a trip you'd like to lead, please call Hikemaster Jim Newman at 867-6688 to leave a message or e-mail at Hikemaster@TidewaterATC.com with all information to be inserted or updated. **ALL ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THIS SCHEDULE ROUTE THROUGH THE HIKEMASTER WHO FORWARDS SUCH TO THE WEBMASTER FOR WEBSITE UPDATES.** If you e-mail these items, be sure to identify yourself by full name and mention that this is a TATC event. Blank Sign-up sheets can be printed from the TATC website. **After the event, please return completed sign-up sheets to the Hikemaster, so they can be retrieved from file for a period of several years. You may take sign-up sheets to the board or general meeting following the event, or mail them to the Hikemaster: Jim Newman, 102 N. Fern Cove Court, Yorktown, VA 23693**



Tidewater Appalachian
Trail Club
P. O. Box 8246
Norfolk, VA 23503-0246

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TATC Meetings are held at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA

From Peninsula: Take 64 East to 4th View Exit 273. At bottom of ramp, turn left at stop sign, turn right onto Ocean View Ave and follow over Tidewater Drive to Granby St. Take right onto Granby St., take next right onto A View Ave, and then immediately turn right onto Portview Ave., bear right around the Library into the Library parking lot, meeting is held in Meeting Room #2

From Norfolk and Virginia Beach: Take 64 West toward Hampton/Richmond. Take the Chesapeake Blvd. exit. Go to end of Chesapeake Blvd., then turn left onto Ocean View Ave. and take left onto Granby St., take next right onto A View Ave, and then immediately turn right onto Portview Ave., bear right around the Library into the Library parking lot, meeting is held in Meeting Room # 2

