

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com



April 2012 - May 2012

Prez Sez

As a new TATC president, I find myself giving more time than usual to club matters and as a result my brain is busy with new and exciting ideas. This is good and has encouraging possibilities for maintaining my mental processes, rusted a bit after 20 years of retirement. Allow me to share some examples:

First of all, about the club's 40th Anniversary: Almost always, anniversaries are measured in years, but for a new take, let's consider this milestone event in generational terms. A generation is generally the time between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring, or approximately 25 years, thus four generations would be represented by...

- Great grandparents
- Grandparents
- Parents
- Children/Young Adults

The vast majority of TATC members are grandparents and parents with two known great grandparents and a growing number of young members who are not parents. So, it is clear that the club's membership spans four generations--a positive that allows an orderly progression of volunteers as the years pass and for valuable learning among generations as we work together toward the common purpose of maintaining 10+ miles of Appalachian Trail.

Here's another generational thought: Let's consider the club as a whole. The twenty-five years from the founding in 1972 to the year 1997 represent the first generation of TATC's existence. This puts us currently 15 years into the second generation ending in 2022, at which time the torch will be passed to a third generation! Thanks to our dedicated members and to our outreach to youth, I have every confidence that TATC will be in good hands for the foreseeable future.

(Continued in next column ...)

On another note: Now that pre-spring (aka winter) has passed into full-blown spring, my mind dwells on our busy May responsibilities involving a trail walk-thru May 5-6; maintenance weekend 11-13 and Konnarock 24-28—the most crowded month we have seen in a long while, and unavoidably having one of these weekends compete with Mother's Day! But, despite it all, this club will see it through, even if some of us "pack up" mother, take her along, and make the experience part of the generational thing!

Hope for reasonable May weather & consider car pooling!

Jim Newman
President
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www.tidewateratc.com

(banner photo by Mark Ferguson)

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Membership

TIME TO RENEW *TIME TO RENEW* TIME TO RENEW *TIME TO RENEW* TIME TO RENEW

Our renewal period is March and April of each year. Your card reads that you are a member until the end of February. Please renew by the end of April for the year March 1, 2012 to Feb. 28, 2013. Call Mary Hormell at 627-2392 or e-mail if you have questions or comments. We require that you fill out a new form each year. An application form is included in this newsletter and it can also be downloaded from our website; www.tidewateratc.com

Welcome to the following new and returning members: Mike & Nancy Rexroad, Ken Goldsmith, Paul Kendall, Tina Condon, Tom Linwood & Rosanne Howard, Drew Duncan, Eddie Hill, Jean-Paul Richard, Bruce Liles & Sarah Bushey, Josephine Magurn, Richard Rodriquez & Barbara Acuna, Matthew & Maureen Aylward.

Mary Hormell
Membership Committee Chair
membership@tidewateratc.com

Happy 40th Anniversary TATC!

By Phyllis Neumann

TATC celebrated "40 years of Fun and Adventure" at Grand Affairs in Virginia Beach on Saturday March 24th. The months of planning and hard work were well worth the effort as evidenced by the fine turn out and exuberant atmosphere. Nearly 200 eager revelers gathered in the waiting area outside the banquet hall well in advance of the 7pm start time. Once the doors opened, the crowd was met by an elegant ballroom, beautifully decorated tables and the gentle sounds of harp music performed by Judy Kernell. The social hour was just that, as members, former members and special guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres while renewing old friendships and beginning new ones. Folks came from as far away as California to celebrate this milestone!

The evening began with a ceremonial cutting of a cake, emblazoned with the TATC logo, by crosscut saw! Making the cut were club members Bob Giffin, Dewey Phelps, Marilyn Horvath, Pat Strong, Reese Lukei and Phyllis Neumann.

Special guests included Theresa Duffey (President of ODATC), Trudy Phillips (President of NBATC), Dave Benavitch (our Forest Service liaison for many years), Laura Belleville (Director of Conservation for ATC) and Steve Paradis (Chief Operating Officer for ATC). Our speakers were Mark Wenger (TATCer and Executive Director of ATC), Pam Underhill (Park Manager for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail), Annie Downing (District Ranger for Glenwood/Pedlar) and Fred Hazelwood (District Manager, VA DCR). Pam presented a beautiful NPS plaque to TATC President Jim Newman and also handed out 25 year Service Awards to Susan Gail Arey, Rick Hancock and Pat Strong. Grand Affairs served a delicious meal, towards the end of which we all enjoyed a poignant slide show edited by Steve Ralph. He had spent many weeks collecting prints and digital images from members to chronicle the club's history. Guest were transfixed as they watched themselves get younger and younger up on the screen!

Recognition was given to past TATC Presidents, the Met and Marrieds and the 2000 Milers. All members were honored and asked to show how many years they'd been in the club. Happily, there were quite a few from the very beginning!

The 40th Anniversary video produced, directed and edited by Rosanne Scott was the highlight of the evening. We watched as several TATCers gave heartfelt testimonials, all profound and fervently sincere, expressing how grateful they were for what the club has done for them. There were confessions of long held secrets and some recollections that were painfully downright funny! It is a memorable film for TATC posterity.

The evening ended with the induction of the 2012-2013 Board of Directors and the passing of the official TATC gavel to President Jim Newman.

All guests received a commemorative TATC 40th Anniversary mug and bandanna (collector's items already!) and the memory of an outstanding evening of fellowship celebrated with good friends. Many thanks to my fellow 40th Anniversary Committee members, without whom this event would not have been such a tremendous success: Reese Lukei, Rosanne Scott, Ned Kuhns, Marti Malabad, Steve Ralph, Mark Connolly, Jane Martin, Ann Smith, Margaret Pisone and Beth Ewing.

See you at the 50th...



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TATC Cabin

By Bob Adkisson

With the club's 2011 fiscal year ending Feb.29, 2012, it is time once again for the annual cabin report.

In 2011 the TATC cabin fared better than usual, in both income and general usage.

Out of 52 available weekends, the cabin was rented 34 (it has been 7 years since the cabin was used this many weekends).

There were, in addition, 4 maintenance / orientation weekends, spread throughout the year, in which approximately 12 new club members were checked out on cabin operations, contributed some light to moderate work, & became eligible to rent it on their own.

That leaves 14 weekends—14 weekends the cabin went unused and vacant.

There is also weeknight or mid-week usage (Sunday night through Thursday night rentals): in 2011 this stayed at a relatively high level: the cabin was occupied 44 weeknights. But, especially with the number of retired folks in our club, you'd think this number would be much higher, every year. It certainly reflects an opportunity for people wanting to enjoy the cabin, including during the months of prime usage—go up in mid-week, if you possibly can!

The cabin took in \$2310 in rental fees (almost the exact amount as last year), making this the 5th best year ever. As you may know, the \$5 (per person per night) rental fees go to pay the hefty annual insurance bill, the small tax bill, and for a few miscellaneous supply items. The cabin is all but non-profit.

As usual, last year the spring and fall months were by far the most popular time to rent the cabin. For several years recently, March had been a pariah month, seldom used, but last year it was rented all 4 weekends. April and May, strangely enough, each had one unused weekend (they are usually booked up solid-- every single weekend). That left it to the autumn months alone to have a run of 12 straight weekends in a row of usage.

The usually slack summer months did better than usual, with 4 out of 5 weekends in July rented out. July also had one stretch where the cabin was rented 9 nights in a row, back to back rentals by a total of 4 different people!

To off set that, the month of December had 5 weekends in a row with no usage. The month was saved (and savored) only by a small group that spent 3 weeknights there, contributing \$70 to the treasury. Fortunately, after December's dismal showing, the cabin heated up (so to speak), with 7 weekends in a row of rental usage in January and February.

The four work weekends at the cabin went like this:

In mid-April the work trip was slightly short circuited by an extremely heavy rain most of Saturday. We discovered that the roof leaked around both chimneys. About 3 p.m. the rain finally stopped, and after most of us walked down into the hollow to witness the normally small and unassuming creek going wild in one long, continuous whitewater cascade, we worked on draining the cabin access road, which was also full of running water. Turns out there were a few tornadoes in Virginia this weekend as well—one in nearby Stuart's Draft, another damaging one attendee's garage back in Gloucester. Sunday some firewood moving and splitting was done, and two trees were felled;

In early June Greg Hodges, cabin co-chair, led a work trip that concentrated on general cabin clean up and weed whacking;

In late September Greg and his wife Carol led another trip, with rain, where general cabin clean up was again the order of the day, along with some trail work, and cutting 3 fallen trees off of the access road;

In early November 12 club members (our largest work crew of the year) had great weather in which to chainsaw a large supply of firewood for the winter months;

In addition to the 4 'official' work trips, Bob Giffin rented the cabin in early August and used part of his time there to repair the leaks in the cabin's roof—a much needed, and appreciated, unofficial work trip. **Thank you**, Bob Giffin!

The cabin committee is also responsible for maintaining the nearby, 2.6 mile long White Rock Falls Trail. This too was accomplished, with several hikes on the trail throughout the year.

For new club members, or anyone interested in visiting and helping out at the club's beautiful stone cabin, there are 4 work trips scheduled for 2012. By attending one of these weekends (or even just a full day on Saturday), new members can become qualified and eligible to then rent the cabin on their own.

The work trips are on the following dates: April 27th—29th; June 8th—10th; Sept. 21st—23rd; and Nov. 2nd—4th. There will be sign up sheets for these 4 trips at the club meetings, or you could call either Greg or myself to get your name on the list (or you can email the cabin committee, to ask questions or sign up; the email address is on page 2 of every newsletter, along with our respective phone numbers). If you are interested in coming and helping out, it is important for you to let the hike leader know—by getting your name on the sign up sheet. This lets us know beforehand how many workers we can expect, and therefore how much, and what work, can be accomplished.

Remember too: if you sign up for a work trip, try and follow thru on your commitment. And, if something develops that prevents you from coming, please let the trip leader know ASAP; the trip might be capped at a certain number of participants, and your dropping off means someone on the waiting list can come in your place.

Discover for yourself the trail club's greatest possession, the Douglas Putman Memorial cabin. It is just over a half miles walk off of the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, on 15 acres of wooded, club owned land, all but surrounded by National Forest property. One visit will reveal all the hard work and dedication that went into its construction. One visit could be the beginning of a lifetime of enjoyment of this unique club treasure. It could be the simple cabin in the woods you've dreamed about all your life.

In the year 2012, the cabin is available to be rented, by qualified club members, 357 nights. You can have it all to yourself, or invite friends and relatives, or throw it open to any club members who might want to join you. Remember, for private trips, the cabin can be reserved exactly 8 weeks in advance (and, if someone reserves it before you, you can ask to be placed on the stand by list, to be called in case they cancel their reservation). If you want to host an open to everyone cabin trip, there are no restrictions about how far in advance you can reserve it (we do this to encourage group usage).

Again—don't be shy to call or email with any questions about the cabin and how to rent it. I'd love to see the year 2012 be the best year of cabin rental ever, breaking every previous record, with dozens of new members using and enjoying it, with dozens of older members finally taking the time to rediscover it. **The TATC needn't be all work and no play**, and the cabin is simply a great place to kick back and relax in a safe and secluded spot, surrounded by all the best nature has to offer.

Glasgow and Buena Vista, Virginia Designated as Appalachian Trail Communities

Buena Vista, VA (March 21, 2012) – On April 19th, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) will celebrate the official designation of Buena Vista and Glasgow, Virginia as the newest Appalachian Trail Communities. A full day of celebratory activities is planned, starting in Buena Vista at 10:00am at the Buena Vista Visitor's Center, followed by a ceremony at the Hiker Shelter in Glasgow at 1:30pm. The two communities are working collaboratively to bring awareness to the Trail and to their respective communities about the national resource. The ATC and town leaders will speak, with a proclamation-signing and an unveiling of new community signs.

The Appalachian Trail Community™ designation is a new program of the ATC, the nonprofit responsible for management and protection of the estimated 2,180-mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Launched in 2010, this program recognizes communities for their part in promoting awareness of the Appalachian Trail as an important local and national asset.

Glasgow and Buena Vista's designation day will include live music, picture slideshow, prizes and cake. "Buena Vista is excited to have been selected as an Appalachian Trail Community. We are eager to share our community with hikers and other AT enthusiasts and we look forward to working together to promote and protect this wonderful resource and asset," stated Pat Ohleger of Celebrate Buena Vista.

Designation as an Appalachian Trail Community™ and participation in the program is aimed to

- Engage community residents, Trail visitors, and stewards
- Thank communities for their decades of service to hikers
- Act as a catalyst for sustainable economic development
- Aid municipalities and regional areas with conservation planning initiatives
- Promote the Trail as a community resource and asset

"The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is proud to celebrate communities that are helping to protect and promote the Appalachian Trail," states Julie Judkins, Community Program Manager for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. "These new partnerships will increase local stewardship of public lands, support community initiatives for sustainable economic development and conservation planning as well as support healthy lifestyles for community citizens."

The ATC was founded in 1925 by volunteers and federal officials working to build a continuous footpath along the Appalachian Mountains. The A.T. is approximately 2,185 miles in length, ranging from Maine to Georgia, making it one of the longest, continuously marked footpath in the world. Volunteers typically donate more than 220,000 hours each year on Trail-related work and about 2 to 3 million visitors walk a portion of the A.T. each year. This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the completion of the A.T.

About the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy mission is to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail – ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come. For more information please visit www.appalachiantrail.org.

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Volunteers Needed for Local Trail Crew Leaders

Although our primary purpose is to maintain a portion of the Appalachian Trail near Wintergreen, VA and promote a healthy stewardship of the outside environment, we are actively involved in the maintenance of many local parks and trails in the Tidewater Area. Local trail maintenance may include weed cutting, brush and tree trimming, removal of blown down trees, painting of trail blazes, nailing walkways, removing trash, and trail building. Other special projects may be performed such as building water bars to prevent erosion, repairing foot bridges, and building benches and other structures. Club, park, or personal tools may be used on these trips. Skills learned locally are also used to maintain our section of the Appalachian Trail. Local Trails is always a great opportunity for members to give back to a local community through volunteering on a cleanup or expansion of a local trail and what better way to enjoy the outdoors, get some exercise, and meet some of your fellow members. In addition, your accumulated volunteer hours will earn you certificates, patches, hats, and other items for your hiking/camping adventures.

TATC typically performs maintenance at a variety of parks and natural areas, but recently we have had a focus on two state parks on the Southside (First Landing State Park and False Cape State Park) and three parks on the Peninsula (Newport News Park, New Quarter Park, and the Noland Trail at the Mariner's Museum). Geographically, this has put the focus into two concentrated areas within our membership area and I would like to make maintenance activities like these more accessible to those individuals living in the cities west of Virginia Beach on the Southside. There are several city and state parks, including natural areas in this part of the Tidewater Area and one of them may be close to you.

I am seeking volunteers willing to assist in being a trail crew leader for more of these parks/natural areas located in Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Norfolk, Suffolk, Isle of Wight, or even points further south in North Carolina like Merchants Mill Pond. Your duties are simple: coordinate with the park official the responsibilities of the work trip, coordinate having the signup sheet at the meetings, lead the work trip (this includes arranging any necessary park or club tools), and returning the sign-up sheet and number of hours worked by the volunteers. Typically, a local trails maintenance trip is about 3 hours in length, but can be expanded if necessary. Although each individual trail will be different, work may be only required once or it could grow into a semi-annual or quarterly routine maintenance trip – this would be up to you. Please consider helping TATC with this opportunity. Don't assume that someone else will volunteer to do what you can do ... we NEED you. Past crew leaders and I are willing to help you with this undertaking and answer any questions. For further information or ideas, please contact Bill Buck at localtrails@tidewateratc.com or 757-846-1125.

Bill Buck

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club
Local Trails Chairman

Barbara's Last Hike

Barbara Kledzik died Friday, March 23, 2012 after a long illness. She joined TATC in the late 70s and served as Club Historian before Bob Adkisson. According to Bob, Barbara worked very hard to document the early history of the club; contacting original members, recording their recollections and publishing the results of her research in the newsletter.

Barbara's funeral was held at Church of the Epiphany in Norfolk on Wednesday, March 28. She was cremated and her ashes are being spread in several places of importance to her. Among those places are the grounds of Epiphany where Barbara tended the flowers for many years and on TATC's section of the AT.

Barbara's four children wanted club members to know how important TATC was to their mother and to say thank you to members who became her cherished friends. They dressed Barbara for her 'last hike'. She was wearing hiking pants, a turquoise jacket and a purple TATC tee shirt.



Adirondacks: The Thrill is Back and Other Mysteries of the Freezeree

By Mal Higgins

Seven TATC members made the early February 2012 backpacking trip to the Adirondack Mountains "High Peaks" region in upstate New York. We encountered the hoped for winter weather, freezing temperatures and snow, and saw the pristine beauty of the High Peaks, which derives its name from the fact that it has all of the Adirondack Park's 46 peaks over 4000 feet elevation. The Adirondacks are the only mountains on the east coast that are not part of the Appalachian Mountain chain. This was our first Freezeree trip back to the Adirondacks since 2008 when we summited The Gothics. In intervening years we had been to New Hampshire's Mt. Pierce and Mt. Eisenhower, and to West Virginia's Dolly Sods.

The trip began with two groups: Bruce Davidson and Brian Richie were able to head up two days early and did some brutal day hiking, climbing Phelps Mtn. (4161 feet) on a very icy trail with crampons and rain on one day, and summiting Algonquin Peak (5114 feet), the second highest peak, in extremely low visibility the next day. They returned to stay at night in the Adirondack Lodge, a facility operated by the Adirondack Club near the major trail head.

The main group of five of us--consisting of J.P. Jones, Bob Adkisson, Nancy Rinkenberger, Trish Mims, and me--motored north, gently crammed into JP's Suburban, after a 5:30 a.m. start on Feb. 2. We stopped for the night at Lake George, NY. The Lake was not frozen, a phenomenon greatly affecting the normally brisk tourist trade of snowmobilers, lake ice fishermen, and winter carnival folks. Next morning, we drove another hour to rendezvous with Bruce and Brian at the Noon Mark Diner in Keene Valley, a place serving great breakfasts and little changed over the decades we have met there for breakfast before hitting the trails.

We then visited The Mountaineer, a terrific outfitter store, and learned that Hurricane Irene in late August had pummeled the store, which sits on the Ausable River, and rising flood waters had inundated its first floor, destroying inventory, and washing out much of the parking lot. We reminisced with its owner, Vincent McClelland, and Vince remembered our Virginia group well, including the originator of these trips back in 1976, TATC's Otey Shelton.

At the trailhead at the Adirondack Mountain Club's High Peaks outdoor center, it was about 11:00 a.m. before we actually got our backpacks on, strapped on various extra winter gear and our snowshoes to the outside of our packs, and started the 2.2 mile pleasant trail hike in along Marcy Brook to Marcy Dam. This gave me the chance to try out my new "Microspikes", a piece of foot gear that did well with good traction on the many icy spots we encountered. As we climbed, the snow began to deepen somewhat, although the woods still seemed less snowy than any other year I could remember.

Arriving at Marcy Dam, we saw the remnants of the wooden/earth dam structure, which was washed away by the tremendous mountain flooding of Hurricane Irene. It's an astonishing sight, and the damage caused a re-routing of the trail to get across Marcy Brook, which was mostly frozen. The daytime temperature was probably low 20s, just cold enough to keep from overheating on the hike in. At Marcy Dam there was perhaps a foot of snow on the ground. After setting up our tents near a lean-to, which is about the size of the lean-tos at Maupin Field or Harpers Creek on our A.T. section, we commenced a day hike of about two miles on the Avalanche Pass Trail to see Avalanche Lake.

It turns out the Dept. of Environmental Conservation, which is the New York forest ranger department, had a youngish ranger out working the trail and enforcing its mandatory snowshoe rule above Marcy Dam. So, our scofflaw fellow hikers were turned around, but Bruce and I made it to the frozen lake, as we had put our snowshoes on at the lean-to. Avalanche Lake lies in an extremely steep canyon created on one side by Avalanche Mountain and on the other by Mt. Colden, with both mountains literally coming down to the lake's edge. The lake was solidly frozen, and Bruce and I tromped out on to its surface. We were the only people we could see. Blasts of icy air across the lake and newly falling snow swirled around us, and the sensation was invigorating.

Back at camp with darkness descending around 5:00, we joined the others at the lean-to for the evening "try to light your stove" ritual. Several of us had our MSR Whisperlite stoves, a joke among winter hikers for its known fire hazard to anyone too close when lighting off. Once lit, Whisperlites burn well and are reliable, but we made sure to call out our warnings when lighting. Nancy has a stove, a Kelly, that looks like a thermos with a double boiler inside to hold the water to be heated, and it worked well with fuel tabs. She augmented it with frozen twigs, producing a comic effect as flames shot out the top like a volcano. We could fill water bottles from the nearby ice covered Marcy Brook, and either boiled it or treated it with iodine pills. Folks ate everything from grocery store Knorr rice concoctions to more elaborate Mountain House freeze dried things.

The temperature was in the single digits, and with fires prohibited, we headed to the tents around 7:00 for the standard 12 hours in a sleeping bag. The big climb to the summit of Mt. Marcy was our goal for Saturday, but the 12 hours in the sleeping bag seemed more of a challenge! Three of us—Bruce, J.P., and me—crammed into my tent, tightly; Brian used his new lightweight tent; Trish and Nancy shared a tent; and Bob opted for a night in the lean-to. Overnight, the temperature dropped to +2 F, and a light snowfall occurred, a gentle sound on the tent fly, while we slept somewhat fitfully.

The privy situation was odd. One privy--with half a door hung maybe a foot above its threshold so it wouldn't get snowed shut--was so back in the woods that, although it had been located in the daylight, it was impossible to find at night. Another privy had no door and was a distance up the trail from the campsite.

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Enough daylight occurs by about 6:45 a.m. and Bruce was the first one out of the tents, trudging over to the lean-to and getting water boiling. We all got breakfast of sorts, for me the usual instant oatmeal and/or instant grits, packed our day packs, and headed up the Van Hoevenberg trail on snowshoes to reach the summit of Mt. Marcy, some 5.1 miles distant. J.P. and Nancy opted to day hike in the vicinity of Marcy Dam and so we split the group. As we climbed, we saw increasing snow on the edges of the trail, which was somewhat packed from prior hikers on other days. Part way up we began to catch magnificent glimpses of the valley below, including the Olympic Ski Jump Training Facility with its two towering jumps.

The views began to open up as we gained elevation, and the trees began to shrink in size. The trail in many areas was hemmed in by a variety of spruce and other evergreens, heavily over laden with snow and rime ice. Trish got hot in a large blue parka, and we stashed it on a four foot high snag along the trail by hanging the hood on the top of the snag. It created a comical effect of looking like a tiny person from a distance, and some other hikers from Canada who we encountered and talked to were so amused by it that they took a photo of it and posted it to their blog trip report. This story of that group's hike is well illustrated with great trail and Mt. Marcy photos, as they were following the precise route we did, and I commend it to you to read, too: <http://alavigne.net/Outdoors/ImageGallery/2012/02-04-Marcy/> Trish's coat is on page 2 and labeled "Coat Wearing Stump".

As we toiled up, the sun was bright and the air was clear. The temperatures again seemed to be in the high teens or low twenties, and the wind was relatively low. The snowshoes provided comfortable traction and kept us from "post holing" when stepping off the trail. We took breaks now and then for energy bars and water, but kept a steady pace. At perhaps a mile below the summit, the alpine trees diminish in size and form grotesque shapes under the weight of the snow and ice, almost appearing as a sparse crowd of little people bedazzling in white. Eventually, one passes over the ridge line shoulder of Little Marcy and moves through a Col to the final ascent. Rock cairns (in the summer) mark the route, but in the winter they are quite hard to spot, and we mostly made our own trail above the tree line or followed the scrape marks of previous hikers' snowshoes. We passed through a Col not far below the summit, and then huffed up the final very steep approach for maybe 20 minutes to reach the summit of Marcy at 5344 feet after about four hours of steady hiking Marcy at 5344 feet. We had established a turn around time of 1:30 and so we were comfortably atop by 1:00. As the summit is far above the tree line, the wintry views were amazingly beautiful. After some photos and pausing to soak up the fantastic views of the MacIntyre Range, Big Haystack, Little Haystack, The Gothics, Algonquin, etc., we began to feel the chill and the formerly benign wind no longer felt so benign.

We moved off the summit a lot faster than we went up, and it seemed like we flew down the mountain. Our trip down the upper slope of Marcy above the tree line was part hike and part gallop because of its steepness. With excellent visibility and sunshine, we enjoyed the views and could follow the trail mostly by watching the various snowshoe scrape marks that meandered everywhere. If there were cairns, we never saw them.

As an aside to our trip account, later in February, conditions in the High Peaks and on Marcy were far worse and a hiker lost the trail, became separated from his group, fell in a spruce hole (a deep drift of snow supported by underlying tree branches, which collapse under one's weight), and spent a harrowing night on the slopes of Marcy in a snow cave he dug, before being rescued. Here is a link that tells that tale in great detail: <http://adirondackexplorer.org/out-takes/2012/02/22/cold-night-on-marcy-a-survivors-tale>

On our way down, we encountered the Canadian group again and exchanged hellos, as well as other groups we had leap frogged with earlier in the day. We reached the campsite before dark and met up with J.P. and Nancy, who told us that they had day hiked over to enjoy Avalanche Lake. This evening was a repeat of the tall tales, a bit of bourbon, and more flaming stoves. "100 percent cotton" Bob relaxed on his sleeping pad in the lean-to and didn't bother to put socks on his feet, preferring to warm his feet with heat off the stoves. We turned in again around 7:00 p.m. for another 12 hour night in the tents. This night, the official temperature (checking the historical data later) dropped to minus 5 degrees F. Brian told us the next morning that he got cold enough to wake up in the night, go outside his tent and run up and down the trail to warm his feet up! None of us heard him!

We packed out Sunday to the cars, and drove into Lake Placid to eat at a place called Generations, and shop a little. Mirror Lake was frozen and tourists were on it dog sledding and snow mobiling. There was almost no snow at all in Lake Placid, a very weird sight. Shop owners reported it was killing their business. We got under way to start the drive home and made it to south of Albany before stopping at a motel for our Super Bowl Party. We ordered in pizza and Brian and Bruce made a beer run, and we settled in for a hootin' and hollerin' football party. That is, all of us but Nancy, who shared the pizza, but had the good sense to watch an installment of Downton Abbey on PBS in hers and Trish's room. We weren't looking at another freezing 12 hours in a sleeping bag and a mere 7-8 hours seemed pretty normal. We got underway early and drove uneventfully back down the NJ Turnpike, detouring a bit to follow Delaware's Highway 1 south for a bit of relief from Route 13. We hit the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Parking Lot about 4:00 p.m. and another Freezeree was in the books

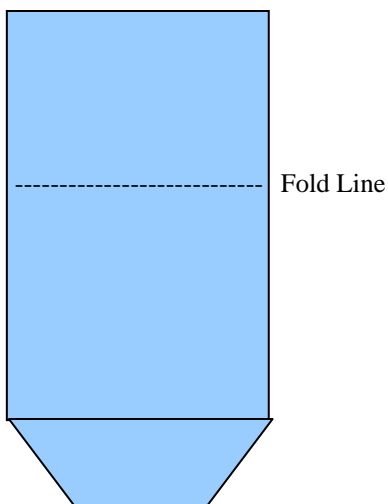


No Dishes to Wash!

By Nancy Rinckenberger

There is no doubt about it. Camping and hiking can be expensive hobbies, especially if you get bitten by the gear bug. I am always looking for something lighter, more breathable, more waterproof, more comfortable, simpler and sometimes just cooler. But there are some hiking things I just hate to spend money on. One of those is the expensive, highly processed, sodium-laden backpacker meals. I have tried practically every brand on the market. Some are good. Others sit like a bag of sand in your gut. But ... they are extremely convenient and easy to prepare. Unzip the bag. Take out the oxygen absorber. Pour in boiling water. Wait the required number of minutes. Unzip the bag and eat. What I love most about this process is there are no dishes to wash afterwards. This was really the catalyst behind my efforts to create my own backpacker food system.

I began with the bag. I had an old torn windshield screen ... the kind you put in your car window on any Tidewater summer day hoping to prevent your car from becoming an oven. I cut a piece 8 inches wide (1 inch wider than a quart ziplock freezer bag) and 23 ½ inches long. This is actually the width of my windshield screen and allowed me to take advantage of it's finished edges. Next make a fold ten inches from one end. Tape the cut edges together with duct tape. Cut a triangle from the sides of the untaped piece to create a flap that can be inserted into the bag to hold in warmth as your food hydrates.



Now you are ready to test the pouch. Breakfast is a good place to start. At home, place ½ C. of oatmeal, 1 level tablespoon of sugar, 1 ounce of chopped nuts and an ounce or two of dried fruit like raisins, dates or dried blueberries into a ziplock FREEZER bag. Other types may not stand up to the boiling water. Write on the baggie with a permanent marker how much water to add and how long to hydrate. This will vary depending on whether you use quick oats or rolled oats. I use rolled oats and hydrate about 10 minutes.

Fast forward to breakfast time on the trail. Take your ziplock bag. Insert it into the hydrating pouch to prevent your hands from being scalded. Add boiling water. Give everything a good stir. Zip the baggie shut. Tuck the flap of your pouch inside. Fix your coffee or tea while it hydrates.

When breakfast is ready, pull the ziplock bag about half way out of the pouch and eat. If you didn't bring a long handled spoon, turn the lip of the baggie inward like you were folding the hem on your pants leg. This will keep the bag open and your fingers from getting messy.

I made a pouch for fellow TATC'er Trish Mims, before she began her thru hike this February. Her foods of choice are oatmeal and Lipton and Knorr sides. Like any good hiker, she tested the pouch out before hitting the trail. Here is the review she emailed me just before leaving:

"I've been using your rehydration pouch, you should patent that dude. It is soooo neat. Even does fine with old fashioned rolled oats and Lipton Alfredo things; just have to use less water. It will make life so much easier on the trail with no pot to clean."

Since making this pouch, I've branched out. I often dehydrate leftovers. Sometimes I make up my own meals. A good place to find more ideas for this type of "cooking" is <http://www.trailcooking.com/taxonomy/term/7%2B8>. There are great recipes here and well as information on dehydrating.

Bon Appetite!

Trail Closed (Part 4)

By Bob Adkisson

The three 'Trail Closed' stories I've told so far, though ancient, have been presented in chronological order. This last story, sort of the grand-daddy of them all, is told out of sequence; **it happened first**. Maybe this story explains the other three—how I rather nonchalantly dealt with trails that were, for one reason or another, 'closed'.

Mid-November, 1976: I was on one of the wildest, most spontaneous trips I would ever take. What started out as a 4 week hike on the A.T. (James River to Hot Springs, N.C.) morphed into 2 weeks spent on the trail, then 5 weeks hitch hiking across country, more or less going where the rides took me. On the cold, windy plains of Nebraska I was aiming for Vancouver but, accepting a week long ride thru the southwest, I instead found myself in San Diego.

Never having been there, I decided to visit Yosemite Nat'l Park.

I hitched thru Los Angeles (yuck) and up Owens Valley; immediately to the east of the park, I spent a few days near Mono Lake and its volcanic cones. My plan to catch a ride over Tioga Pass and directly into Yosemite was foiled though—the road was closed by snow, as were the next 3 or 4 passes to the north. I had to detour all the way up to Lake Tahoe to find a snow free road across the Sierras and, days later, finally approach Yosemite from the west side.

What I experienced in Yosemite reminds me of the stories Jon Krakauer told in his book Into the Wild, both of the young man in Alaska who died while trying to live off the land for several months, and of the writer himself when, in his 20's, he visited the state for a solo ice climb of a dangerous rock pinnacle; similar stories of young men who challenged themselves in the wilderness, like young men have done thru all history.

My first full day in the park: after camping near Yosemite Falls, and having breakfast at the foot of it, I walked to the Visitor's Center and was immediately crushed (or was it challenged) by a sign in the foyer that said—"Half Dome Trail Closed". I wondered-- how could a trail be 'closed', what did that even mean? (It reminded me of the George Carlin joke: he saw a sign that warned: "Beach Closed After Sunset". But, he observed, a beach is where an ocean meets a continent—day or night, how can something like that be "closed"? The very concept was absurd.)

The thing is: 3 weeks earlier I'd ended my A.T. hike with an overnight stay at the hiker hostel in Pearisburg, Va.; there I'd enjoyed a photo book about Nat'l Parks, been fascinated by a shot of the cable and ladder that hikers use to gain the final few hundred feet to the summit of Half Dome. It looked downright dangerous, and I'd vowed, first time I go to Yosemite, I would take that trail, stand atop Half Dome.

Now, having just spent about 6 days trying to get to the park, the 1st thing I see in the Visitor's Center is this sign, and it was like a punch in the gut. I was so disappointed-- I couldn't even go and ask a ranger—**why?**

I figured I'd spend an hour or so looking around then inquire on my way out.

Only, honestly, I forgot.

It was a low energy day and I felt overwhelmed (with information, with choices); looking at the maps in the center, I'd picked a spot to camp that night (a few miles up the valley, near Mirror Lake-- at the foot of Half Dome), and all I wanted to do was go there, relax, let it all sink in.

At Mirror Lake, I left the trail, crossed the outlet stream and wandered about 50 yards into the woods. I laid out my sleeping bag next to a fallen tree and took the rest of the day off.

Next morning, as I looked up thru the tree tops from my bag, I was intrigued and awed by the granite walls towering above me. Looking at the canyon's north wall (opposite Half Dome), I noticed upward angling ledges, ledges crowded with trees, and I wondered.... how hard would it be to climb from one ledge to another?

Looking at the simple park map I'd gotten the day before, I was in a quandary-- feeling somehow under a time constraint, with time for only one hike, where should I go: day hike to the top of Half Dome, lug my pack up and spend the night at Glacier Point, or perhaps something less strenuous?

I couldn't decide!

After a minimal breakfast, I figured I'd ignore the stalemate, go and take a short photo hike—20 minutes, at most. I'd decide what to do when I got back.

Leaving all my gear spread out next to the tree, wearing tennis shoes with holes in them, I grabbed only my camera, set off for the foot of Half Dome, about 150 yards away. I discovered a park trail there on that side of the valley and walked about 50 yards along it, to a slight rise. There I bushwhacked 20 yards up to the base of the cliff and stared up at Half Dome's summit, soaring 4,400 feet above me.

I noticed the tree lined ledge about 50 feet up and, being a bit of a rock climber (rock climbing had been emphasized at the N.C. Outward Bound School I'd attended, 3 years earlier), I **had** to see if I could reach it.



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About 20 feet up the wall I hit another impasse-- I'd run out of good hand holds. I looked at the talus rock below me.... at the ledge 30 feet farther up.... and decided not to chance it. I climbed back down.

Only, instead of returning to my camp exactly the way I'd come, I followed along the foot of the cliff about 30 yards. Ready to go back to camp then, I couldn't help myself-- **I had to look** to see if the wall was climbable here.

And.... since it seemed to be.... **I had to try.**

Again, I got about 20 feet up, and hesitated. But this time, with better hand holds, I pushed on, safely reaching the ledge with the trees.

And, what did I find there in this miniature forest? A trail!

Obviously, others had done what I had just dared to do, so many that they'd created a trail, leading up the sloping ledge about 100 feet, to where it ended.

There was another tree filled ledge, 50 feet higher up.

I tried climbing up to it, and reached it, and found another trail, sloping upward thru a thick stand of stunted ever-greens.

And so it went.... **completely on the spur of the moment**.... climbing up and up, from one 15 foot wide, tree lined ledge to another. Each climb, each pitch, was safe and sane enough, with the ledge below providing me some security, masking the total distance or height I'd come. When taken one move, one pitch, one ledge at a time, it made sense to keep going, to go as far as I could, to go until I got to something I couldn't do— until the mountain itself turned me back. It was scary and it was challenging, it was mad and yet it was irresistible fun.

And, the thing is, the mountain didn't stop me, just kept drawing me on and on, up and up. No pitch was hard or dangerous enough to turn me back, and so I kept climbing.... 1,000 feet.... 1,500 feet....

After maybe 2 hours the angle eased off, the ledges ended, and I was able to scramble uphill on all fours, up to a vast expanse of smooth open rock with a small rivulet flowing down it. By then I was plenty thirsty, appreciated the gift of water.

I heard excited voices carrying up from far below-- people on the sandy shore of Mirror Lake. Were they exclaiming at me, 1,500 feet up the mountainside, wondering how I got there?

Looking up, I had several hundred feet to climb to reach the base of the sheared-away, vertical face of Half Dome. Once there, I wondered if I'd be able to skirt up along the left side of the cliff, all the way to the ridge crest, and reach the circuitous hiking trail (the trail that was 'closed') that came up from around the back side of the mountain. If I could get to the trail, **the summit was a possibility!**

I couldn't see far enough around the corner of the mountain to tell, but I knew there could be something ahead that would stop me; if so, I'd have both used up most of this day, and have to return the way I'd come.

About half way to the top-- in spite of the uncertainty, the dizzying heights-- I was willing to play along, to go for it.

Continuing, I climbed a series of 4 and 5 foot high ledges, then ducked and wormed my way thru a thick brushy area, then went up an open talus slope, finally reaching the vertical cliff-face. Going up along the left side now, the dirt and talus slope only got steeper.

The views were incredible, the ascent exhausting. The higher up I went, the crazier it all seemed; I couldn't believe I was doing this!

Finally, I could see the ridge crest ahead and, *far out*.... there were no cliffs to keep me from reaching it!

When I reached the top of the ridge, and found the trail, I was elated, but dragging. It was about 3 in the afternoon. I'd climbed over 3,500 feet. With several hundred more feet to go, I was desperate to push ahead and reach the summit.

The 'closed trail' seemed perfectly fine as it switch-backed up thru the pines, then to the open summit of a rocky dome. There, at last, was my view of the cable and ladder I'd seen in the photograph-- the last bit of the climb, 650 feet, to the top of Half Dome.

One look and my spirits were all but dashed; now I knew what they'd meant by 'trail closed'. They should have said 'trail dismantled', because there were no longer any (4 x 4 inch) wooden ladder rungs, no waist high cables on either side to hold on to. All that remained were 2 cables (about an inch in diameter, and 3 feet apart) hanging down from the summit, flush against the cold granite. About every 100 feet the cables threaded thru an iron 'eye' bolt drilled into the rock; these looked just big enough to stand on, a chance to rest.

Wasn't it ironic that, in a prolonged, grand, and spontaneous act of sheer lunacy, I'd climbed 3,800 feet up the mountain, come all that way without any worries about the official trail being 'closed'-- because I was bushwhacking, not even using the silly trail!-- only to discover, at the last possible moment, that **the one short section of the trail that I had to utilize to reach the summit** was the one section that was not just 'closed', but literally taken apart (and stored somewhere nearby) for the duration of the winter.

If this section had looked dangerous when it was open (as in the photo I'd seen), what was it now?

Standing there late in the afternoon, on a cold, overcast November day, wrung out from an incredibly challenging climb, with all my worldly possessions lying defenseless in the valley far below (my food, sleeping bag, money and id), I hesitated for a moment, wondered what I should do.

What would you have done?



(Continued in our next issue ...)

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.

<p>April 7, 2012, Saturday Bobby Hall, BRMS, 838-1970 All Blue Ridge Mountain Sports stores are participating in Gear Swap which allows customers to bring in their used but serviceable gear & set a price for their item(s). If it sells, the store will issue a gift card for the full amount received. To allow time for tagging & grouping, items should be brought to a store 1-4 days in advance of the sales day (4/7). If you need gear, drop by any store on the 7th. Monday-Saturday store hours are 10-9. Contact: Bobby Hall for more info.</p>	<p>GEAR SWAP AT BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN SPORTS</p>
<p>April 11, 2012, Wednesday Jim Newman, 867-6688 or jimnewman55@cox.net Business meeting & recognition of new members and guest. Program features Kevin DuBois: <i>John Muir Trail from Yosemite's Tuolumne Meadows to Devil's Postpile.</i></p>	<p>TATC GENERAL MEETING</p>
<p>April 14, 2012, Saturday Diana Ramsey, 619-0540 Join Diana Ramsey for a maintenance session on the Osmanthus Trail. Meet at the new visitors center on the trails side of the park. Work will consist of removal of small trail obstructions and bush trimming. Bring gloves water and snacks. Lunch afterwards at C.P. Shuckers on Shore Drive. Diana can be reached at 619-0540. This is part of Tidewater ATC's local trails mission.</p>	<p>FIRST LANDING STATE PARK TRAIL MAINTENANCE</p>
<p>April 15-19, 2012, Sunday-Thursday Bruce Julian, 484-0975 Once again, Spring is here and it's time for another trip to False Cape State Park. The work project deals with rebuilding the boat slips at False Cape Landing and Barbour Hill. Bring hiking shoes for night hikes, walks on the beach and exploration of sand hills and pine forest. Dewey and Bruce will prepare their usual pancake and sausage breakfast each day for those wishing to partake. For evening meals, we will form three groups with each being responsible for a given dinner. Please bring a trail lunch for all four days. Also needed: a sleeping bag for a bunk at the Environmental & Education Center, towel washcloth & work gloves. A few cordless drills with extra batteries & chargers are needed. Gathering time is 4:00PM, 4/15 at Little Island Park, 3820 S Sandpiper Rd, VA Beach. Bus transportation to the park provided. Trip limited:15.</p>	<p>FALSE CAPE STATE PARK WORK TRIP</p>
<p>April 18, 2012, Wednesday Jim Newman, 867-6688, 814-1467 (cell) or jimnewman55@cox.net This is the granddaddy of Virginia political gatherings and will be especially interesting this presidential election year! Enjoy free beer, hear live music, rub elbows with politicians, and enjoy a good meal under the Essex County pines. See http://www.shadplanking.com for details, directions, tickets & updates. For those driving independently to Wakefield, the destination is Wakefield Sportsmens Club, 12205 Brittles Mill Rd. As the date approaches, those going need to share cell numbers. For Jim Newman it's 757 814-1467. Some may want to organize car pooling. We'll see how this develops. Arriving in Wakefield via Rt 460 westbound, turn left onto W. Main Street (Rt. 628) There is a 7-11 at the SE corner. Proceed about 0.6 miles. Slight right onto Brittles Mill Rd (Rt. 620). Proceed 2.1 miles to destination. Prepare to drive through a thicket of political signs. Officials will direct parking. Expect to be among about 1,200 people! If you are a politics junkie or a people watcher, this is for you! The goal is to arrive at the event between noon and 1:00 P.M. Dinner served when ready (about 4:00). Introductions and speeches around the meal time. Gov. McDonnell will be in attendance along with former governors Allen & Kane who are vying for the U.S. Senate seat of retiring Jim Webb. Dinner is included in ticket price. This is a rain or shine event.</p>	<p>64th ANNUAL SHAD PLANKING</p>
<p>April 21, 2012, Saturday Rick Hancock, 619-5522 or athiker80@cox.net Bike this 32-mile trail and experience the "high" of crossing the 2,400' long, 160' high RR bridge over the Appomattox River valley, site of General Lee's retreat from Richmond. The trail extends from Burkeville to Pamplin City. There is a one-day option of 32 miles or an overnight option of 64. More at http://www.meetup.com/Tidewater-ATC-meetup/events/55145252 You must be in close contact with Rick on planning to participate.</p>	<p>BIKE THE HIGHBRIDGE RAILS-TO-TRAILS</p>

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Activities Schedule

(Continued from Page 13 ...)

<p>April 22, 2012, Sunday Phyllis Neumann, 757 566-4584 Meet at the inner parking lot of New Quarter Park at 9:30am for some light maintenance. Bring water, gloves and snacks. Tools will be provided. Plan to eat lunch afterwards at a local restaurant. Park details at http://www.yorkcounty.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=4626</p>	<p>NEW QUARTER PARK SPRING MAINTENANCE</p>
<p>April 22-May 7, 2012 Gene Monroe, Geno_1@Charter.net Note: dates above have shifted slightly from first listing of 4/21-5/5. This is the first of two upcoming long-distance A.T. backpacks led by Gene Monroe. The second will be in mid-August with specific date announced later. This first-in-a-series hike will be northbound (NOBO) from Damascus. Join Gene for a 221.9 mile, two week backpack (April 21-May 5), to Trout Creek. Here are particulars: Leave Tidewater sometime before noon on the 21st, drive to the hike end-point and get shuttled to Damascus. Stay overnight in the hostel and begin this 14-day adventure with a 16-mile per day average. See complete details at http://www.meetup.com/Tidewater-ATC-meetup/events/49407042</p>	<p>SOUTHERN VIRGINIA A.T. HIKE: 221.9 MILES</p>
<p>April 27-29, 2012, Friday-Sunday Bob Adkisson, 627-5514 or mailto:cabin@tidewaterATC.com This is an opportunity for those new to TATC to visit the cabin free of charge, become qualified to rent the facility, enjoy the fellowship of established members and do a little maintenance work. The cabin is approximately 20 miles south of Waynesboro and ¾ mile east of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The tasks involve chain-sawing firewood, working on the access road and, time permitting, doing some light work on the nearby White Rock Falls Trail. Experienced sawyers are asked to bring a saw, fuel & ear protection. Contributions for cabin use are suggested: paper towels, small propane fuel bottles. Wooden bunks accommodate 12. Bring work gloves, sleeping pad & bag, and food. Saturday dinner to be decided: eat out in town, have a community meal at the cabin, or everyone on their own. The spring is running. Meet at the cabin late Friday afternoon or arrive early Saturday. Some ride sharing open for arrangement. Call Bob for directions or more information. Three other cabin maintenance trips will be scheduled this year: early June, late September & early November.</p>	<p>CABIN MAINTENANCE & ORIENTATION TRIP</p>
<p>April 28, 2012, Saturday Bill Buck 846-1125 BBuck_TATC@verizon.net Come join us for some light to moderate trail Maintenance in NNP, one of the largest city parks in the US. We will meet at the Discovery Center parking lot at 9am. Bring water, work gloves, bug spray, and a snack. We will be cutting back any overgrowth, picking up some light trash, and clearing leaves from the trails and bridges. Further details to come. This is a great opportunity to get outside and do a little bit of work to help one of your local parks. Afterwards, lunch at Jason's Deli at Jefferson Commons. NNP is located at 13564 Jefferson Ave in NN with easy access, just off I64 via exit 250B. To sign-up or if you have questions, please contact Bill.</p>	<p>NEWPORT NEWS PARK TRAIL MAINTENANCE</p>
<p>May 5, 2012, Saturday Donna Krabill, 441-5830, ext 335 or mailto:Donna.Krabill@nbgs.org For all who followed the eagle nesting/hatchings at the Norfolk Botanical Garden last year, this will be of interest, as the surviving male is "courting" once more with activity about the old nest. The festival runs 10:00AM to 4:00PM. More at http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org This listing has no TATC leader and is listed for public information & individual attendance. Ms Krabill is an employee of Norfolk Botanical Garden & is listed merely as a contact.</p>	<p>FIRST ANNUAL EAGLE FESTIVAL & SYMPOSIUM</p>
<p>May 5-6, 2012, Saturday-Sunday Mark Connolly, 623-0764, mdemarestc@gmail.com This is our reconnaissance effort to discover the effects of the winter on our section of the A.T. from Reeds Gap to the Tye River, the Mau-Har Trail, and possibly some trail in St. Mary's Wilderness. Our goal is to assess how many, in what size, and with what tools our maintenance teams will be sent out on the following weekend, Spring Maintenance Weekend, May 11-13. Our base for the Walk-Through is the tenting area in front of the CCC Kitchen near the dam at the upper lake at Sherando US Forest Service Campground. To follow on with a new tradition, for those who stay at least through Sunday morning, May 6th, a pancake and sausage breakfast will be provided by Mark C. and Scott H.</p>	<p>SPRING WALK-THROUGH OF TATC TRAILS.</p>

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Activities Schedule

(Continued from Page 14 ...)

May 11-13, 2012, Friday-Sunday SPRING MAINTENANCE WEEKEND

Mark Connolly, 623-0764, trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

This is a weekend for us to do what the club was set up to do: Maintain our assigned section of the Appalachian Trail, the Mau-Har Trail, and possibly some trail in St. Mary's Wilderness Area. Come on out to our base camp at Sherando US Forest Service Campground on Friday, if possible, to set up your tent at the Williams Branch Picnic Area at Sherando, keeping in mind that the gate is locked at 10PM and opens on Saturday morning at 6AM. The map and directions are available at our website <www.tidewateratc.com>. Our teams will be formed up by 7:45AM on Saturday morning to try to fix the trail deficiencies created over the winter by trees falling on the trail, erosion, etc. Tools will be provided. At the end of the day, we return to Sherando for a group dinner, sponsored by TATC, that's created by Chef Mike Mureddu. The other meals are yours to provide. Bring gloves, appropriate clothes, sleeping bag, tent, cooking equipment, etc. Come out for the joy of sharing time with dozens of other TATC members in fun activities with a benefit to the trails.

May 24-28, 2012, Thursday-Monday KONNAROCK CREW SESSION AT MEADOW MOUNTAIN

Mark Connolly, 623-0764, trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

Come to our base camp at Sherando for any or all of the crew work days & see how the professionals from Sugar Grove, VA help club members perform the heavier aspects of trail maintenance. The Meadow Mountain work site is a short distance from Reeds Gap, the northern terminus of TATC's AT trail section. The tasks at hand will be installing waterbars, grooming the trail surface to better shed surface water, and obliterating old fire rings and other unsightly areas. This is an opportunity for club members to practice lessons learned from Bill Rogers' recent presentations.

July 14-15, 2012, Saturday-Sunday SUMMER SWINGBLADE AND LOPPER FESTIVAL

Mark Connolly, 623-0764, trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

Come out for the second annual festival that pits our members and our tools against the outrageous plant growth that hinders the passage of hikers on our section of the A.T. and Mau-Har Trails. Get a tool and get swinging or clipping or lopping. Tools to be provided. We'll negotiate for an appropriate base for our recovery on Saturday night, either the TATC Cabin or Sherando.

TATC Social Media Sites

www.MeetUp.com/Tidewater-ATC-MeetUp

Join the group in order to see full information about and post comments on listed activities

www.Facebook.com

Search: Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

By clicking "Like It" on a particular item, more people learn of our club

Informational Notes

Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club. We work closely with our neighbor club in Richmond. Please go to the following website for some of their offerings: www.odatc.net

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.

Local Trails Maintenance Opportunities: If you would like to receive E-mail notification 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. Skills used in these efforts are also useful for Appalachian Trail maintenance.

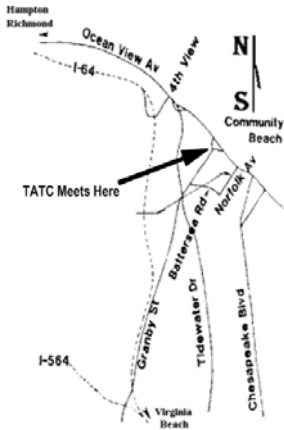
Information for Hike & Activities Schedule, TATC website listings and MeetUp postings are collected and edited by the Hikemaster. Contact Scott Hilton at 757 625-6052 or sdhilton@hotmail.com with information for publication.



Tidewater Appalachian
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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



TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB
40TH ANNIVERSARY