

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com

August 2010 - September 2010

Prez Sez



The summer heat has been relentless for the Tidewater area this year, keeping most of us indoors and yearning for some relief. Some of us took refuge in the George Washington National Forest in June and July to support the Konnarock Crew enhancing our section of the AT near Hanging Rock. Temperatures were significantly cooler up on the mountain as we repaired trail, dug sidehill, constructed rock steps and installed waterbars. I was particularly impressed by the diversity of volunteers in this year's group which included a couple of police officers from Florida, a chemistry teacher from South Carolina, a Philosophy major from Richmond and a retired beekeeper from NY. Everyone had a great time sharing previous adventures and making new friendships. We had terrific participation from some very dedicated TATC members and skilled leadership from Trail Supervisor Scott Hilton and Tool Boss Bruce Julian. Many thanks to Rosanne Scott and Mark Wenger for providing dinner for all the volunteers back at Sherando.

TATC also participated in the Love Mountain Gap Festival at the Royal Oaks Cabins in Love, VA this past June. This was part of the Nelson County Loop/75th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway Celebration. The festival had some attendance problems due to rain but TATC still participated by giving a 30 minute presentation on the AT and by providing brochures, displaying tools and the club video at an informational table (thanks to Mary Hormel). Folks seemed particularly intrigued by the crosscut saw carrier designed by Bruce!

Our July meeting saw another edition of our Silent Auction enthusiastically led by Debbie Bellucci. The event was a resounding success once again allowing a substantial donation to our meeting room host, Pretlow Library.

We welcome a new addition to the Board of Directors with our new Programs Chairperson, Dottie Abbott. Dottie is a fairly new member to TATC but has jumped right in as an active participant in trail maintenance and other activities. She welcomes suggestions for speakers and you can contact her at programs@tidewateratc.com.

I spent most of the day today helping some new friends from the Norfolk-Southern Corporation do a beach clean-up at False Cape State Park. This group approached us several months ago with a request for a volunteer activity on the AT.

They are quite active in the community donating their time towards charitable causes. Due to time and travel constraints we were not able to provide an AT experience. However, Tool Boss Bruce was quick to arrange the beach clean-up. These folks (along with a few TATCers) did an admirable job. Steady breezes made the sweltering temperatures bearable and we were entertained by porpoises and pelicans playing in the surf. I was impressed by the camaraderie, high spirits and friendly nature of these railroad workers. In fact, they reminded me of us! Perhaps we can entice a few to join our happy band? Stay cool TATC! There's lots more adventures ahead. And don't forget to save the date for the **2011 Biennial** which will be held at **Emory and Henry College in Emory, VA July 1-8, 2011**. Visit www.virginia2011.com for more information.

Be safe! Have fun!
Phyllis Neumann
President

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Visit our website at
www.tidewateratc.com

(banner photo by Mark Ferguson)

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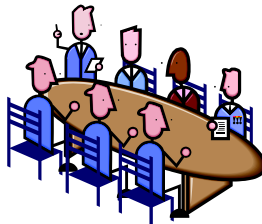
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Membership

Welcome to the following new and returning members: Connie & Al Motley, Donald Vtipil, Barbara Aurand, Ed Johnson, James Larkin, Kari Pincus, Sara Johnson, David & Janet Hostetler, and Phyllis Williamson.

We have 381 single and family members. We have 17 single and family units from Williamsburg, 6 from Yorktown, 73 from Virginia Beach, 9 from Portsmouth, 58 from Norfolk, 21 from Newport News, 25 from Hampton, 25 from Chesapeake. The rest are from other cities and states.

Mary Hormell
Membership Committee Chair
membership@tidewateratc.com

Minute for Maintenance

Well, fellow club members, the two Konnarock weeks were very productive again this year. The Hanging Rock project was completed in its entirety with lots of additional rock work done two weeks ahead of schedule. Next year will start the Meadow Mt rehab. A total of 736 hours were put in by 23 different members, and 11 have earned Konnarock shirts. WOW! Dinners this year were done by Rosanne and crew the first Saturday featuring burritos with not much food left over. Mark Wenger and crew provided a July 3 cookout which included hamburgers and dogs, with Phyllis providing the desserts which included several of her world famous pies and brownies along with ice cream. The weather was also good to us this year with only one day with rain, and cooler temps than normal throughout both weeks. On July 2 the morning temperature was below 50 degrees. Thanks to all who came out, got dirty, and had some fun.

Thrown in between the K-roc weeks 10 folks spent Father's Day weekend in St Mary's. Lots more brush was cleared from the northern section. Snakes were also out in force this time, as we observed several copperheads and rattlers close by. One rattlesnake even ventured thru the campsite one evening. I think I saw everybody wandering to their tents to make sure they were zipped tightly. Cool temps occurred at night and the temps were not too hot during the day. The only rain was on Saturday night. The crew played in the river at the falls on Sunday. Dottie even jumped from the rocks! Check out her pictures if you get a chance. Marcus took some good video footage also.

All in all a very productive and busy several weeks with some hard working club members. On the calendar next is the fall maintenance in October, with possibly another St Mary's in early September. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Hilton
TATC Trails Supervisor
trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

John Joseph Donovan

An online memorial has been established for John Joseph Donovan of Petersburg, Virginia. A link is provided below. John died in May 2005, while hiking the Pacific Crest Trail in Southern California. His remains were recovered June 4, 2006. John was an avid hiker, an active member of the Old Dominion and Tidewater Appalachian Trail Clubs and had just retired from 20 years as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Central State Hospital.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=qr&GSvcid=986&GRid=38540863&>

Take Only Pictures!

As you enjoy summer activities with the TATC, keep in mind that the photos you snap can be enjoyed by all - at the annual September Photo Contest and/or in the TATC calendar. Take some horizontals while you're at it and catch some action shots. You will find an appreciative audience in the TATC members. Of course you may also go on to fame, if not fortune, if a picture you snap achieves immortality in our 2011 Calendar.

Jane Martin
TATC Calendar Committee
calendar@tidewateratc.com



Virginia Journeys 2011 By Ned Kuhns



The main gate of historical 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, to be held July 1 – 8, 2011. 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.

Lodging will be available in the college dorms or in a campus camping area. Delicious meals will be available in the college dining facility. For those who prefer to stay off campus, there are a variety of lodging facilities and restaurants in nearby scenic Abingdon, VA.

For those attendees who plan to stay in their RV's, please be aware that **RV's must use alternative locations for camping at local state parks, U.S. Forest Service facilities or commercial campgrounds.**

There are two state parks in the vicinity, Hungry Mother State Park, located in Marion, VA, approximately five miles from Exit 47 on I-81, and Grayson Highlands State Park, about an hour's drive from the Emory & Henry campus. RV campers should make reservations as early as possible since sites fill up quickly over the Fourth of July weekend. Electrical and water hookups and some sewer hookups are available at both parks. State Park reservations can be made 11 months before the required date. For a July 1, 2011 site, reservations can be made on August 1, 2010. Reservations for any state park are made either by phone (800-933-7275), or on-line at (<http://www.reserveamerica.com/campgroundDirectoryList.do?contractCode=va>) but not by mail. Call center hours are 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. A fee of \$5 is charged for reservations made by telephone.

Several Forest Service campgrounds are in the vicinity. Those that take reservations are Beartree, Grindstone, Raccoon and Stoney Fork. Reservations for Forest Service campgrounds can be made six months in advance by telephone (877-444-6777) or on-line at (<http://www.recreation.gov/>) and selecting "Virginia". Check to be sure the desired hookups are available at the campground you select.

A commercial RV campground, "Interstate Campground" is available at Exit 39 on I-81. It offers 16 sites with electricity, water, sewage and cable hookups. As of this writing, they do not accept checks or credit cards. Their telephone is 276-646-8384 and their address is P.O. Box 239, Chilhowie, VA 24210. They do not have a website or an internet address. Reservations are accepted.

Visit the conference website "www.Virginia2011.org" to learn more about this unique event. The site is a "work in progress" so continue to monitor for updates as the planning process continues over the coming year. A large number of volunteers to serve as hike and excursion leaders, activity desk workers, workshop monitors, and in many other ways will be needed from the host clubs to make the event a success. Mark the date on your calendar now and plan to attend. When the call for volunteers appears, be sure to volunteer your support for the conference on behalf of TATC.

Virginia Appalachian Trail License Plates

Now Available at Virginia DMV:

Personalization of the license plate is available.

Six (6) characters available on plate.

Plate Fee (in addition to registration fee) is \$25 annually, and a personalized plate is an additional \$10 annually.

A disabled symbol is also available with this plate.



As a revenue sharing plate **\$15 of the \$25 fee is transferred to Appalachian Trail Conservancy** after the sale of the first 1,000 plates.

Registration is easy! Sign up by visiting: <http://www.dmv.state.va.us/exec/vehicle/splates/info.asp?idnm=AT>

We appreciate your support of the Appalachian Trail, its 6,000 volunteers, maintaining clubs, and ATC itself through your participation in this program.



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Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Requests TATC's Help with Local Trails

By Bill Buck

TATC has been presented with a wonderful opportunity to help the City of Virginia Beach with several of its Local Trails within its parks and natural areas. 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. The Parks and Recreation Department has asked if the members of TATC would assist in some light to moderate work as such locations like City View Park, Red Wing Park, Stumpy Lake Natural Area, and West Neck Creek Natural Area.

This is a great opportunity for members to give back to a local community through volunteering on a cleanup or expansion of a local trail. In addition, your accumulated volunteer hours will earn you certificates, patches, hats, and other items for your hiking/camping adventures.

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 tools or park tools may be used on these trips. Skills learned locally are also used to maintain our section of the Appalachian Trail.

In order to move forward, I need several volunteers willing to assist in being a trail crew leader for one or more of these parks/natural areas. Your duties are simple: coordinate with the park official the responsibilities of the work trip, coordinate having the sign-up sheet at the meetings, lead the work trip (this includes coordinating any necessary 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 us out with this opportunity. Don't assume that someone else will volunteer to do what you can do ... we NEED you ... someone to lead and someone to follow. For further information or questions, please contact Bill Buck at localtrails@tidewateratc.com or 757-846-1125.

Letter to TATC

TO: Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

A couple of our members were so impressed with the Douglas Putman Memorial Cabin that they sat right down and wrote a letter of appreciation for those people who built it! It is gratifying to know that it is protected and enjoyed by the current membership.

Through the years of construction, over a hundred people gave their time and muscle to this rather huge project. No one said that it couldn't be done! The necessary leadership came from a group who were always on site to work, instruct and keep the building on schedule. By name they are: JAQUIE JENKINS, cook and cheerleader; HAROLD CRATE, engineer and project manager; OTEY SHELTON, master stone mason; BILL NEWSOM, chief mortar mixer; ETTA BURCH, landscaper; JERRY BURCH; LEE HULTEN, MARGARET CRATE, laborers par excellence; and BOB ADKISSON, who still remains a stalwart supporter of our beautiful cabin. Bob's specialty was doing anything no one else COULD do such as moving huge rocks from where they grew to wherever he wanted them to be! We are grateful to all those whose names are recorded in several Little Golden Books.

I am proud to have been a participant in the building of something of value and proud to be a Life Member of the TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB.

Sincerely,

Margaret Crate



Canadian Rockies Trip

By Jim Sexton

Well, it's in the books now, as 17 TATC members have returned from spending 12 days and 11 nights in July in the beautiful Canadian Rockies. We flew into Calgary, Alberta and then drove to and spent time in Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks. The weather was cool, with mornings in the 50's and a high of around 76 degrees during one of the days, and low humidity. Coming back to the heat wave in the Tidewater area was certainly a shock. We stayed in hostels in Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper for the trip, and while the hostels in Banff and Lake Louise were very nice, the one in Jasper wasn't. The "Jasper Hostile" had plenty of mosquitoes and chipmunks coming in through open windows, two water main breaks while we were there, and additionally, the bunkrooms left a lot to be desired. The Jasper Hostel is supposed to be rebuilt in 2013. Let's hope so. We prepared and ate most of our meals in the hostels, but we also dined out in Banff, Field (B.C.), and Jasper.

Some of the trips that club members went on included: Lake Minnewanka Boat Ride and Hike, the Banff Gondola, Sunshine Meadows Hiking, Johnson Canyon Hike, the Vermillion Lakes, Plain of the Six Glaciers Trail and Tea House, Lake Agnes Trail and Tea House, Sentinel Pass Trail, Lake Moraine Trail, Consolation Lake Trail, Spiral Tunnels Overlook, Takakkaw Falls, Emerald Lake Trail, The Whyte Museum, The Columbia Icefield Center and Icefield Bus Tour, the Wilcox Pass Trail, the Jasper Tramway and Whistler Mountain Trail, the Valley of the Five Lakes Trails, the Maligne Canyon Trail, Medicine Lake, the Maligne Lake Boat Ride, Athabasca Falls, Sunwapta Falls, and Mistaya Canyon. We also stopped at numerous overlooks off of Highways 1 and 16, and the Icefields Parkway. Our pictures don't do justice to the ever breathtaking scenery we viewed.

One of the more memorable moments of the trip was when the group that hiked to the top of the ridgeline next to Wilcox Pass came across a cold beer that someone had left in a glacier stream. They all took a drink, in the spirit of trail magic. The most exciting part of the trip for me was hiking to Sentinel Pass. We climbed 2,376 feet, with the last 700 feet consisting of switchbacks that climbed almost vertically up the side of the mountain pass, crossing several snowfields along the way. The view from the top was spectacular. Standing on 1,000 feet of ice on the Columbia Glacier Icefield was also exciting, as well as windy and somewhat cold. Trip members included: Robert Wygand, Nathan Wygand, Brittany Wygand, Richard Martin, Carol Martin, Malcolm Higgins, Mark Connolly, Mary Bechtold, Michael Horrell, Richard Tarr, James Sexton, Chris Sexton, Lisa Billow, Alice Baylor, Laura Bontems, Katrina Rogers, and Christine Woods. We celebrated Chris's and Rob's birthdays during the trip. We ended the trip spending under the estimated amount; so the cost of the trip for 12 days was about \$965 per person, plus airline fare (which averaged around \$700). Additional expenses included three eating out meal costs, personal items, memorabilia purchased, and of course some ice cream purchases. I would like to thank all participants of this trip for their great camaraderie. Trip Participants graciously gave Jim and Chris a surprise giclee print on canvas by Denis Mayer, called Home Sweet Home, as a lovely thank you for the year long work planning this trip of a lifetime.

Second Phase of Development Announced for the Appalachian Trail Museum

News Release - July 1, 2010

GARDNERS, PA. -- Its successful grand opening on June 5 has brought national attention and acclaim to the Appalachian Trail Museum, and its organizers are busy seeking input and contributions for the museum's second phase.

"With the very gratifying show of support for the museum leading up to and on our opening, we feel that it is important to keep the momentum going so we can reach our goal of providing professional exhibits on all three floors of the museum," said Larry Luxenberg, president of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society. The second floor of the 200-year-old grist mill that was renovated to house the museum was opened on June 5. Luxenberg said the next section of the building to be prepared for exhibits will be the first floor.

Second phase exhibits will continue to portray not only the history of the Appalachian Trail but also the essence of the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual human experience of the Appalachian environment and the culture of hiking. Among the exhibits in the second phase will be hiking and trail maintenance artifacts.

Inquiries about becoming a museum volunteer or a sponsor or about making a donation may be made at the museum's website, www.atmuseum.org, and info@atmuseum.org.



Morris Creek - July 15, 2010

By Bill Rogers

Morris Creek forms the southwest boundary of the Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Charles City County. I had scouted the boat ramp area earlier, and done a little hiking in the WMA, but had never paddled the creek.

I left home at 6:40 for the 60-mile drive to the WMA boat ramp. Rush hour traffic was light and moving well. I was at the ramp about 8:15. A flock of sixteen Great Egrets passed overhead. Early morning light and shadows made their passage a beautiful one. Of course my camera was in the truck...oh well. A speed boat passed going upcreek at high speed. Nice (?) wake.

I attached the wheels and pulled my craft down the ramp to water's edge, waded in, and launched, heading upstream. At home I'd left a note for Bea with a map of the creek saying that, for safety's sake, I would stay on the main channel and not explore side creeks. That way, if anything happened, I'd be easy to find. I spied a turtle - it quickly dived. Later I heard another drop from a branch into the creek.

I paddled against a very slight outgoing tide. In view of possible motorboats, and knowing they'd be in the deeper water, I stayed on the inside shallows of the many creek curves. There was but an occasional light puff of air. Marsh grass was spring-green. Blooming crimson-eyed rose-mallows lined the banks. There were occasional lavender pickerel weed blooms. A pair of ospreys near the pier screeched objections to my presence.

A bit upstream I flushed a smallish adult bald eagle from a creekside pine. Although it was fairly close, it was too fast and too difficult to catch with the shutter. As I paddled I eyed the banks, looking for possible lunch locations for a future paddle group. Soon I saw the speedboat up ahead. It bore three gents now still fishing. Although one saw me, they faced the other way and made no attempt at a greeting.

There were just a few, far-spaced, houses along the south side of the creek, each with its own pier. One pier held a pretty potted plant garden, including a brightly colored crepe myrtle. Another sported a large boat suspended under a boathouse, and two kayaks hanging under that same roof. With no surface dock at water's surface, I wondered if they climbed into the kayaks and lowered themselves into the water - but much doubted the thought.

I saw a spot on the south bank that might be good for lunch and mentally marked it for later on that day. Up ahead I spied another fisherman. Here there was an apparent channel both the left and the right. It might be an island of marsh grass, or not. I picked left. The fisherman was very pleasant and told me much about the upper creek, as far as he could take his larger craft.

Shortly after I left him the creek started to narrow. A muskrat broke the surface just feet from my kayak but only his head showed, and instantaneously he was back under water and gone. In amongst the shore brush I thought I saw a fox. It turned out to be a small raccoon that quickly disappeared.

Where the creek had been wide with acres and acres of marsh grass and occasional woods, now the shoreline was mostly woods and very pretty. There were a few blowdowns, easily negotiated, and a couple of very large cypress trees. There was only an occasional, annoying deer fly. In two places poison ivy overhung the banks and was avoided. The creek narrowed to but the length of my kayak.

All too soon I spied the Rt. 623 bridge up ahead but I could not get to it. That 50-yards was blocked by several blowdowns. Being alone, I did not attempt to scramble over or portage around them and, instead, turned back.

I quickly confronted an optical illusion. My path was completely blocked by a blowdown. It just could not be!!! But it was not so, the blowdown was there, but the narrow, very twisting creek bent to the left leaving ample passage.

Coming around a bend I spied and flushed a female wood duck. Several times I flushed the same great blue heron as I eased my way downstream to the 'maybe' lunch spot. The tide was at ebb, and there was ample mud on which to beach the kayak. I did. Said mud was gooey, sticky, and grabby. I was very glad I had on tightly strapped sandals - they stayed on. I left my nice, comfortable, warm PFD, and hat, on a tall cypress knee forming a scarecrow 'watchman.' The climb up the very gentle slope to the plateau was easy. On top the area was a mix of pines and hardwoods, with level open ground and a log just asking to be my luncheon seat.

Hanging my shirt over a leafy branch to dry, I walked around a bit. A soda can showed several bullet holes, and there was fire ring and another can. But, for its use, the area was quite clean. I did spot a few shotgun shells wondering if the owners were shooting ducks or themselves. Just behind the log on which I sat there was a dug up turtle nest with egg shell remnants scattered about. A raccoon or fox had feasted. A trail, possibly an old farm road, led off into the woods.

I sat on my log, looking out through the trees over the creek and ate my cold lunch from its little insulated bag. Ice water with Cranberry Emer-Gen-C was simply delightful. This lunch spot will be hard to beat.

After lunch I hiked the trail for about 1/8th of a mile. 'Twas pretty. At the time I thought that a trip I might lead here in the future could be a paddle-hike-paddle. It was so pleasant in my shady lunch spot I hesitated to face the open (think sunny/hot) water of the creek for the return trip. But, after climbing in and getting the mud off my sandals, I was on my way. And it was warm. Later I found out the Norfolk high was 92°, probably closer to 95° farther inland where I was.

The tide was incoming. Cloud reflections in the water were pretty. Along one steepish bank I heard a deer crashing away from me. Moments later, behind a blowdown on shore, I saw just the legs of another deer. Thinking of a possible photo I very slowly inched toward the blocking blowdown. But a deer it wasn't. The legs turned out to be those of a hound looking for scent of its quarry.

Just a short way downstream I jammed the kayak's bow into creekside growth to anchor the boat as I took a photo. Behind me, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a bit of motion in the water. This turned out to be a beaver swimming upstream.

All the fishermen had disappeared and I had the creek to myself. Back at the ramp I pulled the kayak onto the concrete and immediately went up to open the oven-like truck. There was just a tad of shade over next to a shot up sign and I moved it there. Then it was back down to the ramp to put wheels under the kayak and move stuff up to and into the truck.

From the WMA I headed west on Rt. 5, heading for Cul's Courthouse Grill. On the way I stopped in at the Charles City County Visitor Center restroom for a quick hands, face, arms, neck wash, and hair comb. With the truck in the shade at the Visitor Center, I walked across the street to the restaurant for a most delectable, calorie laden, chunk of bread pudding, and a large unsweetened iced tea with two lemon slices.

In my evening shower I noted, not with pleasure, that I was the victim of a number of chiggers (probably from my short walk in the woods). My idea of a future paddle-hike-paddle quickly evaporated. Paddlers normally do not do so in long trousers and walking footwear. If I lead an all-day paddle on the creek it will include some of the side creeks.

Cabin Notes

By Bob Adkission

- So far in 2010 we have had 2 successful and productive cabin work trips; in April, out going Cabin Committee Head Steve Babor led a large group that concentrated on chain sawing fire wood; the cabin also got a thorough 'spring cleaning', and a new picnic table was carried in, in pieces, and assembled on the spot, underneath the new John Donovan Picnic Shelter. In mid July I led a decidedly smaller work force, one devoted solely to improving the access road and the trails immediately around the cabin area—we created or cleaned out water trenches. Saturday evening the 4 of us that remained drove to Sherando for showers, then into Waynesboro for a nice dinner. On the return drive, along the Blue Ridge Parkway about an hour before sunset, we stopped and watched a shiny-coated young black bear walk nonchalantly around the Laurel Spring parking area at milepost 9.5 (where the App. Trail crosses the road).
- On the July work trip, we sat on the porch and marveled at how hot and humid *it wasn't !!* We sort of laughed at the people that avoid the cabin in the summer-- because of the heat or the bugs, or whatever other reasons they can think up. It was easily 10 degrees cooler in the mountains, and not nearly as humid. We did hope for rain, to cool things off even more, and so that we could see how the trails and the road drained after our two days of work, but darned our luck: we had 3 days of perfect weather. No bugs, either!
- Since the new and expanded parking lot was completed by the Park Service last summer, we've had several occasions when non-club members have found their way back to the cabin by 'accident', thinking it was the White Rock Falls Trail. It is possible (and promised) that *sometime* this year the Park Service will erect a sign board or kiosk with a map there at White Rock Gap, and people will get the directions they apparently require to find the two trails that lead out of the gap. In the mean time, in July I put up a discrete sign on a large tree directing people to the White Rock Falls Trail, and another sign 100 yards down our access road that clearly states that it is NOT the White Rock Falls Trail. I also put up several new and improved yellow trail markers there at the trailhead. Maybe this will alleviate some of the confusion and trouble.
- Despite rather dry conditions, the cabin's spring is running fine. There is plenty of cut firewood stacked here and there in the surrounding woods (the stacks marked by red flagging tape). Everything at the cabin is pretty much hunky dory and eagerly awaiting your arrival.
- Hunky dory except for: there were several books bought and donated (by me) to the cabin; they resided in the map box and were for the general enjoyment of cabin renters. I noticed two of them were missing: Pilgrim At Tinker Creek by Ann Dillard and Follow the River, with the author's name escaping me at the moment. If you took either of these interesting books home to finish reading them, please return them ASAP, to the cabin or to me. Also of concern: the glass globe on one of the 3 cabin lanterns was broken and the damage never reported (and a handful of the broken glass was never picked up from behind the cook stove). Anyone with knowledge of this, please get back to me about it. Thirdly: for awhile now I have been noticing a peculiar type of litter all around the cabin grounds—small (twice the size of a typical BB) brightly colored plastic spheres. I am told they are from a toy gun, a sort of BB gun that shoots plastic and not metal BBs. There are dozens of these things littering the trails and area immediately around the cabin. They will take about 10,000 years to biodegrade. Parents or leaders of children who use the cabin need to please be aware of what toys the kids are playing with, and what they might be leaving behind.
- There are two more cabin work / orientation trips scheduled in 2010, in which new club members can discover the cabin for themselves, contribute to its maintenance, and qualify themselves to rent it on their own. The next trip, led by Greg Hodges, is the weekend of Sept. 17th—19th. In Nov. Steve Babor will lead what he says is possibly / probably his last work trip to the cabin. This trip is Nov. 5th—7th. Call Greg or Steve, or look for the sign up sheets at the upcoming meetings to be included on these trips. Don't miss out!
- I am tentatively scheduling a fun, open-to-all trip to the cabin for the full moon weekend of Nov. 19th—21st. It will actually be a 5 day / 4 night long weekend (Thursday thru Monday) for those that want to join me for some day hiking and exploration. I'd like to hike at least one day in Shenandoah Park. Come for all or part of the weekend. As always, the temperature will be just right, the full moon a marvel of nature. Here in the dog days of summer, imagine how wonderful it will be, how different, in November..... And maybe we will even see another bear! It is almost time to schedule trips that will appear in next year's TATC calendar, and this includes any open-to-all trips that qualified members might want to lead to the club's cabin. Call or email me with any questions you might have about this seldom used opportunity to enjoy, and share, the cabin with your fellow club members. This October, you could reserve, via the calendar, pretty much any date you want in the year 2011 (you do need to first clear the date with the cabin committee, to make sure it won't conflict with any work trips we might have planned; you will also need to be sure to announce the trip in the TATC Newsletter in a timely manner).

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.

August 7, 2010 Saturday	Bill Buck, 846-1125, BBuck_TATC@verizon.net	Newport News Park Maintenance - Come join us for some light trail maintenance in Newport News Park, one of the largest city parks in the United States. We will meet at the Discovery Center Parking Lot at 9 a.m. Bring water, work gloves, and a snack. Afterwards, if you've worked up an appetite, we can "do lunch" at Deer Run Grille located on the premises. Newport News Park is located at 13564 Jefferson Avenue in Newport News with easy access, just off Interstate 64 via Exit 250B. To sign-up or if you have questions, please contact Bill.
August 3, 2010 Tuesday	Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584	TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Open to all members.
August 11, 2010, Wednesday	Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584	TATC General Membership Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk Linda Richard of the Princess Anne Garden Club will speak on her organization's assisting with the exhibits for the New Visitors Center at First Landing State Park. There was no money set aside for the interior so the Garden Club has taken the challenge.
August 20-22, 2010, Friday-Sunday	Nancy Rickenberger, 623-0334 or 286-8922 (cell) or nancy@rinkenberger.us	Bike the New River Trail - Friday we will travel to SW Virginia and gather at our campsite in the late afternoon. Arrive early enough and you can take a swim in the New River or go kayaking. Saturday we bike 35 miles of the New River Trail (40 miles if we go for ice cream). Sunday you can choose between (1) biking to the end of the trail (17 miles) and leaving for home from the trail terminus, (2) doing an out and back for a 34-mile day, or (3) forget the biking and go tubing down the New River. We will car camp, so no special bike gear is needed. Bring a dry bag to hold your lunch, water and rain gear. Saturday night we will enjoy a community potluck dinner at our beautiful campsite on the river. Contact Nancy for details.
September 7, 2010, Tuesday	Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584	TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Open to all members.
September 8, 2010, Wednesday	Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584	TATC General Membership Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Jane Martin sponsors the annual photo contest, Take Only Pictures. As you enjoy summer activities with TATC, keep in mind that the photos you snap can be enjoyed by all at the annual September Photo Contest or in the TATC calendar. You will find an appreciative audience at the meeting and possibly achieve fame, if not fortune, should one of your pictures be selected for our 2011 calendar.
September 11, 2010, Saturday	Jim & Chris Sexton, 484-2827	Bike Trip - Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge & False Cape State Park - Meet at 9:00AM at the Visitor Center at Back Bay National Refuge (fee). Bike from Visitor's Center through Refuge and into FC State Park, approximately 20 miles round trip. Bring plenty water, a lunch, rain gear, sunscreen & insect repellent. Eat out at the <i>Sandbridge Island Restaurant</i> afterwards.

(Continued on Page 11)

Activities Schedule

(Continued from Page 10)

<p>September 11, 2010, Saturday</p>	<p>Bill Rogers, 484-6001</p>	<p>Hiking and Backpacking Seminar - 9:55AM-4:30-ishPM. The ins and outs, the ups and downs, the what to do/what not to do, what to wear/what not to wear. Footwear, headwear, and all that goes in between will be covered (filters, stoves, packs, tents, good stuff, stupid stuff, how to put on a backpack). Come see what these great sports are all about and how to do it. Bring lunch and beverage. Call Bill to sign up and get directions.</p>
<p>September 17-19, Friday-Sunday</p>	<p>Mark Wenger, 253-0056 (h) 220-7408 (w) markwenger@cox.net</p>	<p>RAFT WEST VIRGINIA'S GAULEY RIVER - The Gauley becomes one of the top ten whitewater streams in the world during the September/October release of water at Summersville Dam. The entire run from the dam to the junction of the New is 23 miles and features 110 rapids, 6 of which are rated class V+, one being a 14' drop at Sweet Falls. Some plan to raft this so-called marathon but the shorter upper Gauley and lower Gauley runs are options, as well as the lower New River run (class III, IV, V). Novice rafters should consider doing the New before attempting the Gauley as the Gauley is no amusement park. This is real and big water and the ultimate whitewater in America. The outfitter will be ACE Adventures located in Oak Hill, WV www.aceraft.com 800-787-3982. Contact ACE to get full information. I have made reservations. When you call, use my reservation number (114022). Doing so; ensures we are grouped together for camping to rafting.</p>
<p>October 12, Tuesday</p>	<p>Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584</p>	<p>TATC General Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. CALENDAR ADJUSTMENT - Note that the October General Membership Meeting has been changed to Tuesday, October 12th at 7:00 PM. This is a second change of date in order to avoid a conflict with library usage.</p>
<p>November 6, 2010 Saturday</p>	<p>Bill Buck, 846-1125, BBuck_TATC@verizon.net</p>	<p>Newport News Park Maintenance - Join us for some light maintenance in Newport News Park, the largest city park east of the Mississippi. Meet at the Discovery Center parking lot at 9:00AM. Bring water, work gloves and a snack. Afterwards we can lunch at Deer Run Grill located on the premises. Park is located at 13564 Jefferson Avenue with easy access off I-64 via exit 250B. Call Bill for more information or to sign up.</p>
<p>February 19-21, 2011</p>	<p>Charles Hauser 810-7452</p>	<p>WV Winter Weekend @ Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge – A wonderful opportunity for comfortable relaxing at a classic lodge with fireplace/game room, exercise room, heated pool, hot tub, and a good restaurant. After a six hour drive over the mountains, possible activities include downhill skiing (Canaan & Timberline have snow-making capacity), cross country skiing/snowshoeing, sledding, tubing, hiking, horseback riding, dining in Davis. You need to make your own early reservation which can be up to a year in advance. This is a most popular weekend at the lodge.</p>

Hikes and Activities. Please call the Hikemaster, Jim Newman, 867-6688 to leave a message or e-mail at Hikemaster@TidewaterATC.com with all hike and activities information to be included in this listing. If you e-mail them, be sure to identify yourself by full name and that this is a TATC event. Sign-up sheets must be returned to the Hikemaster after the event, and will be saved for a period of several years. You may bring sign-up sheets to the board or general meeting following the event.

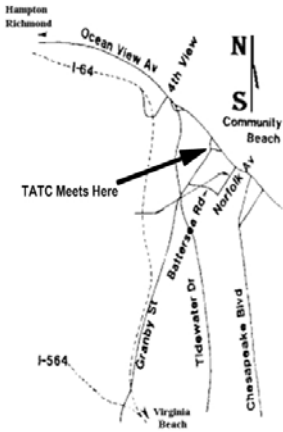
Weekday Activity Group: If you would like to receive e-mail notifications of local hikes, bicycle rides, and paddles taking place during the week (usually on **Tuesdays**) please send e-mail to Ellis Malabad malabad2@gmail.com requesting to be added to the "Tuesday Group" e-mail distribution list.



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

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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

