

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com

December 2009 - January 2010

Prez Sez



As I write this article, the sun is shining brightly outside and the temperature is hovering in the mid-60s. It's a little hard to accept that the winter solstice is only a month away. The nor'easter that pummeled our coastline two weeks ago is still fresh in my mind and a potent reminder that Mother Nature can do whatever she wants, whenever she wants! A recent four day outing to False Cape State Park illustrated the tremendous power of these storms and their awesome ability to alter the landscape. Our trip was partially to do maintenance on the trails there and to construct some railings. But we found plenty of time to hike and enjoy the beauty of the park. False Cape was once home to a thriving community that was unable to survive the dynamics of the constantly changing ecosystem. Storms, endless shifting of the dunes and remoteness contributed to the eventual demise of the villages.

All that remains are some rusting cars, crumbling buildings and a cemetery. Bruce Julian, our group leader, has spent many years volunteering at False Cape and entertained us with stories (mostly factual) of the area's history while leading us on hikes all through the Park. From high dunes of shifting sand, to dense thickets of Live Oak, to the pounding surf on the beach, False Cape is a fascinating mix of contrasting scenery. Every turn in the trail brought another breathtaking view of sea, sand and sky. Perhaps most impressive were the freshly carved faces of the primary dunes. Resembling sharp precipices and cliffs, rather than gently sloping hills of sand, they clearly demonstrated the stunning erosive forces of wind and surf generated by the recent nor'easter.

Each visit to False Cape brings new insights to the effects of weather on this fragile coastline. The shifting sands reveal new treasures just as soon as they bury old ones. As I walked the trails and beach and took in the panoramic beauty of each vista, I thought how very fortunate I was to be able to partake in such an adventure. Had I not been a member of TATC, I don't think I would have ever had the opportunity to appreciate this unique environment on such an extreme level.

TATC had a great year in 2009, filled with lots of projects and fun trips. Two weeks of Konnarock gave us a new staircase on the AT near Hanging Rock.

(Continued in next column)

We have new bear poles at Maupin Field and a new picnic shelter at the cabin. We continue to stay active in the local community with maintenance trips and hikes at local parks. Many enjoyed the camaraderie of the 2009 AT biennial in Vermont and we have made a gallant start towards the next biennial, Virginia Journeys, in 2011.

Many thanks to all of my fellow TATCers for your participation and support over the past year. None of this would have been possible without your help. And a very special thanks to my fellow board members for their leadership and guidance. I would be lost without them.

The holidays will soon be upon us and I know that I will take a moment to give thanks for all of the dear friends I have made through TATC and all of the wonderful adventures we have shared together. Let's make 2010 another great year!

Be safe! Have fun!

Phyllis Neumann
TATC President
president@tidewateratc.com

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(banner photo by Mark Ferguson)



Visit our website at
www.tidewateratc.com

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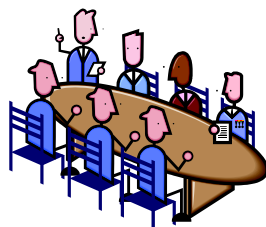
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Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club 2009 Annual Trails Report

The Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club contributed 3275 volunteer work and travel hours to the Appalachian Trail this year as reported to the ATC. This includes 248 hours devoted to the AT and connecting trails on National Parkland and 3072 hours for the AT and connecting trails on Forest Service land. Non AT hours reported to the NFS included an additional 219 hours on the Mau-Har trail and 274 hours spent on the St Mary's Wilderness trails. Total hours for the club: 3768.

MAINTENANCE:

Work trips to maintain the AT and other trails were scheduled throughout the year. These included our regular Fall and Spring AT maintenance weekends, plus the spring walk thru, and one trip to St Mary's Wilderness. Also two weeks in July with the Konnarock crew working near Hanging Rock.

ACTIVITIES:

April AT survey trip

Work parties surveyed the club's section of the AT and Mau-Har trail in preparation for Spring Maintenance in May. 21 TATC members participated. 7 members came early on Thursday and we installed 3 bear poles around Maupin field.

Spring Maintenance

15-17 May, 53 TATC volunteers including 2 minors participated. Work done include swing blading, lopping, and treadway repairs from the Tye River north to Harpers Creek. Saw crews cleared blowdowns on the AT near Gid's spring, north of Harper's shelter, and the Mau-Har trail. Other work parties cleaned the shelters and campsites at Harpers Creek, Maupin Field, and the Tye River. Nancy Babor and crew provided the tasty chili supper on Saturday.

Hanging Rock rehab project

July 2-6 and 9-13. 21 members and non-members worked on the project over the two weeks contributing 654 hours. Cooler temps and some rain made for an enjoyable time to play with rocks and build steps. With help from the Konnarock crew and their rock moving equipment @75 yards of AT have improved and safer footing. My friends from Petersburg served up the meal on the 1st Saturday and Nancy Rinckenberger and crew fed everybody on the 2nd Saturday. Ice cream was had after both meals. This project is scheduled to take 2 more years. Also in between work on the trail the Maupin Field shelter received a new roof.

Summer maintenance

This trip was cancelled to allow more time to be devoted to the rehab project.

Fall Maintenance

16-18 October, 40 TATC volunteers participated, on a chilly damp weekend. Due to the damp weather, plans to reblaze most of the club's section was put off till spring. There was still work to be had, some crews cleaned the shelters, privies, and campsites, while others cleared any remaining blowdowns left from prior trips. Several blowdowns were removed on the Bald Mt trail also. Mike Mureddu and crew served up the yummy dinner on Saturday evening.

2010 PROJECTS:

2 weeks with the Konnarock crew rehabilitating a section of AT near Hanging Rock.

TRAINING CLASSES:

There are a variety of classes that ATC provides to volunteers, please check their website for info.

SAW CERTIFIED:

Crosscut: John Gillikin, Bill Rogers, Tom Reed, Jim Sexton

Chainsaw: Phyllis and Alan Neumann, Stacy Smith, Elaine Wilder

Thanks to all the club members that went out and worked on maintaining the trail this year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Hilton, Trails Supervisor

TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 5, 2009
6-11 p.m.

WHRO Studios
5200 Hampton Blvd, Norfolk, VA

Dinner will be potluck, so please bring your favorite entrée, salad, appetizer, dessert or any combination of these. \$5.00 will be collected at the door to help cover expenses. Come dressed for holiday fun, games, door prizes, music and dancing.

Entertainment will be provided by the Jimmies!!

Questions? E-mail Nancy Babor at: social@tidewateratc.com
or call (757) 588-7501



Social Committee News

Coming up in December is our Annual Holiday Party. The Social Committee is always open to suggestions/ideas for games, door prizes or any other activity that you would like to see that evening. Donations of door prizes, gift cards, etc. are always welcome. Please let me know if you can contribute something, and I'll be happy to pick it up, as I'll be wrapping everything before the party.

Nick Werner's band, The Jimmies, will be playing for the party. If you haven't come to a holiday party in recent years, come and hear one of our own play!

Nancy Babor
TATC Social Committee
social@tidewateratc.com
588-7501



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Chaco



Froze to Death Plateau
The Fool Killer
St Louis-du-Ha! Ha!
By Bob Adkisson

I have a long standing habit of letting my eyes wander, and sometime virtually scour, various maps, idly dreaming of routes I would take if I were hiking, paddling, biking, or driving thru that particular region. Often my eyes fall upon a place (be it a town, a river, a peak) with an unusual name like, for instance, The Fool Killer, a mountain in New Hampshire. I can't help but add them to my voluminous list of odd place names (like Odd, W.V., or Peculiar, Mo., or even Knockemstiff, Oh.).

Turns out, one February a year or two after having first spied it, Mal Higgins and I, and the rest of the TATC winter hiking group, set out to circumnavigate the Fool Killer—with such a name as that, how could we resist? No trail actually crossed over the nearly 3,500 ft. summit of the Fool Killer, so we had to settle for a circular hike around it, some of it on incredibly steep trail, some of it on adjoining high ridges, some of it alongside frozen creeks. Most of the group turned back before the trail really started to climb, and only Mal and I completed the circuit, finishing exhausted, about an hour after sunset.

Fool Killer? Not quite!

Froze to Death Plateau, I discovered this last August, didn't quite live up to its name either.

The plateau is located in southern Montana, just a few miles north of Yellowstone Nat'l Park. The object of my hike, the Montana state high point (Granite Peak, 12,799 ft.), is most easily reached by climbing and crossing, and camping upon, this barren and rocky 10,000 to 11,000 ft. plateau.

Since the ascent of Granite Peak is semi-technical, I went on a guided trip, with 3 fellow climbers, with ropes and helmets and such, with tents (provided for us) strong and complicated enough that they would be right at home on Mt Everest. The plateau seems to be a magnet for difficult weather, and during our 3 days and nights there we experienced the gamut: three lightning storms followed closely by snow and high winds—*in August!*

But, even with a 4 a.m. start, all of us reached the summit, all of us survived the storms, and all of us returned safely to our waiting cars, about 5,500 feet lower down the valley, almost in another world entirely.

Occasionally I write articles for the TATC Newsletter about some of the unusual place names I've run across. This, however, is more of a shout out about an exceptional book I recently stumbled across, one that, happily, more or less solved a long running mystery about a certain set of place names I'd seen on maps of Quebec.

Way back in Oct. of 1977, having just 14 days before reached the summit of Mt. Katahdin and the northern end of the A.T., I was hitch hiking west along the Trans-Canadian Highway, from New Brunswick over to the St Lawrence River. I was heading for my first time look at the cities of Quebec and Montreal. As usual, I had my road map spread across my lap, but this time I was hoping to spy the sign, or even the Post Office, for a town with a most intriguing name: St Louis-du-Ha! Ha! Whatever was that all about, what in the world could that mean? I'd mentioned it to the driver and asked him if he would mind pulling over for a quick photograph when we got there. He'd said, "sure".

Trouble was, when we got there, there was no *'there'* there-- no sign with the towns name, no Post Office or businesses, only half a dozen houses and barns scattered along about a mile of road. This was the place, but the place was all but gone.

So the name remained a mystery, along with the more isolated Grand Lac du Ha! Ha! and Petit Lac du Ha! Ha! that I'd also discovered on a map, both of them about a hundred miles north of the city of Quebec. There seemed to be no easy explanation, not even from a woman in the trail club who teaches French!

And then, **32 years** later, last summer I saw a book at the library—Beauty Tips From Moose Jaw, by Will Ferguson (and who could resist a book with a title like that?)—and there among the humor and the history and the personal narrative of his travels throughout the vastness of Canada, were a few lines about a place in Quebec that I *hadn't* noticed: Baie des Ha! Ha! (Baie is French for bay). He offered up an explanation of the Ha! Ha!, the first I'd ever heard.

As usual with such things, there is some controversy involved; it is, I guess, more a reasonable theory than a sure thing.

Here is his explanation: the Baie (bay) in question is a false lead off of the nearby Saguenay River estuary, which was a main thoroughfare for the early French explorers, the canoe paddling voyageurs. He states, "The Ha! Ha! refers to the dead end and, legend has it, to the hearty laugh of voyageurs who followed such passages, thinking they were on the main channel, only to discover ha! ha! that they were lost—proof once again that the Quebecois have a joie de vivre ("keen enjoyment of life") all their own".

He goes on to say that if it had been 18th century English canoeists who'd just paddled 25 miles out of their way, possibly struggling against the wind and rain, they'd have saddled the bay or channel with a name both profane and vulgar, one that posterity would have had to clean up.

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The dust jacket of Beauty Tips From Moose Jaw claims that Ferguson is Canada's number one humorist, that most of his half dozen or so books are best sellers; he is routinely compared to America's own Bill Bryson (author of the hilarious book about the A.T., A Walk in the Woods).

Beauty Tips is well worth the time and I'd recommend it to anyone who likes to read, anyone who likes travel writing and is fond of or interested in Canada. Some of the book is rather personal, but it is also full of humor, with a wry and irreverent look at the soul and history of our great northern neighbor.



TATC Maintenance Trips 2010

Appalachian Trail Maintenance Trips		
Date:	Site:	Contact:
April 16-18, 2010	Spring Walk-Through	Scott Hilton 625-6052
May 21-23, 2010	Spring Maintenance & Family Campout	Scott Hilton 625-6052
June 10-14, 2010	Konnarock - Hanging Rock Project	Scott Hilton 625-6052
July 1-5, 2010	Konnarock - Hanging Rock Project	Scott Hilton 625-6052
October 15-17, 2010	Fall Maintenance & Family Campout	Scott Hilton 625-6052

Local Maintenance Trips		
Date:	Site:	Contact:
March 13, 2010	Fisherman Island	Chris Sexton 484-2827
March 14, 2010	Merchants Millpond	Bill Lynn, 867-6753
March 20, 2010	Sandy Bottom Nature Park	Pat Parker, 851-9252
March 28, 2010	Sunday – New Quarter Park	Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584
April 10, 2010	First Landing State Park	Bill Buck 846-1125
June 26, 2010	First Landing State Park	Bill Buck 846-1125
August 28, 2010	First Landing State Park	Bill Buck 846-1125
September 18, 2010	Sandy Bottom Nature Park	Pat Parker, 851-9252
November 20, 2010	First Landing State Park	Bill Buck 846-1125

Cabin Maintenance Trips		
Date:	Site:	Contact:
April 23-25, 2010	TATC Cabin	Steve Babor, 588-7501
June 25-27, 2010	TATC Cabin	Bob Adkisson 627-5514
September 17-19, 2010	TATC Cabin	Greg Hodges 961-9995
November 5-7, 2010	TATC Cabin	Steve Babor, 588-7501

TATC Slate of Candidates 2010

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for the 2010 Board of Directors:

President: Phyllis Neumann
Vice President: Jim Newman
Trail Supervisor: Scott Hilton
Assistant Trail Supervisor: Mark Connolly
Secretary: Laura Bontems
Treasurer: Jim Smith
Counselor: Nancy Rinkenberger

The elections will take place at the January club meeting, and nominations will be accepted from the floor for any office immediately prior to the vote for that office.

Our thanks and gratitude go out to all who have stepped up to the plate to volunteer their time and energy to help keep our club running (and hiking!).



Low Impact Camping and Hiking Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010
Time and Location: TBD

This one day workshop will explore ways in which we can minimize our impact on the world around us, and increase the enjoyment of the experience while camping and hiking. The class will consist of a mix of classroom instruction and hands-on practice. This is a great introduction for those new to hiking and camping and an informative addition for the more experienced outdoor enthusiast.

Participants should bring a bag lunch and should dress accordingly for the weather, as the hands-on portion of the class will be conducted outside. The workshop is free, but pre-registration is required since space is limited. To register, please email your name and phone number to education@tidewateratc.com or call 763-0859.

The 2011 Biennial is Coming Sooner Than You Think!

The 2011 Biennial conference of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as you know will be at Emory and Henry College and the steering committee is being led by our own Ned Kuhns. However, he cannot do it all on his own and each of the Virginia Clubs has signed up for specific assignments. Phyllis Neumann is heading up workshops. She is not only looking for ideas but people who would be willing to lead a workshop. Likewise we will be handling publicity as well as signage and are looking for volunteers to assist there as well. But it does not end there. Other groups are looking for people to lead hikes, help park cars, direct traffic, assist at various booths and the lists go on. A successful meeting only happens when many volunteers fully participate. Some of you have already signed up but we need more. **PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO HELP!** Contact Phyllis, Ned or myself and glad to have you on board.

Mark Wenger
TATC Rep

Membership

Welcome to these new and returning members: Brian Richie, Emilie McIntosh, Charles Hauser, Tom & Melissa Siegmund, Thomas Boose, Erin Boklage, Ed & Deborah Gibbs, and Susie Walker.

Mary Hormell
Membership Committee Chair
membership@tidewateratc.com

Activities Schedule

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

December 1, 2009 Tuesday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Open to all members.
December 5, 2009 Saturday 6-11 p.m.	Nancy Babor 588-7501	Annual Holiday Party - Come dressed for some holiday fun, food, games, door prizes, music and dancing. Our Annual Holiday Party will be from 6:00-11:00 PM at WHRO Studios at 5200 Hampton Blvd. in Norfolk. This is a pot luck, so bring your favorite entrée, salad, appetizer, dessert or any combination of these. \$5.00 will be collected at the door to help cover expenses. Nick Werner's band, "The Jimmies," will be providing the entertainment for us. Call Nancy for any queries.
December 13, 2009 Sunday	Chris Sexton 484-2827	Fisherman Island Beach Clean-Up - The trip will be limited to 25 people, so you must sign up by notifying me by e-mail or calling me. We will meet at the south toll plaza parking lot of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel at 8:00AM and leave by 8:10. We will carpool and drive to the Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge to meet the rangers/ volunteers, who will in turn lead us back over part of the bridge to the Fisherman Island entrance. The drive to Fisherman Island will be limited to 6 vehicles. People not wanting to stay on the Eastern Shore for lunch or exploration will be riding in the same vehicle(s). All will be expected to share the tunnel toll fee. The tolls are \$12 or \$17 per vehicle. The toll fee is more for those eating out or exploring on the Eastern Shore after the F.I. cleanup. We will be on the island from approximately 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Eat out at Sting Rays afterward. Remember Fisherman Island is usually very windy, and can be bitter cold if, so dress appropriately. We will be walking through soft sand to get to the beach. Wear sunscreen, warm hat, warm work gloves, bring sunglasses, etc. Bring water and snacks, and your camera for interesting beach pictures.
January 1, 2010 Friday	Bill Rogers 484-6001	28th Annual New Year's Day Hike - Sleep late, we'll not meet until eight. Start the year on the right foot. Get some good exercise and clear your head and lungs with a walk in nature. Call Bill for details.
January 5, 2010 Tuesday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Open to all members.
January 13, 2010 Wednesday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	TATC General Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Program: General Elections for TATC Board Members. Also: Presentation of Local Trail Awards for hours spent maintaining trails at Sandy Bottom, Merchants Millpond, First Landing, False Cape, New Quarter, and Chippokes parks, etc.
January 16-18, 2010 Saturday- Monday	Steve Babor 588-7501	No Broken Bones Cabin Trip (Guys Only) - This is a commemorative trip to the TATC cabin featuring a no-injury weekend. Carpooling to leave Steve's house at 8:00 AM on Saturday. We'll have lunch somewhere on the way. Day hike Sunday and share in a community dinner. This year it will be "Surf & Turf." We'll head back for Southside after breakfast on Monday. Winter hiking experience may be required. Sorry gals, but this time, it's just for the guys. Call Steve for further details or to sign up. Limited to 8 participants.

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Activities Schedule

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<p>January 28, 2010- February 2, 2010 Thursday-Tuesday</p>	<p>Mal Higgins 473-2231</p>	<p>New Hampshire Winter Backpacking. - Revised description. TRIP FULL. Waiting List. Backpacking with snowshoes (and possibly crampons) on trails in Crawford Notch State Park area and Presidential Range--Dry River Wilderness. Past winter backpacking experience mandatory. Expect unbearable cold (temps near zero), wind, snow, and a continuous runny nose for your enjoyment! But spectacular winter above the tree line scenery to distract you. From AMC Highland Center, Days 1 and 2: hike to/from Zealand Falls Hut (AMC winter limited use) on AZ and Avalon Trails and overnight there in unheated bunkroom. The outdoor temperature is your temperature. Days 3 and 4: hike Crawford Path and A.T. on summit attempt on Mt. Pierce, and if weather permits, Mt. Eisenhower same day or next day. Night 3, overnight in tents on platforms at Nauman Tentsite on A.T. Cross country skiing half day on last day. Snowshoes required, possibly crampons (rentals from outfitter). Depart by car 5:00 AM Jan. 28; return late Feb. 2. One long day drive each way. Motel first and last nights, at the least.</p>
<p>February 2, 2010 Tuesday</p>	<p>Phyllis Neumann 566-4584</p>	<p>TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Open to all members.</p>
<p>February 6, 2010 Saturday</p>	<p>Rosanne Scott, Bill Rogers, Milton Beale 763-0859</p>	<p>Low Impact Camping and Hiking Workshop - Time and location: First Landing State Park Visitor Center, 9:30AM – 3:30PM. This one-day workshop will explore ways in which we can minimize our impact on the world around us, and increase the enjoyment of the experience while camping and hiking. The class will consist of a mix of classroom instruction and hands-on practice. This is a great introduction for those new to hiking and camping and an informative addition for the more experienced outdoor enthusiast. Participants should bring a bag lunch and should dress with regard to the weather, as the hands-on portion of the class will be conducted outside. The workshop is FREE, but pre-registration is required since space is limited. To register, please email your name and phone number to education@tidewateratc.com or call 763-0859.</p>
<p>February 10, 2010 Wednesday</p>	<p>Phyllis Neumann 566-4584</p>	<p>TATC General Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Program: Presentation on Alaska by Richard Tarr (Part I).</p>
<p>February 14, 2010 Sunday</p>	<p>Phyllis Neumann 566-4584</p>	<p>THE Chocolate Hike - Annual hike of the 5-mile Noland Trail around the lake near the Mariners Museum and PFAC in Newport News at the south end of J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Take your Valentine for a walk in the woods, and take your chocolate treat to enter into competition for the winning recipe to be determined by our impartial judge. Whether or not you present an entry, expect to be sampling some of the chocolate-related goodies available in this tournament of treats, this marathon of morsels, this ultimate contest of confections. Lunch afterwards for those who have to temper their chocolate with something else. Meet at the Mariners Museum parking lot at 10:30AM.</p>
<p>February 27, 2010 Saturday</p>	<p>Jim & Chris Sexton 484-2827</p>	<p>False Cape State Park Terra Gator Ride and Hike - Get a ride on the ultimate swamp- and beach-buggy, the Terra Gator. This trip is by reservation only, and limited to 28. Meet by 11:45PM at Little Island City Park in Virginia Beach. The transporter leaves Little Island City Park in Sandbridge at 1:00PM and returns there at 5:00PM, with a 45 minute ride each way on the beach. Get in some strenuous hiking on soft sand. See some of the wildlife and environment in this quiet and beautiful state park. Bundle up for cool beach winds, and bring ear plugs, water, snacks. Call Jim or Chris to make your reservation.</p>

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Activities Schedule

(Continued from Page 10)

March 2, 2010 Tuesday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Open to all members.
March 10, 2010 Wednesday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	TATC General Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Program: Installation of new Board of Directors/Officers and affirmation of proposed TATC Budget Also: Presentation on Alaska by Richard Tarr (Part II).
March 13, 2010 Saturday	Chris Sexton 484-2827	Fisherman Island NWR Beach Cleanup - Trip is limited to 20, so get your spot on the list by signing up early. Meet at 8 a.m. at the south toll plaza parking lot for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Cars will be limited on Fisherman Island, so we will first carpool to Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge. A Ranger will lead us to our access to Fisherman Island. We will be picking up trash on the beach. Eat at restaurant on Eastern Shore afterwards if desired. Take warm clothes, a fleece hat, work gloves, and suitable shoes or boots to walk through the sand. Wear sunscreen. Bring your camera. All persons will share toll costs for the cars.
March 13, 2010 Saturday	Bill Rogers 484-6001	Backpacking Seminar - The Do's-Don'ts, and How to—How not to, and Equipment, Clothes, and more about our favorite outdoor adventure sport. Get some discussion of how to make choices in your equipment purchases. What features to look for. What's high-priced overkill and what's a light, satisfying pack to carry that has what you need in it, and what to wear while carrying the pack. Bring lunch and a beverage. 09:55hrs to 16:40hrs (4:40PM). For directions, call Bill.
March 14, 2010 Sunday	Bill Lynn 867-6753	Merchants Millpond Maintenance - Help do some grooming of this local gem of a locale, after some of the effects of winter, and before the onslaught of bugs. We'll provide some tools. Bring lunch and gloves to help clear the trail. Call Bill for details and to arrange car-pooling.
March 20, 2010 Saturday	Pat Parker 851-9252	Sandy Bottom Maintenance - Meet at the Trail Center at 9 AM, work until 12 noon. Pat will coordinate with the rangers to determine the work project for the morning.
March 20-21, 2010 Saturday-Sunday	Bill Lynn 867-6753	Merchants Millpond Canoe Overnighter - Early springtime camping and canoeing at Merchants Millpond State Park before the bugs arrive in mass. We'll camp on an island and explore the millpond with its beaver, birds, and alligators. We might also hike or just hang around. This is a great trip for beginners, because canoe rentals are available, and, if you don't know how to paddle, the trip leader will give you free lessons on this still-water pond. It's a great trip for children too, so take the munchins. You'll need normal camping equipment, plus drinking water, and whatever fills your canoe. Contact Bill for details.
March 28, 2010 Sunday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	New Quarter Trail Maintenance - Meet at 9:30AM at the inner parking lot for a morning of light maintenance. Bring gloves, comfortable footwear, water and snacks. Tools will be provided. Possibility of lunch afterwards.

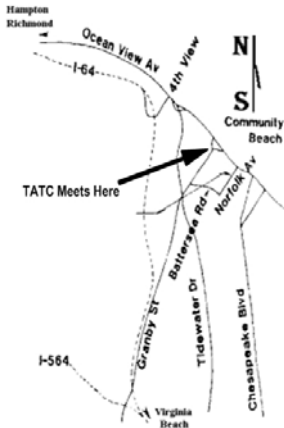


Hikes and Activities. Please call Hikemaster Mark Connolly 623-0764 to leave a message or e-mail at Hikemaster@TidewaterATC.com with all hike and activities information to be included in this listing. If you e-mail them, be sure to identify yourself by full name and that this is a TATC event. Sign-up 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, or mail them to the Hikemaster: Mark Connolly, 1721 LaSalle Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23509



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

