

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com



February 2011 - March 2011

Prez Sez

Recent elections have ushered in a new administration for TATC and I look forward to working with the new 2011 Board of Directors. Many thanks to Nancy Rinkenberger for chairing the election committee, coming up with a slate of candidates and running a smooth election. I extend a warm welcome to our newest Board Members: Helen Buonoviri (Secretary) and John Davis (Assistant Trail Supervisor) and to current and former Board members assuming new positions: Mark Connolly (Trail Supervisor) and Chris Sexton (Counselor). New faces bring diverse ideas and fresh insight to the business of running this club. I look forward to another year as President and to working with returning Board members Jim Newman (Vice President/Hikemaster), Tim Smith (Treasurer), Nancy Rinkenberger (Counselor, Youth Outreach), Sandy Butler (Counselor), and all of the committee members who tirelessly volunteer their time at monthly board meetings. Fond farewells to Laura Bontems (Secretary) and Jane Oakes (Counselor) who have faithfully and diligently served on the Board for the past three years and to Scott Hilton, our devoted Trail Supervisor for the past five years. I'd also like to mention your TATC Committee chairs: Ned Kuhns (RPC), Mark Wenger (RPC), Jim Sexton (Newsletter/Webmaster), Bill Rogers (Education), Bob Giffin (Land Management), Mary Hormell (Membership), Bob Adkisson (Cabin/Historical), Ed and Jane Martin (Calendar), Dottie Abbott (Programs), Bruce Julian (Tool Boss/Merchandise), Margaret Julian (Merchandise), John and Jane Oakes (ATPO Awards) and Bill Buck (Local Trails). Individuals take on the responsibility of their particular office but the Board works as a team facing new challenges together. Many members have served on the Board in various positions for years taking on new responsibilities and sharing what they've learned with the newer members.

Want to be a part of this happy band? I am looking for new committee chairs to take over Social Committee & Outreach/ Publicity. Come join us at one of our Board meetings. They are open to all and you may find that you fit right in!

Our most exciting challenge this year will be **Virginia Journeys**, the **AT Biennial July 1-8, 2011 at Emory and Henry College in Emory, VA.**

(Continued in next column)

This is a biennial event sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the local clubs. This year the Virginia clubs will play host to hundreds of fellow hikers looking for fellowship and fun in southwest Virginia. There'll be hikes, workshops, excursions, entertainment and most importantly, a chance to meet and interact with fellow AT enthusiasts. I am depending on TATC for a strong showing not only as participants but as volunteers to help run the event. This is a marvelous opportunity to show your support for the club and the AT. If you'd like to volunteer then please contact Ned Kuhns at nedkuhns@cox.net. Registration opens March 1st and you can visit www.virginia2011.com for more information.

Be safe! Have fun!

Phyllis Neumann

TATC President (president@tidewateratc.com)

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TATC Elects 2011 Officers
By Nancy Rinkenberger

Elections took place at the General Meeting of the TATC which was held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011.
CONGRATULATIONS to the following:

President – Phyllis Neumann
Vice President – Jim Newman
Trail Supervisor – Mark Connolly
Assistant Trail Supervisor – John Davis
Secretary – Helen Buonviri
Treasurer – Tim Smith
Counselor – Chris Sexton

Special thanks are due to Dan Cheche and Bob Safford who ran for Counselor and Assistant Trail Supervisor respectively. This was the first time since I've been a member of the Trail Club that we had multiple candidates for an office. It made for an exciting evening.

Also special thanks to Martie Malabad, Margaret Pisone, Jane Martin and Scott Hilton for serving on the Nominating Committee.

With such a strong leadership team, I know 2011 is going to be an exciting year for the Club!

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

It's that time again. Please fill out a membership form, found in this newsletter. You can bring it to a meeting or mail it to the P. O. Box identified on the form. Your card runs out at the end of February. Our actual membership renewal period is March and April.

Welcome to the following new and returning members: Steve and Teresa Miller, Brian Shortall, Vince Brown, Susan Lawlor, Tim Minich, Hobie & Terry Ritzel, Kathleen Taramoto, Mark Unwin, and Carey Bartes.

Mary Hormell
Membership Committee Chair
membership@tidewateratc.com



Virginia Journey 2011 Registration Opens in 1 Month

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

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

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

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

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2010 Local Trails Maintenance Report

December 31, 2010

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.

In 2010, the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club had 22 different Local Trails maintenance trips with 85 unique volunteers for a total of 1,703 hours. Local Trails maintenance trips were made to New Quarter Park, False Cape State Park, Chippokes State Park, Merchants Mill Pond, West Neck Creek Natural Area, Sandy Bottom Nature Park, Newport News Park, and First Landing State Park. Trip Leaders included Dottie Abbott, Bill Buck, Bruce Julian, Bill Lynn, Phyllis Neumann, Pat Parker, Diana Ramsey, and Brenda Sullivan. Many of the hours were earned at three, multi-day extended trips at False Cape State Park led by Bruce Julian.

Time spent on Local Trails maintenance trips can accumulate towards earning awards like certificates, patches, and hats. A Local Trails rocker bar patch can be earned with 12 volunteer hours. A Local Trails certificate is earned at 30 hours, with additional certificates earned at 100 hour increments onward. Local Trails hats are awarded at 75 volunteer hours. Local Trails awards were presented in November 2010 to 19 individual awardees.

During 2010, the local trails chairperson coordinated the listing of local trails trips within the club website, newsletter, and the Local Trails E-Mail distribution list. Articles were submitted to the club's newsletter as well. The Local Trails notebook, archives, and pictures were displayed at club meetings, on display tables at various events, and brochures were distributed at various recreation type locations. Sign-up sheets for Local Trails activities were provided to the club vice president/ hike master for record keeping and a spreadsheet of volunteer hours maintained by the Local Trails chairperson and this report were provided to the club historian. Additionally, replacement Local Trails rocker bar patches were ordered and delivered in 2010.

The year 2010 also saw the addition of another park to the activity list – Newport News Park. Newport News is one of the largest city parks in the United States, encompassing nearly 8,000 acres. Three separate trips were carried out this year that included trail rehabilitation, drainage repair, and general clean-up with more planned for 2011. TATC Local Trails volunteer hours at state parks were submitted to Virginia State Parks Director of Community Engagement and Volunteerism Gaston Rouse for the year. These submitted hours will help to secure additional support for the state parks in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill K. Buck
Local Trails Chair

Silver Service Awards

By Phyllis Neumann

At each Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) Biennial, the Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) attempts to identify individuals who have been active ATC members for 25 years. Only a few are recognized at each Biennial so it is quite an accomplishment to reach this milestone. TATC members who have previously received this award include Bob Adkisson, Bob Giffin, Mal Higgins, Reese Lukei, Bill Rogers and Otey Shelton.

The award consists of a letter (signed by the Park Superintendent) and a plaque. It is a way of recognizing volunteers for their support of and service to the AT. Have you been an active member for 25 years? If so, then please let me know and I will forward your name to the ATPO. You do not have to attend the Biennial to receive your award.

ATPO Awards

By Phyllis Neumann

The Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) is the administrative branch of the National Park Service that oversees the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Several years ago the ATPO began a program designed to recognize the efforts of AT members in non-trail maintenance activities. The clubs were asked to keep a tally of hours that would reflect volunteer time in such pursuits as leading a hike, serving on a committee, being on the Board of Directors, setting up for a club function, writing an article, teaching a class, manning a booth at an outreach activity, etc. In other words, anything club related that does not directly involve trail maintenance. Clubs have a great deal of latitude as to how they want to run their individual programs. TATC has long established local and AT trail awards and in recent years has also started giving out the ATPO awards. These awards are meant to recognize those efforts of individuals not inclined towards trail maintenance but still very involved in other club activities. They motivate and provide incentives for individuals to volunteer their time. Awards range from stylish lapel pins and patches to caps and fleece vests. John and Jane Oakes are in charge of keeping track of your hours so you must let them know. Forms can be downloaded from the website (www.tidewateratc.com) or you can contact them directly (timekeeper@tidewateratc.com).

Cabin Report *By Bob Adkisson*

As a few club members are already aware, a small new security measure has recently been added at the TATC cabin. During the September work trip, Greg Hodges and I added a bolt that, when in place, will prevent the locking bar from being lifted on the 5 downstairs shutters. I don't want to go into too much detail here of course (this is a public newsletter, available to who knows who via the internet!), but I wanted to make all club members aware, especially those that use the cabin, of the new, extra step they will need to attend to when unlocking the cabin, and when locking it up again at the end of their rental stay. It will add all of 30 seconds to the opening / closing procedure, and almost surely will require a flash light and or a good set of eyes to place the bolt back in the hole. The bolts are tied to a white string attached to the inside face of the shutters, to prevent them from getting misplaced or lost.

As always (but it needs to be emphasized): properly securing the cabin when you leave is one of the most important things cabin renters need to do. YOU are responsible for it while you are there, and you are responsible for locking it properly and completely when you head for home. Every year, once or twice a year, I get reports from renters saying how, when they arrived, they found one of the shutters pushed into the closed position, but not locked.

This is a sure sign that the previous renter was in too much of a hurry to get on the road for home.

PLEASE NOTE: Especially if there are several people helping close the shutters, at the end, ONE PERSON needs to take the responsibility, and a few minutes time, to go around and systematically check every single shutter, and the two doors, to MAKE SURE they are all properly and fully closed and locked. A flashlight would be very helpful in doing this task.

Some shutters (especially the one on the front side of the cabin, closest to the fireplace, and the two along the back wall) sometimes put up a fight, and you might need a person on the outside to push them while someone on the inside puts the locking bar fully into place (behind all three of the metal tabs).

Please remember to return the key and your payment to me within two weeks of the end of your rental. The checks should be made payable to TATC, and the keys, if mailed to me, should always be securely taped to something like a 3 x 5 card—so they don't come loose, break thru the envelope, and get lost in the mail.

Also at the cabin, SOMETHING NEW that we hope won't be needed-- a spare door key has been hidden on the property, for emergency situations only (say, you get up there and find you've lost the key given to you by the rental officer, or some other unforeseen event has occurred that means you may have just driven 200 miles to the cabin but can't get in).

It has been discussed among those responsible for the cabin, and it was decided we'd tell renters that there is a spare key up there, but not tell anyone beforehand where it is located.

The main thing, of course, is not to lose the key you are given. This has only happened once, and that was a work crew that got up there one snowy March afternoon and discovered—oops, no key. They had to hurriedly cancel the work trip scheduled for that weekend, phoning everyone they could.

Two members arrived late, having never received word that the trip was cancelled, camped beneath the shelter of an overhanging boulder that night. They went home the next day when no one had come to unlock the cabin and begin the work trip.

Another time, all my fault: I sent a key to a cabin renter and somehow, I still don't know how, it wasn't a key that went with our lock.

AND SO—if you get up there and find you've lost the key, or I've fouled up again and sent you the key to the men's room at JFK airport, the one possible solution is to call and ask for the location of the hidden key. This of course could be both time consuming and frustrating, as there is no cell phone service in the immediate area of the cabin. There is an outdoor public phone back at the Royal Oak rentals cabins, at the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway and route 814, approximately 3 miles as the crow flies. It is mounted on the wall next to the front door of the office building.

Call me first, Bob Adkisson, (757) 627 5514. Either my wife, Evelyn, or I will be able to give you directions to the key. If you can't reach us immediately, leave a message (if you are using a cell phone, we may be able to call you back in a timely manner), but then try Greg and Carol Hodges (439 1552 is Greg's cell phone; 439 3915 is Carol's—both of these with a 757 area code). If you can't reach them, the club president is next (Phyllis Neumann (757) 566 4584).

When you rent the cabin I would appreciate any report you might have about your stay, especially any information about shortages at the cabin (dish wash soap, newspapers for fire starting, etc), breakages (axe handles, lanterns etc), the state of the spring or the wood supply, any non-members who accidentally found their way back to the cabin from the Parkway, or ATV's that drove up thru the woods. Let me know the state you found the cabin in (unlatched shutters, empty fuel bottles or trash left behind, etc).

Fall Cabin Trip *By Bob Adkisson*

The weekend before Thanksgiving I spent 4 nights at the cabin. The weather was unseasonably warm, the skies were mostly clear, and a wonderful full moon shone down. Wanting to take advantage of the conditions, I made it a point to go on several hikes.

In fact, before even going to the cabin, I went and took a 10 mile hike in the southern section of Shenandoah Park; I walked up Paines Run Hollow to the A.T. at Blackrock Gap, crossed over the top of both Blackrock and Trayfoot Mtns., then looped back down to my car at dusk.

One of my rewards was to see a bear, about a stone's throw from the trail. After a quick meal in town, I walked the half mile to the cabin, by moonlight.

Continued on Page 7 ...

Friday I took it easy at first, finishing a memoir by Bill Bryson, author of the wry and comic A WALK IN THE WOODS (about his attempt to hike the A.T. several years ago). That afternoon I took a short hike to the top of Big Spy Mtn., the unofficial and unmaintained trail hard to follow and full of fallen trees.

That night I was joined at the cabin by two trail club friends, Mal Higgins and Svetlana Kononov. Small world - though they were a few years apart, I couldn't quite believe it when I discovered that Mal had attended the same high school as Bill Bryson (Roosevelt High School, in Des Moines, Iowa). TATC people are full of surprises!

On Saturday the 3 of us drove south, on the Parkway and on some Amherst County back roads, to the trailhead for the 6 mile long Mt. Pleasant / Pompey Mtn loop. On the way we stopped briefly at a small roadside cemetery, noting that about a third of the nearly 3 dozen tombstones had the name Coffey on them (the same family name as at the cemetery in the woods 100 yards below our cabin).

It was a perfect day for a hike, and as we did the loop, we encountered about a dozen fellow hikers. After taking in the fantastic views from the rocky outcrops atop 4,071 ft high Mt Pleasant, lunching, and then all but falling asleep in the warm sun, we returned down the short spur trail from the summit to find approximately 35 tents crowded into the wooded saddle there at the trail junction where, an hour and a half earlier, there'd been no tents, and no people.

The full moon and great weekend weather had produced this: a sudden eruption of Boy Scouts!

One of the older hikers we met and spoke to this day mentioned Crabtree Falls, and the sign there that notes how many people had fallen to their death on the slippery rocks. He said he was one of the unlisted and few people who'd fallen, but survived! Years earlier he'd fallen about 50 feet, but managed to catch hold of a projecting tree, thus saving himself a longer, and deadly, fall onto the rocks at the base of the cascade.

After our hike, the 3 of us drove north along the Parkway, enjoying an extended view of the sun set. We went into Waynesboro for dinner, later returning to the cabin by the light of the full moon.

Sunday afternoon: taking two cars, we went up into Shenandoah Park and hiked about 5 miles, down past the PATC-operated Doyle's River Cabin, and several nice waterfalls, then up the Jones Run trail to the Skyline Drive, where we'd positioned one of the cars at an overlook. On this hike we looked and looked, but saw no bears, only several deer along the road.

In the moonlight, I returned to the cabin one last time, while Mal and Svetlana headed back to Tidewater.

Hello from the new ATC Education and Outreach Coordinator

Hi all! My name is Angie Sheldon and I've recently taken on the position as Education and Outreach Coordinator here in the SW Virginia Regional office. I spent the past year as a seasonal employee with the ATC working with the Konnarock program, so I've had the opportunity to meet most of you at some point during the past season and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you! In my new role here with ATC, I will be helping to get at least 5 Virginia communities designated in our new AT Communities Program in the coming year. We are excited about expanding this new program in Virginia and know there is much interest in it among trail communities. I believe most of you are familiar with the program, but if not, you can find information about it on our website at http://www.appalachiantrail.org/site/c.mqLTIYOWGIF/b.4806025/k.39B0/Appalachian_Trail_Communities.htm. I've also attached an application form that communities fill out in order to be considered for designation, which explains the designation process and the benefits to the communities involved. In this endeavor to get at least 5 communities designated this year, help from your club would be greatly appreciated! If you could give me the name(s) of folks in your club that would be interested in helping (or may already be helping) your local community become an AT Community, I can chat with them about how they can get involved in the process. Within the clubs there is so much valuable local knowledge and personal contacts already made that could help us to stir up excitement about the program in communities near your section of trail. We've already received interest from: Damascus, Bland, Pearisburg, Catawba, Troutville, Nelson County, and Front Royal. It's exciting to see so much interest in Virginia. I am looking forward to seeing the applications roll in!

Another part of my role here as Education and Outreach Coordinator, will be working with the Trails to Every Classroom program (TTEC). This is another great program for interested club members to get involved with (more information at http://www.appalachiantrail.org/site/c.mqLTIYOWGIF/b.4806017/k.8638/Trail_to_Every_Classroom.htm)!

We will soon be starting recruitment for next year's cohort of teachers and hope to focus on the same communities we're targeting for the AT Communities program. We are also hoping to continue to engage local TTEC alumni after they complete the program by providing them with the support and resources they need to continue to implement the AT into their curriculum. This year we're planning a TTEC Alumni week of Konnarock to give teachers hands on trail work experience and a good time digging in the dirt! Some other opportunities for keeping teachers connected might be planning a gathering to bring teachers back together, getting teachers more involved with the club, or even having a classroom adopt a section of trail... just some ideas! Any involvement of clubs with their local schools is just another great way to build these communities and positively influence our future trail stewards.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you have and thanks again for all that you do for this wonderful trail!!

Angie Sheldon
Education and Outreach Coordinator
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
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Allegheny Passage/ C&O Canal Ride

By Rick Hancock

This past September, I led a ride along the Allegheny Passage/ C&O Canal. This was my 3rd trip and 2nd time for my buddy, Mark Connolly. No one else wanted to join us, so we left town on a beautiful early fall day. The ride was uneventful on the long drive to Rockwood, Pa. The Passage, once complete, will be about 130 miles long from Pittsburgh, Pa. to Cumberland, Md. There are a few (less than 10 miles) pieces that need to be tied together at the western end and the trail will be complete. At Cumberland, it joins the C&O canal and travels an additional 185 miles to Washington, DC. The Passage is hard packed "crush & run." The trail climbs to 2392 ft. near Deal, Pa. at the Eastern Continental Divide. Although a trail map gives the impression that the trail is steep, the grade never exceeds 1.5/2%. We reached our destination, Meyersdale, late in the day after 13 miles of travel.

The treat of the day was traveling across the Salisbury Viaduct that took carried trains across the valley. 1908 ft. long 110ft. High, it allowed trains and now hikers/bikers to cross high above RT 219, the Casselman River, and the CSX Rail Line. Soon we rolled into town and headed down the steep hill to our lodging at Yoder's Motel. My friend Helen Yoder was waiting for us and we were warmly greeted (I only see her once or twice a year but each time it seems like only yesterday. Almost 70 and she still stacks her own firewood. What a woman! After we got squared away, Mark and I headed over to Missy's Cafe for hot grub. As we walked across town we heard the sound of horse's hooves on the street and soon an Amish farmer and his family rolled up and stopped in front of the market after hitching the horse to a post. After our meal we walked around town a bit and headed back to our room, I don't know about Mark but I was asleep by 8:30pm!

After breakfast at the GI Dayroom we hit the trail on a cool morning that promised to heat up quickly and it did! After 32 miles of travel that included many wonderful views and rolling through the 3294 ft. Big Savage Tunnel we arrived in Cumberland and a late lunch at the Crabby Pig, our normal lunch spot. After lunch we checked our maps and decided to try and get another 25/30 miles under our tires. We headed out and it didn't take long to see and feel the difference between the Passage and C&O. The Passage is pretty smooth but the C&O is pitted with ruts, muddy spots, tree branches, and other obstacles. Not a bad trail-just rougher than the Passage. We passed some interesting Civil War graves that told quite a story. The temperature had increased as we rolled along and was in the upper 80's, so we were stopping at each trail side pump to water down as we pedaled to our campsite. Shortly before dark we arrived at Pursland Run campsite, a nice little spot along the Potomac River. After setting up camp I headed up the hill to gather water and discovered thatthe handle had been REMOVED! We had passed 10,000 pumps that day and everyone of them was working. After a few minutes of cussing I noticed 2 fellows walking toward me. I inquired about the pumps up ahead at Paw Paw and they stated that the pump at the group camping area was also disabled but the trail side pump was working. Mark agreed to bike 1.5 miles round trip if I would watch the camp. We ended that day travelling about 62 miles and bedded down to the sounds of night birds and some annoying insects.

Saturday's ride was a treat, we headed down to Paw Paw tunnel and on along the Towpath stopping at Bill's Place for Chili and cold drinks. Bill was up and about and we 3 were able to solve most of the worlds problems during a 45 minute conversation. Bill was featured in an article in National Geographic some years ago and Mark has camped and canoed the area for years, I believe he had a tear in his eye's several times as old memories of past trips were once more kindled. We rolled into Hancock after a 45 mile ride and had a late lunch at Weaver's, my favorite eating spot— home cooked meals and desserts. We stayed at the C&O Bike Shop Hostel, \$10 bucks for a bed and hot shower! We also ate supper at Weaver's and after a short walk around town we headed to our bountiful lodging and a good nights sleep...except I'd forgotten about the alarm that goes off about 8:30 or so and lasts for oh I don't know, about 10 minutes! After a while things settled down and we drifted off to a well deserved snooze. Early Sunday we hit Weaver's for one last meal, (Robi and I also ate there on our Oct. ride) and headed out on the last leg of our journey. The trail improves along this stretch and we biked 27 miles to Williamsport and the end of a very nice trip.

Dismal Swamp State Park Bike Ride

By Rick Hancock

The week before Thanksgiving a small group of TATC and Hampton Roads Meetup folks met at Dismal Swamp State Park for a laid back mid morning ride along the fire roads and canal ditches. WE also planned a picnic for later. The ride began along the Canal Rd, a sandy trail that paralleled RT 17 for 2 miles then turned on Kim Saunders Ditch. The path was pretty clear, packed dirt with one or two piles of bear scat. At Forest Line Ditch we took a right and the trail began to turn a little rough, at one point Jim Newman and I were riding side by side when something large and dark exploded from the edge of the trail and headed deeper into the briars and brambles. I stopped to investigate while the rest of the group waited about 100 yards away. One lady pointed to a sign that stated "Do not molest the wildlife" I explained that I wasn't molesting, I was just looking. At Corapeake Ditch the trail turned really rough with bone jarring gravel for almost 5 miles one way. A few people in the group weren't having a good time at all and this was the low point of the ride. We continued to meander around making our way back to the Park Headquarters. There were several other trails that extended past the North Carolina border and beyond the park boundary but the group was getting tired and we still had about 8 miles to go. One lady was having trouble keeping up so the rest of the group headed up the trail and I hung with her. I checked my odometer at one point and realized we were going 3 mph! I also began to notice that the 1-2 piles of bear scat we passed while riding in had increased to 6-8! At one point I heard her talking to someone and turned to answer... she was calling a Ranger for a ride out, I tried to convince her to make it on her own as she only had 5 miles left but she decided she'd had enough. To their credit the Ranger Staff had no problem coming to help her and were very professional. By the time I caught up with the group they were just finishing and we crossed the canal just before they opened the bridge for several "Snowbirds" and their expensive boats, a process took just a minute or so. We headed to a picnic table and our lunch. Everyone brought a covered dish (Jim passed out fruit along the ride to keep moral high during the rough terrain) and we stripped the bowls and plates clean. I even brought Christmas Cookies, (pushing the season just a bit). If you haven't been to the Dismal Swamp State Park do yourself a favor and get down there. The Visitor Center is very nice with much interpretive info about the early days and life in the swamp. It was a fun ride, we covered about 25 miles in 3 hours. Most of the ride was very enjoyable but those extra piles of scat really make you stop and think!



Virginia Journeys 2011

Volunteers are needed for ATC's 38th Biennial Conference. By now we hope you have reserved the week of Friday, July 1 thru Friday noon, July 8, 2011 to attend Virginia Journeys 2011, ATC's 38th Biennial Conference which will be held at historic Emory & Henry College in southwest Virginia located at exit 26 on Interstate 81. On-line registration will open on March 1, 2011 at www.virginia2011.org.

We need volunteers to lead hikes and excursions, to register and greet guests, to sell T-shirts, to staff workshops and activity tables, to manage logistics including signs, parking, camping, receptions, evening entertainments, and much, much more. The time commitment varies from a full day to filling a four-hour or longer shift. Our greatest need for volunteers will be from Friday, July 1 through Monday, July 4.

Visit www.Virginia2011.org, and click on the 'Volunteer' link to see the Virginia Journeys volunteer page. From this page, you can see a list of current volunteer opportunities. Click on any opportunity to read a more detailed description, get contact information or download a complete description of the opportunity. If you are interested, click the "Get Involved" button and submit your contact information. Your name will be forwarded to the committee chair in charge of that function who will contact you with more information.

Volunteers will be recognized and rewarded for their support by a variety of benefits: a specially designed Volunteer T-shirt, a volunteer reception, the opportunity to win door prizes at the reception, premier seating at the major evening entertainment, and gift cards or small gifts. Most of all, volunteers will have the personal satisfaction of supporting ATC's 38th Biennial Conference.

If you're not sure whether you'll be attending the Biennial, or what day or time you'll be available to volunteer, it is still not too early to add your name to the list of potential volunteers. For more information about joining our volunteer team, please contact us at VA2011@virginia2011.org. If you have a particular area of interest, let us know and we will try to accommodate you.

Also, please keep checking the conference website and our Virginia 2011 Facebook page for new and important information. The general conference and workshops schedules as well as the evening entertainment opportunities have recently been added.

Tidewater Master Naturalists Training Class Scheduled for March-May

The Tidewater chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists is offering its Basic Training Class starting March 7 – May 16, 2011 at the Agricultural Research Extension Center in Virginia Beach. The Virginia Master Naturalist program is a statewide corporation of volunteers providing education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. To become certified, Master Naturalists complete 40 hours of basic training including classroom hours and field trips, plus eight hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer service per year. Topics in the curriculum include such diverse subjects as basic geology, dune ecology, ornithology, entomology, forestry and more. Volunteer projects include education, stewardship activities and citizen science. For more information and a training application visit info@tidewatermn.org. To learn about other chapters' training courses and activities, visit www.VirginiaMasterNaturalist.org.



TATC Holiday Party 2010 Phyllis Neumann

TATC kicked off the holiday season with a fun-filled gathering the evening of December 11th at WHRO in Norfolk. About 70 TATCers joined in the festivities with all sorts of food provided by members eager to share their potluck creations.

Music was provided by Jay Behm and the "James City Rockers" who played songs from the 50s and 60s. We danced and rocked out to the sounds of Elvis, Buddy Holly and Bill Haley! Yes, there was even a gal in a poodle skirt!

Calendar sales were off to a stunning start with the 2011 edition hot off the presses. Copies are still available at club meetings.

Many thanks to Lisa Billow, Nick and Ginny Werner and all the members of the set-up and clean-up crew who helped to make the evening a success.



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.

February 1, 2011, Tuesday - TATC Board of Directors Meeting

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

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

February 5, 2011, Saturday - First Landing State Park Trail Maintenance

Diana Ramsey, 619-0540

Located off Shore Drive in Virginia Beach, meet with some of your fellow trail club members for some trail maintenance at First Landing State Park. Recent winter storms have left the trails in poor shape and even though it may be cold outside, here is an opportunity to get out there and avoid some of that wintertime cabin fever. Plan to meet in the parking lot at 9am, on the trail side of the park. A rain date of February 12th is also in place. We will be doing general trail cleanup, removal of small blow downs, and possibly some bush trimming all left over from winter storms. Dress in layers and bring gloves, water and a snack. Tools will be provided. Share some walking and talking and a little trimming with your fellow members for some helping out on our local trails. Eating out will be decided afterwards.

February 9, 2011, Wednesday - TATC General Meeting

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Nancy Rickenberger & Richard Tarr show & tell of the Okefenokee Swamp Canoe Trip.

February 13, 2011, Sunday - The Chocolate Hike

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

It's time once again for the "Chocolate Hike." Enjoy a pre-Valentine's Day celebration by bringing your favorite sweetheart (or your FAVORITE SWEET) for a pleasant promenade on the Noland Trail. In past years we have indulged in such trailside decadent delights as "Mayan Hot Chocolate", "Cocoa Peppermint Brownies" and the unequaled "Chocolate Intravenous". What fabulous fodder will fascinate us this year? An award will be given for the yummiest and most unique confection. Meet at the Mariner's Museum Parking lot in Newport News at 10:00 am. Wear comfy shoes for this 2-3 hour walk. And we'll eat out afterwards!

February 19, 2011, Saturday - Bike Newport News Park/Yorktown Battlefield

Jim Newman, jimnewman55@cox.net or 867-6688

In hopes of early spring weather, this all-time favorite 18-mile bike circuit is boldly scheduled. Meet at the campground headquarters at 10:00AM by exiting I-64 at 250B. Follow signage to the campground (13564 Jefferson Avenue). Street bikes are not recommended. Bring the usual bike equipment and a snack. Lunch in Yorktown with majority vote.

February 19-21, 2011 - WV Winter Weekend @ Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge

Charles Hauser, 810-7452

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.

March 1, 2011, Tuesday - TATC Board of Directors Meeting

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

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

March 9, 2011, Tuesday - TATC General Meeting

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Bob Adkisson presents Hiking High Montana Mountains.

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Activities Schedule

March 12, 2011, Saturday - Hiking-Backpacking Seminar

Bill Rogers, 484-6001

An all-day (9:55 to +/- 4:30 seminar covering hiking and backpacking from A (Aches and Advertisements) to Z (Zippers and Zig-Zags). Learn things the books and magazines don't mention: clothing, stoves, filters, innersoles, a different kind of "emergency," water carriers, what has to "fit," and all that good and bad stuff. Bring lunch and a beverage, maybe pen and paper. Limited. This is one of two such gatherings this year. For location, directions, to ask questions, and to sign up; telephone Bill.

March 25-27, 2011 - Wild Women Weekend at False Cape State Park

Experience a weekend in the outdoors dedicated to women, ages 21 and up, and discover the natural and cultural history of False Cape State Park. Participate in nature walks, identify native plants with demonstrations on their uses for food and medicine, tracking, beachcombing, kayaking and more. The cost is \$200 per person and includes food, lodging, and educational materials. Event will run from 4 p.m. March 25 through noon on Sunday, March 27. To receive a brochure call the park at (757) 426-7128. Register by calling the park's reservation center at 1-800-933-PARK

March 27, 2011, Sunday - New Quarter Park Trail Maintenance

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

Time for spring clean-up on our trails at New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Drive, Williamsburg (www.yorkcounty.gov). Meet in the parking lot at 9:30AM for some light maintenance. Bring water, snacks and clothes for the season Tools will be provided. Possibility to eat out afterwards. Contact Phyllis to sign up.

July 1-8, 2011 - The ATC Biennial Conference

Ned Kuhns, rprep@tidewateratc.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

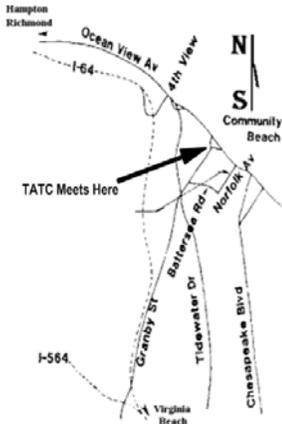
Planning a hike or activity. If you have hike or activities information for a trip you'd like to lead, please call Hikemaster Jim Newman at 867-6688 to leave a message or e-mail at Hikemaster@TidewaterATC.com with all information to be inserted or updated. **ALL ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THIS SCHEDULE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



Tidewater Appalachian
Trail Club
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Norfolk, VA 23503-0246

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

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

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

