

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com



October 2010 - November 2010

Prez Sez

Fall has finally arrived though you wouldn't know it from our still sweltering midday temperatures. Was there a time when it wasn't in the 90s at noon? I can tell cooler weather is on the way though because my resident hummingbirds are starting to sleep in. Usually, we share an early morning cup of coffee together (well, coffee for me and nectar for them) but lately they've been arriving at the feeder much later than expected. I imagine the belated sunrise has them snoozing longer and soon they'll be headed south for winter quarters.

Cooler temperatures also signal a resurgence of activity for hikers and backpackers and I look forward to seeing our hike schedule fill up with new adventures. We're always looking for new hikes (and hike leaders) so speak to our Hikemaster, Jim Newman (vicepres@tidewateratc.com) if you have an activity you'd like included in the schedule. Jim is also organizing the Nominating Committee for next year's TATC elections. The Committee will select candidates for the new Board of Directors to be elected at the January membership meeting. Contact Jim if you'd like to help out with the Committee or possibly even run for a Board position.

Of course, the best thing about Fall is the Fall Maintenance trip to Sherando, Oct. 15-17th. Our Trail Supervisor, Scott Hilton, always has lots of fun stuff for us to do on the trail and this year will be no different. We'll be car camping at the Williams Branch Group Area so bring the big tent. And don't forget a dessert to share at the evening meal on Saturday. Contact Scott (trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com) for more information. Fall Maintenance is the big event but there are lots of local trails opportunities throughout the next few months. Bill Buck (localtrails@tidewateratc.com) is always looking for new folks to help out with our local parks. And check out the new Local Trails Index that Webmaster/Newsletter Editor Jim Sexton has put together. This is the impressive result of many years hard work collecting and organizing data on the trails of southeastern VA and northeastern NC. Go to the TATC Home Page (www.tidewateratc.com) and click on "Local Trails Index" in the left column.

Looking ahead a little further our annual Holiday Party will be the second Saturday in December on the 11th from 6pm to 11pm at WHRO in Norfolk. This will be a potluck so bring a dish to share and be prepared to dance to the music of the 50s and 60s by The James City Rockers. There'll be a fee of \$5 per person at the door to cover club costs. Also, consider donating an item (~\$10 value) to be given out as a door prize at the party. Gifts should be appropriate for guy or gal-something purchased or crafted, a gift card, etc. (Something you'd like to receive!). Contact me (phyllisneumann@hughes.net) or Lisa Billow (lbillow@cox.net) for more information.

(Continued in next column)

We are also looking for a new individual to head up the TATC Social Committee. Nancy Babor is relinquishing the position after several years of outstanding service. The head of this committee is primarily responsible for organizing the December Holiday Party as well as other events throughout the year. Have a knack for party/event planning? This may be your golden opportunity to showcase your talents! Contact me or any Board member of you're interested.

Don't forget that the October General Membership meeting has been moved to **Tuesday October 12th** due to an unavoidable conflict with the library. Time and location have not changed. Dottie Abbott has a great program for us that evening so be sure to attend.

And this wouldn't be a proper "Prez Sez" without a nod to the ever approaching 2011 ATC Biennial to be held at Emory and Henry College, Emory, VA July 1-8, 2011. For more information check out the article in the latest A.T. Journeys or visit the official 2011 AT Biennial website www.virginia2011.org.

Be safe! Have fun!

Phyllis Neumann

President

Table of Contents

Prez Sez	1
TATC Club Officers and Committees	2
Minute for Maintenance	3
Youth Working Group	3
TATC Holiday Party	4
BRMS Ad	5
Fourth Annual False Cape Triathlon	6
Elections 2011	7
Local Trails Index	7
Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Request	7
Appalachian Trail Museum	8
Activities Schedule	9-10
Miscellaneous Notes	11
Virginia Appalachian Trail License Plates	11
Terragator Photo - Jim Sexton	12

(banner photo by Mark Ferguson)



Visit our website at
www.tidewateratc.com

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Assistant Trail Supervisor	Mark Connolly	assistantts@tidewateratc.com	623-0764

TATC Counselors

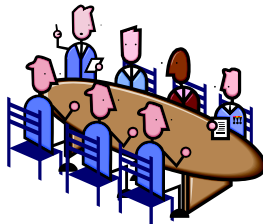
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Counselor	Sandy Butler	counselor-sb@tidewateratc.com	872-9271
Counselor	Nancy Rinkenberger	counselor-nr@tidewateratc.com	623-0334

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ATC RPC Rep	Mark Wenger	rcrep-mw@tidewateratc.com	253-0056

TATC Committee Chairs

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Webmaster	Jim Sexton	webmaster@tidewateratc.com	484-2827



Minute for Maintenance

With fall approaching, and another great year for trail work ends, the last opportunity to get out to club's section of AT is fast approaching. October 15-16 will find @45 club members camped at Sherando Lake in the Williams Branch picnic area. Saturday night dinner will be provided by the club, please bring a dessert to share. Please remember that the gates close at 10pm on Friday night.

I am still looking for folks willing to cook the dinner on Saturday evening. While there are always members who volunteer to help prepare and cleanup, we need 1 or 2 people to come up with the menu. Joe Turlo can bring the needed equipment such as the burners and other stuff. Please contact me or Phyllis if interested.

This trip will mostly concentrate on side-hill repairs, cleanup and rehab of the campsites at Harper's creek, and a few other things. Also I am assigning 2 crews to trim trails in the Sherando campground area. As always will a variety of easy, moderate, and hard crews to sign up for.

Come on out, dress warm, and enjoy the fall colors. Hope to see you there.

Scott Hilton

TATC Trails Supervisor

trailssupervisor@tidewateratc.com

Youth Working Group

By Nancy Rinkenberger

Zoons, iPods, iPads, Nanos, Nintendo, Wii, WOW! Let's face it. Kids today live in a very different world than the one you and I grew up in. My Mom's mantra was 'go outside and play'. Many of today's kids never go out of doors unless they are playing team sports. They are used to being entertained.

Juxtapose this beside our aging Trail Club. Come to any TATC meeting and it looks like a wrinkly's reunion. What's needed is a concerted effort on our part to draw in younger people and provide activities that speak to them. The question is, what can we do to accomplish this goal and get more kids and youth involved in the TATC?

Over the summer I attended two programs which addressed this question. The first was the 2010 Youth Summit held the last week of June at The Highland Center in New Hampshire. This program was presented by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Appalachian Mountain Club. Two groups were invited to participate: members of Trail Clubs, affectionately known as the old farts, and members of Groundwork USA. These were inner city kids who have been involved in programs that engage them in out of door activities in their cities. In some of the sessions, the adults from the Trail Clubs worked on their own, discussing issues clubs face and previewing AMC's Community Youth Program (CYP). This is a time tested program used by the various AMC Clubs and was presented as a platform from which we might begin to develop our own program. We also had joint sessions with the kids: learning from them, performing service projects with them and just having fun. Over the course of the week, we created an action plan with concrete steps for the Conservancy to begin developing resource materials for the clubs. We all agreed that we shouldn't wait on this process to be completed but should immediately begin developing programs within our clubs and striving to meet local needs.

The second program I attended was also at the Highland Center and was presented by the National Park Service and the Conservancy. It was the Trail To Every Classroom (TTEC) Alumni gathering. Here, teachers who are currently using the AT in conjunction with classroom studies presented information on programs they have developed in their individual school. There was the English teacher who took kids for a weekend on the AT, performed a service project rebuilding a camping platform at one of the shelters and then had the kids journal about their experience. There was a biology teacher who had kids learning about invasive species and hiking the trail in search of them. The ideas flowed and generated a lot of excitement among the participants.

So now I have returned to Tidewater ATC with a head full of program ideas. I need a few good souls to join me in a brainstorming session. We'll call it the Youth Working Group (YWG) until we come up with a more clever name. Your only qualification is a desire to see more kids and youths involved in our club. Your only commitment is to attend a meeting at my home on Wednesday, October 13 at 7 p.m. Remember the TATC meeting has been moved to Tuesday, October 12 at 7 p.m. so you have the evening free! We'll toss around some ideas, have some food and libation and hopefully come up with one or two concrete ideas that are doable. Email me at nancy@rinkenberger.us for the address and directions.

On one of my first maintenance trips to St. Mary's Wilderness, someone remarked that in twenty years all of our work may be for naught because there doesn't seem to be any interest in this next generation in maintaining trails. Let's begin to figure out how to reverse that trend within our club!

TATC HOLIDAY PARTY

Join the fun at the annual TATC Holiday party!

DATE: Saturday December 11, 2010

TIME: 6 pm -11 pm

PLACE: WHRO

5200 Hampton Blvd, Norfolk, VA

BRING: Potluck dish to share: entree, appetizer, salad or dessert

\$5 per person

Your dancing shoes because entertainment will be provided by:

THE JAMES CITY ROCKERS

DOOR PRIZES: Consider donating an item (~\$10 value) to be given out as a door prize at the party. Gifts should be appropriate for guy or gal-something purchased or crafted, a gift card, etc. (Something you'd like to receive!). Item may be wrapped and brought to event or delivered to Lisa or Phyllis beforehand.

Contact: Lisa Billow (lbillow@cox.net) or Phyllis Neumann (phyllisneumann@hughes.net) for more information.





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Fourth Annual False Cape Triathlon

September 21st, 2010

By Bruce Julian

We had another great day for our 4th Annual Triathlon. Everyone started arriving around 8:15 A.M. for our 9:00 A.M. meeting time. All were there by 9:20 and we were on the road by 9:30. Going into False Cape and doing what we were about to do, we needed to start on time in order to get it all completed. On this day we had: Bill B, Fran A, Bob S, Bob M, Susan F, Jane O, Susan R, Robb W, Dewey P, Margaret J, Margaret P, Christine W, Mark C, Dottie A, Pam & Juan P, Jean B, Sandy B, Glen D, and Brian S. We always like to have new people to join in on our Tuesday Group outing, Today we had three new people and we hope that they all will return for another day of fun.

On this trip we were biking 6.5 miles through Back Bay Wildlife Refuge into False Cape State Park. Leaving our bikes at Barbour Hill, we used the park's kayaks to paddle 2.5 miles south to False Cape Landing. At this point we tied the kayaks to the dock, put on our hiking shoes, and hiked 2 miles. We covered 20 miles in about 6 hours, with a few encouraging words from me to the group like "we will be leaving in 5 minutes", "get your PFDs & paddles here", "Listen up", "lunch will be over in 5 minutes", "it's time to get your boat in the water", and "lets go!". This was a very good group; everyone biked together, kayaked with each other, and the hiking was at a slow pace and not too hard on anyone. Some even took a dip in the ocean for a few minutes, and it felt sooo good.

After a short talk about what we were about to do, and some safety tips we were on our way. We biked through the wildlife refuge on gravel roads. No one had a flat tire, or lost a chain; so this was a very good start to a great day. As we reached Barbour Hill Boat Dock, we parked our bikes, and each person picked out a boat. We had 12 single kayaks and four tandem kayaks. I passed out the paddles and PFDs and we were on our way. About one mile from the boat dock we rafted up and took a water break. I gave the group some insight to a few of my stories that I had heard a few years earlier. After pointing out a few landmarks, some in Virginia and others in North Carolina, we were on our way again. As we reached the boat dock at False Cape Landing I spotted a snake lying on the end of the dock. Dewey and I moved in first. When I got closer to the snake I could see that it was not venomous. I chased it off the dock, and then everyone came in and tied up. We had a few minutes here for everyone to change into hiking shoes and we were on our way. Hiking toward the beach on False Cape Landing Trail, it wasn't long before we reached the storm shelter and then left our packs on the table. We had a short break for water. I called out their names according to the way everyone had signed the sign-up sheet. I had a short course set up for the group, which they walked in line; everyone had to look for plastic eggs hanging from trees. Once someone found an egg, they moved to the end of the line, and the next person took point. The first person did not always find the egg. People in the rear would then call out, "I found one" making the leader think twice about looking harder for an egg. This went on until all 16 eggs were located. Back at the parking lot in my truck, I passed out prizes for the winners depending on the letter located in their egg.

Finishing up with the hike, some people stopped at the ocean, and a few braved the waves and jumped in for a cool break. Walking back to where we had left our packs, we stopped for lunch. After about 30 minutes we packed-up our gear and headed back to the boat dock. Everyone put back on water shoes, PFDs, then climbed in their boats, and we were on our way again. We reached the Barbour Hill Dock about 2:15 and put away the boats, paddles and PFDs. I locked the boat house. We had a short break for some picture taking. We then headed toward the park's new office. At the office some bought cold water and others bought something from the Gift Shop. We were here about 20 minutes. Some enjoyed the big deck outside with chairs as the cool breezes blew in from the east. Finally it was time to head back to the parking lot on our last leg of the Triathlon.

With a group this large not everyone gets to see all the birds, turtles and animals that smaller groups do. On this trip we saw a Bald Eagle, two Deer, three snakes, three Osprey, Egrets, Great Blue Herons, one Dolphin surfing a wave out at the beach, and about 15 turtles.

Back at the parking lot around 3:30 we said our good byes. Some headed towards the Mall, others headed home, and 12 of us headed for Pungo Pizza and Ice Cream Parlor to keep up the tradition of the Tuesday Group. We had Pizza and Ice Cream. Dewey had an Ice Cream and dripped some on his shirt. He was afraid that Carol would see it when he got home before he could get the shirt off. Well, Dewey got caught. I talked to Carol last night. I think Dewey will have to stay indoors all day today.

Next year we hope to have an even better turn out and even more fun, if that is possible. Thanks to everyone that came out this year. Bob, we all hope you are feeling better now.



Elections 2011

By Phyllis Neumann

The Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club will be holding elections for the next Board of Directors at the January 2011 general membership meeting. This is an annual event required by our bylaws and the process starts now! Our Vice President, Jim Newman, is currently assembling a Nominating Committee to find candidates to run for Board positions. All Board positions are open to any member in good standing who would like to run for election. The positions are: President, Vice President, Trail Supervisor, Assistant Trail Supervisor, Secretary, Treasurer and Counselor. All officers are elected for a term of one year except for Counselors who serve (and are limited to) a single three year term. Terms of Counselors are staggered such that only one is elected at each annual meeting. All other officers are limited to three consecutive terms in the same office except for the Trail Supervisor and Assistant Trail Supervisor who may serve up to five consecutive terms.

Please contact Jim (vicepres@tidewateratc.com) if you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee or think you might be interested in running for a Board position.

Index to Trails in Southeast Virginia & Northeast North Carolina

By Jim Sexton

Would you like a free online booklet which lists local trail locations in Southeast Virginia & Northeast North Carolina? If so, go to TATC's homepage at www.tidewateratc.com and click on the link for the "Local Trail Index", or type <http://www.tidewateratc.com/LocalTrailsIndex2010.pdf> into your browser. This booklet provides brief descriptions of 96 local trail locations near our area, as well as general locator maps, and links to more detailed trail descriptions and trail maps. And what's most important; "it's free".

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

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 signup 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.

Bill Buck
Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club
Local Trails Chairman
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Appalachian Trail Museum Receives Grant for Educational Programs

GARDNERS, PA. -- The Appalachian Trail Museum Society has received a grant from the Quimby Family Foundation in Portland, Maine, to extend the educational focus of the recently opened Appalachian Trail Museum.

"The Quimby grant will fund a collaborative effort with Indiana University's Mathers Museum of World Cultures in Bloomington, Indiana, to develop a small traveling exhibition to educate the public about the culture and bond that exists among long-distance hikers who hike the 2,179 trail that passes through 14 states from Maine to Georgia." said Terry Harley-Wilson, vice president of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society. "Educational programming designed to spark in teenagers and young adults an interest in hiking and backpacking, by introducing them to the individuals who make the Appalachian Trail an important part of their lives, will be developed and offered to venues that will be hosting the exhibit."

"The Quimby Family Foundation has been integral to our success in opening the Appalachian Trail Museum on June 5. At the museum, we are honoring the men and women who conceived of the trail, built it and first hiked it from end-to-end. The museum also is a tribute to those who hike and maintain the trail today," said Larry Luxenberg, president of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society and founder of the museum. "In addition to interesting exhibits, the Appalachian Trail Museum is active with programs that encourage hiking, conservation and physical fitness. The traveling exhibit will be a significant addition to our education outreach efforts."

Harley-Wilson said the traveling exhibit will open at the Mathers Museum in the spring of 2011 and then will be sent to a number of organizations based in Maine for use within their own programming. The Chewonki Foundation, the Susan L. Curtis Foundation, Unity College, the Trail's End Festival, Teens-To-Trails, and the L.C. Bates Museum at Good Will Hinckley have expressed an interest in using the exhibit.

"We also plan to include the exhibit at trail-related events such as Trails Days in Damascus, Virginia, and the Appalachian Long Distance Hiker Association's Annual Gathering, where we will offer a panel/discussion program for participants to consider what it is about the hiker subculture that makes it so unique," Harley-Wilson said. "Upon the completion of its tour, the exhibit will be incorporated into the Appalachian Trail Museum, perhaps as a featured display as we expand the museum."

The Quimby Family Foundation also provided funding to scan nearly 13,000 Polaroid photographs representing approximately 18,600 individuals that were taken between 1979 and 2008 at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's headquarters in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Eventually these images will be made available in a searchable online database that will be incorporated into the conservancy's website (www.appalachiantrail.org).

Located in Pine Grove Furnace State Park and at the midway point of the Appalachian Trail, the museum is across from the Pine Grove General Store on Pennsylvania Route 233. The museum is open from noon to 4 p.m. daily to Labor Day and on weekends from noon to 4 p.m. from Labor Day to Oct. 31 plus Columbus Day.

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.

About the Appalachian Trail Museum Society

The Appalachian Trail Museum Society, a 501-C-3 not-for-profit organization formed in 2002, organizes programs, exhibits, volunteers and fundraising nationwide for the Appalachian Trail Museum. The museum opened on June 5, 2010, as a tribute to the thousands of men, women and families who have hiked and maintained the 2,179 mile long hiking trail that passes through 14 states from Maine to Georgia. Located in the Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Gardners, Pennsylvania, the museum is conveniently near Carlisle, Gettysburg and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Additional information is available at www.atmuseum.org.

MEDIA CONTACT

Joe Patterson
Appalachian Trail Museum Society
717-823-7556
joseph.patterson@e-lynxx.com
info@atmuseum.org
www.atmuseum.org

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.

October 5, 2010, Tuesday TATC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Open to all members

October 8-10, 2010 Fri-Sun MOUNTAIN BIKE THE GREENBRIER RIVER TRAIL

Rick Hancock, 619-5522 or athiker80@cox.net

Approx. 80 miles of easy-to-moderate Rails-To-Trails travel. We will depart Friday morning from Burger King on Rt. 17 in Newport News and travel to White Sulphur Springs, WV where we will meet our shuttle and travel to Cass to begin our ride. Sixteen miles on Friday afternoon, 50-55 miles on Saturday and an easy 10 miles or less on Sunday. Two long tunnels of 500 and 900 feet are the highlights of this trip along with the river crossings on old trestles. Last spring a bear was sighted along the route, and there are several old train stops including an original water tower. A mountain bike or hybrid is suggested and your bike should be in good repair. We will be traveling through remote areas at times and help is a long way away and there is little or no cell service. Bring normal backcountry gear: tent/tarp, cooking gear, food, and clothing for warm to cool conditions, sleeping bag, helmet, and a small repair kit. Shuttle fee will be about \$35 and you will need money for gas and food. Several club members have completed this adventure and recommendations abound! Limited to 10 participants.

October 12, 2010, Tuesday TATC GENERAL MEETING (rescheduled date)

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk. Open to all members

Rick Hancock shares his rail-to-trail bike riding/camping experiences. Necessary gear and tips will be covered.

October 13, 2010, Wednesday MEETING OF YOUTH WORKING GROUP

TATC is making a concerted effort to increase the appeal of the club to families with kids, high school and college students and young adults. We need your ideas! We are having a brainstorming session at 7 p.m. at Nancy Rinkenberger's home. Come join us. Email for directions: nancy@rinkenberger.us or call 757-623-0334.

October 15-17, Fri-Sun AT FALL MAINTENANCE & CAMPOUT

Scott Hilton, 625-6052

Join us at Sherando for a camping weekend mixed with a walk-through of our section & expected light work. Scott will provide details as the date approaches.

October 18, 2010, Monday SUBARU LEAVE NO TRACE AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Bob Giffin, 495-7002 or Blue Ridge Mtn Sports, 422-3214

Yes, it's Subaru the car company, sponsoring this free workshop conducted by Jason & Agata from the Leave No Trace Organization. 7:00PM Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Hilltop North Shopping Center, 1624 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach.

October 23, 2010, Saturday BETWEEN THE WATERS EASTERN SHORE BIKE TOUR

Victor & Margaret Pisone, 481-2426 or 348-6373 (cell) or vabchvic@hotmail.com

Meet at 8:00 AM at the south parking lot of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge tunnel. Explore the Eastern Shore of Virginia this fall when the Between the Waters Bike Tour begins in the historic, waterfront town of Onancock. The tour is sponsored by *Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore (CBES)*, winds through interesting historic towns and communities and along back roads to scenic rest stops that overlook the Atlantic seaside and the Chesapeake Bay. Register on line at www.cbes.org. Distances are 25/40/60 or 100 miles, Registration fee includes sag support, rest stops with snacks/beverages, and a full lunch. Register by October 1: \$40 includes a T-shirt. Register after Oct 1: \$50, shirts are not guaranteed. Onancock is 40 miles north of the bay bridge.

November 5-7, 2010, Fri-Sun CABIN MAINTENANCE TRIP

Nancy & Steve Babor, 588-7501

This will be the last cabin maintenance trip for the 2010 season. It is also the last trip that Nancy & Steve will lead as a new grandson and motorcycle adventures are pulling them away. Be ready for some minor work and major camaraderie. A day hike of the White Rock Falls Trail is planned. We'll have a group meal Saturday night. Members are asked to share food expense. Other meals are on your own. During our Sunday return, we will stop the College Inn in Charlottesville for lunch.

November 6, 2010, Saturday NEWPORT NEWS PARK TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Bill Buck, 846-1125

Join us for some light maintenance in Newport News Park, the largest city parks 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.

Activities Schedule

(Continued from Page 9)

December 11, 2010, Saturday TATC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AT WHRO

Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584

This good-time gathering, 6:00-10:00PM, will feature live music from the 50s & 60s by the James City Rockers. Five dollars required at the door. Pot luck dinner to share. Bring: Your dancing shoes, entrée, appetizer, salad or dessert. Door prizes: Consider donating an item (\$10.00 value) to given away. Gifts should be appropriate for guy or gal—something purchased or crafted or gift card. Item may be wrapped and brought to event or delivered to Lisa or Phyllis beforehand. Contact Lisa Billow (lbillow@cox.net) or Phyllis Neumann (phyllisneumann@hughes.net) for more information. This is a rescheduled date. WHRO is located at 5200 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk.

February 19-21, 2011 WV WINTER WEEKEND @ BLACKWATER FALL SP 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.

July 1-8, 2011 THE ATC BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Ned Kuhns, rpcprep@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.

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.

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. 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.

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.



Miscellaneous Notes

A word from Bill Buck, local trails committee chairman:

I am looking for some volunteers that would be willing to help coordinate and lead some future maintenance trips to several local parks and natural areas in Virginia Beach. If interested in helping, please contact me at BBuck_TATC@verizon.net Thank you for your consideration.

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

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.

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.



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>

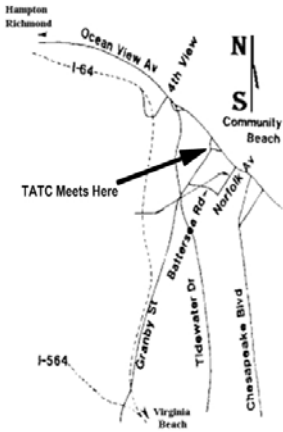
We appreciate your support of the Appalachian Trail, its 6,000 volunteers, maintaining clubs, and ATC itself through your participation in this program.



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

