

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com



February 2013 - March 2013

Prez Sez

The topic of last edition's Prez Sez dealt with TATC's outreach progress and led to discussions among board members about setting goals for our club. Although we have achieved positive things without the formality of written goals—note the modernized, tech savvy website thanks to Jim Sexton—your president feels fewer good ideas will fall through the cracks if we write, adopt, and prioritize them as goals and have them before us in newsletters, power point slides and even on cardboard signs! Going on record always adds a little push to getting things done! Below are suggestions by the board members:

1. Increase the number of hike leaders through information, training & encouragement.
2. Maximize the beginning relationship with ODU students & their professor, Eddie Hill, a TATC member.
3. Increase the number of USFS certified sawyers.
4. Complete our membership email list, making it quickly usable for member notification.
5. Offer more trail maintenance training through on-site opportunities during maintenance hikes locally and in the mountains.
6. Develop an intern program whereby members can learn from long-serving doers of important jobs. Boundary Maintenance comes to mind.
7. Continue the "higher interest" aspects of general meetings.
8. Provide the Hikemaster, Outreach Chairman & President with direct access to our website's schedule listing.

These are by no means all of the good ideas out there. Please feel free to contribute or comment at jimnewman55@cox.net. After new board members join in March, we will adopt and place in priority order the official goals of TATC for year 2013!

(Continued in next column...)



Visit our website at
www.tidewateratc.com

And in closing, be certain to check the all-new TATC website at www.tidewateratc.com where you will find a treasure trove of current and archived information offered in state-of-the-art format.

Good winter hiking to the venturesome and especially those brave ones traveling to the snow and cold of New Hampshire!

Jim Newman
President
president@tidewateratc.com

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TIME TO RENEW TIME TO RENEW TIME TO RENEW TIME TO RENEW

Your membership card is dated to February 28, 2013. Membership renewal period is March and April of each year. A membership form must be completed each year. A form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Welcome to the following new members: Jim and Vickie Cruse, Jim Pantaleo and Sita Laurino, Fred Riley, Brooke Schaab, Alan Secor, Kyle Kohl, Ray Moran and Paul Werbin.

Mary Hormell
Membership Chair
membership@tidewateratc.com

Nelson County A.T. Community Trail Days

June 1st, 2013

Nelson County along with the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC), the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club (ODATC), the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club (NBATC) and Devils' Backbone Brewery will be hosting an event for National Trails Day on Saturday, June 1st, 2013. This event will be held outside on the grounds of the Devils' Backbone Brewery.

This event will include:

- Hikes sponsored by the AT Clubs
- Exhibits and training booths from each AT Club & ATC
- Demonstrations
- Shuttles from and to the AT for Thru and Section Hikers
- Camping on-site for Thru-Hikers
- Kids Table - coloring books, tattoos, etc.
- Entertainment
- And booths for vendors

Information on this event will be advertised at Trail Days in Damascus, VA, and also by the Nelson County Department of Tourism and the AT Clubs. Various other outdoor organizations are also being asked to participate.

This could prove to be the beginning of a premier trail event! Held at the right time, place, and with great sponsorship!

Please contact Chris Sexton or Jim Sexton (counselor@tidewateratc.com or newsletter@tidewateratc.com) if you are interested in volunteering to lead a hike, man a booth, or be a shuttle driver for this event.

The next planning meeting for this event is being held on Monday, February 4th, 10:00 am at the Devils' Backbone Brewery

Canoe for Sale

Do-You Need-You "a-new-to-you" Ca-noe? Yes, you do!
Old Town Discovery 169, red, with comfortable molded seats. Polyethylene boat with wood thwart and carrying yoke. Good condition. Normal bottom scratches, but no repairs needed. Perfect for two with lots of gear, or more for comfortable day trips. \$450...cash only. If interested, please call Mike or Nancy @ 804-779-3445 or habitatnancy@gmail.com





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- ★ Need to gear up for that thru-hike? Give us a call.

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Low Budget Car Camping Kitchen

By Nancy Rinckenberger

In September of every year, The Virginian Pilot holds a DIY (Do It Yourself) contest. Readers are invited to submit their home projects in categories such as Best Low Budget Project, Best Kitchen Makeover and Best Outdoor Project. Below is my entry into the latter category. It didn't win but they thought it interesting enough they will feature it in the Saturday Home section on either January 26 or February 2. I brought my Camp Kitchen to Fall Maintenance so some of you have seen it. It's fun to cook with it and certainly much more efficient than trying to find a cork screw in the bottom of a Tupperware bin! Maybe it will spark some ideas of your own.

Category: Best Outdoor Project:

Problem: The kitchen of my vacation home was cramped. There was no counter space. Disorganization was the watch word. The lighting was poor. Vacation meals just weren't fun!

Solution: I had been formulating a plan when I passed a neighbor's house with lots of cabinets at the curb. I asked and received permission to take whatever I wanted. I knew one of those cabinets was the answer to my kitchen nightmare.

By the way, did I mention that my vacation home is a tent? You know the drill. Pack food for a road trip. First stop goes well. Things are organized. Next day, throw everything into the van and drive. You have a bit more trouble with each stop. By week's end, meal preparation is a nightmare. Inevitably you decide a visit to the dentist is preferable to fixing another camp meal and opt for fast food.

My idea was to take a kitchen cabinet, turn it on it's side and change the shelf orientation. The door would become a counter. Camp dishes would have a permanent home, as would the coffee, cork screw and camp stove.

With little or no carpentry skills, I managed to add a center shelf support and reorient the shelves. The right side of the cabinet has a fixed shelf. The left shelves are adjustable. Tools used were a screw driver, hand saw, straight edge, level, drill and a paint brush.

Goal: To complete this task with very little expense. Being a bit of a pack rat helped. Atop the cabinet, a cargo net from a now defunct 1994 Saturn holds my camp stove and dish pans. It is held in place by cup hooks and recycled knob-style cabinet handles around the perimeter. Outside left, I permanently installed an adjustable strap from an old gym bag. It holds a 1 gallon water container. On the right side, a wire organizer from an old kitchen cabinet holds propane canisters. The paint was left over from the living room mantel. After **two evenings and a Saturday**, my 'Camp Kitchen' was born and ready for a road test!

Cost: \$59.58 bought contact paper and chains for the door-cum-counter, two 6 ½ inch door pulls for lifting the 'Camp Kitchen', and 3 LED task lights. The lights clip into C clamps scrounged from the basement. When not in use, they snap out and ride safely in the center of a paper towel roll.



Lest you turn a jaundiced eye toward this 'home improvement' wondering if my tent qualifies as a 'home', please note that my 'Camp Kitchen' has actually performed more hours of service this summer atop two saw horses on the back deck. This side of it's personality I call my 'Bubba Kitchen'. You might say it's a low-rent version of the ubiquitous Outdoor Kitchen. Since cooking with Bubba is so easy, I often fix dinner outside. I don't heat up the kitchen and the AC runs less. A real money saver in Tidewater! The third face of its persona is 'Tailgate Kitchen'. Beer and Bratwurst anyone?

Biggest Challenge: Finding the proper nut, bolt or screw I needed. Some were in the basement, others in the utility room or outdoor shed. My next project HAS to be reorganizing my tools!

ATC Cullowhee 2013

The ATC Biennial Conference; Cullowhee 2013, is on is only a few short months away. Registration will begin on April 15th, 2013. You can visit the Cullowhee 2013 webpage at:

<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/who-we-are/events/2011/07/26/atc-cullowhee-2013>

Plan to attend at least a portion of this week-long event to be held July 19 - 26, 2013 at Western Carolina University in beautiful Cullowhee, North Carolina. This Biennial Conference 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. 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 needed to lead hikes and excursions, and to staff information desks and perform other functions. Visit the Cullowhee webpage for additional information about volunteering. Don't miss this great event. It is only held once every two years.

Hiking

66 different Hikes, most offered several times during the week from Saturday to Friday, July 20-26, 2013, including:

- 85 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Deep Gap/Standing Indian Mountain to Shuckstack Mountain in North Carolina,
- another 29 miles of the A.T. on hikes in the Clingmans Dome, Newfound Gap, Mt. Cammerer, and Max Patch areas,
- non-A.T. hikes in Great Smoky Mountains National Park,
- hikes on North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail, and
- in the Cashiers/Highlands area, including Tallulah Gorge State Park in Georgia, the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi.

The schedule will include a mix of easy, moderate, strenuous, and very strenuous hikes.

Workshops topics include:

- Hiking and backpacking
- Trail maintenance
- Tips and techniques on recruiting volunteers
- ATC's signature programs
- Many others

Nearby Activities

- White water rafting
- River tubing
- Zip lines
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Art galleries and museums

Excursions

24 Excursions on Saturday through Tuesday night, July 20-23, 2013:

- whitewater rafting on the Nantahala River,
- tubing on the Tuckaseegee River,
- mountain biking in Tsali Recreation Area,
- road-biking on the Blue Ridge Parkway,
- an art-and-crafts tour of Asheville,
- a tour of Cherokee featuring the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, the Qualla Arts and Craft Center, and a chance to experience a modern Native American town, and
- a visit to the Biltmore Estate and gardens.

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Entertainment

- Try contra dancing on Sunday night, July 21, 2013.
- Enjoy the best of local music on Monday – Wednesday nights, July 22-24, 2013.
- Hear stories about trails you've hiked or might want to hike on Sunday – Wednesday nights, July 21-24, 2013.
- Listen to a Cherokee storyteller on Thursday night, July 25, 2013

Housing

All air-conditioned rooms in a new residence hall (opened in 2010) with one bathroom for every two people, and common areas including refrigerators on each floor.

About Western Carolina University

- Lovely mountain setting
- All dorm rooms equipped with air condition
- Modern student cafeteria
- Ample space for activities, camping, and RVs

About Cullowhee, North Carolina

- Spectacular vistas
- Easy, medium, and strenuous hikes
- Access to the Appalachian Trail, the Bartram Trail, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Nantahala National Forest
- Nature, history, and family friendly atmosphere

Enter or click on the link to the video to watch a preview of ATC Cullowhee 2013:

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/37yFK3SFB0M?hl=en&fs=1>



2013 TATC Election Results

The following club officers were elected at TATC's January 9th, 2013 general membership meeting. These newly elected officers and reelected incumbents will assume office on March 1st, 2013.

President: Jim Newman
Vice-President: Christine Woods
Treasurer: Joe Turlo
Trail Supervisor: Mark Connolly
Assistant Trail Supervisor: Ken Lancaster
Secretary: Diana Ramsey
Counselor: Greg Seid

Odds and Ends-- the Early Years of the Club

By Bob Adkisson

As TATC historian, I have been perusing some of the early newsletters from the first half dozen years of the club, and I've stumbled upon several interesting bits of information—ways of doing things, requirements and practices, a few of which we might want to start encouraging again.

One reason I say this is because many people have noticed, and commented on the fact, that in the last few years our club doesn't seem to be offering as many hikes and activities as it once did. Is this due to the 'graying' of the club, or a simple lack of volunteerism among its many members? Or is it both?

In the Club's Feb., 1974 Newsletter, following the hike schedule (which, in a 3 month period—Feb. thru April—had 9 overnight hikes listed, as well as 8 local day hikes), this brief paragraph can be found: "Additional Hiking-- the club is not limited to the hike schedule. There will be changes; hopefully more hikes. The several new members who have volunteered to lead hikes are to be commended; **each member, new or old, should attempt to lead one hike each quarter** [emphasis added]. This way there will be more scheduled hiking opportunities and the groups will remain small."

That is certainly an interesting, even a challenging idea—to encourage (to all but require) every member of the club to step forward and lead a couple of hikes every year! It certainly wouldn't do any harm to encourage everyone to do this-- that is for sure.

I remember years ago when there were about half a dozen very active and involved (and celebrated) club members who seemed to lead the bulk of the club hikes, especially local hikes, people like Ray Kernell, Luis Seuc, Lillian Benson, Andy Armano, Marilyn Horvath. These people either aren't with us anymore, or have simply had to cut back because of age or circumstance. Sadly, few have stepped forward to take their place.

At one of the recent Board Meetings this was discussed, and many of the members vowed to personally make an effort to lead a couple of hikes a year. It is something all members can do and should consider. Bill Rogers has written educational hand-outs about the subject of being a trip leader, with advice and how-to information; you can find this material on the club website; you can ask counselors for advice at any club meeting; you can get more involved in the club.

The phenomenon of the Tuesday Group is proof that there is a huge interest in getting together and participating in local outdoor activities.

I believe the Tuesday Group originally formed to take some of the pressure off of the usual weekend trips that people led—that and to give retired members an activity in mid week to enjoy. What seems to have happened though, over the course of several years now, is that weekend trips have dried up (unless it is a local work trip) and participation in the Tuesday Group activities have at times skyrocketed (38 people on a recent 9 mile hike in First Landing State Park; usually 25 or so folks on some of the 25 mile long bike rides around the area; 20 people on various paddle trips on the local waters).

It seems obvious to me that the interest and numbers are there and that an off shoot of the Tuesday Group would be successful—something like: a **Saturday Group!** It would require a volunteer to handle the email scheduling component that Ellis Malabad so graciously and conscientiously provides for the Tuesday Group, and it would probably need a few months to build interest and develop a following like the mid-week group. Like the Tuesday Group, it too would need interested members to step forward and volunteer to lead the trips as well, but, especially for local day trips like these, this is not hard or onerous duty, and most of the participants will be (or soon will be) regulars, new friends, not a pack of strangers. I am sure that Ellis, and Phyllis Neumann, would be glad to offer, to anyone interested, a bit of advice and encouragement on how to get a Saturday Group in the works.

In it's first few years the club was very much work-centered, all about the maintenance work on the A.T., and on a few of the local trails that the club built and for which it took responsibility. And, back then, you couldn't just join the club, you actually had to be vouched for by a member, had to be sponsored, had to prove you were able to do the work and backpack, prove your mettle. It seemed to be a requirement too that all members participate in at least one work trip per year. I don't support or believe that the club needs to screen potential new members, or require sponsorship, but that last one would be a good one to at least encourage again—all members should make the effort to participate in at least one work trip of some sort every year.

The club also had backpacking awards, in which members who were interested had to backpack 100 hours in a calendar year (though you could only credit a maximum of 3 hours of hiking for any one day—which means you had to backpack at least 33 days a year to earn the award), all the while carrying at least 10% of their body weight. The club also set itself goals like this (taken from the April / May 1977 Newsletter): "10,000 Miles..... Lets not forget TATC's stated goal for 1977—to hike 10,000 miles—to show our support for trails in general and the AT in particular. The Hike Master is keeping a log and every member is requested to enter the necessary information about his or her hike." All the hiking all the members did over the course of a year was recorded and tallied, with the goal of reaching and exceeding the 10,000 mile mark. This information was I believe relayed to various state and federal officials so that they'd know the interest and need was there and they'd be more willing to support trails and wilderness and parks.

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Also of note: I see where the first club 2,000 miler was a young man named Paul Russell (19) of Chesapeake; he apparently completed the A.T. in 1975, having walked 1,500 miles of it in 1974. (Now our club claims 28 members—or former members—who have completed the whole A.T.)

In 1974 the club boasted 100 members, and that is the year Judy Kernell joined TATC (having just attended the same Outward Bound School in Table Rock, N.C. that I did). She served on the newly formed Dismal Swamp Committee and that year began hiking in the refuge (for years Judy led a Thanksgiving weekend hike across the swamp, usually lasting Friday thru Sunday). I also see where Ed Page, in 1974, started the tradition of leading a winter hike in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York. The late Otey Shelton joined the club in 1974 and in the latter half of the decade became the annual coordinator of this trip. Marilyn Horvath, Reese Lukei, Mal Higgins, and Pat Strong all first joined the club about 1974 (all are still member).

Also in the seminal year of 1974 the club established a modest cabin acquisition fund.

Our club has certainly evolved over the years, taken on greater challenges and responsibilities than the original members might ever have imagined. About a mile of our 9.75 mile section used to be on county roads; now it is all off roads, mostly all inside of an officially designated wilderness area. Our section is nearly a mile longer than when we first acquired responsibility for it, and maybe 1/3 of it has been rerouted by the club (mostly from Harpers Creek Shelter to the crossing of route 56). The swinging bridge across the Tye River was built (by the forest service) about 1974, and redone about 20 years later. Several sections of our trail have remained the same but have undergone an extensive, concentrated reworking, with stone steps and cribbing, etc. The south side of Meadow Mtn. got switchbacks put in, and the old, ugly hunting cabin that used to sit in the gap at Maupin Field was dismantled by the club and hauled away by the forest service. Then of course the club built the Mau-Har Trail, creating a scenic if rugged loop trail with the A.T., and it built our incredible Douglas Putman Cabin. Later we took on responsibility for maintaining the White Rock Falls Trail and all of the trails in the St Mary's River Wilderness. Over the years our club has also lent a lot of help to the Old Dominion Club, who maintain the A.T. just to the north of our section (ODATC has re-routed over half of their section in the last 25 or so years, and many members of our club have helped with that).

We have the experience and the volunteer spirit—let's keep it up!



America's Best Idea - the National Parks - It's even better when it's Free!

Mark your calendar for these entrance fee-free dates in 2013:

April 22-26
five days during National Parks Week

August 25
National Park Service Birthday

September 28
National Public Lands Day

November 9-11
Veterans Day weekend

More information can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>

Paradise Creek Nature Park - 28 December 2012

By Bill Rogers

This day was opening day for the park located at 1141 Victory Boulevard, Portsmouth, 3.2-miles south of exit 3 on I-264. My day started with their 8:00 a.m. ornithologist-led bird walk. About a dozen folks were there on that pretty day. The fine gravel, hard-packed, paths are very suitable for wheelchairs and strollers (no bikes) - we saw three families with their perambulators enjoying the day. About 24 different species were seen and identified, including a palm warbler I spotted and was lucky enough to photograph well. A flock of photogenic robins, and one of cedar waxwings, feasted on privet berries. Wetlands, woods, forest edge, and meadowlands create many different environments for wildlife. Foxes, box turtles and garter snakes have been seen, as well as numerous species of bird life.

The park is 40-acres, of which 29 are woods and open space, 11 are restored wetlands. Some 8,000 native plants, bushes, and trees have been transplanted. 350,000 cubic yards of former fill material was removed by the Virginia Port Authority to form wetlands in mitigation of Craney Island expansion. Appropriate wetland vegetation has been planted and is growing well. To protect this until strong enough to stand grazing by Canada geese, surveyor tape streamers and netting have been installed. This prevents geese from either walking down the banks or flying into the wetlands. Part of the removed material was used to build a high berm from which there is a nice view of the wetlands and 275-ft pedestrian bridge across the entrance to Paradise Creek. Beyond that you can see the new Jordan Bridge.

After the guided bird walk I took my own stroll through the park. In the quietude was able to get closer to the feasting throngs of robins. I followed a pretty flock of brightly colored blue birds along the edge of the new marsh. From the berm I spotted a cooper's hawk perched in an oak looking for its lunch.

Future plans (2013 thru 2015) include, among other things: the installation of a dry launch kayak/canoe floating dock providing access to Paradise Creek and the Elizabeth River; playground, solar powered interpretive center, outdoor classrooms, a picnic area, and a composting toilet to replace the current porta-potty. Clear bottom kayaks will be available for watching underwater life. It's a pretty park being enjoyed by folks of all ages, many with their pooches. The park is a joint endeavor of the Elizabeth River Project, City of Portsmouth, and the Virginia Port Authority.

If this sounds like an advertisement - so be it. 'Tis a nice urban park. All in all it was a very pleasant morning. For more info and a park map go to <http://www.paradisecreekpark.org/>. For the bird walk avian checklist go to <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S12396560>. On the park's web site there is a link to the Virginia Wildlife (volume 73, issue 6, June 2012) article about the park. Enjoy...

TATC Social Media Sites

www.MeetUp.com/Tidewater-ATC-MeetUp

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

www.Facebook.com

Search: Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

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

The following article first appeared in the April / May, 1977 edition of the club's newsletter:

Tidewater and the Appalachian Trail

By Fess Green

The Tidewater community of Virginia sits at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay surrounded by seashore, sand dunes, and swamps. The average elevation is eight feet above sea level, and the nearest mountains are 200 miles away. It was there, in April of 1972 that the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) was born.

The club began, as many clubs do, with an informal gathering of people who wanted to hike in the mountains. They met at a barn in Chesapeake, agreed on some general operating rules, and conducted their first hike on the Appalachian Trail during the July 4th weekend. One hiker remembers out of 22 people, there were 18 named Bill. They followed the A.T. from Reed's Gap over Three Ridges to the top of the Priest. They liked what they saw and decided then that the object of the club would be to build and maintain a portion of the Appalachian Trail.

A constitution was written and officers were elected so that the club could be recognized officially by the Appalachian Trail Conference located in Washington, D.C. But without a section of the trail to maintain, the club retained a class-B status until the following year. To the amazement of many old timers in established trail clubs, this tiny group of hikers living 200 miles away negotiated and obtained the rights to maintain a 9.6 mile portion of the A.T. from Reed's Gap to the Tye River in the George Washington National Forest. This portion of the trail is still maintained by the TATC today, and TATC holds [class] "A" [status] in the conference listing of maintaining clubs.

The Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club has grown to include approximately 250 members. Many of the former officers now serve on the council, and one is a member of the Board of Managers for the Appalachian Trail Conference. The club schedules local hikes and mountain backpacking trips every weekend. Members earn patches by participating in one of at least four maintenance hikes conducted yearly. The club has established a total membership goal of 10,000 miles of hiking this year. The leading hikers may also qualify for the club's distinguished hiker award which is somewhat more demanding than the Presidential Sports Award for backpacking. Three of the club's members have hiked the entire 2,000 miles of the Appalachian Trail, from Maine to Georgia.

A special interest section of the club has been formed to develop local trails in areas such as the Dismal Swamp where no marked trails currently exist. This committee is working with rangers and wildlife technicians in Virginia and North Carolina toward what may be the beginning of a trail system near the east coast.

In April of 1977, the TATC will hold its annual banquet commemorating the fifth year of the club's activities. The accomplishments of the past will give direction to the future as the TATC declares its goals and objectives for the years ahead. Tidewater's commitment to the Appalachian Trail has been firmly established, and its participation in the future is likely to increase. Furthermore, the membership chairman assures us, your name doesn't have to be Bill in order to join.

[Fess Green was a Business Management Professor at ODU. He joined TATC about 1974 and quickly became involved in a number of projects and activities, especially the Dismal Swamp Committee (having recently changed ownership, the Dismal Swamp was now a National Wildlife Refuge). The club explored the possibilities of building a long hiking trail across the wild lands of the Refuge and the swamp, from near Deep Creek all the way to Merchant Mill Pond State Park in N.C. This trail idea never really came to fruition (mostly because the land was too often far too wet to support a trail), but over the next few years (as the membership of the club increased, with not everyone willing or able to go 200 miles to the mountains to hike) the Dismal Swamp Committee slowly morphed into the Local Trails Committee, and was responsible for building trails in Chesapeake's Northwest River Park, Merchant Mill Pond State Park near Gatesville, N.C., and other such endeavors. They also published a Local Trails Guidebook. Fess moved to Boone, N.C. to



2013 Scheduled Maintenance Trips

Appalachian Trail Maintenance

05/03/2013 – 05/05/2013 - Spring Walk-Thru - POC: Mark Connolly, 623-0764, trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

05/17/2013 – 05/19/2013 - Spring Maintenance Trip - POC: Mark Connolly, 623-0764, trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

07/19/2013 – 07/21/2013 – 3rd Annual Swingblade & Lopper Festival - POC: Mark Connolly, 623-0764, trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

10/18/2013 – 10/20/2013 - Fall Maintenance Trip - POC: Mark Connolly, 623-0764, trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

Local Trails Maintenance

01/26/2013 - False Cape State Park Maintenance - Bruce Julian, 484-0975

03/27/2013 - False Cape State Park Maintenance - Bruce Julian, 484-0975

04/07/2013 - New Quarter Park Maintenance - Phyllis Neumann, 757 566-4584

04/20/2013 - First Landing State Park Maintenance - Diana Ramsey, 619-0540

06/08/2013 - First Landing State Park Maintenance - Diana Ramsey, 619-0540

07/13/2013 - False Cape State Park Maintenance - Bruce Julian, 484-0975

09/07/2013 - First Landing State Park Maintenance - Diana Ramsey, 619-0540

10/06/2013 - New Quarter Park Maintenance - Phyllis Neumann, 757 566-4584

10/26/2013 - False Cape State Park Maintenance - Bruce Julian, 484-0975

Cabin Maintenance Schedule

03/08/2013 – 03/10/2013 – Cabin Maintenance Trip - POC: Bob Adkisson, 627-5514 or mailto:cabin@tidewaterATC.com

05/31/2013 – 06/02/2013 – Cabin Maintenance Trip - POC: Bob Adkisson, 627-5514 or mailto:cabin@tidewaterATC.com

09/20/2013 – 09/22/2013 – Cabin Maintenance Trip - POC: Bob Adkisson, 627-5514 or mailto:cabin@tidewaterATC.com

11/15/2013 – 11/17/2013 – Cabin Maintenance Trip - POC: Bob Adkisson, 627-5514 or mailto:cabin@tidewaterATC.com

News Release

December 27, 2012

Appalachian Trail Museum's Popularity Grows

GARDNERS, PA. – More than 7,000 visitors experienced the Appalachian Trail Museum during its third season. “The appeal of the museum grows each year,” said Larry Luxenberg, museum founder and president of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society. “Since opening in 2010, we have had more than 23,000 visitors from across the United States and many other countries.”

Luxenberg attributes the museum's popularity during 2012 to a growing interest in hiking, observance of the Appalachian Trail's 75th anniversary, the museum's location at the trail's midway point and new exhibits at the museum. The 2,184 mile long Appalachian Trail crosses 14 states from Maine to Georgia. Highlights for the 2012 season included:

- The new Trail Founders exhibit that features displays on Myron Avery and Benton MacKaye – the two men who are credited most with making the Appalachian Trail a reality. New items donated for the exhibit include a manual typewriter used by MacKaye and a folding kayak owned by Avery. The kayak is being prepared for the exhibit, and plans are for it to be added in 2013.
- A Katahdin art exhibit. Mount Katahdin (the highest mountain in Maine at 5,268 feet) is where the Appalachian Trail begins or ends, depending on the direction being hiked.
- A full slate of summer programs that included topics on iron-making at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, early Appalachian Trail hikers, women founders of the trail, geology, hiking stick carving and trail maintenance.
- The annual Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Banquet at which five Appalachian Trail hiking pioneers were inducted into the hall of fame. They joined the first class honorees who were inducted in 2011. For its fourth season, Luxenberg said the top priority is to add an exhibit on the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame which now has 11 members. Plans also are in the works to relocate the historic Dean's Gap Shelter from Blue Mountain, Pennsylvania, to the museum, update the existing Earl Shaffer Shelter display, an exhibit on blazing (marking) trails and a 30th anniversary exhibit on hikers who thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 1983. Other exhibits under consideration are one on the Appalachian Trail and the Civil War and one on historic trail saws.

The museum will open for its fourth season in the spring of 2013 and will remain open through early fall. Luxenberg said volunteers are being sought for all aspects of museum operations from greeters and docents to maintenance and landscaping crews to program and hike leaders. Museum manager Howard Davis is accepting inquiries at atmuseumgreeters@gmail.com

Located in a 200-year-old, restored grist mill in historic Pine Grove Furnace State Park and at the midway point of the 2,184-mile-long Appalachian Trail, the museum is across from the Pine Grove General Store on scenic Pennsylvania Route 233 in Cumberland County.

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 2,184 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.



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.

TATC Board Meeting

February 5, 2013, Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Jim Newman, 687-6688 jimnewman55@cox.net

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) Board Meeting - All Welcome!

Held at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk VA 23503

York River State Park Maintenance

February 9, 2013, Saturday

J. Mark Ferguson, jmarkferguson@cox.net

York River State Park is known for its rare and delicate environment, where freshwater and saltwater meet to create a habitat rich in marine and plant life and is located just 11 miles west of Williamsburg. Join TATC for a day of Moderate Difficulty trail maintenance within the park starting at 9am and ending towards mid-afternoon. Dress for the weather and bring work gloves and sturdy boots/shoes. Bring a lunch, snacks, and water. Tools will be provided. Contact Mark with any questions. Further details on York River State Park can be found at http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/yor.shtml.

Chocolate Hike 2013

February 10, 2013, Sunday

Phyllis Neumann 757-566-4584

Is it a hike? Is it a chocolate extravaganza? Is it a culinary challenge? It's all three! Join your fellow TATCers in this sweetheart event, challenge your pastry skills and compete for fame and fortune Here's how it works: Meet at the Mariner's Museum (100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA www.marinersmuseum.org) at 9:30 am. Bring a chocolate confection (that you have created) for the Judge (that would be me) and your fellow hikers to sample. Then we'll hike the Noland trail (~ 3 miles) taking multiple breaks along the way to continue sampling the entries. At the conclusion of the hike, prizes will be awarded for the tastiest and most unique creation.

TATC General Meeting

February 13, 2013, Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Jim Newman, 687-6688 jimnewman55@cox.net

Mary Pretlow Library, 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk

General club business and a presentation by Wild River Outfitters

Hiking-Backpacking Seminar

February 16, 2013, Saturday

Bill Rogers 484-6001

This is the first such seminar of the year. It's a good way to spend a winter day; i.e., getting prepared for hiking and backpacking as the weather turns warmer. Learn some of the fascinating ins and outs, do's and don'ts, of these marvelous outdoor activities. Plan all day from 9:55 to 4:30ish. Bring lunch and a beverage. We'll be indoors and comfortable. Course limited. Call Bill for details, directions, and to sign up.

False Cape State Park Volunteer Work and Fun Trip

February 24-28th, 2013

Bruce Julian, 484-0975

Looking for a few volunteers to help rebuild the boat dock at Dudley Island down next to the North Carolina State Line in False Cape State Park. We will try and have all the building materials there on the location before we start working on Monday Feb. 25. This dock will only be about 60 feet long and we will have the old one to work off of. We can meet at Little Island City Park on SUNDAY Feb. 24 at 3:00 P.M. then drive to the Environmental Education Center and put away our gear and maybe go for a hike before our evening meal. I will bring pizza for all once again for Sunday night. I will have breakfast each morning for everyone and it will be Blue Berry Waffle or Pancake and maybe French Toast, Sausages or Bacon and coffee. ALL lunches will be up to each person to bring and it will need to be something you can eat at the JOB SITE. The evening meals we will divide into 3 groups and each group will decide on what they will bring. We only will have 15 volunteers for this trip so sign - up early. Things for you to BRING: warm clothes, towel & wash cloth, A SLEEPING BAG to put on your bunk, rubber boots if you have them, work gloves and a spare pair of work shoes. These things will make your week a lot better if you should get wet while working. We have a full kitchen at the EEC.

(Continued on Page 15 ...)

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.

TATC Cabin Work / Orientation Trip

March 8-10, 2013, Friday-Sunday

Bob Adkisson 627 5514 or cabin@tidewateratc.com

This is the first of 4 trips to the trail club's cabin for 2013 (the other trips are in late May, late Sept., and mid Nov.). Depending on the weather conditions (snow / ice), light maintenance work will be done, especially some trail work on the access road. Time for a hike too. Bring work gloves, sleeping bag and pad, food for all your own meals. Attending this (or one of the other work / orientation trips) will qualify new club members to be able to rent the cabin on their own; you will learn how to open up and close the cabin, how to take care of it, what the rules are etc-- there will be about a half hour lesson, hitting all the high points. March can be an iffy month as far as snow / ice and the Blue Ridge Parkway being closed is concerned. If the Parkway is closed it is a 3 mile walk to the cabin. If the Parkway is open, it is a half mile walk. If conditions are extreme, snowshoes or some type of simple crampons would be very helpful. April 26-- 28 are possible alternate date for this trip, if the weather in March is really bad.

TATC Board Meeting

March 5, 2013, Tuesday, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Jim Newman, 687-6688 jimnewman55@cox.net

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) Board Meeting - All Welcome!
Held at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk VA 23503

TATC General Meeting

March 13, 2013, Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Jim Newman, 687-6688 jimnewman55@cox.net

Mary Pretlow Library, 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk

ATC Southern Partnership Meeting

March 15-17, 2013, Friday-Sunday

Phyllis Neumann or Ned Kuhns rprep@tidewateratc.com

Contact Phyllis or Ned for more information

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

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

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

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

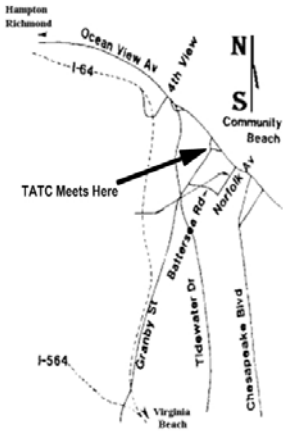
Information for Hike & Activities Schedule, TATC website listings and Meetup postings are collected and edited by the Hikemaster. Contact Scott Hilton at 757 625-6052 or sdhilton@hotmail.com with information for publication.



Tidewater Appalachian
Trail Club
P. O. Box 8246
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



Paradise Creek Nature Park - Photo by Bill Rogers