

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com

Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson

April 2022 - May 2022
49th Edition, 2nd Issue

PREZ SEZ

Like an awakening beehive, TATC is bursting with activity as spring arrives. We have planted over 60 trees in our 500 Trees for 50 Years project at the Ocean Park elementary school in Norfolk. In mid-March, Steve Clayton and Stephanie Stringer led the Saturday "Giant Bamboo" hike. Dave Plum led a trail maintenance crew at Pleasure House Point removing vines from beautiful Live Oaks. Marti and Ellis Malabad have scheduled a Pleasure House Point Natural Area hike for Saturday, March 26. Phyllis Newman will lead a maintenance trip to New Quarter Park near Williamsburg on April 2. TATC maintenance is scheduled at First Landing State Park on April 14, and we will be participating at FLSP's celebration of National Trails Day, June 4. Check out the TATC calendar for more details and to sign up for these events: <https://tadc.wildapricot.org/Schedule>

TATC crosscut sawyers recertified in three separate training/testing sessions at Sherando. We now have a full cadre of qualified sawyers to tackle the big blowdowns on the AT. In preparation for our A.T. Spring Maintenance Trip on May 6-8, the walk-through survey of the trail takes place April 15-17.

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Visit our website at www.tidewateratc.com

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Your representatives will be attending the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Southern Partnership Meeting in Damascus, Virginia from April 22 to 24. ATC, members clubs, and our Federal Agency partners will meet to outline how we can improve the care we all can provide for the A.T.

Sharon Salyer and her dynamic committee have organized TATC's first spring Day-in-the-Park for April 9 following on the terrifically successful fall Day-in-the-Park. TATC members thoroughly enjoyed themselves last fall, and the spring event promises to be even better--more games and a chili contest. Logo items will be available so bring your checkbooks and cash.

Our monthly General Membership meetings are again in-person. Bill Bunch, one of our Counselors, negotiated an agreement with the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Norfolk. Their social hall where we meet has plenty of room so do consider coming on April 13. We will be sending out the agenda in early April. (Sneak preview: Chris and Jim Sexton will describe their wonderful trip to Big Bend National Park--a presentation not to be missed.)

As I noted, TATC is buzzing with activity (sorry, couldn't resist). Please look at the calendar and sign up for the events of your choice. Spring is an ideal time to participate--the weather is fair and the flowers are in bloom.

A final reminder--National Park Week occurs April 16 to 24 and on April 16 fees to all National Parks are waived.

Happy Trails
Lee

Sign up for
TATC Day in the Park and Chili Contest!

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Your RSVP is important: Email Sharon Salyer at happycampers33@hotmail.com

Where: Newport News Park, 13560 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, VA 23603.
Shelter #10, Constitution Way.

Description: Hiking, biking and games galore topped with enough chili & fixins' to delight any epicurean. Cheer the soon-to-be famous TATC Chili Chefs on to glory. Marvel in the variety and scope of crockpot creations! Proceeds benefit TATC's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Schedule: **12 noon, shelter #10, to sign up for a history hike or 12:30 pm for the bike ride.** Or arrive at your leisure to join in a round of Horseshoes, Cornhole and more.

- The history hike is an easy 1.5 hour hike over the previous site of Dam #1 on the Warwick River. It will lead to some of the best preserved civil war earthworks in the nation. Leader is Jim Newman.
- The bike ride is a moderately paced, 5.3 mile ride that should be easy for all to maintain. The path is hard packed gravel and shaded, total ride time approximately one hour. Leader is John Oakes.

4 p.m.: Chili contest. Conducted by Master of Chili Ceremonies, Phyllis Neumann. □Dessert follows. Socialize after dinner, the park closes at 7:30 pm.

Directions: 13560 Jefferson Avenue, Highway Exit 250B from I-64. Turn at park entrance on Constitution Way, follow Constitution Way for just over 1/2 mile, shelter #10 is on the left. You will pass the Ranger Station on the left and first set of picnic shelters, keep going, turn left into parking area for shelter #10, it is set back by itself. Restrooms are directly across from shelter.

- Park entrance is free, the event costs \$7 per person, children under 10 eat free.
- To lessen our footprint on the park, please bring your non-disposable plate/bowl and utensils for dinner. Water will be provided.
- Please note that Newport News Park does not allow alcohol.
- TATC merchandise will be available for club members to purchase, so remember your checkbook.



TATC's 50th Anniversary: An Excellent Opportunity for Outreach

Hi, I'm John Barnes. I'm honored to have been appointed to the vacant Outreach Chair position. I've been in the club for several years now, long enough to be completely impressed with the dedication, commitment, energy, and can-do spirit shared by club members. Equally impressive is the knowledge base for things such as trail maintenance, safety and a full range of outdoor activities, including winter hiking. The list of travel destinations visited by our adventuresome members is equally impressive. My already long bucket list of places to go is growing rapidly. It still amazes me that more people don't know about TATC, even given the very fine communications materials and other prior efforts to attract new members. That's also why I joined the committee planning our celebration event, to make sure we know how special we are, make sure we have a way to communicate that message clearly, and then to share that information with others. I welcome your ideas, suggestions, recommendations and even better, your time and talents.

The 50th Anniversary is quite a milestone. Looking back from 2022 to 1972, the club and its members have done amazing work, served the hiking community extremely well, and have formed lifelong friendships along the way. The list of accomplishments is very long but includes:

- ◆ 50 years of continuous maintenance of our section of the Appalachian Trail benefiting countless hikers over the years
- ◆ Construction and maintenance of a beautiful cabin in the woods where many of our members, friends and family have enjoyed time
- ◆ Construction and maintenance of the Mar-Har Trail which provides access to a beautiful waterfall, creates a loop trail, and provides a challenging alternative route to climbing the Three Ridges Mountain trail on the AT.

As you know there are a number of activities planned to celebrate this significant milestone. Your support and participation are essential for these to be fully successful.

- ◆ TATC is committed to planting 500 trees to celebrate its 50 years of service. 67 trees have already been planted with more planned for this fall.
- ◆ A Commemorative book capturing the history of the club, membership and accomplishments. Books will be "coffee table" quality and available for sale.
- ◆ A grand celebration event at the Harbor Club in Norfolk on October 2, 2022. **This is a DO NOT MISS event.** The location has a spectacular view, the program is shaping up nicely, and the planning committee is doing a fantastic job. **Tickets will be limited and will go on sale in early June, so get your tickets early.**

Not only is the club celebrating the past, we're planning for the future. A lot has changed since 1972. Hopefully you filled out the recent survey from our President Lee Lohman. This is one of several efforts to make sure that the club is well positioned to meet the needs of our current and future members. The outcome of these efforts will also help to shape our outreach efforts. So, please take the time to reflect on what TATC means to you, join us in these celebrations, and let's make the next 50 years of TATC even better.

Cabin Work Trip - April 8th--10th.

There will be a work trip to the Club's Cabin in Nelson County, Va., a half mile walk from the Blue Ridge Parkway. The cabin sleeps 12 but folks are welcome to tent out nearby if they wish.

There will be some painting of the cabin's trim, and some general clean-up work too. The main emphasis will be doing trail work on the nearby White Rock Falls Trail (2.7 miles long)-- painting blazes, digging out water trenches, carrying in and installing a heavy trail sign post, trimming branches, etc.

You need to supply all your own meals, but the cabin has a cook stove, pots, dishes, cups, and cutlery, etc.-- everything you need.

Bring work clothes and gloves, hiking boots, sleeping bag and sleeping pad, and warm clothes (we've had a bit of snow in April before; the elevation is about 2,200 ft above sea level).

Call Bob Adkisson (627 5514) or email (xingu29mysterian@hotmail.com) to be put on the sign-up sheet, or to make inquiries.

New members are especially welcomed and will be instructed on how to care for the cabin and, by attending this work trip, qualify themselves to rent it on their own in the future.



Douglas Putman Memorial Cabin - 40th Anniversary of the Dedication

By Bob Adkisson

On May 8th, 1982 the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club held a Dedication Ceremony for the club's cabin. After about 40 months of steady, hard toil, it still didn't have doors or windows, the floor was 100% dirt, and the roof wasn't entirely finished yet. But the work had taken longer than expected, and those in charge felt we shouldn't keep the Putman family waiting any longer. If nothing else, we wanted to celebrate what we'd created so far! We were proud of it, and pretty sure we'd have the roof completed soon, the security shutters and doors all in place by Thanksgiving, with a working cookstove installed inside and a lock on the door.

The Putman family, having tragically lost their son Douglas in a car accident in 1977, had generously given our club a large monetary gift, and we had agreed to build a cabin dedicated to their son's memory. It was a near monumental task our club took on, but it was also a labor of love, one that bound many of our members into a close knit, family-like work crew, out of which flourished many long-term friendships. The camaraderie and the sense of accomplishment that grew out of the effort were a once in a lifetime sort of experience.

I was there on that mild, beautiful Spring day in 1982, as was the Putman family, assorted dignitaries and friends, and many members of the trail club-- in all, 87 people came to see and to celebrate what we had done, what we were still working to finish.

Here is the newsletter article about the event, published about a month after the event:

"Cabin Dedication"

The dawning of a new day and a living memorial to Douglas Lee Putman.

The day began with the air being permeated with the smell of roast pork cooking. As TATC members hustled about to make the Douglas Lee Putman Memorial Cabin Dedication a lasting, living memory, they succeeded. The day shared with us good weather.....sunshine.....a few droplets of rain, the sweet aroma of Spring, a full moon—the many blessings of nature. Above all, we were surrounded by friends—friends of Douglas' in the name of family and others.

The Dedication was well attended, approximately 87 in number. The ceremony was conducted by Reese Lukei, our President, who gave the invocation and welcoming remarks. Jacque Jenkins gave a brief history of the cabin and introduced Phyllis Putman Sullivan, our benefactor. Harold Crate explained the time capsule after which there was a laying of the cornerstone. The capsule, containing pictures, a description of Doug's life, and a poem, as well as a roster of TATC members, was embedded for the sake of history.

The ribbon cutting by Phyllis and Otey Shelton opened the door to Doug's friends interested in the out of doors, and in particular hiking.

After the ceremonies, all gathered for the "feed". The barbequed pork, cole slaw, bean-hole bean and apple turnovers were devoured. Hmmmmmmmm good! It was a beautiful occasion."

The work crew that weekend, the people that pulled the Dedication altogether and brought it off without any noticeable hitches:

Jacque Jenkins (a former club president and the cabin's chief cook and cheerleader; she was also the head wrangler, calling club members and trying to get all the hands and help the project needed); Harold & Margaret Crate (Harold was the head architect, the man with the plan, and Margaret was always there with him, doing whatever was needed; both of them came on almost every once-a-month work trip, for the several years that it took); Bill Newsom (a jack of all trades and one of the inner core of workers who was there almost every month, and one of the few who wasn't retired); several very active couples, most with steady and long work records at the cabin - John & Ann Wilbon, Larry & Susan Twiford, Larry & Susan Sites, Karl & Melva Price (along with their grown daughter Cindy this weekend), Fred & Jean Darling, and soon to be married Mary Marsh & Mason Newsome; and seven single people—Curtis Eley, Bob Adkisson, Lillian Benson, Richard Kavanaugh, Fred Bull, Herb Coleman, and Clay Perry.

Friend of the club and nearby resident, 'Big John' Childress brought in the whole pig that we cooked for about 24 hours, taking 2 hour shifts, turning it on a spit all of Friday, and Friday night.

.(Continued on next page ...)

On Friday Harold and others continued work on the cabin itself, attaching heavy security shutters to 3 of the windows, plus the bottom half of the front door. Butchers paper was placed to cover the front door opening, and on Saturday Phyllis Putman, Douglas' mother, cut a ribbon from across the doorway, and pulled the paper aside as well—symbolically opening the cabin to all in attendance.

In attendance on Saturday for the Dedication was Dave Startzell, head of the Appalachian Trail Conference, along with his wife Judy Jenner (who was editor of the Trailway News, the ATC's magazine, published out of Harper's Ferry). Ruth Blackburn of ATC was also there, as well as representatives of both the National Park and Forest Service. Lynn Coffey, editor of a local newspaper, attended (there are several books by her in the cabin, all about local history and people; she now lives in the small community of Love, about 3 miles from the cabin).

Of course members of the Putman family were there, as guests of honor-- Phyllis and her husband Garrett Sullivan, and Debbie and Susan Putman (sisters of Douglas). There were 4 others in attendance with the last name of Putman, but if I heard who they were or exactly how they were related I have long ago forgotten.

Leading up to the weekend of the Cabin Dedication contingents of loyal workers put in extra days and hours trying to get the cabin (and the grounds around it) cleaned up and to a certain state of completion. In early April in that year was a 9 night/10 day work trip, during which a lot was accomplished. This was followed by weekend trips on April 23rd--25th and April 30th --May 2nd. So, the weekend of May 8th was the 3rd weekend in a row that people made the long drive to the Blue Ridge Mountains and were there at the cabin, working to get it ready. Even staying late on Sunday afternoons, trying to do just a few more chores.

Looking thru the names of those that signed the log book in May of 1982 (the ones that signed legibly, that is), I see only a handful that are still active in the trail club today-- Mal Higgins, Reese Lukei, Richard Kavanaugh, Jerry Cobleigh, Karl & Melva Price, and of course myself.

It is sad to say that almost all of the people who most dedicated themselves to the project have, in the last 40 years, passed away. Of the 23 people I highlighted above, that hosted and helped out that weekend, only 8 are still with us.

But what a gift the cabin is, what a marvel, what an adventure! We created it, we enjoyed it, and it will continue to live and give memories for many years to come. It was a wonderful opportunity and idea the Putman family presented us with, and I believe we made the most of it. We built something special and long-lasting and good. I know of several families in the trail club, including my own, where 3 generations have traveled to and enjoyed spending time at the cabin. Priceless memories.

Members of the Putman family have done the same.

This coming May 8th, 2022-- many club members will be staying that weekend at Sherando Lake National Forest Campground, doing work on our section of the Appalachian Trail on Saturday. On Sunday, the 8th, all are invited to visit the Douglas Putman Memorial Cabin - maybe the weather will again be perfect and you can walk the half mile in and spend an hour or two, have lunch, look around, visit the spring and the old house site and maybe the cemetery 150 yards down the hillside. Think of Douglas, a young man who loved hiking and music and died far too young. Think of all the club members who put so much time into the construction of this grand edifice, who gathered so many rocks, moved so many cartloads of supplies, raised up the roof and the beams and created such a strong and mighty shelter. It is a place to cherish, to find peace and quiet, to live in the heart of nature, to appreciate the arc of time, and how one generation, or one family, gives to another.

Priceless gifts.

Reese F. Lukei, Jr. Selected as Recipient of the 2022 Mary Reid Barrow Wildlife Advocate Award

Tuesday, February 01, 2022

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – On Friday, January 29, during the 12th Annual Winter Wildlife Festival keynote presentation, Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation announced the recipient of this year's Mary Reid Barrow Wildlife Advocate Award as Reese F. Lukei, Jr., who was nominated by six different individuals. The award honors individuals who contribute by celebrating, advocating, and educating people about local wildlife.

In a 2017 Virginian-Pilot article written by David Schleck, he wrote, "Reese Lukei is a bird's best friend in Hampton Roads." This sentiment was echoed over and over again in the award nominations for Reese.

Reese has been active in the wildlife community for over 30 years. He is a dedicated volunteer whose observations on raptor habits and habitats have been shared numerous ways and have benefited both biologists and bird enthusiasts alike. He has been a mentor to many in the wildlife community and is known for his love of engaging in discussions on the topic. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Society and continues to volunteer time and expertise on refuge projects. An avid photographer, Reese is always willing to share his vast skill and knowledge with others. In 2017, the [Reese F. Lukei, Jr. Raptor Trail](#) – a network of trails in southeastern Virginia – was dedicated in appreciation of his decades of volunteer work with raptor conservation, wildlife education and nature trails.

For more about the Winter Wildlife Festival, visit [VBgov.com/winterwildlife](https://vbgov.com/winterwildlife) or join the official festival [Facebook group](#).



Reese F. Lukei, Jr. (center) being presented with his award by the award's namesake, Mary Reid Barrow (right), and Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation festival organizer Katie Webb (left).

About Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation

Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation strives to promote healthy lifestyles and protect the City's coastal environment, as well as to ensure all residents – regardless of their physical, social and economic circumstances – can access Parks & Recreation programs. The department's vision is to be the national leader in providing enriching and memorable life-long experiences. Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation is accredited by CAPRA, the certifying agency of the National Recreation and Park Association. For more information, visit [VBgov.com/parks](https://vbgov.com/parks) or call (757) 385-1100 (TTY: 757-711 Virginia Relay). Sign up for Parks & Rec email newsletters at [VBgov.com/eNews](https://vbgov.com/eNews). Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/VBparksrec.

Minute for Maintenance

Thanks to the ATC and USFS, we were able to recertify 11 of our Cross-Cut Sawyers. A big thanks to Paul Dickens for rearranging his schedule to ensure we were able to get everyone who signed up, in March, recertified and our President Lee Lohman has officially joined the B-Sawyer Certified Family! Thank you to everyone who signed up and staying flexible due to weather.



Photo by Peter Burch

On another note, now that our cross-cut sawyers are official again we can get to work. We have several Maintenance dates on the calendar, to include the upcoming April 16th walk thru and the May 7th Spring Maintenance Trip. Please, see details below.

Spring Walk Thru: April 16th, camping out at CCC Kitchen

Who: Anyone who feeling like a little nature and getting dirty

What: Spring Walk-thru Three Ridges Wilderness. We will survey the trails and see what needs to be done for our big maintenance event In May. Meet at the CCC Kitchen in Sherando Lake Recreation Area at 0800. Camping is available Friday-Sunday.

Spring Maintenance: May 7th, camping out at Williams Branch Picnic Area, May 6th-8th

Who: Anyone who feeling like a little nature and getting dirty

What: Spring Maintenance and Family Campout - our big Spring maintenance event. Meet at the Williams Branch Picnic Area in Sherando Lake Recreation Area At 0800. Camping is available Friday-Sunday.

If you are interested in any of these dates, please contact the Trail Supervisor or Asst. Trail Supervisor. Hope to see you out there!

Happy Trails!

Britt and John

TATC Trail Supervisor - trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - assistantts@tidewateratc.com

2022 AT Vista Hike Leaders Needed



Hello,

I am assisting Steve Weissman, who is one of the co-chairs of the 2022 AT Vista to be held at **SUNY New Paltz from August 5-8, 2022.** The Vista is in lieu of the ATC Biennial and is being sponsored by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. We have put together an exciting program of hikes, workshops and excursions. which can be viewed by going to our website - atvista2022.org.

SUNY New Paltz is a beautiful venue, in reasonable proximity to wonderful hiking on the AT in northern NJ and New York, as well as to hikes in Minnewaska State Park, the Shawangunk Mountains, the Long Path, Mohonk Preserve, the Catskills, Harriman State Park and other parks east of the Hudson. Proposed hikes are listed on the website.

If you are interested in being a hike leader for the upcoming Vista please email me or Steve Weissman at sweissman@weissmanmintz.com. Also, we'd very much appreciate it if you'd let your fellow club members and hiking companions know about the Vista and that we are recruiting hike leaders. The hikes listed on the website can be modified to accommodate your interests. Also, we are also open to adding hikes.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or suggestions.

Katrina and Steve.

--

Katrina Marrero
Weissman & Mintz LLC
One Executive Drive
Suite 200
Somerset, NJ 08873





U.S. FOREST SERVICE WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER READINESS CAMP

June 27 - 30, 2022

WHO?

Prospective entry level federal wildland firefighters.
Open to U.S. citizens at least age 18 by June 26, 2022.

WHAT?

40 hour *PAID* readiness camp featuring foundational
wildland firefighter courses, daily physical training,
and coaching on the federal job application process

WHERE?

Augusta Interagency Hotshot Crew Base
Augusta Springs, Virginia

APPLY TODAY!

Deadline: May 1, 2022

Questions?

usfsreadinesscamp@gmail.com



Needed - Missing TATC Newsletters

The Club Historian needs the following missing newsletters from the very early years of the club. If anyone has any of these newsletters, they would be appreciated. Please contact Jim Sexton at newsletter@tidewateratc.com for pick up or please mail any newsletters to: Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Historian, P.O. Box 8246, Norfolk, VA 23503. I realize that these newsletters were published 46-48 years ago and there are only still a few people that were members back then , but maybe some current members had some passed down from their parents or even their grandparents.

Missing newsletters:

- December 1972 - January 1973
- February-March 1973
- April-May 1973
- June-July 1973
- October-November 1973
- December 1973 - January 1974
- February 1974 - March 1974

Needed - Met & Married

If anyone knows of any couples who are members of TATC, who met in the club, and have married since our 40th anniversary celebration in 2012, then please let me know so that I can add them to our M&M (Met & Married) list for TATC's 50 Anniversary. Send the names to: newsletter@tidewateratc.com *(make sure you receive an acknowledgement reply)*

List of M&Ms from our 40th Anniversary Program in 2012:

Ed Smith and Carol Ann Hornsby
David Wike and Barbara Cruz
Bill Abbott and Judy Jones
Bud Franklin and Jennette Heyder
John Folsom and Lynn Gaither
John Fincannon and Sheila Bish
Bill Van Moorhan and Judy Verzal
Kenneth King and Frances Koah
Bob Adkisson and Evelyn Smith
Ed Bradley and Linda Hoag
Gid Honsinger and Terri Villanueva
Mike Squire and Nancy Pratt
Jim Robertson and Teela Clifford

Mason Newsome and Mary Marsh
Rick Hancock and Robi Florino
Helmut Speckheuer and Mary Lou Morrill
Fred Bull and Susan Darling
Larry Blett and Vicki Fanning
Julio Fonseca and Susan Hall
Jim Smith and Karin Lyman
Doug Hudak and Yi Wang
Lance Deaver and Sharon Reid
Ed Martin and Jane Jarvis
Jim Sexton and Chris Roisen
Tim Smith and Ann Fagnani

First Landing State Park Work Trip

Feb 12, 2022 Work Party on 64th Street

After a two-week delay caused by back-to-back Virginia Beach “blizzards”, the hardy volunteers from TATC joined by a member of Tidewater Search and Rescue and a Virginia Beach teenager doing volunteer outreach for her high school, assembled at the Narrows to take on the invasive encroachments into 64th Street. The goal was to trim back vegetation 3-feet from the edge of pavement and to trim back any branches to a height of 8-feet which were encroaching over the roadway. We could not have had better weather for the make-up workday. With the sun out and the temperature climbing from the 50's to the 70's, it was a perfect winter day.

After brief introductions all around, and a safety talk, teams were distributed to the assigned leaders. The leaders were all experienced trail maintainers and included: Bill Bunch, Steve Clayton, Lee Lohman, John Oakes, Dave Plum, and Andy Grayson.



Dave providing a brief safety talk to make sure everyone returned with no injuries.

The 1.5-mile-long work limits extended from the Narrows to the Cape Henry Trailhead, near the Entry Station. Prior to the workday, each team's ¼ mile work area was marked off such that the crew knew where to start and where to stop.

Since the weather was so nice, the workers had to contend with significant runners, bicycles and automobile traffic while working. Bright yellow safety vests were provided by the FLSP Maintenance Ranger, and each team designated a member to be a lookout for oncoming traffic. Most teams started their work on the north side of 64th Street and worked toward the east. When they reached their predetermined end point, they crossed the road and worked back to their designated starting point.

I am happy to report that there were no injuries or incidents with cars, bikes or runners, and all work teams were back at the Narrows by noon. The FLSP volunteer coordinator had planned for this work to be completed over two separate mornings of work, but because of the predeveloped work plan and hard work of the volunteers, it was completed on one beautiful, sunny, warm February morning. Kudos to all the volunteers who showed up after being delayed due to the weather. The Park staff was very appreciative and gracious in thanking TATC.



Steve, Stephanie, and Sharon hard at work on their section of 64th St.

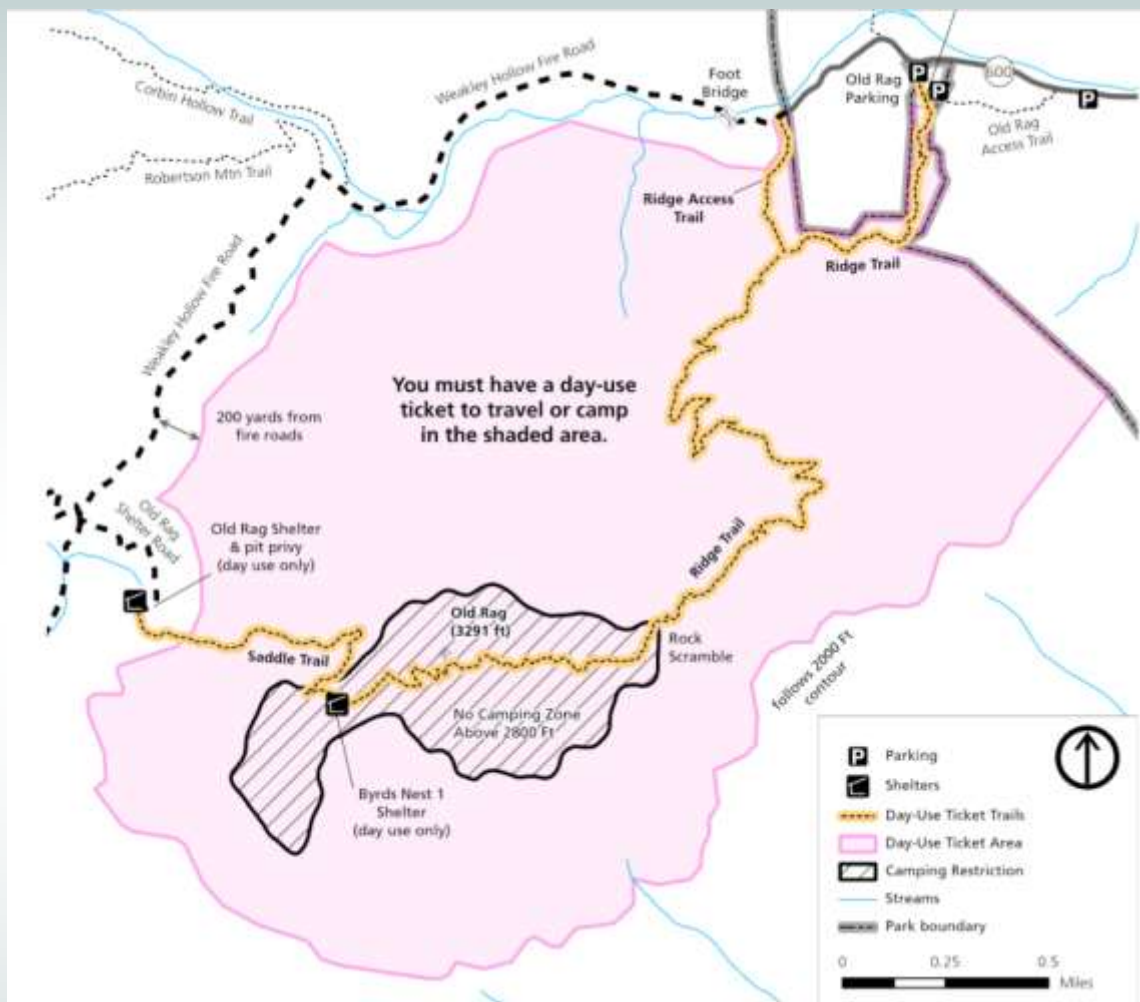
Shenandoah National Park Releases Old Rag Day-Use Tickets

[NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov)

News Release Date: January 31, 2022

Contact: [Claire Comer](#), (540) 999-3500 x3183

LURAY, VA –Shenandoah National Park is implementing a pilot project to manage visitor use on Old Rag Mountain to reduce impacts to natural resources and to improve visitor experience. “The number of people climbing Old Rag Mountain continues to grow and congestion on the mountain is impacting resources. This pilot project will allow us an opportunity to test a strategy for managing this area to ensure Old Rag is preserved and everyone has a high-quality trip.” according to Superintendent Patrick Kenney.



Day-use tickets for Old Rag Mountain will become available Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. EST. Tickets can be purchased up to 30 days in advance. Beginning March 1, 2022 all visitors to Old Rag (see map) must have a day-use ticket in addition to a Park entrance pass.

A total of 800 tickets will be available for each day from March 1 to November 30; 400 will be released 30 days in advance and the remaining 400 will be released five days in advance. Hikers must purchase their tickets before arriving via <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/10088450/ticket/10088451>. Due to the lack of internet connectivity tickets will NOT be available at the Old Rag fee station. There is very little cell phone coverage in the area so please purchase your tickets ahead of traveling to the area. Tickets are valid for the day of arrival only. A day-use ticket does not guarantee a parking spot, and entrance fees still apply in addition to the day-use ticket fee of \$1.00.

This pilot project is designed to improve the visitor experience and protect fragile natural resources at Old Rag, one of the Park's most popular hiking destinations. The pilot is intended to help the Park evaluate and possibly adapt to a permanent system in the future. Park management will share its analysis after the pilot project is completed.

For more information about the pilot, specifics about where tickets are required, and details on obtaining tickets, go to <https://go.nps.gov/oldragticket>.

Donations for TATC's 50th Anniversary

Greetings from the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) which will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2022. Members and friends can help us celebrate this event by submitting a donation to sponsor this celebration.

Donations will be used for:

- o 50th Anniversary Celebration Event
- o 50th Anniversary Celebration Project
- o 50th Anniversary History Book

You can donate by going to our website at <https://tidewateratc.com/Donations/> and selecting to donate to the 50th Anniversary fund, or you can also mail a check for donations to the following address, payable to 'TATC', with a notation that you are donating to the 50th Anniversary:

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

The names of anyone that donate at least \$50 to our 50th Anniversary will be listed as sponsors in both the 50th Anniversary event program and the 50th Anniversary history book. Only donor names will be listed in these publications, not the donation amounts. If you submitted an online donation; you will receive an online and email confirmation of your payment.

The Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

TATC Email Subscriptions

TATC currently used two different email systems to send out two different types of email messages to TATC members and to other email subscribers:

1. Automated membership renewal messages are sent out to current club members from our membership management system (Wild Apricot). Note: If you receive one of these emails and want to unsubscribe from receiving any future renewal notifications, then you can hit the 'Unsubscribe' link at the bottom of the email.

2. Blast email messages that announce club events and opportunities are sent out several times each month using the MailChimp email system. These messages are sent to all club members and they are also sent to anyone who subscribed to our mailing list off our club's homepage by using the following link: <http://tidewateratc.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=55b4b56215f58352eca502f98&id=0eb6788ff3>
This blast emailing list currently has 1,025 email subscribers. Note: If you receive one of these emails and want to unsubscribe from receiving any future renewal notifications, then you can hit the 'Unsubscribe' link at the bottom of the email.



The Inaugural A.T. Vista needs you to lead a hike and/or participate in other volunteer opportunities during the August 5-8, 2022, program that will be conducted at State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz, New York. Please send an email of your interest to atvistainfo@gmail.com and Steve Weisman at sweissman@weissmanmintz.com. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

A.T. Vista Committee
atvistainfo@gmail.com

We are now preparing for A.T. Vista 2022 which is scheduled for August 5-8, 2022, at State University of New York (SUNY) in New Paltz, New York. The host organization for this exciting event is the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (NYNJTC).

We are expecting to arrange at least 60 hikes, and we need your assistance as hike leaders and co-leaders.

The current list of hikes can be found at:
<https://tidewateratc.com/resources/Documents/AT%20Vista%20Hikes%20for%20Club%20Signup.pdf>

If you or other members of your clubs are interested in assisting with a hike, please **identify the hike and reply** to the email atvistainfo@gmail.com and Steve Weisman at sweissman@weissmanmintz.com.

In addition to hike leaders, we still need volunteers for workshops, excursions, and over-all assistance for the many activities that are part of this event.

Note that, based on the conditions of COVID-19 at the time of this program, appropriate CDC, State, NYNJTC, ATC, and venue guidelines will be in place.

Donate

Stay in Touch as we prepare for A.T. Vista 2022

atvistainfo@gmail.com

www.atvista.org

www.atvista2021.org

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Weyanoke Bird and Wildflower Sanctuary

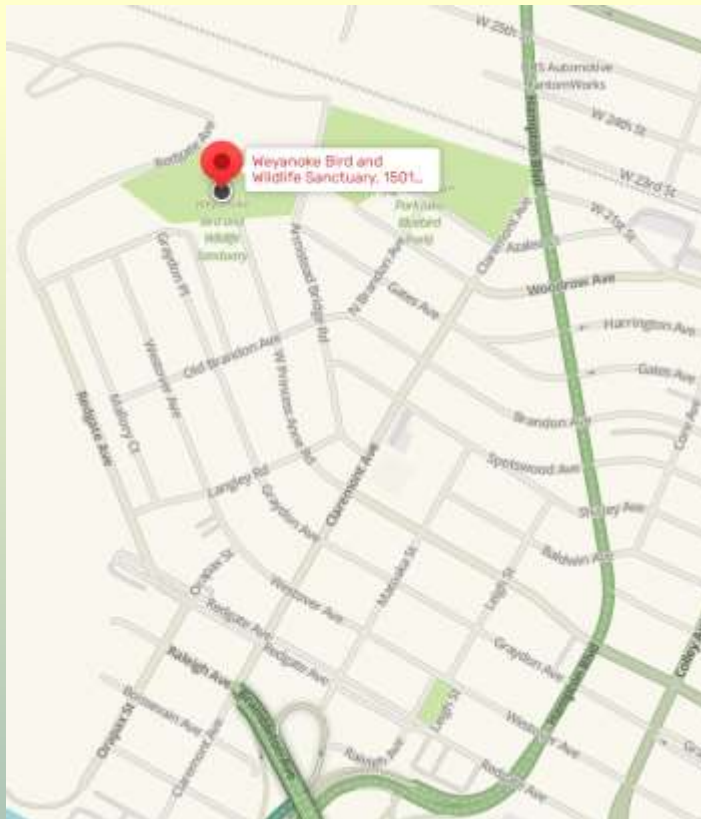


The Weyanoke Bird and Wildflower Sanctuary is located at 1501 Armistead Bridge Road in the West Ghent neighborhood in Norfolk. From Hampton Blvd. turn west onto Gates Avenue. Follow to the end of Gates, turn right onto Armistead Bridge Road and follow a short distance. The Sanctuary gate is on the left. There is plenty of parking by the field on the right. It is open to the public from 9 AM on Saturday until 6 PM on Sunday (5 PM in the winter months). If a group wishes to visit the Sanctuary at another time, this can be arranged by calling Mike Schoen at (757) 364-9406

The Sanctuary covers about eight acres of land in the western edge of the West Ghent neighborhood. It is managed by a committee made up of Cape Henry Audubon Society (CHAS) members and volunteers from the Norfolk Master Gardeners.

Note: The Elizabeth River Trail passes by the side of the Sanctuary.

Website: <http://www.chasnorfolk.org/weyanokesanctuary.html>



Address: 1509 Armistead Bridge Rd, Norfolk, VA 23507

Contact: Mike Schoen (757) 364-9406, Email: mikniksch@gmail.com

PADDLING WITH THE ALLIGATORS IN OKEFENOKEE AND A VISIT TO CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

By Mal Higgins

Ever want to enjoy up close and personal views of the American alligator from the comfort of your canoe? Eight TATC members, organized by the adventurous king of paddlers, Bob Adkisson, drove February 13, 2022, to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, located in the southern part of Georgia (a tiny part is in Florida). We—Bob, Evelyn Adkisson, Carolyn Sanford, Kathy Potts, Mark Connolly, Bruce Davidson, Svetlana Kononov, and I—enjoyed cool nights and mostly sunny weather. With advance reservations arranged with the concessionaire, Okefenokee Adventures, we rented canoes, and paddled the Okefenokee Swamp for four days and slept out on wooden platforms for three nights. After the paddling trip, we drove to St. Marys, Georgia for a one day van tour of Cumberland Island National Seashore.

The Okefenokee NWR contains 630 square miles in southeast Georgia and encompasses nearly all of the Okefenokee Swamp. It is populated by alligators, flocks of ibis, woodstorks, and sandhill cranes, and many more species of birds, swamp plants such as pitcher plants and “never wets”, snakes, and other wildlife. Its dominant features are vast open, wet “prairies” and forested swamps and small pineland islands. All of us paddlers had been there before and the lure of the swamp, and the low bug population in winter, brought us back.

Each day on the swamp brought views of the terrain and wildlife. By the end of the fourth day I had counted up close views of 52 alligators lounging on hummocks (floating thick vegetation) or hauled up on the banks of the canals and prairies that lace the terrain. The paddling routes are marked by color coded signs on posts embedded in the swamp, sometimes with sequential mile markers, and sometimes missing.

We paddled on day one about eight miles from Kingfisher Landing through the Durdin Prairie to Bluff Lake Platform; day two was an 11 mile paddle in a hard head wind through the Territory Prairie to Round Top platform; day three was also a long paddle, perhaps 11 miles, as we retraced part of the prior day’s route, including a side excursion to visit Floyd’s Island, stretch our legs, and view the abandoned hunter’s cabin. Leaving Floyd’s Island, which is covered in palmettos and pine trees, we paddled to spend our third night on Canal Run platform. Our final day of paddling was about eight miles on the East Fork of the Suwannee River. We landed for a leg stretch and to explore the large Billy’s Island. It was a thriving lumbering community 1870-1932, with a village and families living there. We met our shuttle at Stephen Foster State Park, loaded the canoes on the trailer, and returned to our cars at the Okefenokee NWR headquarters.

.(Continued on next page ...)

The platform experience is both fun and hard. When one arrives, it is necessary to unload everything from the canoe. We set up our six tents, which pushed the available platform space to the max. We all carried jugs of water for the four days, food, and cooking camp stoves. Each platform has a small privy located at the far end of the platform. Two of the three platforms had small picnic tables; Round Top had long benches and its very own “pet alligator” lounging nonchalantly a few feet below the privy on a small hummock. We ignored it. Each morning, after cooking breakfast, we broke down the tents, reloaded the canoes, and paddled away.

At the end of the swamp portion of our trip, we drove to Kingsland, GA, spent the night in a motel, and next day drove to nearby St. Marys. There, we boarded our reserved spots on the passenger ferry for the 45 minute ride to Cumberland Island National Seashore. Cumberland Island has so much history: from the earliest indigenous peoples, battles between England and Spain for control and erection of fortifications (now lost to time); slave holding plantations growing cotton, owned by a particularly cruel and rapacious man, Robert Stafford in the 1800s before the Civil War; and gilded age mansions and estates of the Carnegie family.

On Cumberland Island, we used a concessionaire, Lands and Legacies, for the all-day van tour. We had hoped to camp on the island, but its popularity meant all the available campsites operated by the National Park Service were taken. The van tour was a wealth of information from our guide, Jona, a friendly native of St. Marys, and we saw numerous public sites, including the spectacular Plum Orchard mansion. It has been restored and furnished in the Carnegie period of time at the turn of the century. Its extravagance is reminiscent of Biltmore in NC. The ruins of other buildings, the cemeteries, the wild horses, the armadillos, the deer, and the beauty of the terrain made the tour memorable.

Here are links for more information about both Okefenokee NWR and Cumberland Island National Seashore:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

<https://www.nps.gov/cuis/index.htm>

The Great Outdoors at Ocean View Elementary & Willoughby Elementary Just Got Even Better: Thanks to the Work of Local Volunteers!

By Bill Bunch

On Saturday, Feb. 26, dozens of volunteers from the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC), the Norfolk Master Gardeners and Keep Norfolk Beautiful gathered on the grounds of Ocean View Elementary and Willoughby Elementary intent on planting 65 trees. TATC had purchased these native trees from Norfolk Parks and Forestry as part of the organization's 50th anniversary commitment to plant 500 trees in the Hampton Roads area.

From there, TATC and its partner agencies agreed that beautifying schools was a great place to start. According to TATC President Lee Lohman, the volunteer turnout was so good the trees were planted quickly, in about an hour, enabling the volunteers to then turn their hands towards cleaning up the fence that sits along the dune and live oak area near the school. That cleanup was accomplished as part of Keep Norfolk Beautiful's Charles Hughes Maritime Forest Clean-up Project. "Our Trail Club is proud to celebrate 50 years of commitment to the Virginia environment. It seemed appropriate to beautify an area that is important to children because 50 years from now when TATC celebrates its 100th anniversary some of these children may very well carry on this club's legacy," said Lohman.

* * * * *



Members of the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club who participated in the tree planting and the cleanup are, from left to right: Ellis Malabad, Bill Bunch, Steve Rosenthal, Jane Oakes, Stephanie Stringer, Steve Clayton, Lee Lohman, Dave Plum, Jim Newman, Jim Sexton, Donna Carr, John Barnes and John Oakes.

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Wilmington area, NC	Mar 5 - 6
Washington, DC area	Mar 12-13
Farmville, VA	Mar 19-20
Blacksburg, VA	Mar 26-27
Chattanooga, TN	Mar 26-27
Norfolk, VA	Mar 26-27
Triangle + Triad areas, NC	Mar 26-27
Charlottesville, VA	Apr 9-10
Macon, GA	Apr 9-10
Lexington, VA	Apr 23-24
Richmond, VA	Apr 30-May 1
Triangle area, NC	May 14-15
Norfolk, VA	May 21-22
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Charlottesville, VA	Jun 11-12
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THE WILDERNESS ACT, TATC, CROSSCUT SAWYERS AND WHY IT ALL MATTERS

So, What's a Wilderness?

Most TATC members know that most of our area of responsibility is in a Federal wilderness. St. Mary's is a wilderness--all 9,826 acres of it. Much of our section of the A.T. is in wilderness. But, do you know what a wilderness is and what it means for TATC and its operations?

The first part of the U.S. Code definition of a wilderness is:

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Rather eloquent for Federal legislation isn't it. The sentence was originally written by Howard Zahniser of the Wilderness Society.

The Wilderness Act was passed by Congress in 1964. Wikipedia has a good summary of its provisions if you are interested. Here's the link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilderness_Act

Why Does This Matter to TATC?

The Act has many prohibitions to maintain the land in the condition intended by the legislation, especially:

Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

Note the underlined words, motorized equipment. That means, of course, no chainsaws, no string trimmers, and no motorized hedge trimmers. TATC members function with hand tools in most of our assigned areas.

Most of us have used loppers, muscle powered hedge trimmers, small hand saws, and our ubiquitous swing blades to keep our trails clear. Occasionally, we may have seen some of our members toting a dangerous looking, five foot long saw as they go to remove a large downed tree. It's called a crosscut saw and it's as dangerous as it looks. In combination with an ax, it's just as effective as a chainsaw though obviously slower.

(Continued on next page ...)

Federal agencies, like the U.S. Forest Service, require volunteers to be certified before they can be the lead sawyer using a crosscut saw. Due to COVID restrictions, the massive fires out West last year, and other factors, TATC's cadre of certified sawyers were not able to become recertified. The Forest Service instructors were just not available. Fortunately, the USFS extended existing certifications into 2022, but recertifications had to be accomplished this year. Without them, TATC would not be able to fulfill its obligation to keep our trails clear.

To the Rescue

Josh Kloehn, who is with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, was monitoring our sawyer certification. He realized we would run out of qualified volunteers. Working with our U.S. Forest Service partners, Josh organized a series of training/recertification sessions for us. Forest Service Rangers Plinio Bares and Megan Martin were to lead the training along with Doug DeJarnette and Paul Dickens, both volunteers.

Paul and Doug have legendary status in the Virginia ATC volunteer sawyer community. Both are C level sawyers (the highest level) and are renowned as patient but precise instructors/evaluators. They have trained/evaluated hundreds of crosscut sawyers giving the Virginia ATC affiliated clubs the qualified volunteers they need to do the work. However, the TATC training was special. It was a volunteer C-sawyer trainer pilot program initiated by the GWJ USFS. Kudos to USFS professionals Meghan Martin and Plinio Beres. They are trailblazers!

Paul Dickens through the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) provided the equipment for training. The equipment included an assortment of axes and vintage crosscut saws, all sharp. Also saw handles, wedge kits, underbucking tools, small pruning saws and big Silky Katanaboy saws. The organization SAWS is a resource for information on traditional tool training. The training resources webpage is: <https://www.wildernessstewards.org/training-resources>

So What's the Training All About?

Jim Newman and I took our training under the instruction of Paul. After a morning of practice, the testing began. Paul led us to an incredible tangle of downed limbs, downed trees, overgrown vines, and general forest debris. He pointed to an area beyond this tangle and said that he wanted us to create a four-foot wide trail through all this. He specified what equipment had to be used and where then he stood back to watch. He was evaluating whether we had absorbed the planning, safety, and operational lessons of the certification training.

After Jim and I cleared out the underbrush, we started to saw and chop. It's surprising how effective and truly essential an ax is when motorized equipment isn't available. About 90 minutes later, we had created a usable trail. We were very proud of ourselves and more than a little tired. Paul then said that we would now go on to the real test!

Three trees had fallen from the edge of a gully into a depression on the other side. The little one, about six inches in diameter, was on the ground. The middle size one, about eight inches in diameter, was at waist height and bridged the gully bank and edge of the depression. The big one, about 15 inches in diameter, was at chest height and also bridged the depression.

(Continued on next page ...)

Paul said he wanted another four-foot wide trail created right through the middle of the suspended logs. Again, he was evaluating whether we could plan the operation correctly, observe the required safety practices, and actually get the trail cut.

The small tree yielded to axes. The middle sized tree we sawed through however sawing from the bottom, called underbucking, was required. The big one was a challenge. Its root ball remained in the earth. How that would react then we cut through the tree was a topic Jim and I discussed at length before the saw touched the wood. Safety was the major concern. The four-foot section of the tree trunk would probably weigh in at well over 100 pounds. It would drop from about a five foot height. The sawyer on the downhill side of the two-man bucking saw (me) would have to be out of the way well before it broke free. Underbucking and special offset cutting techniques were required.

The bottom line: after lots of talking and carefully sawing and wedging, the log rolled down the hill stopping where we wanted it. Jim and I were happy. Paul was satisfied.

So What About the Other Candidates?

Crosscut sawyer training for TATC occurred the weekend before Jim and I tested and the weekend after. Mal Higgins wrote of his group's training:

From the perspective of a TATC active sawyer, I found our day together at Sherando to be a very good retraining that I benefited from. Although we TATC class B members have continued during USFS certification extensions to pack our cross X saws into the Three Ridges Wilderness and safely cut any number of blow downs during the two years of COVID, our day of refresher training with you, Paul, and Plinio and Megan was much appreciated and worthwhile. All of us TATCers know and like each other, and have done many group hikes together, so Saturday's fun factor was there too.

There was something especially satisfying about dropping that 4-foot section out of the suspended tree across the trail. It presented quite a few moderate challenges to figure out before we got it to drop. That was a lot of undercutting with a lot of grunting to go with it.

I appreciated the team teaching that you, Megan, and Plinio offered. Megan's undercut demonstration with her device demonstrated an ax technique I had not seen before. Plinio had good advice for me on ax limbing, regarding avoiding the knot where the limb attaches to the trunk.

The photos below show the recertifying trainees sawing, chopping, sweating, and grunting. As a result of all that over three days, Paul with Plinio and Meghan recertified 9 TATC sawyers at their existing B, one sawyer at their existing A, and one new sawyer at B who had attended the National Wilderness Skills Institute (NWSI) webcast classroom training in 2021. All the sawyers demonstrated B level skills. Under the USFS Saw Program rules, Paul was not able to up-cert any sawyers who did not also attend a classroom session. He recommended that any TATC A sawyers who want to up-cert take part in the 2022 NWSI and keep a record of that participation.

(Continued on next page ...)



Megan Martin, Mike Wilson, Andy Grayson, Patrick Hayes, Mal Higgins (behind Patrick) and Paul Dickens after winning the battle against the blow down.



Mike Wilson and Mal Higgins about a third of the way through the log. Note the teeth. They are razor sharp.

(Continued on next page ...)



Mike Wilson and Mal Higgins work. Andy Grayson and Patrick Hayes supervise.



Phyllis Newman sawing with Mark Van Zandt. The instructor on her right is Plinio Beres, US Forest Service. In the background: Megan Martin, US Forest Service (yellow helmet); John Oakes (red shirt) and Randy Smith (blue shirt). Jim Sexton is barely visible.

(Continued on next page ...)



Lee Lohman tries underbucking with a cool tool invented by Paul Dickens. Jim Newman watches for the log to release.



Jim Newman and Lee Lohman in grunting mode as they try to get through the tree. Lee communicates with Mars through the helmet seeking guidance.

(Continued on next page ...)



Cabin Report, Fiscal Year 2021

by Bob Adkisson

The club's fiscal year starts on the first day of March and runs thru the last day of February, the following year. In 2021 the cabin brought in less income than the year before, but overall was pretty consistent in every other way with previous years.

The cabin was used 29 weekends altogether; 19 weekends went unused. There were, in addition, 3 cabin work trip weekends, and one weekend given over (free) to members of the boundary committee, who used the cabin as a base while doing their work nearby on our section of the A.T. The cabin was also rented out a total of 74 weeknights (Sunday night thru Thursday night). Altogether the cabin was occupied 144 nights in fiscal year 2021.

The cabin earned \$1,816. \$69 of this amount was donations from two different renters.

(Another member very generously donated \$1,000 to the cabin committee, in memory of Harold and Margaret Crate-- this money was put aside and held by the treasurer in a special category, not added to the general fund; it is *not* part of the \$1,816).

Cabin expenditures, besides tax and insurance, totaled \$136. The cabin committee bought a new swing blade and a lantern, paid a small fee for maintenance on the chainsaw, and purchased stamps (for mailing the cabin key to various renters). In addition, a new chainsaw was bought, but I don't have the figure for that available.

The least favorite months for renting the cabin last year were March and Feb. (only 5 nights for each of them), and Dec. (only 3 nights). The most favorite months were June and May (15 nights each), Oct. and Nov. (17 nights each), and April (21 nights altogether).

In addition, last Fall (starting in mid-Sept. and going thru the first weekend in Dec.) the cabin was used 14 weekends in a row. There was a slightly shorter run of consecutive weekend usage (9 in a row) in the Spring (April, May, and June).

Because of Covid-19 we only had 3 work trips in 2021, and on all of them we tried to keep the number of participants down to about 8. We had only 4 new members (first timers) come to the cabin to share in the maintenance work, but we did have several 'old timers' come up to help, some of whom we hadn't seen in 10 years or more (this included Steve Crate and Brian O'Neal, Patrick Hayes and Milton Beale). There were no major work projects, just routine maintenance and, last November, chainsawing lots of firewood. Thanks again to Tom Meree and Bruce Davidson for bringing and using their chainsaws, and especially to Peter Burch for bringing his saw and expertise, for downing a couple of problem trees and repairing one of the club chainsaws).

On the November work trip, a couple of people again saw a bear near the cabin, or along the access trail (I, unfortunately, wasn't one of them, but according to one man-- when I was bushwhacking down below the out-house, I was walking right towards a bear that he saw but I never did-- the bear heard me approaching and ran away).

There will be a new cabin work trip this April, on the weekend of the 8th--10th. Contact me if you are interested-- phone me at 627 5514 or email me at-- xingu29mysterian@hotmail.com

It is an open question whether there will be a 2nd Spring work trip to the cabin in May or early June-- look in the usual places for a late announcement. Late Spring is weed whacking time!

If you haven't rented the cabin, you just don't know what you are missing. New members are encouraged to come check it out, get their hands a little dirty doing some maintenance work, and get themselves qualified to rent it all on their own. There is a lifetime of memories just waiting to happen, but you have to go there to have them.

The Flip Flop Festival

SAVE THE DATE (April 23-24, 2022) - The Flip Flop Festival is back this year!



Join us to celebrate the beginning of spring in Harpers Ferry—and see off a group of Appalachian Trail thru-hikers who are following the flip flop route, starting in Harpers Ferry.

This free community event is sponsored by the Trail & Town Alliance of Harpers Ferry & Bolivar, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the towns of Bolivar and Harpers Ferry. With hiking workshops, music, speakers, food and a send-off breakfast for flip floppers, the Flip Flop Festival is a great excuse to visit Harpers Ferry, a scenic and historic town in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

VENUE

799 Washington St
Harpers Ferry, 25425

Join the Konnarock Trail Crew

Konnarock is the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's flagship crew program, founded in 1983 and named after its original base camp in southwest Virginia. The crew works on the Appalachian Trail from Rockfish Gap, near Waynesboro, Virginia, to the Trail's southern terminus at Springer Mountain in Georgia. The program is a joint venture of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the 12 southern Trail clubs, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service.



At Konnarock, volunteers of diverse ages, backgrounds, and experience levels work together to build durable trail that will last for generations. After five days of working as a team, learning new skills, and living in the backcountry both the crew and the trail is transformed. No experience is necessary, but you must be 18 years or older. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy provides training, equipment, and room and board. Crews are transported in U.S. Forest Service vehicles from the base camp in Sugar Grove to a primitive, backcountry tent camp near the project site.

Base camp

The Konnarock Crew is hosted by the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area at its Sugar Grove Work Center. The main building houses dining and recreation facilities, an office, and the crew's tool room. Separate buildings provide a large, institutional kitchen and two shower houses, with bathroom and laundry facilities. Crew members sleep in simple cabins ("pods") near the shower houses, with beds and electricity.

(Continued on next page ...)

Crew week

Crew members arrive on the evening before their work week starts in time to get settled in, eat dinner, and attend an orientation session. Whether they will be working with Crew 1 or Crew 2, crew members meet their crew leaders and fellow volunteers, and are issued safety equipment and loaner camping gear as needed. An early morning on the first day of the crew week (7 a.m.) begins with a hearty breakfast followed by any last-minute preparations and departure to the project sites. Volunteers work a five-day week in the field, tent camping at a remote site with vehicle access, and return to base camp for a celebratory dinner the evening of the fifth day. Volunteers working more than one session are welcome to stay at Konnarock base camp between sessions, with the exception of the mid-season breaks. Other accommodations may be available for multiweek volunteers during the mid-season breaks. Multiweek volunteers should plan to spend at least an hour or two of their days off pitching in to keep base camp running smoothly—and the rest of it relaxing and exploring the beautiful Mount Rogers area!



Please note that there are now three days off between each crew week. Crew weeks are highlighted in yellow on the calendar below, with the first day of each week in red. Please contact us with any questions about the new schedule at 540.904.4393 or crews@appalachiantrail.org.

Schedule:

Project	Dates
Session 1: Highcock Knob Rehab	Tuesday, April 26 - Sunday, May 1
Session 2: Highcock Knob Rehab	Tuesday, May 4 - Monday, May 9
Session 3: Weedy Gap Rehab	Thursday, May 12 - Tuesday, May 17
Session 4: Weedy Gap Rehab	Friday, May 20 - Wednesday, May 25
Session 5: Trail Relocation	Tuesday, May 31 - Sunday, June 5
Session 6: Trail Relocation	Wednesday, June 8 - Monday, June 13
Session 7: Bog Bridging	Thursday, June 16 - Tuesday, June 21
Session 8: Bushnell Knob Rehab	Friday, June 24 - Wednesday, June 29
Session 9: Bushnell Knob Rehab	Tuesday, July 5 - Sunday, July 10
Session 10: Albert Mountain Rehab	Wednesday, July 13 - Thursday, July 21
Session 11: High Country Rehab	Friday, July 29 - Wednesday, August 3
Session 12: High Country Rehab	Saturday, August 6 - Thursday, August 11

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A Program of Longwood University

What is trashing Virginia's beaches, roadsides, and parks?

Below is the TOP TEN list of debris that was record by more than 4,000 volunteers during the International Coastal Cleanup in Virginia in 2021. THANK YOU to all who picked up trash and collected data! If you would like to view a more detailed report of your specific cleanup or community, the reports can be viewed on <https://www.coastalcleanupdata.org/>.

Ready to sign up a cleanup for 2022? Use our [sign up form](https://forms.gle/e61T4safwtYE1gLq9):
<https://forms.gle/e61T4safwtYE1gLq9> (or send us an email).

Reminder: **Please collect data during ALL cleanups – year-round!** The [Clean Swell](#) app makes it easy. CVW and others depend on your data as we seek solutions to litter and marine debris.

2021 Top Ten Debris Items. International Coastal Cleanup in Virginia

Rank	Item	# of items	Percentage of all debris
1	Cigarette Butts	21,268	14.6%
2	Bottle Caps and Lids	16,990	11.7%
3	Food Wrappers	13,505	9.3%
4	Beverage Bottles (plastic)	10,192	7.0%
5	Beverage Cans	7,049	4.8%
6	Grocery Bags	5,814	4.0%
7	Cups and Plates (plastic + foam)	4,429	3.0%
8	Beverage Bottles (glass)	3,799	2.6%
9	Straws & Stirrers	3,715	2.6%
10	Take-out Containers	3,255	2.2%

Litter from food & beverage items dominate the Top Ten list again in 2021. Data collected by volunteers during the International Coastal Cleanup in Virginia, coordinated by Clean Virginia Waterways of Longwood University.

Encourage others to join the CVW
contact list by sending an email
to cleanva@longwood.edu

Post from Norfolk Public Schools

March 25 at 3:46 PM ·

Local volunteers make The Great Outdoors even greater!



In celebration of their 50th anniversary, the [Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club](#) (TATC) planted 65 native trees on the grounds of [#OceanViewElementary](#) and [#WilloughbyElementary](#) in late February. The club purchased the trees from [#Norfolk](#) Parks & Urban Forestry as part of their commitment to plant 500 trees in the Hampton Roads area.

Volunteers from TATC, [Norfolk Master Gardeners](#), and [Keep Norfolk Beautiful](#) gathered to plant the trees, which will provide shade for students and beautify the schools' campuses for years to come. The groups also cleaned up the fencing around the schools. Thank you to everyone who came out to help!

[#NPSInThisTogether](#) [#cityofnorfolk](#)

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.

New Quarter Park Spring Maintenance Trip

When: Saturday, April 2, 2022 9am – 12pm

Where: 1000 Lakeshead Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23185, USA ([map](#))

Contact: Phyllis to sign up: phyllisneumann@hughes.net

Description: TATC constructed a walking trail for New Quarter Park over 15 years ago. It's time for a Spring maintenance trip! Expect 2-3 hours of some light trail work. There'll be gorgeous views and perhaps we'll spot an eagle or two! Wear appropriate clothes. Bring water and gloves. We'll supply the tools. Lunch afterward at a local eatery.

Directions: Take I-64 west to Exit 242 (Rt 199/Jamestown). Take the Rt. 143 Exit off of Rt. 199 (the first exit) and go right at the fork at the end of the ramp. Turn right at the first stop-light (Penniman Rd). Turn left onto Hubbard Lane. Stay on Hubbard for ~1 mile past the Cobble Creek subdivision. Go under an overpass for the Colonial Parkway and turn right on-to Lakeshead Drive and continue straight on into the park. We'll meet in the parking lot at the end of the road.

TATC Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Where: Via Zoom

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC Board Meeting. Guests are always welcome! This meeting will be held remotely using the Zoom App. Please contact Lee if you are not currently on the Board, but wish to attend this online Board Meeting remotely.

Cabin Work Trip

When: April 8-10, 2022

Where: White Rock Falls Trailhead, Blue Ridge Pkwy, Vesuvius, VA 24483, USA ([map](#))

Description: Cabin Work Trip-- April 8th--10th.

There will be a work trip to the Club's Cabin in Nelson County, Va., a half mile walk from the Blue Ridge Parkway. The cabin sleeps 12 but folks are welcome to tent out nearby if they wish. There will be some painting of the cabin's trim, and some general clean-up work too. The main emphasis will be doing trail work on the nearby White Rock Falls Trail (2.7 miles long) painting blazes, digging out water trenches, carrying in and installing a heavy trail sign post, trimming branches, etc. You need to supply all your own meals, but the cabin has a cook stove, pots, dishes, cups, and cutlery, etc.-- everything you need. Bring work clothes and gloves, hiking boots, sleeping bag and sleeping pad, and warm clothes (we've had a bit of snow in April before; the elevation is about 2,200 ft above sea level).

Call Bob Adkisson (627 5514) or email (xingu29mysterian@hotmail.com) to be put on the sign-up sheet, or to make inquiries.

New members are especially welcomed and will be instructed on how to care for the cabin and, by attending this work trip, qualify themselves to rent it on their own in the future.

(Continued on next page ...)

Activities Schedule

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TATC Day in the Park and Chili Contest!

When: Saturday, April 9, 2022

Where: Newport News Park, 13560 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, VA 23603.
Shelter #10, Constitution Way.

Contact: Your RSVP is important: Email Sharon Salyer at happycampers33@hotmail.com

Description: Hiking, biking and games galore topped with enough chili & fixins' to delight any epicurean. Cheer the soon-to-be famous TATC Chili Chefs on to glory. Marvel in the variety and scope of crockpot creations! Proceeds benefit TATC's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Schedule: 12 noon, shelter #10, to sign up for a history hike or 12:30 pm for the bike ride. Or arrive at your leisure to join in a round of Horseshoes, Cornhole and more.

- The history hike is an easy 1.5 hour hike over the previous site of Dam #1 on the Warwick River. It will lead to some of the best preserved civil war earthworks in the nation. Leader is Jim Newman.

- The bike ride is a moderately paced, 5.3 mile ride that should be easy for all to maintain. The path is hard packed gravel and shaded, total ride time approximately one hour. Leader is John Oakes.

4 p.m.: Chili contest. Conducted by Master of Chili Ceremonies, Phyllis Neumann. □Dessert follows. Socialize after dinner, the park closes at 7:30 pm.

Directions: 13560 Jefferson Avenue, Highway Exit 250B from I-64. Turn at park entrance on Constitution Way, follow Constitution Way for just over 1/2 mile, shelter #10 is on the left. You will pass the Ranger Station on the left and first set of picnic shelters, keep going, turn left into parking area for shelter #10, it is set back by itself. Restrooms are directly across from shelter.

- Park entrance is free, the event costs \$7 per person, children under 10 eat free.
- To lessen our footprint on the park, please bring your non-disposable plate/bowl and utensils for dinner. Water will be provided.
- Please note that Newport News Park does not allow alcohol.
- TATC merchandise will be available for club members to purchase, so remember your checkbook.

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Aldersgate United Methodist, 5767 Sellger Dr, Norfolk, VA 23502, USA and via Zoom (map)

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting. The meeting will also be broadcast via Zoom. Contact Lee Lohman at president@tidewateratc.com for Zoom link Program: Big Bend National Park

(Continued on next page ...)

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.

Maintenance at First Landing State Park

When: Thursday, April 14, 2022 9am - 12pm

Where: First Landing State Park, Chesapeake Bay Beach, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 ([map](#))

Contact: Bob Mooney, (757) 481-3362 or mbm9@cox.net

Description: First Landing State Park – Raking and clearing of all leaves and debris/trash around the main office & courtyard, on the Chesapeake Bay Beach side of the park.

Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot by the main office on the beach side of First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach, VA. We will rake and clear all leaves/debris from all areas around the main building (both front lawns and back courtyard). As time permits we will expand out to the back parking lot and also pick up any noticeable trash on the beach close to the building. Will also need 2-3 people to walk through the clubs trails (Live Oak & Cypress Swamp) to ensure these trails are clear, which they are normally in good shape.

Bring drinking water, work gloves, brooms, rakes or leaf blowers if you have any. We will also have rakes, brooms, bags, and possibly some leaf blowers from the Park Tool Shed.

Directions: From Eastbound Shore Drive Turn LEFT into the Park beachside entrance at the stoplight. Just after the pay booth turn left into the Picnic Area. Advise the attendant that you will be performing volunteer work and will be provided a free parking pass.

For planning purposes please signup in advance by contacting Bob Mooney at: mbm9@cox.net

Spring Walk-Thru

When: Friday-Sunday, April 15 - 17, 2022

Where: CCC Kitchen area in the Sherando Lake Recreation Area

Contacts: Brittany Collins - TATC Trail Supervisor - trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com and John Sima - TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - assistantts@tidewateratc.com

Description: Minimum of 12-15 people needed to check our A.T. section & Mau-Har trail in order to document maintenance needs in preparation for Spring Maintenance Weekend.

TATC Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Via Zoom

Description: TATC Board Meeting. This meeting will held via Zoom. Contact Lee Lohman at president@tidewateratc.com for Zoom link .

(Continued on next page ...)

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.

Spring Maintenance Weekend & Family Campout

When: Friday-Sunday, May 6 -8, 2022, Maintenance: May 7, 2022, Camping: May 6-8, 2022

Where: Sherando Lake Recreation Area, 96 Sherando Lake Road, Lyndhurst, VA 22952

Contacts: Brittany Collins - TATC Trail Supervisor - trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com and John Sima - TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - assistantts@tidewateratc.com

Description: This is a weekend for us to do what the club was set up to do! We'll maintain our assigned section of the Appalachian Trail, the Mau-Har Trail, the White Rocks Trails, plus more! Come out to our base camp at Sherando Lake Recreation Area on Friday as early as noon; set up your tent at the Williams Branch Picnic Area, keeping in mind that the gate is usually locked at 10PM and opens on Saturday morning at 6AM. Crew signup sheets will be available Friday; Saturday organizational meeting at 7:45AM. Optional hikes offered on Sunday. To sign up or for more information, contact Brittany or John

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Aldersgate United Methodist, 5767 Sellger Dr, Norfolk, VA 23502, USA and via Zoom (map)

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting. The meeting will also be broadcast via Zoom. Contact Lee Lohman at president@tidewateratc.com for Zoom link
Program: TBD

Information for Hike & Activities Schedule, TATC website schedule listings and Meetup postings are collected & edited by the Hikemaster. Contact Andy Grayson at hikemaster@tidewateratc.com for publication.



TATC Officers & Board

Position	Name	Email Address
President	Lee Lohman	president@tidewateratc.com
Vice President	Andy Grayson	vicepres@tidewateratc.com
Treasurer	Cecil Salyer	treasurer@tidewateratc.com
Secretary	Steve Clayton	secretary@tidewateratc.com
Trail Supervisor	Brittany Collins	trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com
Assistant Trail Supervisor	John Sima	assistantts@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Bruce Davidson	counselor@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Bill Bunch	counselor@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Kari Pincus	counselor@tidewateratc.com
ATC RPC Representative	Ned Kuhns	rpcrep@tidewateratc.com
Alt ATC RPC Representative	Jim Sexton	rpcrep@tidewateratc.com
Cabin Committee	Bob Adkisson	cabin@tidewateratc.com or 627-5514
Cabin Committee	Gregory Hodges	cabin@tidewateratc.com
Calendar	Tony Phelps	calendar@tidewateratc.com
Education	Vacant - TBA	education@tidewateratc.com
Hikemaster	Andy Grayson	hikemaster@tidewateratc.com
Historical	Jim Sexton	historical@tidewateratc.com
Land Management	Nalin Ratnayake	landmgt@tidewateratc.com
Local Trails	Dave Plum	localtrails@tidewateratc.com
Membership	Kama Mitchell	membership@tidewateratc.com
Membership	Sharon Salyer	membership@tidewateratc.com
Merchandise	Vacant - TBA	merchandise@tidewateratc.com
Newsletter	Jim Sexton	newsletter@tidewateratc.com
Outreach	John Barnes	outreach@tidewateratc.com
Past President	Rosanne Cary	pastprez@tidewateratc.com
Programs	Vacant - TBA	programs@tidewateratc.com
Timekeeper	Bill Lynn	timekeeper@tidewateratc.com
Tool Boss	Vacant - TBA	toolboss@tidewateratc.com
Webmaster	Jim Sexton	webmaster@tidewateratc.com



Norfolk Tree Planting

Photos from Kevin Du Bois



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TATC Trail Maintenance - 2/19/2022

Photo from Carl Albuquerque



TATC Trail Maintenance - 2/19/2022

Photo from Robert Veverka



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Photo from John Barnes



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TATC Trail Maintenance - 2/19/2022

Photo from Patrick Hayes



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Photo from Patrick Hayes



TATC Trail Maintenance - 2/19/2022

Photo from Peter Burch



TATC Trail Maintenance - 2/19/2022

Photo from Jim Newman



TATC Trail Maintenance - 2/19/2022

Photo from Jim Newman



Whiteoak Canyon/Cedar Run/AT Loop

Photo from Kevin Du Bois



Whiteoak Canyon/Cedar Run/AT Loop

Photo from Kevin Du Bois



Whiteoak Canyon/Cedar Run/AT Loop

Photo from Kevin Du Bois



Whiteoak Canyon/Cedar Run/AT Loop

Photo from Kevin Du Bois



Sawyer Certifications

Photo by Phyllis Neumann



John Oakes and Jim Sexton

Sawyer Certifications

Photo by Randy Smith



Sawyer Certifications

Photo by Randy Smith



Sawyer Certifications

Photo by Randy Smith



Sawyer Certifications

Photo by Randy Smith



Paddling with the Alligators in Okefenokee

Photo from Mal Higgins



Paddling with the Alligators in Okefenokee

Photo from Mal Higgins



Paddling with the Alligators in Okefenokee

Photo from Mal Higgins



Paddling with the Alligators in Okefenokee

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