

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Hiker

Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson

PREZ SEZ

"I feel like a popsicle," exclaimed Michelle Cobb as she emerged from her tent and headed for the fireplace at the CCC kitchen at Sherando. The temperature was 20 degrees --maybe a bit lower. We all felt like popsicles--except Bruce Davidson. An enthusiastic participant at various Freezeree camp outs, Bruce mentioned that he hadn't even zipped up his sleeping bag the night before. That's some metabolism you have Bruce.

We were at Sherando in response to John Sima's eblast, Giving Back to Sherando, following a request from Jonathan Zimmermann, the Administrator of the Sherando Lake Recreation area. Jonathan asked for help to get Sherando ready for the visitor season that starts April 1st. Sherando is the base camp for TATC's A.T. activities, and Jonathan accommodates us in a variety when we are there. So, John jumped at the chance to "give back" and so did we.

Trading in swing blades for blowers and rakes TATC members cleaning all the campsites in the three loops of the recreation area. Jonathan was delighted with the results and thanked us repeatedly. Good work done in a good cause.

Speaking of good work, TATC has now put 1,177 trees in the Hampton Roads area. What started as a 50th anniversary gesture has turned into a new activity that is enthusiastically embraced by TATC members. Seems that TATC may be in the tree planting business for a long time to come.

Thanks to Fay Bailey for the original idea.

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April 2023 - May 2023
50th Edition, 2nd Issue

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Visit our website at www.tidewateratc.com



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Get ready for the spring Day-in-the Park event. Sharon Salyer and her team will be holding the next of these very popular events on May 6th at Newport News Park. The Day-in-the-Park grew out of the constraints COVID placed on other social activities. It has taken on a life of its own and now is one of our most popular activities.

Take a look at the TATC calendar (<https://tatc.wildapricot.org/Schedule>). It is filled with all sorts of new and recurring activities--cabin maintenance trips, Tuesday Group events, weekend hikes, the Norfolk Bike Expo, outreach to the Boy Scouts, TATC pub nights, new overnight maintenance events, and many others. Thanks to all the TATC members who stepped forward to organize and lead these activities.

A special thanks to Carl Albuquerque who led a Beginning Backpacking Trip earlier this month. His initiative recalls similar events Bill Rogers organized in the past. Thanks for reviving this most important education/training activity.

I could go on and on about the number and diversity of TATC activities, but it's not necessary. Read the pages below, AND don't forget to visit and post to our TATC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2366193230213291>).

It's a great way to stay in touch with the TATC community.

Happy Trails, Lee

Memorial Day Cabin Maintenance and Orientation Weekend

Memorial Day Weekend Cabin Maintenance and Orientation Weekend
Friday, May 26th thru Sunday, May 29th

Gregory Hodges is leading a cabin maintenance and orientation weekend over the Memorial Day holiday weekend. To fulfill the maintenance and orientation requirements to rent the cabin, participants are asked to be available at the cabin all day Saturday.

Schedule is to arrive on Friday. Maintenance and orientation followed by a group spaghetti dinner will take place on Saturday. Hike and light maintenance on Sunday. Depart for home on Monday.

Maintenance activities include inventorying the cupboards, cleaning cast iron pots and pans, washing windows, repairing screens, weed whacking, stacking firewood, wiping down surfaces, inventorying supplies, and other light duty maintenance items.

Please note that the trail club cabin is located 0.6 miles from the parking lot; thus, a backpack is a strong recommendation to carry gear along the dirt footpath.

Contract Gregory Hodges at cabin@tidewateratc.com or via text/call at (757) 439-1552.

Forest Service Volunteer receives Appalachian Trail Conservancy Volunteer of the Year Award

USFS Release Date: March 21, 2023



Natural Bridge Station, Va., March 21, 2023 – This month, Lee Lohman, President of the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) based out of Norfolk, Va., was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award 2023 by the Virginia Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Southern Partnership meeting. The Virginia RPC represents the eight Appalachian Trail Clubs in Virginia, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service. Annually, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy recognizes one volunteer from each region for their outstanding contributions to Appalachian Trail stewardship.

Lohman has served as President of the TATC for the last two years. Lohman's talents, strengths, and dedication to his role as Club President have been instrumental to the TATC. Lohman has played a crucial role in volunteer recruitment for TATC, which has increased by 20% in the last two years. He also organized multiple commemorative efforts for the club's 50th anniversary in 2022 and is active in trail maintenance trips and workshops on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest.

"We appreciate all the work done by the TATC and are especially grateful to have the help of a volunteer as passionate as Lee Lohman on the Forest. This award is well deserved," said Lauren Stull, the Glenwood-Pedlar District Ranger.

The Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club maintains a section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Mau-Har Trail in Three Ridges Wilderness and other trails in St. Mary's Wilderness. To learn more about the TATC visit the TATC [website](#).

For more information about the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Giving Back to Sherando

March 17 - 19, 2023

The Sherando Lake Recreation Area has been graciously hosting our Maintenance events in support of the Appalachian Trail for years now free of charge. This provides us with a most welcome Base-camp after a 4 hour drive from the Tidewater region. This year, Jonathan Zimmerman, the Sherando Lake Area Administrator reached out to our Club and asked if we would help him get Sherando ready for Spring camping season. We felt obligated to help out.

19 TATC and 3 Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club members showed up eager to help out and turning this into a multi-club event. Tasks included; Gatehouse beautification project, Planting trees, A, B, & C Camping Loop cleanups. New trashcan installations, Lower Lake Island cleanup where 7 boat-loads of debris from Winter storms were rowed off the Island.

When the work was finished Saturday, we had a relaxing fire at the CCC kitchen where seasoned members told "Sea Stories" of past maintenance events to our newer club members.

Members left this event with a rewarding sense of accomplishment and a special bond to the Sherando community. It was nice to Give Back instead of just being tenants. Jonathan was so impressed with our work he wants to turn this into an annual or possibly semi-annual event.

The Tree Planting Group included, John Sima, Tim Winslow, John (Norman) Reed. They had 4 trees to plant, and had to dig a 5th hole when they found an unmapped sewer line.

The Gate House Landscaping/Beautification Team was led by Katie Steele, included Lyndsay Ballew, Carl Albuquerque, & John Siniscalco. They removed invasive plants, seeded natural local wildflowers & installed mulch.

The A Loop Cleanup Group consisted of Laarni Paulin, Sandy Butler, Michelle Cobb Michael Horrell, and Mary Crozier.

The B loop Cleanup Group consisted of Lee Lohman, Bruce Davidson & Andy Grayson.

The New Trashcan Installation Crew consisted of Patrick Hayes, Milton Beale, & Keith Forbes who were also instrumental in the offloading of the 7 boat loads of debris from the island.

Look for pictures of this event in the Photolog Section.

John Sima
Trail Supervisor TATC

SAVE the DATE
May 6, 2023



Day in the Park

BRUNSWICK
STEW



CONTEST

TRUNK SALE



Newport News Park

Shelter #10, Constitution Way, Newport News, VA 23603

Plus

Hiking • Biking • Cornhole • Dessert

Hiking at 10 am, Lunch at 12 noon, Trunk Sale follows Lunch

Sign up for the Brunswick Stew contest! And let us know you're coming:

Contact Sharon Salyer, happycampers33@hotmail.com

happycampers33@hotmail.com

2023 Spring Day in the Park



The weather is warming up, and that means that TATC's Spring Day in the Park is right around the corner. We had such a great time last spring that the committee voted that it be held near the lake at Newport News City Park again this year. If you remember over 70 club members enjoying the chili contest that included 15 contestants, the history hike featuring sites from both the Revolutionary and Civil wars, and yard games aplenty, then you won't want to miss this year's big event with some new additions to the fun.

To add a twist, this year, our chefs extraordinaire will be cooking up a Virginia original, Brunswick Stew. We're counting on 15 unique and creative versions as well as traditional recipes to vote on (vegetarian anyone?). We only have 4 chefs so far, so plug in your Crock Pot and email me if you would like to give it a whirl.

Got stuff? How about a Trunk Sale! It's time to revive TATC's annual auction, and what a better time than at the Spring DITP? Folks can fill their trunks with goodies and offload them for a good cause, TATC's coffers. So gather up any sport, exercise, or camping equipment that you are no longer using and let members take it off your hands at a bargain price. Volunteers will guide you to the sale area where you can display items in your trunk and around your vehicle. Sale will begin after lunch, around 1:30. Email me for details and to register.

Many hands make light work, and this event is made possible by a committee of dedicated volunteers who have stepped up to help since the beginning of these semi-annual outdoor events in 2021. It wouldn't be possible without you. **Thank you so much!**

Contact the DITP coordinator, Sharon Salyer, at happycampers33@hotmail.com to register to attend, participate in the trunk sale, or to enter the Brunswick Stew contest.

TATC Trail Angel Event

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Tye River Parking Lot



**On this National Trails Day, we will continue our tradition of celebrating Thru & Section Hikers.
Note a few new ideas for our Trail Angel Event:**

Setup will be at the Tye River Trailhead parking lot

Two shifts of 5 persons each will maintain operation

6:00 AM - Noon

Noon - 6:00 PM

Camping spots for volunteers will be at the Tye River w/CCC Kitchen as an option

Offerings will include usual trail foods goodies plus grilled items, beverages, and dehydrated/ freeze-dried meals to go

Chairs and table space will be provided for hikers

How you can help from afar:

Cash or check donations at the April or May TATC meetings or through the donation button on TATC's website; <https://tidewateratc.com/Donations>

Secure donations from official Trail Day sponsors (USFS, REI, National Park Service, Osprey, BLM, ATC)

Donate snacks, dehydrated/freeze-dried meals, or other suitable on-the-go trail foods

For questions and comments, contact Jim Newman at jimnewman55@gmail.com

Setup Items

Two folding tables

Dozen folding chairs

One/two shelter covers

TATC banner

One/two propane grills

Several Ice chests

This plan is subject to refinement as the date nears. Stay tuned and mark your calendar.

TATC Outreach Corner

John Barnes

Just like plants and the animals, TATC's Outreach efforts are coming alive again with the warming of spring. Upcoming display events include the Virginia Beach Earth Day Celebration on April 22, 2023 at Mount Trashmore, the Norfolk Bike Expo on May 1, Great Outdoor Provision Company on May 20, and at REI on May 27. Both of these outfitters were very generous in their support of our 50th Anniversary Event, and their continued support is very much appreciated. Telling others about TATC is almost as much fun as participating in our various activities. So join us on one of our upcoming display opportunities, or stop by, say hi, and support these worthwhile events and generous sponsors. Sign ups will be posted soon!

Also, a big thank you to Lee Lohman and all the volunteers that supported our display at the Virginia Beach Winter Wildlife Festival in January and to Bruce Davidson for getting us a display table at the BSA leadership training day held recently. Both of these events provided great exposure to folks interested in the environment and adventure.

Save the Date! Spring Trail-Wide Call 4/6/23

Hello, A.T. Communities!

Save the date for the Spring Trail-Wide Call, April 6, 2023 at 12p. As a friendly reminder, you **MUST REGISTER HERE** to participate.

We are in the process of finalizing our agenda and guest speakers for the call, but I wanted to take a moment now and introduce you to one of our guest speakers.

J.T. Horn with The Trust for Public Land. J.T. is the Director of the National Trails Initiative at the Trust for Public Land. His experience in land conservation includes creating new municipally managed community forests, conserving large timberland parcels, preserving farmland, protecting trails, and building citizen coalitions in support of conservation projects. He has successfully closed some of the largest land conservation transactions in the United States and has experience working with the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and numerous state and local agencies.

For more information, check out the Trust for Public Land's Website: <https://www.tpl.org>.

We encourage you to invite as many committee members and town planners to the call to learn more. Stay tuned for an agenda and more details!

Best,

Rachel Austin (she/her)

A.T. Community Program Coordinator

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

AmeriCorps VISTA

Email: raustin@appalachiantrail.org

The Chocolate Hike 2023

Phyllis Neumann

I remember the first Chocolate Hike back in February 2002. I wondered if anyone would show up? And it wasn't even called the "Chocolate Hike" back then! It was a Valentine's Day walk on the Noland Trail encouraging people to bring Valentines chocolate to share. People came! And they kept coming year after year (except for 2021 and 2022-blech Covid). Covid interfered with our plans then but that was only a temporary blip and we are back! This would have been the 22nd Chocolate Hike but technically, it was the 20th.

Weather caused a nearly last minute date change and there was some confusion with the information on the TATC calendar. This may have been the reason for the moderate turn out. Perhaps there was still some lingering Covid apprehensiveness? Regardless, we had great weather and a great time!

28 participants showed up at the Mariners Museum parking lot for our first post-Covid Chocolate Hike. We lined up several vehicles as well as tables to allow for "social distancing" and to spread out all of the entries. Despite the day's more modest turnout, the treats did not disappoint. Among the entries were Bruce' "Chocolate Popcorn", Steve's "Papa's Chocolate Brownies", John's "UFOs", Avery's "Mexican Hot Chocolate Fudge", Jane's "Peppermint Schnapps Boozy Brownies", Rhianon's "Edible Cookie Dough", Marrian's "Chocolate Cake with Peanut Butter Icing", Cris' "Chocolate Brownies", Joe's "Gnome Sweets", and Sharon's "Chocolate Chip Cookies".

As expected, there was the typical feeding frenzy in the parking lot. This was followed by some fun facts about chocolate-history, economics and health benefits. Did you know that it takes 400 cocoa beans to make one pound of chocolate? Or that eating dark chocolate every day may reduce cholesterol levels, boost mood, prevent cognitive decline and reduce the risk of heart disease! TATC provides fun and educational events!

After our early morning start, we proceeded to the Noland Trail to walk, talk and continue to share our confections. This year, everyone was a judge, so I was able to share the joy of consuming mass amounts of chocolate and having my blood sugar soar!

Arriving back at our start point, it was time to award prizes. Of course everyone was a winner but prizes went to Avery, John, Bruce, Steve and Marrian. The grand prize went to Jane for her "Boozy Brownies"! They were amazing!

We finished up the day with lunch at Plaza Azteca. More carbs!! A good time was had by all! Another successful Chocolate Hike!



TATC AND DIBBLE BARS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT MARINERS' MUSEUM

By Mal Higgins

Under the leadership of Bruce Davidson and Jim Newman, 29 tree planters, mostly from TATC or affiliated family members met up with Mariners' Museum organizers and other volunteers on March 11, 2023, to plant approximately 384 trees and another 50 ground cover plants at the Mariners' Museum off Cedar Lane in Newport News. TATCers included Bruce Davidson, Jim Newman, Chris Woods, Henry Stone, Vic Pisone, Sandra Canepa, Bill Bunch, Bob Adkisson, and Mal Higgins. Staff of the Museum had cleared and removed non-native, invasive overgrowth and species from several acres bordering the Noland Trail at Bridge 10.

Despite the problematic forecast of rain, the morning was fresh and cool, and after being briefed by Museum staff, including Javier Camacho, a total of two dozen volunteers set to work in teams of two. Using a tool known as a "dibble bar" (something like a triangle shaped spade), the teams located numbered small flags that corresponded to the types of tree seedlings that were to be planted there. Various species of seedlings were inserted/planted in locations corresponding to drainage. A few of the plants were in small pots. This is what was planted:

Away from Noland Trail: strawberry bush (50); American Hornbeam a/k/a Ironwood (50)

Well Drained Trees: American Beech (50), Overcup Oak (50)

Poor Drainage: Paw Paw (75), Sweet Pepperbush (25)

Decent Drainage: Blackhaw Viburnum (30) Inkberry (4), Sweetspire (50)

Groundcover: Partridge berry (50)

Using the dibble bar, a wedge deep into the soil was made, the seedling inserted up to its crown, making sure all roots were below ground level, and then the dibble bar was used to press the soil back on to the root system. To protect some of the new plantings from the deer living in the Mariners' Park, tall, plastic "deer proof" tubes were wrapped around wooden stakes and secured with zip ties.

By 11:15 the job was done. After a group photo, several TATCers adjourned to Chris Woods favorite Subway Station near the park for subways with the restaurant's secret sauce. The secret sauce recipe is apparently never revealed to customers!

False Cape State Park - Work Trips

Bruce Julian

We had 2 work trips last week with a total of 22 volunteers. On Saturday March 11 we had our third Beach Clean-up of 2023, and we clean all 6 miles of the beach. It was a high tide in the morning, but it was on the way out, and this worked out O K far as driving on the beach. The wind was blowing pretty hard from the North/East but wasn't bad for us walking south picking up trash, at times it actually felt good as the day went on. We picket-up 10 bags which was about 190 lbs. with one bike which someone had thrown up on the sand dunes. It may be repaired and if it works well we will donate to the lodge.

After we finished with the Beach Clean-up, we started the work week with 8 volunteers and I drove them in on the bus, after we jumped it to get it started. The batteries maybe O K, after checking the nuts on the battery we found one that was not very tight, so that could have been the problem all along, time will tell. We had two more volunteers come in on Sunday and another one on Wednesday, five of them left on Tuesday evening.

We accomplish about everything on Josh's List, only thing we didn't get to was cutting back the overlook trail, but there is only one left to do, and I thought we could do that one on April 12 when I come in on that Wednesday. All together we put up 17 new signs up around in the park, repaired 15 Picnic tables with 26 boards, built 2 new tables at False Cape Landing for the bottles at the Pitcher Pumps, repaired about 45 feet of fence at the state Line next to the Monument, clean-up around the church site, tried cleaning the outside and inside of steeple building, Clean-up and around all 25 campsites, and reposition the one half mile sign at False Cape Landing for the campers to put their tents at, it was almost buried by the blowing sand. We also replaced the 3-medal post with 4 X 4 posts for the 3 sensitive signs. They look much better. We did remove the 2 Caution Service Road signs on Sandridge Trail, as requested.

We met 5 young ladies on their way to the monument at the same time we were hiking to it and all of them live in Carova, and only one had been to it many years ago, she has lived there for 50 years. They wanted me to tell them about the monument, and I gave them all the history I knew and that satisfied them.

We swept the Lodge and clean some of it and put everything back in order before we left. We all had a great time and enjoyed volunteering and everyone left with all their fingers & thumbs, which always makes a great trip.

Bruce

Work Trip with TATC Volunteers

I organized a work trip at False Cape State Park on the week of March 12 through the 15 and 8 out of the 10 were TATC Volunteers. Some of us went down on Saturday the 11, (5 total) to do a Beach Clean-up on the 6 miles of False Cape's Beach. We did have 7 others with us, with a total of 13 and the new Park Interpreter went along to see how we worked a Beach Clean-up and learn from us that had been there for 15 to 30 years. We walked and talked and picked – up trash all the way to the North Carolina Line, (190 pounds & one discarded bike) in about 4.5 hours. Each person does not walk the 6 miles; we do a leap-frog style of moving everyone down the beach. Depending on how many volunteers we have, most of the time you only walk about 2.5 miles of the 6 mile beach. On this trip, (we do one 11 months out of the year) we had a high tide that was on the way out and a strong North/East Wind blowing at our backs all the way to Carolina. The wind did fill good at times when it got a little warm around 12: 00 noon. Around 1:30 P.M. we dropped everyone back at the parking lot and the ones that were going on the 4 day work trip follow me back to the maintains area there at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the others headed home. We still have 9 more Beach Clean-ups this year and if you like walking down a beautiful beach with no houses, motels, big buildings, and very few vehicles, come join us. The dates are as follow: April 8, May 13, June 3, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 4, and December 2.

It was time to start the work trip, a few hours early, but we all were ready to make the 6 miles trip on the bus down to the State Park's Lodge. We did have 2 other that didn't come to the Beach Clean-up to join us and one I had asked to bring in 3 pizzas for all to eat for a late lunch about 2:00 P.M., on the bus the pizza smelled so good I wanted to pull over and eat a slice or two. Driving the bus through the park is always a fun trip, watching out for the animals, visitors, and the pot holes on the sand and gravel roads. After we loaded all our gear (we have a contest to see who can bring the most gear in each year, just kidding) on to the bus we headed south, 3 miles through Back Bay Refuge and 3 miles through False Cape State Park down to the lodge which sit on the shore of Back Bay, where you can see for miles across the bay. One time I saw a Jet plane go down at Fentress Naval Air Base and on a touch and go trip and as he went down behind the trees for just a few second then he climb back up into the Sky Blue Yonder and was gone. This air field is right at 12 miles away from the front deck of the lodge and on this clear day I saw this with my naked eyes, so that give you an idea of how far you can see. We got to the lodge and unloaded all our gear and took a break and heated up the pizza in the oven and had our first meal for the week. I must confess I did put one piece in the microwave and as I came in on each trip up the stairs I took a bite, don't tell anyone. After we put everything away, and ate all the pizza, but 2 slices, we drove to the Sign Shed and picket up all of the Signs that Josh, the Park Maintenance Ranger wanted us to replace, along with some tools and screws. We did take an evening hike out to the observation tower which was only about 2.5 miles round trip. We built this Platform in 2004 and it's still being used. Some did eat another meal after we got back to the lodge; hiking will do that to you sometimes.

The next morning we all had our own food to prepare for breakfast and everyone had finished and was ready to work by 8:00 A.M. so we divided into 2 groups and climb into the van and headed out.

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Dropping off 3 of the volunteers at the Barbour Hill Campsites they began cleaning these sites. The other 3 volunteers began replacing signs there at Barbour Hill Area and this went on for about one hour and then two more volunteers show up and we all worked together there behind the Visitors Center clearing out the Picnic Area of brush, tree limbs, and 5 tables needed a few boards replaced. This area is used mostly in the summer months for visitors on day trips, to stop and eat their lunch before heading back out of the park. As most people know, but some may not, that the only way to get into Virginia most eastern state park is by hiking, biking, through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge or by boat on the waters of Back Bay. In a few months each year the Wildlife closes their internal trails to the public from October 31 (Halloween) for five months to April 1 (April Fools' Day) and the only way to hike or bike to False Cape State Park is down the beach. If you decide to travel to False Cape in those months be sure to check the Tide Chart for a low tide, it will make your hike or bike ride much easier. After finishing the campsite (10 sites in this area) on the Bay Side of the park and the Picnic Area behind the Visitors Center, we moved out to the beach side of the park. Here we only have 9 sites for camping, 7 on the North side of Barbour Hill Road and 2 on the South Side. Two of us drove out to the beach to replace the Barbour Hill Road Sign, with the wind blowing from the North it made it rather cold doing this job, so we worked as fast as we could to get back away from the beach. It was about lunch time so we picked up the others and drove back to the Wash Woods Area where the lodge is located to eat our mid day meal.

After everyone had finished their meal and had a few minutes for talking and resting we loaded back into the van and the pick-up truck and headed out. The 3 volunteers in the truck had to drive back to Barbour Hill Road to finish some of the Picnic tables, replacing the old boards. The others of us took the van and drove to False Cape Landing to replace 3 signs and clean the campsites, which there are 6 total in this area, 3 sites on the Bayside of the park and 3 on the Oceanside of the park.

This area also has the Maple Leaf Trail which is named for a Union Ship in the Civic War that was overtaken by about 150 Confederate Soldiers that were on their way north to a prison camp. The Union Soldier, which there were only about 15 of them, were not in very good shape to be guarding this many prisons. By the time the ship had reach this area, called False Cape, yes even back then, after leaving Norfolk the Confederate had taken over the ship and had tied up all of the Union Troops, and ran the ship aground. They told the Captain if he would stay on his course towards Maryland, after the tide had come back in, in a few hours that they would not kill or tied them up, and he said that he would. Only about 100 of the Confederate were able to leave the ship because the others were wounded or too weak to try to escape across the Barrier Spit and the waters of Back Bay, so they told the ones that could travel to go on without them. Well, as soon as the tide came in and the ship could float again the Captain turn around and headed back to Norfolk and reported what had happen, but it was too late by the time the Union Calvary got back to this area the Confederate had cross the short area of where the park is today and walk and swam across Back Bay to Knott's Island and from there got boats and travel far south to join back up with their Companies. Now you know how the Maple Leaf Trail got its name, when we built the trail in the late 90s, we called it "The Ocean/ Bay Trail", but when the park found out about this ship the name was changed.

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After doing all of this work at False Cape Landing we headed back to the lodge once again and called it a day. In a few minutes the others came driving in with the truck and we all had our evening meal and by 10:00 P.M. we all were fast asleep after a hard day's work.

On Monday we awoke about 6:30 A.M. and each person prepared what they had brought with them for their breakfast. Then about 8:00 A.M. the rain came in and we sit around talking and playing cards until about 11:30, at this time we ate an early lunch and the rain had stopped so we headed out. Once again we loaded the 2 vehicles and split up into 3 groups, the 3 volunteers that were working on the tables still had 12 boards out of the 29 total boards to do. I drove two of the volunteers down to the Church and Cemetery Area to start cleaning this sight of winter tree limbs and cutting back brush. Two of us still had about 10 signs of the 19 total to replace and we started at the state Line on the beach, where it was windy and cold on this Monday in March.

The Church and Cemetery area is one of the places we take the visitors that ride the tram into the State Park from the Wildlife Refuge, and we try and keep it looking as good as possible, along with about half a mile of the Cemetery Trail which the visitors have to walk. For you that have never been to the park or maybe not made it down to the Church Site, which is about 7 miles from the parking lot at Back Bay and 9 miles from Little Island City Park, here is a little of the history of this area.

In the early days of the Wash Woods Community the people went to Knott's Island or maybe a few would gather at one of the houses there on the Barrier Spit for worship service. In the winter of 1895 the schooner John S. Woods went aground off the coast of False Cape, and was a total loss, but the cargo of Cypress Lumber was washed ashore. The people of the community gathered up the lumber and transported it $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile across the Spit to where they built their church. In 1910 the community had to enlarge the church to accommodate between 250 to 300 people, because they would hold large revivals that would draw people from all over Princess Anna County and Knott's Island. The people traveled by foot, horse & buggy or boats to get to the church site. There was enough lumber to build the church and a few houses in that area of the community, and they were sure that The Lord had sent this ship to this area for this purpose and some say this is where the name came from "Wash Woods" from the name of the ship "John S Woods" but others say its name came from the fact that the water from the ocean would wash over the land into the woods when a storm came by. In the early days there were no dunes along the coast to stop the waves from washing over the land, sometime as far as Knott's island, as it did in 1933 when this area was hit by not one but three hurricanes. If you would like more information about this area ride the tram or bike in and see for yourself.

We had to build two frames out of 4x4 and 2x4 for 2 of the signs and after we came back from the state line that is what we did. Then after building the frames we drove by and picked up the two at the church site and the four of us drove to the state line and put up 4 more signs. By now it was getting late and the weather was getting colder so we called it a day and headed for the lodge. The winds were blowing so hard there were white caps all across the bay and there were no boats out on this day. The bay is only about 6 feet deep and the wind can make 3 to 4 foot waves that can make it hard to paddle across which our group has done in the past, but not on a cold day like this one. We had cheese and crackers and sat around and talked for awhile and then had our evening meal. After that we played cards and turned in for the night.

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On Tuesday the sun was shining and it was just a little warmer and not so much wind. We had our breakfast and were ready to leave about 8:00 A.M. We once again divided the group into 3 groups so everyone would have something to work on. Our volunteers do not like to stand around and not have anything to do that is why we split up. This time we had 3 go to the building that houses the Church Steeple to try and clean it up inside and on the outside. The other 4 of us drove up to False Cape Landing and started working on the two tables for the Pitcher Pumps that would hold the bottles for the water. These pumps need water to pour into them to get the pump started; once it starts you need to fill the bottles up so the next person will have water to start the pump again. This water is not treaded here at the False Cape Landing Campsites like it is at Barbour Hill Campsites. If you want drinking water while camping here, we asked you to bring in containers to fill up at Barbour Hill Road there at the Visitors Center. The Park Manager wanted to keep the 4x4 poles and just replace the boards on top and have some way to keep the containers from blowing off the top, in the pictures I hope to have with this writing you will see what we came up with. We got an A+ from the Chief Ranger for our design and he was very please with them. Working on this until about lunch time, we headed back to the lodge for lunch, the 3 volunteers had finished about 11:30 A.M. and had already hiked back to the Lodge and was waiting there for us. Five of the volunteers were leaving on Tuesday to go home so we packed all of their gear into the van and after we ate our lunch we all drove up to False Cape Landing Campsites on the beach side of the park to finish the last Pump table. Finishing this job about 2:30 P.M. the five headed north towards the parking lot there at Back Bay Refuge, where they had left their cars. The two of us that stayed had 2 small jobs to finish up before we headed back to the lodge. We had two more signs there at Wash Woods to replace and a small piece of wood to support the pump on the last table we had built. It was about 4:30 P.M. when these two jobs were finish and we headed to the Lodge.

On Wednesday we had one more Volunteer to come in to help us, and he was there at about 8:30 A.M. We loaded the truck with fence wire and all the tools that we thought we would need to repair the 45 foot of fencing that had came down when a tree had fallen on it a month or so ago. Funny things happen as we reach the area where we had to leave the truck and hike down to the fence area that needed to be fixed. Five women were hiking up from North Carolina to see the monument that was placed there back in 1800s to mark the State Line. They saw all the tools we had to carry down to the site and agree to help, so each one carried a tool about 200 feet to the fence area. Then as we got to the site only one of the ladies had ever been to the monument and they all lived there in Carova, some had been there for over 50 years and others only for 10 to 20 years. So they asked me to explain why and for what reason this monument was placed here. Well, if you know me, you know I love to talk about the park and all the history that I have learned over the past 30 years. I began by telling about William Byrd an Englishman who was a surveyor back in 1728 that started the survey but it took three tries to finely get it completed, second time was 1733 and then in 1749 it was extended another 840 miles. The monument was placed here in the 1800s to mark the boundary between Virginia and North Carolina and I have been told that there are a few more markers that are the same size as this one every hundred miles with smaller ones in between them.

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I have seen a small one where the Blackwater and The Nottoway River meet. It was on land back in the 1800s but now it set in water because all the land has been eroded away. I talked about 15 minutes and they were satisfied and headed back to North Carolina. With them gone we started working on the fence and it went very fast and by 11:45 A.M. we were heading towards the Wash Woods Area to put away all the tools and get a bite of lunch. After lunch we decided to pack up our gear and clean the lodge and head home, we had did about everything that Josh had for us to do and after 5 days at 10 hours a day we were tired. That is the fun of volunteering; you can go home when you want to. If you like history and want to know more check out Largo/Mar on the Back Bay on Facebook or look up Ernie Bowden the North Carolina Cowboy, he has pass away now, he was 97 at his last birthday and he pass in 2022. He had a 500 acres ranch there in Carova about 3 miles south of the border.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help out there at the State Park and if you would like to volunteer please call the park 757- 426-7128 and get sign-up.

Bruce Julian



Photo by Michelle Cobb

Douglas Putman Cabin Report– Fiscal Year 2022

By Bob Adkisson

It is that time of year again, the end of the club's fiscal year– time for me to crunch the numbers and present the annual cabin report.

Fiscal year 2022 just finished up at the end of February (it ran from March 1, 2022 thru February 28, 2023) and, overall, the cabin had a very up and down type of year. But in a couple of important ways it was mostly a down year.

I've been on the Cabin Committee in one capacity or another since 1992, when I took over the job from the late Bill Newsom. I've been keeping records of cabin usage and income for 30 years now, and **this is the first year that the number of weekends the cabin was vacant topped the number of weekends it was used– there were 25 weekends where no one stayed at the cabin, as opposed to 22 weekends when it was rented out.** There were 5 cabin work trip weekends (which I don't count as rental usage, but it does round out the number to 52 weekends in the year).

[In contrast: the best year for weekend usage was in 1999, when 43 weekends were rented out and only 3 went unused. More typical is 35 weekends used and about 14 unused]

As for ups and downs– the Spring started off with a bang: last April the cabin was rented out 19 nights, the most of any month all fiscal year. But then, starting in May, and going through the summer months, the numbers fell off immediately and sharply: **the cabin was not rented at all for two whole months– May and June (that is unprecedented).** In both the months of July and August only one weekend was rented (though it was rented a total of 8 weeknights).

Halfway thru the summer I became very concerned, to the point of being alarmed, and I emailed many of the 'usual suspects' (regular cabin renters) trying to nudge them into going up and enjoying the club cabin.

A handful of people did respond to my encouragement, and starting Labor Day weekend, the cabin did fall back into its usual pattern and had a very busy Fall season– **there were 91 nights total in the months of September, October, and November, and the cabin was rented out 50 of them (17, 16, and 17 nights respectively in those 3 months).**

There was a stretch of 12 consecutive weekends being rented last Fall.

[This busy Autumn was in contrast to the months of May, June, July, and August– during those 4 months (123 nights between them), the cabin was only rented 13 nights. That is an incredibly low and unsustainable rate of usage]

After Thanksgiving, rental use fell off again– December is a perennial 'least-favorite month' (5 nights of usage), followed by a weaker than usual January (2 nights) and February (7 nights)-- only 14 nights of use out of 90 those final 3 months of the fiscal year.

Counting the work trips, and the total of 56 nights of weeknight usage, the cabin was occupied a total of 110 nights in fiscal year 2022.

In contrast, the cabin was occupied 144 nights in 2021, and it set a record of 157 nights of usage in 2020.

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And so of course cabin rental income was down this last year– it totaled \$1,373.

[In the year 2021 income was \$1816; in 2020 it was \$2571]

Through the year, six cabin renters made small, deliberate overpayments, or outright donations, totaling \$65. Every little bit helps and is appreciated, especially on a down year like this one– every year we need to raise a certain amount to cover the property tax on our 15 acres, and we have to pay the annual insurance bill as well.

As our President noted in the last newsletter, one club life member (who we hadn't seen in several years) turned up at the club's 50th Anniversary, then followed through by renting the cabin for a weekend in January (his first visit there in about 10 years). He took along several friends and they had a great time. He said to be on the lookout for his check in the mail, that he'd added a donation to the \$84 he owed. When I opened the envelope I was bowled over by his incredibly generous donation to the cabin committee of \$1,000. Thank you so much 'Vip' (Kevin Vipavetz)!

[In the last few years our club, and specifically the cabin committee, has received a couple of such large donations: from both Steve and Linda Crate, and Karl and Melva Price, in memory of Harold and Margaret Crate; and from Gary and Susan Fourney, brother-in-law and sister of Douglas Putman. Some of this money has been spent on new lanterns and a new propane stove for the cabin, with the rest being held in anticipation of a new roof]

Besides taxes and insurance, every year we incur some other expenses– replacing broken lanterns or tools, buying chainsaw fuel, etc. This last year was a bit more expensive than usual, as we bought a new cap for one of the chimneys, bought paint for the shutters, doors, and cabin trim, bought chainsaw fuel (much of which we never got around to using, so it will carry over into this year), and I bought 3 brand new fold-up camp chairs, for people to sit on the porch and watch the sunset.

We had 5 work trips to the cabin in 2022, though the first of the trips was really a celebration– on May 8th, 2022 we marked the 40th Anniversary of the Cabin's Official Dedication. It was a foggy, damp Sunday morning following the Spring Sherando work trip. Stephanie Stringer and Judy Welp volunteered to provide lunch (sub sandwiches), and afterwards I gave a speech to the 40 club members who'd braved the elements and crowded into our humble but mighty cabin. Tom Miano, Leilah Van, and Greg Reck helped me get the cabin prepared and helped to clean up afterwards. Mal Higgins mc'ed, and he also led a group who hiked the 3 miles to the cabin from Sherando campground.

Later in the month of May Tom Mereed led a work trip to the cabin, the object being to repaint the shutters, doors, and trim work. Two club members helped him with this chore (I only have their first names: Michelle and Michael). They did a great job!

Also last Spring, club member Tim Winslow took on the task of transporting the old, huge, falling apart hand cart back to Tidewater and rebuilding it. In November we clandestinely met in a strip mall parking lot and transferred the cart, sans handle, into my Subaru, and I took it back to the mountains on the next work trip.

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In July on the work trip, Matt Labarge, Leilah and Greg helped me swingblade around the cabin, and 6/10's of a mile out to the Parkway. John Sima had rented the cabin just before this work trip, and he did a huge amount of swingblading work on his own (also, this last January, he rented the cabin and did a lot of hand-sawing of tree limbs to clear away ice storm damage— the man likes to work!).

Greg Hodges led a cabin work trip in late September and took care of a lot of general cleanup chores; he also gave instructions to the new club members who accompanied him— how to operate and care for the cabin.

In November I led a work trip in which the main job was to cut firewood for the winter months. We had 4 boy scouts (about 14–17 years of age) that we put to work moving previously cut firewood closer to the cabin. For several foggy hours Tom Meree used his chainsaw to cut wood, while Carl Albuquerque and I used a TATC saw to do the same. Others cleaned the outhouse and the cabin, raked leaves, moved and stacked firewood.

Altogether in 2022 we hosted at least 6 new members at the cabin, walked them through the cabin's history, talked to them about the cookstove and the shutters, and qualified them to rent it on their own.

And, not to forget: THE SAGA OF THE CLUB TIME CAPSULE— after the November work trip weekend ended, on a Monday morning Mal Higgins, Steve Crate, and Jim Newman joined me at the cabin. They had some battery operated tools and some mortar mix, chisels and hammers and such. We moved a downstairs bunk away from a corner and cut a hole in the floor, about 12 x 18 inches. We used a post hole digger to create a hole about 18 inches deep in the dirt beneath the floor. That done, we went outside with chisels and a hammer, and removed the 40 year old cabin time capsule from behind the “1980” exterior cornerstone. The contents of the small, home-made box we removed were in pristine condition— some photographs, a poem by the Putman family, a roster of club members, with an asterisk showing which members had worked on the cabin.

We finished by mortaring the “1980” cornerstone back into place.

In early December we returned with the newly purchased, and much larger time capsule, packed full of photographs and thumb drives and member's messages to the future, and also with the contents of the older time capsule removed from the cabin wall the month before.

The new time capsule was part of the club's celebration and recognition of its 50th Anniversary. We placed the capsule in the hole beneath the floorboard, screwed the floor back together with special screws, added a small plaque, and called it a day.

All in all, it was another fun and productive year at the cabin. As a work trip leader, and as #1 cabin renter, I made 7 visits there in 2022, spent a total of 27 nights. **And I have this important fact or message to report: I don't remember seeing, or being bothered by, a single mouse!**

As to the slump in rental use this year— it is hard to figure the cause and even harder to come up with any real solution. Covid is part of the problem, and the fact that we probably had fewer new people join the club during these last couple of years. Fewer club events, many months with no in-person meetings, a change of venue for the meetings— all were part of the problem.

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And, for sure, I know that some of the long-time 'regular' cabin renters simply stopped using it as much, some of them for health reasons that had nothing to do with Covid. Normally and naturally they would have been replaced by newer members discovering and using the cabin.

The simple solution is for more club members, especially those members who have been with the club 10 to 30 years, to get off their duffs and go rent the cabin once in a while— because it is a wild and adventurous and fun thing to do, and isn't that at least part of the reason all of us are members of this outdoor club! Only a tiny fraction of our club's membership have ever stayed at the cabin— and why is that? Our club has so many retired people who aren't bound by a Monday to Friday work schedule anymore— why aren't more of them going up to the mountains and enjoying the view from the cabin's front porch for several days at a time? The beauty, peacefulness, and simplicity of the cabin— why aren't more of our members attracted to that?

I've been asking myself that question for over 30 years now.

Final Note: For a couple of years now the idea of purchasing and installing some simple camp mattresses on the cabin bunks has been kicking around in my head, and being mentioned out loud and in general.

With Lee Lohman's encouragement and help, I made contact with a company in Tennessee (just down the road from the town of Dayton, where the so-called 'Scopes Monkey Trial' was held in the 1920's). They manufactured and supplied the mattresses used by the PATC in many of their mountain cabins. Turns out the serendipitous \$1,000 gift received last January came within a few dollars of covering the cost of 8 mattresses for our club cabin. They are 4 inches thick and PATC reports no problems with mice chewing into them.

By the time you read this they will be in the cabin, on every bunk, and renters will have one or two fewer things to pack in. Just spread out your sleeping bag on top and get a good night's sleep.

Feel free to wipe them down beforehand, and be sure NOT to eat in the bunks— Don't spill any food or drinks on them. And, except for the fireplace and the cookstove, we consider the cabin a smoke-free establishment— So: do not smoke inside of the cabin, especially NOT on or near the mattresses.

And Furthermore: **There will be two cabin work/orientation trips this Spring: the one I will lead on the last weekend of April (28–30), and the one Greg Hodges will lead on Memorial Day Weekend in May (26–29).** Especially for new club members, these will be great opportunities to get yourself qualified to rent the cabin all on your own anytime in the future. The general clean up work we will do won't be all that hard and won't take up all day on Saturday. It will be a great time of year to be in the mountains, a great chance to explore and get to know the area and some of our club members.

Feel free to call or email me anytime about the greatest asset our club is fortunate enough to have, the Douglas Putman Memorial Cabin, sitting on 15 acres of club owned land, surrounded on all sides by the George Washington National Forest. Check out photos and historical articles about the cabin that can be found on the club's website, under the CABIN tab.

See related article about the cabin survey elsewhere in this newsletter.

CABIN USAGE SURVEY

By Bob Adkisson

Sometime last Fall, in response to the unprecedented low usage of the cabin over the Spring and Summer of 2022, the board thought it would be a good idea to put out a survey and try to get a few answers and insights from club members about the matter of cabin usage— why they did or did not use the cabin, what issues affected their decisions, what were their concerns and suggestions, what changes they'd possibly like to see.

When the results came in, we reviewed them at a board meeting.

In total, only 50 club members responded. I myself tried to take the survey but was turned back by not being able to log into it (or not understanding why it needed my password, and refusing to offer it until it would tell me why it needed it— my usual computer issues and complaints).

Below, I will offer my take on the survey results and try to respond to or answer some of the issues mentioned or questions asked—

Of the people who answered the survey, 12 said they'd never been to the cabin. But most of them said they were new members and just hadn't had the time yet to get up there. All I can say to them is: don't wait too long, seize the day and get started enjoying this great place. At least once or twice a year.

Not answering the survey, especially the question 'Have You Ever Stayed Overnight At The Cabin' ('and if *no*, why not'), were a very large number of long time club members. It is too bad we didn't hear from them— I would be eager to hear why they have stayed away from the cabin in droves for so many years.

[Speaking for all the club members that worked so hard for at least 5 years to get the cabin built, that gave so much time, effort, and energy to make this unique and massive club project a reality, I just can't help but wonder out loud why so many club members ignore it so completely.

We took time off from work, we put countless miles on our cars driving back and forth to the mountains (one cabin work trip every month of the year for at least 5 years), we camped out in the cold for the first 3 winters, we hauled rocks and dirt and bags of mortar and heavy timbers, we got dirty and sweaty and exhausted again and again and again, we got poison ivy and bitten by bugs, we pulled muscles and injured ourselves a hundred different ways— all to get the cabin built. And then most of the club members that followed can't find the time or a reason to go there, sit back, and enjoy it? What kind of irony is this, what gives?]

I was pleased to read that at least 8 people responded that we should keep the cabin as it is, they wouldn't change a thing, that they appreciated the simplicity and the natural ambiance of the place. That has always been my opinion too.

Several people (half a dozen?) mentioned mice, how much they disliked them and wanted us to somehow control the 'mice problem'.

Easier said than done, of course.

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There is a whole container full of mouse traps in the cabin, for those that want to bait and set them, and clean up afterwards— have at it, suit yourself! We have tried various other things, but I know of nothing that will work 100%, or even 50%, and I think the best overall solution is to get over it, learn to live with them. Don't let them ruin the experience for you.

As I said in my Cabin Report article elsewhere in this newsletter— I stayed at the cabin 27 nights this last (fiscal) year, and I simply don't remember seeing any mice; I may have heard a few at night, but I wasn't bothered in the least by them.

If you've ever hiked on the Appalachian Trail and stayed at a lean-to, you know there are mice out there in the woods and in the wild, and especially in the A.T. shelters where there are people and food. As tired as I was, I remember well being driven to distraction, alone one night at a shelter just north of Mt Rogers— this one mouse kept coming back again and again, crawling on me and over me and all around me. I finally half caught him in my hand and threw him out into the dark woods.

I wrote an article once about paddling in Everglades Nat'l Park, tent camping on a small island there; it was my first night of a 10 night, 170 canoe trip. Stretched out in the tent for just a few minutes as it got dark, I felt something crawl across my feet. I sat up with my flashlight and discovered it was a rat, in the tent with me. What fun that was, chasing him around from one corner to another! He made about 3 complete circuits around the tent, around me, before I cornered him and forced him out the door.

I just don't get that excited anymore by such minor occurrences, not even when it is a skunk (*especially* when it is a skunk) like the one that came up to me on the cabin's front porch one night when I was sleeping there.

Get over it. Get used to it. It is really no big deal. Really.

Several people mentioned mattresses for the bunks, partly because the idea had already been floated and discussed as a possibility. Well, good news on this front: by the time you read this: every bunk in the cabin will have a 4 inch thick mattress on it. Ensolite pads or inflatable mattresses, some with foot pumps, etc. etc.— all of that can now be left at home! Just bring a sleeping bag that fits the season.

We had a problem 2 decades ago with wood boring powder post beetles inside the cabin. Their presence attracted carpenter ants, which fed on them, creating larger tunnels in the wood beams. We had the cabin treated by an exterminator, who advised us to no longer store firewood inside the cabin as we had been doing. That is why there is a rule NOT to store or leave wood inside the cabin, or even next to it.

As for the idea of a fire pit somewhere on cabin grounds, which a couple of people mentioned— I would like to say yes to this idea, but my concern is how much wood would get burned, more or less just for the sake of burning wood. Excessive burning of firewood has been a problem at the cabin in the past, and the growing scarcity of dead black locust trees (and other hardwoods) is the main reason we bought the 2 burner propane cook stove— so that simply heating up a can of soup wouldn't require starting a fire.

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A lot of hard work goes into chainsawing firewood, transporting, splitting, and stacking it in the covered woodpile for renters— too much work done to be quickly burned up in a fire pit. For the ambiance of a fire, the inside fireplace is hard to beat, and is a good alternative.

I don't think people want to carry wood to the cabin from the Parkway, and the 'gear cart' is not meant for such a thing, and the bigger cart is just too heavy to get up that last climb to the road; beyond that, we don't want people taking a chainsaw up there and cutting wood unsupervised. It would be impossible to police, but if people wanted to hand saw various downed tree limbs and such, CUT ALL THEIR OWN WOOD for their own fires in a fire pit, I would be ok with that. We'd just need to choose a good spot, dig a small pit, and line it with rocks, and make a rule that any fire in said pit would have a five gallon bucket of water nearby, maybe two.

Greg Hodges and I are aware of the bad state of the firewood cabinet (for lack of a better word). We are spitballing new ideas and a solution. The covers over the firewood seem to get chewed on by animals way too fast, and sometimes part of the pile gets wet.

A few other folks, that I was able to identify by their email addresses, had some good suggestions that I will take up with them individually.

I thank everyone who took the time to answer the survey and share their thoughts. I wish more had done so.

To me the question still hangs out there: why don't more club members take advantage of our club's greatest asset, a beautiful, super sturdy cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, only 4 miles from our section of the A.T. and only 6/10's of a mile walk from the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is chock full of plates, pots, and pans, full of forks, knives, and spoons, and about every other kitchen gadget known to man (including corkscrews!). There are lanterns, extra mantles, and matches, and usually some candles too. There are some spices and staples like tea bags and sugar, and some canned goods if you run short of food. There are all sorts of soaps and cleaning supplies, paper towels and t.p. Even some books, maps, and a whole collection of board games.

It is an especially great place to take kids, and grandkids. It is a wonderment to the average child— being out in the woods, surrounded by the wild, with animals calling or walking by, the sun setting and the stars coming out....

If it is not 100% perfect, well, what is? Get over it, and go there, this year.



Membership Committee

April 2023

Hello TATC friends,

I'm beginning this month's ramble with a request for help giving this monthly article a creative title that personifies our club. Believe me I've tried, but I only seem to come up with corny or downright boring monikers. Our new members deserve better! Since I seem to be better at delegating rather than actually doing things, I charge you, TATC members, with the task. You can email your suggestion to me at happycampers33@hotmail.com. Thanks for your participation.

We have several new members that many of you have already met at monthly meetings, Tuesday Group outings, Happy Hiker Hours, or at local and AT trail maintenance activities. Be sure to introduce yourselves when you see them, if you haven't already done so. This month, I'd like to introduce the following new members.

Joseph Bousquet has been a member since December 16, 2022

I'm a 68 year old math teacher (Catholic HS in VA Beach), life-long sailor and boat builder who will be retiring in June of '23. This coming summer I hope to section hike parts of the AT in VA, including the Three Ridges wilderness area and the Triple Crown loop, leading up to a NOBO thru-hike starting March of 2024. Back in the 80s and 90s I sailed a lot with Peter Burch and a mutual friend suggested I get reacquainted considering the bucket-list goals I have. I hope to meet many folks in January. Joe (trail name to be Madmothist.)

Peg Seriani has been a member since December 10, 2022

I am newly retired from working 27 years at General Dynamics as a Program Manager. I really enjoy walking outside, kayaking, nature watching and working outdoors. Back when I was growing up I was in Girl Scouts and went on a lot of hiking, backpacking, and camping trips. However, I haven't done much of that since then. Rich and I have been married for 23 years. He is a Systems Engineer at General Dynamics and that is where we met. We both care about the environment and want to help TATC with tree planting and trail maintenance and also get back into hiking again.

Rhi Smith has been a member since December 21, 2022

Technically, I've been a member since before I could walk. Most people in the club will express that they've known me since I was ye tall, gesturing around their knees and grinning at how much I've grown up. I've no idea how much of the Appalachian trail I've hiked, only how tired I was while doing it and wishing we were close to the finish line so we could finally eat. I remember the 16 person game of SPOONS we played at the cabin table when I was around 10 or 11, and how loud and excited everyone was, scrambling for the spoons and knocking them across the floor. I remember the rattlesnake that almost prevented a midnight bathroom trip if not for Bob casually covering it with a bucket and a rock so that Ev and I could sneak by. I remember long bike rides, a sheep in the middle of Sherando park, line dancing every year at Christmas, every Chocolate Hike winner ever, and how it was never me, hmm. So much of my life is a part of this club and I am very grateful for it. I am excited to continue creating memories and sharing them with all of you.

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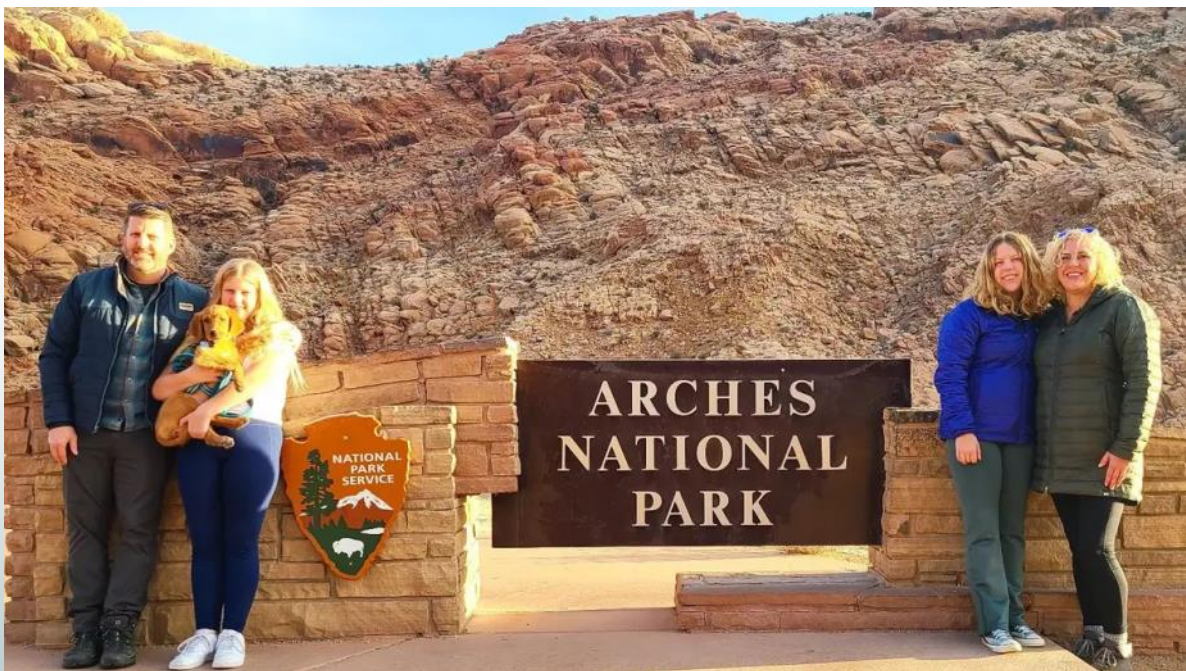
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Terry and Perry Deglandon have been members since December 21, 2022

We first learned about the club from the newspaper article on tree planting which led us to your website. My wife (Perry) and I joined the Dec 20 hike in the Dismal Swamp and really enjoyed meeting the Tuesday group. We are not serious campers or hikers, but Perry walks a few miles in our Virginia Beach neighborhood each morning. We do enjoy the outdoors including biking and paddling along with hiking in some of the local parks and Blue Ridge. I am an architect and retired a couple of years ago from the Corps of Engineers. Perry is an artist still doing a little work but spends much of her time with our four grandkids. My hobbies have been construction and renovation lately. We are looking forward to learning about and participating with TATC.

Jack, Miranda, Mollie (15), and Maddie (13) McKowns members since January 12, 2023

We moved to Great Bridge in 2018 from Texas. I am an electrical engineer; Miranda is a 5th grade teacher in Chesapeake. Our family enjoys camping, hiking, and boating, so this area has been great for our family due to easy access to the beach and the mountains. Miranda and I started out our life together in the outdoors. Our second date was a nature hike and we honeymooned in Yellowstone National Park after our marriage in 2004. We've taken the girls there twice since. I went on my first backpacking trip in the Wind River range in 1992. Miranda did her first shortly after that. I've taken each of the girls on an inaugural backpack but we've yet to do one as a family. Maybe in 2023? Molly and I enjoyed meeting everyone and especially appreciate the welcoming and warm hospitality from the group. We're looking forward to 2023! Attached is a family photo from early December with the newest member of our family, Bonnibel. She's a 4 month old Golden Retriever.



The diversity of our membership is our strength and speaks to our collective values of inclusion and service. If you have been inactive for a while, you're missing out on the most valuable perk of TATC membership -- the people. The days are becoming longer and warmer, which means more time for fun and getting work done with our active and welcoming group.

Sharon Salyer
Membership Committee



Registration is now open for A.T. Vista 2023

Register

**The Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association and Visit Johnson City
Hosts the Appalachian Trail Vista Event
August 4-7, 2023
Wild & Free in Tennessee**

The Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association and Visit Johnson City - will host the in-person Appalachian Trail Vista 2023 program in the beautiful Johnson City, Tennessee area, with hikes, excursions, workshops and entertainment at the East Tennessee State University (ETSU) campus. The event is four days, Friday through Monday for a gathering with hundreds of hiking and outdoor enthusiasts!

The A.T. Vista is the rebranded ATC Biennial program, somewhat streamlined but keeping most of the exciting activities. It's been since the summer of 2017 that we've been able to gather, spend time on the trail, learn, and socialize. This inaugural A.T. Vista program is being planned to carry on the great camaraderie of kindred spirits that cherish the Appalachian Trail and being outdoors.

***Come to Tennessee!
Mark your calendars for August 4-7, 2023***

Affordable on-campus rooms and delicious and healthy buffet meals will be available onsite. The local Johnson City area offers lots of wonderful dining opportunities including a variety of vegetarian and ethnic options, as well as excellent local breweries. If you opt to reside on campus in the dormitory system, you can arrive as early as Thursday evening and stay through Tuesday morning, as program activities begin on Friday, August 4 and extend through Monday, August 7.

Reservations will be available online for dormitory rooms starting May 1, 2023.

Nearby vacation homes, hotels, campgrounds, and RV and camping will also be available.

Programming includes over 40 hikes, of which many will be on the Appalachian Trail, and the remainder using many of the hiking areas that are within an hour's drive from the Johnson City area. There are nearly 35 workshops expected, and over ten exciting excursions. Evening entertainment includes concerts and opportunities to meet other attendees. An opening session and reception are scheduled for Friday night, August 4.

(Continued on Page 27 ...)

Early Registration for the inaugural A.T. Vista program is now open and registration for dorm rooms, hikes, excursions and workshops will open in May. Visit www.atvista2023.org for the details.

Access to certain activities will have limited spaces, so register early to join the fun!

You can also sign up to get the A.T. Vista monthly newsletter, with the latest information about the event and the programming.

We are still seeking volunteers to assist in implementing many of the 2023 activities. View the various A.T. Vista 2023 volunteer position needs and sign up today. Go to the atvista2023.org website and select the “Volunteer” tab.

Additional volunteer opportunities include **Hike Leaders, Workshop Assistants, and Excursion Chaperones!** We need volunteers to lead or co-lead hikes, chaperone one of the many fun excursions, or provide assistance during a workshop session. (You don't need to be from the area to volunteer in any of these roles!) If any of these opportunities interest you, email us at atvista2023@gmail.com or sign-up online at www.atvista2023.org

This inaugural A. T. Vista program is sponsored by The Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association, Visit Johnson City, and the Committees of the A.T. Vista program representing many A.T. Clubs along the Appalachian Trail. A.T. Vista is a marketing program of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy that provides an opportunity for kindred spirits to come together to hike, learn, and play in local communities near the Appalachian Trail.

Want to be a sponsor or exhibitor?

Are you a business that wants to increase your reach to a targeted audience by being a part of the A.T. Vista 2023 program? Check out our Sponsor and Exhibit program opportunities at www.atvista2023.org.

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

HISTORY of the A.T. Vista

In the past, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) sponsored trail-wide gatherings, known as Biennials; the last one was held at Colby College in Maine during the summer of 2017.

A task force was organized by ATC to review options for future Biennial-like programs based on the new requirements for ATC business meetings and the impact of organizing these events with local trail clubs. The ATC Biennial program was rebranded to A.T. Vista to continue to offer an extended-weekend event to include hikes, workshops, excursions, and entertainment as parts of the program and to expand the event organizing for more collaboration.

During 2021, the A.T. Vista program was initiated as part of the 100th Anniversary of the Benton MacKaye article which involved dispersed hiking trips along the entire Appalachian Trail. For the summer of 2023, we eagerly anticipate your arrival at the inaugural in-person A.T. Vista!

A.T. Vista Committee
atvistainfo@gmail.com

Konnarock Trail Crews 2023

Join the Konnarock Trail Crew for a Week

appalachiantrail.org/konnarock



LEARN MORE & APPLY

Or contact crews@appalachiantrail.org or call 540.904.4393 if you want to help a crew for just a day or two.

(Continued on Page 29 ...)

Konnarock Schedule 2023

(Click on each crew entry for more information)

Session 1 - May 3 - May 8

[Crew 1: Woody Gap A.T. Restoration](#)

[Crew 2: Rocky Row A.T. Restoration](#)

Session 2 - May 11 - May 16

[Crew 1: Woody Gap A.T. Restoration](#)

[Crew 2: Rocky Row A.T. Restoration](#)

Session 3 - May 19 - May 24

[Crew 1: High Country Restoration](#)

[Crew 2: Log Cabin - Trail Relocation](#)

Session 4 - May 27 - June 1

[Crew 1: High Country Restoration](#)

[Crew 2: Log Cabin - Trail Relocation](#)

Session 5 - June 7 - June 12

[Crew 1: War Spur - Trail Relocation](#)

[Crew 2: Log Cabin - Trail Relocation](#)

Session 6 - June 15 - June 20

[Crew 1: War Spur - Trail Relocation](#)

[Crew 2: Log Cabin - Trail Relocation](#)

[Session 7 - June 23 - July 1](#)

[Crew 1: Albert Mountain Restoration](#)

[Crew 2: Fontana Marina - Trail Relocation](#)

Session 8 – July 7 - July 15

[Crew 1: Albert Mountain Restoration](#)

[Crew 2: Fontana Marina - Trail Relocation](#)

Session 9 - July 21 - July 26

[Crew 1: High Country Restoration](#)

[Crew 2: War Spur - Trail Relocation](#)

Session 10 - July 29 - August 3

[Crew 1: High Country Restoration](#)

[Crew 2: War Spur - Trail Relocation](#)

Konnarock is the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's flagship trail 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.

Please note that there are now three days off between each crew week. Please contact us with any questions about the Konnarock schedule at 540.904.4393 or crews@appalachiantrail.org.



Nature Matters

Board Members

President - Suzanne Moss
Vice President - Frank Walker
Treasurer - Gary Moss
Treasury Auditor – Frank Walker
Secretary - Alaurah Moss

Director of Legal Affairs - Linda McCausland
Board Member at Large - Michael Hoffman
Nonprofit Management Advisor - Marina Saitgalina
Historian - Mariah Moss
Fundraising Chair – Frank Chagnon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NATURE MATTERS – Spring 2023 Issue

Hello folks!

We attended several festivals and were so happy to see so many of you there! Check out our Facebook page to see photos from the Fall Fest at First Landing State Park, and the Winter Wildlife Festival!



<https://www.facebook.com/NatureMattersToUs/>

Please come on out and visit us on Earth Day at Mount Trashmore, Virginia Beach! **Saturday, April 22 11 am – 3 pm.** Many community booths will be interactive. Bring out the whole family!

We have endless ideas of how we can share nature with local families; we'd love to hear from YOU about what you are most interested in. Share it on our Facebook page.

Our events are mostly FREE events. Our 501c3 appreciates donations. We'd like to extend a *sincere thanks* to all of you who donate; our programming depends upon donations.

The BEST way to stay up to date with the fun nature events is to follow us on FACEBOOK. Be sure we have your name and email address so we can keep you in the loop of our upcoming events.

Contact: Suzanne Moss NatureMattersVA@gmail.com 757-288-9595/text

The **NATURE BUS**.com

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| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Charlottesville, VA | Oct 22-23, 2022 |
| Washington, DC area | Nov 5 - 6 |
| Norfolk, VA | Nov 19-20 |
| Washington, DC area | Jan 7 - 8, 2023 |
| Charlottesville, VA | Jan 21-22 |
| Triangle area south, NC | Jan 21-22 |
| Baltimore area, MD | Jan 28-29 |
| Farmville, VA | Feb 4 - 5 |
| Harrisonburg/Staunton area, VA | Feb 4 - 5 |
| Tampa area, FL | Feb 4 - 5 |
| Lexington, VA | Feb 25-26 |
| Richmond, VA | Feb 25-26 |
| Jacksonville area, FL | Mar 4 - 5 |
| Washington, DC area | Mar 4 - 5 |
| Wilmington / Carolina Beach, NC | Mar 18-19 |
| Blacksburg, VA | Mar 25-26 |
| Charleston area, SC | Mar 25-26 |
| Triad + Triangle areas, NC | Mar 25-26 |
| Sitka, ALASKA | Apr 2 - 4 |
| Baltimore area, MD | Apr 15-16 |
| Charlottesville, VA | Apr 15-16 |
| Orlando area, FL | Apr 15-16 |
| Richmond, VA | Apr 29-30 |
| Women-only Retreat in VA | Apr 29-30 |
| Philadelphia area, PA | May 20-21 |
| Tallahassee area, FL | May 20-21 |
| Triangle area, NC | May 20-21 |
| Forest Retreat near B'burg, VA | May 27-29 |
| Washington, DC area | Jun 3 - 4 |
| Charlottesville area, VA | Jun 10-11 |
| Norfolk, VA | Jun 10-11 |
| Chattanooga, TN | Jun 24-25 |
| Advanced WFA pt. II Williamsport WV | Jun 24-25 |
| W.F.Responder (9 days) in WV | mid/late Aug. |
| Mtn-Top Retreat near B'burg, VA | Sep 2 - 4 |



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- **Fee: \$245;** local nonprofits receive 10% of course proceeds.

Topics Include:

- **Patient Assessment System:** uncover hidden and underlying issues
- **Medical Emergencies:** *Save Life*
- **Environmental Emergencies:** *Save Life*
- **Skin Injuries:** *Stop Bleed, Speed Healing, Prevent/Treat Infection*
- **Musculoskeletal & Spinal Injuries:** *Reduce Pain, Speed Healing*
- **Evacuation & Care-giving** for Hours to Days before hospital arrival

MEDIC SOLO 2023 SPECIALTY CLASSES



Women-Only Retreat

April 29-30th
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Camping available.

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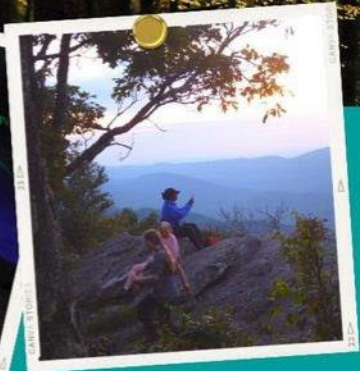
Forest Retreat

May 27-29th
near Blacksburg,
VA 3-days over
Memorial Day
Weekend.
Camping
available.



Advanced Wilderness

First Aid Part II
June 24-25th
Williamsport, WV
(for current MEDIC
SOLO dtWFA certified
students only).
Camping available.



Mountain-top Retreat

Sept. 2-4th
near Blacksburg, VA
3-days over
Labor Day Weekend.
Lodging available.

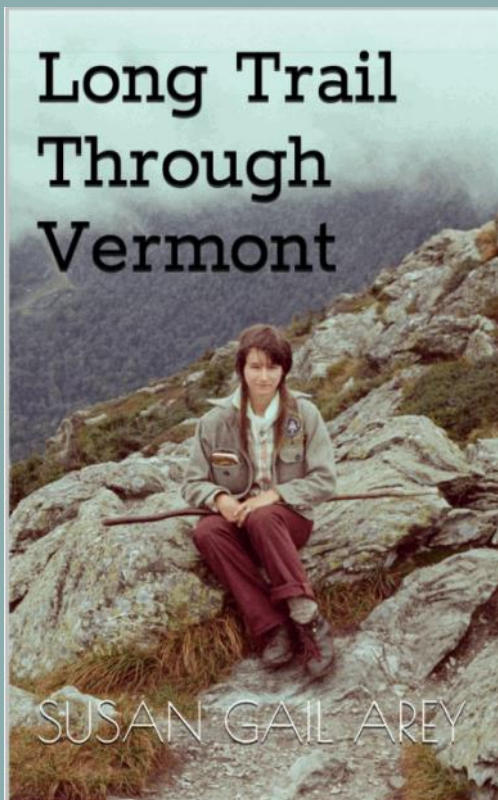
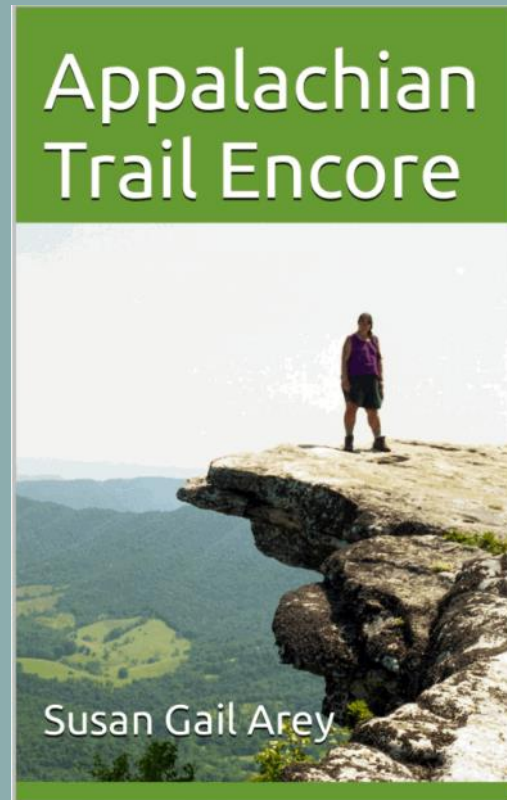
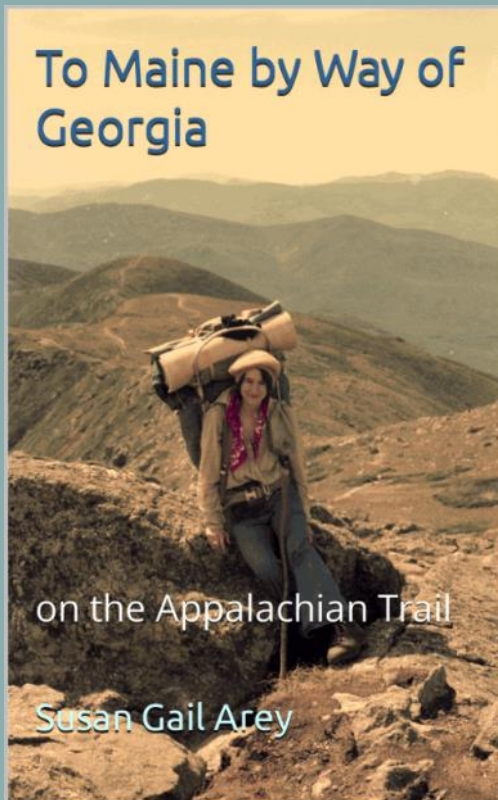
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TATC's Nomination of Lee Lohman as the 2023 Virginia Club A.T. Volunteer of the Year

Submitted by: Ned Kuhns & Jim Sexton, TATC



Lee Lohman has been President of the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) for the last two vital years and is entering his third and final term as Club President. His tenure in office in the previous two years turned out to be a fortunate occurrence for TATC, since his talents, strengths, and dedication to the job as Club President couldn't have come at a more critical time in the club's history.

Lee provided the leadership needed to get TATC through the hard COVID times and shutdowns. Due to his efforts, the club is better organized, has more members, and is more financially sound, with volunteer activities surging.

First and foremost, Lee presided over both Board of Directors and Club Membership Meetings in an exemplary fashion.

Over the last two years, Lee has sent out dozens of blast emails to our 1,000 email subscribers, promoting volunteerism and support for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and our Federal Partners.

Lee keeps our membership informed of current events and engaged through his inciteful 'Prez Sez' articles in the club's bi-monthly newsletters.

TATC was lucky to have Lee leading the club during our 50th Anniversary in 2022. He was an active member of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee.

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(Continued from Page 35 ...)

He arranged for TATC's 50-Year History Book to be added to the Library of Congress's permanent collection. He also distributed copies of the history book to local libraries.

Lee contacted local newspapers so that articles in two newspapers were published about TATC's 50th Anniversary.

Lee supervised fundraising efforts where TATC received over \$13,000 in donations from 2022 to 2023.

Lee also participated as a member of the 2022 Time Capsule Committee, which placed a device celebrating TATC's 50-year history under the floor of the club's cabin.

Lee organized TATC's participation in the last two Winter Wildlife Festivals in Virginia Beach. He also led and/or participated in other outreach events held locally, where TATC set up information tables and display boards.

Lee revamped how TATC sells its promotional logo merchandise; he established and manages a TATC online catalog/store on our club's website. He also arranged to contract with a vendor to produce TATC club merchandise.

Lee has been actively attending and contributing to both VARO and SPM Meetings. He ensured TATC members attended ATCs Volunteer Leadership Meetings to ensure continuity in the club's support of ATC and the trail.

Leading by example, Lee also participated in numerous Local and A.T. maintenance work trips.

He did all this while accomplishing his regular club duties of coordinating and managing; articles, emails, financial plans/budgets, elections, meetings, schedules, publicity, events, insurance, COVID policies, taxes, correspondence, proposals, complaints, agendas, speakers, training, and inter-agency communications.

He also directed or coordinated the following club activities:

Membership recruitment; TATC's membership has increased by 20% in the last two years.

Even after TATC spent tens of thousands of dollars for its 50th Anniversary events, the clubs' finances, and account balances have never been in better shape.

TATC completed a 500-tree planting project as part of their 50th Anniversary Celebration, with Lee participating in almost all of the tree planting events.

To emphasize and support the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and TATC, 60 free copies of TATC's 50-Year History Book were given to partner organizations and local public & college libraries

(Continued on Page 37 ...)

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TATC, with Lee's support and direct participation, conducted various outreach events over the last two years with information tables and display boards set up at REI, L.L. Bean, GORP, First Landing State Park, the Virginia Beach Winter Wildlife Festival, the Newport News Fall Festival, the Nelson County Library, and others.

TATC purchased and has been using online accounting software for the last two years that increased our financial accountability and controls and made budgeting and auditing much more accessible.

TATC obtained a Google Drive for Non-Profits site, where TATC is now archiving club documents and photos, including; newsletters, meeting minutes, maintenance documents, policy documents, publicity documents, activity sign-up sheets, training documents, the 50-year history book, as well as 4,000+ articles and 4,000+ photos.

Under Lee's leadership, TATC now has a new group Facebook page.

TATC purchased equipment and conducted training for an InReach emergency communications network for trail maintenance.

Now that the central COVID crisis is behind us, TATC is again sponsoring dozens of local trips in the Tidewater area each year in support of trail maintenance, trail construction, and park facility maintenance.

The number of TATC maintenance trips on the A.T. has also surged in the last year.

TATC has held a major Day-in-the-Park social activity for the last two years in both the Spring and Fall and plans on continuing this event.

TATC is once again participating in training activities since COVID, including training for; cross-cut & chainsaw certifications, waterbar construction, map & compass, trip leadership, GPS, and InReach communications.

Lee Lohman represents the essence of leadership needed to manage an A.T. Club and motivate volunteers successfully. This is why TATC wholeheartedly nominates him as the 2023 Virginia Club A.T. Volunteer of the Year.



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.

Botanical Gardens Walk

When: Tuesday, Apr 4, 2023

Where: 6101 N Military Hwy, Norfolk, VA 23518

Contact: Vic & Margaret Pisone, 757-348-6373, 757-739-7006

Description: Norfolk Botanical Gardens. The garden is doing an extensive expansion and has eliminated a great deal of the parking, they have implemented limited time-entry-tickets. This will greatly limit the number of participants on this walk. I've contacted several members who have Garden Family & Friends memberships and can take in additional people, this will necessitate them riding in the same car.

We will meet at the parking lot in front of Dollar Tree, 6101 N. Military Hwy. Norfolk VA 23513 (large parking lot of a closed Kmart) at 9:15 to register. We will caravan in from the parking lot and proceed to the gardens at 6700 Azalea Garden Rd. Upon entering the gardens please turn into the picnic parking area.

The 175 acre garden is beautiful in every season, but especially in the spring when the azaleas are blooming. We will walk pathways with water views and large coastal redwoods. We will be walking approximately 3 - 4 miles. Many trails have roots and uneven surfaces, be sure to wear appropriate shoes. There are restrooms throughout the gardens. This is not a dog friendly hike, (dogs are only allowed on Sundays).

Please bring water, snacks and lunch. Please leave your lunch in the cars, we will eat at the picnic tables after the walk.

To sign-up click on the link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zalya7VYmHIHxXaEVTuN1LP3igfquAAxa2S5YI6kLGs/edit?usp=sharing>

More information on the TATC Tuesday group can be found at - TATC Tuesday Group (google.com)

TATC Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 7:00-9:00 PM

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC Board Meeting. Guests are always welcome! Our board meetings are now being held at the Episcopal Church of the Advent.

Location: Here is the map link: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/9629+Norfolk+Ave,+Norfolk,+VA+23503/@36.9495041,-76.2499649,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89ba90ed2b>

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent - 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503, See link

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting. Guests are always welcome!

Program: Don Williams presentation on water purification

Location: Here is the map link: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/9629+Norfolk+Ave,+Norfolk,+VA+23503/@36.9495041,-76.2499649,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89ba90ed2b>

(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 Walk-thru/Backpacking

When: Friday-Sunday, April 14-16, 2023

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

Contacts: John Sima - TATC Trail Supervisor - trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com,

Brittany Collins - TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - assistantts@tidewateratc.com

Description: Approximately 12 people needed to walk our section of A.T. & Mau-Har Trail to document maintenance needs in advance of the Spring Maintenance.

Currently scheduled to have participants staying in the CCC Kitchen but may get done as a backpacking trip. If done as a backpacking trip, would probably only need only a few people.

Camping out April 14-16, 2023, at the CCC Kitchen area in the Sherando Lake Recreation Area

First Landing Trail Maintenance

When: Friday, April 14, 2023, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Where: First Landing State Park, 2500 Shore Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Contact: Please let Paul Heymann know, via text message to 540-520-2798, if you plan to attend.

Description: We are doing it Friday to avoid the weekend crowds. We'll meet at 9:00 AM at the picnic parking area south of Shore Drive (US 60). Enter at the traffic light, pass the guard booth and turn right into the parking lot. Tell the gate ranger you are with TATC and you can park for free. Bring loppers clippers and optionally a small silky saw to cut back any brush / small limbs. Appropriate foot gear, hat, gloves and water. We'll break into 2 teams, one each for Like Oak and Cypress Swamp trails. It should take about 90 minutes. A total of 4 people should be adequate, but more are welcome.

First Landing State Park Trail Maintenance Work Day

When: Thursday, April 20, 2023, 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Where: First Landing State Park, 2500 Shore Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Contact: Dave Plum at heydave9@gmail.com or localtrails@tidewateratc.com to sign up.

Description: First Landing State Park Trail Maintenance Work Day. The meeting location is the parking lot by the picnic area. At least 3 volunteers are needed.

Beaverdam Park Camping/Workdays

When: Saturday & Sunday, April 22 - 23, 2023

Where: Beaverdam Park, 8687 Roaring Springs Rd, Gloucester, VA 23061

Contact: Michael at stonewall12@verizon.net

Description: Michael Horrell will be leading a two-day work/camping trip at Beaverdam Park in Gloucester, County. The work includes installing trail blaze markers on the hiking and multiuse trails. The hiking trail is approximately 3 miles from the trail head/Ranger Station to the campground. The multiuse trail is approximately 6.5 miles from the campground to the Route 606 trailhead.

Overnight camping is planned so this could be a nice overnight trip with a loop hike. The plan is to meet at the Roaring Springs entrance at 9:30 AM on Saturday, April 22. Your camping gear will be transported across the lake to the campground by Park Rangers so you will only need to carry a day pack. 6 to 8 volunteers are needed to complete the trail blazing. On Saturday, the group will break into two teams to hike the parallel 3.0-mile hiking and multiuse trails, installing trail blaze markers along the way. On Sunday, Rangers will transport your gear back across the lake to the Ranger Station while the entire group hikes out to the Route 606 trailhead, installing trail blazes along that trail. After reaching the Route 606 trailhead, the Rangers will transport everyone back to the Ranger Station where you parked your car. You will pick up your camping gear at the Ranger Station. Michael says there is a great ice cream store (Shortlane Ice Cream Shop) on Route 17 just south of the Gloucester Courthouse. Interested members should contact Michael at stonewall12@verizon.net and let him know you plan to attend. Check out the park's website by searching for Beaverdam Park in Gloucester, VA. From there you can access the Park's website and view a trail map. In addition to your personal overnight camping equipment and food, the only tools needed are hammers to install trail blazes on trees along the trails. Dress for the weather and enjoy the outdoors on Earth Day weekend!

(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.

Dismal Swamp Bike Ride

When: Saturday, April 22, 2023, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Where: 1246 Dismal Swamp Canal Trail, Chesapeake, VA 23322

Contact: Jim Sexton, webmaster@tidewateratc.com

Website: <https://www.visitchesapeake.com/listing/dismal-swamp-canal-trail/161/>

Description: Head out on this 16.5-mile out-and-back trail along the Dismal Swamp Canal in Chesapeake, Virginia. The trail is a former section of Virginia State Rt. 17, now a multi-use trail opens to bicycling, walking, running, horseback riding, and boating. The north trailhead is located at the intersection of Dominion Blvd and Old Rt 17 in Chesapeake, VA, and runs south 8.5 miles. Bring appropriate clothing, water, and snacks. The trail surface is paved with smooth asphalt and is typically at least eight feet wide. There is often a painted center dividing line which reduces the width. There is a large parking lot at the start of the trail and two restroom buildings. The group will leave the parking lot promptly at 9:30 am, so don't be late. No need to sign-up; just show up. Food: After the bike ride, you can choose to eat lunch with the group at Studly Brewing, 1296 S. Battlefield Blvd. Suite 108, Chesapeake, VA 23322 – <https://www.studlybrewing.com/>

Pirates Paradise Mini Golf-S&S

When: Tuesday, Apr 25, 2023, 9:45 AM

Where: Paradise Mini Golf, 2109 Pacific Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Contact: stephaniestringer15@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.piratesparadiseminigolf.com/home.html>

Description: This minigolf attraction opens at 10, so that's why we're meeting a bit later than normal. Please arrive at the parking lot at 9:45. The lot holds about 12 cars, so please car pool if possible; street parking should also be available. Free parking for Pirate's Paradise Mini Golf is on the corner of Pacific and 22 nd in VB on the West side. I've been told that we can park there free for both playing mini golf and lunch! We'll play a round or two of mini golf and then hike the boardwalk about 1½ miles to either Waterman's or Chix Seaside Bar and Grille for lunch. After lunch we'll head back to PPMG along Atlantic Ave and stop for ice cream at either Ben and Jerry's (at about 11 th Street) or Hershey's Ice Cream at about 17 th . Upon returning to our cars, we can play MORE minigolf for free! Just save your morning ticket or receipt. Otherwise we can just head home or anyone can extend their walk. Adults \$13, Seniors \$11. Here's a \$1 off coupon but I'm not sure if it's good on the Senior cost: <http://www.piratesparadiseminigolf.com/coupon.html>

Bring: sunscreen, snacks, water, money for mini golf and money for lunch. To sign-up click on link and fill out the form:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xi0EkqVf2V73WcTfmFuTtpCyau8lZ5H0fiaWmedmFcw/edit?usp=sharing>

Cabin Work Trip

When: Friday - Sunday, April 28 - 30, 2023

Where: White Rock Falls Trailhead, Blue Ridge Pkwy, Vesuvius, VA 24483

Contact: Bob Adkisson at 757-627-5514

Description: This should be of special interest to new members: by attending this cabin maintenance/orientation weekend (even if you just spend Sat. night there), you will get shown how to care for and operate the TATC cabin, and thereby qualify yourself to rent it on your own anytime in the future. The cabin sleeps 12 but folks are welcome to tent out if they want. It is a half mile walk from the parking area/trailhead on the Blue Ridge Parkway (at mile post 18.5) to the cabin. Bring normal camping gear and clothing-- sleeping bags, food for your lunches and breakfasts, work gloves, hiking boots if you have them, etc. Probably a community meal for Sat. night dinner-- with everyone chipping in one way or the other if they want to share in that. Call trip leader Bob Adkisson at 757-627-5514 with questions or to get your name on the list. Or email Bob at cabin@tidewateratc.com. The trip will probably be limited to about 15 people. If you have not been to the cabin before, please make sure you speak with Bob about how to locate the trail! There should be time to take a short hike and to enjoy springtime in the mountains.

(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.

TATC Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 7:00-9:00 PM

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC Board Meeting. Guests are always welcome! Our board meetings are now being held at the Episcopal Church of the Advent.

Location: Here is the map link: [https://www.google.com/maps/](https://www.google.com/maps/place/9629+Norfolk+Ave,+Norfolk,+VA+23503/@36.9495041,-76.2499649,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89ba90ed2b)

[place/9629+Norfolk+Ave,+Norfolk,+VA+23503/@36.9495041,-76.2499649,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89ba90ed2b](https://www.google.com/maps/place/9629+Norfolk+Ave,+Norfolk,+VA+23503/@36.9495041,-76.2499649,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89ba90ed2b)

Day in The Park

When: Saturday, May 6, 2023, 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM

Where: Newport News Park, 13560 Jefferson Ave, Newport News, VA 23603

Newport News Park, Shelter #10 (Constitution Way, Newport News, VA 23603)

Please RSVP: to Sharon Salyer, happycampers33@hotmail.com to register to attend, participate in the trunk sale, or to enter the Brunswick Stew contest.

Description: Activities will include - Hiking • Biking • Cornhole • Dessert. Hiking starts at 10:00 AM, Lunch at 12 noon, Trunk Sale follows Lunch.

Got stuff? How about a Trunk Sale! It's time to revive TATC's annual auction, and what a better time than at the Spring DITP? Folks can fill their trunks with goodies and offload them for a good cause, TATC's coffers. So gather up any sport, exercise, or camping equipment that you are no longer using and let members take it off your hands at a bargain price. Volunteers will guide you to the sale area where you can display items in your trunk and around your vehicle. Sale will begin after lunch, around 1:30. Email me for details and to register.

To add a twist, this year, our chefs extraordinaire will be cooking up a Virginia original, Brunswick Stew. We're counting on 15 unique and creative versions as well as traditional recipes to vote on (vegetarian anyone?). We only have 4 chefs so far, so plug in your Crock Pot and email me if you would like to give it a whirl.

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent - 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503, See link

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting. Guests are always welcome!

Program: TBD

Location: Here is the map link: [https://www.google.com/maps/](https://www.google.com/maps/place/9629+Norfolk+Ave,+Norfolk,+VA+23503/@36.9495041,-76.2499649,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89ba90ed2b)

[place/9629+Norfolk+Ave,+Norfolk,+VA+23503/@36.9495041,-76.2499649,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89ba90ed2b](https://www.google.com/maps/place/9629+Norfolk+Ave,+Norfolk,+VA+23503/@36.9495041,-76.2499649,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89ba90ed2b)

First Landing State Park Trail Maintenance Work Day

When: Friday, May 12, 2023, 9:00 AM -12:00 Noon

Where: First Landing State Park, 2500 Shore Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Contact: Kaci Midgett at kacithemidge@gmail.com or localtrails@tidewateratc.com to sign up.

Description: First Landing State Park Trail Maintenance Work Day. The meeting location is the parking lot by the picnic area. At least 3 volunteers are needed.

(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.

Bamboo Hike in Newport News

When: Saturday, May 13, 2023, 9:15 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Dr, Newport News, VA 23606

Contact: Stephanie (stephaniestringer15@gmail.com) or Steve (waldo1089@gmail.com).

Parking: Mariners Museum parking lot; Hike starts on the Noland Trail.

Description: Join us for one of our favorite hikes at Mariners Lake Natural Area. Meet at 9:15, hike begins at 9:30. Bathroom at start of hike: There's been a Porta potty in the parking lot at the start of the Noland trail and I hope it's still there. Otherwise, please plan an alternative of your choice before we start. There are no other bathrooms until after the hike. After a short hike on the Noland Trail, we'll cross Warwick Boulevard and continue our hike on the Mariners Lake Natural Area Trail. This beautiful hike is a winding, heavily wooded slightly hilly trail with plenty of roots, so please consider hiking poles. Deep in the interior of this hike is an amazing surprise!! Total hike ~5-6 miles.

We'll have lunch back at the Mariners Museum café. People can order lunch at the counter and eat either inside or on the outside patio. You may also bring your own lunch to eat on the patio.

Bathrooms after the hike will be available inside the Museum. Dog friendly; dogs must be leashed at all times, per park rules. Rain cancels.

For questions or sign-up for the hike, please contact Stephanie (stephaniestringer15@gmail.com) or Steve (waldo1089@gmail.com).

Spring Maintenance Weekend with Sunday Hiking

When: Friday - Saturday, May 19 - 21, 2023

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

To sign up or for more information on maintenance, contact:

John Sima - TATC Trail Supervisor - trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

Brittany Collins - TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - assistantts@tidewateratc.com

For more information on the Sunday hikes (no advance sign-up required), contact:

Andy Grayson - TATC Hikemaster - hikemaster@tidewateratc.com

Description: Spring Maintenance Weekend with Sunday Hiking. Maintenance: May 20th, 2023

Camping: May 19th to 21st, 2023. Saturday Dinner: the club will be providing dinner on Saturday!

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 Falls trail, 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. If the gate is staffed, let them know you are with TATC to help with AT maintenance and you will not be charged an entry fee.

Crew signup sheets will be available Friday; Saturday organizational meeting at 7:45AM.

We are definitely planning on having a couple of hike options available on Sunday (weather permitting!). Although details are TBD, they typically will have participants meet up around 8:00 or 8:30 in the Williams Branch area and will be complete in time for people to make the drive back to Hampton Roads Sunday afternoon or early evening. Sunday hike participants are encouraged to combine this with the Saturday maintenance work, but you are welcome to come up and stay with the maintenance team on Saturday night if you want to hike on Sunday!

(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.

Memorial Day Weekend Cabin Maintenance and Orientation Weekend

When: Friday - Monday, May 26 - 29, 2023

Where: White Rock Falls Trailhead, Blue Ridge Pkwy, Vesuvius, VA 24483

Contact: Gregory Hodges at cabin@tidewateratc.com or via text/call at (757) 439-1552.

Description: Gregory Hodges is leading a cabin maintenance and orientation weekend over the Memorial Day holiday weekend. To fulfill the maintenance and orientation requirements to rent the cabin, participants are asked to be available at the cabin all day Saturday.

Schedule is to arrive on Friday. Maintenance and orientation followed by a group spaghetti dinner will take place on Saturday. Hike and light maintenance on Sunday. Depart for home on Monday. Maintenance activities include inventorying the cupboards, cleaning cast iron pots and pans, washing windows, repairing screens, weed whacking, stacking firewood, wiping down surfaces, inventorying supplies, and other light duty maintenance items.

Please note that the trail club cabin is located 0.6 miles from the parking lot; thus, a backpack is a strong recommendation to carry gear along the dirt footpath. If you have not been to the cabin before, please make sure you speak with Greg about how to locate the trail!

Trail Magic Day at Tye River

When: Saturday, June 3, 2023

Where: Reid's Gap or Tye River Bridge

Contact: Jim Newman at jimnewman55@gmail.com

Description: National Trail Day - Trail Magic Event. The club is looking at providing "Trail Magic" to hikers (targeting thru-hikers and serious section hikers) on National Trails Day by surprising them with food and drink. This event will probably be held at the Tye River Bridge area. Jim Newman has agreed to lead this effort, but we are looking for at least 5 others to help support the effort. Even if you are unable to travel up to the mountains that weekend, you can help by providing food or drink (please coordinate with Jim prior to purchasing anything!). Items can be staged at the Sexton's house prior to the event.

If you can help, please contact Jim Newman at jimnewman55@gmail.com.

2023 Scheduled A.T. Maintenance Events:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Apr 14-16 | Spring Walkthru/Backpacking |
| May 19-21 | Spring Maintenance |
| Jun 16-18 | Lopperfest #1 |
| Jul 14-16 | Lopperfest#2 |
| Aug 11-13 | Lopperfest #3 |
| Sep 29-Oct 1 | Fall Walkthru/Backpacking |
| Oct 20-22 | Fall Maintenance |
| TBD | Winter Maintenance |

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 | Sandra Canepa | 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 | Don Williams | education@tidewateratc.com |
| Hikemaster | Andy Grayson | hikemaster@tidewateratc.com |
| Historical | Jim Sexton | historical@tidewateratc.com |
| Land Management | Vacant - TBA | 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 | Vacant - TBA | timekeeper@tidewateratc.com |
| Tool Boss | Vacant - TBA | toolboss@tidewateratc.com |
| Webmaster | Jim Sexton | webmaster@tidewateratc.com |



False Cape State Park - Work Trips

Jane Oakes



False Cape State Park - Work Trips

Jane Oakes



False Cape State Park - Work Trips

Jane Oakes



False Cape State Park - Work Trips

Jane Oakes



False Cape State Park - Work Trips

Michelle Cobb



False Cape State Park - Work Trips

Michelle Cobb



False Cape State Park - Work Trips

Michelle Cobb



TATC AND DIBBLE BARS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT MARINERS' MUSEUM

By Mal Higgins



TATC Volunteers and others who planted trees Mariners Museum Park

TATC AND DIBBLE BARS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT MARINERS' MUSEUM By Mal Higgins



Henry Stone and Sandra Canepa ready to install deer-proof tubes Mariners Museum Park

TATC AND DIBBLE BARS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT MARINERS' MUSEUM

By Mal Higgins



Mal Higgins demonstrates seedling planting Mariners Museum Park

TATC AND DIBBLE BARS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT MARINERS' MUSEUM

By Mal Higgins



Bob Adkisson digs with his dibble bar Mariners Museum Park

TATC AND DIBBLE BARS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT MARINERS' MUSEUM

By Mal Higgins



Tree planting location with flags Mariners Museum Park

TATC AND DIBBLE BARS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT MARINERS' MUSEUM

By Mal Higgins



Bob Adkisson dares anyone to take his dibble bar Mariners Museum Park

TATC AND DIBBLE BARS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT MARINERS' MUSEUM

By Mal Higgins



Deer proof plastic tubes protecting seedlings Mariners Museum Park

TATC AND DIBBLE BARS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES AT MARINERS' MUSEUM

By Mal Higgins



Finishing up with empty buckets of seedlings Mariners Museum Park

"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"

By Michelle Cobb



"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"

By Michelle Cobb



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"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"

By Michelle Cobb



"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"

CCC Kitchen during Signups

By John Sima



"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"
B Loop Cleanup - Bruce Davidson & Andy Grayson & Lee Lohman
By John Sima



"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"
Gate House Landscaping & Beautification - Led by Katie Steele,
included Lyndsay Ballew, Carl Albuquerque, & John Siniscalco
By John Sima



"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"
A Loop Cleanup - Laarni Paulin, Sandy Butler, Michelle Cobb,
Michael Horrell, Missing from pics- Mary Crozier.
By John Sima



"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"
A Loop Cleanup - Leaf Blowing - Michael Horrell
By John Sima



"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"

Jonathan Zimmerman securing New Tree

By John Sima



"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"

Old Dominion Club Members cleaning C Loop

By John Sima



"TATC Give Back To Sherando, March 18, 2023"

Island Cleanup - Tim Winslow

By John Sima



Winter TATC Survey and Work Trip - January 27th
John Sima, Randy Smith, Alex Cannariato, and Robert Veverka
Photo by Randy Smith



Winter TATC Survey and Work Trip - January 27th
John Sima, Randy Smith, Alex Cannariato, and Robert Veverka
Photo by Randy Smith



A photograph showing three people in a wooded area. On the right is a small, brown wooden cabin with a mossy roof and a small wooden table attached to its side. In the center, a person in a purple jacket is sitting on a wooden picnic table, surrounded by gear. To the left, two other people are standing near the table; one is wearing a grey jacket and the other a blue jacket. Several large backpacks and orange helmets are scattered on the ground and on tree stumps in the foreground. The ground is covered with dry leaves, and the background consists of bare trees.



Winter TATC Survey and Work Trip - January 27th
John Sima, Randy Smith, Alex Cannariato, and Robert Veverka
Photo by Randy Smith



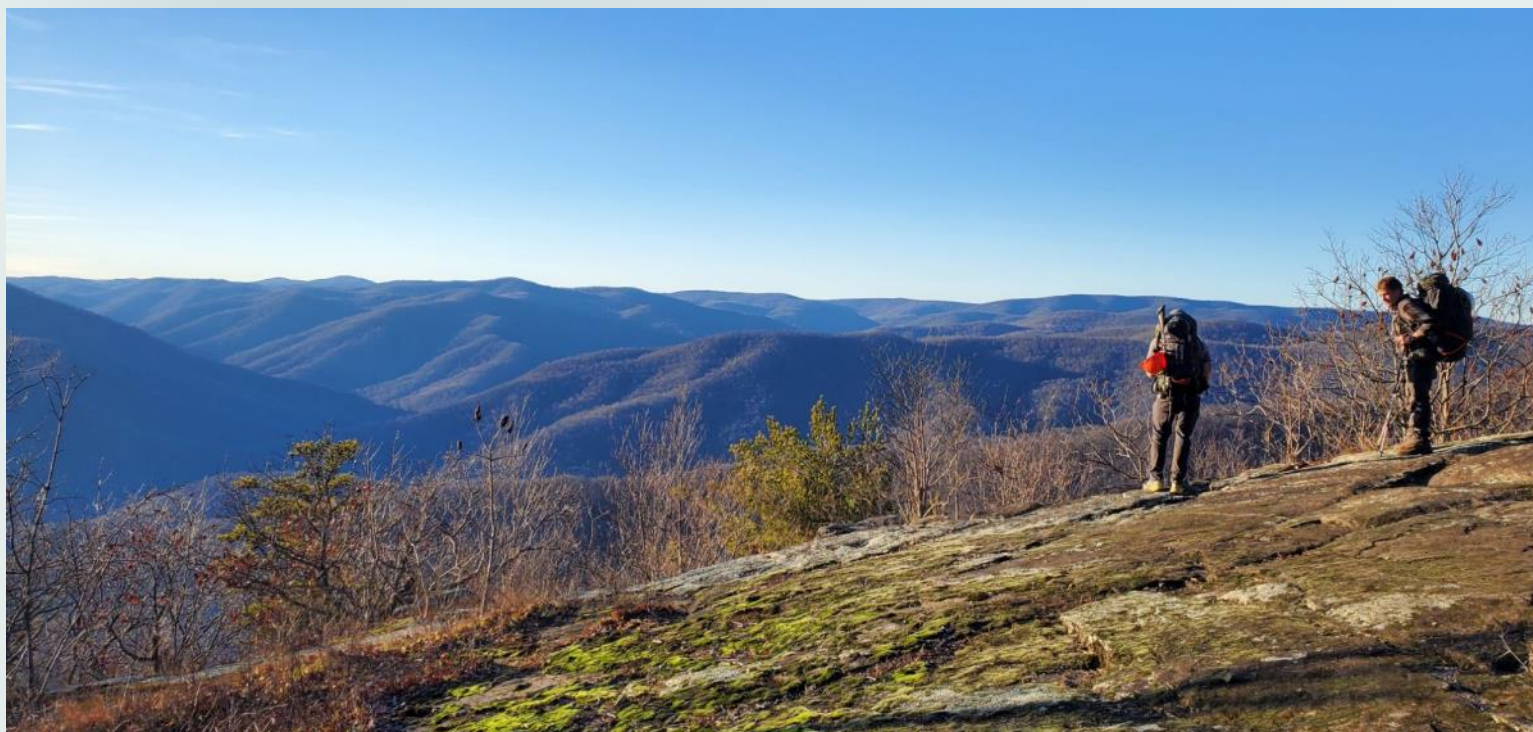
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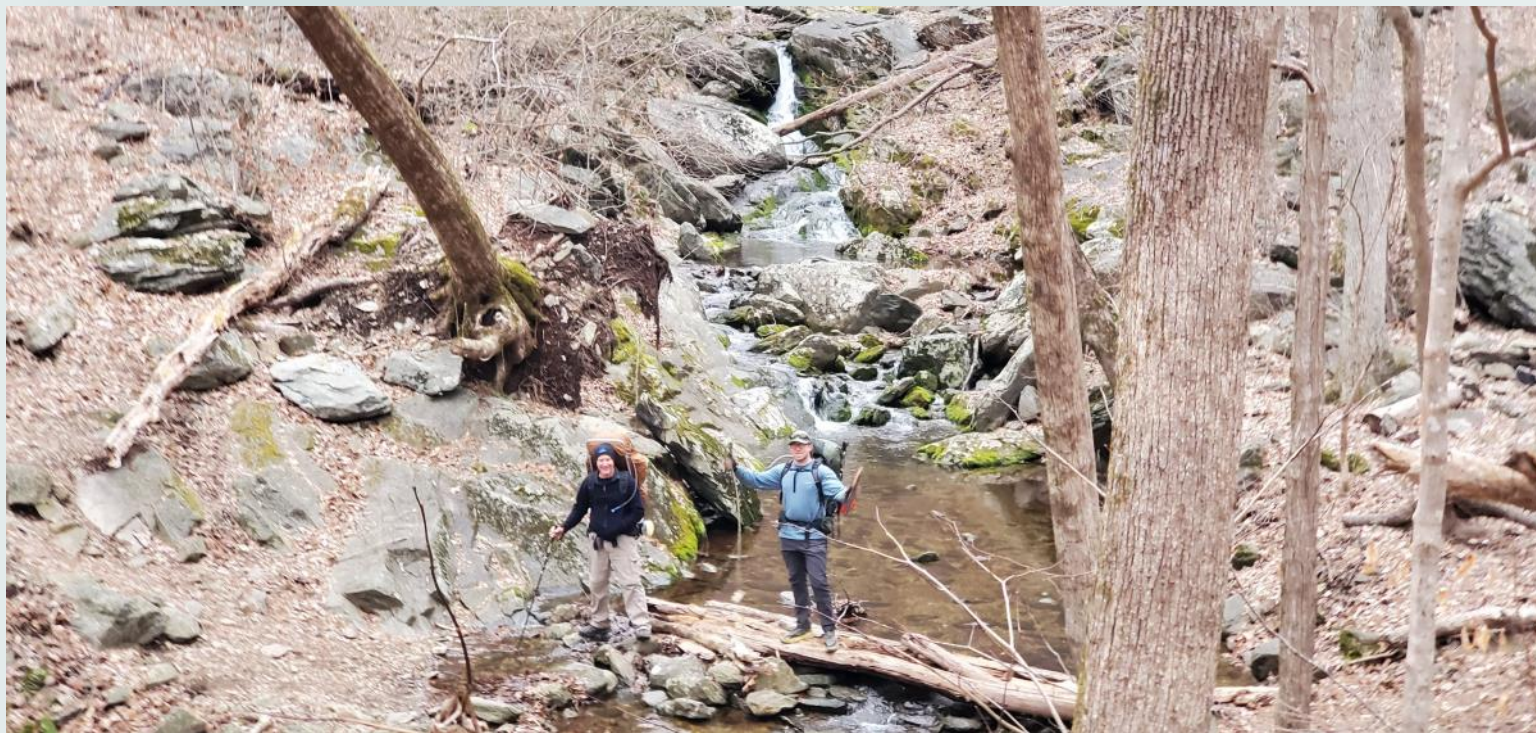
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John Sima, Randy Smith, Alex Cannariato, and Robert Veverka
Photo by Robert Veverka

