

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Hiker



Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson

www.tidewateratc.com

August 2020 - September 2020
47th Edition, 4th Issue

PREZ SEZ

Dear Friends and Fellow TATC members,

During the past couple of months there has been a lot of news put out concerning the Appalachian Trail, Covid-19 being at the top of the list.

The club's board of directors has been grappling with the new guidelines, rules and protocols being set forth by our partner agencies which will advise the way we move forward as volunteers on the A.T. To that end, we have consolidated the information and have formulated a list of "what to do" in order to get back to volunteering on the trail. These guidelines will be sent via email blast and made available through the website.

Please understand that volunteering is optional and our number one goal is safety. The "to-do" list will likely seem like a lot, and quite frankly, it is. It will probably take a couple hours time to get through all the pieces and parts. But in the end, I believe after each person has been through the material, they will have a clearer idea of the stated hazards involved in volunteering during the pandemic, and this will allow each of us to make an informed choice about whether or when to return to volunteer work.

Overall, our section of trail is in good shape. We will not be cleaning privies or shelters until directed to do so by our partner agencies, and our Trail Supervisor will assess what work needs to be performed and when.

I ask each of you to please review the "to do" list, and make your choice knowing there is no pressure to return to trail work. But for those of you who do decide to return, please know that we will strictly follow the guidelines in order to ensure safety as best possible for all involved.

In the meantime, please stay engaged with the club! We have had some very interesting programs at our virtual membership meetings, and will continue to hold virtual meetings each month. At meeting's end we also allow time for socializing, so tell us what's new with you.

Hoping to see you soon,

Rosanne Cary
President - Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club
president@tidewateratc.com



Visit our website at www.tidewateratc.com



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Minute For Maintenance

(as the situation exists 7/27/20)

Well folks, there is good news and there is bad news concerning the Appalachian Trail, and surprisingly, in these grim times, the good out-competes the bad! Check these supporting points:

The Good

Dominion Power gives up on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline despite Supreme Court OK.

Congress passes the Great Outdoors Bill to address funding shortage for conservation and maintenance on public lands. The bill is now on the president's desk. Signature expected.

Our AT/Mau-Har trail conditions remain passable, yet in need of attention at higher elevations, thanks to reports & freelance solo efforts of Ridge Runner Jim Baum and four TATC section leaders.

Our "Adaptive Recovery" plan for AT trail maintenance should be in your inbox by this time. This information has been simplified & presented in easier-to-read format from over 40 pages of documents, a video, and ZOOM sessions from and with our various partners (ATC, USFS, BRP, VARO). You can thank board members Rosanne Cary, Ned Kuhns, Lee Lohman, Ellis Malabad, Phyllis Neumann, & Jim Sexton for bringing simplicity out of confusion.

Once we read & heed procedures and qualify to return to trail maintenance, at least one summer work trip will likely be organized with a limit of 16-20 people. Camping would be available at Sherando's CCC Kitchen even if the park remains unopened to the public.

The Bad

Resurgence of the pandemic will likely limit participants for the upcoming Fall Maintenance. Keep in mind that currently we are forbidden to car pool (even from Sherando to trail head), plus the challenge of managing 70-90 people in a campground. Keep in mind the limited parking at trailheads and tool sharing requirements also.

We will be inconvenienced by the new normal; however, when the going gets tough, the tough keep going!

Certification for Adaptive Recovery Trail Maintenance in the Pandemic Era

Read and heed the material sent your way and posted on our website.

Certify your compliance by sending your response to ATC and to me. A simple email or text message will do for my purposes. Thus far, I have 7 ready-to-go AT trail maintainers.

Well wishes to all with hopes of seeing everyone (but not all at the same time!) Sigh!

May peace and well-being be with you.

Jim Newman

Trail Supervisor

trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

TATC Cabin Orientation and Maintenance Trip

September 25-27, 2020

This will be the first Fall cabin orientation and maintenance trip for the calendar year and the first under pandemic precautions (both Spring trips were cancelled). The main objectives of this trip are moving cut firewood from stacked piles in and around the cabin to the covered wood pile near the cabin area and providing orientation to new cabin participants. Tenting is encouraged! The three spaced out double bunks will be reserved for couples first then for individuals if still available. The upstairs bunk area (with 5 bunks) will be reserved for 2 individuals or for a group/family that live together. Face masks will be worn at all times inside the cabin, on the front porch (when social distancing is not possible), and at the picnic shelter area (except when eating). Unfortunately, there will be no community meal to prevent cross contamination. To make reservations, call Bob Adkisson at 627 5514, or email cabin@tidewateratc.com

Renew Your TATC Membership

Please, please, go to our Website at www.tidewateratc.com and renew your Membership if it is due! And if you do not want to renew online then click [here](#) for a hardcopy membership form which you can then mail to the address provided.

Now, more than ever, we need your support; since in-person meetings and events have been cancelled, and it will probably be some time before we're back to somewhat normal operations.

If you would like to subscribe to our blast email listing for future emails, then click on the following link: <http://tidewateratc.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=55b4b56215f58352eca502f98&id=0eb6788ff3>

TATC 50th Anniversary Planning

We are gathering up records in preparation for TATC's 50th anniversary in 2020, in order to develop a program for this event as well as a table-top book on the history of the club.

Are you a longtime club member or do you know of some that may have some TATC Newsletters from 1972 or 1973? The club is missing several of our newsletters from these years (Vol. 1 No. 1 & No. 2 and Vol. 2, No. 1, No. 3 & No. 5). We would appreciate it, if we could borrow any of these newsletters if you have any of them, or if you have any other documented club history from TATC's first five years.

Do you have any photos or slides that you would like to possibly have included in the 50th anniversary program or book? If you have any newsletters, photos, slides or other documentation that you could provide to the club, then please contact Jim Sexton at 484-2827. If you let us borrow such materials, we can arrange to scan them in and return them to you.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Jim Sexton
TATC Historian

Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA)



On July 22nd, 2020, history was made in Washington, D.C.

By a vote of 310-107 in favor, **the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives**. Receiving overwhelming bipartisan support from the House, the U.S. Senate (where the vote was 73-25) and the White House, we expect this transformative conservation bill will be signed into law in the next week or so.

GAOA is the most significant piece of conservation legislation in decades, permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and creating a Restoration Fund to address much of the deferred maintenance needs of federal public lands. Once signed into law, billions of dollars will be made available for a variety of public lands projects ranging from landscape preservation to infrastructure improvements.

To say this Act will be great for the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) is an understatement, which is why the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) made GAOA its top legislative priority for the 116th Congress. It will directly address millions of dollars needed to properly protect and maintain the A.T., which includes at least \$24 million in deferred maintenance projects. A fully funded LWCF will mean important Trail lands will be protected for both recreation and conservation needs. Just a few areas LWCF has helped protect in the past include Blood Mountain in Georgia, the Roan Highlands of Tennessee and North Carolina, the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania and community forests throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

In short, GAOA will greatly enhance our ability to fulfill our mission to protect, manage, and advocate for the A.T.

This could never have been accomplished without your help. Our sincere thanks go out to everyone who contacted their U.S. Senators and Representatives to let them know how important GAOA is to the A.T. and our public lands.

Our thanks also go to the Act's cosponsors in Congress who recognize the importance of our parks, forests, trails, rivers and other irreplaceable public lands for outdoor recreation, local economies and environmental protection.

The Great American Outdoors Act is a prime example of what can be accomplished when individuals of all backgrounds and political beliefs work together for the benefit of everyone. We will continue to support and push for similar cooperation to help ensure irreplaceable treasures like the Appalachian Trail are protected forever for all to enjoy.

Thank you for being a voice for the Trail!

Sincerely,

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy Team

*Help us continue to our mission to protect, manage,
and advocate for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.*

DONATE TODAY



Press Release

Contact: Richard Dyer

Phone: 757-721-3458

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Introduces Friends Group

Virginia Beach, VA - Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Society has recently organized as the official Friend's group in support of and as a partner with Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Refuge Friend's groups are non-profit organizations comprised of dedicated community members who work to support their local national wildlife refuges, to help improve refuges for wildlife and people. Upcoming projects for the newly formed Society include installing and maintaining osprey platforms and the creation of a plant-identification walk along Back Bay NWR's popular Raptor Trail.

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938 as a refuge and sanctuary for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife. The Refuge located just south of Sandbridge in southeastern Virginia Beach, is open from dawn to dusk. More information can be found online at the BBNWR official webpage, the official Facebook page, or by calling the Refuge at 757-301-7329.

The BBNWR Society is currently seeking members who would like to join them in this new adventure. Please visit www.backbaynwr.org or www.facebook.com/backbaynwr.org for more information about the Society and free membership. The Society is looking forward to this new partnership and working with the community to meet shared conservation goals.

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Society
1324 Sandbridge Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-4023

Woods Hole Hostel Seminar

ODATC member Bruce Matson is helping to organize and present an in-person weekend "seminar" for prospective AT thru-hikers that will be held at Woods Hole Hostel. It will be a great way to have something to look forward to as well as a way to support the hostel during these trying times. The seminar will be held October 2-4, and will be limited to ten or twelve attendees. If you're interested in participating, you can get the registration application by emailing WoodsHoleHostel@gmail.com

For additional information, see the linked .pdf document: [Woods Hole Weekend Brochure.pdf](#)

Benton MacKaye Trail

A Path Less Traveled

By Carl Morrison "Cardinal"

Looking for a new trail experience? A wilderness hike without AT-like numbers of hikers? Well, then consider the Benton MacKaye Trail.

Envisioned in 1975 as a sister trail to the Appalachian Trail, the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) was completed in 2005. The trail stretches from Springer Mountain, GA(0.2 mile north of summit at a monument to Benton MacKaye) to Big Creek Picnic area(located off Davenport Road, Davenport Gap, TN), a distance of almost 300 miles. From Georgia the trail travels west of the AT into Tennessee before turning east toward Fontana Dam. In the Great Smokey Mountain National Park (GSMNP) the BMT hugs the shore of Fontana Lake before heading northward to the upper right hand boundary of the park.

I completed a southbound thru- hike of the BMT on 10 July 2020. We were a party of three experienced hikers (in our 60's). Craig(G-Pa, AT '14), who I met on the AT in 2012 just south of Clarendon Gorge, VT, planned the hike as it was on his bucket list. I met Marc(Skywatcher, AT '15) on the AT in 2013 just north of Clarendon Gorge. Marc likes to joke that I am an extremely slow hiker! Actually, I was finishing/starting sections at Rutland VT those years. I had not seen Craig since our meeting but Marc and I have been hiking every year since.

Since our resupply would be with mail drops, our hike would take us into town four times.

Section 1: Big Creek Picnic Area to Cherokee, NC (36 mi)

We gathered at Standing Bear Hostel in Hartford TN (Davenport Gap) on Saturday 13 June. After a spirited greeting, we ate a big chicken dinner (but no one yet had trail appetites), then tried to pawn off the leftovers to other hikers without success. Dinner became our breakfast! Standing Bear gave us a short shuttle ride and we began our hike the next day.

Our first day featured the highest point on the BMT, Mount Sterling with an elevation of 5842 feet. We traveled up the Baxter Creek Trail which is noted for its rigor. In fact, when a fellow hiker at Standing Bear heard of our plan, he just smiled and said " Enjoy your hike!". It turned out to be a nice climb, not as bad as I had anticipated. We reached the fire tower just before the rain. Climbing up, we had no views then miraculously, the clouds parted and we snapped a few quick pictures. By the time we descended, it had begun to rain heavily. As we walked to our first night's destination(Laurel Gap shelter, one of only two on the BMT), we were pelted with hail three times. A nice welcome to the BMT! It would rain 21 of the 28 days we spent on the trail.

In the GSMNP back country camping requires reservations. We had waited anxiously for the park to open and then made our reservations online. If you hike for 7 days without a break, your fee is \$20. We had to make separate reservations since we were taking a night off in town. Although we didn't use one, a Senior Pass may be used to lower the daily price of \$4/each.

Despite the effects of the coronavirus, the trail in GSMNP was well maintained with just a few more than normal blow downs. Campsites had a fire ring (which we only used once). We were close to a water source and had bear cables. No privy, although a few of the more popular sites did have picnic tables.

Arriving early to camp one afternoon, we decided to build a fire. The weather in the Smokey's had been very cool but had started to warm considerably. No reason to have a fire for warmth, just bored hikers. I was enjoying my SPAM meal when a piece fell on the ground. I thought, then decided that the 5 second rule did not apply, so into the fire it went. The next morning as we were packing up for town, we had a furry visitor. This young bear felt right at home in our campsite and the first place he visited was the fire ring. I was able to take his picture before he ambled away. In all, I would see 5 bears on the trip.

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We hitched a ride into Cherokee in the back of a pickup truck. The BMT trailhead is within 2.5 miles(Visitor Center) of town. We stayed at the Baymont Inn and I had my first meal at a restaurant (eating outside) since the pandemic started. If you stay at the Baymont, USPS mail is not delivered to the motel while UPS and FedEx is. A friendly clerk gave us a ride to the post office to retrieve our packages. One bonus was seeing grazing elk right across the field from our motel.

Section 2: Cherokee to Fontana (57.6 mi)

This section has several streams to ford and a road walk(with a long tunnel) on the Road to Nowhere, built by the government to allow displaced former residents to visit the graves of their ancestors. We saw plenty of day hikers in this section, but few thru- hikers. Since we were southbound, we only encountered 6 northbound hikers on the entire BMT hike. The BMT is blazed with a white diamond, however in the GSMNP only the AT is blazed regularly. I discovered this the hard way as I made a wrong turn one afternoon and needed to hike an additional three mile loop to catch up with my patiently waiting buddies. One of the trails we hiked in the park was the Lakeshore Trail. I envisioned a nice walk along the shores of Fontana Lake, where we could take a dip as needed to ward off the heat of the day. Wrong! This trail became one of my least favorite as it hugged the ridge line of the lake, climbing up, going down to a stream inlet to the lake, then right back up again. We finished the section at the Fontana Marina. On June 1 the concessionaire had terminated his lease with the TVA and all of Fontana Village was closed with the exception of the marina. We were met at the marina by Nancy Hoch, the owner of The Hike Inn where we stayed for the night. I highly recommend the Hike Inn. For your money(\$55 per) you get a pick up and return shuttle, a shuttle into town for dinner/supplies(in Robbinsville for the best town food on our trip) and your clothes washed. Yes, our room did have the smallest shower I have ever used(and I was in the Navy so I know small showers!) but the friendliness of the owners, Nancy and Tom made it hard to get away the next day.

Section 3: Fontana to Reliance TN (82.5 mi)

Leaving the national park, we were now free to camp wherever we liked. Since this was G-Pa's trip, he had made a comprehensive plan for each day's hike. Campsites were located near water sources and spaced to match our "experienced" hikers pace. Although we were now hiking at lower elevations, the trail was more challenging. The coronavirus had prevented the BMT maintainers from doing their job. We hopped around and over more blow downs and pushed through chest-high vegetation. Since I was wearing short pants, I made sure to bring up the rear behind my fellow pants- wearing hikers. It didn't seem to matter as the ever present sticker bush would cling to my hiking stick and ricochet back into me as I passed. Our pace slowed even more as the temperature began to rise. One memorable day had us climbing in Slickrock Wilderness up to Haeo Bald (not a bald). After a challenging climb, we scampered an additional mile or so on the Hangover Trail, a devious path clinging to the cliffside with obstacles placed about ten feet apart.

We arrived exhausted at Naked Ground , our campsite for the night. Good water and a great view, this site was my favorite of the trip.

The BMT was formed by combining existing trails with approximately 68 miles of new trail. Therefore, when coming to an intersection, be very careful to take the correct trail as sometimes blazing is spotty. The trail leading to Reliance was the John Muir Trail. Skywatcher had hiked the John Muir Trail(CA version) and frequently told me what a great hike(best ever!) it was. The Tennessee version while not as picturesque, had its own identity. It runs so close to the raging Hiwassee River that during high water, the trail is closed. One day(most days), I was bringing up the rear. I looked up and the trail seemed to run directly into the river. I thought, lost again! I backtracked, then looked up the hill, but no trail. I followed the trail to the water and only then noticed that it took a turn around a rock ledge at the water's edge before continuing.

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We stayed in Reliance at the Reliance Fly and Tackle Camp in the rental cabin. Dinner was from the camp's deli and we enjoyed our night as a major thunderstorm shook the area. After many days of walking in wet shoes and socks, it was nice to kick back in the air-conditioned comfort and watch TV. Only drawback was the lack of cell coverage or Wi-Fi. Reliance is a very small community with many vacation homes but few amenities (one small store, a burger place and a river outfitter). Thankfully, Hiwassee River Outfitter had free Wi-Fi so we caught up with our families.

Section 4: Reliance to Blue Ridge GA (61.1 mi)

After a short day of hiking, we camped at Lost Creek. This was my second favorite campsite featuring a nice creek for wading and a rock beach where we enjoyed our meals. As we entered Georgia, the trail was noticeably better. The Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) is headquartered in Blue Ridge and the maintainers are more active. There were mountains to climb but the elevations were now below 4,000 feet. The rain began to taper off and the temperature increased. We came to the second shelter on the BMT (nice, located on private property in a vacation or retirement community) and I was tired of being a salty mess. After some convincing, we all agreed to head into Blue Ridge a day early. In all of his AT adventures, G-Pa had never taken a zero day until now. Compared to Virginia, Georgia was wide-open. Masks were rarely seen and we stayed in the room much of the day binge watching Impractical Jokers. After two nights in our hotel, we called a transportation service(no Uber in town) for the ride back to the BMT. Thankfully, it was only five miles as we were picked up by the driver in a Toyota Corolla, girlfriend in the front passenger seat, trunk broken and we three crammed into the back seat holding our packs on our laps.

Section 5: Blue Ridge to Springer (49.6mi)

After our long rest, we were all eager to finish the trail. As we drew closer to Springer our anxiety increased. Georgia held a few more surprises for us. Bears on the trail and one memorable hot day where we seemed to climb up and down one mountain after another in the heat, which reminded me of a mini version of the famed AT roller coaster section (Duncan Ridge Trail). On Friday 10 July, we completed the BMT at the Benton MacKaye plaque, continuing over Springer to our camp at Black Gap Shelter. Yes, it rained that day right before we reached the shelter! We had seen more hikers as the BMT and AT share the trail for several miles and tonight we shared our camp with two other groups. Thankfully, all agreed to tent, leaving the shelter to us and a stray cat that someone had abandoned. The wind blew all night, giving us a cool rest. After an early rise, we took the Approach Trail down to Amicalola Falls. The park was packed with people and going down the 600 steps in front of the falls, it was impossible to maintain physical distancing. We used our hand sanitizer, then took a shower at the bottom of the falls where G-Pa's wife was waiting patiently for us. After a big cheeseburger lunch, she dropped Skywatcher and myself off in Atlanta. The hike was officially over.

We found the BMT to be a challenge. Yes, we kept the mileage reasonable but the combination of the season (heat and rain) and the lack of trail maintenance made for many long days. This trail is a" Green Tunnel" with only limited views. If you are planning a hike, I would recommend trying the BMT in the fall or spring.

Happy Hiking!

Carl Morrison "Cardinal"

AT '14, LT '16, CT '17, SHT '18, TRT '19, BMT '20

Resources used: BMT Thru-Hikers Guide by Sgt Rock, BMTA.org, Guthook app

A.T. Vista



SAVE THE DATE!

DATE: August 6, 2021 - August 9, 2021

LOCATION: New Paltz, NY

WEBSITE: <https://atvista2020.weebly.com/>

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference hosts the first-ever A.T. Vista at SUNY- New Paltz August 6-9, 2021. This 4-day weekend event celebrates the 100th anniversary of Benton MacKaye's 1921 article, "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning" and the host's centennial. Offer to help out or find out more about 2021 at the official website: **A.T. Vista**.

Plans are underway for the inaugural A.T. Vista 4-day weekend event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Benton MacKaye's 1921 article, "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning," and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference centennial.

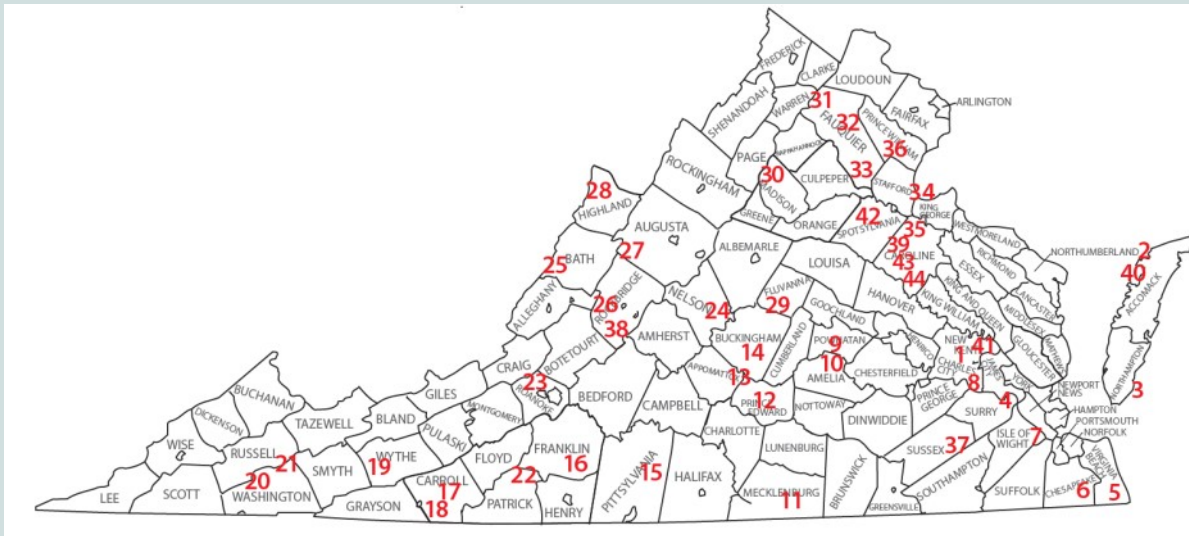
If you enjoyed previous Biennial programs, the new A.T. Vista will continue to provide an opportunity for people who cherish the Appalachian Trail to hike, attend workshops on topics of common interest, take excursions to points of interest in the region, attend evening entertainment programs, and connect with other kindred spirits.

Virginia Wildlife Management Areas

An inexpensive resource for campers

By Chris Van

Do you seek an outdoor experience not cluttered by streetlights, overlapping campsites and four-hour drives? The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources has you covered. They maintain 44 areas for camping, hunting, hiking and other activities. Access permits are required but \$11 for two years of camping is very reasonable.



<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/wma-locator.pdf>

I discovered these areas by happenstance. I was looking for an inexpensive local resource that was wild, remote and interesting. First Landing and False Cape State Park are great but also have advantages and disadvantages. The 44 Virginia Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are all very different. Each area has different topography and resources, so all activities are not available at each area. The website is very clear on what can and can't be done on this land.



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I've had the privilege of camping at two of these sites, Chickahominy and Amelia WMA. Chickahominy WMA is a quick 90-minute drive north from Virginia Beach. It is tucked away near Williamsburg. I camped here on two occasions. On the first trip I had a sheltered site overlooking a creek, primitive camping at its best. The second trip was at a clearing near the boat ramp. Both were enjoyable and great experiences. On my first trip I did not encounter a soul. On my second trip the boat ramp encouraged activity and a few people were engaging in fishing and kayaking.



Amelia WMA was entirely different. It is near Richmond and the drive is still easier then heading up to the Blue Ridge Parkway. The amount of people enjoying this WMA during the day had me alarmed that the camping would not be great, but I was pleasantly surprised. The dog walkers and boaters steadily dropped as night fell and my secluded pondside campsite was amazing. The frogs serenaded me to sleep the morning mist was magical.

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If you are looking for a primitive campsite off the beaten path the Virginia Wildlife Management Areas may be what you are looking for. Just make sure you get a permit or license and start exploring. I will probably forever search for my ideal camping spot but then again isn't that the fun of it.

Check out the following sites for more info:

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wma/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/virginiabackpacking>

Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve

Category: Hiking, Blueways

Description: Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation manages this 142-acre preserve, the last parcel of land in the Hoffler Creek watershed. Hike over 3 miles of trails to experience 4 separate habitats: a riparian forest filled with pines and hardwoods, a meadow of native wildflowers and grasses, a non-tidal brackish lake, and a tidal creek with its expansive salt marsh. Experience the creek first hand with our kayak rentals. Choose from self-guided paddles or expert led tours offered mid-April through October. Find more information about kayaking here. Whether exploring on land or on water, be sure to look out for local wildlife. From larger mammals like deer and foxes to turtles and lizards no longer than a few inches, myriad animals have made Hoffler Creek home. More than 200 species of birds have been identified here making it a haven for local birders. Let us know what you see when you visit! With decks overlooking the lake, the creek, and the salt marsh along with bird blinds located throughout the Preserve, there are a number of locations to take in all of the beautiful views Hoffler Creek has to offer. Come by and see for yourself!

To protect the habitat and wildlife at Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve, the following activities are prohibited: Fishing, Running, Biking, Smoking, and Pets

Website: <https://www.hofflercreek.org/copy-of-what-we-do-1>

Operating Hours: Free & Open to the Public, Tuesday - Sunday, 10am to 4pm

Fees: Kayak Rentals (<https://www.hofflercreek.org/kayak-canoe>) or launch your own

Address: 4510 Twin Pines Road, Portsmouth, VA 23703

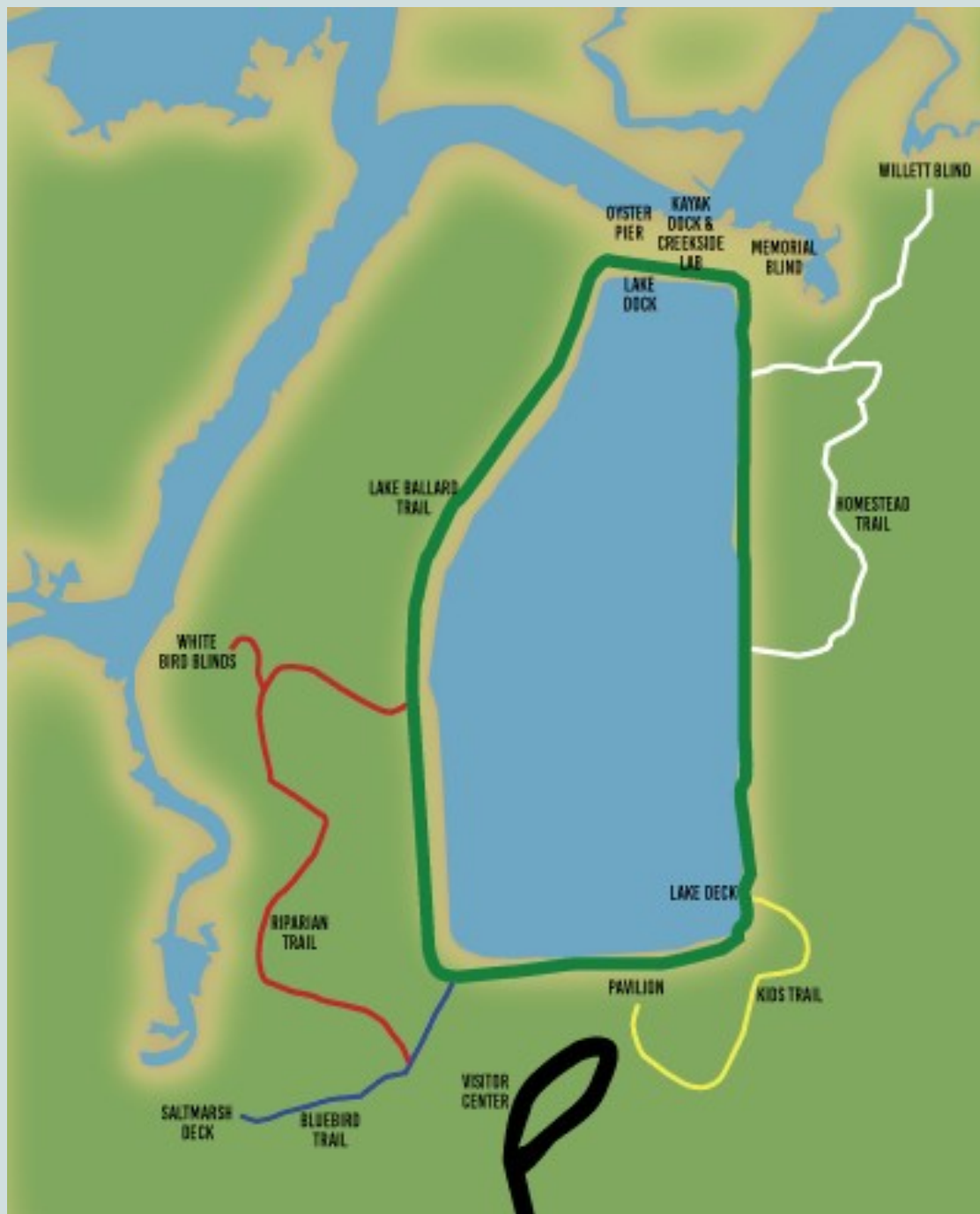
Phone: 757-686-8684

Email: hofflercreek@hofflercreek.org

Join/Donate: <https://www.hofflercreek.org/shop>

Map of Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve is included on next page

Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve Map



TATC Covid-19 Local Hike Guidelines

July 23, 2020



Hike Leader Role:

- Contact Hike Master with proposed event details for publication
- Limit group to Phase maximum not to exceed ten persons
- No late or walk-ins allowed unless approved by leader
- Bring hand sanitizer, extra masks and tissues
- Establish regular hand sanitizing
- Ensure crew follows all CDC health and safety guidelines
- Maintain roster for contact purposes, copy Hike Master

Group Members:

- Sign up with crew leader in advance to receive any special instructions. By signing up you agree to abide by any decisions of leader relative to my ability to safely complete activity.
- Review CDC guidelines understanding health risks. If you do not feel 100% stay home.
- Wear face mask at all times and maintain social distancing of at least six feet
- No carpooling except for household members
- You will not be allowed to participate unless you use proper PPE during Covid-19 crisis.

TATC Covid-19 Local Kayak/Canoe Guidelines

July 6, 2020



Trip Leader Role:

- Contact TATC Vice President with proposed event details
- Limit group to no more than ten persons
- No late or walk-ins allowed unless approved by crew leader
- Bring hand sanitizer, extra masks and tissues
- Establish regular hand sanitizing and health checks
- Ensure crew follows all CDC health and safety guidelines
- Maintain roster for contact purposes with copy to Hike Master

Group Member Role:

- Sign up with crew leader in advance to receive any special instructions. By signing up you agree to abide by any decisions of leader relative to my ability to safely complete activity.
- Review CDC guidelines understanding health risks. If you do not feel 100% stay home.
- Wear face mask and maintain social distancing of at least six feet while launching or returning to shore/dock. On the water social distancing of ten feet, mask optional.
- Bring hand sanitizer
- No carpooling except for household members
- You will not be allowed to participate unless you use proper PPE during covid-19 crisis

TATC Covid-19 Local Trail Maintenance Guidelines

July 23, 2020



Crew Leader Role:

- Contact Hike Master with proposed event details for publication
- Limit crew to a Phase maximum not to exceed ten persons
- No late or walk-ins allowed unless approved by crew leader
- Bring hand sanitizer, extra masks and tissues
- Establish regular hand sanitizing
- Ensure crew follows all CDC health and safety guidelines
- Maintain roster for contact purposes, with copy to Local Trails Supervisor, Hike Master
- Sanitize tools prior to issuance and upon their return

Work Crew Members:

- Sign up with crew leader in advance to receive any special instructions. By signing up you agree to abide by any decisions of leader relative to my ability to safely complete activity.
- Review CDC guidelines understanding health risks. If you do not feel 100% stay home.
- Do not share tools
- Bring washable or disposable work gloves
- Wear face mask at all times and maintain social distancing of at least six feet. No bunching up.
- No carpooling except for household members
- You will not be allowed to participate unless you use proper PPE during Covid-19 crisis.

TATC Covid-19 AT Volunteers Checklist



All TATC AT Volunteers:

- Contact Trail Supervisor/Crew Leader in advance of trip to sign up and to get any special instructions
- **IMPORTANT:** Review and complete: Requirements for Returning to Work on the A.T. as a member of TATC form (next page)
- Bring washable or disposable work gloves and CDC approved face mask
- No carpooling other than from your own household
- Prior to starting work attend mandatory tailgate safety brief and complete Trail Maintenance and Construction Task Hazards and Recommended Safety Gear Document (also on next page)

Crew Leader role:

- Limit crew size to a Phase maximum as determined by the Governor/local officials
- Disinfect all group tools (Before and after use), bring extra hand sanitizer, face masks, and tissues.
- Establish regular hand washing and health checks.
- Ensure all crew follows CDC health and safety guidelines.
- Maintain TATC Signup Sheet with contact information, copy to Trail Supervisor, Hike Master

Work Crew Members:

- Bring own hand sanitizer to wash/sanitize hands frequently
- Do not share tools or equipment
- Maintain social distancing
- Use Cat Holes recommended and do not clean shelters or privies until further notice
- Use all PPE i.e. face mask, etc.
- Participation is dependent on following these procedures

Requirements for Returning to Work on the A.T. as a member of TATC:

- ◆ I have read the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) Documents and the A.T. Adaptive Recovery Guidance for Volunteers and Staff/SOP, which can be found at:

https://tidewateratc.com/resources/Maintenance/AT_Trail_Maintenance_Requirements.pdf

and which includes:

- Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) – Job Hazard Analysis - Pages 1 - 3
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS), GW & Jefferson National Forest – Job Hazard Analysis - Pages 4 – 9
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail – Job Hazard Analysis – Pages 10 – 15
- A.T. Adaptive Recovery Guidance for Volunteers and Staff/SOP - Pages 16 – 25

Send an email to the Trail Supervisor indicating that you have read and will abide by the COVID-19-specific Job Hazard Analysis (JHAs) provided in this correspondence. Email to: trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

- ◆ I have viewed the 16-minute ATC Video – ‘Volunteers Engaging with the Appalachian Trail during COVID-19’ and I have submitted the online acknowledgement to ATC as included at the bottom of the following page:

<https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/safety/covid-19/>

- ◆ I understand that a ‘Trail Maintenance and Construction Task Hazards Safety Talk’ needs to be completed for each work trip and that the following form needs to be completed and provided to the TATC Trail Supervisor:
https://tatc.wildapricot.org/resources/Education/trail_hazards_and_maintenance.pdf

Additional Reading (optional):

APPA/ATC/TATC Sponsored Group Volunteer Agreement:

https://tidewateratc.com/resources/Maintenance/APPA_ATC_TATC_Sponsored_Group_Volunteer_Agreement.pdf

One-Page Reference: Guidelines for A.T. Volunteers (picture):

<https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Volunteer-Re-Engagement-RecommendationsV4.pdf>

Resource for self-screening for symptoms of COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

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, August 5, 2020 7pm-9pm

Where: Online via Zoom App

Contact: Rosanne Cary president@tidewateratc.com

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

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7pm-9pm

Where: Online via Zoom App

Contact: Rosanne Cary president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting. Guests are always welcome! This meeting will be held remotely using the Zoom App. Program: TBD. A blast email with a link to this Zoom Meeting will be sent out next week. If you do not currently subscribe to our blast email listing and would like to receive future blast emails, then click on the following link: <http://tidewateratc.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=55b4b56215f58352eca502f98&id=0eb6788ff3>

TATC Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 7pm-9pm

Where: Online via Zoom App

Contact: Rosanne Cary president@tidewateratc.com

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

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 7pm-9pm

Where: Online via Zoom App

Contact: Rosanne Cary president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting. Guests are always welcome! This meeting will be held remotely using the Zoom App. Program: TBD. A blast email with a link to this Zoom Meeting will be sent out a week before this meeting. If you do not currently subscribe to our blast email listing and would like to receive future blast emails, then click on the following link: <http://tidewateratc.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=55b4b56215f58352eca502f98&id=0eb6788ff3>

**Currently all other Club Events are Cancelled until further notice.
Check our Facebook Site, our Club's Website,
and our periodic Blast Emails for Updated Club News.**

[TATC Facebook Site](#)

[TATC Website](#)

TATC Officers & Board

Positions	Names	E-Mails or Phone #'s
President	Rosanne Cary	president@tidewateratc.com
Vice President	Phyllis Neumann	vicepres@tidewateratc.com
Treasurer	Douglas Cary	treasurer@tidewateratc.com
Secretary	Steve Clayton	secretary@tidewateratc.com
Trail Supervisor	Jim Newman	trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com
Assistant Trail Supervisor	Patrick Hayes	assistantts@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Kari Pincus	counselor@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Mark Ferguson	counselor@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Ellis Malabad	counselor@tidewateratc.com
ATC RPC Representative	Ned Kuhns	rpcprep@tidewateratc.com
ATC RPC Representative	Jim Sexton	rpcprep@tidewateratc.com
Cabin Committee	Greg Hodges	cabin@tidewateratc.com
Cabin Committee	Bob Adkisson	cabin@tidewateratc.com or 627-5514
Calendar Committee	Tony Phelps	calendar@tidewateratc.com
Education Committee	Lee Lohman	education@tidewateratc.com
Hikemaster	Phyllis Neumann	hikemaster@tidewateratc.com
Historical Committee	Jim Sexton	historical@tidewateratc.com
Land Management Committee	<i>vacant</i>	landmgt@tidewateratc.com
Local Trails	Dave Plum	localtrails@tidewateratc.com
Membership	Sharon Salyer	membership@tidewateratc.com
Merchandise	Mark Van Zandt	merchandise@tidewateratc.com
Newsletter	Jim Sexton	newsletter@tidewateratc.com
Outreach	Rosemary Plum	outreach@tidewateratc.com
Past President	Juliet Stephenson	pastprez@tidewateratc.com
Programs	Suzanne Moss	programs@tidewateratc.com
Timekeeper	Bill Lynn	timekeeper@tidewateratc.com
Tool Boss	Bruce Julian	toolboss@tidewateratc.com
Webmaster	Jim Sexton	webmaster@tidewateratc.com

Benton MacKaye Trail; A Path Less Traveled

Carl Morrison



Hike completed. Southern terminus of BMT

Benton MacKaye Trail; A Path Less Traveled

Carl Morrison



Fontana Lake

Benton MacKaye Trail; A Path Less Traveled

Carl Morrison



Visitor in camp

Benton MacKaye Trail; A Path Less Traveled

Carl Morrison



Amicalola Falls

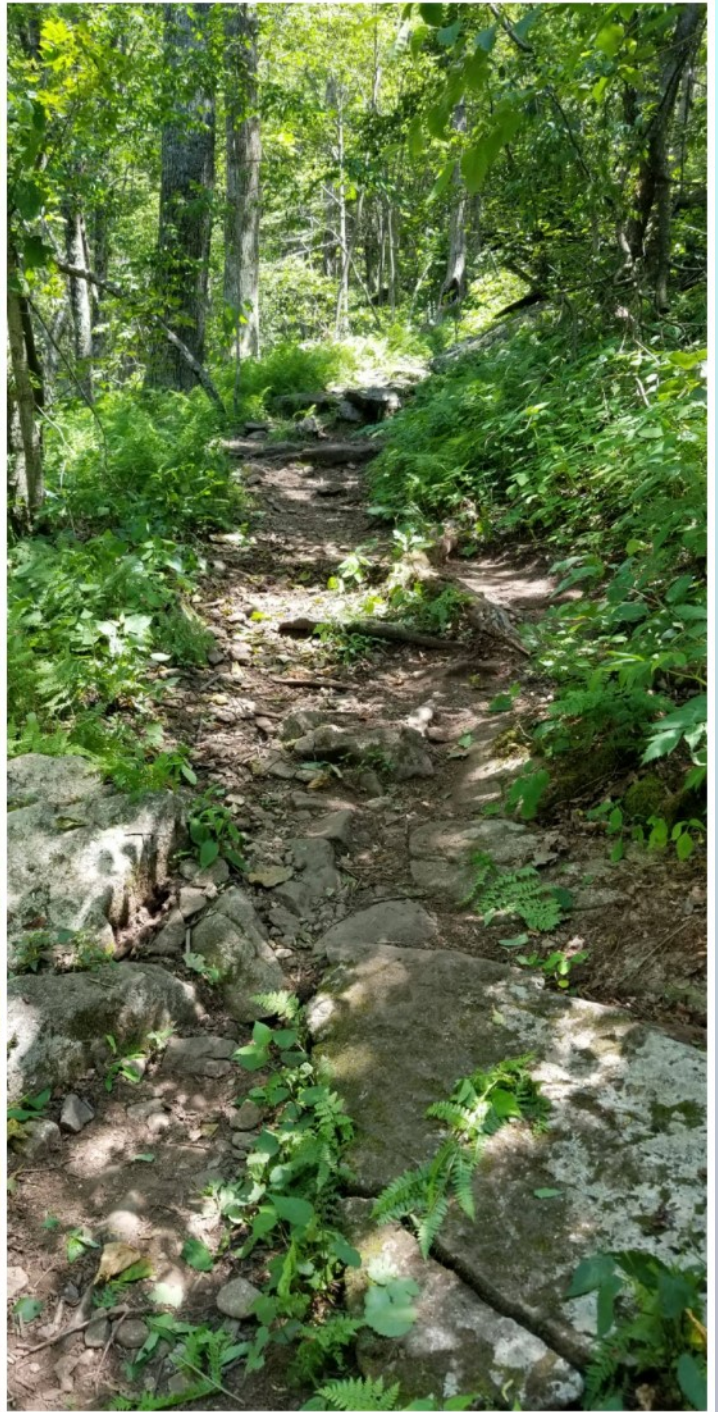
Solo Maintenance Work on the Northern Approach to Three Ridges

Michael Wilson



Solo Maintenance Work on the Northern Approach to Three Ridges

Michael Wilson



Solo Maintenance Work on the Northern Approach to Three Ridges

Michael Wilson



Solo Maintenance Work on the Northern Approach to Three Ridges
Michael Wilson



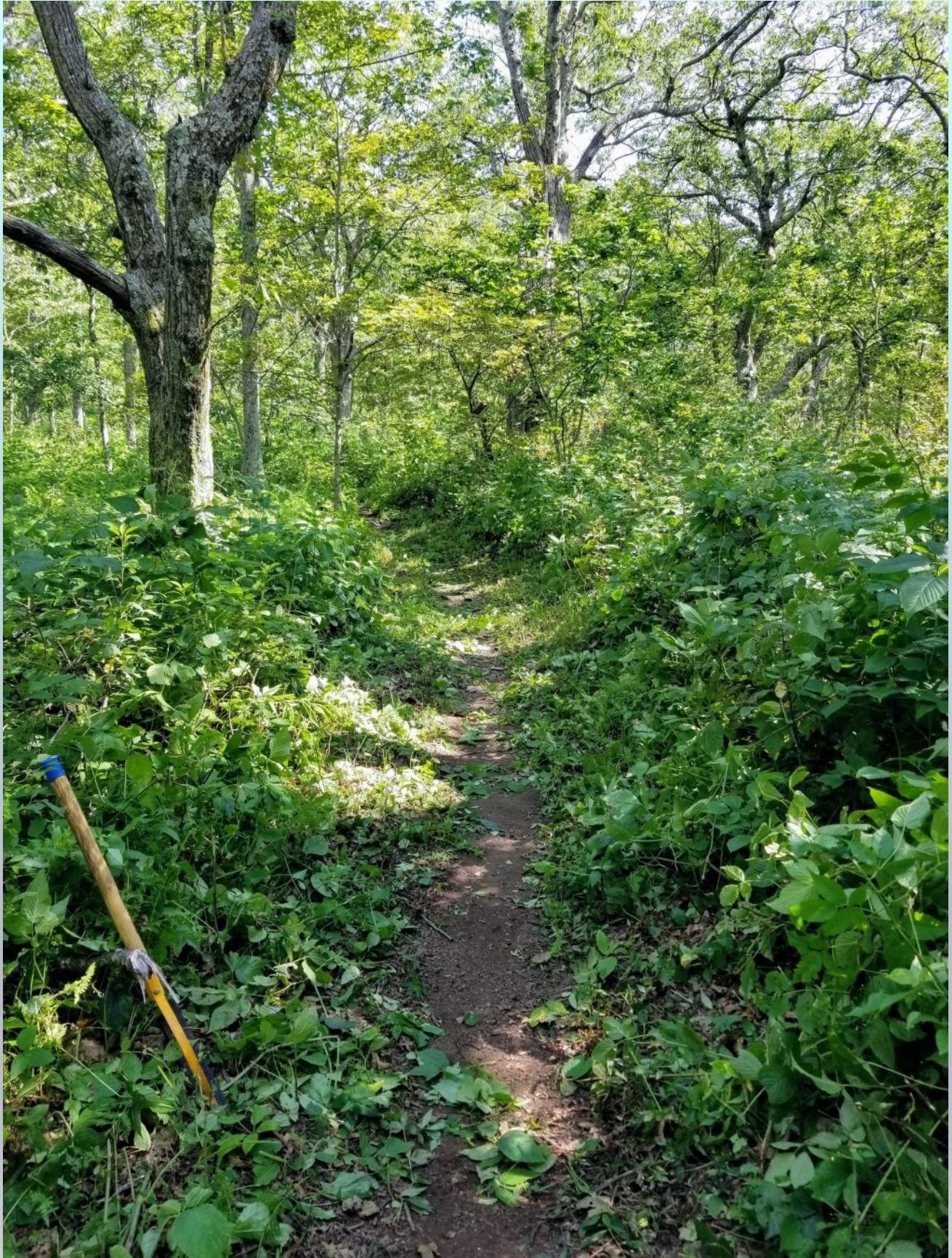
Solo Maintenance Work on the Northern Approach to Three Ridges

Michael Wilson



Solo Maintenance Work on the Northern Approach to Three Ridges

Michael Wilson



Grayson Highlands State Park and Riding on the VA Creeper Trail

Kevin DuBois



Grayson Highlands State Park and Riding on the VA Creeper Trail

Kevin DuBois



Grayson Highlands State Park and Riding on the VA Creeper Trail

Kevin DuBois

