

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Hiker



Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson

www.tidewateratc.com

August 2021 - September 2021
48th Edition, 4th Issue

PREZ SEZ

Despite the heat and humidity, the Lopperfest 1 Crew of Britt Collins, John Sima, Bruce Davidson, Jim Newman, Jim Sexton, Robbie Krieger, and Matt Labarge cleared blowdowns and vegetation from Three Ridges to Chimney Rock and Tye River to Harper's Shelter. Tiring, but they got it done. (See Britt's article below with photos.) A special thanks to Mia Fernandez, our ATC Ridgerunner, who joined the crew (see more about her below) and the dynamic Pete Burch who weed-wacked the fire road and cleared blowdowns. He also sharpened the swing blades setting up the crew for a successful weekend. John Sima noted that the crew was deeply grateful for his help.

By the way, Lopperfest 2 takes place on August 13, 14, and 15. Contact Britt if you want to join the crew.

Last month's General Membership meeting was via Zoom despite efforts to find a venue that would permit us to do an in-person meeting. I'm hunting for an August meeting location. As of this writing, the Pretlow Library meeting rooms are still closed due to COVID-19 concerns.

The Board is monitoring CDC pronouncements closely as the Delta variant spreads rapidly across the nation. CDC just revised their guidance. They now recommend that, "To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission." We don't know what constitutes "...an area of an area of substantial or high transmission." but we'll find out. This is of particular concern as the Board is already thinking about the Fall Maintenance Weekend.

You may know that due to the initiative of Jim Sexton we now have a blog. Some of our younger members noted that their generation uses blogs like the oldsters (like me) use emails and newsletters. The TATC website has a Blog tab. Jim Sexton posts Pete Burch's trail maintenance reports there as well as the weekly reports from our Ridgerunner, Mia Fernandez. Please use it to share your outdoor experiences.

This is Mia's last week as our Ridgerunner. TATC, Old Dominion ATC, and Natural Bridge ATC were lucky to have her this year. She kept us advised of trail conditions, hiker attitudes, and not so nice things like graffiti. Her prompt reports alerted the Park Service law enforcement to two egregious graffiti vandals. The Park Service identified them and intends to take action. Go Mia.

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Visit our website at www.tidewateratc.com

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Below is Mia's last cover email to her last report (available on our website). I thought I would copy it so you would have a sense of the kind of person we had in the job.

Hi everyone!

*It was an awesome last week and a half here as the Tye river ridge runner! I cannot express how grateful I am towards everyone for this opportunity and a great season. Working with you all has been an absolute blast and I can tell how hard you all work to keep the trail amazing! Hikers can tell, too and I have received multiple comments on the high quality of cleanliness and well kept vegetation on all three club's sections in the Tye river region. I am so very lucky to have worked with NBACT, TATC and ODATC. You all were kind and quick to fix anything I wrote about in my reports. I also want to thank you all for your patience with me through the Lyme disease this season and all the doctor recommendations and well wishes. I had an amazing time working with and for you all!
I hope you have an amazing rest of 2021!*

In the last newsletter, I wrote about members who work for all of us behind the scenes to keep TATC operating. Some never get the credit they deserve so when you meet these folks, please do thank them for the hours they put in on the club's behalf.

This month, I'm highlighting Cecil and Sharon Sayler and Kama Mitchell. Cecil, our Treasurer, maintains our accounts and keeps the money flowing for projects and maintenance expenditures. Both are critical to the work we do. Cecil has enhanced the function by identifying and learning new accounting software. The app keeps our records in the cloud and creates reports for the Board and others at the touch of a button. Cecil also keeps us straight with the IRS, property tax authorities, and other government entities to whom we report.

Sharon and Kama run the membership committee. They manage the flow of membership applications and get members' checks to Cecil. TATC goes out of its way to help new members feel comfortable as everyone joining a new organization is usually apprehensive. Sharon and Kama make sure the Counselors are aware that they are on-boarding a new member who needs a friendly welcoming.

That welcoming often starts when TATC members reach out to people who might like to join us. We are once again setting up tables at spots potential members might frequent. Jim and Chris Sexton and I previously did this at REI. On Saturday, July 31st, the three of us will have a table set up at LL Bean.

Jim Sexton reminded me that TATC is behind other clubs in one area -- live events. They are going all out. We haven't done much except for maintenance. If you want to lead a hike, or paddle or bike trip, please contact Dave Altman at hikemaster@tidewateratc.com so that he can put the event on the schedule. We need more in-person events--and to get back to normal to the extent we can.

We are behind on something else, too--volunteers. We need someone to help Jim Sexton with the 50th anniversary website. If you want to learn a lot about the web, Jim would be an excellent teacher.

If contact with people is more to your liking we have options. A prior TATC president, Juliet Stephenson, continues to respond to Facebook inquiries. She would like to pass the responsibility to a team of folks. The responsibilities are not onerous. Think of the job as chatting with new friends about TATC.

We also need an Outreach chair to, well, reach out. Actually, it's a fun job if you like to talk to people face-to-face, again about TATC and our work on the AT.

Lastly and this one is critical, we need someone to chair the nominating committee for Board elections at the end of the year. The workload is nominal. Just advertise the positions available then collect the names of people applying for Board positions. Board members who are going to stand for re-election are prohibited by the bylaws from performing this function.

Please contact me if you have an interest in any of these opportunities.

By the way, if you are interested in learning how the Appalachian Trail got started, check out Benton MacKaye's original memo that started it all. <https://appalachiantrail.org/our-work/an-appalachian-trail-a-project-in-regional-planning/>

One last point, sort of. If you are hiking, walking in the park, or just gardening, watch out for the ticks. Apparently, ticks are plentiful this year.

If you would like to see anything on the August General Meeting agenda, please send me an email at president@tidewateratc.com. All ideas are welcome.

I hope to see you all in person on August 11th.

Lee Lohman - President TATC

Minute for Maintenance

"We had another successful maintenance weekend. I want to thank everyone who participated in LopperFest Part 1. We were able to clean up the vegetation on both sides of Three Ridge and a few other sections. I want to especially thank Pete Burch for his help in getting the Love Gap fire road and Maupin Field cleaned out for us, making sure all of our swing blades were sharpened, and that we had everything we needed set at the CCC kitchen. It is always a big help to have everything ready for us when we get there.

This month will be the last month we have our Ridge Runner, Mia Fernandez. She has been an asset to the club these past few months. Jim Newman, John Sima, and I first met her during the Spring Walk-thru. She has so much personality and is just a joy to be around, not to mention great with a silky. She has spent all summer ensuring that we didn't have too much work to do on the trail by taking care of the small stuff and making sure she included any big maintenance that needed to be taken care of in her reports. Which made it easier for us to know what to focus on during summer maintenance. She has also participated in the most recent Lopperfest, helping us cut back the vegetation on the way up to Three Ridges from Maupin Field. So, I just want to give her shout out for all the help she provided to the club and we definitely hate to see her go but wish her the best of luck!

Also, we have more maintenance weekends on the calendar, so be sure to check those out. Next maintenance is scheduled for August 13th-15th. If you are interested, please, send me an email so we can add you to the list. Hope you all have a great month and get out of the trails!

Happy Trails,

Britt Collins
TATC Trail Supervisor



TATC Lopperfest Part 1

July 16-18, 2021

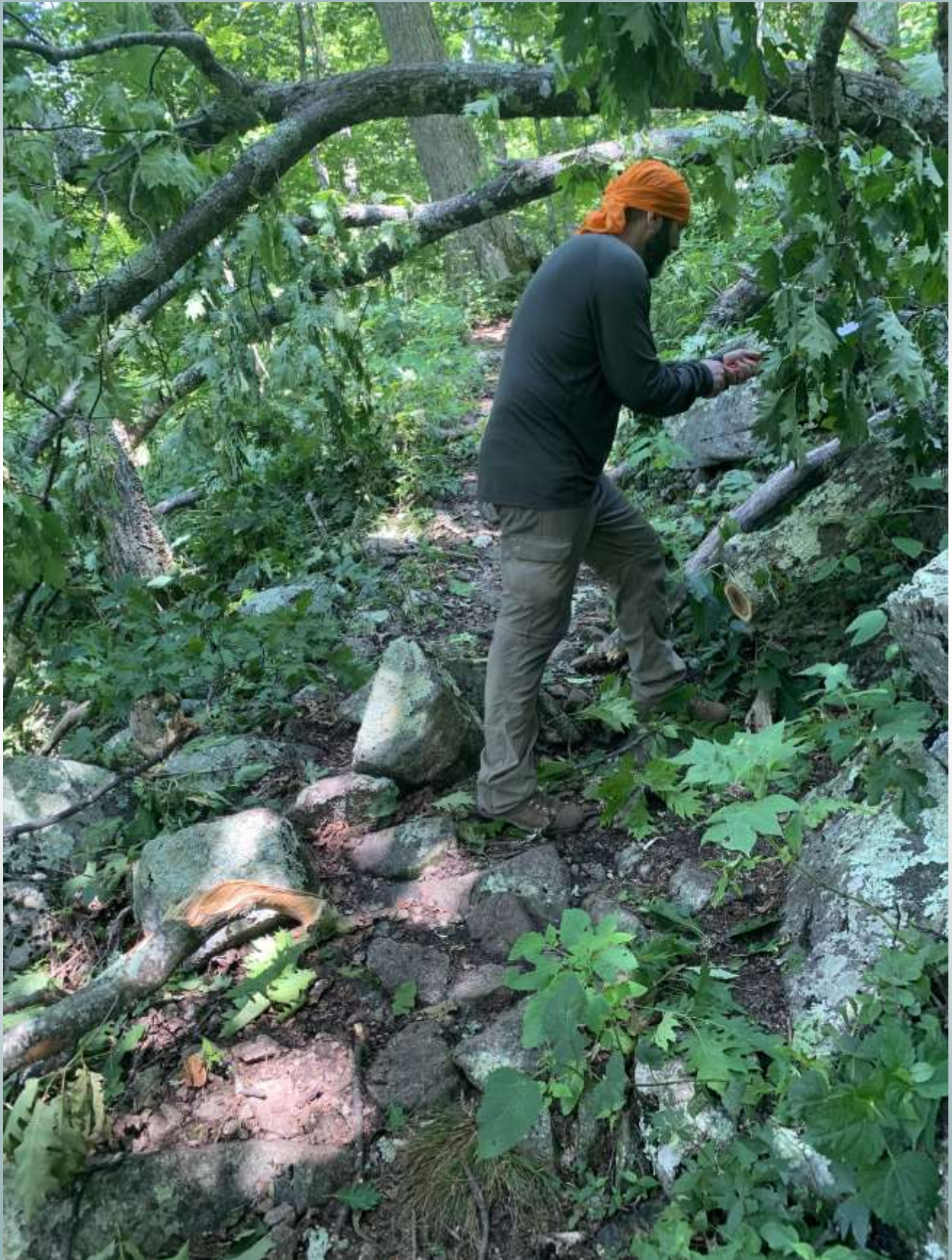
Provided by Brittany Collins



TATC Lopperfest Part 1

July 16-18, 2021

Provided by Brittany Collins



Opposites Attract

We were raised in two different worlds. Cecil discovered the natural world as a kid camping and fishing in the green hills of eastern Kentucky. Sharon, on the other hand, learned to appreciate the dry brown landscape of the southern California desert. Each informed the other when, as adults, their interests merged and created a partnership of opposites. Throughout our 35 year marriage, we were always planning our next adventure and looking for ways to live life to the fullest.

In December, 2001, Cecil retired after 20 years in the Navy and Sharon after years as a Physical Therapist Assistant and later as an adjunct instructor of English. We traded our small travel trailer for a 30 foot fifth wheel and hit the road on a five-year RVing adventure with our Cocker Spaniel, Spanky, and our cat, Abigail. Our adventure allowed us to experience some wonderful hiking opportunities. We were able to hike at Great Basin National Park, Anzo Borega State Park, the Wasatch Mountains near Salt Lake City, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, Grand Canyon National Park and Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and many other places. Because we had solar panels that allowed us to park off the grid, we also spent many months exploring on BLM land out west. We often thought about hiking portions of the Appalachian Trail, and the hiking we did during our travels made us all the more interested.

After settling back in from our travels, we started scheduling trips through Road Scholar. These trips included hiking the Inca Trail in Peru, hiking in Acadia National Park and hiking, biking, and kayaking in Vermont and Canada. Road Scholar's guided programs offered educational opportunities for us to learn more about nature, the environment, and culture that we had missed in our solo travels. We also enjoyed the group conviviality after years of experiencing our adventures solely as a couple. This group experience, as well as individual friendships, is what we sought out and enjoy about being active members of TATC.

We have always loved being outdoors, whether in our own local area or while traveling the country. Eventually, we ventured even farther, to countries abroad, to take in nature's beauty. There are still so many places to see and some we'd like to return to some day. "So many places, so little time," as they say. The Covid-19 virus has slowed us down a little, and we've had to cancel hiking trips in the Scottish Highlands and the Cotswolds in England for two years in a row now, but now, as retirement looms on the horizon, we look forward to getting back in the swing of things and living life to the fullest.

Sharon & Cecil Salyer

TATC Membership Article - July 2021

I hope everyone is having a great summer. Cecil and I spent an enjoyable ten days driving a family visit circuit of over 1800 miles through Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Along the way, as we enjoyed the natural beauty, we reminisced about all of the happy and sad times we've had with our families. Seeing all of our folks again reminds me that our very first and most important membership is family. Through the years, we support and are supported by this network of loved ones.

This got me to thinking about a source of support that I depend on every month but haven't acknowledged: Kama Mitchell. Kama is the first line of contact for the membership process. She promptly emails me information from the paper membership applications as soon as she gets them so that we aren't delayed in personally acknowledging new members and forwarding their information to the TATC counselors. She also picks up other mail from our PO box and channels it to all of the appropriate committees. I just want to say, "Kama, I don't know what we would do without you."

We have one new member to introduce:

Hi everyone. My name is Cheyenne Sky Burley. Please call me Sky. I am active duty Coast Guard stationed in Elizabeth City, NC where I am an instructor at the Aviation Technical Training Center. I am married to my wife Melanie and we have two teenage children Carson and Haley. We joined as a family because we enjoy hiking, backpacking, and camping as well as spending time as volunteers too. We have been taking numerous trips to the Shenandoah and we look forward to many more. I have been backpacking most of my life starting in the Boy Scouts when I was young. My love for the outdoors has me finishing a degree in Environmental Science with hopes of seeking a federal job with one of the land management agencies. My daughter and I are planning a thru hike on the AT when I retire in 2 years. Nice to meet you all. Sky





46Climbs 2021 Signups are LIVE!

Join us in the mountains and valleys on September 3-12 for another worldwide movement to...

- 1). Raise life-saving funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
- 2). Change the way the world views mental illness and suicide through positive action, making for an environment where those in crisis feel more able to reach out for the help they need.
- 3). Set aside time, away from distractions, to honor those we have lost and those we haven't.
- 4). Show the world that they are not alone.

You can join TATC's team by selecting **Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC)** when signing up.

Register for the 7th Annual 46Climbs National Event and be part of this remarkable community!

Donate \$25 or more to register, and participate as an individual or a team. Choose any mountain/trail or group of mountains (large or small) and climb/hike anytime between September 3rd – 12th.

You will receive a 46Climbs package – a dry fit t-shirt and a sticker. The first 1,200 participants will also receive a bandana. When you reach the summit, take a picture wearing your shirt or holding up your bandana and post it on social media (Facebook, Twitter or Instagram) with the hashtag #46Climbs. During the event, watch as the pictures and stories flow in from all over the country and beyond!

Perhaps climbing/hiking isn't your thing or you are unable to participate, you can still help! Please consider making a donation to help conquer suicide.

<https://46climbs.com>

A Few Notes About the Club Cabin

By Bob Adkisson

All in all, the Douglas Putman cabin is faring well and, when it comes to rental usage during this long Covid crisis, it is doing better than average. Many club members are making the time for a get-away to the woods, staying at the club's palatial but primitive stone cabin located just over half mile away from the Blue Ridge Parkway and civilization (such as it is these days).

As always, the cabin offers a quiet and peaceful respite to the troubles of the world.

Because of Covid, our usual schedule of Cabin Maintenance / Orientation trips has been disrupted this last 15 months, as has our regular maintenance work on the nearby White Rock Falls Trail. But things are getting back on track now and this Autumn we will again be offering two work trip opportunities to the cabin:

The weekend of Sept. 17th--19th Greg Hodges will lead a maintenance trip to the club cabin. Contact Greg if you are interested in joining him that weekend for some light work around the cabin and / or some trail work on the 2.6 mile White Rock Falls Trail. The cabin sleeps 12 but Greg may want to keep the number of participants down to 8 or 10. People are welcome to tent out if they prefer. Ask Greg for details (or there may be an announcement elsewhere in this newsletter about his trip);

The weekend of Nov. 5th--7th I will lead a cabin work trip. On this trip we may concentrate on chain-sawing and stockpiling firewood for the winter months. We may also take a hike, for the fun of it, if the weather cooperates and we have time. Both of these trips should be of special interest to newer club members-- by participating in a cabin work trip you will become qualified to rent it for yourself anytime in the future (we will make time during the weekend to go over how to operate and care for the cabin, and let you practice opening the security shutters and such).

As most of you know, in April of 2020 the club lost Margaret Crate, one of its most beloved members, one who put in countless hours, days, and months working on the TATC cabin (alongside her late husband Harold, who helped design it and who steered construction throughout its long berthing process-- 1979 thru 1986). For over 20 years the Crates were a mainstay couple in the club, involved deeply in about every area you can name. Unfortunately, because of the Covid restrictions and realities, no memorial service was held for Margaret all of last year. But just 2 days from when I write this, near the end of July, there will be a get together of club members, friends, and family at Sandy Bottom Park in Newport News, Va.-- we will gather to pay tribute to and remember her long legacy within the club, and within our lives. A few weeks ago an 'email blast' was sent out to all club members announcing this event, and a notice was published in the Norfolk and Newport News newspapers.

Another note-- long time club members Karl and Melva Price, who now live in the Jacksonville Beach area of Florida (and who themselves put in many hours of work on the cabin, back in the day), just last week sent the club an extremely generous donation in Margaret's honor, a check earmarked for 'cabin use only'.

Thank you so much, Karl and Melva!

A couple of more mundane notes: Just a reminder that last Spring (in May of 2020) the rental fee for the cabin went from \$5 per person per night to \$7. We neglected (forgot) to change the fee rate on our website and that has caused a wee bit of confusion. There is still a \$10 minimum fee for Friday and Saturday nights, but that only applies (or penalizes) a single person staying alone at the cabin either or both of those nights.

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If ever you have any questions about how much you owe, email or call me and we can do the math together!

When you send me a check for your stay it would be helpful to let me know how many people were there with you at the cabin, for how many nights, and I can check your math that way too. As always, try and get the key and your payment back to me within 2 weeks of the end of your stay (if you are going to rent the cabin again in a month or so, I usually have no problem letting you hold onto the key for that 2nd trip).

Also: as I feared and suspected, sometimes cabin renters do something they really shouldn't: they toss unwanted food items out into the nearby woods. I recently got a report of cookies and pieces of bread being discovered within a stone's throw of the cabin-- discovered by the renters dog. This of course can and will attract animals to the area, and as much as most of us really love seeing wild animals, it is NOT a good thing to do.

Please pack out any unwanted food (with the exception of canned goods, which you can donate to the cabin, and others may eventually eat-- like the group of 6 starving club members who were once snowed in for two extra days one January weekend). Pack out things like banana peels and orange rinds and apple cores too-- they are biodegradable, but also draw animals, and the digestive systems of most animals are usually not set up to handle such novel items. They can actually do harm.

Thanks too, to some recent cabin renters who, while staying at the cabin this Spring and Summer, took the time and made the effort to help out with things like swing-blading the weeds along the cabin access road and to the lower spring, and helped clear the White Rock Falls Trail as well. This is much appreciated work (during the work trip this last May we had only 3 people show up, and 2 of them were the cabin committee: me and Greg!).

Lastly-- I am not sure if there will be a 2022 TATC calendar, but if there is..... Every year (except last year) I remind folks that they can schedule, over a year in advance, an open-to-all trip to the cabin, and get it placed in the upcoming club calendar. There are only a couple of necessary stipulations-- the person renting the cabin and leading the trip there must be qualified to rent it (they must have attended one of the maintenance / orientation trips to the cabin sometime in the past); they must consult and clear it with Greg and I about the dates they are interested in reserving in the next calendar year-- so that they won't conflict with some work trip we might be planning; they must fairly and openly have spots for anyone in the club that might want to join them on the trip they plan, and they must announce the trip in the newsletter (and elsewhere if they wish) beforehand. As trip leader, they will collect the necessary rental fee from all participants, be responsible for the cabin during the period of the rental, and can plan whatever activities they want, like a hike to Crabtree Falls or the Afton train tunnel, visiting a winery, etc.

If there is to be a TATC calendar put together for the year 2022, the deadline to get events placed on it is usually in early November. Anyone interested in leading a group hike to stay at the cabin, to use it as a sort of base, for a weekend or a week-- let me know if you have questions about how it would work or what you might need to do. We want to encourage group usage of the cabin, and introduce new members to it. Some long time lovers and renters of the cabin might want to consider sharing the cabin experience with new club members, and lead them on a hike over all or part of our trail section, or to other interesting places close by.

A.T. Vista 2021 Countdown



It's time to get ready for A.T. Vista 2021 – Celebrating 100 Years!

On August 7 and 8 we celebrate the first part of the inaugural A.T. Vista program as we encourage everyone to come out and hike.

Promotion of A.T. Vista and local hikes in your area on social media sites will be an important part of connecting to others interested in outdoor activity in your area. It also has the potential to increase the awareness of your organization and help your organization increase its membership.

As we expand the reach of the inaugural A.T. Vista program we want to engage with as many people as possible and request that you post the requested text below on your Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram sites if you are using these forms of communications.

The A.T. Vista Program Committee requests your associated Social Media contact person to post the text below this week to encourage participation to hike a trail or to participate in one of the sponsored hikes on August 7 and 8.

We want to collect as many photos and videos of people out on the trail during these two days. If your club is sponsoring an A.T. Vista hike, we hope that you will be posting the activity throughout the day. Tag all postings with [#ATVista2021](https://twitter.com/ATVista2021) and send copies to atvistainfo@gmail.com.

The links to all the hikes and pre-recorded workshops are available online at www.atvista2021.org

If your club hasn't already done so, follow A.T. Vista using the following social media links:

www.facebook.com/a.t.vistaconference

www.twitter.com/atvistaconf

www.instagram.com/atvistainfo

We appreciate your support and look to a great inauguration program.

We invite everyone with a love of trails to help us celebrate 100 years of Appalachian Trail history during the virtual A.T. Vista, on August 7 and 8. Come out and hike on one or both days along the Appalachian Trail or other nearby trails. Some guided hikes may be available in your area, so check out the offerings at www.atvista2021.org.

Norfolk Botanical Gardens

The Norfolk Botanical Gardens (NBG) has 175 acres to discover. There are 7 miles of paved paths and another 7 miles of unpaved paths to explore. The NBG includes a beautiful collections of roses, camellias, crape myrtles and a very popular Butterfly House and 3-acre Children's Garden. The Gardens are surrounded by water on three sides and it is one of the only Gardens in the Country that you can visit by foot, by boat or by tram. Please stop by Baker Hall Visitor Center where the friendly staff will help you get the most out of your visit. Note: Please bring a reusable container for use at one of the many cold and filtered-water refill stations located throughout the Garden. Bottled water is not sold in the Gift Shop or the Cafe.

Website: norfolkbotanicalgarden.org

Garden Map: <https://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/visit/map/>

Hours: Open Daily 9 AM - 7 PM - closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Dogs on Sunday only.

Bikes nights are 4 PM - 7PM daily. Please leave skates, skateboards, rollerblades, and scooters at home.

Butterfly House opens mid-June thru mid-September

World of Wonder (WOW) Children's Garden 9:30 AM - 6:30 PM

World of Wonder (WOW) Splash Fountains 9:30 AM - 6 PM

Marigold Honey Café - Mon.-Fri. 11 AM - 4 PM, Sat. & Sun. 11 AM - 5 PM

Free Public Trams - 10 AM - 4 PM Daily, Departing Baker Hall Visitor Center at the top of the hour

Boat Tours - Friday, Saturday & Sunday 11 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM, 4 PM - purchase tickets inside Baker Hall

Directions:

From Williamsburg/Richmond, DC, follow I-64 to Exit 279 (Norview Avenue), turn left on Azalea Garden Road from Norview Avenue. The Garden Entrance is on the right.

From Virginia Beach, take I-264 to I-64 (Richmond) to Exit 279 B (Norview Avenue). Turn left on Azalea Garden Road from Norview Avenue. The Garden entrance is on the right.

Membership: <https://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/support/membership/> Membership includes year-round free admission, discounts, special event invitations and a subscription to NBG's member magazine, DIG.

Daily Tickets:

Adults: \$15

Seniors and Military: \$13

Children 3-17: \$13

Toddlers: Free

Adult Classes – <https://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/learn/adult-education/adult-classes/>

Contact Information:

Address: 6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, Virginia 23518-5337

Phone: (757-441-5830

[DOWNLOAD THE NBG MOBILE APP](#)

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE!

Between the COVID-19 pandemic and all the things going on in the news, it would be easy to forget that we are nearing the peak of the Atlantic Hurricane Season for 2021. Fortunately, there are no current storm threats for the Hampton Roads region, but that can always change quickly during hurricane season. With that in mind, here is some important information that you and your family should use to help prepare and stay informed.

Establishing a hurricane plan in advance can help keep you and your loved ones safe. Here are a few resources to assist you in your planning:

Know your zone: Visit <https://www.vaemergency.gov/hurricane-evacuation-zone-lookup/> to find out what zone you and your loved ones live in. Zone designations are used by emergency managers to advise residents whether they should evacuate to higher ground or shelter at home.

Check your flood insurance policy: Most homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding and it typically takes up to 30 days for flood insurance policy to go into effect. Just an inch of water in your home can cause thousands of dollars in damage. The National Flood Insurance Program provides insurance to renters, homeowners, and businesses. For more information, visit <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>.

Get vaccinated: Getting vaccinated is the best way for eligible individuals to ensure they stay healthy and keep their loved ones safe in good weather or bad. Vaccinations are especially important should you need to evacuate or assist others in preparing for or responding to an emergency. Go to [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) if you have not been vaccinated yet.

Be in the know: The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) [www.Ready.Gov](https://www.ready.gov) is an excellent resource on how best to prepare you and your family for hurricane season. FEMA also has an excellent guide on how best to prepare for a Hurricane. You can download this guide by [clicking here](#).

Be prepared for extreme heat: Following a storm, there may be extended power and water outages, increasing the risk of heat-related illness. Having a supply of water in advance, avoiding strenuous activities, wearing light clothing, and staying hydrated can help keep you healthy. Checking in on family members and neighbors, especially those who are elderly or have disabilities can help keep our community safe. FEMA has more information on staying healthy in the heat on [their website](#).

Know where to turn for forecasts: You are encouraged to track storms that may impact Virginia by visiting the **National Weather Service (NWS)** at www.weather.gov and the **National Hurricane Center** at www.hurricanes.gov. Also, be sure to check [local weather statements](#) via NWS for specific details for your County Warning Area (CWA) on weather conditions, evacuation decisions made by local officials, and other precautions necessary to protect life and property.

For the Richmond and Hampton Roads regions, please use the statements from the **National Weather Service field office in Wakefield, Virginia** (click on current hazards). You can also follow the NWS' Wakefield Field Office on Twitter at [@NWSWakefieldVA](https://twitter.com/NWSWakefieldVA). You can also follow updates on the storm on Twitter by following [@NOAA](https://twitter.com/NOAA) and [@NWS](https://twitter.com/NWS). For those that don't use Twitter, there is also a **FEMA mobile app** that you can download as well.

The “it” Project

TATC’s Board of Directors agreed to a suggestion by Steve Clayton to undertake a project to celebrate the club’s 50th Anniversary, which is next year. The Board believes the project should have three characteristics.

It should be significant. Once completed, we shouldn’t be asking ourselves, “Why did we bother?” It should clearly be known and marked as a TATC effort. Once completed, no one should be asking, “I wonder who did that?”

It should be enduring. Once completed, members shouldn’t be asking themselves five years from now, “Do you remember what we did to mark the 50th anniversary?” Ideally, members of the Board preparing for TATC’s 100th anniversary would be asking themselves, “How could we do something as meaningful as they did 50 years ago?”

The Board is prepared to spend a reasonable amount of money from club funds and if necessary, launch a fundraising drive to finance it.

The Board’s initial discussion about what the project should be generated a variety of views but no firm conclusions about what “it” should be. So, the Board agreed to solicit ideas from the membership. This has three advantages. First, we will have creative ideas from our 400 plus members. Second, the ultimate decision of what “it” will be based on member suggestions. It will consequently reflect the views of a broad spectrum of our membership. Third, whether members contribute or not, they can take satisfaction in knowing that they had the opportunity to offer recommendations.

So, we need your ideas for “it.” Send them to Jim Sexton at newsletter@tidewateratc.com. He will put them on TATC’s website so everyone can see what other members are recommending. For example, one idea we received is to build a canoe/kayak ramp.

While the “it” project is a catchy name, It is hardly descriptive. Instead, we are changing the name from “it” to the 50th Anniversary Project. That’s a little more mundane, but it is descriptive and avoids any confusion with Cousin Itt (our younger members may have to Google that).





Hello, I am a TATC member. I also own The Nature Bus which is parked outside of REI. We offer Guided Eco Tours in the Coastal Virginia Area – offering customizable experiences for private-groups & Saturday Escapes Tours (on most weekends) that are open to everyone (fees do apply). Say YES to NEW Adventures! Hop on board for memorable experiences with the natural world. We add new tours all of the time, and go mostly every Saturday on a fun adventure.

Website: <https://thenaturebus.com/>

Calendar of upcoming tours: <https://thenaturebus.com/calendar/>

Scheduled upcoming tours:

Tour Name: Farm-to-Table Tasting Tour
Date: Saturday, August 7, 2021
Duration (Round Trip) 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Tour Name: Private Stargazing Tour with The Nature Bus
Date: August 13, 2021
Duration: TBD

Tour Name: Guided Visit to a Pollinator Habitat
Date: Saturday, August 21, 2021 (rain-date is Sunday, August 22)
Duration (Round Trip) 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Tour Name: Watercolor in the Woods
Date: Saturday, August 28, 2021 (rain-date is Sunday, August 29)
Duration (Round Trip) 10:30 AM – 2:30 ZPM

Tours depart from REI in Town Center, Virginia Beach, please arrive ½ hour before tour starts.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With appreciation,

Suzanne Moss
The Nature Bus, Owner
Cell/Text 757-288-9595
Email: info@TheNatureBus.com

Pleasure House Point Invasive Species Removal #1

Dave Plum

On June 17, 2021, eighteen (18) volunteers descended on Pleasure House Point (PHP) to assist the City Parks and Recreation staff with some selective pruning and brush removal. The purpose of this effort was to begin to open the viewshed from Shore Drive to see the maritime forest that exists at PHP. The invasive species are harming the native plants and trees in PHP. This was the inaugural work effort, and more opportunities will be scheduled in the future. TATC now has an informal agreement with the city to assist with controlling the invasive species in the park.



At the onset of the work, I think the city staff was not too optimistic of what would be accomplished based on the demographics of the volunteers assembled. The average age of the volunteers was probably well over 65. A large debris container was delivered and placed on the south side of the shared used path along Shore Drive and after a briefing from Ethan Cason with Parks and Recreation, we commenced cutting, clearing, pruning, and hauling the cuttings to the debris trailer. An hour into the work, the debris trailer was filled, and we continued to cut and haul more invasive species and stockpiled it adjacent to the trailer.

Many thanks and kudos go out to Judy Welp, Bruce Julian, Martha Shore, Sharon Salyer, Chris Abelein, Dave Plum, Ned Kuhns, Lee Lohman, Andy Grayson, Brooke Schaab, Paul and Lori Heymann, John and Jane Oakes, John Kolos, Margaret and Vic Pissone, and Al Crute. Fortunately we survived the 3 hours of work with only one minor scrape and no reported cases of poison ivy.

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Please be on the lookout for the next call for volunteers to continue our volunteerism and community service. The next work party will likely occur in early August, with the type of assistance needed to be determined by the City.



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 4, 2021 7pm-9pm

Where: Online via Zoom App

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

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 7pm – 9pm

Where: Location to be determined.

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting

Program: TBD

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

Lopperfest 2021 Part 2 for the weekend of August 13th

When: August 13-15, 2021

Where: Camping at the CCC Kitchen in Sherando. The gate may be locked, make sure to contact Brittany for a key code to unlock the gate.

Why: We will be clearing any vegetation overgrowth on the Three Ridges trail and doing our walk-thru for Fall Maintenance.

Who: 15 TATC Volunteers

Contact: Brittany at trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com for details

Walking Tour of Ft. Monroe

When: Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 9:00AM

Where: Meet Jim Newman at 9:00AM at the parking lot next to the Deadrise Restaurant, 100 McNair Drive, Ft Monroe (Hampton)

Description: In addition to an approximate 5 miles hike along the seawall, visit the updated Casemate Museum, and see the pet cemetery and view atop the interior fortifications. Lunch and refreshments will be at the Oozlefinch brewery located on the National Monument property. Group limited to first 12 individuals to comply with museum rules. Wear comfortable footwear and clothing appropriate for conditions and bring \$ for lunch.

Contact: jimnewman55@gmail.com

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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, September 1, 2021 7pm-9pm

Where: Online via Zoom App

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

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 7pm – 9pm

Where: Location to be determined.

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting

Program: TBD

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

TATC Fall Maintenance

When: October 15-17, 2021

Where: TATC's Appalachian Trail Section, Nelson County, VA, Camping: at Group Camping Area, Sherando Lake Recreation Area, 96 Sherando Lake Rd, Lyndhurst, VA. Williams Branch Camping Area.

Contact: Brittany Collins to sign up, trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

Description: This is the second major trail maintenance event of 2021. Check our website for updates www.tidewateratc.com. Free camping and no entrance fee if gate attendant informed of your purpose. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for own food, beverage and supplies for duration of your stay. TATC supplies tools. Currently, we can only have 25 folks camping at the Williams Branch picnic area; however, if you plan on camping somewhere else and would like to join us, please let us know and we can still add you to our crew list. This is a weekend for us to satisfy the reason for our existence: to keep the AT, Mau-Har, and White Rock Falls trails open to foot traffic. Best to arrive between noon & dusk on Friday in order to establish camp and be ready for our Saturday 8:00AM meeting.

TATC Facebook Site

Check our Facebook Site, our Club's Website,
and our periodic Blast Emails for Updated Club News.

TATC Facebook Site

TATC Website

TATC MeetUp Site

TATC Officers & Board

Position	Name	Email Address
President	Lee Lohman	president@tidewateratc.com
Vice President	David Altman	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	Ellis Malabad	counselor@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Kari Pincus	counselor@tidewateratc.com
ATC RPC Representative	Ned Kuhns	rpcrep@tidewateratc.com
Alt ATC RPC Representative	Jim Sexton	rpcrep@tidewateratc.com
Cabin Committee	Bob Adkisson	cabin@tidewateratc.com or 627-5514
Cabin Committee	Gregory Hodges	cabin@tidewateratc.com
Calendar	Tony Phelps	calendar@tidewateratc.com
Education	Vacant - TBA	education@tidewateratc.com
Hikemaster	David Altman	hikemaster@tidewateratc.com
Historical	Jim Sexton	historical@tidewateratc.com
Land Management	Nalin Ratnayake	landmgt@tidewateratc.com
Local Trails	Dave Plum	localtrails@tidewateratc.com
Membership	Kama Mitchell	membership@tidewateratc.com
Membership	Sharon Salyer	membership@tidewateratc.com
Merchandise	Vacant - TBA	merchandise@tidewateratc.com
Newsletter	Jim Sexton	newsletter@tidewateratc.com
Outreach	Vacant - TBA	outreach@tidewateratc.com
Past President	Rosanne Cary	pastprez@tidewateratc.com
Programs	Vacant - TBA	programs@tidewateratc.com
Timekeeper	Bill Lynn	timekeeper@tidewateratc.com
Tool Boss	Gene Monroe	toolboss@tidewateratc.com
Webmaster	Jim Sexton	webmaster@tidewateratc.com



Chris Sexton at TATC Display Table at L.L. Bean

July 31, 2021

Provided by Jim Sexton

