

# Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

## Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com

Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson

February 2022 - March 2022  
49th Edition, 1<sup>st</sup> Issue

### PREZ SEZ

#### Our Losses

December and January were not kind months to TATC. On December 20th, we lost Marilyn Horvath, a long-time and much beloved member. On December 17th, Mark Ferguson passed away after a long illness. On January 3rd, a camper/hiker was killed by a falling tree while camping near our Harpers Creek Shelter.

I did not know Marilyn personally, but I found the outpouring of grief at her death a testament to the depth of feeling of those who had worked with her on the cabin, with new volunteers, and on many maintenance trips. On first hearing of her death, Bob Adkisson wrote "Marilyn Horvath was only, for about 25 years, one of the most outgoing and well known and active of club members, extremely well liked and positive in everything she did." Below you will find a wonderful article on her contributions as a volunteer and as a warm human being. She will be missed.

Mark Ferguson's passing had a powerful impact on the Board and the large number of members who enjoyed his company and valued his contributions. Mark was a beloved rascal. Smart, well-read, and not afraid to express his opinions, Mark was a wonderful foil during a Board meeting, a kindly and attentive Counselor to the many new members he welcomed to the club as a TATC Counselor, an eager trail maintainer, especially in St. Mary's Wilderness, and a fun person around a campfire. The article below on Mark is moving whether you knew him or not. He too will be missed.

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Visit our website at [www.tidewateratc.com](http://www.tidewateratc.com)

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### **Trail Incident**

A camper and her male companion were camping at the Harpers Creek Shelter when a tree fell on their tent. We understand she was declared dead-on-arrival at a local hospital in the Sherando area. We do not know her name nor that of her companion or his condition. Members of the Board, the National Park Service, the U.S Forest Service, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy held a Zoom meeting on January 21st to discuss the incident and derive lessons learned. We were not able to glean anything from the meeting that would help us avoid a similar tragedy. Assistant Trail Supervisor, John Sima, and member Pete Burch hiked up to Harpers Creek Shelter to gather any information they could. We'll report their findings to the membership in February. This experience is a potent reminder that hiking/camping the A.T in winter carries risks. Be prudent.

### **Elections**

On January 12th, the new Board was elected via Zoom. The results are below. We particularly welcome Andy Grayson as our new Vice President and Bill Bunch as our new Counselor replacing Ellis Malabad after his three year stint.

Lee Lohman--President  
Andy Grayson--Vice President  
Cecil Salyer--Treasurer  
Steve Clayton--Secretary  
Kari Pincus--Counselor  
Bruce Davison--Counselor  
Bill Bunch--Counselor

### **A Thru-Hike in the Making**

Trish Mims, a TATC member, plans to undertake a thru-hike of the A.T. beginning on February 1st. She reached out to Ned Kuhns, a veteran thru-hiker, for advice. In his typically generous and kindly fashion, he wrote,

“Hope you have a wonderful and successful hike. I'll be reading your blog each day and looking for up-dates.

You have an ambitious hike plan. I don't see many zero days and would recommend you consider more but you'll decide that as you hike. Be very careful and don't rush. Hike your own hike! I think you will find it very cold in the southern mountains for the first two months. Be sure to eat a lot to keep the calories in the body,, particularly in towns.”

Please reach out to Trish and wish her well. Her blog link is [www.titaniumbuddy.com](http://www.titaniumbuddy.com)

Trish, we will all be reading your blogs. Good luck and please stay safe. We all wish you a happy and healthy hike.

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### **Board Decision and Concerns**

Board members met on January 16th to hammer out a new budget for TATC fiscal year 2022 which starts on March 1st. The draft budget will be reviewed, amended, and approved by the Board at the February 2nd meeting. It includes money for the 500 Trees for 50 Years project, the 50th Anniversary Event/Dinner, and the Historical Committee's publications celebrating our past. It also includes money for a year more akin to 2019 than 2021. The Board assumes (and hopes) we will resume most if not all of our usual activities very shortly. We will be asking the membership to approve the budget at the February 9th General Membership Meeting. Cecil Salyer, our Treasurer, will be sending it to the members via e-blast after the Board approves.

### **TATC's Annual Objectives**

The Board adopted a set of objectives for this year. They are:

- Hold/execute 50th Anniversary Events

  - Event/Dinner

  - Historical Committee publications

  - 500 Trees project

- Update the Land Management Plan

- Digitally archive all TATC permanent and temporary records.

- Review and update the Bylaws

- Establish formal policies and procedures.

- Conduct the Spring Maintenance Trip

- Conduct the Fall Maintenance Trip

- Review timing/sequence and conduct the Lopperfests

- Conduct Local Trails Maintenance

- Restart TATC Local Hiking, Biking, and Kayak trips when COVID permits.

- Expand maintenance and outdoor skills through related online and hands-on training.

- Bring TATC training into compliance with its obligations under the Volunteer Service Agreement.

- Expand recruiting to target 1) families with children by creating outdoor opportunities specifically for them, 2) minorities who have an interest in outdoor activities, 3) military members at or nearing retirement, 4) military veterans.

It's quite a daunting list. The Board will be breaking it down into specific projects. We will need volunteers for each effort. Standby for recruiting emails and requests.

### **500 Trees for 50 Years**

Though it might have seemed overly ambitious when announced, our tree project has legs. Jim Newman leads the effort in Norfolk. Dave Plum does it for Virginia Beach. The City of Norfolk seems very keen for the financial and physical assistance we can provide to reforest their area. Note I said physical. TATC volunteers will be needed to put the trees in the ground. The good news is that Norfolk will dig the holes. See Jim Newman's article below for more detail (and to enjoy the poem) and to learn how to get involved. If you like planting things, this sounds like fun.

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TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB's



**SAVE the DATE**  
**FOR OUR LANDMARK CELEBRATION**



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022**

NO, NOT AT THE TOP OF THREE RIDGES, AT THE BEAUTIFUL

**HARBOR CLUB, WATERSIDE DISTRICT**

IN NORFOLK OVERLOOKING THE ELIZABETH RIVER. PLAN ON IT. 5-8 P.M.

## Minute for Maintenance

Over the last month Three Ridges Wilderness has been pummeled with winter storms and from the looks of it will continue to be throughout the next several weeks. We have had reports of several down trees and icy conditions. As we move through the month of February the TATC Trail Maintenance team will hopefully be able to find a fair weather weekend to conduct some much needed trail maintenance. If you happen to find a good day to get out in Three Ridges, please, be sure to bring proper gear. I recommend bringing yaktrax or microspikes, a wind breaker, warm jacket, and of course water. We will keep you posted on the trail conditions as we receive reports over the next few weeks.

Good News: We have been in contact with the ATC and the Forest Service to coordinate dates to conduct Crosscut Sawyer recertification, dates have not been determined but we expect them to be held in March sometime. Be on the lookout! :)

Again, if you are going to venture out on the trail Be SAFE and look at the weather before!

*Happy Trails!*

*Britt & John*

TATC Trail Supervisor - [trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com](mailto:trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com)

TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - [assistantts@tidewateratc.com](mailto:assistantts@tidewateratc.com)

## 2022 Planned Maintenance Dates

- Spring Walk Thru: April 16th, camping out at CCC Kitchen
- Spring maintenance: May 7th, camping out at Williams Branch Picnic Area, May 6th-8th
- Lopperfest 2022 Part 1: June 11th
- LopperFest 2022 Part 2: July 9th
- Lopperfest 2022 Part 3: August 27th
- Fall Walk Thru: September 17th
- Fall Maintenance: September 24th, Camping at Williams Branch Picnic Area 23rd-25th



## Membership

We have a few new member bios left to post from last year. Thanks for your contributions. I enjoy reading about all of the different hiking experiences, and I know that other members do too.

Jerry became a member way back in May.

I am Jerry Dingus, I have lived in Newport News for the past 23 years. I am 61 and very much a novice hiker - While I have been walking most of those 61 years, I think of hiking as "backpacking in mountainous terrain." I love to walk the Noland trail, I was a runner for many years but I have little to no experience with mountain hiking, backpacking, or camping. I want to learn about and DO these things. I also like the idea of maintaining our section of the AT as well as trails at First Landing. Cheers

Kaci became a member last October.

My name is Kaci Midgette, and I am an outdoors, nature, and hiking fanatic. My first hike was in 2003, in Alaska to a spot called Hatchers Pass. Since then, I have hiked trails in French Polynesia on Moorea, the Shenandoah NP, and more recently the Great Smoky Mountains NP with my two children. My camping experience is limited to State Parks, but I am working on developing my day hiking to backpacking and overnighiting in the woods/backcountry. Currently, I am taking classes to fulfill a degree in Biology where I hope to minor in Conservation. Hiking has led me to pursue a passion to maintain and share the nature I so enjoy. My goal is to one day have gained enough understanding to conquer multiple trails as a thru-hiker. How lucky that there is a local club full of like-minded individuals. Hard work makes time fly by and I am excited to be a part of the work that TACT provides to the community, locally and extending all the way to the Appalachian Trail. Thank you!

Jason became a member in December.

After 15 years living in DC, I have returned to my hometown of Chesapeake, VA. While in DC, I spent many weekends hiking and backpacking around Shenandoah, the George Washington National Forest, and Dolly Sods among other spots. I joined TATC to give back through trail maintenance activities and to engage with other folks who share a love of the outdoors. Thanks,  
Jason Simpson

Thanks again from Sharon and Kama.  
[membership@tidewateratc.com](mailto:membership@tidewateratc.com)

## Needed - Missing TATC Newsletters

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

### Missing newsletters:

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

## Needed - Met & Married

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

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

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

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



## **TATC Kicks Off 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year with Commitment to Plant 500 Trees in Norfolk, Virginia Beach, & Locations TBD**

Jim Newman

What better way to begin the celebration of our club's half century existence, and to honor all that have served the purpose and progress of Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club, than this worthy environmental cause. As the world races to slow climate change, trees receive more attention for the role they play in cooling the climate—and for good reason! Trees absorb and store massive amounts of carbon, and unlike other carbon removal methods they don't require expensive technology. Research indicates that natural climate solutions, such as forest conservation and restoration, can provide over one-third of the climate mitigation needed in the next decade to meet current international agreement targets. Our planet deserves our caring help!

Our efforts begin on **Saturday, February 26, 2022** at Norfolk's Legacy Grove on the vast grounds of Ocean View Elementary School, 9501 Mason Creek Rd. TATC will join Norfolk Arborist Steve Traylor at 9:00AM to plant 50-100 trees in appropriately-spaced pre-dug holes. The number of trees depends on supply available at the City of Norfolk Nursery located in Chesapeake. Cost of trees will be \$15 each. You may donate through TATC website using "Donate to 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" button. Contact Jim Newman by leaving msg at 757 867-6688 or emailing <jimnewman55@gmail.com>.

**A second TATC Legacy Grove** will be planted in Virginia Beach during the February-March timeframe. Plans for that location are pending information from the city arborist. A special newsletter will be forthcoming providing details. David Plum is working with the Virginia Beach folks and you will soon hear from him.

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And now, for your reading pleasure, something from the wisdom corner:

### **Trees**

Joyce Kilmer

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in Summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain  
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree*

**"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose  
shade they shall never sit." — Greek Proverb.**



## In Remembrance of Marilyn Horvath



**Photos provided by Marilyn's Son; Sandy Horvath**

### **Bob Adkisson**

Memories of Marilyn Horvath

My first memory of Marilyn is easy to remember, and it marks a very important moment in my life: as a new and sort of reluctant club member, the first time I went up to work on the TATC Cabin (on a chilly week-end in mid-November, 1979), I got a ride to the Blue Ridge Mountains with Hugo and Marilyn Horvath. It was my first time meeting either of them, and the ride had been arranged by former club president Jacque Jenkins. Besides being the head cook, chief wrangler, and all around champion and promoter of the project, one of Jacque's other chores was matching up people who needed a ride with those that had space and were willing.

I'd just the week before turned 26, and had all through 1979 been hearing about the construction of the cabin, the monthly work trips. I'd seen a few photos of some of the early work. But all that year it seemed like I had too many things going on, was distracted, and for some reason the idea of it just didn't "fire my imagination" or interest.

About 10 p.m. that Friday night, when we arrived at the parking area in the small meadow at White Rock Gap, I shouldered my pack and was ready to hike the half mile in to the worksite (at this point there was no cabin, just a foundation, an outhouse, some campsites, and the access trail). But of course another rider and myself were going to wait for the Horvath's to get their gear sorted and their packs in place; we'd hike in together. But it soon became apparent that there was a problem— they'd each assumed the other was going to put their sleeping bags in the trunk, and neither had! They were at home, still in the closet.

No sleeping bags on this cold night— that just wasn't going to work.

Fortunately there was another club member there in the meadow, getting her gear in order. To the best of my memory, this was also my first time meeting Margaret Crate. In a few minutes her husband Harold came walking up to join the group (Harold, I was to discover, was the chief architect of the cabin).

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The Crates quickly came up with a generous solution to the problem of the 2 missing, and desperately needed, sleeping bags— instead of tenting out with the rest of us, Harold and Margaret would stay there in the meadow, inside their Chevy Suburban, using sleeping bag liners and some blankets to stay warm; the Horvath's got to borrow and use their sleeping bags both nights.

It all worked out, and soon we were walking off into the dark woods.

Saturday dawned clear and cool, revealed 3 dozen club members present and eager to get to work. And one thing was clear— working would help keep you warm! Harold, assistant architect Otey Shelton, and Cabin Committee Head Ray Levesque assigned any number of jobs and chores, pointed out tools, gave instructions and guidance. It was actually fun, and we accomplished things.

Surrounded mostly by people the same age as my parents (everyone I've named so far), I fell right into this family of club members that, over the next few years, was to build the Douglas Putman Cabin— a close knit group that made that dream come true.

I immediately fell in love with the idea and the promise and the camaraderie of the cabin. It was something that would change my life.

And, it began with Marilyn and Hugo sharing their car for the long ride up there, hiking into the woods with them, sleeping on the side of a mountain in the middle of nowhere.

Turns out that Hugo had had quite enough of living rough and going without— as a young man, about 35 years earlier, he'd served in WW II in Italy. I wouldn't see him much over the years, but the irrepressible Marilyn was everywhere in the club. She led countless hikes, many of them on different sections of the Appalachian Trail, both in Virginia and neighboring states. She went on at least a few caving trips, led by former club president Charlie Gillie (though I heard there were times she was petrified by the dark and cramped spaces). I am not sure I was there on that specific trip (led by Otey Shelton), but I've seen a photo of Marilyn bravely rappelling off of the 100 foot cliffs atop Old Rag Mountain.

And then there are the canoe trips— just 2 years after my first visit to the cabin, I learned about a club excursion to Algonquin Provincial Park, in Ontario, organized by Jacque and the Crates. I was sort of a last minute addition to the group, accepted only because Marilyn didn't have a paddling partner. Turns out it was a 2 week trip altogether, with 7 nights spent out on the lakes and rivers of this huge, wild and wondrous park.

I have to say (and I think Marilyn would have agreed) that of the 12 people on this trip, traveling about 75 miles in 6 canoes, the two of us had the most fun together. I think we were both cut from the same cloth, had the same spirit of adventure and complete love of nature. The first day all of us saw a bear eating berries along the shore of a lake. The 2nd day we all passed by a huge moose standing in a marshy section of a river. The 3rd night I was sleeping out in the open, near Marilyn's tent, when we heard some animal close to us. She passed her flashlight out to me and I pointed it at the source of the noise— a raccoon climbing up a nearby tree.

It was on the 5th day she and I diverted from the group early in the morning (none of them wanted to add a quarter of a mile of paddling in order to see an old logging camp); we spent maybe 15 minutes looking for and finding the alligator that was mentioned on the park map (the 'alligator' was actually a long abandoned piece of logging machinery, left there at the edge of a flowery meadow). We took some photos and then hurried to catch up to the group.

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At the end of the trip, at an ice cream shop we'd all been thinking about the whole time we were in the wilderness, she bought me a large sundae— to thank me for all the times I saved her from getting her feet wet when getting in or out of the canoe; I'd simply scoop her up in my arms and place her in the bow seat. There were 3 married couples on the trip, and none of them acted so silly, or got treated to such chivalry!

About 10 years later I led what I think was the longest canoe trip ever offered to the members of our club— a continuous 104 mile paddle down part of Craig Creek and the upper James River. Only 3 others signed up to go on the trip with me, and Marilyn was the only one I really knew. It was an eventful trip, the main reason being the 35 year old man I'd allowed to come along— he was an inexperienced canoeist, but also immature, at times unable to handle himself or a few minor challenges. He insisted Marilyn ride in the bow seat of his canoe and help steady him. Marilyn let me know she didn't really want to play that role— she enjoyed paddling with me and felt safer riding in my boat. But she was the brave soldier and rode with him the first full day on the river. The 2nd day we made the switch and she came to my boat, and that worked out well, until the man ran into a tree and turned over. Then he refused to get back in his boat, with or without Marilyn— he insisted on riding in my boat!

It seemed the only way to get us moving down the river again was to have Marilyn paddle his boat solo while he rode in the bow of mine.

I don't think she'd ever been in a canoe by herself before, but this seemed like the only solution, at least that afternoon; she saw that and was game to try. It was an easy river, though at times there were strong currents and some tight turns. I told her to stay close behind me and I talked her through the fast water, pointed out the few obstacles, and told her how to avoid them. She did fine and I was both proud of her and thankful.

The next day, at the halfway point of the trip, the 4th person in our group (an older man, in his own canoe, who mostly kept to himself the whole trip) decided to stop, camp in a cow pasture, and wait for us to come pick him up when we were done.

Now on the wider, slower James River, we got the younger man back in his canoe, paddling solo, and Marilyn again rode with me. Two days and about 50 miles farther along, we reached the take out. At least we had perfect weather all 5 days of the trip, and good water.

I remember Marilyn attending many cabin work trips— in Margaret Crate's book of photographs there is a shot of Marilyn carrying in the long roof boards, one at a time, from where they'd been dropped off at the "turn around spot" along the access road.

Once, on a Sunday afternoon coming back to Tidewater from a cabin work trip, Marilyn and I had no choice but to ride in the back of Bill Newsom's small pickup truck, which at least had a camper shell on it to protect us from the cold wind. It wasn't the most comfortable or civilized way to get from the mountains to Norfolk, but we made do, found a couple of spots among the tools and packs and let the miles pass on by.

I also remember one rainy night, not long after we got the roof on the cabin— about a dozen of us were lying side by side in our sleeping bags on the floor of the loft. A couple of minutes after the lantern was turned off, Marilyn spontaneously started reciting from memory a long poem by Robert Service, about Alaska and walking through a snowy wilderness. After maybe 5 minutes Harold gently asked her to stop— everyone was tired and it was time to go to sleep he said.

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I went on a couple of Marilyn's hikes in the mountains— once to Green Pond and into the St Mary's River Wilderness, and once on the A.T., heading south from the Dragon's Tooth area. On the A.T. hike, to get back to the trailhead where we'd started, she did what you might say was her trademark move— on Sunday morning she and one of the men on the hike (I think it was the always affable Dewey Phelps) hitch-hiked back to fetch two cars; this was about 15 or maybe 20 miles, on gravel and lightly traveled county roads. I am sure they offered to pay the first person that stopped a couple of dollars to get them all the way back to the cars.

I can't think of anyone else in the club that would even consider doing this, but that was Marilyn— optimistic, adventurous, knowing it would all work out in the end.

Marilyn loved the club cabin, and once it was built and open for rental use by members, she led many weekend trips there. She talked it up at club meetings and got many new members interested in it. Even if she didn't rent the cabin for the weekend, if she led an overnight hike in the area she'd drop by on Sunday morning to show it off to people. And she shared it with her family— her 3 grown children and several grand-kids have spent many memorable nights there together (even Hugo came up and enjoyed himself). Her family is one of several within the club where 3 generations have spent time under the roof of this simple but exceptional cabin.

Perhaps Marilyn is best remembered getting up at club meetings and talking about a trip she'd just led. She'd describe the hike, and how not everything happened the way the group would have wanted it to, but always, always, she'd end the story with the phrase, "but we all had a really good time!" That was her real trademark move, her philosophy.

She was a great friend that I had the good fortune to know for many years. Our last hike together was at James River State Park in October of 2013; she and her new fiancé Don Swift joined my wife and I, and about half a dozen more club members, at an extra large cabin there. It was one of many special times we spent together, in pursuit of beauty and adventure in the heart of nature.

## **Rebecca Young**

Greetings from Rebecca in Alaska!

Thank you for letting me know of the passing of Marilyn Horvath...

I went on my very first trip to the cabin with her as the leader... It was just after the group who got stranded at the cabin following a big snowfall; I remember hearing the story of what happened and when I awoke in the middle of the night to find it was snowing. I woke up Marilyn and asked her if she thought maybe we needed to leave? She did.

I did several week-long section hikes of the Appalachian trail with her and a few other women plus Dan, our token male. My favorite was our hike of North Carolina and Max Meadows. I will attach a few photos of our hikes in a separate email

Marilyn Was always calm and upbeat, no matter what happened... I often mention her When I talk about my section hikes of the AT. and will always miss her

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Mountain Mamma's NC October 1998 – Photo from Rebecca Young

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Summit of Max Patch September 1998 – Photo from Rebecca Young



July 2000 Clingmans Dome NC - Jane, Mary Jo, Florence, Judy,  
our shuttle driver, and Marilyn – Photo from Rebecca Young

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### **Karl Price:**

We were out on the trail after a heck of a rain storm and trying to get to a place to spend the night camping. Marilyn was just ahead of me mucking through all the mud. Suddenly she disappeared! I glanced down and saw the back of a huge back pack and a couple of legs sticking out. I grabbed the back pack and pulled her up and had quite a laugh which she didn't really appreciate but she couldn't see this head-to-toe mud-covered elf! She eventually forgave me and I will always remember that hike.

### **Sandra Canepa:**

I was fortunate enough to have met Marilyn Horvath on only, sadly, two occasions. The last time was when she and Don, shortly before their marriage, attended a TATC Maintenance weekend in the mountains. For that reason, I have to "assume" they both then were in their mid-80's but you never would have guessed. They just sparkled that evening, Marilyn greeting dear close TATC friends, meeting the newer TATC members who were anxious to meet her (I was one), and, of course, proudly introducing "her Don" to all of us. She was in her element, and Don was right there with her. And, although I am not sure, I believe they even tent camped that weekend. Yes, Marilyn was the epitome of TATC membership, support and dedication. The example she set is one all ATC members should try to follow.

## **Donations for TATC's 50th Anniversary**

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

Donations will be used for:

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

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

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club  
P. O. B0x 8246  
Norfolk, VA 23503

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

The Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization  
Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## **TATC Member John Markham Ferguson III (Mark) Passes**

Sadly, Mark Ferguson passed away on December 17, 2021, following a long illness. Mark was a long-time and active member of TATC and a friend to many of us. Mark was one of TATC's Section Leaders for the AT from Harpers Creek to the Slant Rocks Overlook for several years, later, he maintained the Bald Mountain Trail in the Saint Mary's Wilderness. Mark was also elected and served as a TATC Club Counselor for several years. He will be missed.

The obituary copied below was published by the Virginia Gazette on December 22, 2021, it can be found at:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/vagazette/name/john-ferguson-obituary?id=31949036>

You can use the link to sign the online guest book and post a message



John Markham Ferguson III (Mark), age 74, passed away at home in Williamsburg, VA on December 17, 2021 following a long illness. He was born in Seoul, Korea while his father, the late Colonel John M. Ferguson, was stationed there. As an Army brat, Mark moved often, and remembered his stays in Albuquerque, NM and Paris with special affection. After graduating from Paris American High School, Mark attended Bucknell University and also served in the army during the Vietnam War. He later moved to Williamsburg, where his parents retired, and worked as a computer operator at the College of William and Mary, where he met his future wife Jane, who was a student there. Mark spent most of his work life at Colonial Williamsburg, where he started in Research and then moved to Information Technology. Following his retirement in 2008, he joined the crew at the new Trader Joe's store in Williamsburg, where he worked for 6 years and had many delightful times interacting with customers and coworkers. Mark participated in organizations dear to his heart with full commitment.

*(Continued on next page ...)*



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He honored his Scottish heritage as a drum major and bass drummer for Strath James Pipes and Drums, and later as a bass drummer with Greater Richmond Pipes and Drums. His love of the mountains and nature was evident in his activities with the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club, where he served on the board and organized work trips for trail maintenance. In recent years, he completed certification in Wilderness Medicine through the National Outdoor Leadership School as well as Citizens Emergency Response Training in James City County. Mark was a charter member of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists. Mark is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jane Ferguson of Williamsburg, his two sons, Adam Ferguson of Williamsburg, and Ian Ferguson and wife Liz Kovacevic of Washington, D.C., his mother, Nancy Ruef Ferguson of Williamsburg, his sister, Lesley Ball and husband Chuck Ball of Wilmington, NC, and nephew Charlie Ball of Wilmington, NC. A celebration of life service will be held at a future date. Donations in Mark's memory may be made to the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club at P.O. Box 8246, Norfolk VA 23503 or <https://tidewateratc.com/Donations>. These would be much appreciated, in order to help preserve the natural beauty of Virginia that so inspired him.

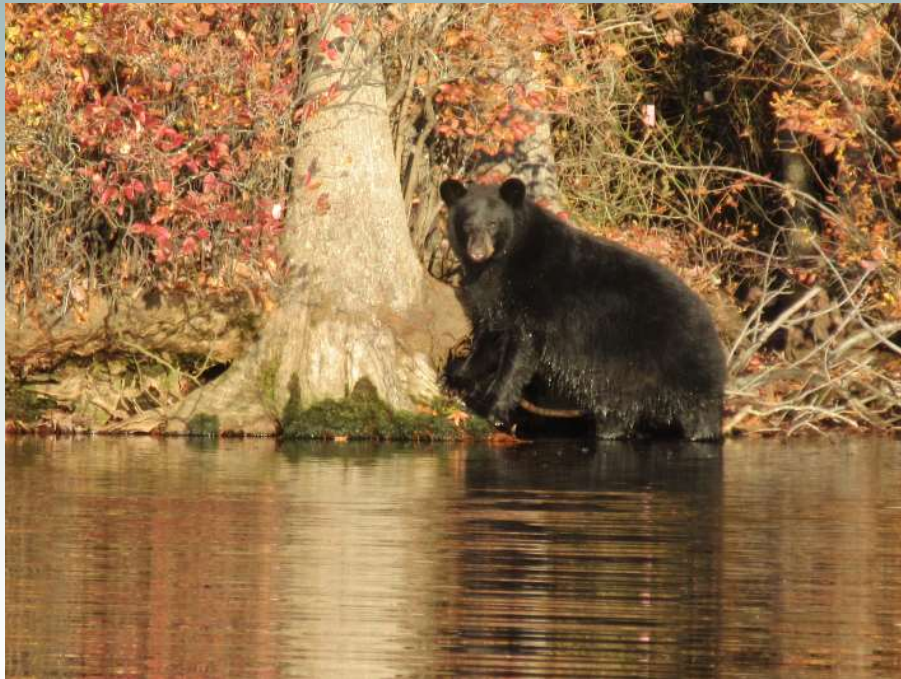


*(Editor's Note: the banner photo for this email was a photo by Mark Ferguson. This photo has been used as the banner photo for all of TATC's newsletters since December of 2006 and is used as the banner photo for almost all of TATC's blast emails. So think of Mark when you see this banner photo.)*



## TWO BEARS, ONCE

*By Bob Adkisson*



In the last newsletter I wrote about a couple of bear encounters I recently had while paddling the swampy, blackwater creek that flows out of Merchant Mill Pond, just east of Gatesville, N.C. This is a related story—more bears, more paddling, more adventures in this wild and wonderful world.

To protect its identity, to not popularize and promote it as a destination for others, to not take part in spoiling it and having it loved to death, I won't give away the name of the lake where this story takes place. I may even fuzz over a few facts, so as to not give it away. I love this place and have had many good times there. I've also had other people spoil the experience for me in various ways, and so, as far as I am concerned — the fewer people the better.

It was about 3 or 4 years ago, in the month of November, that I paddled several miles to get to the lake, which is protected as a Wildlife Refuge. Over a period of about 40 years, this was maybe my 50th time visiting the large lake. Once again my plan was to camp out one night.

When I got out onto the lake, I had just over an hour before sunset. In no hurry, I threaded my way among the cypress trees along the shore, at the northeast corner of the roughly circular lake. I visited one special tree, situated by itself about 50 yards from shore. After checking that it was alright, after taking a couple of photographs, I decided to angle back towards the shoreline and continue to follow it in a counter-clockwise direction.

I knew it took 3 hours of non-stop paddling to get all the way around the lake, and so the question was— did I want to paddle in the dark? I'd done it a couple of times before, with no problems. The alternative was— I could go just a little farther, then u-turn back to the lone camping area half a mile behind me. Being on the lake to see the sunset though was a given, a special event not to be missed.

*(Continued on next page ...)*

But at least for a few more minutes, alone on the vast lake, I just paddled, just enjoyed dipping the blade into the black water and pulling the boat magically along, through the silence and the beauty and the wildness.

About halfway between the tree I'd paused to visit and the densely wooded shoreline, my eyes were suddenly drawn to color and movement directly ahead of me. The next couple of seconds were confusing and odd, as my eyes tried to focus and decide what it was they were seeing, as my brain tried to come up with theories as to what it was, what was causing it. It was an instant mystery, a puzzle. It could be anything, including dangerous, or a revelation, or something I'd never experienced before—like the time a small water-spout magically appeared 50 yards ahead of me on a lake in Maine.

My first impression— I thought I was seeing several deer, spot-lit and golden in the low-angled sun, leaping up out of the shallow water in unison, jumping and disappearing into the woods on shore. But they were so silent, and I instantly realized that what I was seeing was not any sort of solid object, but *waves of golden colored light reflecting off the wall of trees and what leaves that still clung to them. I'd seen that before, the sun reflecting off of ripples and waves on the water's surface, being cast up, onto the nearby trees that lined the shore. The other times I'd seen this, the undulating stripes of reflected light were white, because the sun was higher in the sky. But here, now, the sun was nearing the horizon, and the light was like golden honey.*

But I was still puzzled, because again, I instantly realized that something didn't add up, didn't fit. One of the first things I'd noticed when I paddled out onto the lake was how flat, still, and peaceful it was. I knew my boat hadn't created these waves, not way out in front of me like this. So, what had created them?

I looked harder, tried to see into the dark shadowy depths along the shoreline, looked for movement, for some explanation. And, looking for it, there it was, mystery solved: a jet black bear was walking in the foot deep water, right along the shoreline. It was walking more or less away from me, going in the same direction I was going. And, it didn't seem aware of me.

The bear was maybe 6 to 8 canoe-lengths ahead of me and I instantly, quietly, dug in my paddle and aimed the bow of the boat right for the bear. You know— O Sweet Mystery of Life, At Last I've Found You!

My joy and excitement at seeing and being so close to a bear naturally overruled anything and everything else.

I got halfway to him, gently put down the paddle, and picked up my camera. I got one shot of the bear, still facing away from me. I think he heard the camera click, or sensed something approaching him, and he turned to look right at me. I hesitated with the camera, waited to see what would happen next (another sweet mystery of life— what will happen next?).

I realized that the sun was directly behind me, and so the bear was staring right into it. The bear didn't see me, so I took a 2nd photograph.

Unaware and unafraid, the bear slowly stepped up onto the dense and tangled shore, disappeared into the vegetation. Without a sound.

I put down the camera and picked up the paddle, quietly eased the boat forward, being careful to keep about 25 feet from shore. In a few seconds I passed by a slight point of land, turned the boat slightly, stopped to listen and look, hoping for another glimpse of the bear.

*(Continued from previous page ...)*

I figured I wouldn't see him again, that he had wandered away into the all but impenetrable wall of trees, bushes, and vines. It took my eyes a few seconds to adjust to the shadows and darkness that lay just around that minor point of land. There was an opening that I realized was extra dark because it had a mud floor, and the vegetation blocked the sun. Then I realized I was seeing something black in that black space, something that grunted and moved slightly. It was the bear again, crouching there just in front of me.

This time the bear definitely knew something was near it, and maybe I was close enough that it caught my scent. It glanced once in my direction (at this new angle the sun wasn't behind me now), and in an instant it stepped out of the mud and into the woods and was gone. I knew I wouldn't see him again this time.

On that high note, propelled by adrenaline, I started to paddle again. I soon decided to go at least 2 more miles to a dock where I could take a break and have something to eat, and watch the sunset.

After a half hour break on the dock, with the sun below the horizon and the light fading from the sky, I decided I'd go ahead and circle the lake instead of u-turning and going back the way I'd come. I settled in for another 2 hours of paddling, down the west side of the lake and then along the southern shore.

About 45 minutes along the black shoreline, the very last bit of light was now completely gone. Darkness reigned, the stars were distant and tiny. A great silence surrounded me, stretched on for miles. There was within it a great aloneness, something almost palpable.

I couldn't see tree stumps or obstacles in the water very well, and so I stayed about 30 feet from shore. That close, the lake was about 18 inches deep. I had a flashlight tucked away inside my dry bag, but never felt any need to use it— the darkness and the lake were familiar to me, almost like old friends; I was right at home in this, the only world I'd ever known.

Then, just up ahead, I saw that I was approaching a tree standing out in the lake, about 15 feet from shore. It was maybe 40 feet high and leafless. Still about 2 canoe lengths away from it, I couldn't help but notice a black, rounded shape about halfway up the tree. My first, natural assumption was that it was a large clump of mistletoe, and I thought nothing of it. But a quick second look brought a 2nd opinion— it looked too dense, too solid to be mistletoe. Immediately I wondered— was it a bear up in this tree, that I was about to paddle directly beneath?

Without hesitation I forced the canoe sharply to the left, veered and pulled away from the tree. I wasn't fearful that, if it was a bear, it would jump down and attack me. I was much more afraid that, if it was a bear, it might panic and, in scrambling to get away from me, it might accidentally fall into my boat.

Once I'd gotten about 30 feet beyond the tree I turned the canoe so that I could look back. The solid black mass was both silent and still, watching me. Wondering what I was. I was convinced it was my 2nd bear sighting in the last hour and a half.

I was more than satisfied, didn't feel the need to disturb the bear anymore than I had, wasn't at all tempted to hang around to see it move or to try and get a flashphoto. I paddled on, actually laughing out loud.

O Sweet Mystery of Life, what will happen next?

Not long afterwards but right on time, a full moon started to rise above the far side of the lake. I paused to take about a dozen shots of it. Some of them came out pretty good, spooky, with small clouds crossing the face of it.

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The rest of the night was uneventful— I made it around the lake, found the canal that led a short distance to dry ground and a campsite. The next day I slept late, then paddled back to my car and went home.

The following year, in late November again, I paddled around the lake in the middle of the day. I was looking for the exact tree, curious to see if it was mistletoe after all.

I am positive I found the tree, and there was no mistletoe in it (there was no mistletoe in any of the trees along that whole stretch of the lake).

I'd been right— it was a two bear trip, two bears in one day.

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*(Continued from page 3 - Prez Sez ...)*

### **Donations**

The Board has been overwhelmed by the donations we've received over the last several months. Many were inspired as tributes to Mark and Marilyn. Many were in support of our 50th Anniversary celebrations. Others were inspired by the 500 Trees project. Still others were unrestricted donations designed just to keep TATC running. All donations were welcome.

<https://tidewateratc.com/Donations>

### **Our Federal and ATC Partners**

TATC continues its engagement with the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Appalachian Trail Club. At the moment, we are working with them on subjects as diverse as sawyer training and methods to improve the reporting of volunteer activities. We'll be updating you about these efforts in the coming months.

Well, that's enough from me. You still have a great read ahead of you as you check out the articles below. I wish you all health and safety in the new year. Happy Trails.

Lee

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## **Help Needed - Public Relations**

The Board is seeking club members who can help devise and implement a Public Relations (PR) campaign for our 50th anniversary. TATC has a great track record of accomplishments both on the AT and in Hampton Roads for 50 years, but much of the public is not aware of this 400 member organization. And, we don't seek publicity. To help get our light out from under a bushel, we think a PR campaign for our 50th anniversary is key for member satisfaction, public awareness and recruitment. Members with PR experience and others who would be willing to work on this campaign should contact Lee Lohman at [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com)

Thank you.

## Konnarock Trail Crew

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

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

Check the following link for new trail crew opportunities as they are planned and scheduled:

<https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/trail-crews/konnarock-trail-crew/>

## Recruiting for Volunteer & Partnership Coordinator Positions Within George Washington & Jefferson National Forests & Region 8

The USDA Forest Service, Southern Region Center of Excellence for Volunteers and Service Programs, is excited to announce current openings for **11 VISTA AmeriCorps Volunteer & Partnership Coordinator Positions** in collaboration with Individual Stewards. This is a great opportunity for recent graduates and those interested in starting a career with the Forest Service and partners. More details are below and in the attached flyer.

These positions will be located on national forests across the region in the following states: **FL, AL, GA, NC (2), TN, VA (2), KY, SC, & MS.**

Positions within the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests include:

**Clinch Ranger District** (Norton, VA)

**North River Ranger District** (Harrisonburg, VA)

Applications will be accepted on the partner website (links for each unit are embedded in the flyer) up to March 5<sup>th</sup>; however, **the priority deadline for applications is February 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Expected start date is April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for a one-year commitment with the opportunity to extend for an additional year.

Participants will receive a living allowance. Benefits include relocation allowance, healthcare, education awards, loan forbearance, child-care assistance, and more. More information can be found [here](#).

Participants will earn **federal non-compete hiring authority** at the end of their service year!





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

A.T. Vista Committee  
[atvistainfo@gmail.com](mailto:atvistainfo@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Donate

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

[atvistainfo@gmail.com](mailto:atvistainfo@gmail.com)

[www.atvista.org](http://www.atvista.org)

[www.atvista2021.org](http://www.atvista2021.org)

[www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org)

## Dismal Swamp Canal Trail



The **Dismal Swamp Canal Trail**, is a former section of Virginia State Route 17, now a multiuse trail open to bicycling, walking, running/hiking, horseback riding, and boating. The north trail head is located at 1246 Dismal Swamp Canal Trail, close to the intersection of George Washington Highway South/Business US 17 and Dominion Boulevard South/US 17 in Chesapeake, VA. The trail runs south 8.3 miles, adjacent to the Dismal Swamp Canal. The Dismal Swamp Canal Trail is designated a Virginia Treasure with the area well known for its historical significance.

The Great Dismal Swamp Refuge is home to a myriad species of wildlife. Parts of the Refuge were surveyed by George Washington's company, and the Swamp is nationally recognized as a stop on the "Underground Railroad". The GDS Refuge is also a resting spot for thousands of migratory birds in the fall and spring. The trail is linear and flat, perfect for people of all ages to bike or walk and horse owners to ride. The Ballahack Road Boat Ramp provides easy access to launch a boat, canoe or kayak.

Website: [https://www.cityofchesapeake.net/government/city-departments/departments/parks-recreation-tourism/parks/dismal\\_swamp\\_trail.htm](https://www.cityofchesapeake.net/government/city-departments/departments/parks-recreation-tourism/parks/dismal_swamp_trail.htm)

### Directions and Maps

Map to the park - [https://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/documents/departments/parks\\_rec/Parks/dismal\\_swamp\\_canal\\_trail.pdf](https://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/documents/departments/parks_rec/Parks/dismal_swamp_canal_trail.pdf)

Trail Map - [https://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/documents/departments/parks\\_rec/Parks/trail-map-DSCT.pdf](https://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/documents/departments/parks_rec/Parks/trail-map-DSCT.pdf)

### Park Amenities:

- 8.3 Mile Paved Multiuse Trail that connects to Deep Creek Park
- Boat, Canoe or Kayak Ramp
- 2 Restroom Buildings
- Picnic Areas
- Horse Trails

Contact: Phone: 757-382-6411, Address: 1246 Dismal Swamp Canal Trail, Chesapeake, VA 23323

## Old Rag Day-Use Ticket

**Date:** January 21, 2022

**Contact:** Claire Comer



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

Starting March 1, 2022 hikers who wish to use trails in the Old Rag area (Saddle, Ridge, and Ridge Access) will need to obtain a day-use ticket in advance for visits March through November. Ticket availability will be limited to 800 per day. During the one-year pilot, tickets will be \$1.

A recent visitor-use and expectations study indicated significant crowding and congestion at Old Rag during certain times of the year. The study also revealed that most visitors agree that limiting users would improve their experience and safety, and better protect the rare ecological communities found on Old Rag.

Hikers must purchase their tickets in advance via [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Tickets will NOT be available at the Old Rag fee station, and there is very little cell phone coverage in the area. Tickets may be purchased up to 30 days in advance and are valid for the day of arrival only. Although a total of 800 tickets will be available for each day, 400 will be released 30 days in advance and the remaining 400 will be released five days in advance. A day-use ticket does not guarantee a parking spot and entrance fees still apply in addition to the day-use ticket. Tickets will become available on February 1, 2022 at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

## WORK FOR US



### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA BY JOINING THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE!

The National Park Service preserves the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. You can make a difference by bringing your unique experience, background, and perspective to our work.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

We offer opportunities to work in more than 400 national parks and offices—from Maine to Guam, the Virgin Islands to Alaska, and anyplace in between. We partner with communities across the country to preserve their history and create places for outdoor fun.

There are many different ways you can become involved. Are you looking for a full-time, permanent job? We've got those. Or maybe you'd prefer to work in parks for a few months as a seasonal ranger? We've got some of those, too. (See [USAJOBS](#) for listings of both permanent and seasonal jobs.) Are you a student looking for a meaningful internship or someone with some extra time who'd like to volunteer? You can find [internship](#) and [volunteer](#) opportunities to suit your needs and interests. Come work with us—in an "office" like no other.

[Learn more about the Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act](#), which allows qualified individuals serving under time-limited appointments in a land management agency to compete for permanent positions in the competitive service.

Want to learn what it's like to work for the National Park Service? Check out [employee profiles](#) for a glimpse at some of the career possibilities.

**The Experienced Services Program allows for temporary employment opportunities for individuals 55 years or older to work on specific project assignments.** This is an exciting program that provides selected applicants with an opportunity to use their diverse and extremely valuable skills to support the critical mission of the National Park Service. Whether you have a background in budget, engineering, facilities management, administration, information technology, or many other fields, your experience is valued. We would love for you to apply to join our team.

Your years of knowledge and expertise are valuable and can contribute to the NPS mission by mentoring interns, seasonal, and newer employees; providing critical or specialized skills; and filling short-term project needs.

Individuals aged 55 or older are invited to visit our partners' websites, **linked to below**, to learn more about the Experienced Services Program and view job openings. Be sure to visit both partners, as they have different opportunities available.

[Center for Workforce Inclusion](#)

[National Older Worker Career Center](#)

## American Hiking Society (AHS) Volunteer Vacations



### What Are Volunteer Vacations?

Our nation's trails need your help! Join American Hiking Society for a week of building & maintaining trails in exciting & diverse locations across the country.

Volunteer Vacations foster public land stewardship and provide volunteers the opportunity to give back to the trails they love, meet new people, and have a great time doing it!

Crews consist of 6-15 volunteers accompanied by a crew leader. Volunteer Vacations involve back-packing or day hiking and accommodations vary from primitive campsites to bunkhouses or cabins. Tools and supervision are provided by the host agency or organization.

Experience nature up close. Travel to new destinations. Meet other outdoor enthusiasts. Take a vacation that nourishes your body & your spirit. Get Out. Give Back.

Sign up for volunteer vacation trips:

**<https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>**

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***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](#)**



# The Nature Bus



Guided Eco Tours in the Coastal Virginia area – offering customizable nature experiences for private-groups & Saturday Escapes tours (on most weekends) that are open to everyone. Say YES to NEW Adventures! Hop on board for memorable experiences with the natural world  
Tours depart from REI in Town Center, Virginia Beach.

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

**Flyer:** [https://thenaturebus.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NB\\_FLYER.pdf](https://thenaturebus.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NB_FLYER.pdf)

## **Some Upcoming Tours:**

### Waterfowl Bird Watching Tour

DATE: Saturday, February 5, 2021 (rain-date is Sunday, February 6)

DURATION (ROUND TRIP): 9:30 am – 4:30 pm Please arrive at 9:00 at REI to board the bus.

PRICE: \$45 per person (purchase your ticket at TheNatureBus.com > Calendar)

### Romance in the Stars Planetarium Tour

DATE: Saturday, February 12, 2022

DURATION (ROUND TRIP): 3:00pm – 5:00(ish) pm Please arrive at 2:45 at REI to board the bus.

PRICE: \$25 per person (purchase your ticket at TheNatureBus.com > Calendar)

### Explore Four Unique Habitats

DATE: Saturday, March 5, 2022

DURATION (ROUND TRIP): 10:30 – 2:30. Please arrive at 10:00 to board the bus. Departure from REI 350 Independence Blvd, Virginia Beach.

PRICE: \$25 per person (purchase your ticket at TheNatureBus.com > Calendar)

### Nature Journaling at First Landing State Park

DATE: Saturday, March 19, 2022 (rain-date is Sunday, March 20)

DURATION (ROUND TRIP): 10:30am – 2:30pm Please arrive at 10:00 to board the bus.

PRICE: \$30 per person (purchase your ticket at TheNatureBus.com > Calendar)



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- [Safety protocols](#)
- For IL, IN, KY, & OH classes, [contact us](#).

Norfolk, VA	Jan 22-23, 2022
Charleston, SC	Jan 29-30
Augusta, GA	Feb 5 - 6
Richmond, VA	Feb 5 - 6
Harrisonburg/Staunton area, VA	Feb 12-13
Charlottesville area, VA	Feb 26-27
Wilmington area, NC	Mar 5 - 6
Washington, DC area	Mar 12-13
Farmville, VA	Mar 19-20
Blacksburg, VA	Mar 26-27
Chattanooga, TN	Mar 26-27
Norfolk, VA	Mar 26-27
Triangle + Triad areas, NC	Mar 26-27
Charlottesville, VA	Apr 9-10
Macon, GA	Apr 9-10
Lexington, VA	Apr 23-24
Richmond, VA	Apr 30-May 1
Triangle area, NC	May 14-15
Norfolk, VA	May 21-22
Savannah, GA	May 21-22
Thru-hiker town pleasantly spread over 3-day holiday weekend near Bburg, VA	
Washington, DC area	Jun 4 - 5
Charlottesville, VA	Jun 11-12
Advanced WFA pt. II: take WFA skills to next level. Camping+nice facilities. Old Fields WV	
W.F.Responder (9 days) in WV	Aug 16-24
Mtn-Top Retreat pleasantly spread over 3-day holiday weekend with lake, beach, boats, trails, cabins & more, near Bburg, VA	
	Sep 3 - 5



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... or ANYTIME, ANYWHERE 911 is FAR AWAY,  
UNREACHABLE or OVERWHELMED.

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- for **In-Person** classes see details below.

- For adults & teens with solid attention spans.
- No prerequisites – **first-timers welcome**.
- **Medical professionals:** learn front-line improvisation.
- ~50% lecture + Q&A, and ~50% hands-on skills.
- 2 days; 8 or 8:30am - 6:30 or 7pm each day.
- **5 bonus hours** beyond the typical 16-hour class:
  - Deeper learning: the "why's" behind things;
  - More real-world practice scenarios;
  - Stronger resulting skills & confidence.
- 2-year world-renowned WFA cert by SOLO, founded 1976.
- **Approved by:** ACA, BSA, GS-USA, BCUNA and more.
- **Vaccination required** to attend in person. [Class safety protocols](#).
- **Fee:** \$225; 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

# 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, February 2, 2022, 7:00pm-9:00pm

**Where:** Via Zoom

**Contact:** Lee Lohman [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com)

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

## **TATC General Membership Meeting**

**When:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Where:** Via Zoom

**Contact:** Lee Lohman [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com)

**Description:** TATC General Membership Meeting

**Program:** TBD

## **Living Legacy Tree Planting in Norfolk**

**When:** Saturday, February 26, 2022, 9:00AM – 2:00PM

**Where:** Ocean View Elementary School Living Legacy Grove, 9501 Mason Creek Rd, Norfolk

**Contact:** Jim Newman [jimnewman55@gmail.com](mailto:jimnewman55@gmail.com) or Leave a message at 757 867-6688

**Description:** Living Legacy Tree Planting in Norfolk, TATC 50th Anniversary Kick-Off Event  
See article in this newsletter for more information.

## **TATC Board Meeting**

**When:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 7:00pm-9:00pm

**Where:** Online via Zoom App

**Contact:** Lee Lohman [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com)

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

## **TATC General Membership Meeting**

**When:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Where:** Via Zoom

**Contact:** Lee Lohman [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com)

**Description:** TATC General Membership Meeting

**Program:** TBD

## TATC Officers & Board

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





# TATC Trail Conditions

Photos from Brittany Collins





# **TATC Trail Conditions**

Photos from Brittany Collins



# **TATC Trail Conditions**

Photos from Brittany Collins





## **TATC Trail Conditions**

Photos from Brittany Collins





## **"Mystery Location - Two Bears, Once"**

Photos from Bob Adkisson



**Leaves reflecting in the water of the lake**

## **"Mystery Location - Two Bears, Once"**

Photos from Bob Adkisson



**Jet black bear was walking in the foot deep water, right along the shoreline**



## **"Mystery Location - Two Bears, Once"**

Photos from Bob Adkisson



**Watching the sunset from dock**

## **"Mystery Location - Two Bears, Once"**

Photos from Bob Adkisson



**Psychedelic sunset reflections of clouds**



## **"Mystery Location - Two Bears, Once"**

Photos from Bob Adkisson



**Sunset reflections on the lake**

## **"Mystery Location - Two Bears, Once"**

Photos from Bob Adkisson



**Sun below the horizon, the sky lit up and reflecting in the lake**

## **"Mystery Location - Two Bears, Once"**

Photos from Bob Adkisson



**Full Moon with small spooky clouds flying across its face**



## **"Mystery Location - Two Bears, Once"**

Photos from Bob Adkisson



**My canoe, with gear: the next day along the lake shore**