Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Appalachian Hiker

Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson

www.tidewateratc.com

June 2022 - July 2022 49th Edition, 3nd Issue

PREZ SEZ

Duncan Fairlie

Duncan Fairlie, a longtime member, died on April 27th. He was 61. I only met Duncan once--a Lopperfest at Sherando. A group of us were sitting around the fireplace talking about whatever came up. For some reason, the stars and the environment did. We all voiced opinions about the topics as they arose. Duncan would put his two-cent in occasionally but didn't try to dominate the conversation. Nevertheless, it quickly became apparent that his two-cents were worth more than anyone else's.

We asked Duncan how he knew so much about the environment and astronomy. Duncan seemed reticent to answer the question when someone else piped up, "Duncan has a Ph.D. from Harvard in this stuff and he worked for NASA."

Elsewhere in the Newsletter you'll read more about Duncan. The breath of his interests and talents is striking. If you Google his name, you'll see the evidence of a life filled with scientific accomplishments. Yet for all that, he found value in contributing time to TATC's mission. He was a section leader from 2004 to 2006 and helped out in later years at various TATC Lopperfests and Spring and Fall Maintenance events.

Duncan's passing was a great loss to his family, friends, and the club. He will be missed.

Thanks to Jim and Chris Sexton and Bill Bunch for representing TATC at the service for Duncan.

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2022 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1982 PUTMAN CABIN DEDICATION

By Mal Higgins

Twenty nine TATC folks showed up at the club's Douglas Lee Putman Memorial Cabin on a slightly overcast day, May 8, 2022, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of when TATC hosted a dedication of the mostly complete cabin in 1982. Eight folks hiked to the cabin from the Upper Lake of Sherando Recreation Area on the White Rock Gap trail—Robbie Krieger, Katie Steele, (this year's Ridge Runner), Melody Persinger, Jim Newman, Steve Crate, Keith Yeargin, Keith Forbes, and me. We joined another 21 folks who hiked in from the White Rock Gap parking lot. No one from the Putman family was able to attend, because of health reasons, but we know that they were there in spirit.

There was a delightful feeling of "party" in the air, as 29 of us, plus Bridgett the dog owned by Lelia Vann and Greg Reck, were on hand to enjoy the cabin and socialize. Our honored guests, Jeff & Ann Crate, and Steve & Linda Crate, were there. Others in attendance were Bob & Evelyn Adkisson, their daughter Leigh Liebert and granddaughter Sophia, Molly Payne (Leigh's friend), Stephanie Stringer & Steve Clayton, Judy & Ed Welp, Margaret & Vic Pisone, Margaret & Bruce Julian, John Barnes, Jim Newman, Sandra Canepa, and Tom Miano.

Jeff and Steve Crate are sons of Harold & Margaret Crate, who were instrumental in the construction of the cabin, beginning early 1979. You can read about them here: https://tidewateratc.com/resources/Documents/MargaretandHaroldCrateRemembrances.pdf Many a remembrance came flooding back about the Crates and Otey Shelton, another former member of TATC, now deceased, who oversaw the entire stone masonry construction, from gathering the field rock to mixing the mortar to laying it in perfectly plumb lines.

Thanks to the organizing work of Judy Welp and Stephanie Stringer, who worked out a head count in advance, we were able to enjoy Jersey Mike sub sandwiches, as we gathered around on every available seat and bench inside. Judy and Stephanie recruited their husbands to tote in the sandwiches, chips, and cookies. The Cabin annual budget supported the cost. We even had a fire going in the fireplace to ward off the dampish day. Judy and Stephanie were the same planners who staged the community meal the previous night at the Sherando Williams Branch picnic shelter, after the maintenance day was done on the Appalachian and surrounding trails.

Bob Adkisson acted as master of ceremonies. Bob, and his wife Evelyn, and daughter Leigh and I had attended the 1982 dedication, though I admit I don't remember much about it! Bob recounted the history of the gift of \$15,000 from Phyllis Putman to the club and the role played by our then president, Jacque Jenkins. You can read about Jacque here:

https://tidewateratc.com/resources/Documents/JacquelinePJenkinsRemembrance.pdf

The 1982 cabin dedication was written up in the June-July 1982 newsletter on page one, and is linked here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/12CC1swueK9-3F3-NhWgysd7vM3PTcoWu/view Another more detailed account with a postscript about progress after 1982 is online here: https://tatc.wildapricot.org/resources/Cabin/cabin_dedication.pdf Even after the 1982 dedication, some essential work remained, such as installing windows and doors in their frames! By November 1982, that work was done.

Bob discussed all the planning, road building, and ground clearing, and the years of spring work-weeks and monthly weekend trips that occurred to get the cabin built. A brief history of the time-line of construction is online here: https://tidewateratc.com/A-Brief-History At the 1982 dedication a time capsule was installed behind the cornerstone, which was laid in 1980. Plans are now afoot to install a new time capsule in celebration of the upcoming 50th Anniversary in 2022 of the club's founding.

I passed out copies of an article appearing in the February-March 1982 newsletter discussing the title history of our 15 acres of land, "more or less". Our title to the land runs back to at least a deed dated July 11, 1893, from Henry Loving to Wesley Coffey, and was subsequently subdivided over the years. The TATC cabin and its "15 acres more or less" is surrounded almost entirely by other land owned by the U.S.F.S, and lies on "Entry Mountain."

Our 2022 40th anniversary of the 1982 cabin dedication was a fun gathering of the Club. As the festivities ended, folks gathered on the cabin front porch for photos to capture the moment, and a final bit of socializing before beginning the hike back out to their cars or down the White Rock Gap Trail to Sherando. Tom Miano gets a special shout out for volunteering to be the last one to leave, extinguishing the fire in the fireplace, and cleaning up before locking the cabin. A bit of blooming trillium and dogwood trees on the hike in, as well as the prolific growing "cancer root" fungus around the base of oak trees, reminded us that spring was here, but the seasons come and go. We hope the Douglas Lee Putman Cabin will endure for a long time.

TATC Maintenance Weekend

"What started out as a stressful week watching the weather and trying to determine if Spring Maintenance was going to happen, and considering all the planning that went into the dinner; we moved forward with the event. That did not stop me from second guessing myself when I arrived at Williams Branch Picnic area around 6pm and I began to see small rain droplets hit my windshield. I got out of my truck immediately began to set up my car tent. Luckily, I was able to set it up before the heavier rain began. Thanks Andy! However, This rain did not stop our, amazing, volunteers from showing up and setting up camp. This got me excited and my hopes began to rise but again wavered once the thunderstorms rolled in around 8pm. By the end of the night Friday, we had 20+ campers either huddled under the shelter or tucked up in their tents. By the safety briefing Saturday morning we had 35 volunteers ready to get to business; including folks helping out with dinner. It was a little drizzly in the morning but for most of us out on the trails conducting maintenance the heavier rains stayed away until all crews were off and safely back at camp. When we arrived back at camp Stephanie Stringer, Judy Welp, and their crew were setting up tables and preparing the work crews an amazing dinner. At this point, the rain joined us and continued through the evening but this did not stop everyone from having a great time and enjoying all the prepared food; not to mention those amazing desserts. Thank you EVERYONE for making this event so successful!"

Brittany Gonzales
TATC Trail Supervisor
trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com



A.T. Vista 2022

Inaugural Program - Registration is Open



The Trail is Calling

www.atvista2022.org

Don't miss out on the inaugural A.T. Vista program that will be held at the State
University of New York (SUNY) in New Paltz
Plan to join the fun with hikes, workshops, excursions, and nightly entertainment as

ve celebrate the Appalachian Trail

August 5-8, 2022 Registration is Now Open

Here's How to Register

- 1. Visit <u>www.atvista2022.org</u> to view the details for the selections of hikes, workshops, and excursions or download the online program description.
- 2. Download the A.T. Vista Personal Planner to map out your choices prior to starting the registration process.
- 3. Develop your schedule of activities
- 4. Select the Registration tab and complete the selection of your activity options.
- 5. You may register for the entire 4-day weekend or selected days.
- 6. Options for onsite dormitory rooms (single or shared), meal selections, and onsite RVs are also available.
- 7. An email confirmation with your selected options will be provided.

(Continued from page 1 ...)

We Have a New Home--Sort Of

As the pandemic wave resided, we all looked forward to seeing each other again at the General Membership meetings. But, there was a problem. No place to meet. The Mary Pretlow Library hours had changed. They offered meeting rooms only on Saturdays (even now). We tried a number of options. The Oberndorf Library in Virginia Beach and an outdoor site in Portsmouth both closed too early. Other sites either were not open in the evening or charged outrageous fees. Finally, Bill Bunch came to the rescue. He arranged with his church, the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, to permit TATC to meet there monthly. This solved the immediate problem but created another. Located close to Virginia Beach Boulevard, the church was a major journey for many of our members. That was particularly true for those living on the peninsula. So, we were on the hunt again.

This time, our location angel was Mal Higgins. Mal contacted the Episcopal Church of the Advent. TATC met there many years ago. Mal thought they might open their doors to us again. He asked and they did. The church has facilities similar to those of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church except that dedicated parking is not available. A particular attractive feature is that the church is only half a mile from the Pretlow Library so peninsula dwellers will have a shorter commute. The Google maps link to the location is below.

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Advent+Episcopal+Church/@36.949449,-76.247767,15z/data=! 4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x2b43668197d57e40!8m2!3d36.9494268!4d-76.247736

Zoom transmission of the June 8th meeting will not be possible. The Board will be discussing the Zoom/in-person hybrid meeting format at their meeting on June first.

Spring Maintenance--and the Food

Congratulations to Britt Collins and John Sima for a very successful Spring Maintenance event. Despite the rain and cool weather over 30 people showed up and got meaningful work done. Britt wrote a nice article (below) with pictures to show TATC members in action.

Stephanie Stringer, Judy Welp, and their team did a great job with the food--no small thing given the rain. This was the first post-maintenance communal dinner we've had since COVID arrived. It was great fun and despite the sogginess capped off a wonderful day.

TATC's Facebook Page

The Board voted to monitor TATC's Facebook page more closely and to relieve Juliet Stephenson of the administrator's role which she has performed since the creation of our page. (Thank you Juliet.)

The Board defined the content that should be on the page as posts:

About outdoor activities engaged in by club members and posted by them or with their specific permission.

About activities of the club.

About activities of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy or our Federal agency partners.

About generic outdoor activities, equipment, etc. that may be of interest to the membership.

Though TATC has only a little over 400 members, we have over 2,000 Facebook followers. The page is a great mechanism to publicize TATC and get the word out about our activities. Please check it out.

June Lopperfest

On June 11th, TATC will stage the first of our mid-year Lopperfests at Sherando. Lopperfests have a more limited scope than the big events in spring and fall. They focus on parts of our trail that need attention to help hikers navigate the terrain. Lots of weeds get cut, waterbars cleared, and downed trees get sawn. It's a lot of fun and guaranteed to be warmer than the Spring Maintenance event. Please sign up when you see the notice.

ATC News

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy held its Southern Partnership meeting in Damascus, VA between April 22nd and 24th. Clubs from Virginia and points south attended as well as ATC staff, and representatives from the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. Ned Kuhns, Jim Sexton, and I represented TATC.

The clubs discussed crowding on the trail, Land Management Planning, and that ever popular subject-privies. Seriously, privies were an issue of substantial concern. The Safe Drinking Water Act as interpreted by the EPA bans privies such ours in favor of moldering privies which require more maintenance. The U.S. Forest Service will be working with ATC and the clubs to install them throughout the trail over the next few years. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club has already installed them at a number of their sites. For a summary of their efforts, and two poems about privies, click the link below. It's amazing what you can come up with when you have over 9,000 members.

https://www.patc.net/PATC/News/Crapper_Crew_at_Conley_Cabin.aspx?WebsiteKey=aa6635e3-6a5c-42d8-9c1f-f122991e338c

National Trails Day

The American Hiking Society sponsored National Trails Day will take place on June 6th. Click the link below to visit their site. First Landing State Park will celebrate the event with a series of guided hikes. Click below for details.

AHS: https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/

FLSP, Trails Day Event: https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/event?id=2022-02-27-15-24-25-809678-szi

TATC will have a table at FLSP. We will be explaining our mission and recruiting. Table duty is 10:00 to 1:00 and 1:00 to 4:00. Openings are available. Please email Outreach@tidewateratc.com if you would like to volunteer.

We'll inform visitors about the club's mission and distribute literature and handouts. The morning table shift is 10:00 to 1:00. The second is from 1:00 to 4:00. Jim Newman and Michael Horrell have the second shift covered. I'll be on the first shift so anyone who would like to join me is welcome. Just shoot an email to me at president@tidewateratc.com.

Interested in Leading a Weekend Hike?

The April membership survey revealed that 40.4 percent of the respondents said they would be willing to lead a hike in the Hampton Roads area after training and some mentoring. We want to make that happen. Weekend hikes may be the key to growing the membership and attracting and keeping younger members. Plus, they are fun. So, if you are willing to lead a weekend hike, now is the time to register for the training and mentoring. Simply click on the link, provide your name, and note that you are interested in the training. We'll work on the date and location after receiving your emails. Send your emails to education@tidewateratc.com

Well that's it from me for this month. I hope you have the opportunity to get some hiking in, but do be safe. Everything from ticks to unstable tree branches are lurking.

		[ra	

Lee

Membership

5/24/22

We have several new members who joined us in the first quarter of the year. One is a returning member from decades ago. We welcome her back! One is a mom who looks forward to pursuing her dream hike now that her kids are grown. Two are looking to connect with club members and be inspired to hike more of the AT.

Angela became a member on 3/23/22

My name is Angela Rios. I recently joined the TATC Club.

I'm originally from California, my husband Ed served in the USAF for over twenty-two years. Once he retired, we decided to stay in Virginia. We have three children, Daniel, Leandra and Mia. My two oldest kids have graduated college, and my youngest is still in college now.

I work in the medical field and enjoy hiking, photography and genealogy. I've been hiking for the last seven years. Now that my children are adults, I plan to pursue my goal of completing a section hike of the Appalachian Trail next year.

I am excited to meet all of you and look forward to being involved in future events.

Take care and stay safe, especially on the trails.

Karl became a member on 3/22/22

I'm Carl Kolon. I've been hiking since I was a kid, but got more serious about it in the last year. I've hiked in Shenandoah along the AT, and a bit in Washington and Jefferson national forest. I joined TATC because I wanted to meet other people who are interested in this stuff, and I wanted to learn about trail conservation. Thanks!

Linda became a returning member on 3/23/22

I'm Linda Tingle. I was a member in the 90's and always enjoyed this club. My late husband was a canoe instructor, so 30 years of canoeing. I became a kayak tour guide for False Cape State Park and volunteered in the visitor center also. I later drove the tour bus for the Back Bay Wildlife Refuge which was so much fun. I've been hiking and camping my whole life. I'm also in a photography and writing group. Every day is full of wonder and appreciation for the wildlife around us. Thanks for allowing me to be part of the TATC once again.

Michael became a member on 4/9/22

Michael Modica II. My name is Mike and I recently moved back to Virginia Beach. One day I would like to do a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail but only have so much experience from doing day hikes. I joined TATC to meet like minded people and help with maintaining the trail.

We welcome you all and look forward to meeting you! Kama and Sharon

Virginia State Parks - 2021 Volunteer Group of the Year Nomination

TATC received a certificate of appreciation (shown below) from the Commonwealth of Virginia for our work at First Landing State Park. The certificate also advises that we were nominated by Virginia State Parks as a Volunteer Group of the Year for outstanding support and contribution in maintaining trails and other needed work at First Landing state Park (FLSP).





In Remembrance TATC Member Duncan Fairlie, 61, of Williamsburg, VA



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Duncan Fairlie. Duncan passed away on April 27th, 2022. Duncan was a long-time and highly valued member of TATC and a friend to many. He participated in many club events including trail maintenance, local trail maintenance, hikes, bike rides, and kayak trips. He served as the TATC Trail Supervisor from 2004 to 2006. Links to his obituary and memories page, and a recording and program from his memorial service can be found below.

Link to Obituary and Memorial Page:

https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/williamsburg-va/duncan-fairlie-10733186

Link to Memorial Service:

https://fb.watch/d6pqSdOkz4/

Link to Memorial Service Program:

https://tidewateratc.com/resources/History/Duncan%20Fairlie%20Program.pdf

Phyllis Neumann - Memories of Duncan:



I met Duncan shortly after he returned to the Tidewater area following his time doing some post-graduate work at Harvard., Duncan had been an active member of TATC and jumped right back in once he was back in the area. I was finishing up my term as Trail Supervisor in 2004 and was hoping to find an experienced successor. On a Chickahominy River paddle, Margaret Pisone (who was on the Nominating Committee) "twisted" Duncan's arm and he agreed to "run for the office". Of course, this meant he was the next Trail Supervisor!

Duncan was passionate about the environment and when prompted would share his thoughts on climate change and global warming. On one of our hikes together, I remarked on the showy rhododendrons along the trail, as they were in bloom at the time. Duncan commented that rhododendrons were considered a terrible problem in Scotland as they were very invasive. He said a common outing for Scottish environmentalists was "rhodie-bashing" where groups would try to remove the invader. I never forgot that.

Duncan was a quiet, soft-spoken, gentle-natured man and I never tired of listening to his Scottish accent. He had a wry sense of humor and always had a witty remark to share, complimented by a shy smile and a twinkle in his eye. He was a good listener and always gave a thoughtful answer to any remark. And he was a dog lover-something we had in common.

As I said, Duncan followed me as Trail Supervisor. This is a tough job in the best of times and Duncan inherited the position shortly after Hurricane Isabel wreaked havoc in St. Marys. He dutifully organized trips to help clear many of the trails there. He also supervised many of the Tye River Relocation trips. You can get a bit of who Duncan was by reading some of his "Switchback" articles in the archived TATC newsletters (2004-2006).

Duncan was less active in the Club after that. He married Welby in 2005 and was busy raising two children (Hannah and James). But he frequently attended meetings, social events and maintenance trips, often accompanied by his young family.

Duncan's sudden death was a terrible blow to all of us that knew him. We will all treasure the joyful reminiscences of times spent together on the trail. My heart aches for his family and I hope they can find comfort in happy memories and peace in the days ahead.

Mal Higgins - Memories of Duncan:



Many members of Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club have known Duncan for many years. We often enjoyed Duncan and family's company at T.A.T.C.'s semi-annual trail maintenance weekends in May and October, where after a day's work we would gather in Williams Branch picnic area for a community meal. Duncan participated in many club events including trail maintenance, local trail maintenance, hikes, bike rides, and kayak trips. He served as the T.A.T.C. Trail Supervisor from 2004 to 2006.

One of my favorite memories of Duncan is when our small group of winter hikers hiked to the top of Mt. Washington in New Hampshire in January 2006. Duncan was so enthusiastic as we plunged on our snowshoes down Boott Spur Trail and back to base camp. We relied on Duncan's meteorological savvy to predict the best time to attempt our summit trip. Over the years, I can so appreciate his dry wit and understated manner, and even though we had a Ph.D. with us, Duncan was just one us, enjoying life and the outdoors. A small group of us last hiked together with Duncan in St. Mary's Wilderness, Virginia, in October 2021, and I am so glad I have that memory.





(Continued on next page ...)



TATC WORK CREW INSTALLS WATERFALL SIGN TO WHITE ROCK FALLS SPUR TRAIL By Mal Higgins

As part of the normal maintenance of the White Rock Falls Trail by TATC, Bob Adkisson led a group of six maintainers along the White Rock Falls Trail, beginning at the Slacks overlook parking lot. It was a drizzly Saturday, May 7, 2022, something that had been forecast for over a week to all the folks who turned out for the Spring Maintenance at Sherando. Others there at Sherando headed to a variety of locations on the Appalachian Trail and the two shelters TATC maintains.

We were Bob, Tom Miano, Tim Winslow, Greg Reck and Lelia Vann (with her very cute dog, Bridgett), and me. We took turns carrying the sign which was an 8 foot post with the word "Waterfall" routed into the wood and an arrow pointing to the spur trail. I am told TATC member Peter Burch did the woodworking and Bob was keeping the sign at the cabin.

When we reached the spur trail junction, three of us tackled a very hard dig to gouge out a deep enough hole with a pick, a Pulaski and a shovel. It seemed like the spot we picked at the junction was solid rock in every direction. Eventually, we got the sign down in the hole, wedged it with lots of rock and dirt, and declared victory. Part of our team in the meantime went down the spur trail lopping and clearing; the trail was in pretty good shape to the falls. Water was running fairly well, but I have seen more coming over that falls. The deep pool of water was there at the base of the falls.

We then finished hiking the approximately 1.5 miles remaining, stopping downstream for lunch along White Rock Creek, before continuing uphill. Bob had us reconstruct waterbars that were in need of a clean out and minor lopping was done. Back at the car on the Blue Ridge Parkway at the White Rock Gap parking lot we stashed our tools for the return to Sherando. There, the evening meal of a potato bar, chicken wings, and broccoli salad had been arranged by the Kitchen Crew leaders, Stephanie Stringer and Judy Welp. The food was from the Waynesboro Kroger and was piping hot and delicious as it sat over boiling water baths set up by Lee Lohman.

That Saturday night, it blasted down rain for the second night in a row, but my tent met the challenge. Sunday was a fun day remembering the original TATC cabin dedication of 1982, 40 years prior. See another article in this newsletter for that story.

LOCAL TRAILS SPRING UPDATE MAY 2022

There is continuing activity by TATC members supporting local trails. Phyllis Neumann organized a work trip recently at New Quarter Park in April when 17 members showed up to cut back plant growth and clean debris from trails. This workday was followed by efforts to redo many of the trail blazes to benefit wayfinding.

At First Landing State Park, there were workdays in Mid-April and Mid-May. In April Bob Mooney organized a team of 9 members to clean up around the Park's main office. The work included cleaning out the planting beds in the courtyard and filling up two trailers with leaves raked up from the front and side of the office to improve the guest's first impression of the park.



In May, Jack Saladino gathered 8 volunteers on a potentially windy, foggy, and rainy day to cut back encroaching plant growth on the Live Oak and Cypress Swamp trails. Paul Heymann is scheduled to organize June's work on the FLSP trails. This work may be postponed to July as Tanya, our volunteer coordinator, asked if we could clean up the Broad Bay shoreline in the park.

In June we are tentatively planning the Broad Bay shoreline cleanup. Keep an eye out for this announcement. John Oakes will be organizing this work using kayaks. The kayaks will put in at the Narrows boat ramp and work toward the west limit of the park. If there are any Members with access to a johnboat with an outboard, this would be beneficial in transporting the debris back to the Narrows for disposal by the Park's rangers. This cleanup work is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 9th to coincide with a morning low tide.

Our May outing to remove invasive species and improve the view shed at Paradise Creek Environmental Park has been postponed by Elizabeth River Project and will now be scheduled for late October or early November.

On March 10th, 7 volunteers showed up at Pleasure House Point (PHP) to clear invasive plant growth away from a large Live Oak that was barely visible from the street. In approximately 3 hours this team cleared the tree of vines, and briars that required the city to bring two debris dumpsters to haul the cuttings <u>away</u>.

One highlight from Local Trails is that TATC was nominate as the Outstanding Volunteer Group at First Landing State Park. Tanya Wisoker presented a certificate to TATC President, Lee Lohman at our April workday. This award is because of the dedication of all the many volunteers who come out and help maintain the park. We typically put in over 400 volunteer hours each year at this park. THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!!!!





Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Established in 1943 to provide habitat for migratory birds, the refuge protects more than 14,000 acres of beach, dunes, marsh and maritime forest. Every season brings unique opportunities to enjoy wildlife observation and photography. Songbirds, wading birds and shorebirds arrive in spring and may stay throughout the summer. Fall brings migratory raptors and monarch butterflies followed by the waterfowl who will spend the winter on the refuge. Visitors can explore trails, visit the beach, see historic Assateague Lighthouse, and more! The refuge also offers a variety of special events throughout the year.

The famous "Chincoteague Ponies" are a present-day reminder of Assateague Island's past. Although no one is certain when or how the ponies first arrived on the island, a popular legend tells of ponies that escaped from a shipwrecked Spanish galleon and swam ashore. However, most historians believe that settlers used the island for grazing livestock (including ponies and other farm animals) in the 17th Century to avoid fencing regulations and taxation. Regardless of their origin, the descendants of these ponies are still living here today.

In 1833, the first Assateague Lighthouse was constructed to warn ocean travelers of the dangerous shoals off-shore. Construction on a taller, more powerfully illuminated brick lighthouse began in 1860 but was delayed by the Civil War. After the war, work resumed and the lighthouse was completed in 1867. The light was also upgraded that year, to a first order Fresnel lens. In 1891, a separate oil storage building was built, and a new assistant keeper's house was constructed in 1910. In 1929, the keeper staff was reduced. In 1933, the lighthouse's oil lamps were replaced by an electric lamp, and the original keeper's house was removed. Today the 1910 assistant keeper's house is used as seasonal staff residence. The oil storage building is used as an art gallery during summer months.

Website: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague

Map: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague/map

Trail Map: https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Chincoteague-trail-map-2020.pdf

Contacts:

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge 8231 Beach Road Chincoteague Island, VA 23336

757/336 6122 Office, 757/336 5273 Fax

FW5RW_CNWR@fws.gov www.fws.gov/refuge/Chincoteague www.facebook.com/ChincoteagueNWR www.twitter.com/ChincoteagueNWR

Unpaved Trails:

Lighthouse Trail (0.25 miles)
Walking - moderately easy (sandy hill)

Marsh Trail (0.5 miles) Walking - easy

Bivalve Trail (0.25 miles) Walking - moderately easy (uneven terrain)

Service Road (7.5 miles) Walking - easy First mile open to bicycling The Refuge is Open Seven Days a Week

May through September 5:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.

April & October 6:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

November through March 6:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Paved Trails:

Wildlife Loop (3.2 miles)
Walking and bicycling - easy
Open 3:00 PM to dusk to vehicles

Woodland Trail (1.6 miles)
Walking and bicycling - easy

Black Duck Trail (1 mile) Walking and bicycling - easy

Swan Cove Trail (0.5 miles) Walking and bicycling – easy

Hazard Trees: They are Killers

TATC Members,

As most of you know, a tragic death occurred this past January on our section of the trail. A Ice-laden branch from a deteriorated tree fell and killed a sleeping camper. The U.S. Forest Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and TATC held a lessons learned review early this year. ATC noted that they had previously offered hazard tree awareness training and were considering doing it again.

Perhaps because of the experience in our section, they have accelerated their plans. They are offering a two-part online course from 10:00 to 11:30 on June 1st and 2nd. An in-person session will take place for TATC and our contiguous clubs on June 21st at a location yet to be determined but possibly in the Sherando area.

The online courses will be led by USFS Region 8 and 9 Plant Pathologists and address sophisticated methods of determining tree health. The online courses are open to everyone. We encourage members who frequently work in USFS our area of responsibility and especially anyone who routinely works alone to take these courses.

You can register for the online segment at this link: https://volunteer.appalachiantrail.org/s/atc-project-details?c recId=a0q8Z00000BtU3T

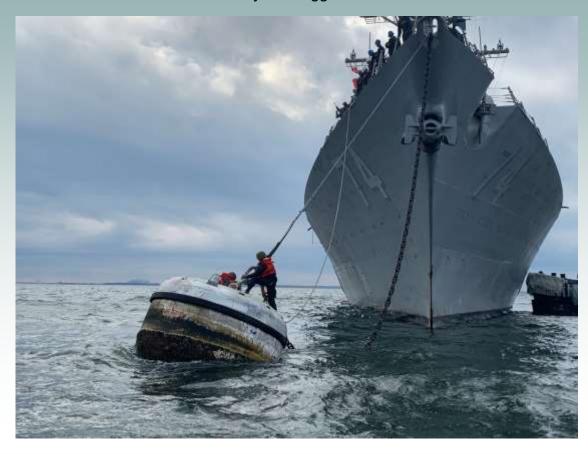
The in-person course enrollment is limited. If you are interested, please send an email requesting enrollment to education@tidewateratc.com.

This is valuable training that could just save your life.



TATC Member Sails the Seas

By Mal Higgins

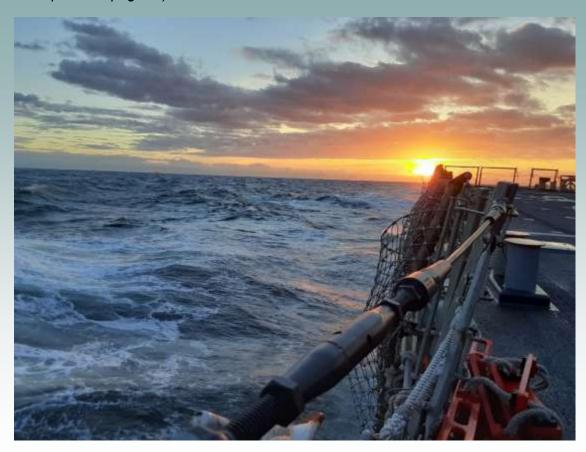


USS McFaul (DDG 74) mooring to a buoy in port

Amanda Hartwig, a member of TATC and our former membership chair, has been deployed aboard the USS McFaul (DDG 74) in recent months. Recently as I corresponded with her regarding the TATC Meetup site, she graciously shared a bit of her Navy activities in an email. What follows is a bit of Amanda's update:

I arrived onboard USS McFaul at the end of their [six month] shipyard period after deployment, so the crew had really been through the worst of it, but they'd built excellent camaraderie and I inherited an exceptional shop of outstanding technicians (I work in IT: computers and communications, but quite frankly, I'm terrible at it and grateful every day for my team's hard work and aptitude). We are in and out of port a lot, completing assessments as part of a phase that proves that all of our ship's systems are at peak functioning, ultimately for another deployment. So we keep an eye on the world politics and hope that things don't escalate out of control.

I'm also on a collateral team to help manage fitness and morale, so I lead a workout session five days per week and that helps me as much as it helps the Sailors. My team helps to plan events like movie night with popcorn and soda, karaoke night, or bingo night where they can win prizes... just to help keep everyone's mind off of the day-to-day, even though our daily routine is what helps one day blend into another so it's over before you know it.



USS McFaul DDG 74) sunrise on the fantail one morning before we pulled into port



USS McFaul (DDG 74) replenishment of fuel while at sea: both the refueling ship and ours continue moving forward at equal pace and safe distance while transferring thousands of gallons of fuel for sustained operations. Sometimes we do the same for food and other supplies, but night-time operations are rare.

Extract from Tye River Ridgerunner Report - Week 6

Start Date of Patrol 05-20-2022 End Date of Patrol 05-24-2022

<u>Note</u>: links to the complete Tye River Ridgerunner Reports for Weeks 1 to 6 are provided at the bottom of this article

A hot (and then rainy) week on trail! I have finally seen my entire 'official' patrol area!

Another bear incident was reported at Thunder Hill Shelter 5/19. Bear Incident Form filled out.

While I was not in ODATC section this week- I did read on the FarOut app that the Paul Wolfe Shelter privy is out of the white lime used to help with the waste breakdown.

Have a great day,

Katie

<u>High priority items</u>: Bear Activity at Thunder Hill 5/19. Bear came up from the water source, around the privy, up to the bear box. Hiker yelled at bear and it ran off. FOR ODATC: Far Out App says the privy at Paul Wolfe is out of lime as of 5/22!

General Comments & Overview:

5/20 Hog Camp Gap 2 thru hikers. Surprising for a weekend.

5/21 Punchbowl Shelter. 4 people. 1 thru hiker and 3 high school students on a 2 week trip.

5/22 Punchbowl Shelter. 8 hikers. Most in tents due to bugs being bad here. Some arriving as storms roll in but most pushed on to Brown Mtn.

5/23 Brown Mtn. 26. Shelter full, tent sites full as well. Huge group of thru hikers resupplied in Glasgow and hit the trail around the same time today. About half pushing on to Seeley Woodworth & half to the Priest tomorrow. Many seemed a bit surprised at the number of people here and didn't love it.

HOT TODAY!

Originally planned on turning around once I hit the fire rings on Cole Mountain but decided to push on into Hog Camp Gap.

Got to see a turkey and rat snake on trail. As well as TWO rattlesnakes on my drive up.

Bear at thunder hill shelter the night of the 19 trying to get into bear box. Hiker yelled

at bear and ran off. Came up from the water source around the privy to the bear box. Bear at thunder hill shelter the night of the 19 trying to get into bear box. Hiker yelled

at bear and ran off. Came up from the water source around the privy to the bear box.

There is a pretty established campsite just off the ridge line on Cole Mountain but it is tucked down in the trees which I guess technically doesn't count as open or mowed. Does this site need to be naturalized?



1116 THE OIL COIL MILL

Removed 2 fire rings from the ridge line on Cole Mtn

Ran into a group of 3 overnighters who were looking to camp along the ridge line at Cole Mtn. I directed them to the shelter and we talked about proper fire/food precautions.

Lots of hikers waiting out the heat at Hog Camp Gap. Got to chat to everyone before they headed off to the next shelter.

Cleaned up trash at all the fire rings at Hog Camp- surprisingly clean!

Up early to beat the heat- it seems the hikers have caught on quickly! Everyone is in a good mood despite the heat.

Found some unattended snacks at long mtn wayside kiosk. Also a handful of shuttle cards that I took to brown mtn and put in the log book.

Some water sources are dry but those that are flowing are doing great.

The section along the summit of Bald Knob is starting to get overgrown with vegetation (see pictures). Also a few of the water bars here have rotted away but are still directing water off trail.

There are a handful of sites just North of the Blue Ridge Parkway crossing at Punchbowl. Naturalized 1 small site.

Met 3 high schoolers at Punchbowl who are on a 2 week experiential trip for school.

Super cool to hear their plans and they were well prepared! Maybe too prepared... already regretting the extra things they had brought.

Need a new log book at Punchbowl. I can get one down here in the next week or two if needed. Packed out the old log book.

Beautiful sunrise on Bluff Mtn this morning! Ran into 6 hikers who stayed along the ridge line unable to make it to the shelter. They had been without water and were thirsty!

Lots of sticks/branches and a few small blowdowns I was able to take care of.

The section near Salt Log Gap & along the nobo ascent to Bluff is getting crowded with vegetation. Luckily mostly just grasses but some stinging nettle at Salt Log Gap.

Perhaps I'll run through here with a swing blade in the near future. Not sure if there is an ideal time of year to do so.

Afternoon thunderstorms has hikers eager to push down to Brown Mountain Creek Shelter.

Traded in the heat for rain! Showers on and off all day.



Blowdown 3.5 mi south brown creek shelter

Dismantled 2 old fire rings that I spotted on my way up to Punchbowl near the 800 mile marker.

Got to chat with some hikers as I passed the 800 mark about their time on trail. They talked a lot about fighting the urge to stop and go home and they estimated 50% of their fellow hikers had dropped off by this point.

A few new small blowdowns I was able to take care of with my silky. Quite interesting to see a stick/branch/ log on the trail and to know how many hikers stepped over or went around it when it only took me a minute to toss some of them downhill.

Some gear left in shelter.

Swept privy. Reports from other hikers saying the privy smells really bad- wasn't great in my opinion but it is just a big hole of poop! Perhaps someone threw food in and that's what is making it smell weird but it's almost sweet?

Short day today. Chatted with a couple of hikers who were taking a slow morning (like myself) and made my way back to the parking lot. Where I met up with hikers who has stayed at the shelter but were headed into town.

Picked up trash left in the grills here but doesn't look to be from hikers.

Another shuttle service number left at the kiosk since I came through a few days ago. It is for the same business as a card I removed when I came through last time.

'Leonard' for motel/slack packing.

Enjoyed keeping my eyes peeled for the homestead remains and spotted one of the homes across the creek. Would love to come through here in the winter to see more.

Excited to read more on this area when I return to internet!

Bear at thunder hill shelter the night of the 19 trying to get into bear box. Hiker yelled at bear and ran off. Came up from the water source around the privy to the bear box.

Links to Tye River Ridgerunner Reports for Weeks 1 to 6:

- 2022 Tye River Ridgerunner Week 1
- 2022 Tye River Ridgerunner Week 2
- 2022 Tye River Ridgerunner Week 3
- 2022 Tye River Ridgerunner Week 4
- 2022 Tye River Ridgerunner Week 5
- 2022 Tye River Ridgerunner Week 6



Tips and Guidelines for Group Camping on the A.T.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy - Trailway News



Photo by Horizonline Pictures

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) considers a group on the A.T. to be six to 10 people traveling together, including leaders. 10 is the maximum size for overnight trips on the A.T. The limit for groups doing a day hike (not camping overnight) is 25 people including trip leaders.

If your group size exceeds the above recommendations, divide into groups of 10 or fewer, camp in separate locations, and register each of the groups separately.

If you're unable to divide into groups of 10 or fewer, you may be able to find local, front country campgrounds to base out of and complete day hikes on the Trail instead.

Group size limits for both overnight and day hiking may be smaller in certain areas, such as in federally designated wilderness areas, so make sure to research any special regulations before heading out.

Your group should check and follow all local land management guidelines. You may need a permit from a state forest, park, or other agency depending on where you will be camping.

If you are not sure who the local land manager is for your planned trip on the A.T., please contact us at info@appalachiantrail.org!

Leave A.T. shelters for individual hikers. Groups should plan to use personal shelter systems (tents, tarps, hammocks, etc.) on their trip.

Take care to keep group members together. The group should plan to travel at the pace of the slowest member, wait for everyone at trail junctions, and assign one trip leader to act as the "sweep" — the person that always brings up the rear.

Guiding and other commercial activities are not considered acceptable use of the Trail. Reach out to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA) National Park office to determine if your planned activity is allowed on the A.T. and if it requires a permit.

Follow Leave No Trace Principles

Groups can have a disproportionate physical impact on the A.T. environment, treadway, and facilities. Traveling and camping in small groups help reduce that impact.

Be mindful of keeping your equipment consolidated and voices quiet at shelters, campsites, rest spots, and vistas to help preserve the sense of solitude and remoteness for other hikers who encounter your group.

The ATC recommends all overnight hikers use bear canisters for the duration of their hikes. With careful meal planning, your group can utilize bear canisters to help keep bears on the A.T. safe. Learn more about bear canister lending programs at appalachiantrail.org/canisterlending.

Take extra care to dispose of dishwater properly, especially if you are required to use soap or bleach. Pack out all food waste and trash.

Also emphasize to your group that only human waste and toilet paper can be put in privies — all trash, personal hygiene products, and wipes should be packed out.

Plan to camp only at designated campsites or near shelters. Many designated camping areas along the Trail have group-specific areas – use these when available.

Fires should only be made in designated locations based on local regulations.

Do not build any structures along the Trail or at campsites, such as survival huts or forts. Instead, leave the Trail and campsites in the same condition as you found them (or better).

Always pack the 10 essentials, including a first aid kit that can accommodate the needs of your group. Consider taking a Wilderness First Aid or First Responder course before leading a group hike.

MULTIPLE A.T. AREAS AFFECTED BY BEAR ACTIVITY

Appalachian Trail Conservancy - Trailway News



There have been multiple reports of bears on or near the A.T. showing either aggression or a lack of fear toward humans, including a <u>bear biting a 12-year-old Boy Scout near the Trail in Harriman State Park</u>. To help minimize the risk of a bear encounter, visitors are reminded to cook away from camp, never feed/approach bears, never leave their pack unattended, pack out all uneaten food and scraps, and secure food and other "smellable" items using provided food storage options or a bear canister. Bear canisters are the recommended food storage option to help keep you, your food, and bears safe. Also, please do not sleep with or near your food! For more information on avoiding bear encounters — and what to do if one happens along the A.T. — visit <u>appalachiantrail.org/bears</u>.

Should you have a negative interaction with a bear on the A.T., please report it using our <u>Bear Encounter Report Form</u>.

To view the A.T. locations that have been affected by bear activity, visit <u>appalachiantrail.org/</u> <u>trail-updates</u>

Experiences and Lessons from 1/4 AT hike 2022

Donald Williams

I had attempted a thru hike 41 years ago with my best friend from high school and college. After months of planning, after only a week and a half of hiking, he stress fractured his foot and that was the end of that grand plan. But my dream of thru hiking never disappeared from my mind altogether. After years of marriage, work, kids and then finally retirement, the dream found its way back into reality. Only this time, it would be in the form of four 1/4 AT length hikes rather than a single thru hike. This would be a Long Ass Section Hike (LASH). Many discussions with my wife took place. She agreed to the plan with the understanding that it was my deep wish to fulfill a long suppressed goal. I write this with the hope that I might help someone else wishing to undertake a several hundred mile hike. I am not an expert. I just have a fresh experience of learning, doing and reflecting.

Months of planning ensued. I researched gear, read articles from many sources, watched YouTube videos of thru hikers and those who share their knowledge of backpacking, talked to others with more experience than I had, and trained my mind and body. Being a former teacher, I believe that knowledge is transferable in ways other than experience alone. Some lessons are better taught than experienced, such as safety lessons. We would all rather be told how to purify water by boiling, chemicals or filtration rather than experiencing a waterborne illness to convince us to treat our water before drinking from wilderness sources. The same is true about many issues dealing with backpacking gear and its use. Sometimes a combination of research and education followed by experience is the best teacher. And perhaps at the individual level, we each have things we have to experience to see what suits our bodies and preferences. I'm sharing these thoughts with you to indicate that you don't have to wait years to achieve your dream if knowledge is



what you need. Knowledge and skills can be learned in a reasonably short time. Follow your dreams!

I'll share a few gear related items I chose. I'll only detail things that I think may be different than the selections of the majority of backpackers and why they suited me. First was my backpack. I ultimately chose a ULA Circuit. But what I did differently was have the manufacturer customize it for me as they offer on their website. I had them extend one pocket (so I could carry my tent vertically in that pocket) and reduce the length of the extension collar (to reduce the volume of the pack from 68 liters to 60 liters). Several other people I came across on the trail with ULA Circuits liked my longer side pocket and wish they had done it. I'm not saying you should make these changes, but you can ask the small shops to customize your pack to be closer to what you want.

I also chose to treat my water with the Grayl Ultrapress purification system. It removes particles to the virus level rather than just bacteria and protozoan cysts, as well as chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds. It weighs just a few ounces more than the more common Sawyer system when you take into account storage and accessories. It also can tolerate being frozen once or twice, unlike most other filters that are unusable after one freeze. I also liked the safety in ensuring cleaner water.

Last, I chose Topo Athletic Ultraventure Pro trail running shoes. They weigh only 1 lb. 5 ounces for a pair of men's 10.5 shoes. Even with my skinny ankles, the shoes protected my feet well enough and I was so glad I wasn't wearing heavier shoes. My hiking boots on my thru hike attempt 41 years ago weighed 3 lbs. 12 ounces.

After all my gear was selected, my base weight was 18.25 lbs. I happened to find my equipment list from 41 years ago while cleaning the house after retirement. After culling and reorganizing the list, my equivalent base weight then was 27.5 lbs. With 5 days of food and my maximum water carry, my pack would weigh 33 lbs. I'm a rather skinny 63 year old man. That pack is almost 25% of my weight.

I trained by running, weight lifting and hiking locally with my pack. I have been a half marathon runner for many years. So, to help prepare for the LASH, I entered and trained for the Shamrock full marathon. I ran my fastest half marathon for the last 10 years in November 2021. Retirement allowed me more time to train and that paid off apparently. I followed a rigorous training plan from Runner's World online that included various length intervals as well as multiple long runs including two 20 mile runs on consecutive weekends. On March 20th, 2022, I ran the marathon easily with a chip time of 4:30.

I did many strength exercises. I did a variety of weight lifting exercises for my core and legs with weights I have in my garage. Some of my favorites were lunge walking, squats and calf raises with two 20, 30 or 40 lb. kettle bells. I also joined Planet Fitness specifically for the stair climber machine. I bought a weight vest because they don't allow backpacks in their gym. I stair climbed with 34 lbs. at 60 steps/minute for an hour twice a week. I'll say this here, the stair climber was better than not doing it, but it didn't simulate the uneven footing of walking on what I call "rock fields" of the AT, and 60 minutes twice a week wasn't enough. I ended up walking 9-10.5 hours/day which was far more exhausting than using the stair climber.

My plan finally came into reality on April 15th. I would start at Atkins, VA (just south of the 1/4 point from Georgia to Maine) and hopefully reach Pine Grove Furnace State Park in southern PA (the halfway point) around a month later. This plan would require me to average 18 miles/day. THAT proved to be unreasonable. The first four days were 14.5, 9.4, 10.7 and 13.5 miles. Days five to seven were 16.2, 17.5 and 15.7 miles. These were more typical of the rest of my month but still below the 18 mile target. I was now keeping up with thru hikers who started in Georgia, at the front end of the 2022 wave. Of course, I saw thru hikers who were doing 20-30 miles/day, but I only stayed with them for one day. The average thru hiker time for the full 2200 miles is 5-7 months. A six month completion time, with one zero day every 7 days, works out to 14.1 miles/day. My average mileage per day, for the days I hiked, was 15.1 miles/day. I walked 18 days, took two days off with my wife in Waynesboro, and then walked 12 more days. There were two sequences of three days of 18 miles/day over those 30 days, but the weather and terrain took my average down. The main difficulty proved to be the ruggedness of walking on rocks. My training hadn't prepared my legs for that. Nothing in Tidewater can prepare you for AT rock fields, rocky ridges, and some places that require hands and feet to safely navigate.

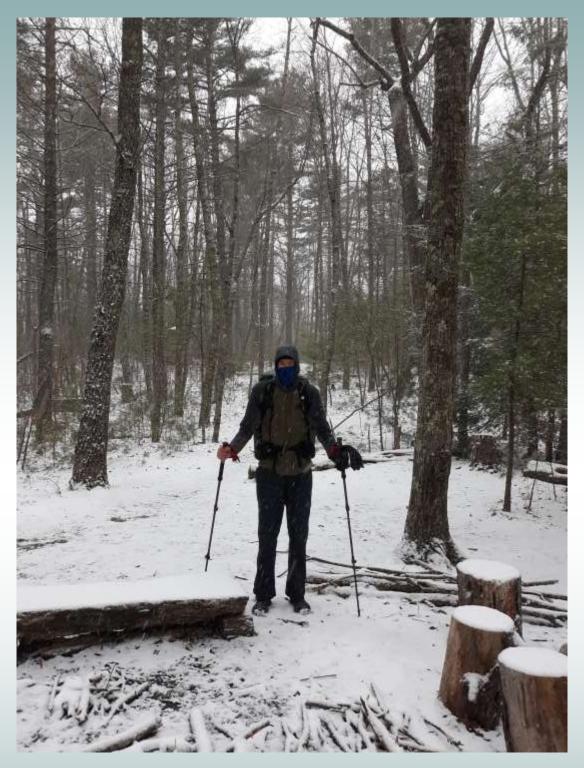
Because my mileage was lower, I skipped from Route 60 AT crossing near Buena Vista to Waynesboro. I restarted at Beagle Gap in SNP. That knocked off about 60 miles. Bob Veverka from TATC came up and we hiked from Beagle Gap to Rock Spring Hut over the course of four days. Bob had been helping me by text plan the reroutes of my itinerary each day as I picked new stopping places every day. Bob says he'll go back with me this fall to complete the 60 miles I skipped south of SNP. It was great to have a real friend to hike with. After Bob departed, I continued north. I made it just short of Buena Vista Rd crossing in southern PA and I slightly injured my ankle. I called a shuttle driver and got a ride into Waynesboro, PA. Funny how place names get repeated in multiple states. I ended up calling that the end of my hike for April/May 2022. I didn't want to risk further injury to the ankle and my wife was in NY at her brother's house waiting to pick me up in two days. I was about 35 miles short of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. I'll just tack that onto the 3rd quarter LASH when I do that one. By the way, my ankle was fine after a few days' rest, but I did develop what I think is called delayed onset muscle soreness after I got home. That also resolved after a few days home.

I hiked 454 miles. I ascended 102,540 feet and descended 104,180 feet over those 454 miles. So, my 30 day average was 15.1 miles/day with almost 3500 feet of ascending and 3500 feet of descending each day.

Overall, it was a great hike. Further than I'd ever hiked continuously. I saw great mountaintop views, valleys, creeks and streams, forded a small river, scrambled over many rock jungles, heard and saw many animals (timber rattlesnake, fox, salamander, and more), and enjoyed hiking with many other interesting section, weekend, and thru hikers. I walked a ridgeline with another hiker when we were glad to have each other there in case either of us fell. Seeing the Virginia Triple Crown and completing the Roller Coaster. By the way, the hike on the north and south side of Dragon's Tooth is rougher than the other two parts of the Triple Crown in my opinion, but all the views are spectacular. I hitchhiked and was picked up by a secret service agent at Keys Gap, on the VA/WV border. I slept in many 3-sided AT shelters, my tent, and hiker hostels a few times. I hiked in rain, sleet, high winds and light snow with temperatures that ranged from the upper 20's to mid-80's, all with clothes that I had carried for these 30 days. I ate more food at a Chinese buffet in Pearisburg, a Mexican restaurant in Daleville, and a fish and pork restaurant in Waynesboro (VA) than I may have ever eaten in single meals. Five of us at Ensign Cowall Shelter, even had three large Domino's pizzas delivered to the trail-head parking lot that was only ¼ mile from the shelter. I did fall once and sprained a finger. I made a temporary splint from plastic knives at Elkwallow Wayside. I sang songs at a shelter with other hikers and one who brought a traveling guitar. I slept on an otherwise comfortable air mattress that went flat one night in my tent, then I repaired it, then it went flat again a few days later at a shelter (but held air the days in between) and patched it again.

What things will I do differently for the three future 1/4 AT LASH's?

- 1. I can reduce the size of my battery bank from 19,200 mAh to 10,000 mAh. This was the most absurd thing I carried.
- 2. I'll find even higher calorie per ounce foods that I can buy along the way. I probably averaged 100-125 cal/oz.
- 3. I'll train harder and longer. The long distance running was probably sufficient and I'll still do that, but add hill running. There are a few places in Tidewater with reasonable hills to run.
- 4. The strength training has to be more demanding and the stair climbing lasts longer. Instead of just one hour, I'll work up to 3-4 hours.
- 5. To simulate the rock walking I've thought of walking on riprap at dams or where ever else I can find it.
- 6. I'll plan the daily hiking distance to be 10-12 miles/day for the first 3-4 days, then 15 miles/day thereafter. I would also plan a zero day every 7-8 days.



Donald Williams

Donations for TATC's 50th Anniversary

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

Donations will be used for:

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

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

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

You can also make a donation in memory of someone, if you identify this selection in the comments field online or write it on your check.

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

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

TATC Email Subscriptions

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

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

This blast emailing list currently has 1,020 email subscribers. <u>Note</u>: If you receive one of these emails and want to unsubscribe from receiving any future renewal notifications, then you can hit the '*Unsubscribe*' link at the bottom of the email.

A Wonderful Setting for Music

I had the honor of bringing my friends, my band mates, to the TATC cabin on April 29 - May 1. A frequent renter, but never quite like this. A few that went came on past trips. One, a newbie, fell in love with the place. I enjoy bringing new people to the cabin. They are always amazed at how well appointed it is, the seclusion, off the grid, and how we come together each evening to play games, share a meal. Of the course the best selling point for the finicky is the outhouse location and design! My friends, Greg, Patrick, Tom and I packed in our acoustics: Guitars, harmonicas and the cojon drum box. We played without reserve, inside and outside. Normally an electric band, the emotion of playing acoustically at the cabin gave it a vibe of authenticity and playful experimentation.



A concert of our own, against a fitting landscape! We played songs like Melissa, Tuesdays Gone, Cinnamon Girl, Dust in the Wind, Come Together, Here Comes the Sun, A Horse with No Name, Norwegian Wood, While My Guitar Gently Weeps, Psycho Killer, Rockin In the Free World, Behind Blues Eyes, and Mary Jane's Last Dance. If you know the songs, you know the artist. Who are we? "Banned From Church". Just a bunch of professional Engineers, Architect, and Data Scientist. Like you, we have our day jobs, but our release is music and the great outdoors.

(Continued from previous page ...)

Maybe a future communal concert at the cabin or Sherando Lake for all?



Our cabin trip would not be complete without an excursion. We found and paid our respects to the Coffey's burial site. We ate at Devils Backbone, eyeing the lay of the land and sizing up the music stage. (Hmmm, a future venue). We played Blokus and Pictionary, releasing huge belly laughs all evening long. We rounded out our trip by walk through and back on the Blue Ridge Tunnel trail.

Thank you TATC and especially Bob Adkisson for your life long efforts to the TATC cabin.

Brian Tapajna





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Triangle area, NC...... May 14-15, 2022 Norfolk, VA May 21-22 Mountains retreat pleasantly spread over 3-day holiday weekend, free camping and grills on-site, near Blacksburg, VA May 28-30 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.... Jun 25-26

W.F.Responder (9 days) in WV ... Aug 16-24

Mountain-Top Retreat pleasantly spread over 3-day holiday weekend with lake, beach, boats, on-site trails, sunset overlook hike, on-site cabins, free camping nearby, campfire, s'mores & more, near Blacksburg, VA Sep 3 - 5

Charleston, SC (tentative)...... autumn t.b.d. Charlottesville, VA..... Oct 22-23

Washington, DC area.....Nov 5 - 6

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 Travel
 Natural Disasters

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

earning Options:

- II ONLINE ~1/2 price! Blended
- 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

Waterbar Construction and Maintenance

Jim Sexton

General:

The optimum gradient for trails on slopes is 5 - 10% (5 to 10 feet change in elevation per 100 feet). The A.T. tries to design trails with no more than a 6% grade, hence; switchbacks.

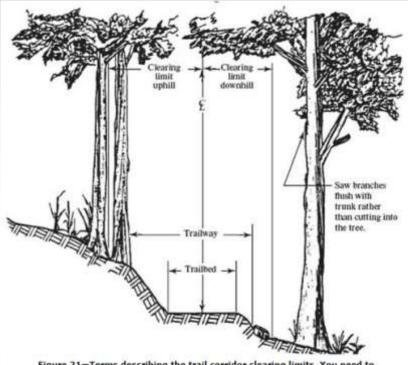
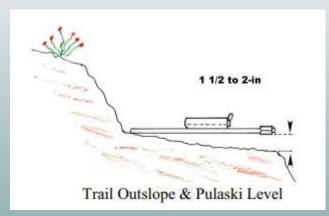


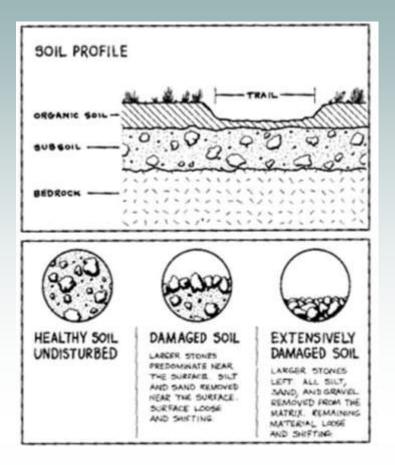
Figure 21—Terms describing the trail corridor clearing limits. You need to understand these terms to clear a trail to specifications.

Trail Corridor: the A.T. trailbed (for a footpath) should be cleared to be 4 feet wide and 8 feet in height. Try not to clear the trailway any wider than 6 feet.

Trail Outslope: the outslope of the trail needs to be slight, it is the side-to-side slope of the trail treading towards the downhill side of the trail. Around 3 - 6 degrees of slope. This range is based upon soil type and gradient on the trail. The outslope allow for water to run off the trail at an optimal angle.



(Continued from previous page ...)



We need waterbars on the trail where the soil is being washed away. The trail bed should consist of organic matter and mineral soil, and small rocks, not just large rocks.

We construct and maintain two different types of waterbars on our trails; rock and log waterbars.

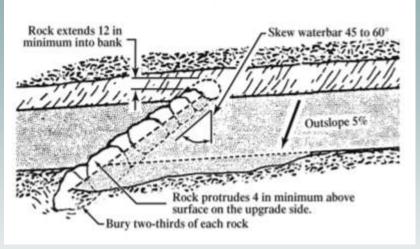
If possible, always try to install rock waterbars over log waterbars, since rock waterbars usually last much longer.

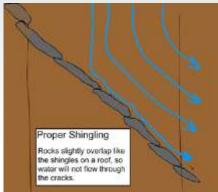
A trench needs to be dug into the trail for placement of a waterbar at a 45-degree angle to the trail.

The waterbar should be anchored at least 12 inches into the cut slope (uphill side of the waterbar) and 12 inches past the fillslope (downhill side of the waterbar).

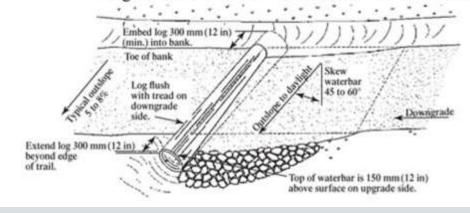
Backfill both log and rock waterbars as needed by using the material that you dug out for the trench.

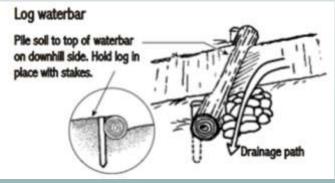
Figure 1. "Old School" rock water bar. (IMAGE COURTESY OF THE USFS)

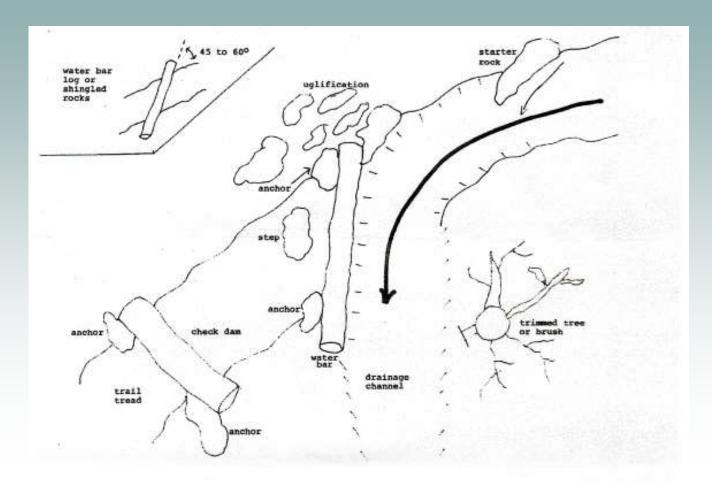




Log or Treated Timber Waterbar and Anchors







A Waterbar Is a Support Structure

Run-off water should never reach the Waterbar.

The Waterbar, rock, rocks, or log, is simply a structure to support the Grand Prix Curve (red).

The Grand Prix Curve (red) diverts water off the trail into the Drainage Channel.

Waterbar Maintenance Tools Required

Two-Person Crew

Fire Rake - Loppers

Gloves - Hard Hat

Pulaski - Eye Protection

Larger Crew

Add a Shovel

(Note: The heavier duty Pick Mattock works better than the Pulaski for waterbar installation)

This page provided by Jim Newman

(Continued from previous page ...)

Log Waterbars:

The best wood for log waterbars in our area is either black locust (best) or oak. Although any log is better than none.

The log for a waterbar should be 10-12 inches in diameter. It can be slightly larger if you can find a suitable log close by and you can safely move it.

Around 1/2 of the log's height on the water side of the log should be buried in the ground.

Anchor the upper end of the log with rocks and/or wooden stakes.

Anchor the backside of the lower end of the waterbar log with stakes or rocks or a combination of both.

If the water-side (front side) of the lower end of a waterbar log needs to be staked into position, you will need to cut a notch into the log for the stake that is flush with the surface of the log, so as to not interrupt the flow of water along the ditch in front of the waterbar.

Sharpen one end of any stakes you use, and always flatten the tops of the other end in order to pound them into the ground and prevent a safety hazard.

Stakes should be at least 1-inch in diameter and 18-20 inches long.

If the log still has bark on it, the bark will need to be removed to help prevent the tree from rotting more quickly.

Never use a log for a waterbar if it has started to rot (it's spunky),

Cut the right length log for the waterbar! Remember, that you are placing the log at a 45-degree angle to the trail and the log will extend 12-inches above and below the trail, so measure accordingly. Measure twice!

The best log for a waterbar is one that has been standing-cured in the woods. This is where a tree fell over some time ago, but the portion of the tree that you need to cut out for the waterbar was suspended above the ground, where it dried without rotting, and maybe even luckily, the bark has fallen off. The downside of finding such a tree, it's dry and will be harder to saw than a green tree with more sap still in it. Also try to use "cured" stakes.

If the log is slippery after the bark is removed, then you can use an axe to rough-up (checker-up) the top surface of the log.

(Continued from previous page ...)

Rock Waterbars:

Rocks used in waterbars should be at least around the size of a concrete block and hopefully a bit larger. Just make sure that you can move/carry the rocks safely.

The rocks should have at least two almost flat sides at a right angle to each other, one side for the top of the rock on which hikers will be walking, and one surface for the water to run along and off of.

At least 2/3 the rock's height should be buried in the ground to prevent the rock from wobbling and eventually being dislodged. This means that around 1/3 of the rock's height will be above ground. The height of the rock should be at least 4-inches and no more than 6-8 inches above the ground. Although a rock can be slightly larger, it's overall height should be at least 12-inches high, with 8-inches buried in the ground and 4-inches above ground

There are various ways of moving or carrying logs or rocks, but since we are only building waterbars, we will be using rock slings or straps which should enable two to three people to carry a log or a rock. Remember, when lifting, bend your knees, not your back.

The rocks in a rock waterbar can offset, overlap (shingle) or abut each other, it depends on what rocks you can find in the area. In some cases where you can't get rocks to fit closely enough together, you can place one row of rocks in a waterbar behind another roll of rocks, offsetting the gaps between the rocks.

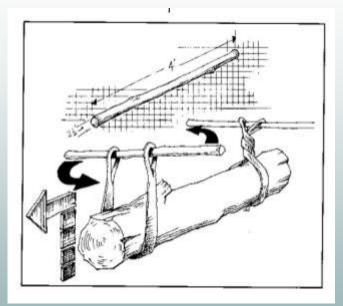
Methods for Carrying Rocks or Logs for Waterbars:



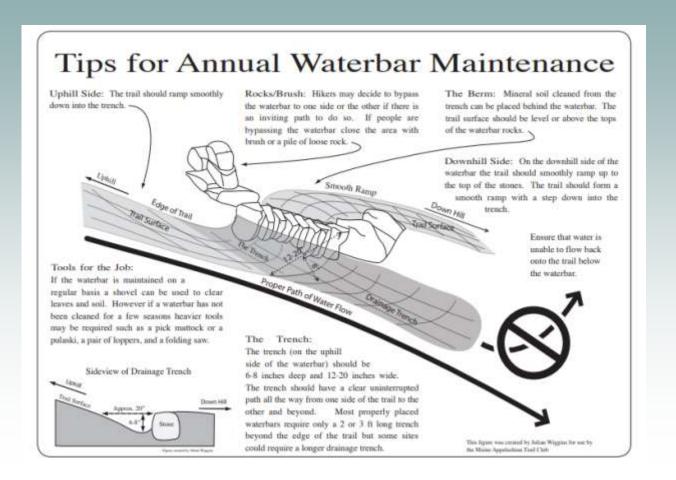




If you need this many people to carry a rock for a waterbar, the rock is too big!



Or you can use two boulder slings



Keep hydrated, eat snacks!

Use bug spray to prevent ticks!

Watch out where you put your fingers!

Don't Worry! If you built it, it's a Success!

<u>Suggested equipment for two crews (3-4 people each) for waterbar construction:</u>

- 2 Boulder slings (if needed two can be used at the same time to carry a log)
- 2 Hand Carry Slings (for logs)
- 2 Pulaskis for digging out waterbar foundation and for drainage channel
- 1 Cross Cut Saw (6' bucking) (for the logs for log waterbars)
- 3 4 wedges
- 2 Silky saws (for helping to cut notches in logs and cutting stakes)
- 2 Single bit axes (for the wedges, removing bark, finishing log notches, sharpening and pounding in stakes)
- 2 Curved Draw Shaves, 10"
- 2 Shovels digging out waterbar foundations, drainage channels, and backfilling waterbars
- 2 Fire Rakes or Hazel Hoes for moving dirt around and smoothing it out
- 2 Buckets for carrying dirt to backfill waterbars (optional)
- 2 Logger First Aid Kits

Personal gear:

Helmets

Shin Guards (optional)

Eye protection

Boots – heavier rather than lighter, the boots don't need to be steel-toe, but not lightweight either.

Work Gloves

Clothing, food, water, sunscreen, bug spray and other equipment suggested by you trip leader.

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, June 1, 2022, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Where: Via Zoom

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

<u>Description</u>: 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.

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge - National Trails Day Celebration!

When: Saturday, June 4, 2022 10:00am -12:00pm

Where: Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 4005 Sandpiper Road Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Contact: erica ryder@fws.gov (757) 301-7329 x3106

<u>Description</u>: Bring in summer with a day at the wildlife refuge! At 10:00am on Saturday,

June 4 we will lead guided hikes along Refuge trails to celebrate National Trails Day. Guided walks will be led along the Raptor, Kuralt, Seaside and Dune Trails.

Groups will head to each trail and may even walk more than one trail together. You choose where you would like to go. We will also introduce the iNaturalist and Seek apps which help us keep track of our nature observations and identify unknown things in the field.

No reservations necessary - we look forward to seeing you there! Don't forget a hat, water bottle and sunscreen. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee to the wildlife refuge, but no fee for the event itself. The entrance fee is waived for all Federal Recreation Lands passholders and Duck Stamp holders.

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, June 8, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 9629 Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503

Map: https://www.google.com/maps/place/Advent+Episcopal+Church/@36.949449,-

76.247767,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x2b43668197d57e40!8m2!3d36.9494268!4d-

76.247736

<u>Description</u>: TATC General Membership Meeting will be via 7pm-9pm Contact Lee Lohman at president@tidewateratc.com for more details.

Program TBD

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

Information for Hike & Activities Schedule, TATC website schedule, are collected & edited by the Hikemaster. Contact Andy Grayson for publication.

Lopperfest 2022 Part 1: June 11th

When: Friday-Sunday, June 10 - 12, 2022

Where: Camping out June 10-12, 2022 in the Sherando Lake Recreation Area.

Contacts: Brittany Collins - TATC Trail Supervisor - trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

John Sima - TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - assistantts@tidewateratc.com

<u>Description</u>: Cut back encroaching plant growth from trails using swing blades, loppers and shears. Free Park entrance; Free camping. Friday & Sunday are travel days. Ten to twelve people needed.

Beach Clean-Up - False Cape State Park

When: Saturday, June 11th, 2022 from 9-12 Noon,

Contact: 757-426-7128 or e-mail falsecape@dcr.virginia.gov

<u>Description</u>: Beach Cleanup....Meet at 8:45 am in the Back Bay Parking Lot for the ride into the park. Bring snacks and water and wear comfortable clothing for the weather. Space is limited for this event.

Maintenance Day at the Park - False Cape State Park

When: Wednesday, June 15th, 2022 from 8:00am—4:00pm, Contact: 757-426-7128 or e-mail falsecape@dcr.virginia.gov

<u>Description</u>: Beach Cleanup....Meet at 7:45 am in the Back Bay Parking Lot for the ride into the park. Bring lunch and plenty of snacks and water for hydration. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather and working conditions. Space is limited for this event.

Call the office at 757-426-7128 to get your name on the list ASAP. These events fill up fast.

TATC Board Meeting

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

Where: Via Zoom

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

<u>Description</u>: 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.

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.

Lopperfest 2022 Part 2: July 9th

When: Friday-Sunday, July 8-10, 2022

Where: Camping out July 8-10, 2022 in the Sherando Lake Recreation Area.

Contacts: Brittany Collins - TATC Trail Supervisor - trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

John Sima - TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - assistantts@tidewateratc.com

<u>Description</u>: Cut back encroaching plant growth from trails using swing blades, loppers and shears. Free Park entrance; Free camping. Friday & Sunday are travel days. Ten to twelve

people needed.

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, July 13, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 9629 Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503

<u>Contact:</u> Lee Lohman at president@tidewateratc.com for more details.

<u>Map</u>: https://www.google.com/maps/place/Advent+Episcopal+Church/@36.949449,-76.247767,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x2b43668197d57e40!8m2!3d36.9494268!4d-

76.247736

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting will be via 7pm-9pm. Program TBD

AT Vista 2022

When: August 5 – 8, 2022

Where: State University of New York at New Paltz, 1 Hawk Dr, New Paltz, NY 12561

Contact: Katrina Marrero kmarrero@weissmanmintz.com (732) 563-4565

Description: The 2022 AT Vista to be held at SUNY New Paltz from August 5-8, 2022. The Vista is in lieu of the ATC Biennial and is being sponsored by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. We have put together an exciting program of hikes, workshops and excursions. which can be viewed by going to our website - atvista2022.org. SUNY New Paltz is a beautiful venue, in reasonable proximity to wonderful hiking on the AT in northern NJ and New York, as well as to hikes in Minnewaska State Park, the Shawangunk Mountains, the Long Path, Mohonk Preserve, the Catskills, Harriman State Park and other parks east of the Hudson. Proposed hikes are listed on the website.

Registration is Now Open

Visit <u>www.atvista2022.org</u>

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

TATC Officers & Board

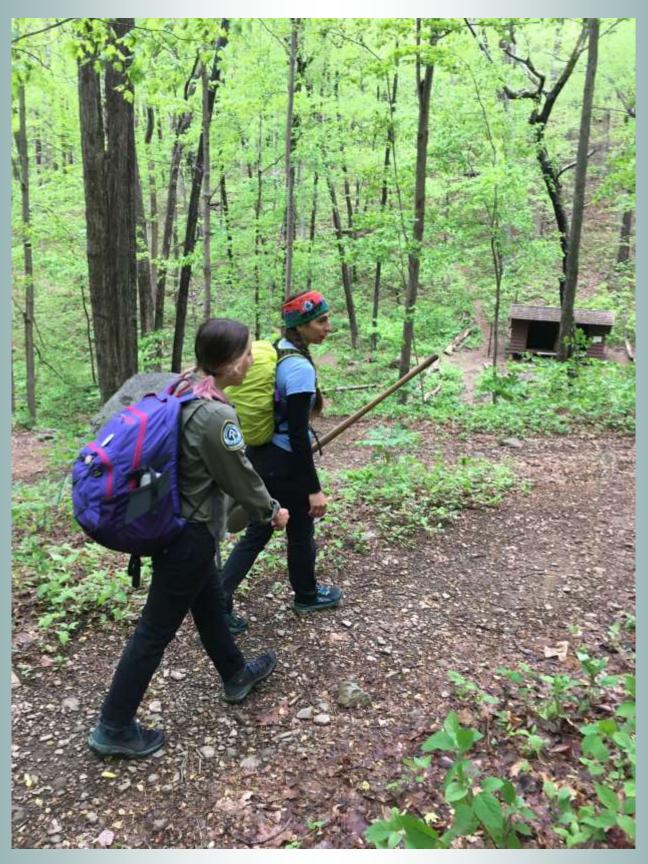
Position	Name	Email Address
President	Lee Lohman	president@tidewateratc.com
Vice President	Andy Grayson	vicepres@tidewateratc.com
Treasurer	Cecil Salyer	treasurer@tidewateratc.com
Secretary	Steve Clayton	secretary@tidewateratc.com
Trail Supervisor	Brittany Collins	trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com
Assistant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



The Harper's Creek Crew: Michelle, Katie, Robbie, Marcela and Sara From Michelle Cobb



Our Ridgerunner, Katie Steele, and Sara heading to Harper's Creek Shelter for cleanup. From Michelle Cobb



From Brittany Gonzales



From Brittany Gonzales



1/4 AT hike 2022

Donald Williams











From Mal Higgins



Robbie, Katie (Ridge Runner), Melody Persinger, Jim Newman, Steve Crate, Keith Yeargin, Keith Forbes along White Rock Gap trail from Sherando to Blue Ridge Parkway

From Mal Higgins



Half mile to go along White Rock Gap trail from Sherando to Blue Ridge Parkway

From Mal Higgins



Stephanie Stringer, Bob Adkisson, Jeff & Ann Crate; Sophia (Bob's granddaughter)

From Mal Higgins



Jeff & Ann Crate, John Barnes, Linda Crate, ?, Keith Forbes, Jim Newman

From Mal Higgins



Sandra Canepa, Jim Newman, Steve Clayton

From Mal Higgins



Robert, Ed Welp, Katie_____, Judy Welp, Melody Persinger, Bruce Julian, Keith Yeargin

From Mal Higgins



Judy Welp, Melody Persinger & Keith Yeargin, Bruce & Margaret Julian (back row), Vic Pisone, Lelia Vann & Greg Reck, Margaret Pisone

From Mal Higgins



Everyone chowing down on Jersey Mike sub sandwiches

From Mal Higgins



Sandra Canepa, Keith Forbes

From Mal Higgins



John Barnes, Steve Crate, Jeff Crate

From Mal Higgins



Ann Crate, Linda Crate

From Mal Higgins



Evelyn Adkisson, Leigh, Ed & Judy Welp, Vic Pisone, Margaret & Bruce Julian

From Mal Higgins



Bob Adkisson, Sophia

From Mal Higgins



Melody Persinger & Keith Yeargin, Tom Miano, Lelia, Bridgette (service dog) & Greg Reck

From Mal Higgins



Bob Adkisson tells the tale of the cabin construction and dedication



Plaque honoring Douglas Putman



29 people, "the group" at the 40th Anniversary of the 1982 Cabin Dedication May 8, 2022

From Mal Higgins



29 people, "the group" at the 40th Anniversary of the 1982 Cabin Dedication May 8, 2022 (photographer Mal)

From Mal Higgins



29 people, "the group" at the 40th Anniversary of the 1982 Cabin Dedication May 8, 2022 (photographer Mal)



29 people, "the group" at the 40th Anniversary of the 1982 Cabin Dedication May 8, 2022 (photographer Mal)



Jeff & Ann Crate; Linda & Steve Crate at 40th Anniversary of 1982 Cabin Dedication on May 8, 2022





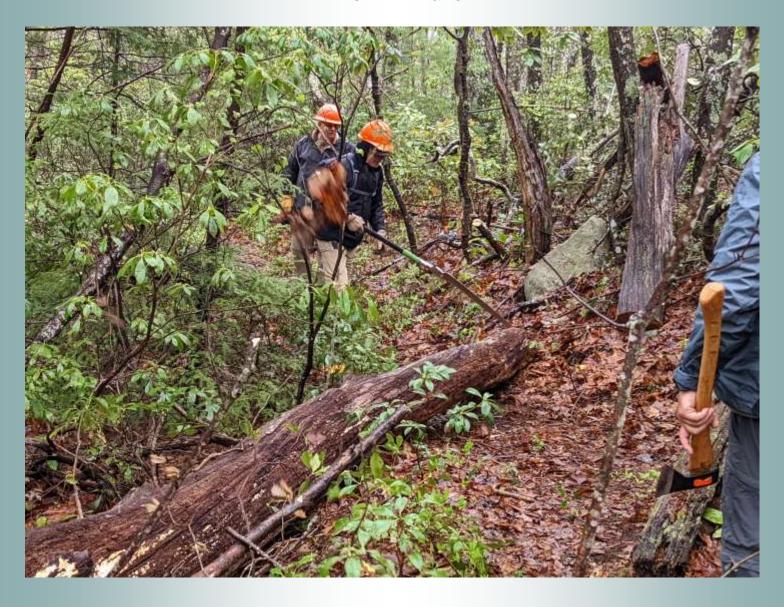


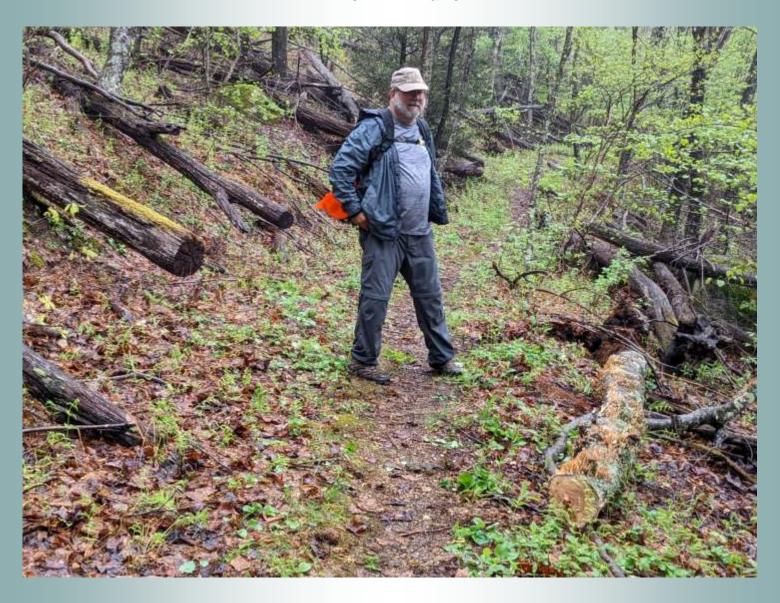






























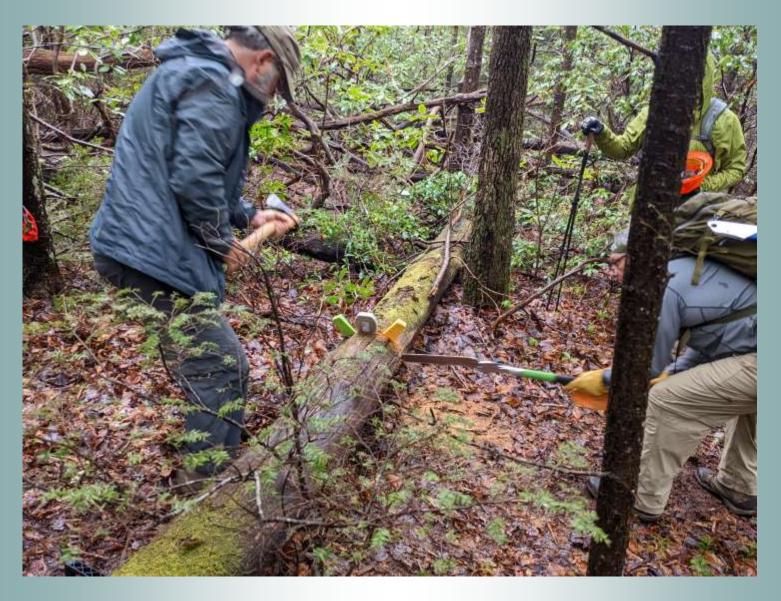














Maintenance Pictures - Bald Mountain

From Bill Bunch













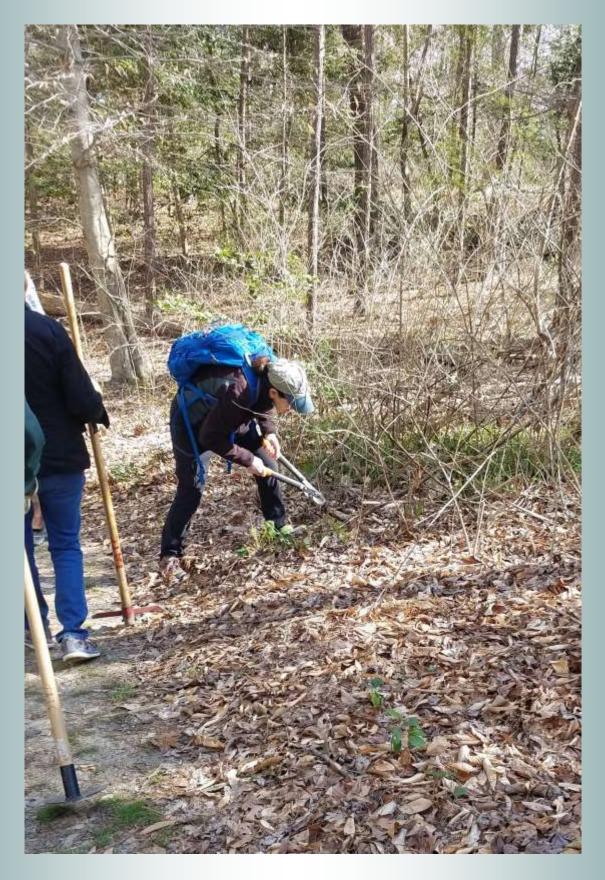


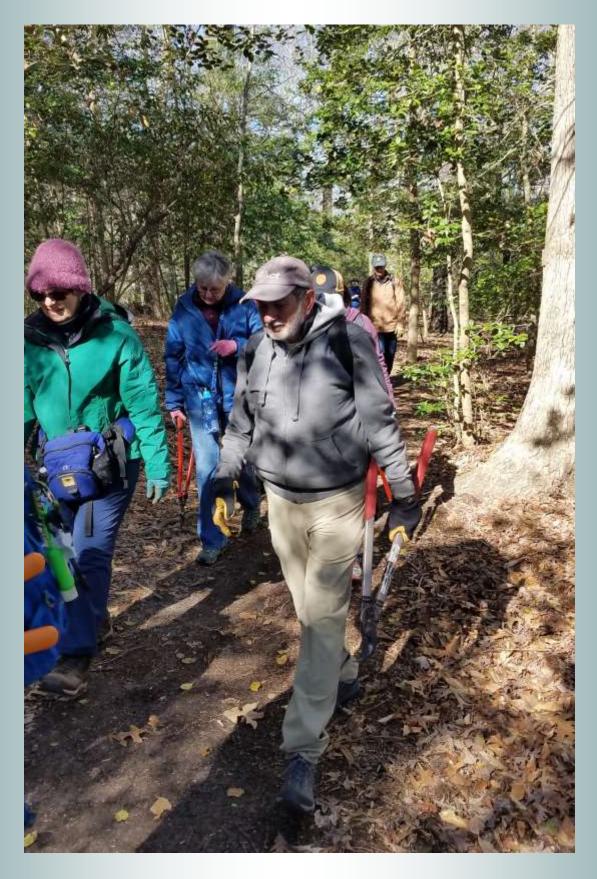


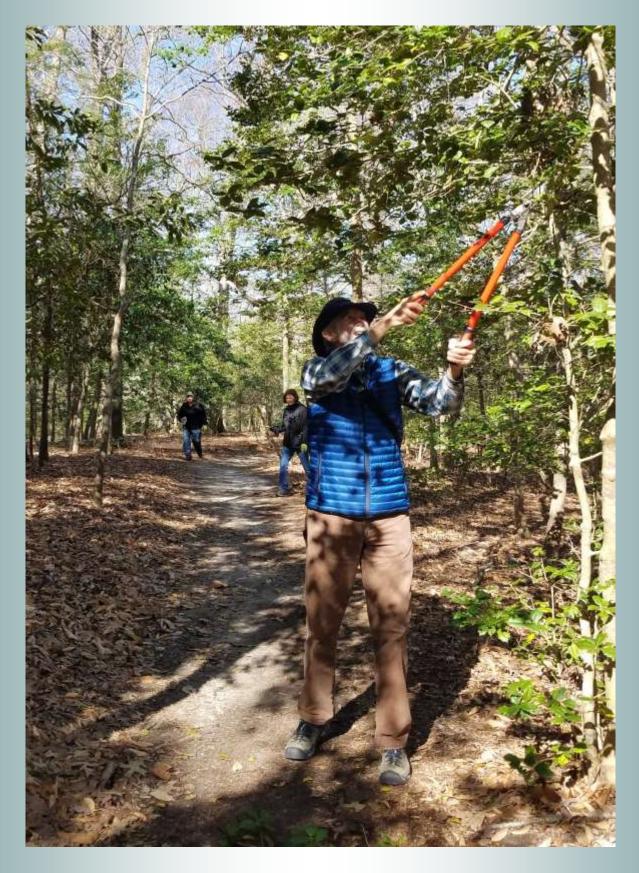


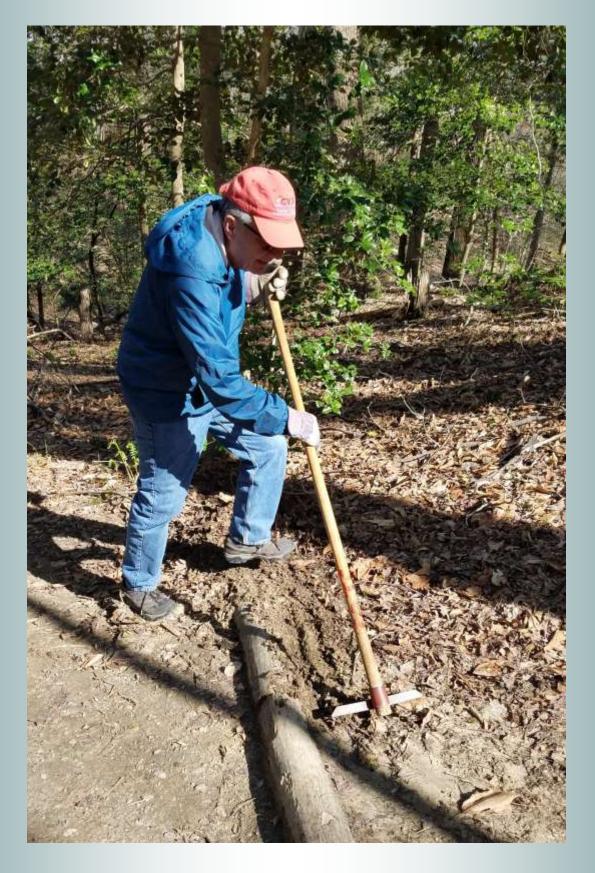
















From Lee Lohman



From Lee Lohman



From Lee Lohman



From Jim Sexton



From Jim Sexton



From Jim Sexton



Held in Damascus, VA - April 22-24, 2022



Held in Damascus, VA - April 22-24, 2022





Held in Damascus, VA - April 22-24, 2022



Held in Damascus, VA - April 22-24, 2022



TATC Display Table

at REI, Great Outdoor Provision Company and the Norfolk Bike Expo

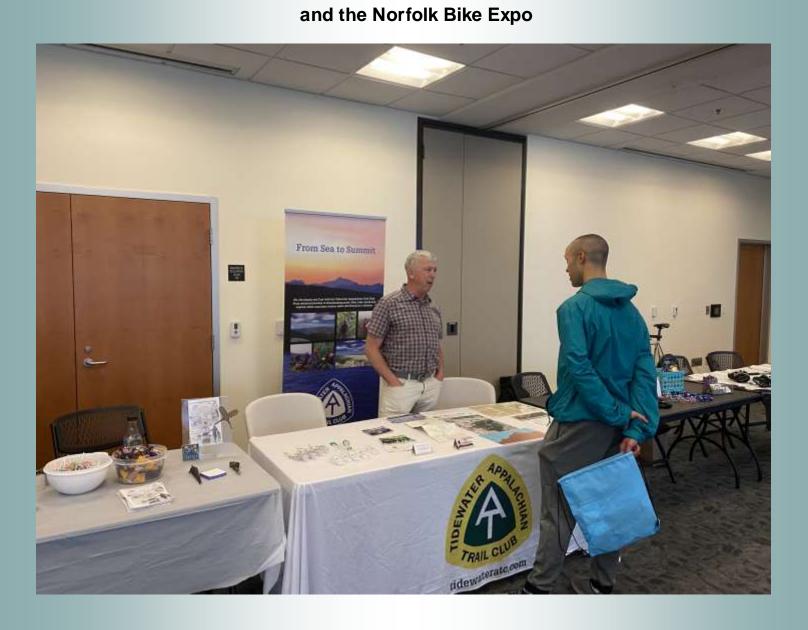


TATC Display Table

at REI, Great Outdoor Provision Company and the Norfolk Bike Expo



TATC Display Table at REI, Great Outdoor Provision Company



TATC Display Table

at REI, Great Outdoor Provision Company and the Norfolk Bike Expo

