

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com

October 2019 - November 2019
46th Edition, 5th Issue

PREZ SEZ

It's that time of year when we welcome fall colors and cooler weather, and with that, a return to some of the outdoor activities that take a back seat to summertime.

As this newsletter goes to press, Hoopla, a three-day festival of live music, camping and outdoor adventures will be taking place at Devil's Backbone in Roseland, Virginia. An Outreach Team from TATC will be there to lend a hand and join in on the fun.

Also on our club schedule is a Cabin Orientation trip, the Fall Walk Thru of our section of the A. T., the Newport News Fall Festival as well as our Main Event - the Fall Maintenance Weekend based at Sherando Lake Recreation Area. You could even stay at our beautiful cabin during maintenance weekend - see the schedule for details.

With all that's going on, we still have a need for more fun weekend activities. And for that to happen, we need YOU (yes, YOU) to jump in there and lead a hike, paddle, bike ride, dinner or whatever else you would like to cook up. Stuck for ideas? Here are some:

Hiking at Harwood's Mill Park in Yorktown
Hike or Paddle at Merchant's Mill Pond in Gatesville, NC (they rent canoes)
Hiking at York River State Park in Croaker, VA

These are hikes or paddles that club members have done in the past, so it's easy to just email or call someone to find out the details; no reinventing the wheel required! Duplicate what someone else has done and have a great time! Call or email me and I'll be happy to point you in the right direction!

Happy Hiking,

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



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Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson



Visit our website at www.tidewateratc.com

Minute For Maintenance

As we approach our October 18-20 Fall Maintenance, here is a status report on our AT/Mau-Har trails: All 14.7 miles of trail were traveled during the August 17 Swing Blade/Lopper work trip. After cutting weed growth high up on Three Ridges and along the Mau-Har, plus clearing multiple blow-downs on the side trail to Harpers Creek Shelter, no trail obstructions existed as of mid-August.

With the lapse of only two months between the August Swing Blade and the upcoming Fall Maintenance, few tree blow-downs are expected next month; therefore, Fall Maintenance crew assignment planning will largely center on AT blazing, drainage work, tree clearing on the White Rock Falls trails and trail work in Saint Mary's Wilderness. The walk-thru of Oct 2 will provide up-to-date information.

The leaves will be in full-color come middle of October, apples will be available, and the weather will be cool and crisp. Join the group of dedicated TATC trail maintainers for a pleasant weekend of satisfying volunteer work. This will be my 8th time leading this effort. I remain a pithy speaker, and will refresh a few of my cardboard visuals. See you October 18 at Sherando!

Jim Newman

Trail Supervisor

trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

IF YOU LEAD IT, THEY WILL COME!

Phyllis Neumann

If you have attended a TATC membership meeting during the past few months then you have heard our pleas for weekend activity leaders! I know this gets old after awhile. It's a little daunting to lead an activity. It takes planning and time. It's so much easier to just sign up and show up for something and not have to worry about organizing the activity and attending to the details. I get that. I truly enjoy just being a part of the group and following whoever the leader might be. It's nice not having to be the one with the sign up sheet giving directions and answering questions.

But, we have gotten to the point of fewer and fewer leaders leading fewer and fewer activities. We need new faces to step up and help out our overburdened leaders. Yes, this means you!

The good news is that it's as easy as taking a walk around your own neighborhood. Seriously, we all have stuff that we enjoying doing on a regular basis. It could be a neighborhood bike ride, a paddle in a quiet backwater, a walk in a city park. Maybe you do these on your own, or with your kids or your dog? Consider sharing these activities with your fellow TATC members as a Saturday or Sunday activity. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Pick something simple and close to home. Something you are familiar with. It could be a film at the Naro. Or lunch at a favorite bistro. Maybe a walk with a stop at your favorite ice cream shop or craft brewery?

As the event leader, you determine the location and length of the activity, the number of participants, whether or not to eat out afterwards, pet friendly or not, etc. It's your party! And do not fret about not having anyone show up. If you lead it, they will come!

You can check out the TATC schedule (tidewateratc.com) or the Tuesday Group (<https://sites.google.com/site/tatctuesdaygroup/>) for ideas as well. Or contact me, your Hikemaster (hikemaster@tidewateratc.com) for suggestions and guidance. We need your help to keep TATC dynamic and growing!

DOLLY SODS WILDERNESS and SPRUCE KNOB HIKES

By Mal Higgins

Many TATCers have enjoyed hiking in the Dolly Sods Wilderness of northeast West Virginia over the years. So, this report of my September 21-23, 2019 hike will be familiar to many readers. As background, here is a cut and paste from the official Monongahela National Forest (USFS) website: "The 17,371 acre Dolly Sods Wilderness in the Monongahela National Forest is part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Dolly Sods Wilderness contains much of the Red Creek drainage and contains bog and heath eco-types, more commonly typical to southern Canada. Elevations range from 2,500 to over 4,700 feet."

Dolly Sods was first created as part of the system in 1975 and has been expanded twice. An additional "Dolly Sods Scenic Area" exists, and to the south is the Roaring Plains and Flatrock Plains Wilderness Areas. The upper, northern half of Dolly Sods contains many open meadow and erratic boulder areas, dotted with some fir, pine, and spruce. The area we hiked in the southern half is deciduous forest mostly, familiar to all who hike the Blue Ridge Mountains.

We had been watching the weather forecast closely, and three days out the forecast was still holding sunny and high 70s for the weekend. We drove over to car camp at Seneca Shadows, a USFS campground in Seneca Rocks, WV, right on US Hwy 33. It is comparable in scope to Sherando Recreation Area. Wood is for sale, and the current management is under a contractor, American Land and Leisure. Fred and Deb were the very friendly "area managers", apparently the new title given to "camp host". They even lent us their folding chairs, an item I forgot to bring, and nearly essential to have for sitting around the fire ring at night. The nearby, small community of Seneca Rocks has two old-timey convenience stores and gas. Thrusting above in plain view are the gorgeous Seneca Rocks, reachable by an easy one hour trail climb up.

Our goal was to see an area on the south side of Dolly Sods. The terrain here is reachable by several trailheads and we began our day hike at the Red Creek Trailhead (TR 514). We followed a circular clockwise route, crossing Red Creek by rock hopping with low water (thankfully) and ascended Little Stonecoal Trail (TR 552) at a moderate slope. It merged at some point, where we missed the sign, on to the Dunkenbarger Trail (TR 558.) The Dunkenbarger was somewhat flattish, mild ups and downs, and much of it "submerged" in rhododendron and mountain laurel tunnels. Nothing blooming, of course, as June-July are the big bloom months.

We only encountered one couple hiking the opposite way, before we turned south at the junction with the Big Stonecoal Trail (TR 513). Things got rough and steep downhill fast! Initially, we followed Big Stonecoal Creek down and its gurgling noises were pleasant. The trail was so rocky and rough that we had to pay close attention to our footing and move slowly. We finally reached Red Creek again on its north side, and had a wide, rock hopping crossing, our fourth and last of the day. Here we beat through the bush uphill trying to locate the Red Creek Trail again (TR 514), as the trail was not marked at all after we crossed the river. Later, we realized a cairn in the distance was probably signaling where it resumed. The Red Creek Trail on this side was a partly abandoned old logging road, unmarked, and at times disappearing. We were not always sure we were on a trail, until at last our parked car appeared. What a tough 7.5 mile hike.

A "ranger talk" about "invasive species" at the amphitheater back at Seneca Shadows was interesting but sparsely attended. The presenter, a young AmeriCorps volunteer, was a graduate of William & Mary. Back at camp, we enjoyed a Coleman stove inspired gourmet meal of Ramen noodles, tuna, and a few snacks, together with a beer and a fire in the fire ring. The warm, shirt-sleeve weather (low 70sF, high 60sF), and the clear sky with the Milky Way above was extremely pleasant. The hard packed tent pad (consisting of as close to concrete as the USFS dares get) was not so pleasant, and challenged the air mattress.

The following day we broke camp and drove 10 miles east to head up to Spruce Knob, the highest mountain (4863 feet) in West Virginia, and reachable by a 15 mile paved road! The famous observation tower gives good views of much of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. A new half mile, level trail, the Whispering Spruce Trail, interprets the views of the spruce forest, the flagging of limbs on the trees, and the understory of lichens and moss. We then drove another 5 miles to Spruce Knob Lake, a fishing lake high in the mountains, manmade and opened in 1953. We checked out its USFS campground, which has 40 available sites. Its genial and loquacious host was Mike, a/k/a "Fridge", a 1981 Appalachian Trail 2000 miler, who also claims the Pacific Coast Trail and a life of 27 years as a bush pilot in Alaska, not to mention being part of the Army Airborne. Lots of stories to be told.

It was time to head back to Tidewater at last. The entire weekend was without rain, and the best weather I have encountered in the Monongahela. Never saw a bear, and saw only one deer. This is enough to make anyone want to camp and hike!

A New Zealand Hiking Experience

By Marti Malabad

TATC introduced us to many aspects of not only trail maintenance but the hiking that goes with it. We always have been happy we pursued overnight backpacking and day hiking over the years. Our experiences gave us confidence to travel to New Zealand last winter and do several wonderful hikes. We explored a large amount of the country, both the North and the South Islands. One of our favorite parts of the trip was hiking the Milford Track. It was a 5 day guided trip with a company called Ultimate Hikes. We were traveling part of the time with several other friends, all of whom are TATC members.

We met up in Queenstown. Departing on a bus, we were transported to Lake Te Anau at the boundary of Fiordland National Park. The boat took us across the lake into the Park, where we hiked about a mile into a lodge. We would hike over the next three days, doing 33 1/4 miles total before arriving at Milford Sound. After one last night with our group and guides, we boarded a harbor Cruise Ship for a lovely couple of hours cruise through Milford Sound to the Tasman Sea and back. We then were taken back by bus to Queenstown. Fabulous scenery, expert guides, well equipped and nice multi share rooms, amazing food, an interesting group of people from many parts of the world.....all made this a wonderful hiking trip.

We were blessed with beautiful weatherno rain, floods, high winds, just sunshine and pleasant temperatures. We could not have asked for more. We hope to do a club program in the future to share more about this lovely country.



Results of 2019 TATC Photo Contest

1st Place: Photographer: John Sima, Photograph of MacAfee Knob.

2nd Place: Photographer: Rosanne Cary, Glade Creek Grist Mill Photo, Babcock State Park, WV.

3rd Place: Photographer: Randy Smith, Photograph of Hanging Rock on Three Ridges A.T.

These photos, along with others, will be featured in our 2020 Planning Calendar.

TATC Calendar Committee calendar@tidewateratc.com

First Landing State Park Indian Gravesite

By Vic Pisone

TATC volunteers maintain the Live Oak Trail in First Landing State Park every month as part of our commitment to local trails. It is a short picturesque trail that leads from the picnic area to the bay front Visitor Center. The workload is typically light so the co-leaders often ask if there are additional projects. In the past we led the effort to build the new REI trail, assisted in landscaping the Visitor Center and dug/placed the markers along the entrance road. In September after getting the park's permission we cut back the overgrown vegetation around the Indian Memorial Gravesite and repainted the red stone which had faded. There are 4 colored stones, Red (East), Yellow (South), Black (West), and White (North), that represent specific spiritual symbols. Park visitors often leave offerings such as sage, seashells and feathers.

There are 64 people buried at First Landing State Park, 64 souls in a small circle of sandy ground maybe 20 feet across. This is no grown-over, out-of-the-way country cemetery so common on the rim of the Chesapeake Bay. The people resting here are the last trace of an annihilated tribe.

The end of the Chesapeake tribe was abrupt and horrific. Sometime around the time Englishmen permanently arrived on scene, Powhatan's priests foretold of a nation that would rise up from the east and destroy his empire. He took no chances and sent loyalists to eliminate the tribe nearest the Atlantic. Those unwitting victims were the Chesapeake Indians.

The rich land they once thrived on, four hundred years later was among the city's choicest real estate. The human remains including a chief buried with more than 30,000 beads had been archaeologically excavated at the site of a Chesapeake town near First Landing due to bridge construction.

The Chesapeake Indians unearthed as Virginia Beach grew weren't given a proper burial for nearly twenty years. Their remains sat on shelves at Virginia's Department of Historic Resources in Richmond. They might have stayed there forever; there are still Virginia Indian remains held in museums awaiting repatriation.

In 1997, though, thanks to the work of Nansemond Indian Chief Emeritus Oliver Perry, these Chesapeake Indians, the stubborn holdouts of a vanquished tribe, were laid to rest with a solemn service acknowledging that they sacrificed eternal rest for modern growth.

Turk Mountain - Shenandoah National Park

By Jim Sexton

Turk Mountain in the Shenandoah National Park is great day hike. If you enter the South Entrance of Shenandoah National Park at Rockfish Gap, just off of Interstate 64; you only have to drive 10.9 miles along Skyline Drive to arrive at the Turk Gap Parking Lot (*Skyline Drive Mile 94.1*). You then cross the road, and follow the Appalachian Trail South for 200 yards, until you come to the blue-blazed Turk Mountain Trail to the right. Starting at the trailhead, the hike is 1.1 miles out, and then back. Some guide books will state that you have an ascent of 450 feet or 700 feet, or even 1,000 feet, with a moderate to steep grade. What I found, was that you first climb a hill about 100 feet, then descend 200 feet, and then start up the actual mountain, climbing about 600 feet. About 1/10 of a mile from the summit is a rock outcropping, looking West to the Shenandoah Valley. An OK view, but you get much better views from the top. Up until this point, you have been winding around the South Side of the mountain. The trail then takes a right-hand turn and heads North for the last 1/10 of a mile. A hundred or so yards up the trail, it starts getting rocky, and for the last hundred or so feet, you need to go around and scramble over large boulders. At the top at 2,981 feet, you'll find plenty of rocks to sit on. The views are outstanding, you can basically see 360 degrees, but the views to the South and East are obstructed by the closeness of high ridgelines. The only hard part of this trip, is knowing that you still have 200 feet to climb the hill on the way back to the parking lot. This is a popular hike and the while the parking lot is large, it is usually full, I had to park along the road. Also, if you continue North for another 1/10 of a mile along Skyline Drive, you come to the Turk Mountain Overlook, where you can get a good view of the mountain you just climbed, or plan on climbing. Note: that you usually have to pay a fee to enter Shenandoah National Park, however, on the day that I went, the park had a free-pass day. A Shenandoah Park map with information on this hike and the surrounding area can be found at https://www.nps.gov/shen/planyourvisit/upload/Riprap_RoadTrail_508.pdf

Local Hikes

Windsor Castle Park

By Jim Sexton

Windsor Castle Park is located in the heart of downtown Smithfield, Virginia, it is a 209.8 acre riverside park which features a woodland trail system, picnic and open area space, kayak/canoe launch, fishing pier, a mountain bike path, scenic overlooks and the Windsor Castle Historic Site. The park is located at 301 Jericho Road and is owned by the Town of Smithfield.

The park includes over 3.8 miles of walking trails and bridges that wind through pristine wooded areas, along beautifully landscaped open areas, and adjacent to picturesque creeks and marshes in the park. Five pedestrian bridges cross the creeks and marshes, and numerous overlooks are strategically located for resting and sightseeing. The trails were constructed to "Sustainable Trail Design" standards and are ADA compliant. Dogs (on leashes and accompanied by their handlers) are allowed.

Website: <http://www.windsorcastlepark.com/>

Park Map: <http://www.windsorcastlepark.com/park-map.html>

Walking Trails: <http://www.windsorcastlepark.com/walking-trails.html>

Location: <http://www.windsorcastlepark.com/park-entrances.html>

Operating Hours: Dawn to dusk.

Contact Information: Phone: (757) 542-3109
Email: smithfieldcenter@ymail.com

Address: Windsor Castle Park
301 Jericho Road
Smithfield, VA 23430

IN PLAIN SIGHT: HIKING THE JORDAN BRIDGE AND DISCOVERING WHEELABRATOR

By Mal Higgins

In early September 2019 I decided to visit the South Norfolk Jordan Bridge as a pedestrian. Running/walking buddies of mine have been extolling its virtues for “hill training”. The “new” bridge became operational in 2012. It is of beautiful engineering design, spanning the Elizabeth River, and connecting the South Norfolk area of Chesapeake with Portsmouth, along the edge of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. So, I drove to the Elizabeth River Park on the Chesapeake side of the bridge. It’s off of I-464 at 1400 Elizabeth River Way, and has some parking at the base of the pedestrian walkway access and much more parking a few hundred yards away in the actual park.

The bridge has a wide pedestrian walkway, separated from the traffic by substantial “jersey walls”. A brief climb up a ramp puts one on the bridge proper. The walkway is limited of course to foot traffic, bicycles, and is ADA wheelchair accessible. It is slightly more than one mile across, with ¼ mile painted lines on the sidewalk for fitness folks who are monitoring their pace. It rises at a 5% grade in places and has a height of 145 vertical clearance for ships, with 169 feet in total height above the southern branch of the Elizabeth River. The car lanes are tolled by EZ Pass.

As I hiked upwards I enjoyed the views looking westerly upstream of the Elizabeth River and its heavy industrial shoreline, and then down river to the downtown Portsmouth and Norfolk skylines. As I descended to the Portsmouth side, noting the larger buildings and the hammerhead crane of Norfolk Naval Shipyard, I became aware of a huge industrial building at the foot of the bridge on the Portsmouth side. It had two large, towering smokestacks, faint noises, a large conveyor belt device high in the air and crossing above the street, and a mild, odd smell, not quite garbage but hard to define.

I inspected the wire fence protecting the facility and learned it was Wheelabrator Portsmouth. It is a plant burning up to 2,370 tons per day of “post-recycled waste” from homes and businesses in Portsmouth, Norfolk, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Franklin, Suffolk, Southampton County and Isle of Wight County in Virginia. The facility uses the waste as a local fuel to generate 60 MW of electricity for Dominion Energy. It also supplies steam to the next door NNSY. It has the eerie feel of a science fiction movie, with no person in sight and locked up behind a tall fence. Wheelabrator has 25 facilities in the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Here is Wheelabrator’s website: <https://www.wtienergy.com/plant-locations/energy-from-waste/wheelabrator-portsmouth>

So, on the Portsmouth side of Jordan Bridge there is nothing to see but Wheelabrator, and after inspecting it and determining I couldn’t get in, I hiked back up and over the Jordan Bridge. It was a fine way to spend some time on a Sunday afternoon and take in the river sights.

A TOUR OF SWANNANOA ON AFTON MOUNTAIN “THE JEWEL OF THE BLUE RIDGE”

By Mal Higgins

As one crosses Afton Mountain on I-64, exit 99 leads one to the access to Skyline Drive to the North and the Blue Ridge Parkway to the south. At this summit lie a bunch of trashed and burned out buildings, and one business, King's Popcorn. Sometimes, seasonably, a popup fall apple stand appears. Just uphill half a mile on Howardsville Turnpike is the beautiful, but decaying mansion named Swannanoa. It is now open this summer and fall on weekends for tours, either self-guided (\$8.00) or guided (\$10.00). Recently, we toured this beautiful place with a tour guide, Airisun Wonderli, a local artist who lives nearby and has published a beautiful book on Swannanoa.

Swannanoa was built and completed as the mountain retreat by ex-Confederate officer, James Dooley for himself and his wife, Sallie Dooley, to escape Richmond's oppressive summers. In Richmond, Dooley, known as “Major Dooley”, and extremely wealthy through investment in the booming post-Civil War railroad industry, had built their extravagant “gilded age” mansion, known as “Maymont”. Today, Maymont is 100 acres of beautiful grounds, open to the public at no charge, with its own set of gardens and tours.

Sallie Dooley was enamored with swans, and hence the name Swannanoa, which contained in its heyday numerous swan bric a brac. Sallie's famous swan frame bed, once at Swannanoa, is now at Maymont. The Dooleys had no children. It is believed Sallie grew up in Staunton.

It had been decades since I last visited Swannanoa, which then was occupied by Lao Russell, widow of Walter Russell. Russell was a renaissance man, artist, sculptor, architect, who along with Lao founded the University of Science and Philosophy. At the time of my visit then, the building was mostly a homage to the life and work of the Russells, with paintings, correspondence by Walter with famous men of his era, old photographs, a large painting of outer space and stars hanging high above, and a feeling of cultishness. The Russells leased Swannanoa in 1949, and it remained in the Russell household until 1999, although Lao died in 1988.

The University today exists as the Russell Foundation in a new location in Waynesboro, just recently reopened, with much of the artistic works of Walter and Lao. The current ownership of Swannanoa is in the James F. Dulaney, Jr. family as Skyline Swannanoa, Inc.

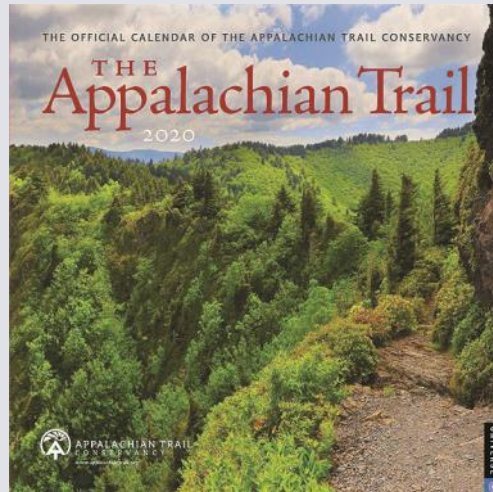
Entering the grounds, the imposing Georgia marble exterior suggests its opulent origin. Our guide now, Airisun, was full of knowledge of the furnishings, furniture, wallpapers, flooring, fireplaces, interior Italian marble, servant uses, and the owners over the years. Prominent in the home is the extraordinary ten foot Tiffany stained glass window, above the grand staircase, featuring Sallie Dooley, wife of James Dooley, as its subject. The tour included both downstairs and upstairs.

We also wandered the exterior, terraced grounds, with the marble pergola, walkways, and slowly decaying ambience. A stone water tower sits to the rear of the property, along with a boarded up stone house that once served as the golf house for the nearby Country Club, still in existence.

I quizzed Airisun about the “Christ of the Blue Ridge”, a thirty foot sculpture that once occupied the grounds, beginning in 1950, and was planned by the Russells to become a 600 foot monument high atop Afton Mountain. Russells never achieved the 600 foot version of Christ. Airisun told me that when the 30 foot sculpture was being moved off Swannanoa in a truck, it bounced and broke—but she says the good news is that the molds of the sculpture still exist and along with voluminous other artifacts are owned by the Russell Foundation.

The tale of Swannanoa contains an incredible assortment of twists and turns throughout its 108 years. Although it is in noticeable decline, the current owners spent \$850,000 to re-roof it and make other needed repairs to protect the decaying interior. And for any readers of TATC planning weddings, receptions, and other special events it is available for rent!

Get Your 2020 ATC Calendar Today



Whenever you're hiking the Appalachian Trail (A.T.), you know you're connected to something powerful and enduring. You're connected to the thousands of fellow Trail-lovers who hike all or part of the Trail each year, to all the friends you've met and memories you've made along the way, and to all the wilderness and wildlife that is protected over the Trail's 2,192 miles thanks to your support for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC).

[Give Now](#)

In our NEW 2020 ATC calendar, we've selected some extraordinary photographs of some of our favorite views and vistas, from Maine to Georgia, taken by Trail-lovers like you — and we think you'll enjoy it as much as we do!

When you make a generous gift of \$70 or more before November 1 to help the ATC protect and preserve our beloved A.T., we'll send you our 2020 calendar as a token of our appreciation. Don't wait! There's a limited number of calendars and we want to be sure our most dedicated supporters receive one.

ATC supporters like you are the heart and soul of this organization. Together, we manage more than 250,000 acres that protect fresh drinking water, culturally and historically significant landscapes, endangered species, and recreation-driven economies while we work to find solutions to threats that emerge, so the Trail continues to be protected and preserved.

With your generous contribution, you will help ensure that the friends, families and individuals who hike the Trail next year, and even generations from now, can behold the breathtaking beauty of the Wild East as we do today. Please make a gift of \$70 or more before November 1 and, in thanks, we'll send you our 2020 calendar.

Thank you,

The ATC Team



NEWS RELEASE

September 19, 2019

A.T. Museum Announces Date, Venue and M.C. for 2020 Hall of Fame Banquet

GARDNERS, PA. – The Appalachian Trail Museum is pleased to announce that the 2020 Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020. The Banquet will return to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, located at 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA. The evening will begin with a reception at 6 pm, with dinner to follow at 7 pm. The M.C. for the 2020 Banquet will once again be Sandra “Sandi” Marra.

Sandi became President & CEO of Appalachian Trail Conservancy earlier this year. Previously, she had been Chair of the Board of ATC since 2013. Sandi is a past president and honorary life member of Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and has been an A.T. maintainer for more than 30 years. She served on the ATC Board of Directors from October 2008 until becoming President & CEO and had chaired the membership and development and strategic planning committees. She previously served on the ATC Board of Managers from 1999 through 2005. Sandi recently retired as chief operating officer of St. Coletta School of Greater Washington after a career in human resources and administration.

Larry Luxenberg, founder and President of the Museum said: “We’re so happy that Sandi has agreed to again be the M.C. of our Banquet. Sandi and her husband Chris have been tremendous supporters of the Museum and Banquet since the very beginning.” The 2020 Banquet will honor the Tenth Class of the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame. The selection process will begin with nominations from the general public. The Hall of Fame selection committee will then select the class early next year and it will be announced in April.

A.T. Museum Announces Date, Venue and M.C. For 2020 Hall of Fame Banquet page 2
Jim Foster, Chair of the Hall of Fame selection committee, said: “We’re thrilled to once again partner with the Army Heritage and Education Center for our 2020 Banquet. The USAHEC is a resource of contemporary and historical materials that honors Soldiers, past and present.”

Tickets to the 2020 Banquet will be available later in 2019. Opportunities to sponsor the Banquet will also be available. Check the Museum’s website www.atmuseum.org or email atmbanquet@gmail.com for more information.

Get Ready for TATC's Silent Auction

It's not too early to start gathering or crafting some new or gently used items to donate for TATC's yearly Silent Auction. The auction will be held at the Pretlow Library on Wednesday November 13, 2019 from 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm at the Pretlow Library, 111 W Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503.

New for this Year: The 'Dollar (\$) Table' – place small items on the Dollar Table that you want sold for one dollar (\$1.00). After the auction begins; if a person wants an item, they just place a dollar in the Cookie Jar on the table, and then can pick up the item right afterwards, no need to wait for the end of the auction! This is a great way to donate those small items (pins, magnets, patches, etc., etc.), for which it would be too much trouble to list on a bid sheet.

TATC's 11th annual silent auction will be held during the membership meeting. We are asking members to donate their Time, Talent or Treasures that can be auctioned off to the highest bidder. When you are shopping, on vacation, cleaning out your garage, upgrading your gear, or practicing your creative talents, please keep the TATC silent auction in mind. Bring your items to the auction and with your help, TATC will again present a wide selection of auction items.

Our annual silent auction helps us support Pretlow Library by providing the funds for our yearly donation. It also helps to assist our endeavors in the local community through our volunteer work in local city, county and state parks. Local outfitters are donating not-to-be missed items for bid! And we encourage you to donate good stuff too. Suggestions are food items, gift baskets, gift certificates and gently used items - REMEMBER - one person's junk may just be junk.

See https://tadc.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Bid_Sheet_2019.pdf to print out a bid sheet to accompany your item.

Auction Rules: https://tadc.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Auction_Rules_2019.pdf

For more information, contact Jim Sexton at webmaster@tidewateratc.com

Some suggestions for auction items are listed below:

New or Gently Used Items: (CD's and DVD's; audio books on CD; hiking/camping gear; one-size-fits-all clothing; books; wine). Be sure your used item is in excellent condition and has value.

Donations: Ask people you know or retailers and restaurants to donate an item of interest such as gift certificates or a specialty item. Necessary letters and tax information are available.

Services Provided by You: Babysitting, pet sitting, car washing, lawn mowing, photography, or tax preparation, just to name a few.

Miscellaneous ideas:

Do you have your own business? Offer free goods or services.

Do you have a special talent? Give a 'lesson' to someone or a group.

Are you crafty? Make something to donate to the auction.

Can you bake/cook? Make pie or a basket of baked goodies and treats.

Artwork – paintings, photos, ceramics, etc.

Furniture (small items) – side tables, tray tables, lamps, stools, chairs, etc.

Electronics - (in working condition) – radios, cameras, laptops, etc.

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, October 2, 2019 7pm – 9pm

Where: Norfolk Public Library: Mary D Pretlow Anchor Branch, 111 W Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503

Contact: Rosanne Scott president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC Board Meeting. All members welcome!

Fall Walk Thru

When: Friday - Sunday, October 4 – 6, 2019

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

Contact: Jim Newman, jimnewman55@cox.net or 757- 814-1467 to sign up

Description: Approximately 10 people needed to walk our section of A.T. & Mau-Har Trail to document maintenance needs. Base camp at Sherando CCC Kitchen area. Most will want to arrive Friday. Free camping. Bring your own food & items necessary for camping.

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 7pm – 9pm

Where: Norfolk Public Library: Mary D Pretlow Anchor Branch, 111 W Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503

Contact: Rosanne Cary president@tidewateratc.com

Program: "Healthy Hiking through the Years". Joanne and Brandon of REI will address some of the issues that we deal with as we age and still want to hike, such as: maintaining balance, learning how to manage a pack weight, lessening of cardiovascular endurance, boosting our confidence, and not being afraid to try new things and new gear.

Meetings are open to all! You don't have to be a member to attend!

Contact President Rosanne Cary president@tidewateratc.com for any questions.

Fall Maintenance Weekend

When: Friday - Sunday, October 18 – 20, 2019

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

Contact: Jim Newman, jimnewman55@cox.net or 757- 814-1467 to sign up

Description: This is a weekend for us to do what the club was set up to do! We'll maintain our assigned section of the Appalachian Trail, the Mau-Har Trail, the White Rocks Trails, plus more! Come out to our base camp at Sherando Lake Recreation Area on Friday as early as noon; set up your tent at the Williams Branch Picnic Area, keeping in mind that the gate is locked at 10PM and opens on Saturday morning at 6AM. Crew signup sheets available Friday; Saturday organizational meeting at 7:45AM.

(Continued on next page ...)

Activities Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: Most hikes are limited in the number of participants. The hike leader will take reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. You can include your name on the sign up sheets available at each meeting or call the hike leader. If you sign up for an activity and then decide not to participate, please contact the leader in advance.

Bridges, Earthworks & History Hike

When: Saturday, October 26, 2019 9:15am - 12:15pm

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

Contact: Jim Newman 757-867-6688 jimnewman55@cox.net

Description: Meet at the Discovery Center on Constitution Way at 9:15am. Do not go to Campsite Dr. where bike rides begin. Restrooms available at meeting place. This hike is a repeat of the Tuesday Group event of 2/13/18. The 5-miler involves several interconnected trails (White Oaks Nature, Wynn's Mill & Twin Forts. Bring the usual—water, snack, \$ for lunch. Ice cream too distant to consider. Wear appropriate clothing for conditions. Hike will not be cancelled because of weather. Along the hike there will be Civil War teachings related to significant sites encountered. This involves the failed Union Peninsula Campaign of 1862. This will be of interest of those who love American history while getting some exercise. No stuffy classroom here! There are five lunch options at Jefferson Shoppes, 13175 Warwick Blvd. Hungry hikers can choose from Mystic Jamaica, Skrimp Shack (not a typo), Blue Café Bar & Sushi, Hot Wings, & Subway. Menus will be displayed at our 9:15 meeting. Choices, choices! I leave decisions to individuals/groups. Contact Jim to sign up!

New Quarter Park Fall Maintenance

When: Sunday, October 27, 2019 9:00am –12:00pm

Where: 1000 Lakeshead Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Contact: Phyllis phyllisneumann@hughes.net to sign up!

Description: Meet at the inner parking lot of New Quarter Park at 9:00 AM for light maintenance on walking trails constructed by TATC. Bring gloves, comfortable walking/hiking shoes, snacks and water. Tools will be provided. Eat out afterwards.

Sign up sheets will be available at the TATC general membership meetings through October. To respond otherwise, please call the email the address listed above. Further details & location will be given at sign up.

Fall Fiesta and Campout at Carysblend Farm

When: Saturday, November 2, 2019 12:00pm - Sunday, November 3, 2019 12:00pm

Where: Carysblend Farm, Suffolk, VA

Contact: Hosted by Douglas and Rosanne Cary 757-773-0859

Description: TATC Members are cordially invited to our farm to spend a day and night with camping, food, and music! Our pastures will be open for camping (minus the horses) and other festivities to include games, live music (bluegrass band) and a catered dinner. 12:00 Noon Saturday - 12:00 Noon Sunday
The camping will be primitive - no hookups available, but there will be a spigot for water and porta potties onsite. We'll provide a central fire pit, horse shoes and other yard games. So bring your tent, pop up or RV and your happy face and join in for some games, music and fun! And, if you have a friend you would like to introduce to the club, bring them along!

There is no charge for this event, but it is invitational to TATC members so a sign-up/RSVP is required to help us plan for space and catering. PLEASE NOTE: THE DEADLINE TO RSVP IS SUNDAY OCTOBER 20th. Sign up sheets will be available at the TATC general membership meetings through October. To respond otherwise, please call the number listed above. Further details and location will be given at sign up.

(Continued on next page ...)

Activities Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: Most hikes are limited in the number of participants. The hike leader will take reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. You can include your name on the sign up sheets available at each meeting or call the hike leader. If you sign up for an activity and then decide not to participate, please contact the leader in advance.

TATC Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Norfolk Public Library: Mary D Pretlow Anchor Branch, 111 W Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA

Contact: Rosanne Scott president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC Board Meeting. All members welcome!

Cabin Maintenance/Orientation Trip

When: Friday-Sunday, November 8 -10, 2019

Where: TATC CABIN

Contact: Bob Adkisson 757-627-5514 cabin@tidewateratc.com

Description: This weekend we will concentrate on chainsawing firewood for the cabin for the winter months. Besides the TATC saw, if any participants have a chainsaw and would bring it to help with the work, that would be super. Cool temps, no humidity, guaranteed! Still some color on the trees and maybe an opportunity for a short hike here and there nearby-- a great time to be in the mountains. Community meal Sat. night. Contact Bob with questions or for more details. This is a great trip for new club members-- pitch in and do some work at the cabin, and get yourself qualified/oriented to rent it on your own. The cabin has bunk space for 12, but folks are welcome to camp out nearby. The cabin is in Nelson County, Va., just south of our section of the App. Trail, and is only a half mile walk off of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Please note and remember for all future trips: no guns are allowed on cabin work trips.

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Norfolk Public Library: Mary D Pretlow Anchor Branch, 111 W Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA

Contact: Rosanne Scott president@tidewateratc.com

Description: Program: Silent Auction. It's not too early to start gathering or crafting some new or gently used items to donate for TATC's yearly Silent Auction. The auction will be held at the Pretlow Library on Wednesday November 13, 2019 from 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm at the Pretlow Library, 111 W Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503. New for this Year: The 'Dollar (\$) Table' – place small items on the Dollar Table that you want sold for one dollar (\$1.00). After the auction begins; if a person wants an item, they just place a dollar in the Cookie Jar on the table, and then can pick up the item right afterwards, no need to wait for the end of the auction! This is a great way to donate those small items (pins, magnets, patches, etc., etc.), for which it would be too much trouble to list on a bid sheet.

See https://tadc.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Bid_Sheet_2019.pdf to print out a bid sheet to accompany your item.

Auction Rules: https://tadc.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Auction_Rules_2019.pdf

For more information, contact Jim Sexton at <mailto:webmaster@tidewateratc.com>

Happy Hiker Hour - Coelacanth Brewing Company

When: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Where: 760 A W 22nd St Norfolk, Virginia

Contact: Jim Sexton, jts Sexton@gmail.com

Description: Join us for TATC Happy Hiker Hour at the Coelacanth Brewing Company - in the heart of Ghent, close to Downtown Norfolk, the lively NEON Arts District. Enjoy unique beer brewed by a family and employee owned business. Wear your TATC t-shirt or cap. No need to sign-up, just show-up!

<https://www.coelacanth.com/>

Hoopla 2019

By Jim Moir

Hoopla 2019 is done. The TATC contingent arrived Thursday and departed yesterday afternoon. We had good presence with Devils Backbone organizers, ATC folks, and festival goers the entire weekend. John & Marty led several hikes, including an add-on Sunday morning hike back into Maupin Field for guests of Devils Backbone who were late arriving to the festival. We had constant staffing at the stewardship table, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with ODATC and Josh from ATC. Lots of trash was picked up at Tye River campsites during the ATC-led service project Sunday morning in recognition of National Public Lands Day. TATC did not have a participant for Friday's Thru-Hiker Panel. Josh (2009) and Bruce from ODATC (2018) participated.

Outreach-wise, most festival goers were from outside Tidewater. Although we interacted with hundreds, in conjunction with ATC & ATC, Marty, John and I spoke to probably a dozen or so from Hampton Roads who expressed keen interest in TATC. We provided meeting info, and membership links.

Lots of positive feedback and thanks from trail hikers attending Hoopla, for our maintenance work, volunteer efforts and stewardship of Three Ridges/St. Mary's/White Rock; mostly section and day hikers, but a good number of current and past thru-hikers. Overall, a great outreach event.



(L-R) TATC's John Sima, Marty Vines and ODATC Thru-Hiker Bruce "RTK" Matson (Thru-Hiker Class of 2018), working the ATC info desk at Devils Backbone Hoopla 2019, Sept 27-29. John & Marty, along with Jim Moir, represented the club, leading hikes into Maupin Field and providing info about the work we do maintaining the trail. Our crew worked with the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Roanoke Office during the three-day music festival at the brewery's basecamp against the backdrop of the Three Ridges Wilderness.



Festival goers to Devils Backbone Brewing Company's Hoopla Music Festival learned about the work the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club does in maintaining Three Ridges/St. Mary's Wilderness and the White Rock Falls Trail. TATC receives a portion of beer sales from the event. ODATC and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Roanoke office also participated in the three-day event down the road from Reid's Gap.

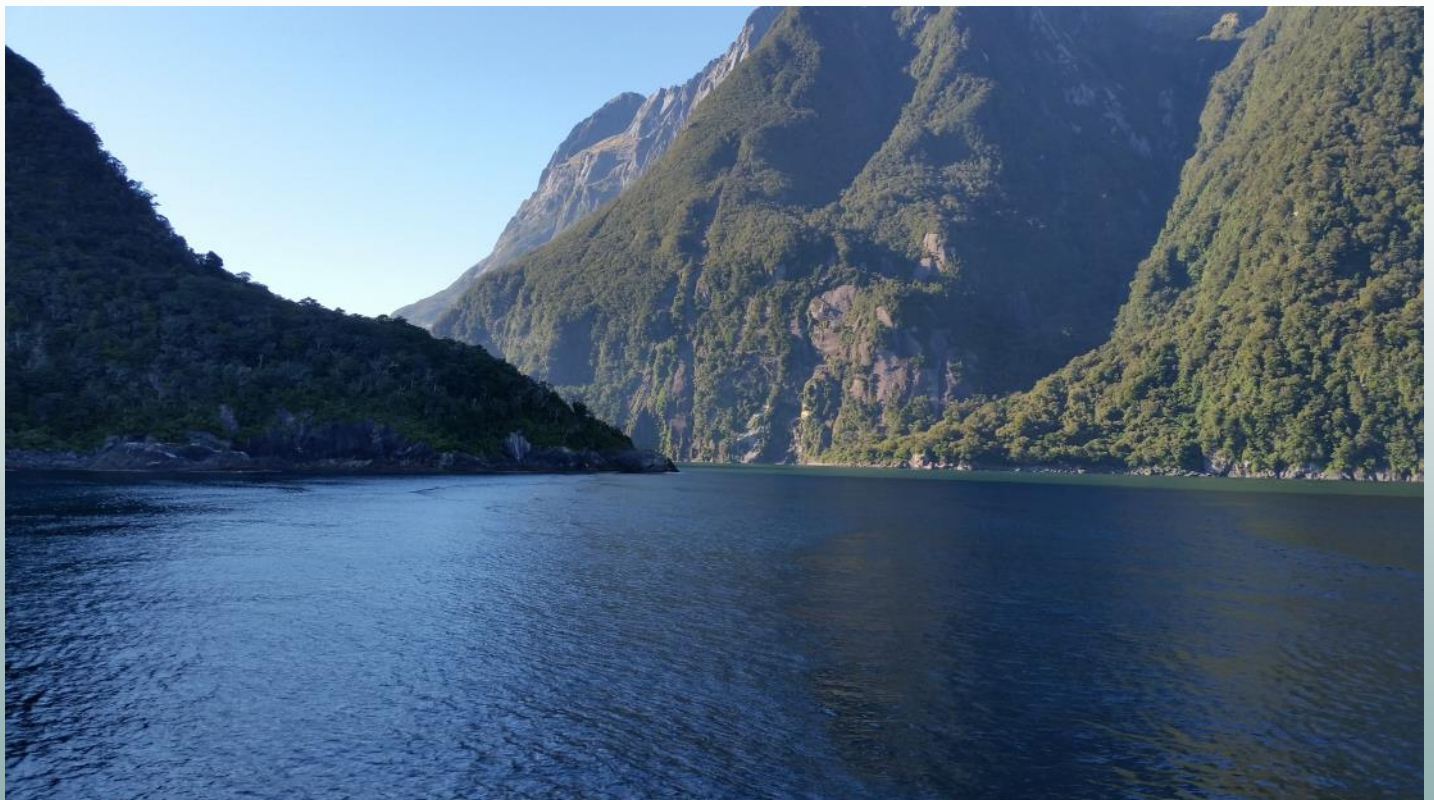
New Zealand Trip

Marti Malabad



New Zealand Trip

Marti Malabad



Jordan Bridge

Mal Higgins



Jordan Bridge

Mal Higgins



First Landing State Park Indian Gravesite

By Vic Pisone

First Landing State Park

CHESAPEAKE INDIANS SACRED GROUND

In 1997, sixty-four human remains of the Chesapeake Indians were re-interred at this site. The remains had been archaeologically excavated at the site of a Chesapeake town near here due to bridge construction.



The Nansemond Indian tribe, led by Chief Emeritus Oliver Perry, planned and coordinated this burial ceremony with the cooperation and assistance of other Indians of the region. Members of all of Virginia's state recognized tribes participated in the ceremony.

The colored rocks set within the fence line represent specific spiritual symbols.

- Red(East) = light, peace, wisdom
- Yellow(South) = warmth, growth, life
- Black(West) = rain, lightning, thunder
- White(North) = strength, purity, endurance

Offerings such as sage, seashells, and tobacco are often left here by park visitors.

Please be respectful of the offerings, people and traditions memorialized and represented here.

A brochure with in-depth information about the Chesapeake Indians and their Chesapeake Indian Grave is available at the Trail Center and Park Office.



First Landing State Park Indian Gravesite

By Vic Pisone



Chesapeake Indian Official Marker

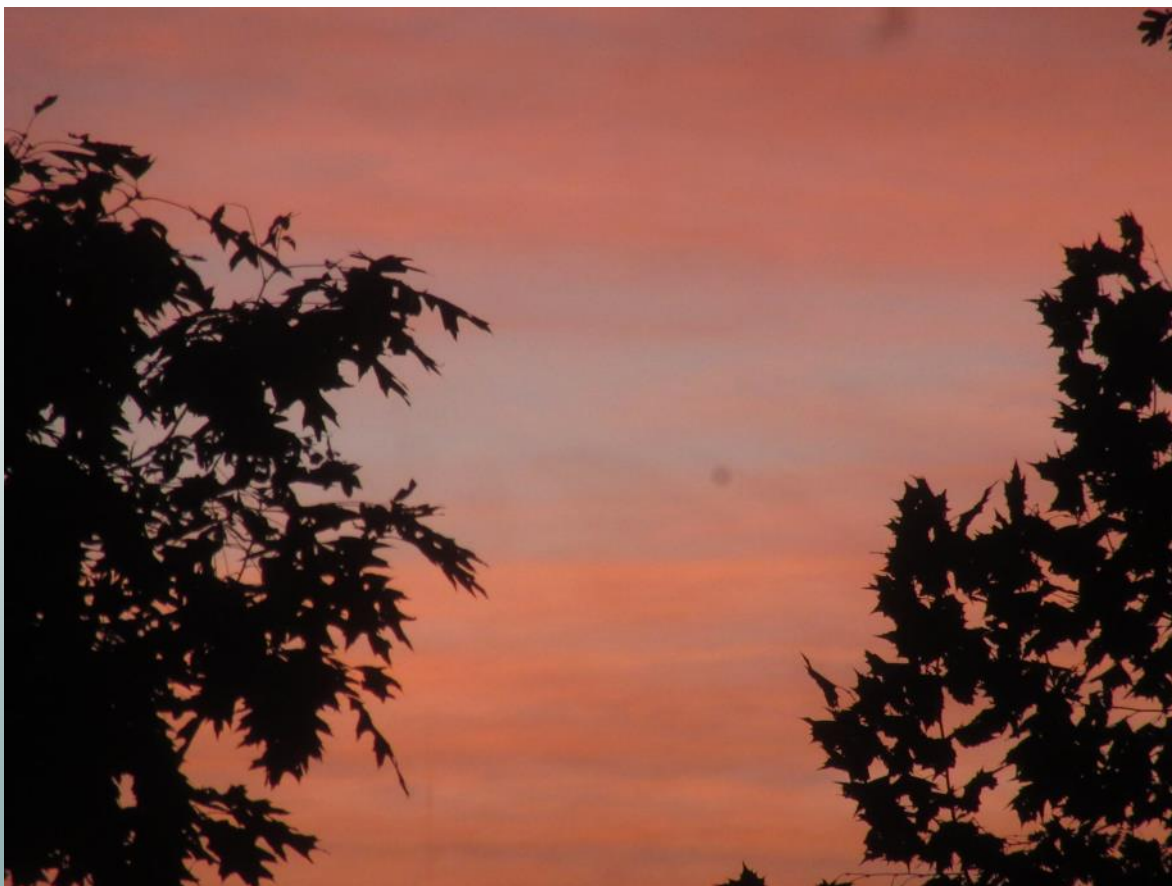
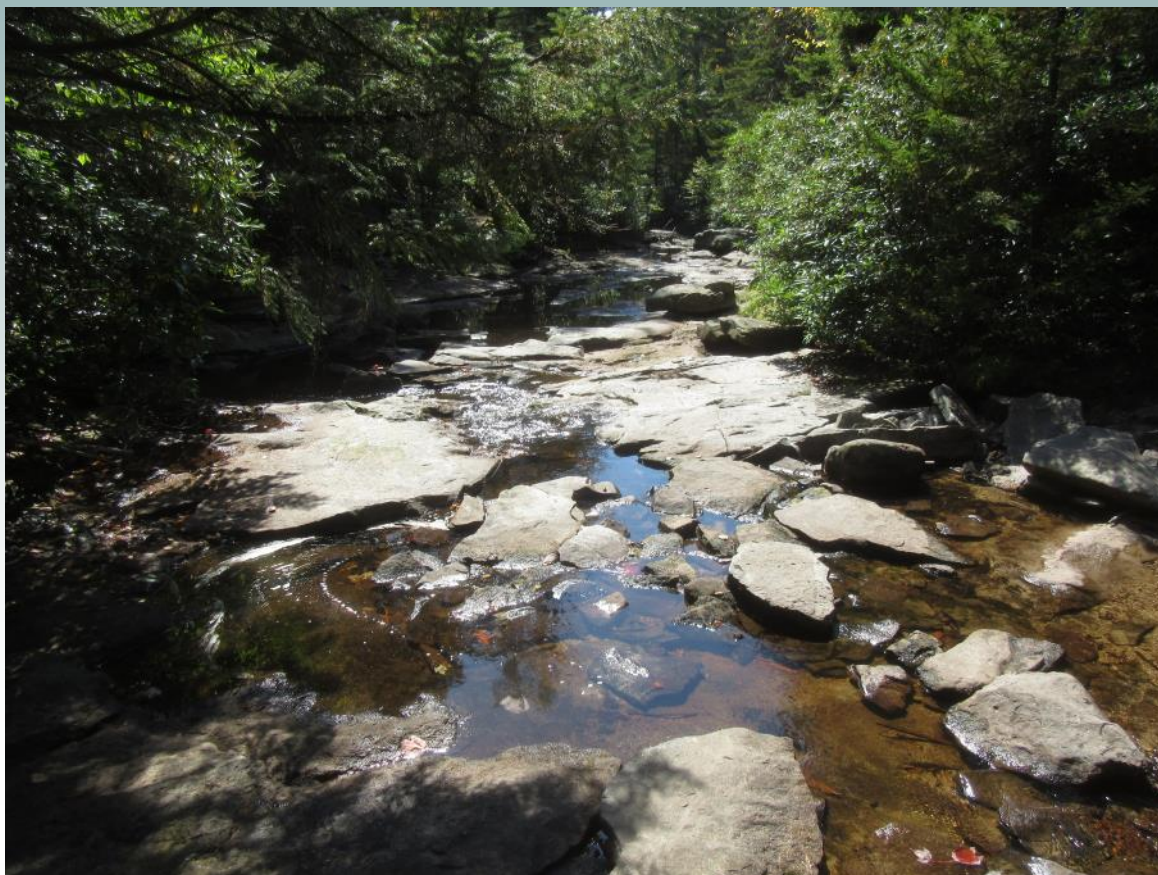


Yellow (South) – warmth, growth & life



Dolly Sods Wilderness and Spruce Knob Hikes

By Mal Higgins



Dolly Sods Wilderness and Spruce Knob Hikes

By Mal Higgins



SWANNANOA ON AFTON MOUNTAIN “THE JEWEL OF THE BLUE RIDGE”

By Mal Higgins



SWANNANOA ON AFTON MOUNTAIN “THE JEWEL OF THE BLUE RIDGE”

By Mal Higgins



TATC Officers & Board

Positions	Names	E-Mails or Phone #'s
President	Rosanne Cary	president@tidewateratc.com
Vice President	Phyllis Neumann	vicepres@tidewateratc.com
Treasurer	Douglas Cary	treasurer@tidewateratc.com
Secretary	Steve Rosenthal	secretary@tidewateratc.com
Trail Supervisor	Jim Newman	trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com
Assistant Trail Supervisor	Patrick Hayes	assistantts@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Bill Bunch	counselor@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Mark Ferguson	counselor@tidewateratc.com
Counselor	Ellis Malabad	counselor@tidewateratc.com
ATC RPC Representative	Ned Kuhns	rpcrep@tidewateratc.com
ATC RPC Representative	Jim Sexton	rpcrep@tidewateratc.com
Cabin Committee	Greg Hodges	cabin@tidewateratc.com
Cabin Committee	Bob Adkisson	cabin@tidewateratc.com or 627-5514
Calendar Committee	Tony Phelps	calendar@tidewateratc.com
Education Committee	Lee Lohman	education@tidewateratc.com
Hikemaster	Phyllis Neumann	hikemaster@tidewateratc.com
Historical Committee	Juliet Stephenson	historical@tidewateratc.com
Land Management Committee	Bob Giffin	landmgt@tidewateratc.com
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