

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com

Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson

October 2021 - November 2021
48th Edition, 5th Issue

PREZ SEZ

TATC has been on the COVID roller coaster during the last few months. As we moved into the summer, got vaccinations, and wore masks more frequently, the infection numbers started to drop. I hoped we were going to see a largely COVID free fall and winter. Then the Delta variant hit. Fortunately, we haven't gone into the lockdowns of 2020, but facilities that were open in the summer are shutting down.

For example, the Oberndorf Library in Virginia Beach permitted us to hold the first hybrid in-person/Zoom General Membership meeting in one of their community rooms. Those are now closed. The Pretlow Library indicated that it would be opening its community rooms. It has, but only for a few hours on Saturdays. Mother Nature has withdrawn the option of holding our meetings in-person outdoors. It gets dark by 7:00pm which is the earliest many of our members can attend. So, we're back to Zoom. Sorry.

However, there are ways to have an in-person experience with TATC friends. The Fall Maintenance Trip is scheduled for October 15, 16, and 17--and that **will** be in-person. Contact Britt Collins at trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com or John Sima at assistantts@tidewateratc.com to sign up. TATC will be preparing our section of the trail for the fall and winter so Britt and John will need lots of hands on swingblades and loppers.

Local Trail Maintenance offers other opportunities. Dave Plum has a number of work days planned. Check for e-blasts from Dave or consult the calendar on our website and sign up early. The volunteer slots go rapidly.

I've mentioned VARO in this space before, but to remind you, it stands for the Virginia Area Regional Office of the ATC. VARO covers the A.T. clubs in central and southwestern Virginia. The VARO holds meetings with the clubs every two weeks. Ned Kuhns and Jim Sexton are our representatives. I sit in as well.

(Continued on next page ...)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Prez Sez	1-2
Minute for Maintenance	3
Tidbits	3
Hands-On Land Navigation	4
TATC Cabin Work Trip	4
We Have Memes	5
Canaan Valley Train Ride	6
Day in the Park	7
FLSP Beach Cleanup	8
Membership Connection	9
Wilderness First Aid	10
Benton Mackaye Exhibit	11
Outdoor Jobs	12
National Trails Workshop	12
A.T. Vista 2022	13
Oak Grove Lake Park	14
Visitor Use Management	15-17
The Grand River	18-24
Newsletter Guidelines	25-26
Activity Schedule	27-30
TATC Board	31
Photolog	32-77



Visit our website at www.tidewateratc.com



VARO meetings give us the opportunity to discuss things of general interest to the clubs (attracting new members, maintenance techniques, etc.) and to hear from the ATC about their initiatives like Visitor Use Management and their JEDI (Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) efforts. They also give us the opportunity to talk to our Forest Service and National Park Service partners who periodically attend.

I've described the relationship because I think it is important for you to understand the context in which TATC operates. We are a standalone organization with our own corporate charter, but we are also fundamentally partners with ATC and the government agencies. This is true on the local level, too. We partner with the Virginia Department of Recreation and Conservation when we maintain trails at First Landing State Park, and with the City of Virginia Beach when we work at Pleasure House Point Natural Area to name just two.

Our successful relationship with the ATC and U.S. government agencies is changing in one important way--data accumulation. We have always reported our work time and maintenance activities to the U.S. Forest Service annually. We're required to do so under the agreement which permits us to operate on the land they manage.

Increasingly, we are requested to provide more data in more detail than ever before. The agencies need it to support their budget requests. The ATC wants it for similar purposes. This is an issue for the clubs. We're volunteer organizations. We signed up to sweat, swing blades, and pull saws. Recordkeeping was not high on the priority list for most of us.

We'll have to reconsider that. Why? The A.T. is in trouble. During VARO and other meetings, we hear participants say that the A.T. is being "loved to death." Usage is higher than ever. Abuse (graffiti, trash dumping, etc.) is growing. A mountain top in North Carolina was observed to have over 100 tents on it. The USFS sought permission to close off that area to preserve the natural environment. Clubs all along the trail report similar concentrations of campers and hikers.

OK, so what does visitor density have to do with data collection? ATC and the USFS are accumulating some of the data to better understand the club resources that are available to help. They are rethinking how best to deploy clubs' efforts to better manage the trail.

It's a worthy goal. We can help by making sure Britt and John know when we're on the trail doing maintenance in small groups or by ourselves. Every hour counts.

Later in the year, we'll present a segment on Visitor Use Management (VUM) as part of a General Membership Meeting. We want you to know what the initiatives are and how they will affect what we do. We also want you to know that TATC is at the forefront of the VUM effort under the capable guidance of Ned Kuhns.

And, it's not only ATC and the U.S. Forest Service that are hungry for data. Ellis Malabad led a TATC group working the Coastal Cleanup Day effort at First Landing State Park on September 25th.. The park (the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, actually) asked us to download a, you guessed it, data collection app. The app produced a report for the group I was with within seconds after the submit button was pushed. In an hour-and-a-half, we snagged 86 cigarette butts, 10 plastic bottles, 89 undefinable pieces of plastic/foam, etc. etc. To get this data, one of the team members, me as it happened, had to forgo picking up beach trash for recordkeeping. That fundamentally altered the way we approached the task and probably reduced our efficiency a bit. Surprisingly, the rangers at FLSP said they were as interested in the data as the collection of debris. They said that with the right data they thought they could reduce the amount of trash deposited. I hope they're right.

On a different note, LL Bean suggested they might be willing to permit us to set up another recruiting/outreach table in their store at the Lynnhaven Mall. The store manager said she might be able to arrange a 10 percent discount for TATC members if we, the membership, had enough interest. So, a survey is in order. If you think you would come to such an event, shoot me an email at president@tidewateratc.com.

A final note. TATC elections will be held in January. Stay tuned for a message from the Nominating Committee soliciting members who would like to be considered for elected Board positions.

Hope to see you at the Fall Maintenance Trip. Happy Trails.

Lee

Minute for Maintenance

Trail maintenance is approaching fast , we still have room for those of you who are interested. We are expecting to find some down trees along the Trail due to the last severe storm that moved through the western part of Virginia. We are also hoping to get out to St Marys and do some clean along the trail. If you are new to the club and worried you wont know how to help, don't worry we have something for everyone! Please, do not hesitate. If you have any interest in helping out the, please, email the Trail Supervisor. It is always a good time! Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there. Britt

What: TATC Fall Maintenance

When: 15-17 October: The Safety Brief will take place on Saturday October 16th at 730am.

Where: Meeting at Williams Branch Picnic Area in Sherando Lake Recreation Area. We have the campground all weekend, so if you are interested in camping Friday and Saturday night there is room. Come hang out and get to know your fellow club members.

Why: Because we love nature and someone has to protect it!

Happy Trails,

Britt Collins

TATC Trail Supervisor

trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com



Tidbits:

A.T. Volunteers now have a new training webpage! Find a variety of self-paced online training, as well as associated resources for A.T. stewardship. www.appalachiantrail.org/training.

Read an interesting article in the Trek website, where Morgan Sommerville the ATC Visitor Use Manager (VUM) talks about whether or not the iconic Appalachian Trails shelter system is obsolete:

<https://thetrek.co/appalachian-trail/is-the-appalachian-trails-iconic-shelter-system-obsolete/>

Blast from the Past - VHS tapes of the Konnarock work on the Tye River suspension bridge

https://appalachiantrailc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/jkloehn_appalachiantrail_org1/EqJtBhyMSFINh6wYYFcEMq8BkHa7smPbi9a1Q7I-vPORNq?e=NfspFJ

Want a Hands-On Land Navigation Class at Newport News Park? Read On.

Last month, we held a Land Navigation training session via Zoom. Feedback suggests that the participants liked the course but wanted a hand-on experience. Well, now is your chance. Our partners at Tidewater Search and Rescue (TSAR) are holding their own Land Navigation course at Newport News Park on Saturday, October 23th. TATC members have been invited to participate. TSAR offers the opportunity to learn about Land Nav from people who use it to save lives. They are good at it, and they are good at training it.

The training (given rain or shine) will be out in the woods, primarily using map and compass, probably including some GPS work, with people paired up in teams of 2 or more (depending on how many sign up). TSAR doesn't have excess equipment so you will have to bring your own compass and GPS, which can be your mobile phone if it's GPS equipped.

If you are interested in Land Navigation, this is an opportunity not to be missed. To sign up, send an email to education@tidewateratc.com. The deadline for registration is October 8th.

TATC Cabin Work Trip

TATC Cabin Work Trip - November. 5th, 6th, 7th (Friday-- Sunday); Trip Leader: Bob Adkisson-- 627 5514 or cabin@tidewateratc.com-- (please, you must contact me to let me know if you are interested in attending this maintenance / orientation trip to the club cabin in Nelson County, Va.- I will have a sign up sheet and will keep the number of participants low, at 8 people total; there will be a wait list if it is needed, so if you sign up and then your plans change, let the trip leader know ASAP) The Autumn trip is when we usually chainsaw firewood, cut and stack, move and split it. If anyone would like to bring their own saw, to supplement the club saw I will bring, that would be very helpful. The cabin sleeps 12 (6 upstairs, mostly in single bunks, and 6 down stairs-- though all the downstairs bunks are extra wide, for 2 people), but people can tent out nearby if they prefer. Usually there is a community meal but with things the way they are (Covid) everyone will be on their own for ALL meals. There is a 2 burner propane cookstove, and a wood burning cookstove, and all the pots/pans/dishes/cups/cutlery we will need. The cabin spring is running, so there should be water available. Bring a good sleeping bag, sleeping pad, warm clothes, work gloves, boots, and food. There may be time for a hike (with some light trail work?) Saturday afternoon, or on Sunday, if the weather is cooperative. For new members interested in qualifying to rent the club cabin on their own in the future, this is your ticket to do that-- we will make time to go over the rules and workings of the cabin, teach new members how to take care of it, open and close it, etc. **ALL PARTICIPANTS NEED TO BE VACCINATED TO ATTEND THIS WORK TRIP**

We Have Memes - Who Knew??

TATC communicates with our members through the newsletter, the Meetup app, the website, our blog, and our Facebook page administered by past TATC president, Juliet Stephenson.

The Board voted recently to integrate all of these media sources, but that will take some time. While that is getting done, Juliet is posting our message on Facebook two or three times a day. That's a lot of work, and she would like some help. She answers Facebook queries and creates memes that are advertising icons for TATC. See examples below.

You can help Juliet by submitting pictures that can be turned into memes. Better yet, you could create a few memes and send her something she could put on Facebook without editing. Better, better, yet, you could take a turn at answering some of the Facebook queries. If you could take the wheel once or twice a week or even once or twice a month, Juliet would get a breather, and you would get to tell the curious what a great organization TATC is.

If you would be willing to volunteer to help Juliet, please contact me at president@tidewateratc.com.

What is needed:

Copyright Free photos (TATC's release form covers this) & SHORT (pithy) comments.

No one has time to READ a lot.

Humor is important.

Optimism is a must.

Lee



A RIDE ON A TRAIN AND EASY HIKING AT CANAAN VALLEY STATE PARK

By Mal Higgins

Over the three day Labor Day weekend, September 4-6, 2021 Svetlana and I decided a road trip to West Virginia was called for. I had always heard about the Cass Railway steam engine rides and we booked a reservation on the Bald Mountain train trip. <https://mountainrailwv.com/tour/cass-scenic-railroad-bald-knob-trip/> What a blast this turned out to be. Cass is a tiny town, once the home of a significant timbering industry in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It is now part of an actual West Virginia State Park. <https://wvstateparks.com/park/cass-scenic-railroad-state-park/>

The train ride is about 4.5 hours and chugs up the mountain for a 22 mile round trip. I had us on the open rail car immediately next to the engine, and although noisy, it turned out to be a great choice. The coal burning “Shay Engine” (a workhorse type of steam engine designed for logging) shoved five passenger cars up the mountain. Lots of views of engine #11’s smokestack spewing black coal smoke, engine gearing on the wheels, and a good view of the mechanics of the engine, if you lean out the open windows. Shorter train rides are available, too.

The engine burns 4 ½ tons of coal round trip. I am pretty sure it is “clean coal” and good for the environment, since this is West Virginia, after all. The coal is all shoveled into the firebox by the train crew fireman. The engine stops halfway up the mountain to take on water from a spring flowing into a tank to add it to the “water tender” behind the engine. The engineer also squirts oil on the drive wheels. Great views and a half hour at the top just below the summit of Bald Mountain, before the return trip. A sack lunch is given all the passengers, and ear plugs!

Our other two days at Canaan Valley were spent on day hikes in the general vicinity of the CV lodge. We hiked portions of the Deer Run, 3-Pin, Clubmoss Trails to get to the Balsam Swamp Overlook. On the last day there we hiked the Blackwater River Trail, a short and beautiful one mile loop past a wetlands, a tiny stream (evidently the Blackwater River!), an old beaver dam, and some magnificent trees. We moved to a different trail head near the camping visitor center, and hiked the Deer Run again on a loop to the Abe Run and Mill Run trails, back intercepting the Deer Run, where we actually saw two deer.

Lastly, I wanted to see what White Grass Cross X Ski Center looked like in the summer. It was gated off, but the big fields known as the “Snow Farm” trails had a bunch of cows grazing. There is a great board walk nearby, which traverses a small piece of the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Reserve—easy to walk and scenic, with views of natural vegetation, small pools of water, crabapple trees, swamp grass.

We finished off the weekend on the drive home with a stop at Seneca Rocks. We spent time enjoying the recreated Sites Homestead exhibit, which had a still productive demonstration garden of all the old timey vegetables and herbs the settlers of the 1800s grew. We didn’t have enough time to climb the trail to the Seneca Rocks summit—saved that for another visit to WV.

The COVID climate in WV was like here now—very few folks wearing masks, except for the staff of the restaurant. We tried to wear ours when indoors most of the time. No one wore masks outdoors, nor did we.



SAVE the DATE
Saturday

Dec. 4, 2021

TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB's

Day in the
Park

First Landing State Park

Shelter #1, Conservation Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Mark your calendar to join TATC for a winter celebration in beautiful
First Landing State Park! We're planning a day of fun:

Hiking • Horseshoes • Cornhole • Dinner & Dessert • Campfire and s'more!

For more information, contact Sharon Salyer: happycampers33@hotmail.com



Plus



This is the last weekend the park is open for camping.
Site availability and reservations are available through
www.ReserveAmerica.com.



TATC Participates in Coastal Beach Cleanup at First Landing State Park

On Saturday September 25th, the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club participated in the Coastal Cleanup at First Landing State Park. We picked up all sorts of litter from baby bottles, soda, beer cans, cigarette butts, mylar balloons, and lots of small pieces of plastic. Tanya Wisoker, the Park's Volunteer Coordinator, expressed her gratitude for the Club's efforts. We may not be able to save the planet but we can make a huge difference here in the Park. If you have not visited the Park's clean beaches you should put it on your list of things to do. You will be glad you did.

Ellis Malabad



There are more pictures of this event in the Photolog section of this newsletter.

Membership Connection

One of the benefits of membership that just recently occurred to me is a word that we generally connect with the workplace: Networking. Before I retired, I used networking as a way to meet colleagues, locate side gigs, and explore ways to further my career. Today, I find my TATC membership just as useful for networking in a broader sense.

For instance, just this month through networking with another TATC member, I was able to locate an introductory backpacking trip for women 60+ that provides all necessary food and equipment. I had wanted to try backpacking for a long time, but didn't want to pick out and purchase all of the specialized equipment without the necessary experience. With any luck, I'll leave the Smokey Mountains with a new set of backpacking skills and lots of great memories. By networking with a trusted club member, I feel that the information and recommendation that I received was reliable.

In another instance, I was introduced by a club member to a volunteer opportunity with an organization that promotes another one of my interests: end of life legislation. As someone getting on in years and without family nearby (except Cecil, of course), I depend on the legal system to defend my end of life requests and allow me the support my family and I may need when the time comes. I will also have the opportunity, through this organization, to use my previous health care skills to provide empathetic support to someone else in need. I look forward to a rewarding experience working with these passionate volunteers.

I hope that I haven't made this Membership Connection piece too personal by elaborating on my own personal examples. My goal is to encourage other members to also enrich their lives by networking with our members who have so many varied life experiences. Below are a few new members that I'm sure will benefit from networking with you and vice versa.

Michelle Kingsbury became a member on April 25, 2021: My name is Michelle Kingsbury. I've lived in this area since 1989. I have been section hiking the Appalachian trail since 2005. I am about 100 miles shy of finishing the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. I have done day hiking and overnight. I guess the longest hiking trip I've made was four days. I am older and overweight. So I hike very slowly but I make my distance. I would love to meet up with other hikers because I go out twice a year for three to four days for the section hikes.

Leslie Cullinan became a member on August 6, 2021: I grew up camping and hiking along both coasts and in the Southwest. Raised my now-grown children in the C'ville area and hiking is still one of our favorite things to do as a family. In addition to regional hiking here and in other parts of the U.S., my goal is to hike and bicycle around Europe.

Dan O'Brien became a member on August 20, 2021: My name is Dan. I'm a Merchant Mariner, so my work keeps me very close to the coast but I've fallen in love with the mountains and the landscape and the peaceful atmosphere that the wilderness provides. More recently I've gotten into backpacking and my best friend took me out on the Appalachian Trail earlier this year. I've learned a lot of great backpacking skills and tips from him and have now passed some along to another friend. I planned a trip for this past weekend that ended up being entirely on the section TATC Maintains.

I love car camping, day hikes, over landing and backpacking. I'm a woodworker and started my own business during Covid and has grown at a greatly comfortable rate. I've wanted to volunteer and focus some extra time to give back and preserve the wilderness and protected areas for future generations to enjoy as well as meet some new people.

I can't wait to meet the group and am looking forward to participating.



Disaster + Travel + Wilderness First Aid

& WFR Recert for current SOLO grads



Where + When 2021/22

Learn online anytime!

- self-paced
- at your leisure
- whenever you want
- easy ability to pause, rewind, replay, take notes, during 30 days + free extension
- Top reviews! Highly engaging. Not at all a typical boring online course.
- Full Transparency: [all feedback surveys](#)
- More Info & To Register: See "[Online](#)" and "[Blended](#)" learning options at www.solowfa.com

In-person classes

- COVID vaccination and masks required
- [Safety protocols](#)
- For IL, IN, KY, & OH classes, [contact us](#).

Triangle area, NC	Oct 16-17, 2021
Gunnison, CO	Oct 23-24
Charlottesville, VA	Nov 6 - 7
Washington, DC area	Nov 13-14
Norfolk, VA	Nov 20-21
Norfolk, VA	Jan 22-23, 2022
Augusta, GA	Jan or Feb
Harrisonburg/Staunton area, VA	Jan 29-30
Richmond, VA	Feb 5 - 6
Charleston, SC	Feb 26-27
Charlottesville, VA	Feb 26-27
Wilmington area, NC	Mar 5 - 6
Washington, DC area	Mar 12-13
Farmville, VA	Mar 19-20
Blacksburg, VA	Mar 26-27
Chattanooga, TN	Mar 26-27
Norfolk, VA	Mar 26-27
Triangle + Triad areas, NC	Mar 26-27
Charlottesville, VA	Apr 9-10
Macon, GA	Apr 9-10
Lexington, VA	Apr 23-24
Richmond, VA	Apr 30-May 1
Triangle area, NC	May 14-15
Norfolk, VA	May 21-22
Savannah, GA	May 21-22
Thru-hiker town near Bburg, VA	May 28-30
Washington, DC area	Jun 4 - 5
Charlottesville, VA	Jun 11-12
Advanced WFA pt. II Old Fields WV	Jun 25-26
Mtn-Top Retreat near Bburg, VA	Sep 3 - 5



Spaces limited. Register at:

www.solowfa.com

GIFT CARDS available (434) 326-4697

Are you prepared to give vital first aid care?
Have you learned and practiced how to improvise treatment steps?

Hands-On LEARN How to SAVE LIFE & LIMB during:

- Casual Hikes
- Active shooter Terrorism
- Rural Living
- Accidents in remote areas
- Protests & Rallies
- Travel
- Natural Disasters

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

3 Learning Options:

• **All ONLINE** ~½ 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

A.T. Museum Announces Opening of Benton Mackaye “Sky Parlor” Exhibit

<https://www.atmuseum.org/>

Benton MacKaye (drawing by Alan "Gonzo" Strackeljahn) The Appalachian Trail Museum invites the public to attend a special exhibit opening on October 16, 2021 from 1 PM to 4 PM to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the publishing of the article, “An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning,” in the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, authored by Benton MacKaye. This article established MacKaye as the founder of the Appalachian Trail project.

The exhibit, Celebrating a Century of the A.T. Vision: Benton MacKaye & Sky Parlor, tells the story of this remarkable conservationist, regional planner, and wilderness preservationist, who first envisioned and then proposed a long-distance trail following the Appalachian Mountain Range and accessible to the country’s heavily populated east coast.



The exhibit opening will be held on the grounds of the museum and will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony and several talks about Benton MacKaye and the special collection of furniture, artifacts, and books that comprised his study, Sky Parlor. Many of these items will be on display to the public for the first time.

The exhibit, designed and fabricated by Graphik Masters of York, PA, and curated by museum board Vice President Gwenyth Loose, is made possible through generous donations from members of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society. The event is open to the public and is held in conjunction with Pine Grove Furnace State Park’s Fall Festival.

The Museum’s third floor Research Library will also have an open house on October 16. The Library will feature a MacKaye exhibit of books and photos and a reading list for visitors of books on the history of the A.T.

Outdoor Jobs: No Desk Required



Make the Trail your office as a 2022 Ridgerunner! Applications are now being accepted for ridgerunner positions in Georgia and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Ridgerunners are field-based seasonal positions that help educate visitors and hikers on Trail stewardship, minimizing impact to the A.T. and the surrounding landscape, and volunteerism. The deadline to apply is October 26, 2021.

[APPLY NOW](#)



Register for the 2021 Virtual National Trails Workshop

The Partnership for the National Trails System is hosting its 2021 Virtual National Trails Workshop November 1-4, 2021! Join volunteers, partners and trail enthusiasts to learn, discuss and work through topics like trail land protection, collaboration and engagement, and more.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



We hope you'll join us next year for the A.T. Vista event in New Paltz, N.Y., where you can see the passion and dedication of the Trail Conference community on display. You'll find their stories throughout our [website](#) and on our social media pages: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). You'll also find them on the trail, day in and day out, caring for our lands, our trails, and each other.

Stay up-to-date with the Trail Conference by [signing up for our newsletter](#).

We are still seeking: Volunteers to assist in 2022 planning and implementation activities. View the various A.T. Vista 2022 volunteer position needs and sign up today. Program registration discounts are provided to all volunteers!

Hike Leaders, Workshop Assistants, Excursion Chaperones! We need volunteers to lead or co-lead hikes in New York or New Jersey, chaperone one of the many fun excursions, or provide assistance during a workshop session. (You don't need to be from the area to volunteer in any of these roles!)

Email us at atvistainfo@gmail.com or sign-up on the Volunteer Link

Donations - \$10 or more to support the A.T. Vista program.

[Donate](#)

Mission of the A.T. Vista

Provide a forum for the engagement of activities on and near the Appalachian Trail, offering hiking, educational, cultural, and historical learning programs, working with trail clubs, local communities and nearby partner organizations

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

atvistainfo@gmail.com

www.atvista.org

www.atvista2021.org

www.nynjtc.org

Oak Grove Lake Park



Located just off Volvo Pkwy, with its lake and scenic open space. There are 65 acres of hardwood forest and wetlands. Picnic tables and benches are scattered along the trail, which provide a mixture of panoramic views of the lake as well as forested areas and wildlife.

Park Amenities:

- Fishing/Observation Platforms
- Play area
- Rentable Picnic Shelters with grills
- Trail – 1.5 mile circular multi-use fitness trail for walking, jogging and biking, runs the perimeter of the 65-acre lake.
- 6 outdoor fitness stations are located around the perimeter of the trail
- Take a brief virtual tour of the main entrance path, playground and shelters by the lake.

Website: <https://www.cityofchesapeake.net/government/city-departments/departments/parks-recreation-tourism/parks/oakgrovepark.htm>

Map to the Park: https://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/documents/departments/parks_rec/Parks/map-oak_grove_lake.pdf

Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Contact Information:

Address: 409 Byron Street, Chesapeake, VA 23320

Phone: 757-382-6411

Email: ContactPRT@cityofchesapeake.net

TATC's Proposed Visitor Use Management (VUM) Zones for the Appalachian Trail

A meeting was held on September 14th to discuss TATC's Proposed Visitor Use Management (VUM) Zones for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC's) Visitor Use Management Project. Various A.T. Partners attended this meeting, including Ned Kuhns; TATC's RPC Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) Representative and the RPC Vice-Chair for Virginia. Ned has been working closely over the last year with Morgan Sommerville (ATC Director, Visitor Use Management) to propose Visitor Use Management (VUM) Zones for TATC's section of the Appalachian Trail.

A video of this meeting was recorded and here is a link to this meeting for those who want to view it:

<https://youtu.be/EIZcTaSBVK0>

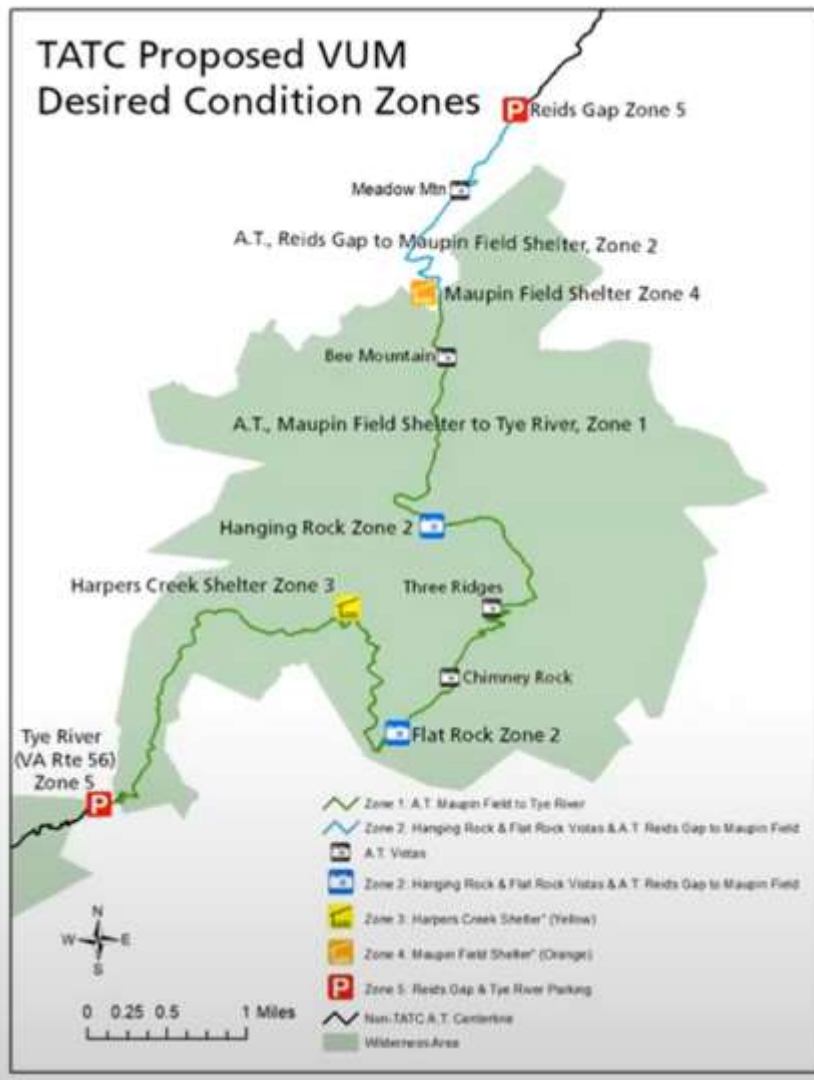
Meeting Attendees:

Ned Kuhns, TATC RPC Rep (rpcrep@tidewateratc.com), Vice-Chair RPC for Virginia
Morgan Sommerville, ATC Director, Visitor Use Management
Lee Lohman, TATC President
John Phillips, NBATC, President & RPC Rep
Trudy Phillips, NBATC, Past Pres, Past RPC Chair
Teresa Duffy, ODATC, Chair of RPC for Virginia
Lauren Stull, USFS, District Ranger, Glenwood-Pedlar District.
David Whitmore, USFS Recreational Program Manager Glenwood-Pedlar District
Plinio Beres, USFS Volunteers & Service Program Coordinator, Glenwood-Pedlar District
Matthew Helt, USFS Disbursed Direct Program Manager
Jim Foster, Stewardship Council Trails and Camping Committee, Keystone Trails Assoc.
Cosmo Catalano, Jr., Volunteer Coordinator, Mass. AT Committee
Kathryn Herndon-Powell, ATC Regional Manager - Central Virginia
Lowell Smith, PATC Conservation Committee Chair
Alivia Acosta, ATC Volunteer Development Coordinator
Andrew Downs, ATC Senior Regional Director - South

A map and a table of TATC's Proposed VUM Desired Condition Zones are provided on the following page.

(Continued on next page ...)

TATC Proposed VUM Desired Condition Zones



TATC Current and Desired Condition Zones

A.T. Mileage	Distance	Attribute	Current Condition Zone #	Desired Condition Zone #	Comments
845.2		Reid's Gap parking area	5	Non-Conforming?	Hot Spot
845.2 to 843.5	1.7	A.T., Reid's Gap to Maupin Field Shelter	2		
843.5		Maupin Field Shelter	4	3	
843.5 to 837.3	6.2	A.T., Maupin Field Shelter to Harpers Cr. Shelter	1		In Wilderness
841.5		Hanging Rock Vista	2		In Wilderness
838.8		Flat Rock Vista	2		In Wilderness
837.3		Harpers Cr. Shelter	3		In Wilderness
837.3 to 834.4	2.9	A.T., Harpers Cr. Shelter to Tye River	1		In Wilderness
834.4		Tye River/Rt 56 parking area	5	Non-Conforming?	Hot Spot
Total	10.8				
A.T. Zone: 1 2 3 4 5 (6)					
Wilderness			Moderately Natural		

Desired Conditions:

Desired conditions are statements of aspirations that describe resource conditions, visitor experiences and opportunities, and facilities and services that A.T. partners strive to achieve and maintain in a particular area. “The way things ought to be” Desired conditions describe what conditions, outcomes and opportunities are to be achieved and maintained in the future, not necessarily what exists today.

- Desired conditions can be applied to a single location, e.g.; a campsite or a trailhead, to any extent of area with uniform management, e.g.; an A.T. section between two road crossings or an area with a special designation like a Wilderness.
- Geographic features are often useful dividing points for changes in desired condition zones.
- Agency plans may already describe A.T. desired conditions in general, but VUM planning can make desired conditions more specific.
- A club's A.T. section may contain multiple desired condition zones, in a variety of configurations.

TATC worked with ATC to develop zoned maps of our club's sections of the A.T. based upon the VUM desired conditions zoning matrix.

Desired conditions and mapping will be used to provide a framework for local A.T. management to help:

- Maintain acceptable current conditions and plan to prevent any future damage, or
- Move to appropriate desired conditions in A.T. areas where visits to the A.T. have become so numerous that traditional A.T. values and/or natural or cultural resources (the A.T. Experience) are being damaged

TATC's Section of the A.T. was used to prototype Desired Condition Mapping. This prototype will be used by ODATC and NBATC and other A.T. Clubs to serve as the groundwork for their Desired Condition Mapping.

- VUM planning will provide a local framework for analyzing A.T. issues by comparing current local conditions to desired local conditions.
- VUM planning is another tool in the A.T. manager toolbox to help optimize protection of the A.T.
- In other words, VUM planning will provide more detailed information to help local A.T. managers, volunteers and agency partners alike – protect the A.T. Experience.

The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

About 100 years ago, give or take a dozen, there used to be a river, mostly in Colorado, called the Grand River. In an interesting and devious attempt by the state of Colorado to be apportioned a larger share of that most precious of western resources-- **water**-- the state got rid of the name Grand and rebranded it the Colorado River. I read about this skirmish, in the war that the West is forever fighting over water, in a book called Cadillac Desert (or maybe it was the book A River No More). Not sure now, and not sure if this little trick won the state a larger percentage of the liquid gold that is water, that is everything to everyone who lives in the arid west.

I do know that on my first hitch-hiking trip out west in 1975, and then again, on my 2nd hitch-hiking trip out west, in 1976, I traveled alongside the Grand/Colorado River for long stretches in both Colorado, Utah, and Arizona (in 1976 I got a really long ride, one that lasted about a week, from western Nebraska to San Diego, California, and the driver actually let me pick the route we took-- having to report for work in a week in California, knowing nothing about the west, his only requirement was that he wanted to spend one night in a lodge at the south rim of the Grand Canyon and one in Las Vegas. I routed us thru Rocky Mountain National Park-- we crossed over the Continental Divide at sunset, with a full moon rising in the east; we camped in the cold, early morning shadows beside a headwater lake of the Colorado River; the next day, on gravel roads, we followed that small tumbling river for over 50 miles, thru unpopulated, steep-sided valleys, before intersecting Interstate 70. Then we followed it west, thru canyons, and out into the desert of Utah. We crossed it at the head of Lake Powell, and again atop Boulder Dam).

These first two trips around the western states gave me a deep appreciation for that wide open landscape, one that has never left me. Several subsequent trips took me even deeper-- backpacking, bicycling, driving-- I twisted and turned many corners, climbed and descended many peaks and canyons, explored many parks and wild areas, experienced so much wildness and raw beauty.

In the April/May (2021) edition of the TATC newsletter I wrote a long article about the 2 week rafting trip I took last October (2020) down the Colorado River, down thru nearly the full length of the Grand Canyon, all in the state of Arizona. It was with the rafting company called OARS, and the article was illustrated with lots of my photos.

It was a once in a lifetime sort of experience, though there was one man in our group, 90 years old, on about his 50th Grand Canyon raft trip!

An all but perfect trip, with great weather, great people, great food, great hikes, and scary but great rapids, it left me wanting more.

So, as the summer of 2021 began, I somewhat belatedly made inquiries about other, shorter (less expensive) river trips that OARS offered. Right from the start the idea was to take my 9 year old granddaughter and treat her to a trip I hoped she would never forget. A section of the Green River, thru Dinosaur Nat'l Monument, seemed a good choice, and other kids had signed up for it. But.... there was only one trip left with open slots available, and it was only 3 days/2 nights long.

I instead chose the Colorado River, a 6 day/5 night trip from the town of Moab, Utah to the upper end of Lake Powell, passing the confluence with the Green River and dropping down thru the rapids of Cataract Canyon. In late summer, when the river is lower and the rapids aren't as dangerous, young kids are allowed on this trip. I offered to treat my daughter to the trip as well, and she surprised me by almost instantly saying yes.

There followed about a month of planning and phoning, much time on the computer, making reservations and working out the endless details. The trip had to be in the heat of summer because that is when most school aged kids are free to travel. There was a worse than usual drought in the Colorado River drainage, and record setting heat too, and then all the smoke drifting in from the fires farther to the west. Also, there was still a stubborn virus haunting the country as well.

For both daughter and grand-daughter, this would be their first time visiting the western U.S.. We flew to Salt Lake City on August 10th, rented a car, stayed 2 nights in a motel. We drove out to surreal, nearby Antelope Island State Park, waded in the Great Salt Lake, hiked in the desert heat, saw countless buffalo. Back in the car, we circled up into the big mountains just to the east of Salt Lake City, crossed over a high, wooded pass where 19th century immigrants had labored to create a trail. We got back into the city at dusk and had a nice Italian meal.

The next day we headed southeast, to Moab. We explored Arches and the Dead Horse Overlook section of Canyonlands Nat'l Parks. Just 300 yards from the Colorado River, the 3 of us took a two hour horseback ride near Fisher Towers, then drove up into the La Sal Mountains on a high, winding road. Incredible scenery, everywhere. And, back in town, the food and ice cream at the Moab Diner was both plentiful and wonderful too.

Early on the 15th we met the OARS group for the shuttle to the put-in spot, the start of our almost 100 mile trip on the river. There were only 9 guests, and 2 rafts for them to ride in (each raft with a guide, who was also the sole paddler). Guests could also take turns in 2 inflatable kayaks or a paddleboard. In addition, there was one gear boat, a raft paddled by a guide (and carrying his 20 year old son, a guide in training).

Interesting: all 9 guests were all from the East: a middle aged New Jersey couple with their 2 sons (about 18 and 21 years old), a woman from Florida, in her early 20's, who was treating her mother to a 60th birthday vacation, and the 3 of us from Virginia-- 3 generations in the same family.

Yes, it was hot, but bearable, with a nice river to jump into at any time. We averaged about 16 miles a day, and even with not much of a current, and shallow sandbars lurking throughout the shifting river, it was an unhurried pace. Unlike on my trip thru the Grand Canyon, there were few other boaters, and no hikers were seen. We did see mountain sheep and a fair amount of aquatic birds-- ducks and blue herons and egrets. We saw one beaver for sure, and maybe one person saw an otter. We took a couple of short hikes, one to see petrified logs just up the desert slope from the river, and one a bit higher up, to see petroglyphs made by native Americans. Just before lunch on day 3, half of us left the rafts, climbed about 500 ft. to a hot, barren ridge crest, enjoyed the view, then descended a half mile down the far side to meet the rafts-- they'd followed the river as it looped about 2 miles around a huge bend.

(Continued on next page ...)

We briefly met and hiked with another OARS group and, incredibly enough, one young man in that group, from Seattle, had been on the October, 2020 Grand Canyon trip with me! He was a drama major just about to start college-- and so it was Greetings and Salutations, my Good Sir!

Late in the afternoon of that 3rd day we reached the confluence with the Green River (the Green is about equal in size to the Colorado, but it is longer, coming all the way down from the northern end of the Wind River Range, near Jackson Hole, Wyoming). Most of us jumped out of the rafts in mid-stream to celebrate the joining of the 2 rivers-- after all, except for that switcheroo of names back in the 1920's, this is where the Colorado River used to begin: where the Green and the Grand joined).

About 3 miles downriver our head guide, Dave, chose his favorite campsite for us to stay at-- a large sandy peninsula on river-left. Completely exposed to whatever the weather might hand us, it wouldn't have been my choice-- I prefer smaller, protected spots, what I am used to when going on long solo canoe trips (and there was one such spot only 200 yards farther downstream).

Sure enough, as dinner and darkness settled in, the overcast sky decided that a windstorm was just what the doctor, or the fates, ordered. All of us were in tents this night but it didn't matter-- the fine sand found its way in through the mosquito netting and covered us (whilst Dave, don't you know, slept on his raft, unbothered and unaffected).

Sandblasted, the next morning we woke to calm conditions, but one of the 2 beach umbrellas set up to shield the toilet from view on the open beach was gone, never to be seen again.

This was the day of the big rapids, at least the first two dozen (of about 34). From what I read, during the early summer months, when snow melt is flowing down from the Rocky Mountains, these rapids are some of the biggest and most dangerous anywhere in the U.S. This August, with some of the lowest water levels Dave had ever experienced, they seemed pretty minor, more about maneuvering around a couple of huge boulders than dealing with capsizing waves or boat swallowing holes. I tried to imagine 5 or 10 more vertical feet of cold water forcing its way down this narrow canyon (and there were boulders, 10 feet above the water, with logs balanced on top from the last flood tide). Truthfully, I am not sure I'd want to be on it then.

Now, finally, the river had a nice gradient, a good current, and we had to hold on while getting splashed by some 3 foot high waves. Sophia (my 9 year old grand-daughter) and I were scrunched up together in the left bow of the raft, and it was fun.

We did see one extra large OARS raft, from another group, get badly hung up on a boulder in fast water, but we were 200 yards downstream of them, and they had plenty of guides and expertise to deal with it.

The rapids aside, day 4 will forever live on in my mind for all that happened at that night's campsite: Sophia and I were in the front of Dave's lead raft when we came ashore on the slanted sandy beach of our campsite. We could see that a storm was about to break and it hit the moment our bow met the beach-- a fierce upstream wind and stinging, almost icy horizontal rain struck us as Dave put down his oars, stepped between us, and jumped onto the sand, grabbing the bow rope, a mallet and a 2 foot long metal spike used to anchor the boat.

(Continued on next page ...)

There were some trees about 30 yards up from the river and I let Sophia go racing up the beach to take shelter among them. Dave seemed to have the boat in hand and Carolyn, the New Jersey mother, wasn't waiting for an ok from him-- she was struggling to get out of the raft, so I jumped out and helped her. Maybe our getting out of the front of the boat caused the wind to wrestle control away from Dave, but the boat started to move sideways, back upstream a few feet, and Dave yelled that the anchor rope was going to cut our legs out from under us.

We got free of that and Dave told us to go up the beach and take shelter. As we stumbled up the sloping sand we noticed the other two rafts were completely out of control, getting blown back upstream 75 yards, to the bottom of the last rapid. Carolyn, as she was throughout the trip, was beside herself with worry for the safety of her 2 sons, one of whom was on a raft caught out in the wind and rain.

In the next 15 minutes the storm eased up enough that everyone got ashore and into rain gear (for those that had it-- I'd told Leigh and Sophia we wouldn't need rain gear-- we would be in a desert). We set up our tent behind some low trees, just above the flat upper section of the beach. While all of us were setting up tents and preparing ourselves for dinner we witnessed several instances of rockfall from the nearby cliffs, on both sides of the river. None of them directly threatened our camping area, and mostly it was a lot of noise, some dust, with only small rocks falling close to where they'd broken off (but on the Grand Canyon trip I'd remarked-- how was it possible to travel for 16 days, down 226 miles of the river, and not see or even hear a single rock fall, when there were thousands of them, of all sizes and shapes, teetering on the brink, impossibly balanced, ready to fall if a bird were to land on them).

Dinner was an inconvenient afterthought-- all the others sat in the usual circle of chairs near the kitchen area, sat in their rain gear in the rain, eating forlornly and quietly. We grabbed ours and ate in our tent-- 3 of us in a 2 person tent.

Between showers, and just as darkness settled in, I set up outside on a thick air mattress, with two tarps covering my sleeping bag. Light off and on rain fell for several hours, then about 4 a.m. came a down-pour, complete with thunder and lightning. I got wet beneath the tarps but was more concerned trying to tell - which was the sound of thunder and which was rocks breaking off and falling? I was damned near terrified.

Then the rain stopped and I threw off the useless tarps. The full moon and stars were out, the storm was finally over! Only, about 20 minutes later, the clouds were back and soon a 2nd heavy rainfall descended. I'd placed two newer and better tarps atop my sleeping bag, but soon realized the rain was just exploding right thru them. It was a cold rain and I was getting absolutely soaked, so I finally gave up and miserably climbed inside our tent, with a soundly sleeping and completely unaffected 9 year old beside me. I shivered uncontrollably for about 5 or 10 minutes, the wet sleeping bag down near my feet.

The rain continued to fall hard for another half hour, there were puddles of water in the tent, there was more lightning and thunder, more sounds of rocks snapping and even of a boulder rolling end over end somewhere on those dark slopes nearby. Finally it eased off and the sky began to lighten.

It was easily one of the top 10 worst nights I've ever spent outside.

(Continued on next page ...)

The river had risen up about 2 feet overnight, the skies were still not to be trusted, and everyone's gear was at least half wet, plastered with sand. But then, while we waited for breakfast, the sky quickly and miraculously cleared. Only, just as quickly, before we finished eating, it clouded over again and stray raindrops fell. It would be a day with light, off and on showers, alternating blue sky and overcast sky.

It was to be a shorter than usual day, and the river hurried us along thru many easy, happy rapids, thru narrow slot canyons and wider places with vegetation along the banks. In the afternoon, when the sky turned really dark and the wind funneled upstream, all but halting us in our tracks, someone asked how far to our last campsite. Dave said, "30 to 45 minutes". A couple of minutes later the wind increased and a wall of rain hit us-- cold, hard rain coming straight upstream into our faces.

I steeled myself for 45 minutes, if not an hour, of forcing our way down the canyon into that storm.

But..... it only lasted maybe 15 minutes. Then the sun came out into a perfect blue sky.

Five minutes later we suddenly noticed that the canyon walls were covered, were resplendent, with long thin waterfalls, some of them with clear water, some with very muddy water. They were everywhere we looked and everyone took out their cameras and couldn't get enough. Videos and still shots, all of us laughing and pointing, ooohhhhing and aaahhhhing. Dave said, in all of his many trips on this section of the Colorado, he'd never seen anything like this. And we all knew these waterfalls were only momentary, would flow for only an hour or so.

We got to our nice beach campsite about 3 p.m. and set up our tents; we had time to hang up wet gear to dry in the sun, take a nap, take a short walk down the beach. Dave and another guide played their guitars and sang for about an hour or so.

After about 24 hours of off and on rain and storm, we were finally done with bad weather. The full moon lit up the narrow canyon that night, provided a quiet, ghostly light in which to count our blessings.

The last day they tied the 3 rafts together and used a nearly silent 25 hp outboard motor to power us maybe 10 miles down the river and into the upper reaches of Lake Powell. At a pretty bridge arching across the river the rafts were set free of each other and the guides prepared to row us the last mile to the take-out. But there was one last-minute, unexpected problem-- the small but suddenly powerful Dirty Devil River flowed in from the north and it was flooding in a major way. The current along the right bank was now running at about 15 mph, right to the take out spot, and a guide from one of the OARS groups there hurried along the tangled shore to give us warning that we'd only have one chance at it. Our lead raft, because of a bad throw of our bow line, almost got swept past the take out; a 2nd throw landed and we were pulled in and tied off; we scrambled to get off the raft. A man on one of the other rafts in our group fell into the river trying to disembark; he was hauled out by one of the many guides, no damage done.

The finishing touch to the river trip was the 45 minute flight back to the Moab airport, 8 of us in a single engine plane (Carolyn, from New Jersey, had her husband arrange for a taxi to take her back-- about a 200 mile roundabout drive). She missed a great, scenic flight-- though the plane bucked and bounced around some, we passed back along the orange colored Colorado River and witnessed some absolutely incredible, beautiful country: 2,000 ft deep canyons, towers and long walls of stone, narrow, twisting side canyons, white beaches where we camped and where we swam.

(Continued on next page ...)

We passed directly over the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers and I got several photos. My grand-daughter slept thru most of the flight, my daughter kept her eyes closed nearly the whole time, warding off motion sickness.

After a shower at our motel, the food at the Moab Diner was extra special good that night, most especially the ice cream!

[This wasn't the end of the trip of course, just the first half of it. We next traveled south to Durango and spent a whole day swaying back and forth, at about 10 miles an hour, on the Durango to Silverton scenic train, along the Animas River and thru it's beautiful gorge. In Silverton we had lunch in what was, at one time (about a hundred years ago), a bordello. After the train back to Durango came a short drive and a night spent at a hilltop lodge in Mesa Verde Nat'l Park, with a tour the next day to some cave dwellings. After stopping at 4 Corners, driving thru Valley of the Gods on a rough gravel road, and then Monument Valley, we got a motel in Page, Arizona. My daughter flew home from there while Sophia and I persisted-- two nights in a tiny cabin at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, a mule ride, and a winding drive out to Imperial Point to watch the sunset; then to Zion Nat'l Park, which we mostly sat out, in favor of the motel's pool-- the heat was back, and the crowds, and there was some micro-organism in the river that it seemed best to avoid altogether. To get back to Salt Lake City we did take two days, mostly driving back roads (quite a bit of it on gravel), winding thru the mountains and following long, wide valley's.

I'd always wanted to take the Amtrak train that goes across Colorado, closely following the Colorado/Grand River for a couple hundred miles. And so, as pre-planned, we did-- all the way to Chicago. But..... it wasn't the easiest thing to do, for sure: we turned our rental car in at dusk, at the Salt Lake Airport; we hung out there until 10 p.m. (when the Amtrak station opened); a taxi got us and our multiple pieces of luggage to the station, and then we waited for the 3:30 a.m. train east. On board the train we finally got a few hours of sleep. Like on a plane, we had to wear masks on the train, the whole way back to Virginia.

I may have nodded off briefly a few times, but I enjoyed the train ride along the Colorado, and then thru the 8 mile Moffat Tunnel beneath the Continental Divide. The skies on the east side of the divide were especially hazy with smoke, and then by Denver it was getting dark. We gratefully slept thru all or parts of 3 states (Colorado, Nebraska, and Iowa). Sophia befriended and enjoyed playing with 2 younger girls traveling with their parents to Chicago. Our 3 hour layover in Chicago (I had plans for us!) was all but totally eaten up-- the train had to take it slow across western Iowa because of flash flood danger. Leaving Chicago on the train called The Cardinal-- at dusk, in the rain, and again sleeping thru 3 states (Indiana, Kentucky, and part of West Virginia). The train took us thru the New River Gorge, now America's newest Nat'l Park, along parts of the Greenbrier and Jackson Rivers (both of which I have paddled), thru Staunton and Waynesboro and the Blue Ridge Tunnel beneath Rockfish Gap, to Charlottesville and a connecting bus to the train station in Richmond. What was left of Hurricane Ida was crossing paths with us this day, but we were mostly unaware of the news until we decided to layover in a Richmond motel for the night. I hadn't made a reservation at the motel I'd picked, and as the taxi pulled up to the door it was almost a repeat of day 4 on the Colorado River-- sudden wind and horizontal rain assailed us the moment we got out of the van.

(Continued from previous page ...)

We struggled to get our suitcases and packs into the lobby, then I paid the driver, went inside and asked about a room. "No reservation? I'm sorry, but we are booked up completely". I had to run out into the rain and catch the cab, and he took us 300 yards down the road to another motel. It felt great to stretch out in a real bed (instead of a seat on the train) and get some real sleep. A late check out from the motel, another taxi back to the station, a couple of hours (playing cards and reading), waiting for the train to Norfolk.

I think Sophia will remember this trip. I know I will.



Sophia, Leigh and Bob - Horseback Ride northeast of Moab

(More photos from this trip in the Photolog section of this newsletter)

Newsletter Guidelines

The TATC Newsletter, The Appalachian Hiker, is published bimonthly, or six times a year, for the following months: February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September, October/November, December/January.

Generally, unless otherwise notified by the Newsletter Editor, the deadline for submitting articles, photos, and events for the newsletter will be 7-days before the first month for which the newsletter is being published, i.e.; submissions will be one week before the end of January, March, May, July, September, or November.

A blast-email will be sent out to club members every two-months with the deadlines for the submittal of articles, photos and events for the next newsletter. Generally, this blast-email will come out approximately two-weeks prior to the deadline for the next newsletter, this may vary slightly due to Holidays and other events.

Any club member may submit articles, photos and events for publication in the newsletter.

Articles, photos and events submitted for inclusion in the newsletter should pertain to either TATC club events or to educational, recreational or trail maintenance topics. We love to receive articles and photos about your outdoor adventures.

Please include "TATC Newsletter" as part of the subject line of any email(s) that contain articles and/or photos being sent to the Newsletter Editor at <mailto:newsletter@tidewateratc.com>

Past issues of the newsletter can be viewed on-line. [Click Here](#) or type <https://tidewateratc.com/Newsletter-Archive> in your browser for the list of archived newsletters, then click on the selected newsletter(s) to view.

If you are identifying someone in an article or photo, then please provide both their First and Last Names.

The Newsletter Editor will send verification messages to the senders when any email messages containing articles or photos are received. Please contact the Newsletter Editor if you do not receive such verification messages within three days after you submit your items.

Articles:

Articles can be any size, but generally they should be no longer than 1-3 pages (600-1,800 words) in length. If an article is longer than 3 pages in length, then it may need to be continued in the next or even following newsletters.

Please provide the title for articles being submitted, along with the author's name.

If you provide an acronym in your article, then please spell out what the acronym stands for, in parentheses if necessary.

If you make up non-standard words or terms, and you don't want them spell-checked, auto-corrected, or otherwise changed by the Newsletter Editor, then place them in your article between quotes.

Unless you are providing the title for an article or an acronym; please try to keep from capitalizing all letters in a word or phrase.

No obscenities should be included in newsletter articles.

The Newsletter Editor strives not to change the content or meaning of articles submitted. However, if it bothers you that someone else will be editing your article for inclusion in the TATC newsletter, then you may ask that a copy of the edited article with changes be sent to you for your review prior to publication. Please let the Newsletter Editor know if this is the case when you submit your article(s). The Newsletter Editor will work with you to reach an agreeable solution to any changes made to your submitted article(s).

Articles that highlight legislative and voting issues pertaining to the A.T., Wilderness Areas, and Trail Maintenance can be published in the TATC newsletters, but articles representing partisan views or personal grievances will not be included in the TATC newsletters.

Because of copyright laws, we can only allow reprinted articles from other sources to be included in the TATC newsletter if the submitter has been granted permission in advance to use such articles. Please identify to the Newsletter Editor when such permissions have been granted. The exception to this rule being when articles are provided as "News Releases" from affiliated organizations, such as the ATC, ATPO, AT Museum, SAWS, NFS, NPS, or ALDHA.

Note: If anyone does not agree with the actions of the Newsletter Editor concerning editorial decisions, they can contact the Club President at president@tidewateratc.com to appeal any such decisions. The Newsletter Editor works directly for the TATC President, and any directions that they provide, will take precedence.

(Continued on next page ...)

Photos:

The file size for each photo sent for inclusion in the newsletter should be at least 1MB in size. However, any photos sent that are smaller in size can still be included in the newsletter, but the size that they are presented in may need to be reduced.

Try not to attach more photos in any one email than can be handled by the sending and receiving email servers. The Newsletter Editor can receive emails with **attachments up to 25 MB in size**, but you might want to check to see what file size restrictions there are when your emails are sent via your email server.

The Newsletter Editor will send verification messages to the senders when any email messages containing articles or photos are received. Please contact the Newsletter Editor if you do not receive such verification messages within three days after you submit your items.

Photos sent for inclusion in the newsletter, will also be eligible for inclusion into other TATC publications.

If you were not the photographer of the photos that you are sending for possible inclusion in the newsletter, then you should identify who did take the photos. If you do not identify that someone else took the photos being provided, then you will be credited as being the photographer. (Note: it is usually more difficult, but not impossible, to take a photo in which you yourself are included).

If anyone sends in more than 12 photos for the same event, the Newsletter Editor may only select 12 of the photos submitted by the same person for the same event for inclusion in the next newsletter. So, if you definitely want particular pictures to be included in the newsletter for a particular event; then you may want to down-select to only 12 submitted photos per event. Exceptions to this guideline will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you want captions listed under your photos in the newsletter, then include the file names for the photos, along with the captions. Send this information via email to the Newsletter Editor, along with the files for the photos. The maximum length of any caption should be no longer than 80 characters, with an exception being made when the caption is providing the names of various people included in a photo.

Photos that show wild animals being held, petted, feed or otherwise being bothered, will not be published. This is covered by Leave No Trace (LNT) Principal #6; Respect Wildlife.

Photo showing people performing trail maintenance without the appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) will not be published.

Events:

If you want an event included in the TATC Newsletter, then it should first be submitted to the TATC Hikemaster at hikemaster@tidewateratc.com for inclusion into the online TATC Schedule.

Generally, each newsletter will only list events occurring in the 2 month time-period being covered by the newsletter, unless the Newsletter Editor receives a specific request to include an event in the newsletter for following months, due to the need for long-range planning for the event.

The following information should be provided for each event:

- Title
- Date/Time
- Location
- Point of Contact (POC)
- Description: - The 'Description' of an event in the newsletter should be no more than 250 words or about a third of a page in length. Longer descriptions may require the Newsletter Editor to shorten the description of events as listed in the online schedules for inclusion into the newsletters. Exceptions to this guideline will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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 6, 2021 7:00pm-9:00pm

Where: Online via Zoom App

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

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

TATC General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Location to be determined.

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting

Program: TBD

TATC Display at Nelson County Library

When: Thursday, October 14, 2021 9:30am-5:00pm

Where: Nelson Memorial Library, 8521 Thomas Nelson Hwy, Lovingson, VA 22949

Contact: Jim Sexton, webmaster@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC is going to set up our display table in the foyer of the Nelson County Library in Lovingson Virginia on Thursday, October 14, 2021, from 10 am – 5 pm. This is the Thursday before the weekend of this year's Fall Trail Maintenance trip. We are Looking for additional volunteers to man the table for one of three 2-1/2-hour shifts. If interested or if you have questions, then please send an email to webmaster@tidewateratc.com, or call Jim at 484-2827.

Shifts:

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

12:00 – 2:30 pm

2:30 – 5:00 pm

Nelson County is an A.T. Community and we would like to show our presence in the area and see if we can recruit some new volunteers. Chris and Jim will take care of transporting, setting up, and taking down the display table, however, we need additional knowledgeable TATC volunteers to man the table. We will be inside the entryway of the Library and will need to follow their COVID guidelines.

(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 Fall Maintenance

When: Friday - Sunday, October 15-17, 2021

Where: TATC's Appalachian Trail Section, Nelson County, VA

Camping: at Group Camping Area, Sherando Lake Recreation Area, 96 Sherando Lake Rd, Lyndhurst, VA. Williams Branch Camping Area.

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

Description: This is the second major trail maintenance event of 2021. Check our website for updates www.tidewateratc.com. Free camping and no entrance fee if gate attendant informed of your purpose. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for own food, beverage and supplies for duration of your stay. TATC supplies tools. This is a weekend for us to satisfy the reason for our existence: to keep the AT, Mau-Har, and White Rock Falls trails open to foot traffic. Best to arrive between noon & dusk on Friday in order to establish camp and be ready for our Saturday 8:00AM meeting.

TATC Display at First Landing State Park - Fall Festival 2021

When: Saturday, October 16, 2021, 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Where: First Landing State Park, 2500 Shore Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23451.
Main Visitor Center Courtyard

Contact: Dave Plum, localtrails@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC is going to set up our display table at the First Landing State Park Fall Festival on October 16th from 1:00pm - 5:00pm. If you are interested in volunteering for manning our display table at this event or have questions, then please email Dave Plum at localtrails@tidewateratc.com. We will need to set up the TATC display one hour before this event starts. Come to the festival to celebrate the changing seasons at First Landing's Annual Fall Fest Event. Festivities will include free wagon rides, autumnal crafts and games, s'mores, community partner booths, live music, and more. Food and beverages will be available for purchase - proceeds benefit the Friends of First Landing.

TATC Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7:00pm-9:00pm

Where: Online via Zoom App

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

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

(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.

Local Trails Event at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve

When: Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 10:00am-1:00pm

Where: Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve, Portsmouth <https://www.hoffercreek.org/>

Contact: Sharon Salyer, happycampers33@hotmail.com sign up or get more info.

Description: Hoffer Creek Invasive Species Attack post "goatscaping". This is a call for volunteers to join up and help clean out invasive vines in this 142-acre preserve in the Hoffer Creek watershed. Goats have been feeding on the thick weeds since 9/17 which should now allow us to get in there and take down some invasive vines. We will meet Heather at the Visitor's Center, where she will explain what she would like us to do. We need 10 or so volunteers to show up and join the fun. No experience is necessary. Masks will NOT be required if you are fully vaccinated for COVID 19. Wear long pants and long sleeve shirts to protect from ticks, heavy-duty gloves and sturdy closed-toe shoes. Hats, bug repellent, and sunscreen are optional. Bring your favorite hand and small battery-operated tools. Also, bring plenty of water to stay hydrated. Who knows, there may even be an opportunity for lunch or ice cream at the end of the effort?

TATC Cabin Work Trip - November 5-7, 2021

When: November 5-7, 2021

Where: TATC Club Cabin

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

Description: TATC CABIN WORK TRIP-- Nov. 5th, 6th, 7th (Friday-- Sunday); trip leader: Bob Adkisson-- 627 5514 or cabin@tidewateratc.com-- (please, you must contact me to let me know if you are interested in attending this maintenance / orientation trip to the club cabin in Nelson County, Va.- I will have a sign up sheet and will keep the number of participants low, at 8 people total; there will be a wait list if it is needed, so if you sign up and then your plans change, let the trip leader know ASAP) The Autumn trip is when we usually chainsaw firewood, cut and stack, move and split it. If anyone would like to bring their own saw, to supplement the club saw I will bring, that would be very helpful. The cabin sleeps 12 (6 upstairs, mostly in single bunks, and 6 down stairs-- though all the downstairs bunks are extra wide, for 2 people), but people can tent out nearby if they prefer. Usually there is a community meal but with things the way they are (COVID) everyone will be on their own for ALL meals. There is a 2 burner propane cookstove, and a wood burning cookstove, and all the pots/pans/dishes/cups/cutlery we will need. The cabin spring is running, so there should be water available. Bring a good sleeping bag, sleeping pad, warm clothes, work gloves, boots, and food. There may be time for a hike (with some light trail work?) Saturday afternoon, or on Sunday, if the weather is cooperative. For new members interested in qualifying to rent the club cabin on their own in the future, this is your ticket to do that-- we will make time to go over the rules and workings of the cabin, teach new members how to take care of it, open and close it, etc. ALL PARTICIPANTS NEED TO BE VACCINATED TO ATTEND THIS WORK TRIP

(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 General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: Location to be determined.

Contact: Lee Lohman president@tidewateratc.com

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting

Program: TBD

TATC Day in the Park

When: Saturday, December 4, 2021

Where: First Landing State Park, 2500 Shore Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 (map)
Shelter #1, Conservation Court

Contact: Sharon Salyer: happycampers33@hotmail.com

Description: TATC Day in the Park—Mark your calendar to join TATC for a winter celebration in beautiful First Landing State Park! We're planning a day of fun:

Hiking • Horseshoes • Cornhole • Dinner & Dessert • Campfire and S'more!

For more information, contact Sharon Salyer: happycampers33@hotmail.com

TATC Facebook Site

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

TATC Facebook Site

TATC Website

TATC MeetUp Site

TATC Officers & Board

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



CASS SCENIC RAILROAD TRIP

Photos by Mal Higgins

The Open Cars of the Train at the Cass Depot



CASS SCENIC RAILROAD TRIP

Photos by Mal Higgins

Engine #11 in the Depot



CASS SCENIC RAILROAD TRIP

Photos by Mal Higgins

Pushing Five Passenger Cars up the Grade



CASS SCENIC RAILROAD TRIP

Photos by Mal Higgins

Clean West Virginia Coal Powering Engine #11



CASS SCENIC RAILROAD TRIP

Photos by Mal Higgins

The Gearing and Propulsion Wheels on Engine #11



CASS SCENIC RAILROAD TRIP

Photos by Mal Higgins

The Summit of Bald Mountain WV - Destination of Engine #11 Trip



Hiking in the Canaan Valley State Park

Photos by Mal Higgins

Fern Field, Blackwater River Trail



Hiking in the Canaan Valley State Park

Photos by Mal Higgins

Blackwater River flowing on Canaan Valley State Park



Hiking in the Canaan Valley State Park

Photos by Mal Higgins

Old Beaver Dam on Blackwater River Trail



Hiking in the Canaan Valley State Park

Photos by Mal Higgins

Svetlana at intersection with Abe Run Trail, Canaan Valley State Park



Hiking in the Canaan Valley State Park

Photos by Mal Higgins

Deer on Deer Run Trail, Canaan Valley State Park



Hiking in the Canaan Valley State Park

Photos by Mal Higgins

Fall flowers on Mill Run Trail, Canaan Valley State Park



Hiking in the Canaan Valley State Park

Photos by Mal Higgins

Mal on Boardwalk, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Reserve



Hiking in the Canaan Valley State Park

Photos by Mal Higgins

Sites Homestead, Seneca Rocks, WV



First Landing State Park - Beach Clean-Up

September 25, 2021

Photos by Rebecca Woodring



First Landing State Park - Beach Clean-Up
September 25, 2021
Photos by Rebecca Woodring



First Landing State Park - Beach Clean-Up

September 25, 2021

Photos by Rebecca Woodring



First Landing State Park - Beach Clean-Up

September 25, 2021

Photos by Rebecca Woodring



First Landing State Park - Beach Clean-Up
September 25, 2021



Appalachian Trail Maintenance

September 20, 2021

Jim Sexton



Notch Cut in Log - 16 inches in diameter

Appalachian Trail Maintenance
September 20, 2021
Jim Sexton



Before



After

Appalachian Trail Maintenance
September 20, 2021
Jim Sexton



Before



After

The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Buffalo Herd on the East Shore of Antelope Island



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Sophia and Lee in Arches National Park



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Utah Raft Trip - Put in Spot at Potash (mining area downstream of Moab)



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Short Hike to Some Petrified Tree Trunks along the River



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

We had just 3 Rafts (and one of them was for gear only-- no passengers)
and 2 Inflatable Kayaks-



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Wide White Rock Strata, deposited 75 million years ago;
(rock towers that looked ready to fall in a strong wind)



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Dave in a Tutu (because it was TutuTuesday)-- our Hike over the Ridge



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Sophia to Left, the 4 Guides on the tied together Rafts



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

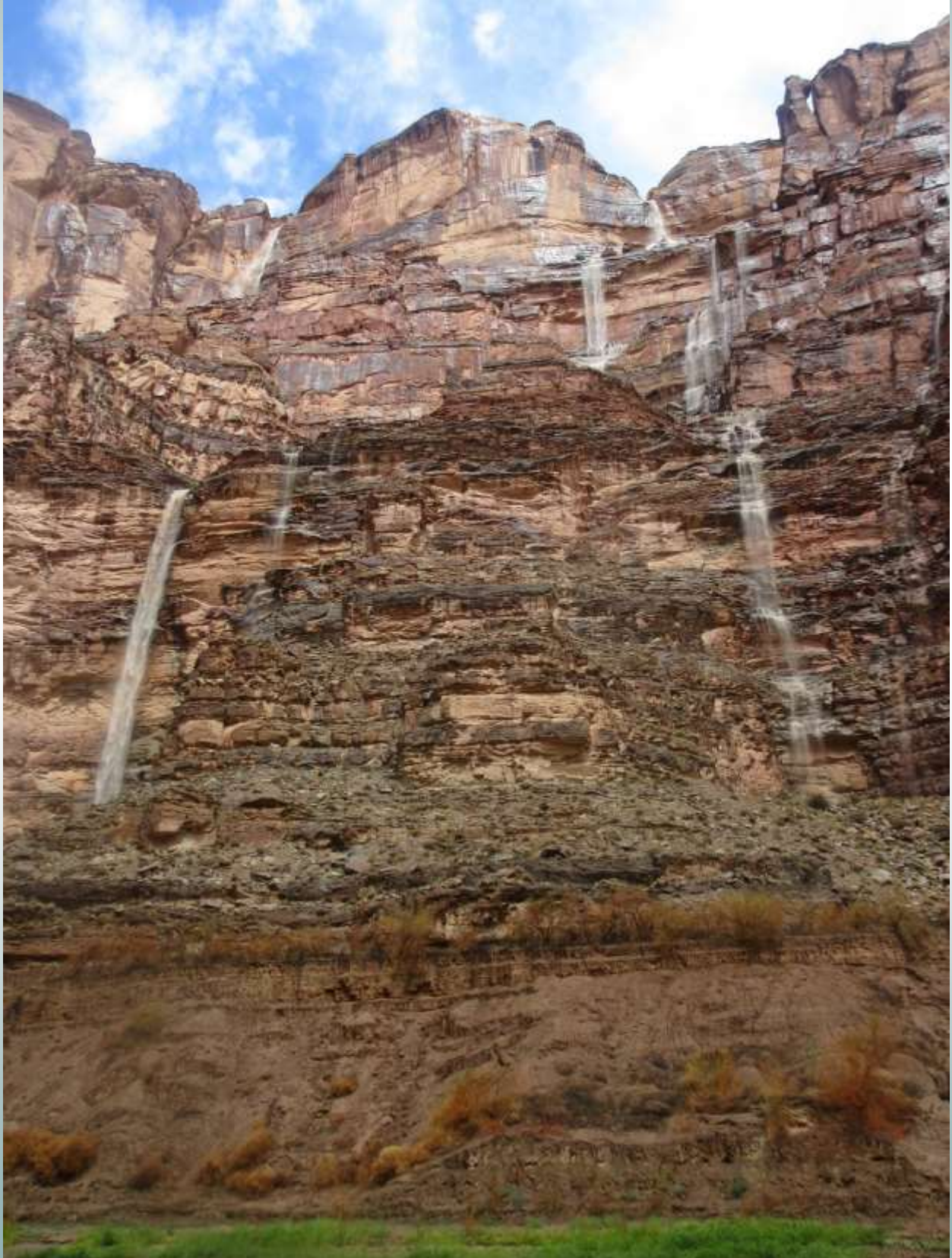
Setting up our Tents on what would be a very Windy Beach



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Some of the Ephemeral Waterfalls following the Storm



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Sophia at our Rainy Campsite



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

One of our Rafts approaches a turn late in the Day



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

5th Day, the Storm is clearing away



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

5th Day-- the Sun regains the Sky



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Last Day of the Trip, about to break Camp



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Sophia on the River



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Looking back Upstream/Uplake at the Bridge over the Colorado River



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

The Dirty Devil River flooding into the Colorado River



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Rollers to get Heavy Rafts up to Level Ground



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

Our Group gathers to board the Plane



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

From the Plane, looking back at the River, the Bridge, and the Landing Strip



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

A Winding Side Canyon in Canyonlands National Park



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

The Colorado River from the Plane back to Moab



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

The Colorado River at the base of the Cliffs



The Grand River

By Bob Adkisson

The Confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers, Canyonlands National Park

