

# TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting  
July 3, 2024

### Members Present:

John Barnes, Bill Bunch, Sandra Canepa, Bruce Davidson, Ned Kuhns, Lee Lohman, Kaci Midgette, Kama Mitchell, Jim Newman, Greg Reck, Peg Seriani, Rich Seriani, Jim Sexton, Lelia Vann and Don Williams

### Members Absent:

Brittany Collins, Kevin Dubois, Andy Grayson, Paul Heymann, Greg Hodges, Mike Martin, Sharon Salyer and John Sima

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting, with a quorum, was called to order by President Vann at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. Proceedings of Previous Meeting:** The June 2024 Board meeting minutes were accepted without amendment.
- 3. Finance:** Lelia presented the Treasurer's report for Andy. Overall, not much spending this month, so we're about even on income vice expenses for the year. No notable new budget lines that look to require attention. Balance: May balance is \$38,981.45. **Current June balance is \$39,049.75.**
- 4. Membership:** Kama Mitchell presented the Membership report. May 2024: 434 members. **Current June membership is 357 members.**
  - A friend of Bill Billings, Holt Livesay, sent a \$250 check donation and letter to TATC after hiking AT. Lelia mailed a personal Thank You note to Mr. Livesay on June 15, 2024.
  - After latest purge, we are down to 357 members with 8 new members and 8 lapsed.
  - Jim S. ran a report against lapsed memberships and found 52 that still had not paid dues since 29 February 2024. He sent out an email to these members at the start of June and sent out another email to them today (7/1) asking them to renew. Only 46 of these emails were successful since 6 members had probably already non-subscribed. Held off on archiving these members while we were processing the awards to avoid confusion.

**Action: Board Members:** More discussion needed around our membership numbers - we need to analyze the numbers to better understand them. We talked about having a membership drive, but some thought we needed to have more activities on our calendar first to attract new members. We need to link new membership with our Outreach efforts. We talked about writing News/Press Releases whenever we have an Event of notice that we push out to Pilot/local newspapers, WHRO/local news stations, etc.
- 5. Reported/Discussed:**
  - A. Trail Supervisor Report - John Sima, Trail Supervisor**
    - July 12-14: Swing blade & Lopperfest #2 [Moved to Discussion below...](#)
    - August 9-11: Swing blade & Lopperfest #3
    - October 11-13: Fall Backpacking Walk thru
    - October 25-27: Fall Maintenance
  - B. Cabin Report - Gregory Hodges/Kevin DuBois, Cabin Committee**
    - June 21-23: Cabin Maintenance - Cancelled because 1. Greg was just at the cabin and did some maintenance on a personal trip, 2. Only three people signed up and all were already qualified, and 3. Safety concern because of the heat.
    - September 13-15: Cabin Maintenance
    - November 1-3: Cabin Maintenance [Still needs a volunteer.](#)

### **C. Local Trails Report - Paul Heymann, Local Trail Supervisor**

- Planned for First Landing Live Oak / Cedar Swamp Trails. Subject to change / additions upon request of First Landing State Park.
- Thursday, July 18, 2024 John Iglodi
- Thursday, August 22, 2024 Kaci Midgette
- Thursday, September 19, 2024 Paul Heymann
- Thursday, October 17, 2024 Bob Mooney
- Thursday, November 21, 2024 Paul Heymann
- Thursday, December 19, 2024 Dave Plum

### **D. Safety Report - Bruce Davidson, Safety Committee Chair**

- Kaci and Bruce took home 8 of the older first aid kits. Many of the components are good to use and some need to be replaced. We are searching the replacement cost compared to buying new units. There are refill kits available, so we are assessing these kits.

### **E. Program Report - Lee Lohman, Program Chair**

- July 10 GMM: Guest Speaker - Don Williams on Thinking About How We Hike: Topics to Make Your Hike Better
- August 14 GMM: Guest Speaker - Ned Kuhns on Hadrian's Wall Path in England
- September 11 GMM: Guest Speaker - Pam Northam on Ryan Resilience Lab/Elizabeth River Project  
**NOTE: Our September meeting will be held at the Resilience Lab and start at tbd instead of 7 pm.**
- October 9 GMM: Awards Ceremony. **See B. under Approval Request.** (Will move Lance Deaver to 2025)
- November 13 GMM: Auction
- December tbd: Holiday Party
- January 8: Election
- February 12: Open
- March 12: Budget Presentation

### **F. Tool Shed Report - Rich Seriani, Tool Boss**

- Lopperfest #1: Made inventory, cleaned, and lubricated TATC tools stored at Sherando.
- We (Lee, John B., Lelia, Greg R., and Rich) met at tool shed on June 15. Cataloged the contents. Gave away old 10' by 20' canopy and supports on June 15. Moved social supplies i.e. paper products, etc to Lelia's personal storage. Note: Lelia will hold items NLT 2 years. If not used, she will dispose.
- Rich has all 17 swing blades at his house for sharpening. I sharpened the four True Temper ones.
- Rich has two "Caution" signs to turn over to Paul for local trails work.
- Rich labeled most of the crates and boxes in the shed to (hopefully) make it easier to locate the tools.
- And a big "thank you!" to Jim Newman for agreeing to cart to tools to the party at Devil's Backbone, aka Lopperfest 2.

### **G. Outreach Report - John Barnes, Outreach Committee Chair/Kaci Midgette, Co-Chair**

- June 22, 36th Annual Hampton Roads Pridefest & Boat Parade. [Moved to Discussion below...](#)
- October 5-6, Fall-O-Ween Festival (NN Fall Festival): Registration Accepted on 4/18/2024.
- Potential Events:
  - Great Outdoor Provision Company, tbd
  - REI, tbd
  - FLSP, tbd

**Action:** Jim Sexton agreed to add "How did you find out about us?" on our TATC membership application forms.

**Action:** Jim Sexton agreed to take a photo of the Tye River kiosk and send to John Barnes. Ned Kuhns agreed to reach out to NBATC to see if they would like to replace/add any posters to this kiosk if/when we decide to update.

**Action:** Lelia agreed to get someone to take a photo of the kiosk at the Maupin Field Shelter during Lopperfest #2 and send to John Barnes.

#### **H. Education Report - Don Williams, Education Committee Chair**

- Education committee has developed standards for writing articles. We have each selected a topic and are writing several articles simultaneously. We will review the articles and submit them to the club for publishing. We will have some articles ready for the next newsletter. They can either be published in the newsletter, or a link will be provided for readers to find the articles in the club archive. This project will be ongoing for many months.
- The first series of articles has been written. They will be published in the next newsletter. The first aid article was already made available to the Safety Committee/Bruce Davidson.

#### **I. Social Events Report - Sharon Salyer, Social Events Committee Co-Chair**

- Nothing to report this month

#### **J. Volunteer Time Report - Greg Reck, Timekeeper**

- Kudos to Lee L. and Jim S. who have provided the summary reports for the TATC Awards to the Awards Committee Chair/Jim Newman.
- Pleased that most crew leaders have successfully submitted the appropriate forms for club events since March 1.
- I'm using the TATC website calendar to identify any delinquent reports and pulse listed leaders.
- Thanks for everyone's support.

#### **K. Awards Coordinator Report - Jim Newman, Awards Coordinator**

- Volunteer hours merge by Jim S. (old excel listing with new hours collected using Lee's forms)
- Jim S. provided total hours worked on AT by individual members for ATC awards.
- Lelia submitted TATC hours worked by each member in each award category to Sara Haxby/ATC on 6/26.
  - 11 Vests (>1000 hours)
  - 24 Caps (>500 hours)
  - 62 Patches (>100 hours)
  - 72 Pins (>30 hours)
  - 55 Stickers (>3 hours)
- Working on TATC Awards next for AT (and surrounding area), Local Trail, and Cabin maintenance events.
- Paul and Jim S. merging/working on Local Trail awards list.
- Running into lapsed memberships among awardees. Awards Committee will determine how to proceed unless we hear different from the Board.
- Michelle Cobb has designed draft logos for each award: AT, Local Trails, Cabin, etc.

#### **L. Hikemaster Report - Kaci Midgette, Hikemaster**

- Looking for event leaders or event ideas.

#### **M. Merchandise Report - Mike Martin, Chair**

- No new orders since our last meeting.
- I have not made progress on sourcing new merchandise. My intent is to reach out to vendors we've worked with in the past for:
  - Pricing and turnaround for periodic bulk orders.
  - Pricing and turnaround for immediate / on-the-fly orders (example, John's hat).
  - Graphic design options (feedback from members).
- \$127 raised in June GMM. \$114 in cash sales, \$5 donation, and \$8 credit card transaction.

#### **N. Newsletter Report - Peg Seriani, Newsletter Editor**

- Aug/Sep will be sent out on August 1st. Next deadline for articles/photos will be Wednesday, [July 24th](#).

**O. Webmaster Report - Jim Sexton, Webmaster**

-Nothing to report this month

**P. Facebook Report - Bill Bunch, Facebook Master**

-575 folks have now (6/30/2024) joined the Facebook group page.

**Q. ATC RPC Report - Ned Kuhns/Jim Sexton, ATC RPC Representative**

-ATC updated the check list which is designed to help clubs

**R. Counselors Report - Bill Bunch/Sandy Canepa/Jim Newman**

-Nothing to report this month

**S. Prez Report - Lelia Vann**

-We had 15 people attend the June 13 Maker's Craft Brewery.

-We had 12 people attend the June 26 Bold Mariner Brewery. 1 person (Mark) had just joined the day before. Navy guy that loves to hike and would like to help us with trail maintenance.

- Our Lopperfest #2 is listed in the A.T. Volunteer Opportunities - July 2024 by Jessie Johnson/ATC. Bill Bunch followed by posting it on our TATC FB page. Thanks Bill!

-ATC Training invitation - Improving Trail Tread and Drainage. 3 separate training sessions: August 13-15, August 18-20, or August 23-25. Early registration now. Open to public on Friday, July 12. Let me know if you are interested and I will send you additional information.

**6. Approval Requests:**

A. Approved the July GMM Agenda.

B. Approved October 9, 2024 GMM as our TATC Awards Ceremony

**7. Discussion Items:**

**A. Lesson's Learned from Lopperfest #1 - John Sima, Bruce, Rich, Kaci, Lelia**

-We had 25 attendees with 3 new people: our new Wilderness Ranger (Michael Lowry), a new member (Jim Miller) who was in great shape, and Adam DeWolfe (friend of Lelia & Greg) that was also in great shape.

-Jim Newman provided profiles/mileage of our section of the trail so people could see what sections we were referring to with respect to Work Forms.

-We spent time talking with the attendees on Friday night and Saturday morning to find out how they felt and what they felt like working on. AND we had GREAT WEATHER. Safety with respect to InReaches -Bruce.

-Garmin InReaches were inactivated after June Lopperfest and will be reactivated for July Lopperfest!

-During the June Lopperfest, I had everyone with an InReach send me a "check in" message prior to leaving Sherando on Saturday morning. This proved very helpful in helping people with an InReach.

-Most people received an unexpected message on their InReach that "they needed to move to a clear area" indicating that their message was not send.

-I contacted Garmin and determined that we can ignore that message. That message confused a little of maintainers!

-That fact needs to be expressed at all future maintenance trip safety briefings.

**B. Lopperfest #2 - John Sima, Bruce Davidson (safety), Rich (toolboss)**

-Are we ready for Lopperfest #2 next weekend? [17+ people have signed up as of 7/2. Morgan Whitten/NAVY will bring extra troops.](#)

-We have 15 tent sites reserved at Devil's Backbone Campground near the Bath House.

-Status of InReach devices

-Status of First aid kits

-A box of Coveralls found in Tool Shed during cleanup/inventory. Coveralls are listed under the Biological Contamination section. The JHA doesn't seem to mandate coveralls except when the feces are in a very liquid state. (Lee thinks the question of whether coveralls should be worn during any privy cleaning is a Board Health and Safety policy issue.)

**Action:** Bruce Davidson agreed to research and make a recommendation on whether ATC issued Coveralls found in Tool Shed should be worn during any privy cleaning activity at AT and/or Cabin.

-Tools: Jim Newman will bring tools to Lopperfest #2 because Rich can't make the event.

**C. Outreach - John Barnes, Kaci**

- June 22, 36th Annual Hampton Roads Pridefest & Boat Parade
- Mockup of the trail maintenance signs designed by Michelle Cobb
- Updated cost information

**Reported Later:**

- July 2024 GMM had 40 people in attendance

**Adjournment:** President Vann adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.