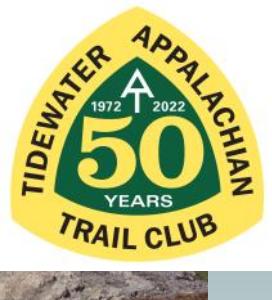


# Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

## Appalachian Hiker



Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson

### PREZ SEZ

Talk about luck, we had it at our first Swingblade and Lopperfest event which was held on June 7-9: No injuries, 25 volunteers, awesome weather, and food donated by our Trail Magic group (see "TATC Trail Magic at the Tye" article) from the previous weekend (June 1). I had offered to grill the donated hamburgers and hotdogs for our crew on Saturday night and to make omelets on Sunday morning (thanks to Libby Carmines and Sandy Butler for helping me cook/serve and to Jim Newman for providing/cleaning the grill). On the way to Sherando, Greg and I saw the sign "fresh eggs" as we were driving on Mt. Torrey Road to Sherando. We headed back there to purchase fresh eggs after I remembered that fresh eggs did not need to be refrigerated. John Sima, our Trail Supervisor, said this was the largest group for a Lopperfest event that he has ever witnessed (see his article with photos). We had three new volunteers - our new Wilderness Ranger (Michael Lowry), a new TATC member (Jim Miller), and Adam DeWolfe from PA (great friend of Lelia & Greg). Thanks to Rich Seriani, our Tool Boss, and Greg Reck who stayed at our base camp (CCC Kitchen area at Sherando Lake Recreation Area) where they cleaned out our tool storage bin, took inventory, cleaned, sharpened, oiled, and repacked our tools into the bin for future use. Thanks to Bruce Davidson, our Safety Chair, for providing InReach devices and a "check in" training session with those that carried these devices out with them in the field so they would be prepared to activate if an emergency occurred. Thanks to Jim Newman for providing profile/mileage maps of our section of the trail so people could see what sections we were referring to on the Work Sign-up 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 did I mention that we had awesome WEATHER - it was cool. Our ATC Tye River Ridgerunner, Evan Brown, camped and ate with us but he participated in an AT Outreach event in Waynesboro. Thanks again to Pete Burch. Pete is responsible for getting our firewood, taking away our trash, and ensuring our area

Aug 2024 - Sep 2024  
51th Edition, 4<sup>th</sup> Issue

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

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at CCC Kitchen was ready for our arrival. Pete also did a lot of mowing at CCC Kitchen area and at Reids Gap trail head before we got there - making our job much easier!

What a difference 5 weeks can make! Our second Swingblade and Lopperfest event was held on July 12-14 and the weather was much warmer than our last event. Our original base camp (CCC Kitchen) was planned for major renovations, so we contacted Devils Backbone to see if they were interested in letting our crew setup base camp at their facility. They generously offered us their entire "Tent City" area for camping which was across a narrow road from their relatively new bathhouse. We had 23 volunteers, no injuries, decent but warm July weather, and a brewery next door with great food. Thanks to Jim Newman for helping with our Tools since Rich Seriani/Trail Boss couldn't be there. Thanks to Michelle Cobb for designing our new TATC Working Ahead signs that we placed at Tye River and Reids Gap trailheads letting hikers know that we were working the trails. We had four new volunteers - a new TATC member Mark Chilson (Navy Senior Chief), Jacob Alexander (joined TATC at our July GGM), Morgan Whitten (Navy Lieutenant on submarine) who joined TATC when she got home on Sunday - please read "why she joined under New Members", and Andrei Pahomi (signed up via ATC advertisement). This time, Evan Brown/ATC Tye River Ridgerunner, camped and worked with us. All these new workers volunteered for our toughest assignments, and we were pleased to assist them in their requests. They all did a wonderful job and said they had fun. Thanks again to Bruce Davidson, our Safety Chair, for providing InReach devices to each group in the field. Thanks again to Pete Burch. This time he removed a fallen tree (before we arrived) that was blocking our access to the fire road at Love Gap. Thanks to Jim Sexton, one of our sawyers, for volunteering to lead a group to remove a blow down reported on the MauHar Trail. Thanks to everyone who came out to help despite the steamy weather. Last, and certainly not least, thanks to John Sima for his leadership in organizing and executing these events throughout the year. John has an understanding and appreciation of what is needed at each event and assigns leads based on the work requirements.

All our Swingblade/Lopperfest events and Fall Maintenance events have been scheduled, so please mark your calendars now as this is why we are a club - to maintain our 10.2-mile section (from Tye River to Reed's Gap) of the Appalachian Trail! If you are concerned about the level of work, please let me know and I will work with you for your assignment. We all want to have FUN while working.

Greg Hodges, our Cabin Chair, has continued to watch over and care for our treasured cabin. Please see his article for additional information and how you can help.

Even in this record heat and humidity, our members continue to help our local trails with maintenance activities. Paul Heymann, our Local Trail Supervisor, has at least one local maintenance workday each month so check out our calendar to sign up. Paul has been recruiting members to lead a maintenance event. See his article inside which highlights several of their maintenance events. Please let him know if you are interested in helping in this capacity.

Our Tuesday Group continues to keep up their commitment of holding an event every Tuesday so check out our calendar if you have Tuesday mornings available for a hike, bike, or kayak trip. Thanks to each trip leader for hosting these events.

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Our Education Chair, Don Williams, has been busy leading his Education Committee to review and update our educational documents as needed. Please check out the new/updated articles on day pack checklist, TATC Local Trails, first aid kits, guidelines for activity participation by minors, and backpacking water treatment options. These are posted on our website under Documents and/or the links are provided below.

**Day Pack Checklist**

**TATC - Local Trails - 06-29-2024**

**Article on First Aid Kits (2)**

**Revised Minor Participation Guidelines**

**Water Treatment Options for Backpacking**

In our last newsletter, I mentioned that all our Board positions had been filled. I would like to highlight some of the activities/efforts that your Board members have accomplished thus far.

I want to thank and recognize both John Barnes and Kaci Midgette, our Outreach Chair and Co-Chair, respectively, for their efforts in responding to our objective of expanding our recruiting effort to a more diverse group (age/race/gender). See their article about participating in Pridefest 2024.

I would like to thank and recognize our new Merchandise Chair, Mike Martin. He has been manning our merchandise table at our monthly meetings and moving some merchandise that we've had in inventory for some time. To help move our merchandise (mainly shirts), he is offering discounts. Please come prepared with cash or a check to get in on these deals.

I want to thank and recognize Rich Seriani for all he has done to inventory, organize, and sharpen all our Tools. Thanks to Lee Lohman, John Barnes, and Greg Reck for helping Rich with these tasks. Please thank him for a job well done!

I want to thank and recognize Andy Grayson for accepting the Land Management Chair for our section of the AT and thanks to Dave Plum who agreed to serve as an advisor to Andy in this new role.

Lastly, I want to thank and recognize Lee Lohman, our Program Chair and past President, for his tireless efforts to obtain guest speakers for our General Membership Meetings each month, for working behind the scenes on several club administrative tasks such as time forms, cabin property lines, you name it and he's working on it. Thanks, Lee, for always being there to help in any and every way possible! Please see his article as the Program Chair.

Any of you that have worked on our section of the AT and/or at our local trail maintenance events with 50 hours or more, should have already received an email or a phone call about being eligible for a TATC Award. Jim Sexton, Lee Lohman, Jim Newman, Greg Reck, Paul Heymann, and I have been adding/combining hours collected since 1990 for AT and 2000 for Local Trail maintenance events and contacting individuals about their preference

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for award options. If you have not been contacted and you have worked more than 50 hours on the AT and/or on our Local Trail maintenance events, please contact me right away so we can investigate your situation. Jim Newman, our Awards Coordinator Chair, will preside at our TATC Awards Ceremony which be held at our October 9th General Membership Meeting.

Stay safe while having fun on the trails and in the woods,

Lelia Vann President - Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

## NEWS FLASH

A friend of Bill Billings, **Holt Livesay**, sent a \$250 check donation and letter to TATC recently. In Mr. Livesay's letter, he expressed very fond memories of hiking the AT years ago!

We are most grateful for Mr. Livesay's generous donation in support of ongoing trail maintenance efforts!

*Thank You!*



## Minute for Maintenance August 2024

By John Sima

Swingblade & Lopperfests 1 & 2 were the highlights for June & July. We had great attendance for both events. 27 people showed up for Lopperfest 1 and 22 for Lopperfest 2. Those are the highest numbers that I can remember for these events. What we do in these events is trim back the vegetation growth that encroaches the trails. Ticks like to hang out on this overhanging vegetation hoping to latch on to any hiker or mammal that walks by. Lymes disease is my #1 fear on the trail, these events help prevent that.

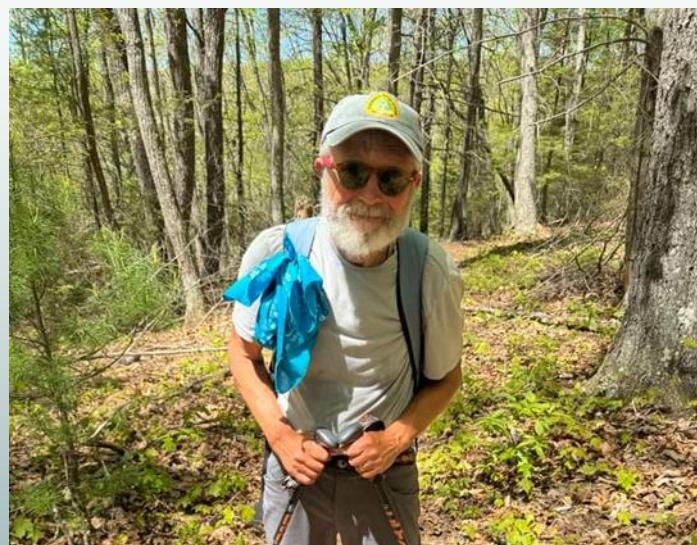
John Oaks & Greg Seid did a great job in St Mary's Wilderness, on the Bald Mountain Overlook trail (this is the trail that parallels the Parkway) during Lopperfest 1. They cleared 15 blowdowns in a 1-mile stretch. With this information, Michael Lowry (our SAWS Wilderness Ranger) and I tackled the remaining section during Lopperfest 2. We cleared an additional 19 blowdowns, a long day's work! Thanks Michael!

New members showed up for Lopperfest 2 filled with enthusiasm. This is very contagious and spread to our seasoned members. A special thank you to: Andre Pahomi, Morgan Whitten, Ron Hopkins, Mark Chilson, Keith Forbes, & Tom Mitchell.

Evan Brown, our ATC Ridgerunner lead a work crew up to the Three Ridges Summit during Lopperfest 2. Thanks Evan! I know what a tough job that was.

Devils Backbone was our basecamp for Lopperfest 2. It was great to sample their fine food & brewery products. We might have to stay there again. Many people enjoyed it.

In non-maintenance related news, Bill Murat one of our Club Members is currently thru hiking the AT. He completed the southern half of his flip/flop hike. He recently started his northern half hiking from Mt Katahdin to Harpers Ferry. If you would like to follow along, request to join his Facebook page "Pappy's Appalachian Trail Adventure".



**Bill Murat**

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**Bill Murat at Mt Katahdin**

Note, he's sporting the TATC'S 50th Anniversary bandana.



Our club is short of qualified Sawyers. We currently have only 12 qualified, one of those is out of State. If you would like to qualify, please contact me.

**Upcoming events:**

**August 9th-11th Swingblade & Lopperfest #3**

**August 23rd-25th ATC Workshop, Improving Trail Tread & Drainage, Sherando**

**October 11th-13th Fall Backpacking Walk thru**

**October 25th-27th Fall Maintenance**

Happy Trails,  
John Sima, Trail Supervisor



## Swingblade and Lopperfest 1



### Blowdowns in St. Mary's Wilderness

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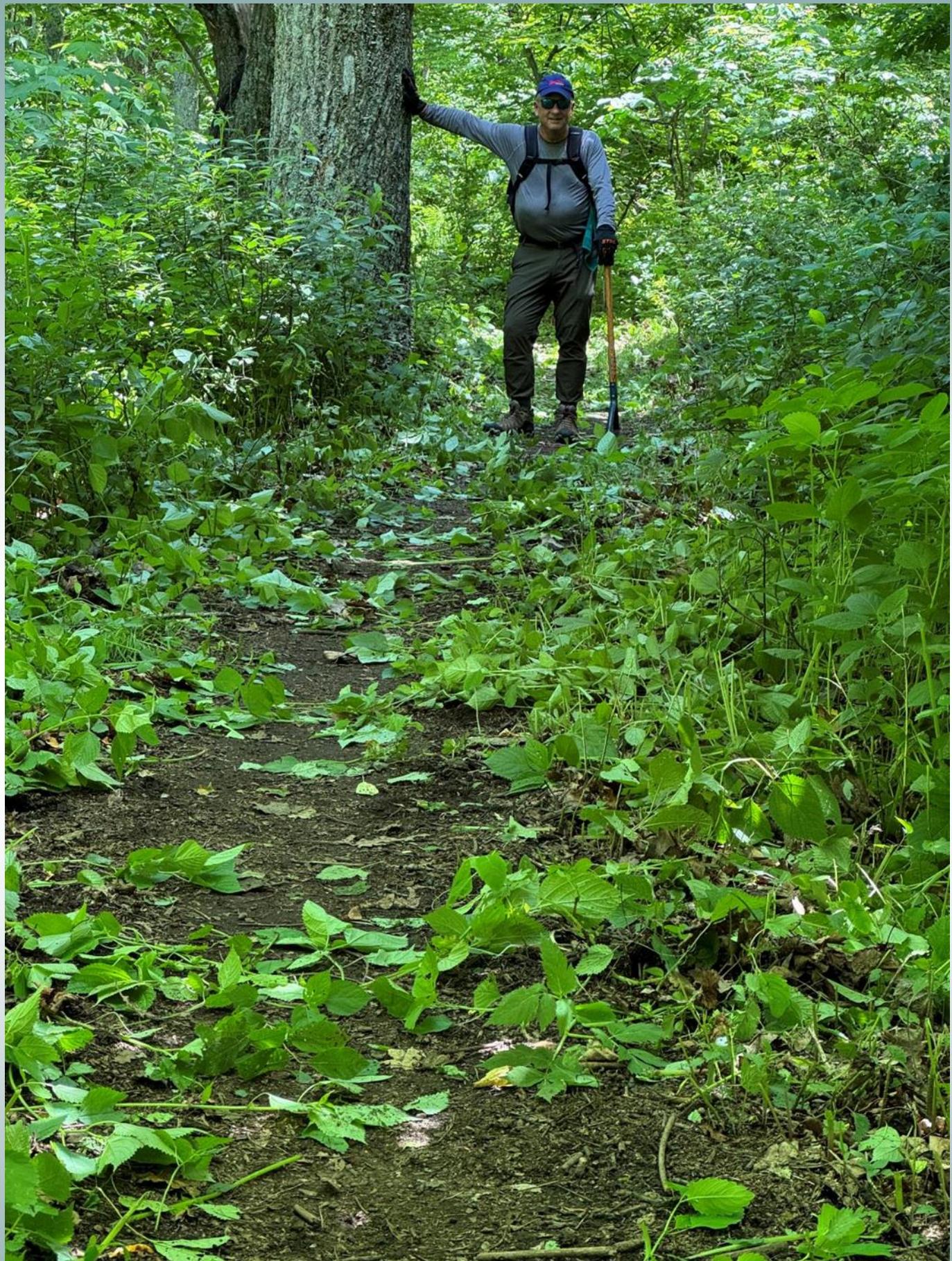
**Greg Seid & some blowdowns in St. Mary's Wilderness**

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**Greg Seid & some blowdowns in St. Mary's Wilderness**

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**Jim Dunham at Lopperfest 1 working on the top section of Three Ridges**

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**Lelia made a delicious breakfast for everyone!!**

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**Sherando Lake volunteers, campground hosts, and seasonal interns expressed their thanks to TATC for sharing our hamburger and hotdog dinner with them!!!**



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## Swingblade and Lopperfest 2



**Devils Backbone, Greg Reck, Bruce Davidson, Morgan Whitten, Paul Link, Mark Chilson  
& Andre Pahomi enjoying the Brewery**

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**John working St Mary's Wilderness Swingblade and Lopperfest 2**

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**Michael Lowry, SAWS Wilderness Ranger**

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**Michael Lowry, SAWS Wilderness Ranger working St Mary's Wilderness  
Swingblade and Lopperfest 2**

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**Clearing a blowdown during Swingblade and Lopperfest 2**



## TATC Trail Magic at the Tye

Compiled by Michelle Cobb

*"It's the best burger I've ever had in my life" - Pierre, NOBO thru-hiker from NY*

On Saturday June 1, National Trails Day, TATC volunteers staged some tasty Trail Magic for thru- and section hikers at the Tye River Bridge. Starting at the crack of dawn, and with the aid of a hand truck and the usual TATC can-do spirit, 6 coolers filled with ice, soft drinks, water, burgers, cheese, hotdogs and salads were lowered down the trail by the morning crew. Multiple tables were set up for grills, serving, hiker supplies and a charging station. Watermelon was cut on location and served ice cold. Manning the grill were Jim Newman and later, Lelia Vann, who quickly became legendary amongst the hikers, dishing up double-decker cheeseburgers with fried onions on the side. Other volunteers included Michelle Cobb, Greg Reck, Peg & Rich Seriani and Jim & Chris Sexton.



**The morning crew: Michelle Cobb, Jim Newman and Jim Sexton**

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**Jim Newman, “Big Bird” from England, Jim Sexton**



**“Judge” from the Netherlands with Michelle Cobb. Judge had just received her law degree and thru-hiking the AT was her graduation present.**

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**Grateful thru-hikers Pierre (NY), Caster (NC) and Porky (CO)**



**Peg Seriani and Lelia Vann, during the afternoon shift**

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**TATC's Peg Seriani serving up one of Lelia's famous double cheeseburgers**



**Trail magic charging station**

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A hiker supply table included freeze-dried meals, suntan lotion, insecticide, bandanas, small flashlights, tooth-brushes, and other items. In total, 31 hikers were served during the day, including 20 thru-hikers. Two were international hikers, 'Big Bird' from Shrewsbury England, and 'Judge' from the Netherlands. Pierre, from Syracuse NY, proclaimed that the TATC fare was "the best burger on the trail...no wait, it's the best burger I've ever had in my life". Pierre was glad to sit for a while in the provided chairs, actually, he sat for hours, happy to rest before ascending Three Ridges. Towards the end of the afternoon, Michelle did some watermelon outreach, crossing over the bridge to distribute leftover watermelon to a group of day hikers, while talking up the club's efforts in the mountains and in Hampton Roads. Trail Magic was over by 4, and after hoisting all the gear back up the trail, which somehow seemed steeper, everyone regrouped and headed off to Smokin' Barrel restaurant in Arrington for dinner.

Special thanks go out to the Sextons, who hosted the volunteers and supplied Friday's dinner at their Cub Creek home, and also to TATC members who helped fund this year's Trail Magic. Leftover food and drinks were used the following weekend by Lopperfest #1 volunteers, and remaining hiker items are stored for future Trail Magic.

**2024 Trail Magic donors - \$1,104 collected**

Dottie Abbott	Lee Lohman	Norman Reed
Jerry & Etta Burch	Ellis & Marti Malabad	Cecil & Sharon Salyer
Sandra Canepa	Mike Martin	Peg & Rich Seriani
Joseph Crute	Mario & Rebecca Mazzarella	Jim & Chris Sexton
Bruce Davidson	Buck Miller	Lucas Spinella
Kevin Du Bois	Tom & Dorothy Mitchell	Lelia Vann & Greg Reck
Amanda Hartwig	Mary Lou & Wayne Mortimer	Marty Vines
Bruce & Margaret Julian	Alan & Phyllis Neumann	Anonymous
Ned Kuhns	Jane & John Oakes	
Sue & Ron Leta	Dave & Rosemary Plum	



# *In Remembrance*



## **Gordon David Spence**

May 8, 1943 - July 14, 2024

One of our long-time members Gordon Spence passed away very recently. Gordon was a wonderful individual who always attended our TATC meetings and used to lead trips to the Outer Banks. He was a retired Navy Civil Engineer officer (SEABEE), and he served in Vietnam and in the Antarctic. The memorial service was held on Monday, July 29, 2024, at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church.

A copy of his obituary can be found at:

[Gordon David Spence - Cremation Society of Virginia \(vacremationsociety.com\)](http://www.vacremationsociety.com)

## Nelson County Apples

By Jim Sexton

If you plan on attending TATC's Fall AT Maintenance & Family Campout Trip at Sherando Lake or are in the Blue Ridge Mountains this Summer or Fall, you might consider stopping by a local orchard to buy or pick your own apples at one of the following locations:

### 1. Dickie Brothers Orchard - Circa 1752

2685 Dickie Road  
Roseland, VA 22967  
434-277-5516

Open: Thursday - Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday, 12 pm - 4 pm

<https://www.dickiebrothers.com>

One of Virginia's Century Farms. Apple varieties include Gala, Paula Red, McIntosh, Red and Golden Delicious, Empire, Winesap, Stayman, Rome, Granny Smith, and Fuji. Other products include cider, sweet potatoes, plums, apple butter, and pumpkins.



July 31, 2024
Currently Available:
Plums
Morris
Peaches
Loring
Tomatoes
Zucchini
Potatoes
Apple Butter
Jams/Jellies
Peanuts
Honey
Apple Fritters
Peach Donuts
Bashir's Baked Goods
and more
See you soon!
• •

### 2. Drumheller Orchard

1130 Drumheller Orchard Lane  
Lovingston, VA 22949  
434-263-5036

Open Tuesday – Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday 12 pm - 5 pm

<https://www.drumhellersorchard.com>

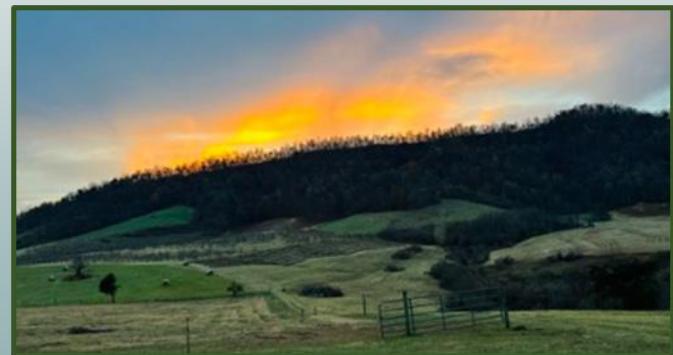
The apple packing shed showcases Red and Golden Delicious, Stayman, Winesap, Rome, York and Granny Smith, Black Twig, and Albemarle Pippin varieties. You can also find pumpkins, cider, apple butter, and honey. Special events and festivals take place in the fall. Baked goods and many other farm products, such as honey, apple butter, and ham, round out the selection.



### 3. Fitzgerald's Orchard

728 Harper's Creek Lane  
Tyro, VA 22976  
434-277-5798

Call for pick up. Red and Golden Delicious, Gala, Rome, Granny Smith, Fuji and Pink Lady's apples available in season. Bushel sales only.



### 4. Saunders Brothers Farm Market

2717 Tye Brook Highway  
Piney River, VA 22964  
434-277-5455

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Open Monday-Saturday, 9 AM-6 PM

<https://www.saundersbrothersfarmmarket.com>

Saunders Brothers Farm Market is a family-owned business that grows quality peaches, apples, Asian pears, cherries, vegetables, flowering shrubs, annuals, and perennials.

**5. Silver Creek and Seamans Orchards – Packing Shed**

5529 Crabtree Falls Highway

Tyro, VA 22976

434-277-5824

Sept. 2-30, 2024 - Mon. to Fri. 10 am-4 pm, Saturday 10 am-4:30 pm, Sunday – Closed

Oct. 1-Nov. 2, 2024 - Mon. to Fri. 10 am-4 pm, Saturday 10 am-4:30 pm - Sunday 1 pm-5 pm

<https://silvercreekseamansorchards.com>

The packing shed offers Empire, Gala, Jonathan, Red and Golden Delicious, York, Winesap, Red Rome, Stayman, Pippin, Jonagold, and Pink Lady apples, as well as apple butter, cider, honey, jellies, and pumpkins.



**Carter Mountain Orchard**

1435 Carters Mountain Trail

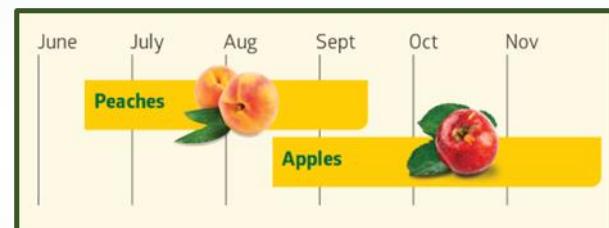
Charlottesville, VA 22902

434-977-1833

Open Daily, 9 am - 6 pm

<https://chilesfamilyorchards.com/carter-mountain-orchard/>

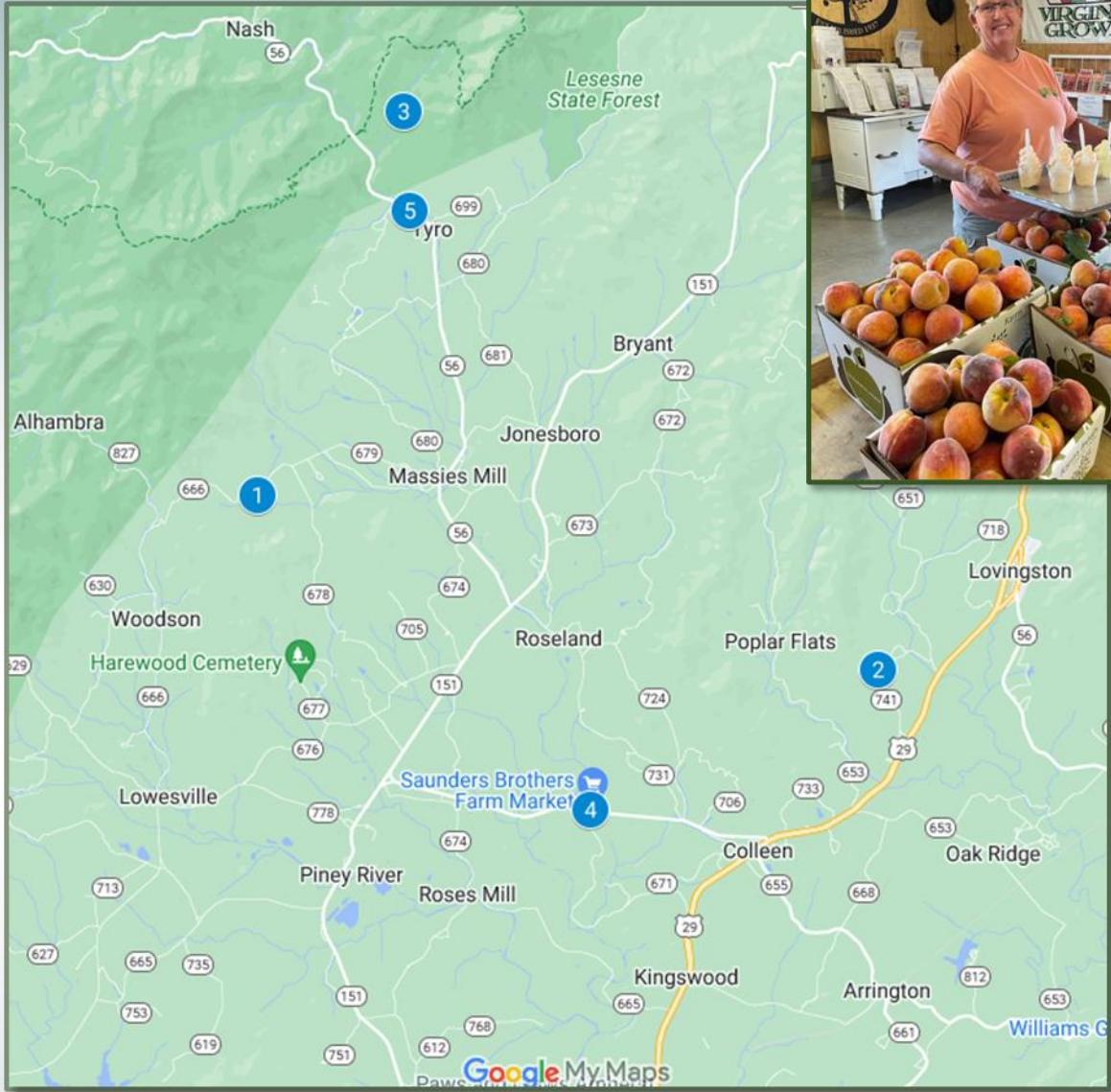
If you pass by the Charlottesville area, you can stop at the Carter Mountain Orchard next to Monticello and Michie Tavern. Open June through November, it offers Pick-Your-Own and pre-picked Peaches and Nectarines (July-August) and Pick-your-own and pre-picked Apples (mid-August through November). Its bakery serves fresh-baked pies and cookies, hand-dipped ice cream, and Apple Cider Donuts! Fresh Apple Cider, Apple Butter, jams and jellies, local crafts, pumpkins, and gourmet food products are available in the country store.



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## Nelson County Apples

### Locations:



## Let's Go Day Hiking on the AT (Part 2)

By Peg Seriani

A group of us took up Lelia's idea from the February/March 2024 newsletter article called "Let's Go Day Hiking on the AT" where she gave 7 different suggestions for a weekend of day hiking. We chose the Deer Head Inn in Delaware Water Gap, PA and had a terrific time hiking the AT in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The inn also had live jazz music in the evenings and a fantastic restaurant. It was truly a great weekend.

Here are 2 new suggestions for a late August or September trip:

1. **Grayson Highlands and/or Mount Rogers staying in Damascus, VA** (known for the small ponies, the Creeper Trail, and Trail Days). We can have several day hikes and/or bike the creeper trail. We could stay at the Damascus Old Mill Inn. We could also stay in Abingdon where there's more to do but the AT goes through the town of Damascus.



**Distance:** 12.3 miles

**Level of difficulty** is Intermediate/Difficult

**Elevation highest/lowest points:** 5474' high and 4352' low

**Cumulative elevation gain/loss:** 1872' gain and 1872' loss

Grayson Highlands: A.T. – Pine Mtn Loop Hiking Trail, Marion, Virginia ([hikingproject.com](http://hikingproject.com))



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## 2. Reid's Gap to Tye River

Another possibility for a day hike would be our section of the AT from Reid's Gap to Tye River. We could have cars at both ends of the trail and stay overnight at Sherando Lake Recreation Area camp ground.



**Distance:** 10.5 miles

**Level of difficulty** is Difficult

**Elevation highest/lowest points:** 3972' high and 971' low

**Cumulative elevation gain/loss:** 3684' gain and 1978' loss

**AT:** [Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club \(VA\) Hiking Trail, Nellysford, Virginia \(hikingproject.com\)](http://hikingproject.com)

**Please let us know if any of these hikes interest you enough to participate. Contact**

**Peg (me) at [newsletter@tidewateratc.com](mailto:newsletter@tidewateratc.com) or Lelia at [lelia-vann@gmail.com](mailto:lelia-vann@gmail.com) or whenever you see us at a meeting or an event.**

Peg Seriani



## Bamboo Big Whack Attack

*By Paul Heymann, Local Trails Chair*

The TATC continues its partnership with First Landing State Park (FLSP). On Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 14 TATC members put in a total of 42.5 hours, cutting back invasive bamboo on the park side of the Kendall Street fence. The weather was hot, but fortunately the grove of Live Oak trees provided some nice shade. About half of the bamboo remains to be cut. It is possible another work day will be scheduled, with assistance from Park Volunteers (perhaps a team from the U.S. Navy). Thanks to these club members: John Barnes, Brenda Butler, Dean Firth, Paul Heymann, Patricia Kimball, Lee Lohman, Mike Martin, Kaci Midgette, Benjamin Spinella, Lucas Spinella, John Oakes, Dave Plum, Rick Sylvia and Ysabel Wells.



**Two-man team on the park's steel blade Weed Wacker. 1 person to cut, 1 person to pull cut stalks out of the way. (John Barnes, Paul Heymann)**

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**When up to you're a\*\* in alligators..... Dave Plum keeps up a steady pace.**



**Rick Sylvia takes a water break. Temperatures were in the 90's but working under the Live Oak trees provided some relief.**

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**Kaci Midgette, Lucas & Benjamin Spinella took turns swinging on a wild grape vine.**



**John Oakes swings a mean sword blade. Lee Lohman and John attacked the eastern flank of the bamboo grove.**

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**Mike Martin works to liberate a Live Oak Tree from a mass of vines and bamboo.**



**Cut bamboo was stacked in a windrow along the fence. More remains to be cut, which may be a future continuation.**



## Bamboo Whack Attack III

By Paul Heymann, Local Trails Chair

The TATC continues its support of First Landing State Park (FLSP). On Wednesday July 17, nineteen sailors from the USS Ford (Carrier CVN 78), plus one teen daughter, made a final assault on the Kendall Street bamboo grove. Working from 8:30 to 11:00 AM, with loppers, machetes, and the gas-powered blade cutter, the crew made quick work of the 1/4 acre of bamboo that remained after June 20 & 22. This completes the project which began back in March. FLSP staff can now spray any reemergent shoots, to keep this invasive species under control. Thanks to our Navy service members, and to Lee Lohman for helping lead these great young volunteers!



**Bamboo, steep slopes, and vines were no match for these guys!**

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**This sailor wielded a mean machete, in lieu of loppers.**



**FLSP provided a steel blade cutter - a big help. Safety gear was worn.**

*(Continued on Next Page ...)*



**BEFORE (June 22)**



**AFTER (July 17)**

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The crew from USS Ford CVN 78 gets their “land legs” back! A few sailors grabbed the QR code from our new trail sign.



## TATC at Hampton Roads 36th Annual Pridefest

*By Kaci Midgette*

*Photo by John Barnes*

This past June was Tidewater Appalachian Trail Clubs first time attending Hampton Roads' largest LGBTQA+ event. Our outreach committee agreed that diversity and inclusion is one of the top priorities for growing our membership. What better way to reach the community than going out into it? Despite the intense heat advisory, we had so many volunteers that our tent was packed. Those that couldn't work it still came by to say, "hello". We were placed in the Family Pride section, closer to Waterside and near that fantastic splash pad that provided temporary relief from the heat. Honestly, it was so hot that by the time you walked the thirty feet back to our tent the water had already evaporated. Those that attended or helped to get our amazing club into this event all agree that we should be representing ourselves at HR Pridefest annually, if they'll have us. Here in Tidewater, the LGBTQA+ people represent a large portion of our community, and our club can only benefit by embracing everyone, spreading awareness and showing support. Thank you to all the amazing members that endured those hot hours to make sure our first Pridefest was a huge success, you made a meaningful impact! For those of you that are interested in getting involved with other events or want to stay in tune with the community here is the link: [Hampton Roads Pride.](#)



## TATC Cabin Report

By Gregory Hodges

Dear Cabin Maintainers and Renters,

### DOUGLAS PUTMAN LEGACY

I want to share something that I find very amazing. The family of Douglas Putman, the individual that the cabin is named for, continuously supports and uses the cabin. Some family members donate to the cabin. And, there is one family member that uses the cabin once or twice per year.

### GOOD NEWS

I would like bring to your attention two bits of good news:

1. Denete Tracy has put together an amazing, robust First Aid kit using her own money. This far exceeds the smaller automobile First Aid kit that we have had at the cabin. Thank you to Denete for her time, effort, and resources to make the cabin a much safer place. Please see attached image of the First Aid kit.



2. Carol and Gregory Hodges (me) purchased a Coleman coffee pot that fits over the Coleman 2-burner stove. I was able to put it through a trial run over the last weekend at the cabin. It works great. It takes about 20 minutes to brew a full pot of coffee. It takes regular filters and about 1 Tablespoon of coffee grinds per cup of coffee. There is a laminated one-page instruction in the coffee pot box. Please see attached image of the coffee pot in use at the cabin.

*(Continued on Next Page ...)*



#### **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

There is one thing that I would like to bring to your attention. The woodpiles are not being replenished enough. Please see the attached images. In November 2023, there was an overflow of people working the firewood cutting trip to down dead trees and then cut and stack the woodpiles. There are plenty of visible woodpiles to pick from. Please be mindful on your next trip when you burn firewood for the stove and the fireplace.



*(Continued on Next Page ...)*

JUNE had ZERO cabin reservations, which means there is no revenue to report. The only expense incurred was \$9.21 for a ball catch that will be installed during the next maintenance weekend for the toilet paper holder in the outhouse. The ball catch locks the coffee can that covers the toilet paper into place. JULY has seen ONE cabin reservation. This was the niece of Douglas Putman, namesake of the cabin, who rents the cabin once per year. AUGUST has 9 nights of reservations amongst 3 different reservations. Remember that cabin rentals are FREE through August to encourage people going to the cabin to keep an eye on it during the slow months.

The next cabin maintenance and orientation trip is September 13-15. There are currently 6 people signed up including both members of the cabin committee.

Cabin maintenance trips for 2024 are scheduled:

Friday, September 13th, thru Sunday

Friday, November 1st, thru Sunday

**Here are some important cabin links (see the TATC website for more information):**

Cabin Availability Schedule: <https://www.tidewateratc.com/Cabin-Schedule>

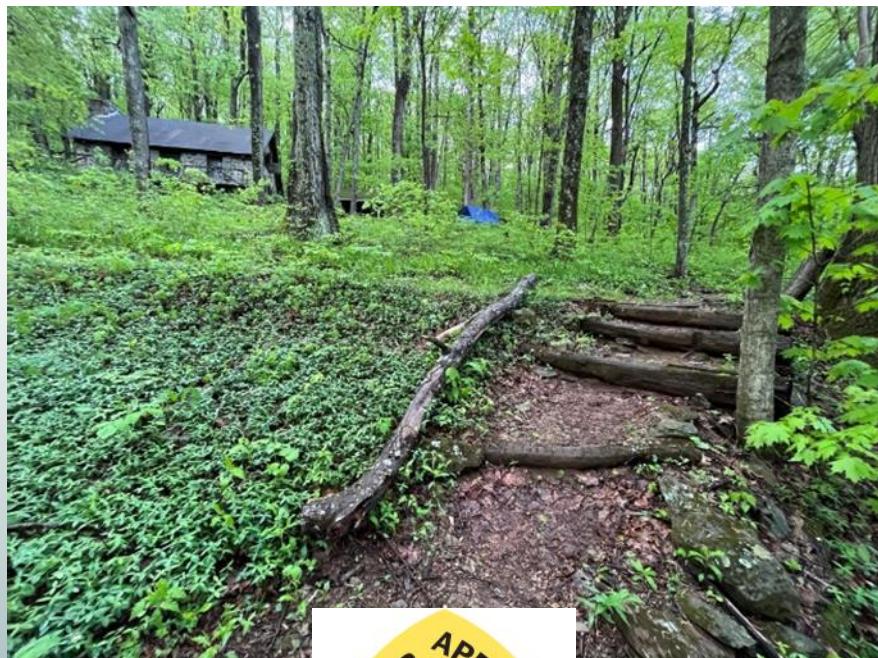
Cabin General Information: <https://www.tidewateratc.com/General-Information>

Cabin Rules: <https://www.tidewateratc.com/Cabin-Rules>

Thank you to all the members of the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club for supporting the cabin. Please consider renting it, especially during the slow months of July and August because it is always helpful to have people keeping an eye on our beautiful property.

Breathe and smile,

Gregory Hodges, Cabin Chair, 757-439-1552



## Membership Matters August 2024

*By Kama Mitchell*

WELCOME NEW MEMBER, Morgan Whitten!

Morgan Whitten: “I joined the Swingblade and Lopperfest this weekend and had a great time, so I was excited to join the club! I heard about TATC from Lelia Vann and Greg Reck.

I grew up in an American household in Stuttgart, Germany. My family loves the outdoors, but my childhood was too consumed by sports to do much hiking. After high school, I studied French at the Sorbonne in Paris, where I spent much of my time in parks and gardens. Then I moved to the US to study Environmental Science at Harvard, where I began hiking with the Harvard Outing Club. As a trip leader, I led fellow students on hikes in the White Mountains. (I even led an “outdoors” first-year orientation program over Zoom during the pandemic school year.) My biggest backpacking trip to date was the Tour du Mont Blanc with a college friend a few summers ago.

After graduating in 2021, I commissioned as a Naval Submarine Officer, which brought me first to Charleston, and then to Norfolk last August. Further away from the mountains, I’ve dabbled in surfing and sailing, but still prefer the trail over all else.

Looking forward to meeting everyone!”

## Upcoming Programs

*By Lee Lohman, Programs Chair*

-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 6:30 pm instead of 7 pm.

-October 9 GMM: Awards Ceremony

-November 13 GMM: Auction

-December tbd: Holiday Party

-January 8: Election

-February 12: Open

-March 12: Budget Presentation



## Tool Talk

By Rich Seriani, Tool Boss

Well, I certainly didn't know what I was getting into when I agreed to be Tool Boss back in February! I thought I'd just need to straighten up a little and take an inventory of the tools. Then as I started digging deeper into the many storage totes and people started bringing back tools and supplies that they were either using or storing for the club, it quickly became apparent just how much stuff the TATC owns and how much I was going to be responsible for tracking and maintaining. I'm really enjoying digging into the tools, learning how to clean and sharpen them, and finding some club history along the way, such as, old maps, photos and even an email about the relocation of the Mau Har to Tye River trail.

The Club's trail maintenance tools and outreach supplies are stored in a roughly 100 square foot self-storage shed in Portsmouth, VA and a small storage locker at Sherando Lake Recreation Area near Lyndhurst, VA.



Cleaning the local shed started small with disposing of 23 hard hats that were well past their useful life, some as many as 28 years old! The club donated bow saws to a local Scout troop and Lelia generously offered to store the electronic equipment – projectors, a video recorder, P.A. System, etc. – in her personal storage until we can find a permanent home for it.

(Continued on Next Page ...)



The major cleanout happened in June when Lelia, Greg, Lee, and John Barnes joined me on a Saturday morning to empty the storage unit, sort through everything, and help decide what we would keep. We got rid of expired COVID supplies, a canopy that hadn't been used in over a decade, and miscellaneous gear that is just no longer useful to the club. Lee's meticulous inventory shows that we have over 40 different types of trail maintenance items totaling over 200 individual pieces of equipment in the tool shed.



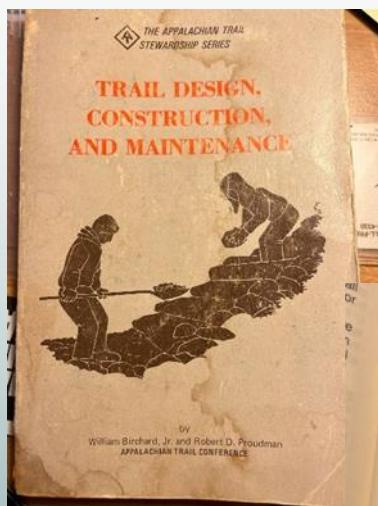
After taking stock of what was left, we had the pleasure of putting everything back in the shed. We were happy to see that we now have some empty storage totes and space to move around.

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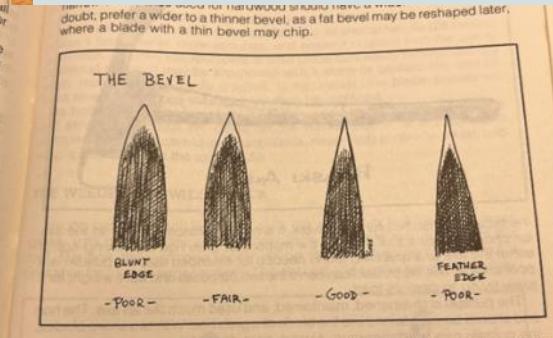
I mentioned finding some club history earlier. I found this picture, obviously not taken in the wilderness, of someone clearing a tree in August 2011.



While being Tool Boss is a bit more work than I was anticipating, I'm totally enjoying it. I'm discovering a whole new world of tool maintenance that I didn't know existed before with the help of YouTube videos that show different approaches to sharpening loppers and cleaning crosscut saws. As well as using the various TATC documentation and books such as the "Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance" manual.



I love learning new skills that let me get my hands dirty, and there's something meditative about sharpening swing blades by hand. I hope I can continue to help keep the shed organized and those tools sharp for everyone who joins us during trail maintenance.



If the handle breaks, cracks, or splinters, or if the head of the axe becomes loose and cannot be tightened, replace the axe handle. Saw off the old handle at the head. Put the head in a vise and drill a number of holes into the pieces of wood still in the eye to relieve the pressure of the wedge. Then drive the pieces of wood out of the eye with a blunt punch.





## NWSI 2024 Session Recordings Now Available!

### **BACKCOUNTRY SKILLS**

**Axe, Wedges, and Associated Tools** - <https://youtu.be/S8VWZltCSIs>

**Care and Maintenance of Crosscut Saws** – <https://youtu.be/EqlKP2Aqv-A>

**Beyond Band-Aids: Unveiling Your Ultimate Wilderness Medical Arsenal**

– [https://youtu.be/1\\_FG0NA1XBY](https://youtu.be/1_FG0NA1XBY)

**Paper and Poop in Our Public Lands: Research-Based Solutions**

– <https://youtu.be/p50nEcLLv4E>

**Backcountry Brilliance: An Expert Panel's Tips, Tricks, and Insights on Essential Gear, Connecting with Visitors, and Traveling Overnight for Stewardship Work**

- [https://youtu.be/l\\_mxCpUmig0](https://youtu.be/l_mxCpUmig0)

**Link to 2024 Sessions with Descriptions:**

<https://wildernessskillsinstitute.org/nysi/2024-sessions/>



## TATC Merchandise Catalog

You can order TATC shirts, polos and hats online from the [TATC website](#)  
or buy them at the monthly [General Membership Meetings](#).

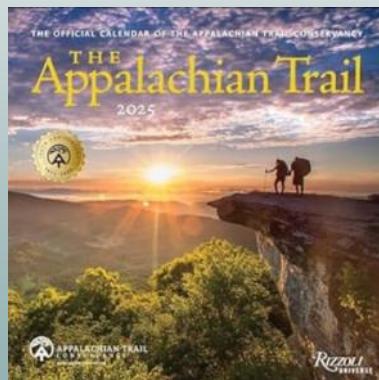


[ORDER YOURS](#)

## ATC Trail Store

### Appalachian Trail Conservancy Calendar 2025

The official Appalachian Trail Conservancy 12" x 12" wall calendar for 2025 features professional photography by users of the Trail! Order yours today from the Official A.T. Store.



[ORDER YOURS](#)



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**Sep 6 CPR/AED (\$75)** in **Charlottesville, VA**

**Sep 7 - 8 In-Person** in **Charlottesville, VA**

**Sep 15 All Online Skills Scenarios Workshop (SSW)**

**Sep 21-22 In-Person** near **Washington DC**

**Oct 19 All Online Skills Scenarios Workshop (SSW)**

**Oct 19 1-day Hybrid SSW** near **Washington DC**

**Nov 9 & 16 In-Person** in **Eden, UT**

**Nov 15 CPR/AED (\$75)** near **Charlottesville, VA**

**Nov 16-17 In-Person** near **Charlottesville, VA**

**Nov 17 All Online Skills Scenarios Workshop (SSW)**

**Dec 14 1-day Hybrid SSW** in **Charlottesville, VA**

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### Lighthouse Brushstrokes: Art & History Tour



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### Bee-utiful Experience: The Beekeeper's Tour

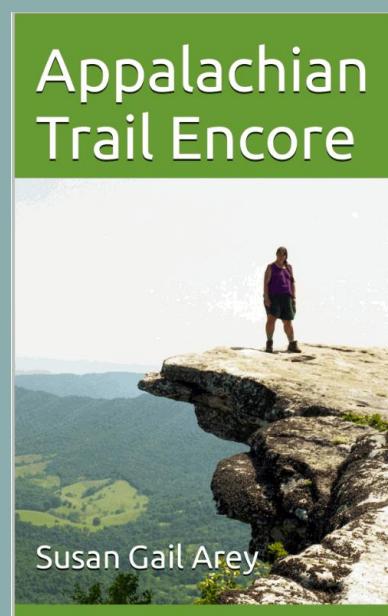
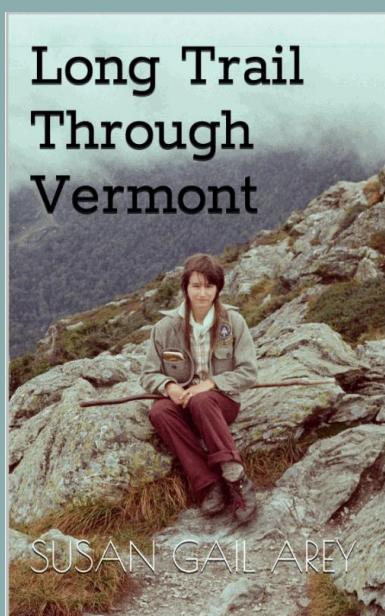
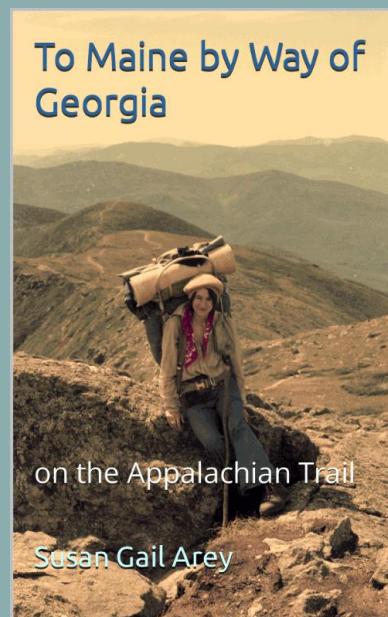
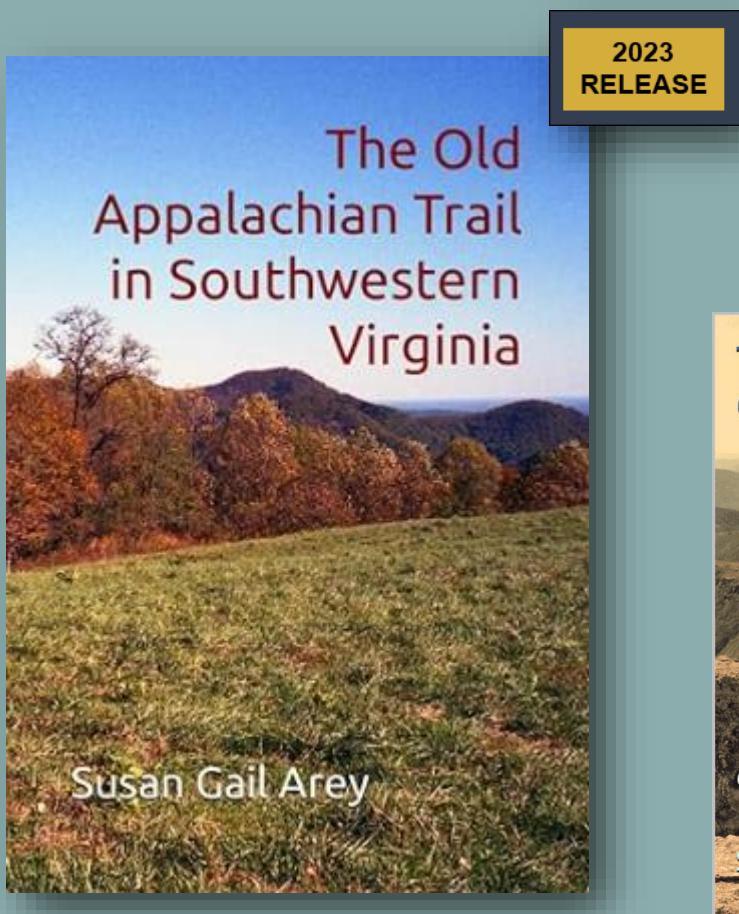


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## Books on Hiking by Susan Gail Arey

Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) as Print or E-books



# 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.

## **Kayak Safety Training-Charlie & Sherri**

When: Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Where: 64th Street Boat Ramp of First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Description: Kayak Class: Basic Strokes & Safety Training- Sherri & Charlie

Meet at 9:00am at the 64th Street Boat Ramp of First Landing State Park for a 9:30am start. This is a participatory class. Sherri has passed her ACA Kayak Instructor I and Charlie is an ACA Kayak Instructor III. Sherri will teach basic kayak strokes and Charlie will teach safety and rescue. We will be going into the water and you will get wet.

### **PREREQUISITES**

Please watch the following videos from the website below prior to class:

Forward Stroke, Reverse Stroke, Forward Sweep, Reverse Sweep, Low Brace.

Optional videos: Stern Rudder, Edging <https://www.riverwindkayak.com/strokes-videos-new/>

9:00am: Meet at the 64th Street Boat Ramp of First Landing State Park to unload kayaks and sign in.

9:30am: Sherri On land orientation, kayak & paddle nomenclature, basic strokes.

10:00am Sherri On water basic strokes: Forward Stroke, Reverse Stroke, Forward Sweep, Reverse Sweep, Stop, Low Brace. (As time allows: Stern Rudder, Edging.)

11:00am Charlie On land orientation, safety issues & hazards, weather conditions, hypothermia & hyperthermia.

11:30 Charlie On water basic rescues: Wet Exit, Scramble/Cowboy/Cowgirl, Paddle Float Self-rescue, Heel Hook Rescue.

**BRING:** Personal Flotation Device (PFD) MUST be worn when on the water. Kayak, PFD, Paddle, Lunch/

Snacks, Water, Hat, Sunscreen, Bug spray. THIS TRIP IS LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS! Contact Sherri to sign up: Dr.SharonMcQueen@gmail.com

## **TATC Board Meeting**

When: Wednesday, August 7, 7pm – 9pm

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503

Description: TATC Board Meeting

Our board meetings are held at the Episcopal Church of the Advent. Please use on-street parking.

Contact Lelia Vann at [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com) if you have any questions.

## **Swingblade & Lopperfest 3**

When: Friday, August 9th– Sunday, August 11th

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

Location: TBD

Description: Details TBD.

To sign up or for more information, contact: John Sima, TATC Trail Supervisor, [trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com](mailto:trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com) or Brittany Collins, TATC Asst Trail Supervisor, [assistantts@tidewateratc.com](mailto:assistantts@tidewateratc.com)

**Visit our TATC Calendar**

*(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, August 14, 7pm – 9pm

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting

Our meetings are held at the Episcopal Church of the Advent. Please use on-street parking.

Contact Lelia Vann at [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com) if you have any questions.

## **Norfolk Urban Bike Ride-S & S**

When: Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Where: Picnic Oak Ave, Norfolk, VA 23504

Description: Meet at 9:15 am; depart at 9:30. Rendezvous at Lafayette Park in Norfolk (near the Zoo on Granby Street). Park entrance is off of Granby St. at 38th – there's a traffic light here - turn on LaValette, opposite 38th Street, go about 200 yards and turn right into the park entrance. For the breakfast crowd, meet at 8:30 at the MacDonald's on Granby, about ¼ mile north of LaValette. Before leaving Lafayette Park, we can use the public bathroom there or at the nearby McDonalds on Granby. Other bathroom stops at Nauticus and/or at Waterside.

Ride Description: We'll first twirl through the historic Riverside neighborhood and experience the urban landscape of several other older Norfolk neighborhoods, and then on to the Waterside District via the Elizabeth River Trail from West Ghent. We will cycle the bike lane over the Berkley Bridge, checking out another neighborhood. We'll jump on the ferry (with bikes) to Portsmouth and have lunch at a restaurant TBD. Afterwards, we'll hop the ferry and return to Waterside for ice cream. From there we'll head back via the Hague footbridge and sashay around Ghent on our way back to our cars at Lafayette Park. Brief stops could include the large koi pond and Asian gardens at the Pagoda and an unusual War Memorial near the Half Moone Cruise terminal. This route is mostly on low traffic streets, but there are a few places where we'll be on streets with moderate traffic. We'll need to stay together (safety in numbers) on the more trafficky streets, many of which now have designated bike lanes. This route is about 18-20 miles.

Bring sunscreen, bike locks, helmet, water, and snacks. The ferry costs \$1 each way (exact change) for seniors (over 65); \$2 (exact change) each way for the younger crowd. And, of course, bring money for lunch and ice cream. To sign up contact Stephanie: [stephaniestringer15@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniestringer15@gmail.com) or Steve: [waldo1089@gmail.com](mailto:waldo1089@gmail.com)

## **TATC Coffee Break - Happy Hiker Hour - Café Stella Roasters – Norfolk, VA**

When: Wednesday, August 21st - 6:00-8:00 pm

Where: 1907 Colonial Ave, Norfolk, VA 23517

Website: <https://cafestellaroasters.com/>

Description: Join TATC Members on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.; TATC will hold a Happy Hiker Hour at Café Stella in Norfolk. Café Stella serves bistro cuisine, cafe fare, entrees, coffee and specialty drinks, juices, wine, beer, and desserts.

No sign-up is necessary; just show up. POC – Jim Sexton

**Visit our TATC Calendar**

*(Continued on Next Page ...)*

# Activities Schedule

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

## **TATC Board Meeting**

When: Wednesday, September 4, 7pm – 9pm

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503

Description: TATC Board Meeting

Our board meetings are held at the Episcopal Church of the Advent. Please use on-street parking.

Contact Lelia Vann at [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com) if you have any questions.

## **TATC General Membership Meeting**

When: Wednesday, September 11, 7pm – 9pm

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting

Our meetings are held at the Episcopal Church of the Advent. Please use on-street parking.

Contact Lelia Vann at [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com) if you have any questions.

## **Cabin Maintenance & Orientation Weekend**

When: Friday, September 13th, thru Sunday, September 15th, 2024.

Description: TATC Douglas Putman Memorial Cabin Maintenance & Orientation Trip.

This is the 3rd of 4 annual trips to do maintenance work and to provide orientation to members so that they can be qualified to rent the cabin. If you have questions or want to participate, please contact trip leader, Gregory Hodges, at [cabin@tidewateratc.com](mailto:cabin@tidewateratc.com) or at (757) 439-1552. Call or text is fine.

## **North Bend Camping Outing-S&S**

When: September 15 – 18, 2024, The nights of SUNDAY SEPT 15, MONDAY SEPT 16, TUESDAY SEPT 17; break camp WEDNESDAY SEPT 18. As always, feel free to arrive earlier or stay longer.

Where: North Bend Park & Campground, Kerr Lake; 64 North Bend Drive, Boydton, VA 23917. ~ 2½ hours from Norfolk.

\*\*\*IMPORTANT>>YOU MUST NOTIFY STEPHANIE DIRECTLY IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THIS EVENT\*\*\*

DESCRIPTION: Camp, hike, bike (both in the park and on the local low traffic roads) and paddle. Several of the sites are on either little beaches or have easy access to water for boat launching. There are also several official swimming beaches (no lifeguards). Well behaved woofers are also welcome (on leashes, of course). They have great bathrooms and showers too. Learn more about this park here:

[https://www.virginia.org/listing/north-bend-park-campground-john-h-kerr-reservoir-\(buggs-island-lake\)-us-army-corps-of-engineers/8240/](https://www.virginia.org/listing/north-bend-park-campground-john-h-kerr-reservoir-(buggs-island-lake)-us-army-corps-of-engineers/8240/). We like the C loop, but you're free to choose your own site. There's plenty of room to park your canoe or kayak at the C loop beach during your entire stay, and most of us do that. These are non-electric sites, but there are several sites with electricity nearby that will accommodate an RV. For the tent sites, most accommodate 2 tents/6 people; 2 cars. For a fee, you can add another car. If there's nothing available in loop C, nearby sites are available and all are close enough to be part of the group!

[\*\*Visit our TATC Calendar\*\*](#)

*(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.

Note: Check in is 4 PM. If you arrive early, the folks at the front gate will let you check in IF your site is available. If it's not, you can either wait at the gate, or pay a day use fee to drive into the campground, but you won't be able to set up your tent until the previous guests leave.

You need to make and pay for your own reservation—and cancel it if necessary. The sooner you make your reservation the better chance you have for getting one of suggested sites. Reserve your site at <https://www.recreation.gov> (if this won't open, just google Recreation.gov and search for North Bend Park). The non-electric sites are \$24 a night. Cancellation policy: I believe there's a \$10 cancellation fee and maybe forfeiting one night depending when you cancel. Be sure and read their cancellation policy on this same site. [https://recreationonestopprod.servicenowservices.com/external?id=kb\\_article&sys\\_id=194e0f21db9177c0c571740d0f96190b](https://recreationonestopprod.servicenowservices.com/external?id=kb_article&sys_id=194e0f21db9177c0c571740d0f96190b)

**NOTE:** If you have an Interagency Lifetime Senior Pass (for those of us over 62), or other pass, be sure and use it when making your reservation. You can get up to a 50% discount off your camping fee! Here is more info: <https://www.fs.fed.us/visit/passes-permits/recreation-fees-passes>

Bring canoes/kayaks and PFDs, bikes and bike helmets, tents, camping gear, games, food for your meals. We'll do potluck heavy appetizers for Sunday's evening meal, and a potluck dinner Monday, Sept 16. Please bring sharable items! Breakfasts and lunches are on your own. For those interested, Tuesday night dinner will be at a nearby restaurant...Pinos, if they're still open. There's a small convenience store for ice and other stuff about 2-3 miles away. SIGN UP BY: no deadline, but reserve your site sooner than later if you want one of the 'preferred' sites. To sign up or for more info email Stephanie at [stephaniestringer15@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniestringer15@gmail.com) or Steve at [waldo1089@gmail.com](mailto:waldo1089@gmail.com) or call/text—Stephanie - 228-5704. Steve – 359-8868.

Be sure to review the park reservation/cancellation policy and reserve your campsite!

## North Bend Day Trip Bike/Paddle-S&S

**WHEN:** TUESDAY SEPT 17 9:30 at Loop C for biking; we'll depart Loop C at 10am for the ride.

**WHERE:** North Bend Park, Kerr Lake; 64 North Bend Drive, Boydton, VA 23917 ~ 2½ hours from Norfolk. Take RT. 58 West and it's about 15-20 minutes past South Hill. GPS will get you there!

Please read the description for the North Bend Camping Outing (Option 1) to get general information about this trip. If you can't camp, please join us for one day at North Bend for the Tuesday Group event!

**DESCRIPTION:** On Tuesday, Sept 17, we'll be biking from the C loop heading out at 10 am. Helmets are required. Please arrive at the Park by about 9:15, get your day pass and drive to loop C, site 159. On the ride, we'll cross the dam and head to a day park; round trip is ~14 miles, but there are plenty of options for longer rides. You can also bring your boat, and paddle around our cove or out into the lake. Or both! Come for the ride and then head out in your boat! Or just bring your boat and arrive anytime! PFDs are required..

# 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.

Learn more about this park here: [https://www.virginia.org/listing/north-bend-park-campground-john-h-kerr-reservoir-\(buggs-island-lake\)-us-army-corps-of-engineers/8240/](https://www.virginia.org/listing/north-bend-park-campground-john-h-kerr-reservoir-(buggs-island-lake)-us-army-corps-of-engineers/8240/). NOTE: If you have an Interagency Lifetime Senior Pass (for those of us over 62) be sure and bring it; I'm not sure if you get half price on the day pass like we do for camping, but it's a good idea to have it. Here is more info: <https://www.fs.fed.us/visit/passes-permits/recreation-fees-passes>. Bring canoes/kayaks and PFDs, bikes and bike helmets, food for your lunch. If you stay for dinner, we're planning to go out to nearby restaurant...Pinos, if they're still open. Otherwise, TBD. On your way to the campground, you'll pass a small convenience store on your right about 2-3 miles before the gate. You can get ice, snacks and other food there. To sign up or for more info contact Stephanie at [stephaniestringer15@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniestringer15@gmail.com) or Steve at [waldo1089@gmail.com](mailto:waldo1089@gmail.com) or call/text—Stephanie – 228-5704. Steve – 359-8868.

## **Hike at Fort Monroe**

When: Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00am – 12:30pm

Description: Fort Monroe Walk/Hike

Time: 10:00 am to around 12:30 pm (for the walk/hike)

Location: We'll meet in the parking lot Northeast of Oozlefinch Brewing (81 Patch Rd, Hampton, VA 23651), near the corner of Patch and Pullman roads at 10 am, with a planned start at 10:15.

Description: This will be an approximately 4 mile mostly flat walk through the fort and then along the bulkhead from the Chamberlin up to the Paradise Beach Club and then back to our starting point. We'll be making brief stops at many of the historical locations that are part of the Fort Monroe tour as well as a planned stop about 1/4 of the way along our walk at Firehouse Coffee for caffeine/soda/ice cream, etc. for those that might want a refreshment. The weather in late-September can be unpredictable, so dress accordingly and consider sunscreen. This is a family and dog friendly event. Please email Andy Grayson at [apkandm1@gmail.com](mailto:apkandm1@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend. For those that are interested, we can check out the offerings at Oozlefinch (and associated food trucks), after the walk.

## **TATC Board Meeting**

When: Wednesday, October 2, 7pm – 9pm

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503

Description: TATC Board Meeting

Our board meetings are held at the Episcopal Church of the Advent. Please use on-street parking.

Contact Lelia Vann at [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com) if you have any questions.

**Visit our TATC Calendar**

*(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, October 9, 7pm – 9pm

Where: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave Norfolk, Virginia 23503

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting

Our meetings are held at the Episcopal Church of the Advent. Please use on-street parking.

Contact Lelia Vann at [president@tidewateratc.com](mailto:president@tidewateratc.com) if you have any questions.

## **Fall Backpacking Walkthru**

When: Friday, October 11, 12pm – Sunday, October 13, 12pm

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

Description: Details tbd

## **Fall Maintenance**

When: Friday, October 25, 12pm – Sunday, October 27, 12pm

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

Description: Details tbd

## **CBES 31st Between the Waters Bike Tour**

When: Saturday, October 26, 7:30am – 5:30pm

Where: Historic Onancock School, 6 College Ave, Onancock, VA 23417

Description: The Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore are hosting their 31st Between the Waters Bike Tour, come experience it with TATC! TATC will be carpooling from the South entrance of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

For more information or to register: [CBES Registration Link](#). If you have any questions contact TATC POC Bruce Davidson: [bruce.davidson3@verizon.net](mailto:bruce.davidson3@verizon.net)

## **Cabin Maintenance & Orientation Weekend**

When: Friday, November 1st, thru Sunday, November 3rd, 2024.

Description: TATC Douglas Putman Memorial Cabin Maintenance & Orientation Trip.

This is the 4th of 4 annual trips to do maintenance work and to provide orientation to members so that they can be qualified to rent the cabin. If you have questions or want to participate, please contact trip leader, Gregory Hodges, at [cabin@tidewateratc.com](mailto:cabin@tidewateratc.com) or at (757) 439-1552. Call or text is fine.

[\*\*Visit our TATC Calendar\*\*](#)

# TATC Officers & Board

Position	Name	Email Address
President	Lelia Vann	<a href="mailto:president@tidewateratc.com">president@tidewateratc.com</a>
Vice President	Kaci Midgette	<a href="mailto:vicepres@tidewateratc.com">vicepres@tidewateratc.com</a>
Treasurer	Andy Grayson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@tidewateratc.com">treasurer@tidewateratc.com</a>
Secretary	Peg Seriani	<a href="mailto:secretary@tidewateratc.com">secretary@tidewateratc.com</a>
Trail Supervisor	John Sima	<a href="mailto:trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com">trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com</a>
Assistant Trail Supervisor	Brittany Collins	<a href="mailto:assistantts@tidewateratc.com">assistantts@tidewateratc.com</a>
Counselor	Jim Newman	<a href="mailto:counselor@tidewateratc.com">counselor@tidewateratc.com</a>
Counselor	Bill Bunch	<a href="mailto:counselor@tidewateratc.com">counselor@tidewateratc.com</a>
Counselor	Sandra Canepa	<a href="mailto:counselor@tidewateratc.com">counselor@tidewateratc.com</a>
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Alt ATC RPC Representative	Jim Sexton	<a href="mailto:rpcrep@tidewateratc.com">rpcrep@tidewateratc.com</a>
Cabin Committee	Gregory Hodges	<a href="mailto:cabin@tidewateratc.com">cabin@tidewateratc.com</a>
Education	Donald Williams	<a href="mailto:education@tidewateratc.com">education@tidewateratc.com</a>
Facebook	Bill Bunch	<a href="mailto:facebook@tidewateratc.com">facebook@tidewateratc.com</a>
Hikemaster	Kaci Midgette	<a href="mailto:hikemaster@tidewateratc.com">hikemaster@tidewateratc.com</a>
Land Management	Andy Grayson	<a href="mailto:landmgt@tidewateratc.com">landmgt@tidewateratc.com</a>
Local Trails	Paul Heymann	<a href="mailto:localtrails@tidewateratc.com">localtrails@tidewateratc.com</a>
Membership	Kama Mitchell	<a href="mailto:membership@tidewateratc.com">membership@tidewateratc.com</a>
Membership	Sharon Salyer	<a href="mailto:membership@tidewateratc.com">membership@tidewateratc.com</a>
Merchandise	Mike Martin	<a href="mailto:merchandise@tidewateratc.com">merchandise@tidewateratc.com</a>
Newsletter	Peg Seriani	<a href="mailto:newsletter@tidewateratc.com">newsletter@tidewateratc.com</a>
Outreach	John Barnes	<a href="mailto:outreach@tidewateratc.com">outreach@tidewateratc.com</a>
Outreach	Kaci Midgette	<a href="mailto:outreach@tidewateratc.com">outreach@tidewateratc.com</a>
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Programs	Lee Lohman	<a href="mailto:programs@tidewateratc.com">programs@tidewateratc.com</a>
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Timekeeper	Greg Reck	<a href="mailto:timekeeper@tidewateratc.com">timekeeper@tidewateratc.com</a>
Tool Boss	Rich Seriani	<a href="mailto:toolboss@tidewateratc.com">toolboss@tidewateratc.com</a>
Webmaster	Jim Sexton	<a href="mailto:webmaster@tidewateratc.com">webmaster@tidewateratc.com</a>



Visit our TATC Facebook group page.

We invite you to create a post and upload photos of any club related activity.



## Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Group Page

Follow the journeys of two AT thru-hikers, Bill Murat and Melanie Wood, and read their posts on our TATC Facebook group page.



Also please send TATC events to [hikemaster@tidewateratc.com](mailto:hikemaster@tidewateratc.com) for inclusion in the club schedule and the next newsletter.  
Please consider sponsoring a club event this Summer/Fall.



## PHOTOS -- Swingblade and Lopperfest 1

*Photos by Mike Martin and Greg Reck*

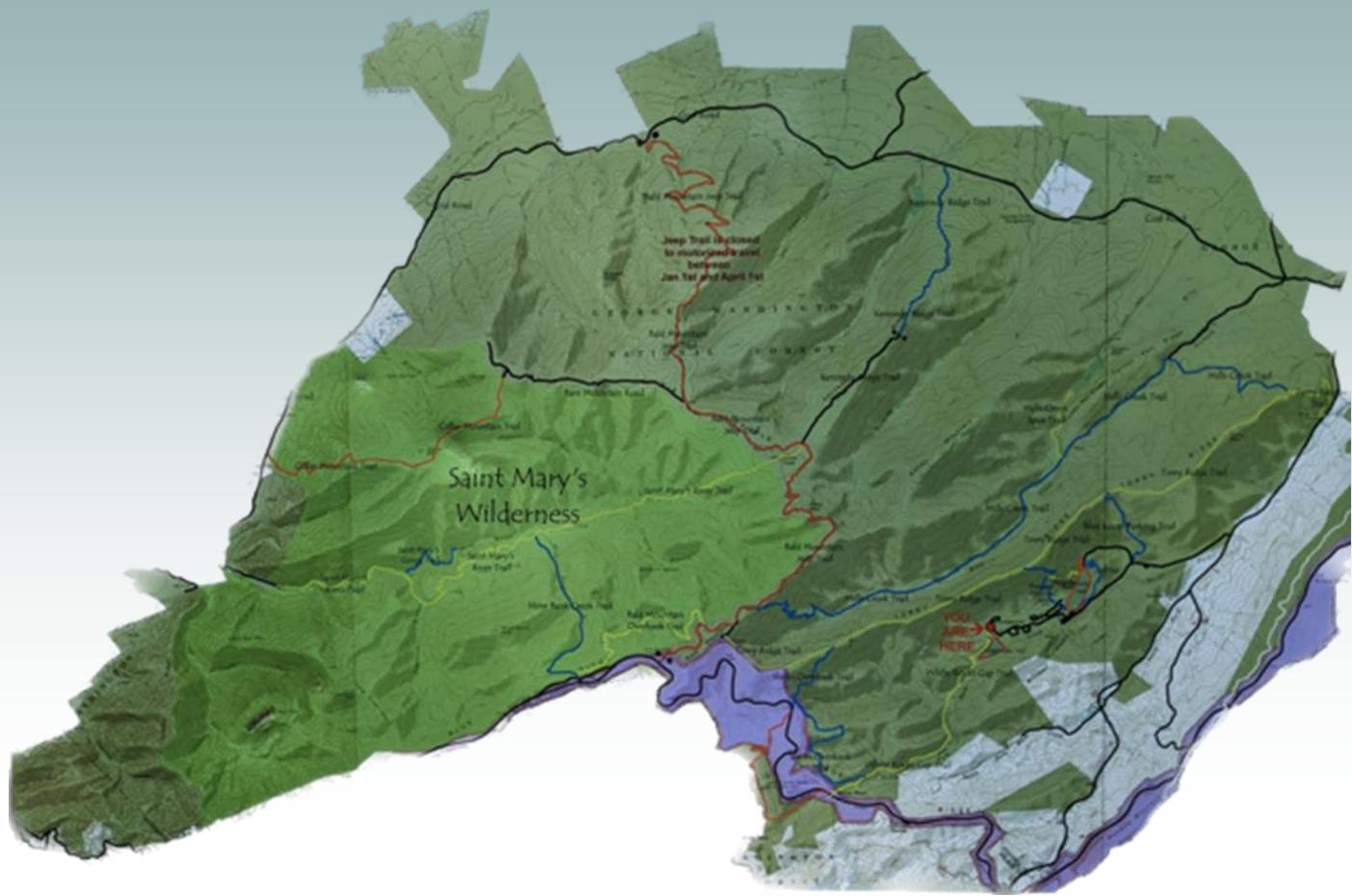


**Bridgette**



**Greg Reck liked the way this photo captured the light of the CCC Kitchen.**

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**MAP provided by Bruce Davidson showing so many trails wiggling through the Saint Mary's Wilderness area. Lot's more to explore!**

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## PHOTOS -- Swingblade and Lopperfest 1

*Photos by Peg Seriani*



**Rich, Greg, Bruce and Mike**

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**Paul, John and Libby**

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**Reviewing the signup sheets**



**Jim and Michael**

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## Starting to gather around for the Safety Briefing



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**John giving the group a safety brief before we begin trail maintenance**

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**Bruce instructing the group on how the InReach devices work**

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**Swingblade and Lopperfest 1 Group at CCC Kitchen**

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**Bruce, Paul and Lori starting the hike at the Tye River trailhead**

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**Swing blading the trail**

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**Paul and Lori**

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**Paul trimming a low branch**

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**Lori demonstrating how to properly prune a branch on a small tree**



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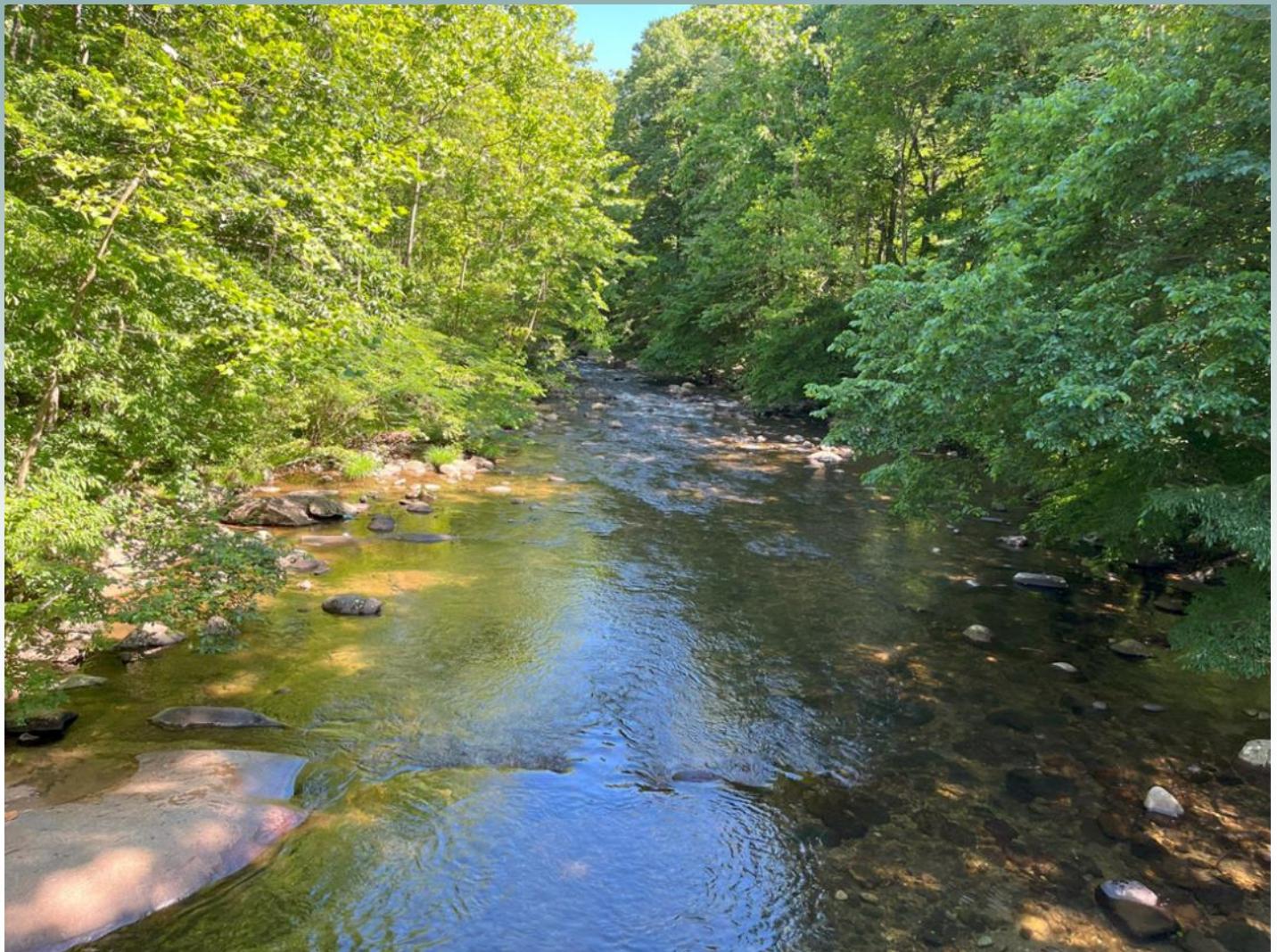
**Paul cutting a large vine**

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**End of the day... crossing the Tye River Bridge and heading back to camp**

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The beautiful Tye River

