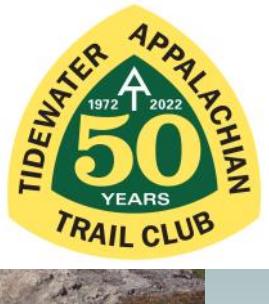


# Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

## Appalachian Hiker



Banner Photo by Mark Ferguson



### PREZ SEZ

On Friday, September 27, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Blue Ridge Mountains, causing significant damage. In some areas, the storm dumped up to 30 inches of rain, while peak sustained winds reached up to 60 miles per hour. On September 30th, we received a reassuring update from our Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) counterparts. They informed us that their staff had been accounted for, and the Appalachian Trail (AT) was closed from Springer Mountain to Rockfish Gap until an assessment of the potential hazards caused by Helene could be conducted.

Fortunately, our section of the AT, spanning from Tye River to Reid's Gap, was relatively spared from the worst of the storm's impact. This allowed us to conduct our Fall Backpacking Walk-Thru event on October 11-13, which served as an opportunity to assess the condition of our section of the trail. While we encountered some blowdowns, the number of trees felled was manageable, providing us with excellent cross-cutting opportunities during our major Fall Maintenance event held on October 25-27. These fallen trees also played a crucial role in positioning us to provide valuable experience to individuals interested in obtaining certification or recertification as sawyers which was scheduled for November 9-10 and November 23, respectively. (Please refer to John Sima's article for more information.)

I would like to express my gratitude to all attendees of the Fall Maintenance event and recognize the dedicated dinner crew leaders. Sharon Salyer and Catherine Fowler planned and executed the complimentary dinner. Cecil Salyer skillfully handled the grill with the assistance of Paul Heymann and Pete Burch. Numerous others contributed to the preparations, setup, and cleanup. Additionally, I want to express my appreciation to everyone who generously contributed desserts. The food was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees, particularly those who had put in a significant amount of effort on the trails.

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**Dec 2024 - Jan 2025**  
**51<sup>st</sup> Edition, 6<sup>th</sup> Issue**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PREZ SEZ	1-3
Minute for Maintenance	4-8
Update on Trail Awards	9-11
Sawyer Certification at	12-14
TATC Education Corner	15
A Beautiful Weekend for Cab-	16-21
Fall Maintenance on AT: Reed's Gap toward Maupin	22-23
TATC ATC Clean-Up 20 Oct 24	24
TATC's November Auction:	25
TATC Cabin Report	26-28
Holiday Party	29
Membership Matters	30
Upcoming Programs	30
Walkabout Outfitter	31-33
TATC Merchandise	34
Medic Solo	35
The Nature Bus	36
Susan Gail Arey Hiking Books	37
Activities Schedule	38-40
TATC Officers & Board	41
TATC Facebook Group Page	42
PHOTOS	43-68

(Continued from Previous Page ...)

Thank you, John Sima, for your exceptional leadership as the Trail Supervisor during the 2024 year. Your dedication is invaluable to the organization. Of course, John cannot do this alone. I would also like to express my gratitude to Rich Seriani, our Tool Boss, for ensuring our tools are always in optimal condition. This includes cleaning, oiling, sharpening, organization, inventorying, and transportation to and from our events. Bruce Davidson, our Safety Chair, plays a crucial role in maintaining the safety of our events. This includes ensuring that our InReach devices are functioning properly, providing training to others on their use, conducting check-ins and check-outs during events, and performing other safety-related tasks. Finally, Pete Burch takes on the responsibility of preparing our event camping area for our arrival. This includes providing ample firewood, toilet paper, and clean facilities. Check our calendar now as our 2025 AT maintenance trips have been planned. Please mark your calendars so that you can continue to help us out.

Our Awards Ceremony was held during our October 9th General Membership Meeting. Following the customary welcoming of new attendees and an overview of forthcoming events, Jim Newman presided over the ceremony, honoring our members for their dedicated volunteer service hours both on AT trails and within our local community. For further details and photographs, please refer to Jim Newman's article.

Greg Hodges, our Cabin Chair, has been diligently watching over and caring for our cabin. He led our final Cabin Maintenance trip from November 1st to 3rd, accompanied by another full house that included some camping enthusiasts. During this trip, the group cut firewood and performed various maintenance tasks to ensure the cabin is well-prepared for the upcoming winter months. Please refer to Greg's article within for more details. Our cabin holds immense value to us, and I strongly encourage anyone who is qualified to consider renting it. If you're not yet qualified, I highly recommend taking the necessary steps to become so by attending one of the maintenance trips offered in 2025. Thank you, Greg Hodges, for your exceptional leadership as the Cabin Chair during the 2024 year!

Our Silent Auction, a success in accordance with popular demand, was held on November 13th at our General Membership Meeting venue. This event provided an opportunity for approximately 30 members to donate their well-preserved hiking, biking, kayaking, camping, and other outdoor gear. Notably, several members contributed freshly baked goods, including delectable pies, which garnered higher bids. The total amount raised by the auction was \$1000, with TATC securing a substantial profit. We extend our gratitude to our Program Chair, Lee Lohman, for his efforts in organizing another exceptional event that was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. For further details, please refer to Lee Lohman's article within.

Since the last newsletter, our Education Committee has crafted and revised several additional documents. Refer to them under the TATC Education Corner article within.

In our previous newsletter, I highlighted several Board members for their dedication and invaluable contributions. I intend to continue this tradition in this issue.

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I extend my gratitude to both Kama Mitchell and Sharon Salyer, our esteemed Membership Co-Chairs. Their unwavering efforts in processing membership dues and facilitating connections between new members and counselors have been instrumental. Additionally, Kama's proactive role in collecting and distributing our mail for our box is highly appreciated.

I also wish to recognize Ned Kuhns, our Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) representative to the ATC's Virginia Regional Office (VARO). The RPCs serve as a crucial communication link between AT-maintaining clubs and ATC's Regional Offices, agency partners such as the US Forest Service and National Park Service, and community partners. Their focus is on matters of importance to the strength and sustainability of the AT club partners. Ned has dedicated years to representing TATC and has earned the respect of all organizations involved. Furthermore, Jim Sexton assumes the role of our alternate RPC representative, ensuring that we are adequately supported and represented.

I would like to express my gratitude to Greg Reck for his contributions as our Timekeeper. Greg dedicated countless hours to meticulously completing all the necessary forms for the fiscal year which ended on September 30th. His efforts were instrumental in successfully submitting all the volunteered time recorded on the AT and other Forest Service or Park Service lands by our members. We extend our appreciation for his exceptional work.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge Paul Heymann, our Local Trail Chair, for his dedication to organizing the maintenance events on our local trails. In the near future, he plans to hold a couple of Saturday maintenance events to accommodate those that work during the weekdays and would like to help out with trail maintenance.

We cordially invite all members to join us for our Holiday Party, scheduled for December 14th, commencing at 6 pm. There is a \$5 charge per person to help offset the cost of the event. Our Social Co-Chairs, Sharon Salyer and Catherine Fowler, have arranged for us to celebrate this festive occasion at The Cove in Virginia Beach. The Bright Rhodes Band will provide entertainment as we enjoy a potluck dinner.

The annual TATC elections will be held on January 8, 2025, at the General Membership Meeting (GMM). The Nominating Committee (Lee Lohman-Chair, Bill Bunch, and Cecil Salyer) will distribute the slate of candidates via email blast on December 19th. Should the Committee fail to secure a nominee for each position, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the January GMM. For individuals interested in serving on the Board, please contact Lee Lohman or myself.

In closing, I hope everyone had a memorable Thanksgiving and, if possible, participated in Bill's hike, A Shore Thing, on Black Friday. As we welcome the New Year, we plan to offer additional weekend hiking events that will not conflict with our major AT maintenance events. Don Williams will hold another Beginner's Backpacking event, and we will continue to host our popular Happy Hiker Hour social events and the Tuesday Group's weekly events. Should you have any interest in leading an event, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Stay safe and enjoy the trails responsibly. We hope to see you at The Cove on December 14th. Happy hiking,  
Lelia Vann , President

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

## Minute for Maintenance December 2024

By John Sima

### Hurricane Helene Recovery

TATC was fortunate to have what I would consider as routine storm damage from hurricane Helene. Other clubs in the South were not so fortunate. It took us 4 trips to clear the damage on all of our trails in the mountains.

Tom Meree and Paul Link lead an initial trail assessment trip on the AT and the Mau-Har trails the first weekend in October. Since the Blue Ridge Parkway was closed, that limited their entry point options. Tom being Tom, couldn't just document the blowdowns he found. His crew cleared at least 8 blowdowns.

The following weekend we had great weather for our backpacking walkthrough. The Parkway was open. Yay! We split into three groups. Kari Pincus, Michael Boso, Mike Martin, Tom Mitchell, Mike Camlet, Mathew Improtta and I tackled the Three Ridges loop. Randy Smith volunteered to lead a group of Don Williams and Bob Veverka into St Mary's Wilderness to scout that area. Jim Sexton investigated the AT up from the Tye River. All provided reports to myself so we could have a plan of attack for Fall Maintenance.



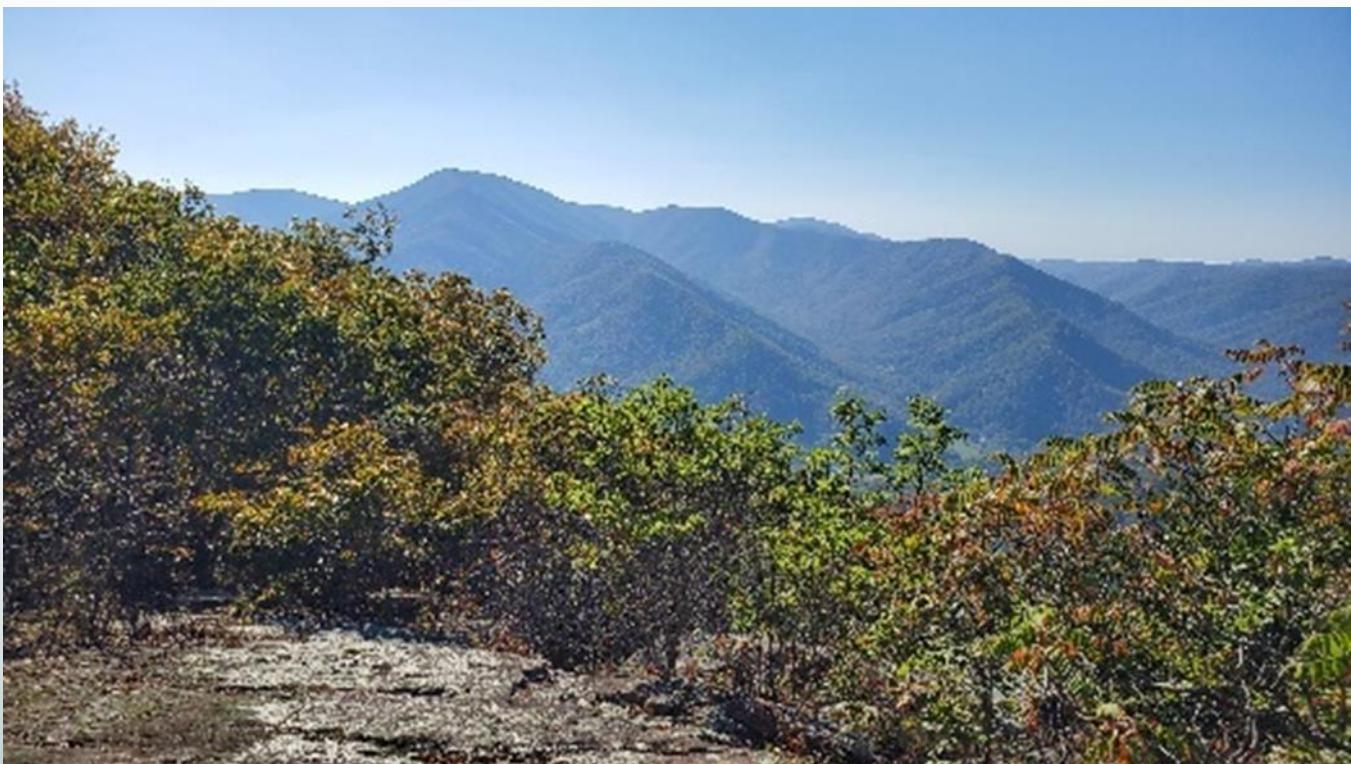
**Mike Martin & Matthew Improtta at Hanging Rock**

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**Matthew Improta taking a break at Three Ridges Summit**

**View of the Priest Mt from Flat Rock**



The AT backpacking trip went really well. We had some first-time backpackers on the trip, they really enjoyed it and learned a lot. We cleared quite a few blowdowns and even filled a large root ball divot which was now part of the trail.

Fall Maintenance we were graced with another perfect weather weekend. The leaves were near their peak for color. It was pretty routine since we had a plan of attack from our walkthroughs. 65 people showed up, our largest turnout post Covid.

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Andy Grayson led a Sawyer crew on the Mau-Har trail to tackle a nasty 24" blowdown which ran parallel to the trail. That meant that this tree had to be cut up into many sections to move it off trail. Work went well and they actually finished early which surprised me. We had many other crews out doing routine maintenance. We arrived back at camp to a well-received dinner organized by Cathy Fowler and Sharon Salyer. Sunday, Amanda Hartwig, Randy Smith, and I headed out to remove one last blowdown just north of Harpers Creek Shelter. I felt relieved to have everything on the To-Do list checked off.



**Jacob Alexander & Chris Horgan removing a blowdown on the Mau-har trail**



**Amanda Hartwig on the AT**

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**Mau-Har (Campbell creek) waterfall**

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During the Fall Cabin Maintenance firewood cutting trip we typically go for a hike in the afternoon after the work is done. I volunteered to lead a hike on the Whiterock Falls trail since we couldn't get to it during Fall Maintenance. I brought Sawyer equipment just in case. Erichsen, Spencer Layne, Thomas Heenan, Lyndsay Lindon and I were surprised to encounter 15 blowdowns which we took care of. Some of these were quite large, we had to be quite inventive to pry the cut sections off the trail. We worked together like a well-oiled machine clearing blowdown after blowdown.

Sawyer Certifications were held at Sherando the 2nd and 3rd weekend of November. We have been trying to get one held at Sherando for quite a while. Our other options are a much greater drive. All the attendees enjoyed the trip and learned a lot. Safety is our number one concern which was a priority during these Certifications.

**2025 Upcoming Events:**

Winter Maintenance. TBD, pending ice storms

Sawyer Certification. TBD early Spring. Location will be either Sherando or Cave Mountain.

April 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Spring AT Maintenance

June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Swingblade & Lopperfest #1

July 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Swingblade & Lopperfest #2

August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Swingblade & Lopperfest #3

October 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Fall AT Maintenance

Happy Trails,

John Sima, Trail Supervisor



## Update on Trail Awards

by Jim Newman

What a night! Our October general meeting was one for the books!

While various groups were receiving their trail awards, the remaining audience was kept entertained by viewing a continuous loop of old-to-modern TATC slides featuring cabin construction to August 1964 sling-blading. Reviews were most positive, especially from Greg Reck---"I noticed a general brightening of faces as bundles were tossed to recipients! A most successful presentation.Thanks."

Now that my head is back to regular size, let it be known that a funny man cannot succeed without being able to stand on the shoulders of the other members of the Awards Committee who produced substance: Jim Sexton, chairman and Lelia Vann, president spent hundreds of hours bringing things to date. Others were invaluable on the challenging recovery: Lee Lohman, Bill Bunch, Kaci Midgette, and Paul Heymann, and yes, Jim Newman. P.S., Unclaimed awards will be brought to monthly meetings through May, 2025. After that items go to inventory.

### RECIPIENTS OF THE TATC AWARDS

#### Golden Pulaski

Adkisson, Bob 1234

Kuhns, Ned 2016

Malabad, Marti 1200

Sima, John 1003



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### Cap

Abbott, Dottie 545	Hayes, Pat 622	Oakes, John 514
Allen, Carl 296	Higgins, Mal 794	Pisone, Margaret 436
Babor, Steve 478	Horrell, Michael 613	Pruden, Nancy 268
Bontems, Laura 573	Julian, Bruce 390	Rinkenburger, Nancy 567
Bunch, Bill 613	Kononov, Svetlana 384	Seid, Greg 608
Burch, Pete 604	Lynn, Bill 762	Smith, Randy 597CC
Butler, Sandra 867	Mario, Mazzarella 264	Stephenson, Juliet 343
Cary, Rosanne 750	Martin, Ed 486	Tarr, Richard 581
Connolly, Mark 772	Martin, Jane 350	Van Zant Mark 322
DeAmond, Jenny 415	Neumann, Alan 357	Wilson Michael 292
Deaver, Lance 745	Newman, Jim 932	
Grayson, Andy 518	Oakes, Jane 362	

### Water Bottle

Atkison, Lee 54	Katz-Hyman, Tsvi 52	Salyer, Cecil 60
Cobb, Michelle 56	Link, Paul 63	Sexton, Chris 54
Cramer, Christina 56	Mazzarella, Rebecca 68	Smith, Ann 73
Cramer, Tom 60	Mitchell, Wayne 52	Welp, Judy 76
Crute, Joseph 54	Parker, Patricia 56	Williams, Gwyn 52
Homes, Martha 60	Perlin, Eion 52	Zareski, Robin 59
Jones, JP 54	Rosenthal, Steve 56	

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### T-Shirt

Abrams, Ryan  
Cary, Douglas  
Clayton, Steve

Collins, Brittany  
Hall, Lisa 232  
Meree, Ed 175

Reck, Greg 174  
Stone, Henry 212  
Vann, Lelia 179

### Patch

Leta, Ron 36  
Atkison, Linda 48  
Bailey, Faye 48  
Billings, Bill 38  
Brown, John 38  
Carr, Donna 32  
Heymann, Paul 26

Jones, Harriett 38  
Leber, Bill 44  
Leber, Diane 44  
McDowell, Carol 48  
Morgan, Frank 44  
Reed, Norman 48  
Renegar, Scot 48

Tapajna, Erin 36  
Veazey, Kenneth 36  
Vines, Martin 36  
Walchli, Mariene 48  
Whipple, Raymond 36  
White, John L 48  
Winslow, Timothy 40



## Sawyer Certification at Sherando

*By Paul Heymann, Local Trails Chair*

On November 9 & 10, 10 TATC members attended Sawyer training, hosted by the US Forest Service, at the Sherando Recreation Area. Lead instructor Megan Martin was assisted by TATC's Katie Steele and by small group evaluators Paul Boisen, Joe Parrish and Plinio Beres. Instruction included both classroom presentation time and hands-on practice in the woods near the "Loop A" campsites. Training focused on safely clearing downed trees from trails, using dead trees felled ahead of time by park rangers. Skills included: correct use of Personal Protective Equipment, safely planning and executing a cut operation, brushing limbing and swamping, using axes, using one & two man bucksaws, and using wedges. All attendees qualified for "Level A" - certified to participate on sawyer teams. (Felling standing trees was only briefly covered, and not part of this certification). Prior to the weekend, everyone studied "work ahead" materials; they will also complete CPR / First Aid training as part the Level A certification. Thanks to: John Sima for coordinating the training, to the instructors, and to the participants who increased TATC's skill set: Carl Albuquerque, Luis Betancourt, Bruce Davidson, Thomas Heenan, Paul Heymann, Mike Martin, Tom Meree, Tom Miano, Kaci Midgette, and Rich Seriani (Tool Boss Extraordinaire!). It is possible that USFS representatives could come to future TATC events, such as Spring / Fall maintenance weekends, to certify people for "Level B" – qualified to lead a sawyer team.



**Luis Betancourt and Rich Seriani lean into a 2-man crosscut saw. Note proper PPE usage.**

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**Carl Albuquerque demonstrates under bucking, using an axe handle to support and apply upward pressure on the saw teeth.**



**Thomas Heenan, Bruce Davidson, Kaci Midgette and Paul Heymann used crosscut & silky saws, plus axe and wedges, to deal with a fallen pine tree.**

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**Kaci Midgette uses an axe to remove limbs, clearing the workspace prior to crosscutting.**



## TATC Education Corner

By Jim Sexton

Our Education Chair, Don Williams, and the Education Committee (Lee Lohman, Andy Grayson, Jim Sexton, and Kaci Midgette) have written and updated more activity and educational documents since the last newsletter. Please check out the new/updated articles, including the Activity Sign-Up Form and Instructions, Headlamps for Backpackers, and TATC Maps/Distances/Elevations. These are posted on our website under the Documents tab and the Educational Documents drop-down menu. Direct links to these documents are also provided below:

Activity Sign-Up Form

<https://www.tidewateratc.com/resources/Documents/Activity-Sign-Up-Form.pdf>

Activity Sign Up Sheet Instructions

<https://tatac.wildapricot.org/resources/documents/ho-activity-sign-up-info.pdf>

Headlamps for Backpackers

<https://www.tidewateratc.com/resources/Education/Headlamps%20for%20Backpackers.pdf>

TATC- Maps, Sketch Map, Distances, and Elevations

[https://www.tidewateratc.com/resources/Education/TATC-Maps\\_Sketch%20Maps\\_Distances\\_Elevations.pdf](https://www.tidewateratc.com/resources/Education/TATC-Maps_Sketch%20Maps_Distances_Elevations.pdf)

*Do you like to write? Do you have knowledge of backpacking topics that you could share with the club? If so, please consider joining the writing team. Some of the members are moving on to other duties and can't keep contributing to the committee. If you would like to join or have any questions before joining, please let me know. Email Don Williams at [education@tidewateratc.com](mailto:education@tidewateratc.com), we can setup a phone call, meeting, or see me at the next club meeting. Thanks!*



## A Beautiful Weekend for Cabin Maintenance

*By Lee Lohman*

Delicious food, wonderful weather, productive work, and friendly, cooperative companions marked the Cabin Maintenance weekend, November 1, 2, and 3. The leaves were coming down showing the beautiful mountains across from the cabin (see photo).

Greg Hodges, Cabin Chair, and Carol Hodges led the maintenance team which consisted of John Sima, Lee Lohman, Pam McPherson, Lindsay London, Bryce Horvath, Spencer Layne, Michael Modica, Matthew Erichson, Thomas Heenan and Chris Butler. Several were new to the cabin, but most were regulars.

Saturday morning started with a great breakfast of eggs, sausage, [want to add anything?] and good coffee on our new Coleman stove powered coffee maker. Then, off the cutting. Greg started by skillfully bringing down two trees close to the cabin. He landed them right where he wanted. They broke cleanly with a distinct hinge—the sign of a good feller.

Then the team started bucking (cutting the trees into stove sized pieces) those trees. Greg and Lee did the chain sawing while most of the team gathered and stacked the wood for next year.

John chain sawed the trees near the camping area. A smart woodsman, he backed away from cutting big trees that were leaning with one being split. Such trees are dangerous and called “widow makers” for a reason. Good move, John.

After lunch, John offered to lead a hike on White Rock Falls Trail. He told everyone that it would only be a couple of hours and that they may have to cut a tree or two that had fallen. Ha! The “hiking team” dragged back in around 4:30 after having cut and removed 14 trees. It was a strenuous introduction to trail work for many.

Tacos for dinner were wolfed down by the hungry team. Many thanks to Carol and Pam for the tasty meal. Dinner was followed by the usual banter around the big table. Someone thought the night would be cool enough to warrant a fire in the new stove.

Wrong. We hadn’t counted on how efficient the stove was. Just using kindling, the stove generated so much heat that Carol decided to sleep outside. This is great news for people who will rent the cabin this winter. They’ll find the new stove provides plenty of heat and no smoke. It’s an enormous improvement to the cabin experience.

Saturday morning Pam and Carol cooked the remaining food into a marvelous breakfast. Before we departed, the newbies were given the “how to close the cabin” briefing. That’s essential information if you intend to rent the cabin.

The maintenance team ended the weekend happy to have had gorgeous weather and such good companions.

A big thanks to Greg and Carol for organizing and leading the trip.

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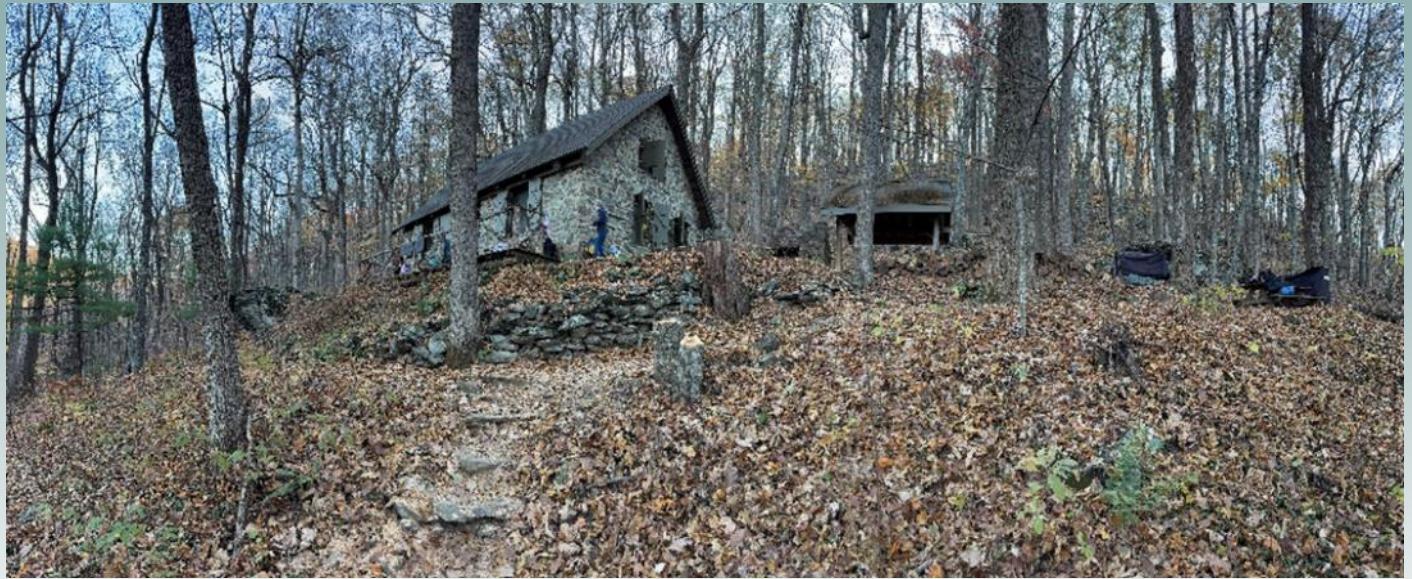
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## Fall Maintenance on AT: Reed's Gap toward Maupin Shelter

By Greg Reck

Jim Newman led 3 of us, Lelia Vann, Susan Gail Arey and Greg Reck on this non-wilderness Park Service section of the AT starting at Reed's Gap. We worked this section with Jim at a Lopperfest earlier this year and were pleased to see that our efforts to keep the treadway clear were largely successful. Susan did find some briars and overhead branches that needed trimming, but nothing major. Recent walkthroughs didn't report any blow-downs, so our work was focused primarily on water bars. Lelia and I took a short ATC course a year ago from Greg Ritson on treadway techniques, and Jim showed us how to put those strategies into practice. The focus was on working the uphill tread to guide water off the tread above the water bar, rather than just clearing material collecting at the bar. Most of the water bars were "organic" and should last longer if water doesn't collect behind them. After crossing Meadow Mountain, we met Bruce and Margaret Julian who were working toward us from Maupin Field. Bruce showed us his expertise at a turn in the trail where rocks were positioned to shed water off the trail and provide a step down for hikers. Bruce also had better tools for water bar work—a rogue hoe and narrower shovel, so we traded with him before we turned and headed back to Reid's Gap. His tools were much more useful and easier to use and we improved some of the 25 to 30 water bars on the way back. The weather was terrific: cool, clear and great views of the mountains.



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## TATC ATC Clean-Up 20 Oct 24

By John Oakes

On October 20, we had ideal paddling weather for four TATC members (John Reed, Lon Carpenter, Melia Leibrand, John Oakes) and one volunteer who saw the event advertised at our website (Don Burke) who turned out for the Amphibious Trail Crew West Neck Creek Clean-Up on October 20. We put-in at the Dozier Bridge launch and worked south towards Indian River Road. There was very little trash on the creek banks but we removed huge quantities of alligator grass and removed several "rafts" of floating debris that had been trapped by snags in the creek bed and blowdowns on the bank.

With the changing of the seasons, the water and air are getting too cool for paddling without wetsuits, so there won't be any more Amphibious Trail Crew clean-ups this year. We'll be back, though in April. Creeks are like trails ... they don't maintain themselves and if you use them you should help maintain them for yourself and for others.



## TATC's November Auction: Fun and Profitable

*By Lee Lohman*

TATC's auction at the November General Membership Meeting was a blast. The noise in the room reflected the camaraderie and eagerness to share opinions about the goods on offer and to catch up with each other. Members had the chance to chat while looking over goods ranging from motor oil and homemade pies to day packs and books.

Our club made \$1,000 which was close to last year's results. The auction is always a major and needed funding source for TATC so we would like to thank the people who donated goods that were sold:

Susan Gail Arey, Faye Bailey, Yvette Baker, John Barnes, Roseanne Cary, Steve Clayton, Michelle Cobb, Bruce Davidson, Lance Deaver, Catherine Fowler, Amanda Hartwig, Lori Heymann, Micheal Horrell, Lee Lohman, Mike Martin, Tom Miano, Tom Mitchell, Kama Mitchell, Bryan & Jenny Morton, Jim Newman, Marrian Nichael, Jim & Chris Sexton, Chris Smith, Lucas Spinella, Lelia Vann, Martin Vines, Judy Welp, Don Williams and Cynthia Williams.

An equally big thank you to anyone who brought items that unfortunately didn't sell. Unfortunately, we don't have your names.

Also, thanks to our cashiers (Kama Mitchell, Lelia Vann, and Kaci Midgette) and Treasurer Andy Grayson who quickly processed the transactions keeping the auction to the one-hour timeframe.

And finally, thank you to the many people who helped to arrange the tables and chairs--and put them back in place afterwards. You dressed and reset the stage for a great event.



## TATC Cabin Report

By Gregory Hodges

Cabin Renters and Maintainers,

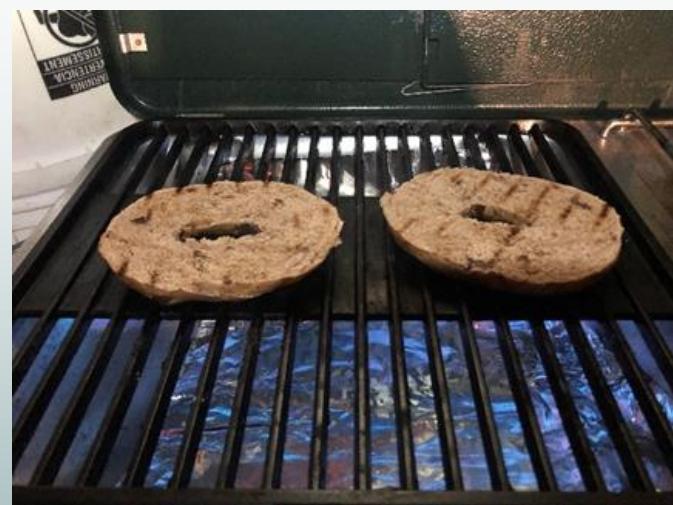
This is the monthly cabin report for November 2024. The recent cabin maintenance and orientation trip just took place over last weekend. A lot of firewood cutting was completed. Please see the attached photos for some topics that I want to cover in this email report to you.

### ADDED AMENITIES

Over the past year, there have been a few added amenities to the cabin. I donated a Coleman coffee pot that works like a regular electric coffee pot that you have in your home. However, this one works solely on the heat generated from the Coleman stoves at the cabin. We used it in the morning and at lunch time to provide coffee for 12 people. I donated a Coleman stove that has a burner on the right side and a grill on the left side. I used it this weekend to toast a bagel (see photos) and to cook breakfast sausage. Lee Lohman provided a kindling and wood splitting device with a mallet (see photos). It works great and it is easy to use. This is excellent for kindling production.



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## **FIREWOOD**

Two dead trees were fallen near the cabin (see photos). The wood has been stacked and needs to dry until next year. However, many of the unmoved wood piles that were cut last year have been moved down to the firewood cutting area (see photos). This will make gathering and splitting wood easier. In the past, some of the piles have been hard to get to or difficult to locate. Please remember to split firewood only in the designated firewood cutting areas. Do NOT split firewood on the rocks or inside the cabin.

## **MOVABLE BACKPACK HOOKS**

There are two newly manufactured holders for backpacks (see photos). These holders can be relocated in and around the cabin area. They hang from the rafters. They are to be used only for backpacks and to dry clothes or towels. We used them for the first time this weekend and they worked great. These correct the deficiency of not having any equipment hooks near the two beds by the fireplace.

## **AVAILABLE DATES**

The cabin is booked every weekend in November, but

there is nothing booked after December 3rd.

Please check the calendar availability online.

Breathe and smile,

Gregory Hodges, Cabin Chair, 757-439-1552



# HOLIDAY PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024, 6:00-9:00 pm



Celebrate the Season at “THE COVE”

Potluck Dinner

Music – Live Band

Dancing

## Membership Matters December 2024

*By Kama Mitchell*

WELCOME NEW MEMBER, Jean Cowan!

Jean Cowan: "I am a Virginia native (grew up in Chesapeake) who recently moved back home to be closer to family after more than 35 years moving around the Gulf South. I am excited to be back here, close to both the ocean and the mountains.

Growing up, my family went on multiple camping trips every summer along various points of the Virginia and North Carolina Appalachian Mountains. I was so young when I went on our first trip that I can't remember it. I feel like being outdoors, exploring and respecting nature was bred into me.

I chose a career dedicated to conserving and restoring our natural coastal habitats and spent many, many days and weeks on research cruises and field work along the Gulf coast. Yet, as an adult, I didn't camp at all until 2019 when a friend and I backpacked the "W" in Chile's Patagonia region.

Since then, I have done one backpacking and one car camping trip to the Georgia mountains, as well as other day hikes closer to home. Now that I am back in Virginia, it is a priority of mine to reconnect with all the natural beauty here. So, I was very happy to find TATC and to learn of the work this club does to help preserve a portion of the AT. I am looking forward to being an active member of the group!"

## Upcoming Programs

*By Lee Lohman, Programs Chair*

December 14: Holiday Party - The Cove from 6-9 pm.

January 8: Election

February 12: Guest Speaker - Ned Kuhns: Part II of Hadrian Wall

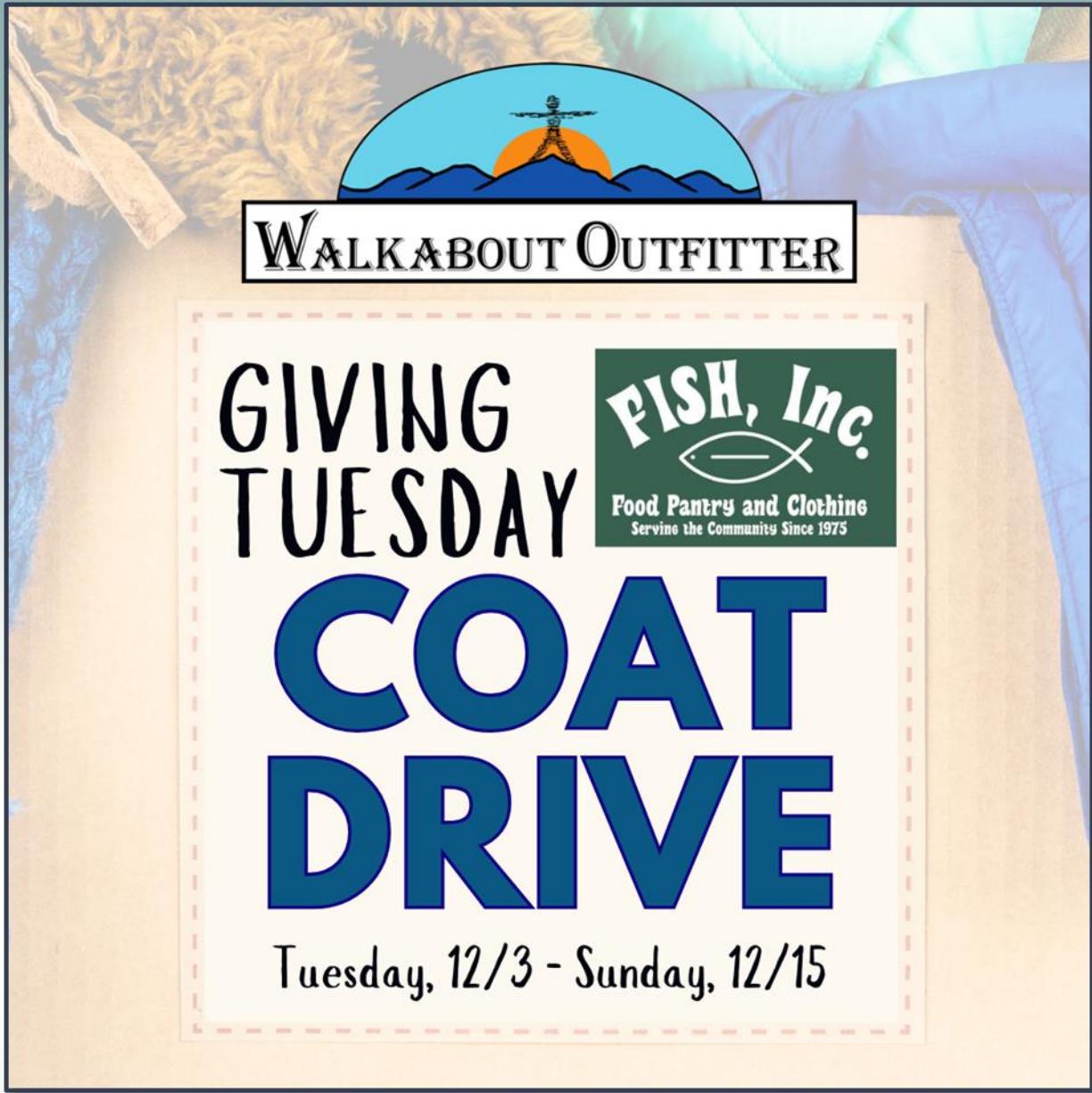
March 12: Budget Presentation

April 9: Guest Speaker: Sherri McQueen on Kayaking

May 14: Guest Speaker - Lance Deaver/resident EMT: Severe Wound Management

June 11: Guest Speaker - Don Williams/TATC Education Chair: Food on the Trail (description of foods and cooking methods useful on the trail --not car camping)





**WALKABOUT OUTFITTER**

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**

**FISH, Inc.**  
Food Pantry and Clothing  
Serving the Community Since 1975

**COAT  
DRIVE**

**Tuesday, 12/3 - Sunday, 12/15**

<https://WalkaboutOutfitter.com>

### **Giving Tuesday Coat Drive 12/3-12/15**

**WHAT:** Walkabout is collecting NEW & GENTLY USED WINTER COATS for people in our communities.

**WHY:** While it may not be cold yet, it definitely will get colder. There are many people and families that don't have access to warm coats and we want to help bridge the gap! Let's band together and give warmth to our friends & neighbors!

**HOW:** Bring your new or gently used coats to your local Walkabout Outfitter. We'll collect coats on Giving Tuesday through Sunday, December 15th. After December 15th, we'll drop off all coats to our local partner.

Our Williamsburg store has partnered with the Fish, Inc.!

<https://fishwilliamsburg.org/>



# ANTI-CYBER MONDAY

- TODAY ONLY -  
MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 12TH

WALKABOUT OUTFITTER

USE CODE  
**CYBERMONDAY24**  
FOR \$10.00 OFF A  
\$99+ PURCHASE!

<https://WalkaboutOutfitter.com>

### Anti-Cyber Monday 12/2

Shop Local & Earn Rewards!

**Become a Trailhead Member & enjoy great perks!**

-Sign up for FREE at any of our six stores!

-Enjoy exclusive perks throughout the year like first dibs on End of Season Sales, freebies, & Trailhead gift card giveaways!

\*If you have to shop online, shop LOCALLY!

TAKE \$10.00 OFF by using code CYBERMONDAY24 to get \$10.00 off a purchase of \$99 or more!

2025

# GET OUTSIDE CHALLENGE

JANUARY 12TH  
THROUGH  
MARCH 9TH

MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!



<https://WalkaboutOutfitter.com>

**Get Outside Challenge 1/12/2025-3/9/2025**

**Walkabout is challenging you to get outside!**

**January 12th through March 9th**

Get outside for AT LEAST 20 MINUTES a day for your chance to WIN PRIZES and a chance to be entered for our GRAND PRIZE! Get outside at least 60 times between January 12th and March 9th to complete your Get Outside tracker and then be sure to turn it in by March 16th (if you finish early, you can turn it in early) to our Walkabout locations in Merchant's Square to be entered for the GRAND PRIZE (a \$250.00 shopping spree to Walkabout)! We will be giving away over \$5,000.00 in prizes! Stay tuned for more details!



## 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](#).

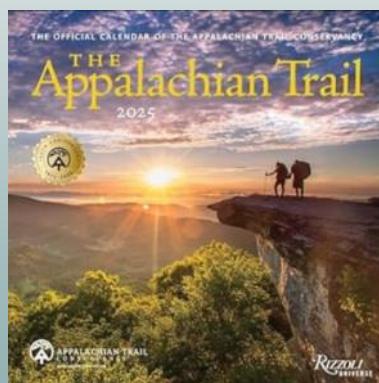


[ORDER YOURS](#)

## 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](#)



**THE NATURE BUS.com**

# The NATURE BUS



Get your tickets @ [TheNatureBus.com](http://TheNatureBus.com) > Calendar



**TOUR NAME:** Private Tour – Holiday Spirits with The Nature Bus

**DATE:** Monday, December 23, 2024

**DURATION – approx. 2.5 hours (ROUND TRIP):** 5:00 – 7:30 (ish)  
(4:30 check-in)

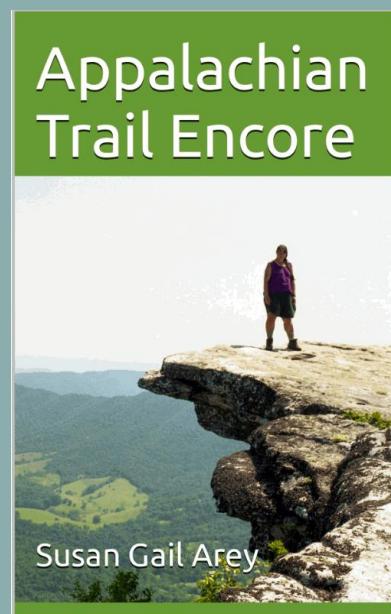
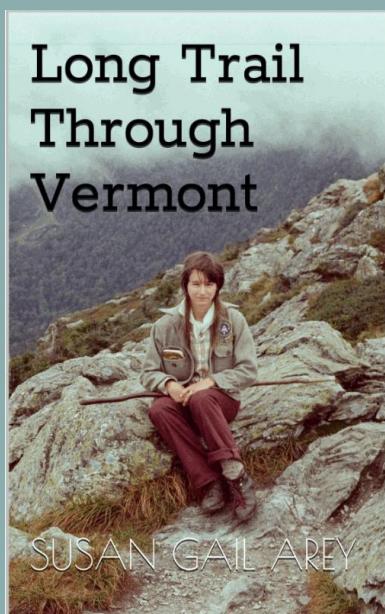
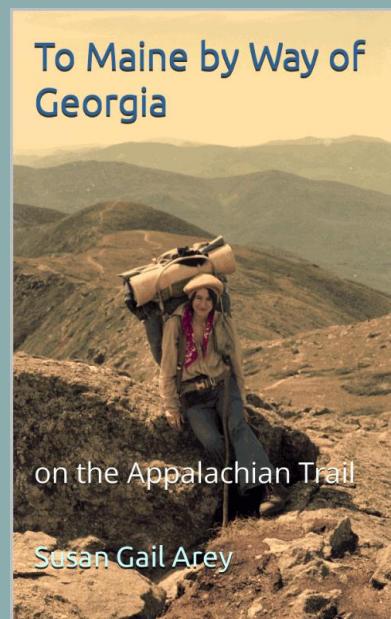
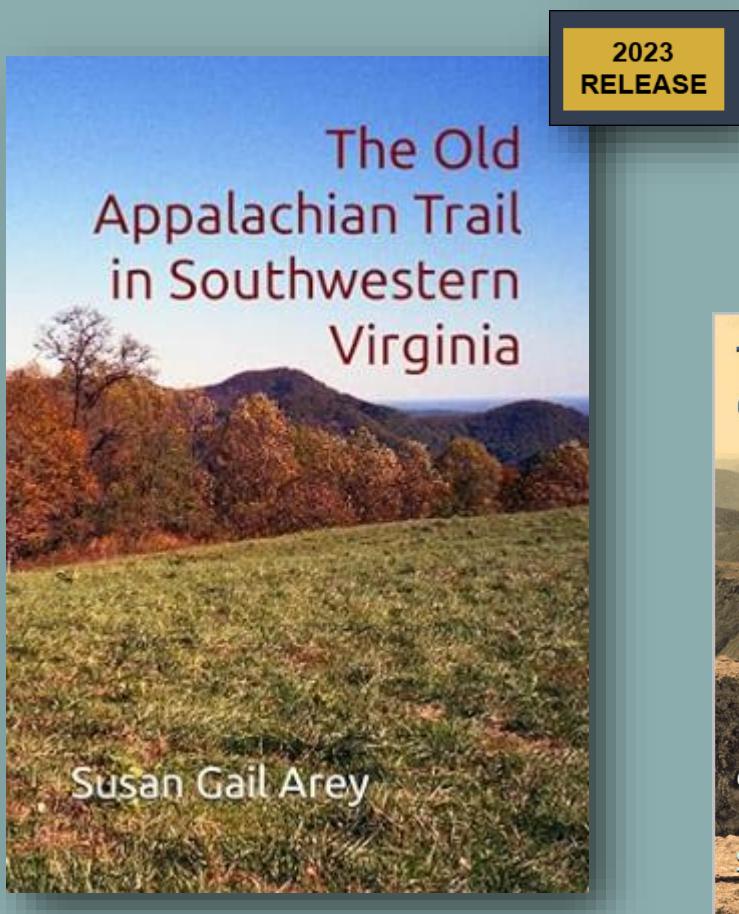
**PRICE:** \$350 (\$22/person) (purchase your ticket at  
[TheNatureBus.com](http://TheNatureBus.com) > Calendar)

**DESCRIPTION:** Get into the holiday spirit by hopping on board! Such a FUN way to celebrate the beginning of your holiday season! We will head to the Virginia Beach oceanfront; we will actually drive on the beach boardwalk!!! With the sound of holiday music playing, you will see nautical holiday light scenes. The light displays include fish, crabs, elves, Santa, and more.

Email: [info@TheNatureBus.com](mailto:info@TheNatureBus.com) Text: 757-288-9595

## 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.

## **Williamsburg Holiday Walk**

When: Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Where: Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center, 101 Visitor Ctr Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Description: Christmas in Williamsburg!

Meet at the Colonial Williamsburg visitor center between 9 and 9:15 AM where parking is free. Restrooms available. I like to enter the visitor center on Bypass Rd but you can also enter from the Colonial Parkway. Walk will start at about 9:30. This approximately 5K walk is mostly flat ground on streets, sidewalks and groomed trails. The hike will take you through CW and a portion of W&M Campus. We will end up in Merchant Square at about 11:30 for those who would like to have lunch (location TBD but usually the Mellow Mushroom) Ice cream is also nearby at Kilwins and Baskin Robbins. Then a .5 mile walk back to the visitor center by way of Governors Palace. It is also very open ended. Do as much or as little as you like. You are never too far from parking so any amount of the hike is optional.

Contact Mike to sign up: [m.a.mureddu@gmail.com](mailto:m.a.mureddu@gmail.com)

## **TATC Board Meeting**

When: Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 7:00 – 9:00pm

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!

## **Deep Creek-Dismal Swamp Canal Park Bike Ride-Ellis**

When: Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 9:15am – 2:15pm – (9:15 AM Registration - Ride starts at 9:30 AM)

Where: Deep Creek Park, 437 George Washington Highway S., Chesapeake, VA 23323

Description: We will meet at the Deep Creek Park. Please park by the restroom building. We will bike the ~2.3 miles on an off-road bike path that will then connect to the Dismal Swamp Canal Bike Trail, riding its length. The total miles we will ride is ~22 miles. We will return to Deep Creek Park where we will eat our picnic lunches. After lunch, we can go to Hardee's for an ice cream treat

Bring: bike, helmet (Must be worn), water & snacks, picnic lunch, cash for ice cream. Breakfast stop at Hardee's: 109 George Washington Hwy S, Chesapeake, VA 23323. It is only two minutes from the Deep Creek Park.

Questions/contact/sign up for the ride, contact Ellis: [malabad2@gmail.com](mailto:malabad2@gmail.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 Winter Holiday Party**

When: Saturday, December 14, 2024, 6:00 – 9:00pm

Where: The Cove, 1871 N Great Neck Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Description: Tis the season to celebrate! TATC will be hosting our Annual Winter Holiday Party at The Cove in Virginia Beach. Live Music by Bright Rhodes Band.

## **First Landing State Park Trail Maintenance Work Day**

When: Thursday, December 19, 2024. Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Where: First Landing State Park, 2500 Shore Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Description: First Landing State Park Trail Maintenance - Live Oak and Cypress Swamp Trails.

Meeting location: parking lot by picnic area. From Shore Drive traffic light, head south on Rt 343 (Cypress Swamp Dr.) At the guard shack, advise the ranger you are with TATC. Then turn right onto Conservation Ct into the parking lot. At least 3 volunteers are needed. Tools will be provided, or bring your own lopper, pruner and/or small silky saw. If you have one, please wear a hat, shirt, or jacket with the TATC logo when participating in FLSP work days to identify you as a member of the club. Contact: Paul Heymann [localtrails@tidewateratc.com](mailto:localtrails@tidewateratc.com) to sign up.

## **First Day Hike**

When: Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 9:15am – 1:00pm

Where: First Landing State Park, 225 64th St, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. 64th Street boat launch area parking lot. Access the park from Pacific Ave. and 64th Street.

Description: We will meet in the First Landing State Park 64th Street boat launch area parking lot at the end of the park access road, near the restrooms by 9:15 AM to sign in and register for the hike. Last year, there was no fee to enter the park on New Year's Day. The restroom facilities located in the boat launch area are the only restrooms available in this area of the park. We will be hiking approximately 7 miles.

We will be walking on the Cape Henry, the Long Creek and Osprey Trails and return on the Cape Henry Trail. At 9:30 AM we will proceed to the trailhead located in the Narrows area near the boat launch area to start the hike. You can expect primarily flat trails except for parts of the Long Creek Trail where there are some rolling hills. You will be walking through coastal forests on all trails, especially the Long Creek Trail and have some great views of the bay while on the Cape Henry and Osprey trails.

We will probably hike rain or shine, cold or warm but we will notify everyone by 8 pm on Dec. 31st if there is a cancellation for especially foul weather. Please bring/wear appropriate clothing for the weather, hiking boots, water, snacks and/or lunch. This hike is leashed dog (and poop scooped) friendly! Contact: Bill Bunch at [bbunch@att.net](mailto:bbunch@att.net) to sign up

**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, January 1, 2025, 7:00 – 9:00pm

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

Description: 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, January 8, 2025, 7:00 – 9:00pm

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

Description: 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!

**[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>
ATC RPC Representative	Ned Kuhns	<a href="mailto:rpcrep@tidewateratc.com">rpcrep@tidewateratc.com</a>
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>
Past President	Lee Lohman	<a href="mailto:pastprep@tidewateratc.com">pastprep@tidewateratc.com</a>
Programs	Lee Lohman	<a href="mailto:programs@tidewateratc.com">programs@tidewateratc.com</a>
Social	Sharon Salyer	<a href="mailto:social@tidewateratc.com">social@tidewateratc.com</a>
Social	Catherine Fowler	<a href="mailto:social@tidewateratc.com">social@tidewateratc.com</a>
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**

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 Winter.



## PHOTOS – FALL MAINTENANCE

*Photos by Paul Heymann*



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## PHOTOS – FALL MAINTENANCE

*Photos by Paul Heymann*



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## PHOTOS – FALL MAINTENANCE

*Photos by Paul Heymann*

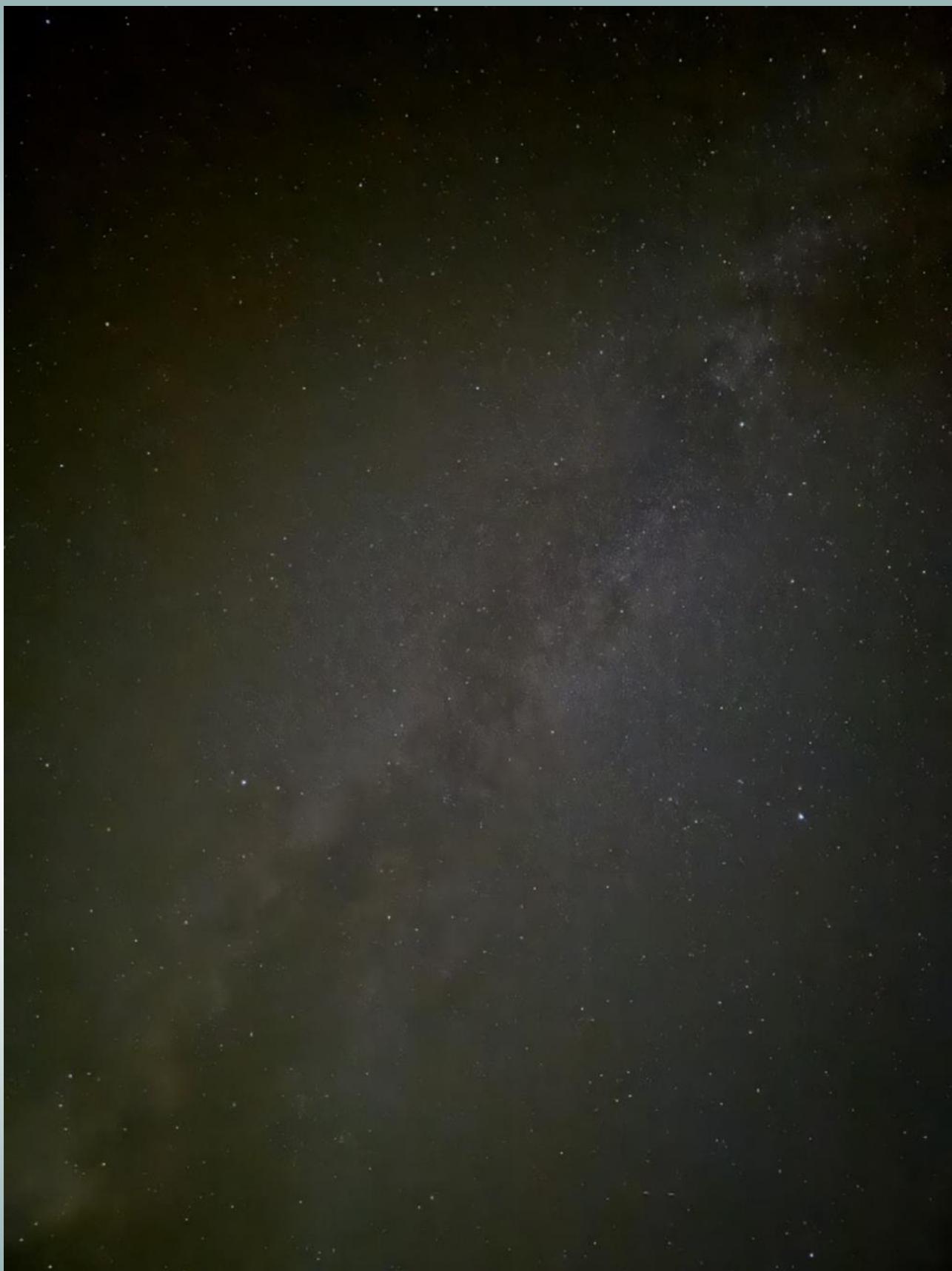


*Fall Maintenance Weekend. Sunday's Torrey Ridge hike led by Bruce Davidson*

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## PHOTOS – FALL MAINTENANCE

*Photos by Mike Martin*



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## PHOTOS – BACKPACK WALK THROUGH

*Photos by Pete Burch*



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## PHOTOS – BACKPACK WALK THROUGH

*Photos by Pete Burch*



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## PHOTOS – BACKPACK WALK THROUGH

*Photos by Pete Burch*



**Reinstalling fire ring back in its place at Maupin field.**

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## PHOTOS – BACKPACK WALK THROUGH

*Photos by Pete Burch*



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## PHOTOS – SAWYER TRAINING

*Photos by Bob Veverka*



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## PHOTOS – SAWYER TRAINING

*Photos by Bob Veverka*



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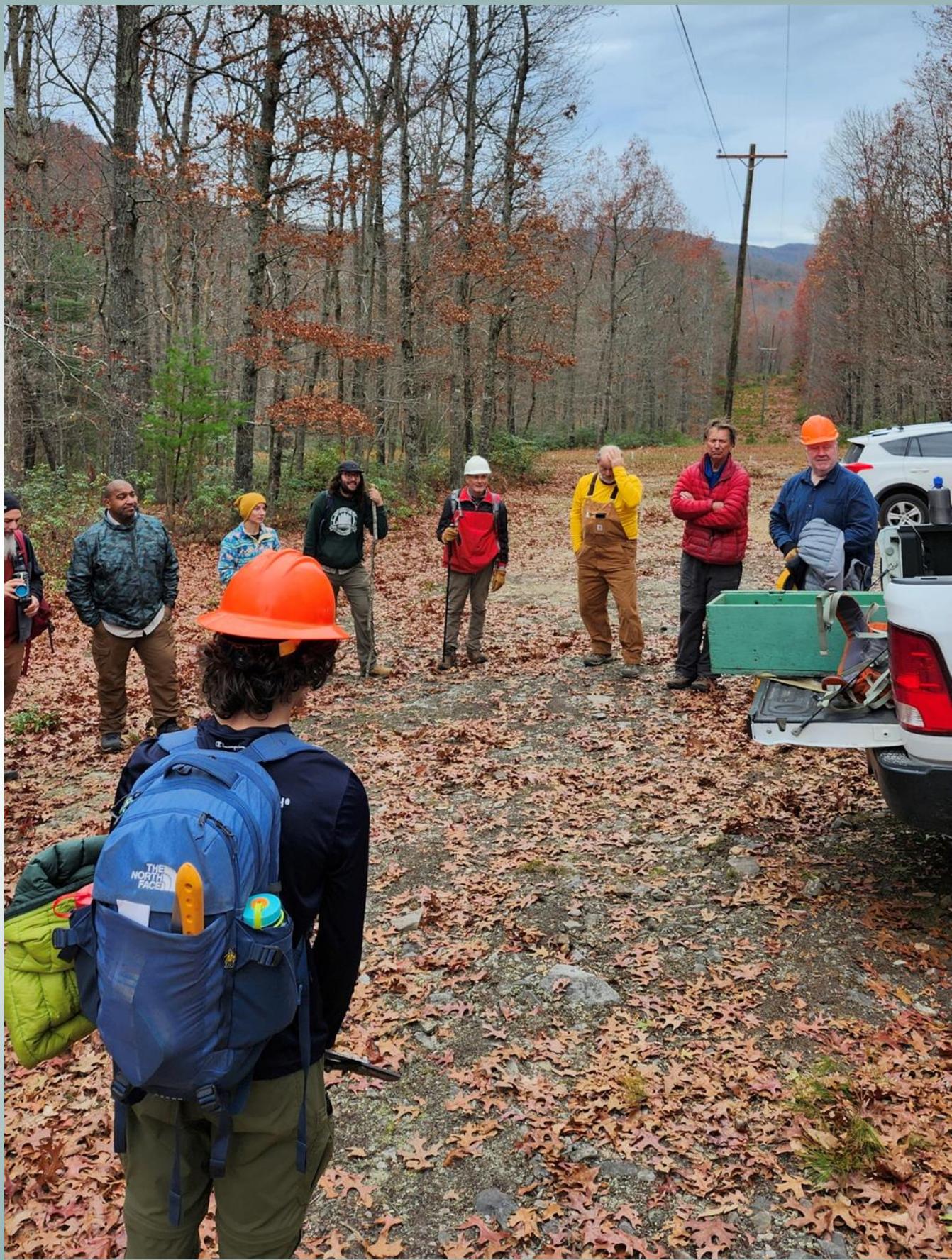
*Photos by Bob Veverka*



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## PHOTOS – SAWYER TRAINING

*Photos by Bob Veverka*



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## PHOTOS – SAWYER TRAINING

*Photos by Bob Veverka*



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## PHOTOS – SAWYER TRAINING

*Photos by Rich Seriani*



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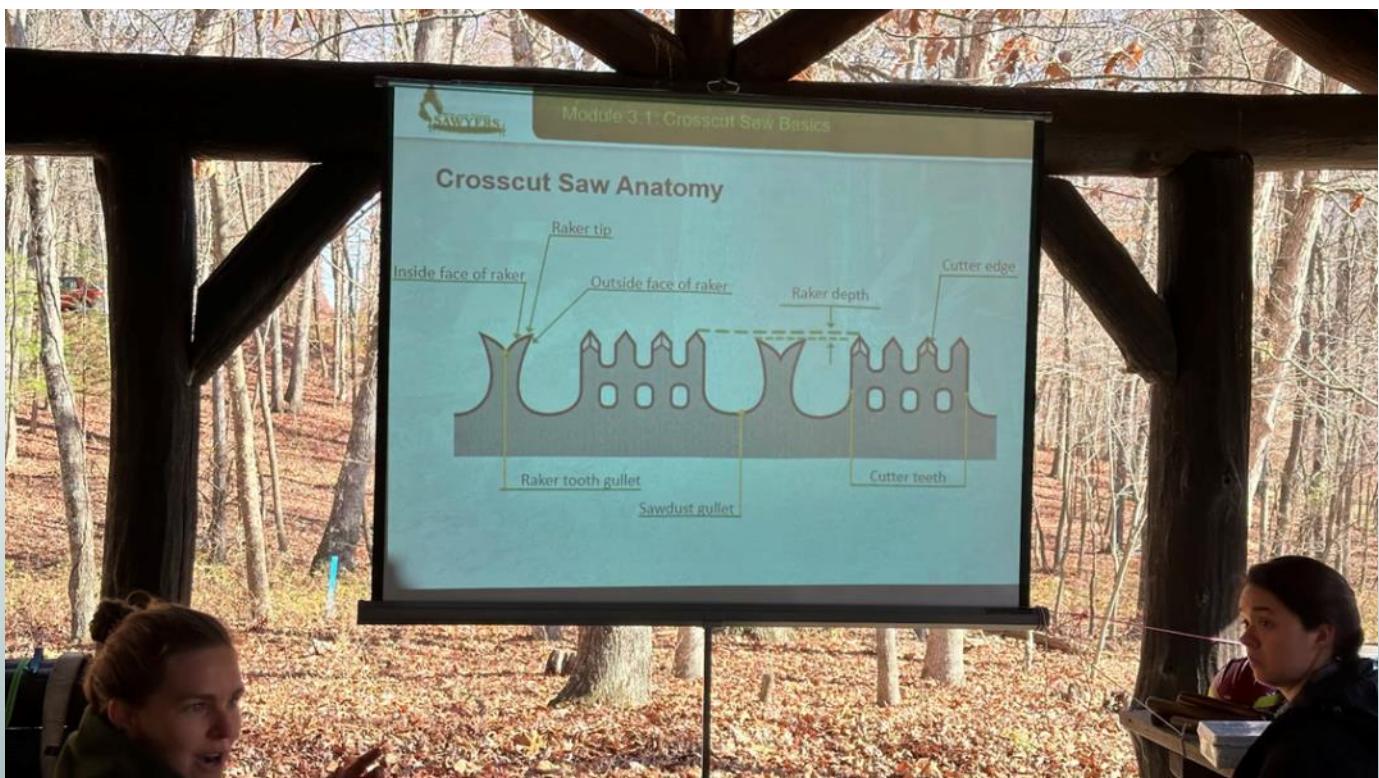
*Photos by Rich Seriani*



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## PHOTOS – SAWYER TRAINING

*Photos by Rich Seriani*



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## PHOTOS – SAWYER TRAINING

*Photos by Rich Seriani*



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## PHOTOS – AWARDS CEREMONY

*Photos by Mike Martin*



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## PHOTOS – AWARDS CEREMONY

*Photos by Mike Martin*



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*Photos by Mike Martin*



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*Photos by Mike Martin*



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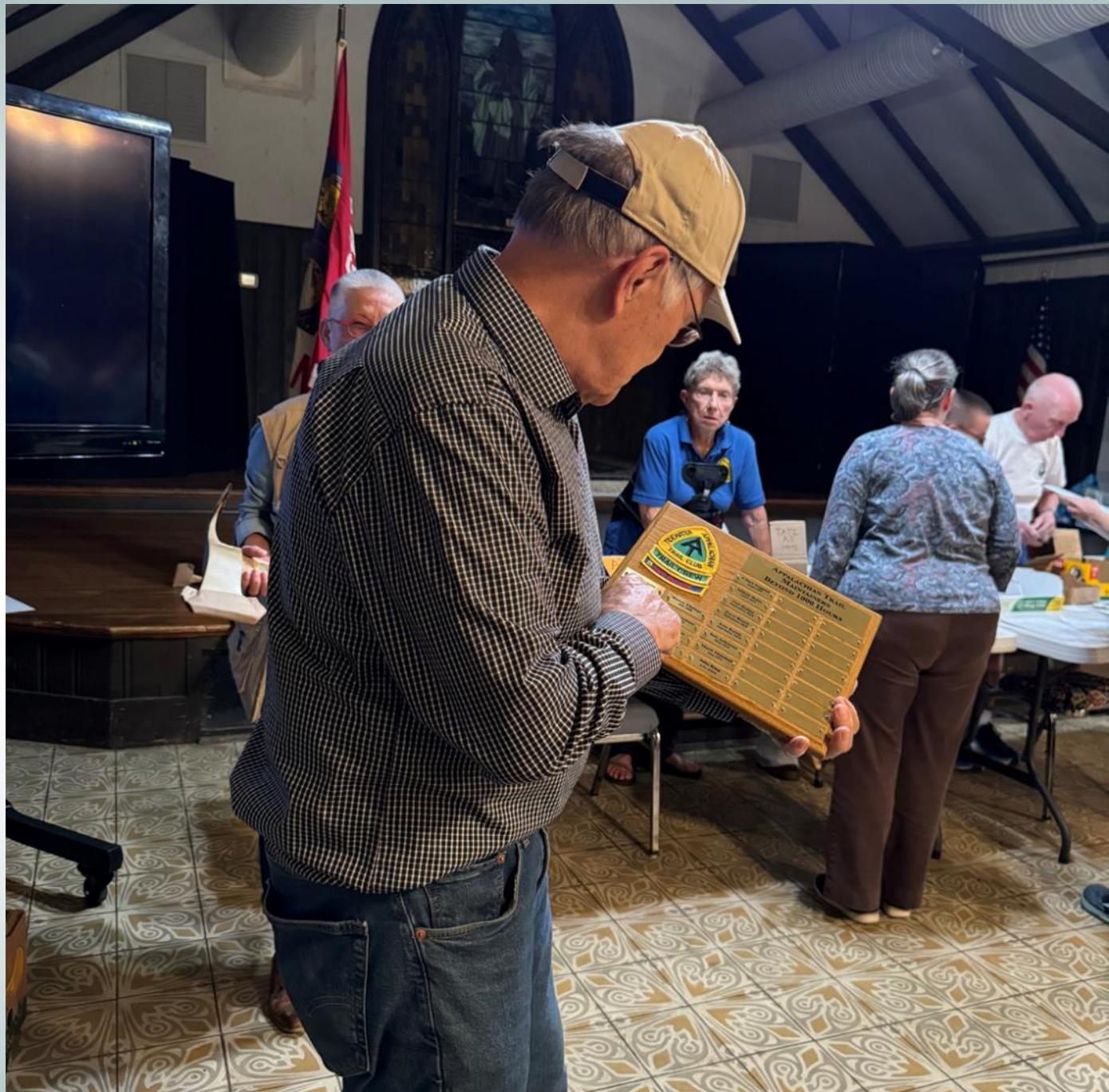
*Photos by Mike Martin*



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## PHOTOS – AWARDS CEREMONY

*Photos by Mike Martin*



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## PHOTOS – AWARDS CEREMONY

*Photos by Mike Martin*

