

# The Walker

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Volume 20, Issue 2

March/April 2012

## Celebrating 75 Years - The Appalachian Trail Mid-way 1937-1978

The Appalachian Trail was on the ground by August 14, 1937. It was a continuous "wilderness" footpath of an estimated 2,000 miles from Mt. Oglethorpe, Georgia to Baxter Peak on Katahdin in central Maine.

A major hurricane, the Depression, and World War II, with its travel-limiting rationing, all served to either slow down or break the continuity of the efforts to improve the AT.

In 1948, Earl V. Shaffer, a Pennsylvania veteran "walking off the war," reported to a disbelieving Myron H. Avery that he had just walked the entire length of the AT. Schaffer walked in a single journey taking less than five months. He was recognized as the "First Thru-Hiker."

While the end of World War II allowed the restoration of the AT, it also triggered a vast wave of residential and highway development that threatened it anew. Almost half the Trail was still on roads and private property people wanted for vacation homes. In the early 1960s, Maine-born Stanley A. Murray, along with a small group of Maine and Washington, DC Trail veterans, initiated a campaign to reenergize the organization. With Murray acting as the Chair, the group began by building up its base of individual members and reviving efforts to have the federal government protect the Trail and its surrounding lands from adverse development.



President Johnson at the 1968 NTSA signing



Mid-point of the Appalachian Trail

Finally, on October 2, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the National Trails System Act (NTSA), creating within the national parks and forests a new class of public lands. The first designated lands were national scenic trails, the AT and the unfinished Pacific Crest Trail. States were encouraged to acquire lands for the AT and the National Park Service (NPS) held administrative responsibility for it all.

*From the Appalachian Trail Conservancy website, A.T.'s Journey Magazine, History.*

## *President's Message- Partnerships and Plans*

As March approaches, I'm looking forward to the weather staying warm and spring really arriving. Along with the advent of warmer weather, life associated with the Appalachian Trail (AT) seems to increase exponentially. The annual partnership meetings are scheduled and the club's representatives are gearing up to attend. I have mentioned these meetings in the past but don't know that I have ever attempted to explain why there are partnership meetings and who the partners actually might be.

Elsewhere in the Walker is an article about the history of the AT, a continuation of recognizing the 75th anniversary of the completion of the Trail. A critical element in the success of the AT is what is termed a cooperative management system. Since 1925, the management of the AT has been guided by a cooperative enterprise, The Appalachian Trail Conference (now Conservancy), consisting of citizens/volunteers and agency partners. At the urging of ATC, in 1938, the first agreement was signed by the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), solidifying a partnership between the volunteer community and the two primary federal agencies that continues today. Under the authority of the National Trails System Act (1968) and its amendments (1978), the NPS was given the responsibility for administration of the entire AT in consultation with the USFS. The NPS was authorized to delegate certain management aspects of the AT resulting in an agreement between NPS, USFS, and the ATC, representing the 31 volunteer clubs. With this delegated authority, the ATC then developed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with each of the maintaining clubs. Our club MOU was signed in June 1997. We also are a signatory of a MOU specific to the Blue Ridge Parkway, and another with the Commonwealth of Virginia. For those who are interested in our agreed to responsibilities, these documents will be posted on the ODATC website under the member only section.

So back to these annual partnership meetings. An important and constructive component of the cooperative management system is the regional meetings that bring all the stakeholders to the table to discuss issues and opportunities related to the AT. The meeting with the Blue Ridge Parkway is generally small, with representatives from ODATC, TATC, and NBATC being the only clubs associated. At the Southern Regional Meeting, attendees include representatives from all 12 of the clubs from ODATC south to Georgia, paid ATC staff, 4 states, numerous USFS districts, and 3 NPS units. Typically, over 50 individuals gather for the sole purpose of discussing the future management of the AT. While some might find these gatherings dreadfully dull, they are amazing opportunities to meet folks from all walks of life who join together for a common purpose.

These various MOUs (*partnership agreements*) that I mentioned not only identify the level at which we are to maintain our trail section but also defines the "how" of "managing" our section. We will soon be preparing our Local Management Plan, a document that will provide a road map and work plan for club members, maintainers, and boundary monitors working on the AT now and those who take over these jobs in the future. There are many members of our club who are the brain trust of what has gone on in the past. I hope we can call upon you to assist as we begin developing the plan over the next year.

Have a great spring and see you out on the trail!!

*Theresa*

## 2012 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

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## Trips, Treks, and Talks - Jenni Pendergrass, Contributor

This list of activities for March and April was current at the time *The Walker* was published; however, you should regularly check the **Events and Activities** page on the website for additional events added after publication of the newsletter or any status changes. **Events may be closed, canceled, or updated with important information so check frequently.** Read the descriptions of activities carefully to see if you need to sign up ahead of time for an event.

### March 2 (Friday) "Waterwalk: A Passage of Ghosts" Henrico County Adventure Series

In 1996 Steven Faulkner and his 16 year-old son Justin left the fast world of cars, jobs, schools, televisions, and computers and set out on a 1,000 mile voyage in their 16-foot canoe, Natty Bumpo. They followed the route first taken in 1673 by the early French explorers Joliet and Marquette to discover the Upper Mississippi River. Waterwalk is a journey into the heart of this continent 300 years ago, a modern exploration of the quiet waterways that weave their way through America, and a voyage through the heart of a father-son relationship. Steven Faulkner teaches Creative Writing at Longwood University. A movie based on his book "Waterwalk: A Passage of Ghosts" is being produced by Michigan Blue Lake Productions. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Henrico County Administration Board Room at 4301 E. Parham Road. Free!

### March 6 (Tuesday) Chesterfield County Public Library, Coffee Break Series

Presentation by award-winning local author and ODATC member, Leonard Adkins. Leonard will present *Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail: A 2,000-Mile Floral Parade*—based upon his award-winning book and featuring the stunning photography of Joe and Monica Cook. *Wildflowers of the*

*Appalachian Trail: a 2,000 Mile Floral Parade* follows the progression of the flowers from spring to fall, and from Georgia to Maine. The Bon Air Library is located at 9103 Rattlesnake Road, and the program begins at 10:00 a.m.

### **March 8 (Thursday) Trayfoot Mountain/Paine Run (B/2)**

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or [rjmartinii@yahoo.com](mailto:rjmartinii@yahoo.com)) This 9.6-mile hike starts at Blackrock Gap (2,329 ft.) in SNP, and climbs the AT to peak of Blackrock (3,092 ft.). Continue to summit of Trayfoot Mountain (3,374 ft.) then descend via Paine Run and Buzzard Rock (site of the former Blackrock Springs Hotel). Bring a lunch. Meet at the Oilville Park & Ride (I-64 West) at 8:30 am.

### **ODATC Hike Rating Codes**

Hiking boots are strongly recommended for all hikes. Hikers must be properly equipped, aware of their limitations & hike within their ability. In the interest of safety, activity coordinators may refuse to allow participation by club members or their guests.

Terrain  
 1 = Very Strenuous  
 2 = Strenuous  
 3 = Moderate  
 4 = Easy

Distance  
 A = More than 13 miles  
 B = 9 to 13 miles  
 C = 5 to 9 miles  
 D = Under 5 miles

### **March 10 (Saturday) Lake Anna State Park - Spotsylvania County (C/4)**

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or [Willyten10@aol.com](mailto:Willyten10@aol.com).) Let's enjoy a day hike on the trails around Lake Anna in the peace and quiet of the late winter woods. This is an 8-mile hike starting at the Lake Anna beach and loops around the lakeshore trails nearby and then on inland forest trails. This is hike # 14 in Leonard M. Adkins *50 Hikes in Northern Virginia*. Meet at the I-64 Rockville Park and Ride Exit 173 at 8:30 am to form carpools (\$10 per rider) or at the Lake Anna beach parking lot at 10 am. Bring a lunch. We should be back to Rockville between 3 and 4 pm. There is a nominal parking fee. Hike is on rain or shine.

### **March 9 & 10 (Friday and Saturday) Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour**

Experience adventure on the big screen! Explore the world's last great wild places. The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will exhilarate and inspire as you journey to exotic locations, paddle the wildest waters, and climb the highest peaks. Different films each night. James River High School, 3700 James River Road. Movies begin at 6:30 p.m. each night. Cost is \$5 each night or \$8 if you get a ticket for both nights. **For tickets call 804-748-1623. It's recommended that you get your tickets early.** Look for club members in our usual spot down front in the auditorium. ODATC will have a table in the lobby to promote the club. Bring a bag of candy and drop it by our table to add to our basket of sweet treats.

### **March 13 & 20 (Tuesday) Bike Maintenance - Sponsored by County of Henrico Division of Recreation & Parks**

Ever wanted to work on your own bicycle? Gears not shifting as they use to? Need to fix that flat tire? Then we have the class for you! This class is designed to help enable the student to understand and perform basic bicycle maintenance. Class instruction is taught by a certified bicycle mechanic. Instruction is a combination of lecture, demonstration, and hands-on application. Topics covered include tire and tube replacement, gear and derailleur adjustments, basic wheel truing, brake and headset adjustments, safety check and preventative maintenance. Bicycles and tools are provided. Instructor: Rob Gassie, Bing Bicycle Co. Class will be at the Belmont Recreation Center from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$30 for this 2-part class and you must register by March 6<sup>th</sup>. Info: 501-5147. \* March 20<sup>th</sup> is also the night of our Club membership meeting.

**March 14 (Wednesday) Floodwall / Richmond Slave Trail (D/4)**

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or [Willyten10@aol.com](mailto:Willyten10@aol.com)). Hike along the Manchester floodwall and over to the Manchester Docks, the beginning of the Richmond Slave Trail. Loop back and cross the Mayo Bridge, tour Shockoe Bottom and return to the cars for a total of 5 miles. Meet at 10 am at the Southside floodwall parking lot at Semmes and 7th at the south end of the Manchester Bridge. Optional lunch after the hike. Hike is on rain or shine.

**March 16 (Friday) "Across the Roof of America: From Canada to Mexico Along the Continental Divide" presented by Leonard Atkins; Henrico County Adventure Series**

The Continental Divide follows the Rocky Mountains for more than 2,700 miles in the United States and is a part of the National Scenic Trails System. A complete traverse of it demands using maps and compass during cross-country travel, fording glacier melt-swollen streams, ascending 13,000-foot passes, crossing deserts in 100-degree heat, and crashing through thigh-high snow drifts. As Coordinator of the Across the Roof of America Expedition, award-winning local author, renowned hiker, and ODATC member Leonard Atkins will share stories and photos as he walked the Continental Divide for six months from Canada to Mexico. The presentation will be from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Henrico County Administration Board Room at 4301 E. Parham Road. Free!

**March 17 (Saturday) Work Trip**

Monthly work trip on the ODATC section of the AT. This is an all day event. Bring water, lunch and work gloves. Dress for weather. Contact Lori (804-397-5306), Fran (804-270-6908) or send an email to [odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com) to register and for additional information.

**March 18 (Sunday) Virginia Blue Ridge Rails to Trail - Nelson County (C/4)**

Ted McGarry (218-1238) This is my third ODATC hike on this rails-to-trail about 2 hours west of Richmond. The former railroad bed has minimal elevation change and the scenic Piney and Tye River valley views are best before foliage appears. This is an out and back hike for about 9 miles or a minimum of 4 hours. Bring water and lunch for the trail. A portapotty is available at the trailhead. Carpool from I-64 Rockville Park and Ride (Exit 173) or Route 60 directions from Chesterfield are available by email. You must phone me not earlier than March 9 but before Friday March 16 at 9:00 pm to go on this trip. There's an early dinner option at Lovingson Café or downtown Charlottesville. You must be a current club member to participate. [www.trailink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6017586](http://www.trailink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6017586).

**March 19 (Monday) Doyle's River Trail. (C/3)**

Barbara Stewart ([bleastewart@gmail.com](mailto:bleastewart@gmail.com) or 804-271-4631) This is an 8.4-mile hike with a 6.6-mile option. The hike features picturesque waterfalls and an 1800-foot elevation change. It may be necessary to ford streams so be prepared and bring an extra pair of socks. Limited to eight hikers.

**March 20 (Tuesday) General Membership Meeting**

Our March general membership meeting features Mark Rich, the former Curator of Mammals at the San Diego Zoo, who will share his experience of an expedition to Sri Lanka to bring back a baby elephant to the zoo. The month-long trip included studying Ceylonese elephants in the wild, Sri Lanka's Elephant Orphanage, and side visits to zoos in Indonesia and Singapore. This promises to be a presentation that you don't want to miss! The meeting will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd) and begins promptly at 7:00 PM. Also, feel free to bring a snack to share with other members as well as a canned good for the church's food bank.

**March 20 (Tuesday) Bike Maintenance - Sponsored by County of Henrico Division of Recreation & Parks**

This is a continuation of the March 13<sup>th</sup> workshop. See above for details.

**March 22 (Thursday) High Bridge Trail State Park (B/3)**

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or [rjmartiniii@yahoo.com](mailto:rjmartiniii@yahoo.com)) First of four legs for this 30 mile trail is Burkeville to Rice @ 6.8 miles. There will be an optional visit afterwards to nearby Saylor's Creek Battlefield State Park Headquarters. Hike starts at 10:00 am. Bring a lunch. Contact Jack for meet-up location (car shuttle required).

**Fri, Mar 23 (Friday) An Evening with Mountainfilm - Henrico Theatre in Highland Springs; Henrico County Adventure Series**

Each year in Telluride, Colorado, Mountainfilm celebrates cultures unique to mountain communities with an international rendezvous of legendary mountaineers, environmentalists, filmmakers, authors, scientists, and artists. The mission of Mountainfilm is to educate and inspire audiences about issues that matter, cultures worth exploring, and environments worth preserving. Don't miss this opportunity to view incredible outdoor films! The program begins at 7:00 p.m. Arrive early to grab a seat.

**March 24 (Saturday) Trayfoot Mountain Day Hike (B/2)**

(Randy Wendell; [randy.wendell@verizon.net](mailto:randy.wendell@verizon.net))

Join Randy for this fairly strenuous, but yet very scenic 10-mile hike. Part of the hike parallels the beautiful Paine Run and the highlight of the day will be summiting Black Rock, which features spectacular views. Randy rates this hike as strenuous because of its 2,200-foot elevation gain, but it is do-able to anyone in reasonably good physical condition. Contact Randy for more details. Neckties encouraged.

**March 24-25 (Saturday–Sunday) Beginner's Backpacking Trip (D/3)**

Mike Shelor (contact Mike at 337-7076 or [trailguymike@aol.com](mailto:trailguymike@aol.com).) "Intro to Backpacking" beginner's backpacking field practical to the Paul Wolfe Shelter. We will have several "seasoned" instructors along. Call Mike to reserve your spot and for answers to any questions on gear, preparation, etc.

**March 28 (Wednesday) Cherry Blossoms in Washington, DC (C/4)**

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or [Willyten10@aol.com](mailto:Willyten10@aol.com)) Let's take the train up to Washington's Union Station and hike the 2.5 miles over to the Tidal Basin to enjoy the Japanese Cherry Tree blossoms. Pack a lunch and we will make a day of it on the Mall. If it rains, we'll do our walking in the museums. In-town dinner option. Leave Richmond in the early morning and we are home by 8:00 pm. Amtrak is \$46 Adult Coach Round-Trip (no discounts found) if you purchase your ticket at least 14 days in advance ([www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)). Trip is on rain or shine. Let me know if you are going. This hike requires advance coordination.

**March 31 (Saturday) Work Trip – James River Wildlife Refuge**

This will be a local work trip to help the James River Wildlife Refuge. Additional details to follow. Bring water, lunch and work gloves. Dress for weather. Contact Lori (804-397-5306), Fran (804-270-6908) or send an email to [odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com) to register and for additional information.

**April 4 (Wednesday) Chippokes Plantation State Park – Surry County (D/4)**

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or [hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com](mailto:hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com)). This nice 5-mile hike in the Coastal Plain forest includes a one-mile beach walk along the tidal James River. Meet at 9:30 am at the parking lot. This is hike # 11 in Nathan Lott's book *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles of Richmond*. Please note the drive is a little more than one hour from Richmond on Route 10 east of Hopewell. We will stop for lunch after the hike.

**April 11 (Wednesday) Richmond's James River Park Islands (D/3)**

Jim Hunt (730-2364) and Alice Preston (741-0049). We have never hiked on the islands in the James River Park. Alice has worked in the Park and will take us to the islands from the south bank for a personal tour. This adventure is only for hikers with good balance as the trail uses a low dam for access and will be narrow. Meet at 10:00 am at the circle at the north end of 41st Street and Stonewall Av. This is adjacent to the Old Stone House in Forest Hill Park for this 4-mile hike.

**April 12 (Thursday) Rocky Mount Trail (B/2)**

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or [rjmartinii@yahoo.com](mailto:rjmartinii@yahoo.com)). This 10.2-mile hike runs north to the peak of Rocky Mount in SNP with spectacular views of Two Mile Run Valley, and then descends to Gap Run (hiking poles recommended, 2,600 ft. elevation change). Bring a lunch. Meet at the Oilville Park & Ride (I-64 West) at 8:30 am.

**April 16 (Monday) Hoover Camp (C/3)**

Barbara Stewart ([bleafstewart@gmail.com](mailto:bleafstewart@gmail.com), or 804-271-4631) This is a 10.2 mile, moderate hike.

We'll descend the fire road to have lunch at historic Hoover Camp and return through Milam Gap. Limited to 8 hikers.

**April 18 (Wednesday) Richmond's James River Loop North + South Bank (D/3)**

Jim Hunt (730-2364) Meet at 10:00 AM in the parking lot adjacent to the Richmond Civil War Museum on Tredegar St. west of 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Bring water and lunch and plan to be on the trail about 4 hours. This 7-mile hike starts on the trail on the north side of the River and goes west, crosses the Boulevard Bridge, proceeds through James River Park on the south bank and re-crosses the River over Belle Isle, ending at the cars.

**April 21 (Saturday) Work trip**

Monthly work trip on the ODATC section of the AT. This is an all day event. Bring water, lunch and work gloves. Dress for weather. Contact Lori (804-397-5306), Fran (804-270-6908) or send an email to [odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com) to register and for additional information.

**April 25 (Wednesday) Petersburg National Battlefield Park (C/4)**

Ted Nelson (530-0666). Ted is a knowledgeable Civil War buff who will lead a 7-mile hike within the Park. This is Hike # 38 in Nathan Lott's *60 Hikes within 60 Miles*. Take I-95 Exit 52 Washington Street East (Rte. 36) towards Hopewell about three miles to the Park Visitor Center. There is a vehicle entrance fee. Call Ted to sign up for this Wednesday hike.

**April 26 (Thursday) High Bridge Trail State Park (B/3)**

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or [rjmartiniii@yahoo.com](mailto:rjmartiniii@yahoo.com)). Second of four legs is Rice to Farmville @ 7.8 miles. Hike over newly opened High Bridge (anticipated opening is late March to early April- if not opened we'll do leg three and circle back later). Hike starts at 10:00. Bring a lunch. Contact Jack for meet-up location (car shuttle required).

## *Welcome New Members and Members Who Continue to Trek*

*Alice Preston and Tayloe Moore, Membership Contributors*

- |                                           |                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • <i>Bob Clouston</i>                     | • <i>John Sheldon</i>            |
| • <i>Brian McCahill</i>                   | • <i>Kathy Horvath</i>           |
| • <i>Carol Davis</i>                      | • <i>Kevin Rhule</i>             |
| • <i>Daniela Von Ruffer</i>               | • <i>Lori Burton</i>             |
| • <i>David Prestia</i>                    | • <i>Myra Owens</i>              |
| • <i>Diana Nunez Hoyle</i>                | • <i>Phyllis Entin</i>           |
| • <i>Ellie Tuck</i>                       | • <i>Richard Churray</i>         |
| • <i>Hanna, Julia, and Jonathan Fryer</i> | • <i>Rick Horvath</i>            |
| • <i>James McNabb</i>                     | • <i>Steve and Betty Reppert</i> |
| • <i>James Tashjian-Brown</i>             | • <i>Charlotte Gray</i>          |
| • <i>Jane Davis</i>                       | • <i>Alan and Allison Ball</i>   |
| • <i>Jean Kleeman</i>                     | • <i>Tom Marker</i>              |
| • <i>Jim Sturgill</i>                     | • <i>Tracy Warner</i>            |
|                                           | • <i>Jeffrey Rickerman</i>       |



*Wet Boots Drying - Photographer Unknown*

### CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the Third Tuesdays of January, March, May, September, and November. The next meeting is March 20, at 7:00 PM Trinity Lutheran Church 2315 N. Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23229

**Friends are welcome!**

### ODATC and ATC

ODATC is a maintenance club and a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Lifetime memberships are available for \$250. Renewals are due annually based upon the month you joined. Renewals and applications for membership can be processed online. If you prefer the USPS, forms for renewal and application may be printed from the website.

**ODATC Outreach**  
*The ODATC Board has an opening for an Outreach Board Member.*

*For details, contact Theresa at [odatc.president@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.president@gmail.com).*

### GET INVOLVED

#### CARPOOLING

Please honor the following suggested donations to your driver when carpooling to and from hikes:

\$10 per rider for travel to and around the Charlottesville area (60 -70 miles approx.)

\$15+ per rider for travel beyond Charlottesville (over 75 miles)

### THE WALKER

*The Walker* is published bi-monthly with submission deadlines by the 15th of the publication month. Club member stories and photos are welcome! Please send material to Katie at [odatc.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.newsletter@gmail.com)

