

The Walker

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Volume 20, Issue 3

May/June 2012

Annual Club Night Potluck and Member's Slide Show

May 15 (Tuesday), 6:30 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Road

For our Annual Club Night we're asking everyone to bring a dessert, salad, or entree to share with fellow Oaters. Feel free to experiment here, because we folks aren't known to be fussy when it comes to food! The Club will provide soft drinks, paper plates, eating utensils, and napkins. You just need to bring some good food and a good appetite.

Next, for the evening's entertainment, though not required, we're asking members to submit up to 5 digital photos (jpeg) to be presented during the meeting. Simply email up to five photos to Randy at randy.wendell@verizon.net by May 11 and he'll prepare them for the showing. Any photo that you think the group would appreciate will do. We'd also like you to say a few brief words about your photos during the showing.

This is always a fun event and a great way to kick off the summer - we hope to see you!

Trail Maintenance, Oh The Things That We Do.... *Lori Ando, Contributor*

The maintenance crews have been out in full force this year and the unusually warm weather has certainly helped. Starting as early as February, we divided the team and tackled two projects on the same day. The first crew of thirteen met at the Pump House in Richmond to help the James River Park District with various trail projects. The second crew of five went up to the AT and started a trail assessment, which will be used to help plan future work trips.

As March rolled around, we had another wonderful day and a large turnout for our March 17 work trip. Twenty-two people attended which is awesome. This time, we divided into six crews covering most of our 19.1-mile section of trail. This is our year for touching up all the blue blazes and the nice day allowed for painting, which was done on the Albright Loop. Three sawyer crews were out removing downed trees in addition to other general rehab work. Other chores completed include removing firescars, cleaning waterbars, and carrying lime to the privy. It was a long day and everyone worked very hard.

We didn't stop there; the end of March brought another beautiful work trip day helping Cyrus at the James River Wildlife Refuge. Fifteen club members volunteered for this event and Cyrus put us to work performing a variety of chores. At the same time, two sawyer crews were busy removing the fallen trees. There were also crews out performing tasks from sign installation, invasive species clearing, and debris removal - by the truckload. Cyrus grilled a gourmet lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs and of course, there was Fran's famous chocolate pecan pie. Yum! A wonderful way to end the month.



Remember, our work trips are on the third Saturday of every month. Reserve your spot by emailing odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com. If you can't make a work trip day, you can still help by hiking our section of the trail between Rockfish Gap and Reeds Gap and reporting any downed trees to the same email address as above. When reporting trees, please note location, diameter and how high it is off the ground.

Many thanks to all who have volunteered so far this year!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has arrived and what better time to get out for a hike, whether locally or out in the mountains. I hope you will take the opportunity to participate on a club-sponsored hike or better yet become a hike leader yourself. Even if you missed getting a hike posted in this edition of The Walker, the activity link on our club website can be updated daily with new activities. (Thank you, Kimberly and Jenni!!)

As I mentioned in my last message, there have been a lot of meetings and activities related to the AT partnership. The following are just a few of the topics:

- The Memorandum of Understanding with the Blue Ridge Parkway has been updated and re-signed. Once we receive our copy with final signatures, this will be posted on the website under guidance documents for those who are interested in the details.*
- Over the weekend of August 10 -12, ATC and the ATPO (Appalachian Trail Park Office) will host a Volunteer Leadership Meeting at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Cost share funds are available to fund two attendees from each AT club. The intent is to assist clubs in developing future club leaders and recruiting new volunteers whether baby boomers or youth. If you would be interested in getting more involved in the management of ODATC and helping the club reach out to others, please contact me for more information. These meetings in the past have been a great opportunity to share ideas and meet others from up and down the AT corridor.*
- Our club and others in the southern region typically have one to two weeks where volunteer Konnarock crews come and assist the club on more intense or specialized trail maintenance projects. There is a Konnarock Steering Committee, comprised of club, ATC, and agency partners, which evaluates and determines which projects and clubs will receive Konnarock assistance. Beginning in 2013, ODATC has the opportunity for an individual experienced and knowledgeable in trail construction and rehabilitation to serve on this steering committee. We have several of our long time maintainers who would be excellent for this committee. If you think this might be a good fit for you, please contact Lori Ando or me for more information.*

The club has numerous opportunities for coordinating activities or just participating. We continue to have a need for weekend hike leaders. Efforts are underway to help those with an interest but who are not quite sure how to get started. The monthly maintenance trips and Konnarock weeks are posted in activities. Be sure to mark your calendar to participate. The club typically provides dinner for the crew on Saturday night so maybe assisting with meal prep would be a good fit for you. Our annual potluck dinner is coming up on May 15. Please check The Walker for details. Hope to see many club members at that fun event.

Have a great spring and summer!!! See you out on the trail!!!

Theresa

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 leaders may refuse to allow participation by club members or their guests.

<u>Terrain</u>	<u>Distance</u>
1 = Very Strenuous	A = More than 13 miles
2 = Strenuous	B = 9 to 13 miles
3 = Moderate	C = 5 to 9 miles
4 = Easy	D = Under 5 miles

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 for 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.

May 2 (Wednesday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods (D/4)

Ted McGarry (218-1238). One in a series of 2-hour morning hikes by Richmond native and retired City Planner. Coordinator's choice: **Bellevue** in Northside. Meet at 10:00 AM and park on MacArthur Ave. at W. Laburnum Ave. 23227. Optional lunch at Roy's Big Burger, a walk-up with outside seating in operation since my teen years.

May 2 (Wednesday) ODATC Board Meeting

Contact Theresa Duffey for more details. Meetings are held at Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd) at 7:00 PM.

May 6 (Sunday) Petersburg National Battlefield Park (C/4)

Aseeyah (AK) (solitude_1957@hotmail.com or (804)382-6186). Come along for a 6.7-mile circuit hike around Petersburg National Battlefield Park. Learn some interesting facts about the Civil War and enjoy the outdoors. This is the 7th hike in Leonard M. Adkin's book 50 Hikes in Southern Virginia. The hike should take about 3 hours so we will have plenty of time to explore the park and have lunch. Limited to 10 participants. Meet at 9:00 AM at the I-64 Rockville/Manakin Park & Ride.

May 6 (Sunday) To the Arctic – Science Museum of Virginia IMAX DOME Feature

Jenni Pendergrass (japendergrass@co.hanover.va.us or 264-1633). **To the Arctic** takes you on a never before seen journey into the lives of a mother polar bear and her two seven-month old cubs as they navigate the changing Arctic wilderness they call home. Captivating, adventurous, and intimate footage brings you up close and personal with this family's struggle to survive and thrive in a frigid environment of melting ice, immense glaciers, spectacular waterfalls, and majestic snow-bound peaks. The feature starts at 4:00 PM. Optional dinner to follow. Ticket prices are \$9 *general admission*, \$5 for *Science Museum members*. *Tickets can be ordered online at <https://tickets.smv.org/public/>.*

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)



Jim Hunt and Alice Preston led ODATCers along the James River Park Islands in April.

**You can lead a hike, too!
It's easy to do.**

Additional resources to find hikes are:

www.trails.com

www.localhikes.com

Search for Richmond & Central Virginia hikes.

Talk to any hike leader listed in Trips, Treks, & Talks about what leaders need to know and do.

Publicize your hike on the website odtc.net and through *The Walker*.

**Weekend Hike
Leaders Needed!**

May 9 (Wednesday) Pocahontas State Park (PSP), Chesterfield (C/3)

Jeff Samuels (796-7949). Jeff is a volunteer trail maintainer at PSP. Hike 5.25 miles on Forest Exploration, Beaver Lake, and connector trails. Hilly, wide, mostly shaded paths with lake views. Restrooms available. Entrance to PSP is on Beach Road (Rt. 655) 4 miles west of the Chesterfield County Government Center (Rt. 10/Ironbridge Rd.) Meet at 10 AM in the big parking lot at the end of State Park Road near the swimming pool/picnic area. Bring lunch if you want to eat at a picnic area at end of hike. Nominal parking fee.

May 12 (Saturday) Rivanna Trail Hike (A/3)

Ken Baker (804-749-3625 or lightfoot230@juno.com). Loop hike along the Rivanna Trail encircling Charlottesville generally following the Rivanna River and other streams and joining various city parks and neighborhoods. Total distance is about 19.5 miles. This is a long but fairly easy hike; don't let the distance scare you - doable by anyone in reasonable good physical condition.

May 15 (Tuesday, 6:30PM) Potluck Dinner and Member's Slide Show

For our annual Club Night we're asking everyone to bring a dessert, salad, or entrée to share with fellow ODATCers. Feel free to experiment here because our folks aren't known to be picky when it comes to food! The Club will provide soft drinks, paper plates, eating utensils, and napkins. You just need to bring some good food and a good appetite. Next, for the evening's entertainment, though not required, we're asking members to submit up to five digital photos (jpeg) to be presented during the meeting. Any photo that you think the group would appreciate will do. Simply email up to five photos to Randy at randy.wendell@verizon.net by May 11 and he'll prepare them for the showing. We would also like you to say a few brief words about your photos during the showing. The meeting will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd) at 6:30 PM. This is always a fun event and a great way to kick off the summer - we hope to see you!

May 19 (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 odtc.trailmaint@gmail.com to register and for additional information.

May 20 (Sunday) Trail Magic at Reed's Gap

Aseyah (AK) (solitude1957@hotmail.com or (804)382-6186). As a result of receiving so much trail magic during my hikes along the AT, I decided it was time to give back. So join me in serving food to the thru-hikers at Reed's Gap. Menu, contributions, and ideas will be discussed before the trail magic date. Meet at 8:00 AM at the I-64 Rockville/Manakin Park & Ride.

May 24-30 (Thursday to Wednesday) SNP Backpacking Trip (A/3)

Mike O'Neil (mefishn@comcast.net). Backpacking trip in Shenandoah National Park from Thornton Gap to Rockfish Gap. Contact Mike for more information.

May 30 (Wednesday) University of Richmond and Surrounds (C/4)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). Enjoy a 5-6 mile walk around the trails and lake at the University of Richmond. Also, see Civil War defenses, Bandy Road Park - the highest point in Richmond North of the river, Country Club of Virginia, and surrounding neighborhoods. Meet at 10:00 AM and park around the circle in front of Bill's house at 710 West Drive Circle. DO NOT PARK ON THE NEIGHBORS' LAWNS. Bring your lunch and we will eat in Bill's back yard after the hike. Bill will provide the beer and soft drinks. From the West End's Forest Ave., turn at Tuckahoe Elementary School on Lindsay Dr. to the first right.

June 2/3 (Saturday-Sunday) Calf Mountain Overnight Backpacking (C/3)

Aseyah (AK) (solitude1957@hotmail.com or (804)382-6186). This is an overnight backpacking trip up to the Calf Mountain Shelter. The shelter is located 7 miles north from the southern entrance of the Shenandoah National Park so the total mileage is 14 miles. This is a moderate backpacking trip so come and join the fun!!!! Tent sites are available. Limited to 8 participants. Meet at 8:00 AM at the I-64 Rockville/Manakin Park & Ride.



The intrepid Wednesday hikers.

June 6 (Wednesday) ODATC Board Meeting

Contact Theresa Duffey for more details. Meetings are held at Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd) at 7:00 PM.

June 9 (Saturday) ODATC Section Hike (A/1)

Randy Wendell (randy.wendell@verizon.net). This 19-miler covers the entire section of the AT maintained by our Club. Though the mileage is long (and hilly!), this hike is do-able for most fit hikers. Because of the distance, participants will need to maintain a fairly good pace, but this trek has proven to be a fun event. Really. Anyway, please contact Randy if you're up for this challenge or if you have any questions.

June 9 (Saturday) Turk Branch-Moormans River - SNP (C/2)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). This popular hike is # 31 in the [PATC Circuit Hikes in SNP Guide](#). The 7.8 mi. hike includes an elevation change of 2,030 ft. The circuit hike starts at Jarman Gap, follows the Appalachian Trail, descends on the Turk Branch Trail to the S.F. of Moormans River, and returns along the headwaters of the River. Eastern vistas include the Charlottesville Reservoir in Sugar Hollow. Call Bill for time and meeting place.

June 13 (Wednesday) Lake Anna State Park – Spotsylvania County (D-4)

Jim Hunt (730-2364). Meet at 9:30 AM at Oilville Park and Ride Exit 167 off I-64 to carpool, as there is a car entrance fee. Bring bathing suit for the lake beach after the 5-mile hike, followed by lunch in Mineral. Hike

mostly hardwood forest with views of the fingers of Lake Anna and creeks in the park's interior. The Park is about one hour northwest of Richmond.

A NEW BOOK - Along the Appalachian Trail: Georgia, North Caroline, and Tennessee

Written and edited by Club member Leonard Adkins

The approximately 200 vintage photographs, selected from the archives of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the National Park Service, and local Appalachian Trail maintenance clubs, provide a look at life in the mountains before and during the trail's creation. Celebrate 75 years of the AT and learn how it came into being, who its early champions were, the many relocations the trail has experienced, and the volunteers who have constructed and maintained it. Donations from book sales benefit the ATC.

Visit www.habitualhiker.com.

June 16 (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) for additional information or send an email to odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com to register.

June 16 - 23 (Saturday - Saturday) 27th Annual James River Bateau Festival (N/A)

A fleet of replica bateau and various canoes and kayaks navigate the James for a week from Lynchburg to Maidens Landing in Goochland. Camping is available at stops along the way. For information about the Festival, check the web. I am planning a self-supported canoe trip down the James during the Festival starting in Lynchburg and finishing a few days later probably at Scottsville. If you are interested in joining me on this trip, contact Ken Baker at 804-749-3625 or lightfoot230@juno.com.

June 20 (Wednesday) The Avenues of Libbie and Grove – not a shopping trip (D-4)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com). Meet at 10:00 AM in the parking lot behind the Westhampton Theater on Grove near Libbie in the City's West End. Hike a 5-mile loop through this residential community and explore the campuses of St. Catherine's, St Christopher's, and The Country Club of Va. Also Civil War and Revolutionary War Landmarks (complete with stories, some of which may even be true). All within walking distance of this traditional neighborhood retail center. Optional lunch "on the Avenue" after the hike.

June 20-24 (Wednesday to Sunday) Backpacking Across Maryland (A/3)

Aseeyah (AK) (solitude1957@hotmail.com or (804)382-6186). This is an annual backpacking trip that is very enjoyable for me. We average about 8-10 miles a day and complete the entire state of Maryland. We will start at Harper's Ferry and end at Penn Mar Park. If we have time we will stop at the ATC Headquarters where you can purchase your Maryland AT patch!! Shuttle cars and parking fees will be needed. Limited to 8 participants. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Rockville/Manakin Park & Ride.

June 23 (Saturday) SNP – Big Run Loop Trail – SNP (C/3)

Jenni Pendergrass (264-1633 or jennipendergrass@aol.com). 7 mile circuit hike (#23 in Circuit hikes in SNP book) that begins at Big Run Overlook and descends 1,140 to the upper end of Big Run Valley before swinging back up hill on the Madison Road fire road to join the AT. Meet at 8:00 at the Rockville/Manakin Park and Ride on I-64. Limited to 8 hikers.

ODATC 2012 Miles Hiked as of April 13

The total miles hiked are 1,863!!

Ninety nine (99) ODATC members (1/4 of the Club) have participated in at least one hike.

Brad Swingle leads the pack with 18 hikes and 111 miles.

CONGRATULATIONS Brad!!

See the Club's mileage (your reported miles & hikes). Visit our website www.odatc.net.

Access the report through the Recent Blog Posts. Thanks Kimberly and Randy!

**Welcome New Members and
Members Who Continue to Trek**
Alice Preston and Tayloe Moore, Membership Contributors

- Alan and Allison Ball
- Betty A. Sacra
- Brad Belo
- C. Wayne Nunnally
- Catherine Rolfe
- Dave Depp
- David Rosales
- Dorothy Schoeneman
- Ernest Wilson
- Frances and Dave Lively
- George Scott
- Gretchen and Jeff Marr
- Janet O'Quinn
- Jeanette Tacker
- Odelle Robertson, Jr.

2012 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	odatc.president@gmail.com
Vice President	Jan Taylor		janmact@comcast.net
Secretary	Leonard Adkins	275-1208	odatc.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dennis Schafer	314-2434	schaferdp@verizon.net
Programs	Randy Wendell	794-7833	randy.wendell@verizon.net
Land Mgmt.	Karl Huber	355-4619	odatc.landmgmt@gmail.com
Membership	Alice Preston Tayloe Moore	741-0049 798-4535	tufdesign@gmail.com tayloeg@gmail.com
Trail Maint.	Lori Ando	3975306	odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com
Activities	Jenni Pendergrass	264-1633	japendergrass@co.hanover.va.us
Newsletter	Katie Veilleux	919-900-8007	odatc.newsletter@gmail.com
Outreach	OPEN		
Webmaster	Kimberly Lawrence	992-3731	odatc.webmaster@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities - There are many ways to participate in *your* Club.

We are looking for someone to coordinate Outreach Activities for ODATC. This is a position for an organized, enthusiastic person who is interested in representing the Club at outdoor-related activities, festivals, and businesses. You will meet great people by working with other trail and ATC clubs to recruit volunteer participation in joint club Appalachian Trail monitoring and maintenance. We want to encourage the use of the bounty of trails in Richmond and Central Virginia, including the AT. Activities may include coordinating "Trail Magic," educational presentations about ODATC, and other creative OUTREACH efforts. There are Board Members ready and willing to assist you. Contact Theresa (550-0955) or odatc.president@gmail.com for more information.

SPECIAL INVITATION FOR HEARTY HIKERS

June 9 (Saturday) ODATC Section Hike (A1) - Randy Wendell (randy.wendell @ verizon .net) This 19-miler covers the entire section of the AT maintained by our Club. Though the mileage is long (and hilly!), this hike is do-able for most fit hikers. Because of the distance, participants will need to maintain a fairly good pace, but this trek has proven to be a fun event. Really. Anyway, please contact Randy if you're up for this challenge or if you have any questions.

Welcome to ODATC's Venture Crew 760!

Venture Crew 760 is up and running with 11 teenagers (7 boys and 4 girls). The Crew is beginning to plan their dates for both training and activities as the school year winds down. They are investigating a trip to the beach, canoeing and cooking the group meal at Konnacrock as part of their initial activities. ODATC members Richard Brett, Jenni Pendergrass, and Beth Kirwin are advisors for the Crew. Talk to any of these club

members to see how you can join us in supporting 760. You'll see the Crew at our club meeting in May. Please take a moment to welcome them and their parents. The Venture Crew program is a co-ed, fun-seeking, outdoor-oriented youth group whose goals include high-adventure activities and helping the community while allowing youth to blossom as leaders.

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.

WHAT IS TRAIL MAGIC? Long-distance hikers to describe an unexpected occurrence that lifts a hiker's spirits and inspires awe or gratitude coined the term "trail magic." "Trail magic" may be as simple as being offered a candy bar by a passing hiker or spotting an elusive species of wildlife. The work of A.T. volunteers, who devote hundreds of thousands of hours to the A.T. every year to maintain and protect it, is sometimes considered the "ultimate trail magic." If you are considering providing some "trail magic," visit appalachiantrail.org and read [suggestions for providing Trail Magic](#). Contact Aseeyah (AK) (solitude1957@hotmail.com) or (804)382-6186).

ODATC Outreach
The ODATC Board has an opening for an Outreach Board Member.
 For details, contact Theresa at
odatc.president@gmail.com.

GET INVOLVED

UPDATE OUR CLUB DISPLAY BOARD
 ODATC has a grant from L.L.Bean to update our Club display board. If you are interested in helping, please contact Katie via odatc.newsletter@gmail.com ASAP.
To comply with the grant, the display needs to be completed by year's end!

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the Third Tuesdays of January, March, May, September, and November.
 The next meeting is May 15, at 6:30 PM
 Trinity Lutheran Church 2315 N. Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23229
ANNUAL CLUB POTLUCK
BRING A DISH
 and friends are welcome!

A.T. 75th Anniversary Festival
 Harpers Ferry, West Virginia
 August 11-12, 2012
 Laurie Potteiger (304) 535-2200 x. 128
 or lpotteiger@appalachiantrail.org