



In Memoriam: Larry Murtaugh, 1948 - 2010

This issue of the *Walker* is dedicated to the fond memories of Larry's life and the adventures he shared with members. Larry served ODATC as our treasurer, chainsawyer, overseer, maintainer and friend. In his honor, friends and fellow hikers tell stories about those special times together:

I first met Larry when I became president of the club in 2004; he had been treasurer for a few years. Larry was the strongest hiker and maybe the strongest person I have known. Larry, Peggy Kite, a few non club members and I were hiking the 110 miles around Mont Blanc in France. One night we were staying high in the mountains in a mountain hotel and went to get some dinner; as we walked into the dinning room a passerby said in French to his friend "look at those old people". They did not know that we had a French speaker in our group and that Larry with his white beard was most likely the strongest hiker in the place. We had a good laugh. - Jim Hunt

After a couple of days backpacking in Yosemite backcountry with Larry and a few others from ODATC, Larry decided to give the group a break day because some had severe blisters, shin splints etc. It was an idyllic spot by the Lyle River near Tuolumne Meadows. We were free to do whatever -- swim, hike or just relax. After several days of freeze dried food, I made the announcement that I was walking five miles back to the grill in Tuolumne to get a cheeseburger. Larry said that didn't sound like a bad idea either and he would go with me. His brother-in-law Lee said, "Well Larry if you are going back there how about bringing me a bottle of wine." The whole group laughed at this idea, but Larry undeterred said OK and took a platypus water container and brought wine back. He delivered good sherpa service. - Peggy Kite

I first met Larry serving on the board for ODATC. Larry was the treasurer at the time and gave up his position to move to Amsterdam with his wife Genevieve. Kidding with him I said, "Get a big place and have us over." He did! A few other club members and I were invited to stay with Larry and Genevieve in their place on the canal in old Amsterdam. Every day was a real treat with the sights Larry had planned for us. He not only showed us Amsterdam but the rest of the Netherlands. I will always remember Larry and the great time he showed us all. - Susan Turner

I'm blessed to have been able to spend 'quality time' with Larry during several backpacking trips out west. In fact, it was Larry who introduced me to both Yosemite and the John Muir Trail. I couldn't have asked for a better guide. Like most, I admired Larry for his compassion, wisdom, sense of civic duty, and his sense of adventure. Larry also had a quick and quirky wit that was delivered with impeccable timing; he always had a knack for knowing what to say and when. The following are just a few of my countless memorable moments with Larry. During one of our Yosemite treks, our group camped at a site that overlooked a beautiful valley. That evening Larry and Lee started a campfire and, which is often the case when

sitting around a campfire, our group began discussing things like the meaning of life and even more important matters like which is the better stove – alcohol or butane? While deep in conversation several of us spotted the faint silhouette of some large animal that was quietly circling our campsite. Given the eeriness of the surrounding slabs of granite, large trees, and darkness, this thing could have easily been one of those human-hunting creatures from Predator. Of course it turned out to be *only* a bear. The darkness coupled with the stealth-like quietness of the bear was unnerving and we were all squinting hard trying to keep track of the bear as it ducked in and out of trees and boulders. At one point our group lost sight of the bear for several moments and then we began looking about frantically to spot him before he was able to capture and drag one of us off into darkness (which of course was a near impossibility). At the peak of our tension, Larry, in his typical calm fashion, said oh so matter-of-factly, "Lee, the bear is behind you." Sure enough, the bear was about 10 feet behind Lee!

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ODATC MISSION

- The construction & maintenance of foot trails for hikers, including the trail between Reeds Gap and Rockfish Gap
- The provision of excursions on such trails or in other areas
- The offering of educational activities related to the need for preserving the great outdoors

P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R

Greetings!!

As I write this message knowing the temperatures will again be in the 90s this week, it is hard to believe fall and that great hiking weather will ever arrive. The summer has brought a mix of good and bad. We lost a good friend with the unexpected death of Larry Murtaugh. His passing is a great loss to family, friends and the club. Please take time to read the memories shared by friends.

On a personal note, I'm joining the empty nester crowd as my only child heads off to Virginia Tech. We'll see how successful I was in my not-so-subtle encouragement to join the VT Outing Club, which among other activities maintains 30 miles of the trail in southwest Virginia. As for me, I'm trying to convince myself that I'll have lots of time to get back to my interests again – high on the list is club activities and work trips. Speaking of which, I was able to attend the Saturday dinner of our second week of Konnarock. And yes, I did help some and not just eat the delicious food the cooks prepared! There was a good turnout by club members for both weeks and lots more work was accomplished than I think anyone expected. Kudos to Fran for coordinating another successful season. She'll be letting us know later how many folks worked 5 days to earn their special t-shirt. Even though our 2 weeks of Konnarock exceeded expectations, there will always be a need for maintenance on the trail whether our section or that of neighboring clubs.

As I mentioned in my summer message, there is a sub-group of the Board that has been researching some new web options for managing the website, club membership, the Walker and other methods of communication such as forums and member blogs. This group will be making recommendations at the September Board meeting. Hopefully, this fall we will be taking a closer look at the club's opportunities for outreach and outdoor education. Ideas and participation from our membership are always welcome. Stay tuned for more on this initiative.

Hope to see folks during some of the upcoming activities and out on the trail. Bring on that fall weather!!

Theresa Duffey



V i r g i n i a J o u r n e y s 2 0 1 1

VIRGINIA TO HOST ATC BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Benton MacKaye hosted the first Appalachian Trail conference in Washington D.C. in March 1925, an event attended by a handful of nature enthusiasts. 75 years later, the Appalachian Trail, and Virginia are privileged to host the 38th Biennial Conference of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, with a projected participation of 800+.

Emory & Henry College, located within a few miles from Damascus, VA, the "friendliest town on the trail", will be the center of this very exciting event. **Virginia Journeys 2011** will begin on Friday, July 1, 2011 and run through Friday, July 8. Hiking, water sports, biking, workshops and entertainment will fill your week with the pleasures of the beautiful Virginia mountains and fellowship with other A.T. enthusiasts. The conference is offering a variety of activities to entertain and educate your entire family. There will be events suited for children as well as activities for thru-hikers and casual hikers. To relax after a long day of hiking and biking, the conference will be providing local entertainment every evening with a very special guest entertainer on Saturday night.

Highlights include:

Over 60 different guided **hikes** to a variety of interesting and scenic areas in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia and Tennessee are scheduled. Most hikes will be offered several times during the week, giving you greater flexibility in choosing your favorites.

72 **workshops** covering a wide variety of outdoor and ATC related subjects including Hiking and Backpacking Skills, Engaging Youth on the Trail, Trail Management, Environmental Issues, and many more.

Non-hiking related **excursions** will offer a change of pace. Take a guided tour of historical and cultural sites in the area surrounding Emory & Henry College. Enjoy a float down a lazy river in the mountains.

Exhibitors including conservation groups, outfitters, authors and many more. The ATC store will be on site with genuine ATC merchandise.

VJ2011 is a very special opportunity to meet so many people with similar interests in enjoying and preserving the Appalachian Trail and the natural beauty of our country. ODATC is privileged to be one of the 7 hosting clubs for the conference. Therefore, many volunteer opportunities are available. This is an opportunity to give a few hours of your time at

Biennial Conference continued on page 3...

ATC Biennial Conference (Virginia Journeys) continued.....

the conference by assisting at the registration desk during part of the first 4 days of the conference, or providing information and guidance to the participants at the Information Desk. Prior to the conference, we invite you to join us for a "stuffing party" here in Richmond, **June 18 and 25** where we will be stuffing registration packets for the pre-registered attendees. There are many other volunteer opportunities available such as leading hikes or setting up exhibit space. If you would like to know more about these opportunities, please email **Sue Kropp** at freshair82@comcast.net.

For more information about VJ2011, visit the ATC website, <http://www.appalachiantrail.org>. Enter "Virginia Journeys 2011" in the search field and select the same phrase from the list below. The website is still under construction, but some information is available. Visit the site often for new entries. Online Registration will be available by March 2011. More information is also available in the September issue of the AT Journeys magazine.

Mark your calendar:

June 18 – Stuffing Party; June 25 – Stuffing Party; July 1-8 – VJ2011

Memories continued.....

Fortunately, it quickly ran away from the wild commotion we made. For the rest of the trip we laughed like hyenas anytime one of us imitated Larry's monotone "Lee, the bear is behind you" statement. I mean, really. Try to think of any real-life situation where one could calmly say, "Lee, the bear is behind you."

On another backpacking trip we got caught in a storm system that caused a cold hard rain lasting several days. Conditions were awful and the worst part was that each day we had to walk through several inches water. I recall feeling sorry for myself and also feeling blisters beginning to form on my soaked feet. At one point all of us were quietly trudging along and feeling miserable when Larry, who never complained, dryly said "I think I'm getting trench foot." By itself this statement doesn't seem particularly funny, but given our absurdly miserable situation at that time this could well have been the funniest line ever spoken. Larry's little one-line really lifted our spirits. Later that night we managed to build a fire for some much needed warmth and Larry placed his socks on the end of a stick, got comfortable, and then dried his socks over the fire as if he were at a weenie roast. He did this several evenings and seeing him kick-back and roast his giant wool socks over an open fire was always a delightful sight. Oh, and I'm happy to report that none of us came down with "trench foot!"

Yet another time hiking out west we decided to pitch our tents near one of the High Sierra Camps, a place where paying customers (not us) could actually sleep in permanent structures on cots and have their meals prepared for them. What was particularly unusual about this evening was that there happened to be a troupe of Shakespearian actors staying at the Camp the same time we were there. This Troupe actually specialized in performing comedic versions of Shakespeare and as a kind gesture to their fellow campers (including us) the Troupe decided to put on one of their plays. This made for a magical evening. However, as wonderful as the play was I think that it is safe to say that Larry was the main event. Just prior to the play Larry resourcefully took the aluminum foil from his stove and shaped it into a crown and then draped himself in his purple sleeping bag. Larry, who was normally humble to a fault, attended the play as King Lear! Only Larry could even think of doing such a thing. I could go on with these tales, but the bottom line is that even though backpacking can be very tough, no matter the situation Larry was always there for us and always lifted our spirits. - Randy Wendell

My best memory of Larry is from about six years ago when we took on the task of finishing the last re-digging of the Paul Wolfe privy. We started at about four feet deep. I went down first to dig and fill many bucket loads of dirt that Larry heaved up to redistribute into the woods. Some time later at about the six-and-a-half foot level, we decided to take a break. I realized that I had dug myself down to a point where I needed Larry's help to pull me up and out of the hole. During our break we both were trying to remember why we had signed up for this job in the first place!

Break over..... we were obviously tiring of each of our respective tasks and Larry very graciously offered to switch jobs and do the digging (it was getting dark down there at the bottom). This sounded great to me but after a quick reconsideration, we realized that there was no way my diminutive 148-pound weakling frame was going to be able to haul Larry's 6-foot 6ish, 250+ pound body out of that hole!

Grudgingly, we both continued digging the remaining two feet as earlier; with me down in the bottom and Larry hauling the dirt (and finally me) out of the pit. We miss you Larry! - Mike Shelor

Larry led a small group of us on the John Muir Trail in 2005. I wasn't certain I would be able to finish this hike as I knew it was long (211 miles) and hard with altitude at 12,000 and 13,000 feet and we only had 16 days to finish because of job commitments. About four days out after slogging through snow and being caught in a thunderstorm with hail and lightning on Donahue Pass at 11,000 feet, then spending that night on a wet rock, the next morning I remember saying "I don't want to do this any more. When can I get off?" Larry always gentle and easygoing scratched his head and replied, "Bishop." Well Bishop is practically at the end of the hike so this made me laugh and it changed my attitude and enabled me to complete the hike. A couple of months prior to the trip, Larry had mentioned there would be a surprise at the end of the hike so at the top of Mt. Whitney at the end I asked him what the surprise was -- his reply "that you made it." - Peggy Kite

September 7 (Tuesday) Board Meeting. Contact Theresa Duffey for more details.

September 8 (Wednesday) James River Loop Trail.....C/3

Odelle Robertson (276-5185 or river.odie@verizon.net) This is a great hike with very little driving. We hike along the new mountain bike/ hiking trail north of the James, either through or behind Maymont, circuit Belle Island and then along the Buttermilk Highlands (“a bit of the AT right here in Richmond”) on the south side of the James, cross the “nickel” bridge and back to the cars. There is quite a bit more up and down than you would expect here, so come check it out. NOTE: this is not a flat land hike and it is about 8 miles. It also has some areas that can be slippery especially if wet. If you have email please use it to sign up and put the hike name in the subject line; it makes it easier for me to keep track (me lazy, naw just delegate well).

September 14 (Tuesday) Kayak Gathering (tentative Huguenot Flatwater)N/A

Odelle Robertson (276-5185 or river.odie@verizon.net) There have been so many questions about kayaks and kayaking that I thought it would be great to get kayakers and those interested in kayaking together at the water where they could try different boats, paddles, PFD, and share opinions. Even though fall is here there is lots of warm weather left and the boats’ prices are dropping. This time of year weekends are swamped, but there is still plenty of daylight in the weekday evenings. Please come out and bring your boat/boats and equipment so others can see and maybe paddle some. I will arrive about 4:30 p.m. and bring a couple of boats, Huguenot has almost no current and is easy to put in and take out. You may/will get wet so bring a swim suit and towel. Bring along a picnic dinner, folding chairs, etc and we can talk boat’n while we eat. If you have email please use it to sign up and put the hike name in the subject line. This is particularly important for this event as **weather/water levels could change the meeting locations**. I have a couple of alternate locations in mind. Day of event phone 393-5175.

September 15 (Wednesday) Maymont Park.....D-4

Ted McGarry (218-1238 or tedmcgarry@juno.com). Today is the first of the Wednesday hike season and we start with Richmond’s crown jewel. Maymont Park should be beautiful in mid-September and the bears are always happy to see us. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Spotswood Rd. entrance parking lot (near Dogwood Dell) to enjoy this 4 mile walk through Richmond’s loveliest park. Optional lunch at a Carytown eatery.

September 17 – 19 (Friday evening – Sunday) Gauley River Marathon.....Moderate/Strenuous

Mark J. Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) markwenger@cox.net. This is the rafting trip you have waited for all year. The top white water in America and one of the best in the world. We will leave Williamsburg on Friday and drive to Oak Hill, West Virginia and camp at ACE Adventures. On Saturday there are different options for rafting. **See newsletter for more details.**

September 18 Work Trip Contact Fran Leckie (804-270-6908) for details.

September 18 (Saturday) Rivanna River Paddle.....N/A

John Festa johnfesta@comcast.net will coordinate a 3-4 hour beginner’s paddle on the scenic Rivanna River between Crofton and Palmyra with a lunch stop. Crofton is about one hour west of Richmond. You must provide your own boat and equipment including PFD’s. Email is best in contacting John for information but, if you must, call 804-201-7685.

September 21 (Tuesday) ODATC General Club Meeting.....N/A

The general club meeting will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Road at 6:30 p.m. Arrive early to meet representatives from REI and greet new members. See newsletter for more details.

September 22 (Wednesday) Chippokes State Park.....D/4

Jim Hunt (jamesghunt@msn.com or 730-2364) This nice 5 mile hike includes a one mile beach walk along the James River. This is hike #11 in Nathan Lott’s book *60 hikes within 60 miles of Richmond*. We will stop for lunch after the hike. Meet at 9:30 AM at the parking lot. Please note the drive is a little more than one hour from Richmond.

September 23 (Thursday) Canal Walk and Canal Tour.....D/4

Odelle Robertson (276-5185 or river.odie@verizon.net) let’s take a walk along the downtown canal walk followed by a 40 minute tour on a canal boat. The cost for the tour will be \$5.00. We will meet at the parking area on Tredegar St. between the Tredegar Museum and the walkway to Belle Island at 10 a.m. If you have email please use it to sign up and put the hike name in the subject line.

A C T I V I T I E S

September 23 (Thursday) On the deck at Legends.....N/A

Odelle Robertson (276-5185 or river.odie@verizon.net) Let's get together on the deck (inside if the weather turns bad) & talk about our summer adventures/misadventures, new gear and upcoming trips. I'll arrive about 5:00 p.m. Email me if you plan to come so I can grab enough tables. Legends is located at 321 West 7th Street (www.legendsbrewing.com)

September 25 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail in SNP - Skyland to Mary's Rock..... C/3

Eight high miles in Shenandoah National Park; over 3,000 foot elevation & just over 4,000 on Stony Man. But all on CCC-built graded trail. This is another segment of Hank Harman's traverse of the Park. Bring lunch & water. Contact Hank at (804)347-3744 or hharman8@verizon.net for more info & car pooling.

September 25 (Saturday) Three Ridges – Mau Har Loop A/1

Jenni Pendergrass (264-1633 or jennipendergrass@aol.com) This is the one you love (or the one you hate but can't stop hiking). Be prepared for 14 miles of steep elevation changes, rocks, boulder scrambling and several creek crossings. We'll get an early start meeting at Rockville/Manakin Park and Ride at 6:30 a.m. sharp. Throw a headlamp in your daypack just in case we get delayed on the trail.

October 2 (Saturday) Trayfoot Day Hike B/2

Randy Wendell (r.s.wendell@att.net; 794-7833) This is a fairly scenic hike that ascends Trayfoot Mountain, which is the second-highest peak in the southern section of the SNP. There will be several small creek crossings along with a spectacular view from atop Black Rock Summit. Randy rates this 10-miler as strenuous because of its 2,200 foot elevation gain, but it is still very do-able to most hikers. Contact Randy for more details.

October 4th (Monday) Old Rag MountainA/1

Howard Davis (howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242) Located in the Shenandoah National Park north of Madison, this hike will be 8 miles in length and strenuous enough that you should have some previous hiking experience. Limited to 12.

October 5 Board Meeting. (Tuesday) Contact Theresa Duffey for details.

October 6 (Wednesday) Cold Harbor Battlefield.....D/4

Jim Hunt (jamesghunt@msn.com or 730-2364) The park Service has setup 3.5 miles of very interesting trail through this major battlefield. Meet at the ranger station at 10:00 am on Cold Harbor Road.

October 6 (Wednesday) Ragged Mountain Trail.....C2

Odelle Robertson (276-5185 or river.odie@verizon.net) This is a 6 mile (can add 0.5 loop if group would like) that has about 850 foot total elevation change and circles two lakes that form Charlottesville Reservoir. Look at #45 in the *60 Hikes* book for complete description or contact me with any questions. Please no children or pets. Be aware of the weather and dress accordingly (it is often up to 10 degrees colder in Charlottesville than Richmond). If you have email please use it to sign up and put the hike name in the subject line.

October 7 (Thursday) South Floodwall Hike.....C2

Odelle Robertson (276-5185 or river.odie@verizon.net) The section of trail we are going to do is rocky and has some high water debris in one section. You have to watch your footing and have shoes with good traction. There are some great views from the Flood Wall and the Manchester Climbing Wall. We will meet at the Pump House parking lot on the north side of the Boulevard Bridge at 10 a.m. Please call 393-5175 if you cannot make it. We will take one vehicle to the flood wall parking area and hike back to the Pump house lot, about 6 miles. Since this is a shuttle hike we need to know who is coming. If you have email please use it to sign up and put the hike name in the subject line.

October 9 (Saturday).....B/4

Susan Turner (804-739-5552 or turnerskt7@gmail.com) Bike the completed section of the Capital Trail from Chickahominy River Park to Jamestown Island and back. A relatively flat 14 mile round trip. Bring water, snacks and lunch. The visitor's center has a café if anyone is interested in lunch there. Call or e-mail for directions and meeting time.

A C T I V I T I E S

October 9 (Saturday) Beahm's Gap Area - Northern Section of the SNP.....A/1

Ted Nelson (892-5517 or mtnclimber_98@yahoo.com) Summer is over and it is time to get back into the woods, of course not necessarily on trail. This will be about 10 miles with <2,000 feet of elevation but with a significant portion off trail - Why not – it's too easy to just follow blazes! The hike will enter an area of a few old home sites and one of the truly natural meadows in the park. There supposedly is a cemetery in the area which we may re-discover. Due to the distance getting to this site, we will plan on eating on the return to Richmond.

October 8-10 (Friday-Sunday) False Cape State Park.....N/A

Jane and Lee Hesler (768-4201 or jane.hesler@comcast.net or lee.j.hesler@comcast.net) The weather should be great – come join us for hiking, nature studies, swimming and kayaking. We will be staying in the Wash Woods Environmental Center (noon Friday until noon Sunday). The cost per person will be about \$75 including the kayak paddle on Saturday evening (\$55 without). No kids or pets.

October 16 (Saturday) Work Trip Contact Fran Leckie (804-270-6908) for details.

October 16-17 (Saturday-Sunday) SNP Backpack – Keyser Run and Piney Branch TrailC/3

Jenni Pendergrass (264-1633 or jennipendergrass@aol.com). Overnight backpacking trip in the SNP. We'll start on the boundary of the park and make a circuit. Mileage will be 5.7 the first day and around 8 on the second day. We won't be staying at a shelter so you'll need to bring your tent. Note: Location subject to change but plan for similar mileage. Rain may make several creek crossings difficult on this route.

October 20 (Wednesday) Ashland Area Woods.....D-4

Martha James (marthajames@yahoo.com or 883-6252). Join me for a personal walk through the woods of Hanover County on private property. We'll meet at my house, 15067 Horseshoe Bridge Road, Doswell at 10:00 a.m. Directions from I-95: Take the Ashland exit (VA 54), go through Ashland about 4 miles. When you see the sign for Poor Farm Park, take the next right. That's Horseshoe Bridge Road (Rte. 686). Go about 2 ½ miles. The driveway is on the left across from Rehoboth Rd. Look for an ODATC sign. Optional lunch at Suzanne's afterwards

October 23 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail in SNP: Skyland to Big MeadowsC/3

Hank Harman ((804)347-3744 or hharman8@verizon.net) Another high hike, 7.3 miles, although going over Hawksbill Mtn. (highest in the Park) adds 0.6 mile and 500 feet climbing. Another segment of Hank Harman's traverse of the Park. Bring lunch and water. Contact Hank at for more info and car pooling. Note: Hank will try to reserve Rock Spring Cabin for 22nd and 23rd; or he may get the cabin for 29th and 30th and postpone hike one week.

October 30-31 (Saturday/Sunday) Annul Halloween Hoot at Paul Wolfe Shelter.....D/3

It's time again for the club's annual Halloween Hoot. This year will be especially haunting because All Saints Eve will actually happen while we're there. Costumes and trick or treat optional. Contact Mike Shelor at (264-8308) or trailguymike@aol.com.

Future Activities

Nov 13-14 (Saturday-Sunday) Prince William Forest.....N/A

Howard Davis at howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-124. Over night camping at Oak Ridge Campground. \$5.00 per car entrance fee, and \$15.00 per night Camping. (2 tents - 6 people per site.) Day Hike extensive trail network in the Park with visits to nearby Mount Vernon, US Marine Museum, Gunison Hall, or Mason Neck State Park possible. Options for Friday and Monday stay over if interested. Contact Howard for more information.

Mountain Treasure Hunt

ODATC member Ted Nelson (530-0666 or mtnclimber_98@yahoo.com) is looking for some bushwackers to join him on a quest to locate lost treasures in Shenandoah National Park. Jack Reeder, former President of PATC and author of numerous books on the SNP, has provided leads on where these 'lost' items may be located. The list has over 500 items/places/things and you can help Ted locate, get GPS coordinates and take current photos to document them. Ted's immediate interest is on: 1) A steam engine left behind by the former Park residents - Location identified within 1 sq. mile; 2) Some cemeteries near Little Devil Stairs including the only known 'slave cemetery.' These searches will not cover that many miles but will be off-trail and take bush whacking to look for the items. This means being comfortable with off-trail route finding. Dates are flexible depending on interest and weather. Contact Ted for more information.

Clinics and Workshops

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports

Contact: Nick Orrell or Percy Blackburn at norrell@brms.com or pblackburn@brms.com

Sept. 11th - Robious Landing Flatwater 9am-2pm FREE

Sept 18, 2010 - Hopewell, VA Paddle Battle Come join the city of Hopewell for a fun filled day on the water!!

Oct 9th - Previously announced Demo cancelled - NEWLY RESCHEDULED! DAY TRIP

DESTINATION Chickahominy River @ Gordon's Island...You must email norrell@brms.com to register for spots - Limited available! 10 spots left!! Cost \$25. Once contacted I will fill you in on details.

REI (Contact: Christine Wrublesky at cwruble@rei.com)

9/11 and 9/25/2010 10:00 a.m. [Volunteers-In-Parks Exotic Plant Removal Workdays](#)

ATC: Crosscut Saw Class: www.appalachiantrail.org and click on volunteer. You can then search for this opportunity and other opportunities in the area. The limit for participation in this course is 15, so get your registration in soon, for more information contact Andrew at adowns@appalachiantrail.org

White Water Rafting on the Gauley with Mark Wenger, Tidewater ATC

Its not too soon to plan on your rafting trip on the Gauley. That's right, rafting the Gauley River in West Virginia. If you are not familiar with the Gauley it has fall releases in September and October and when it does it becomes one of the top 10 white water streams in the world. Here is the info:

Dates: Arrive Friday September 17, raft Saturday September 18 and depart Sunday September 19, 2010.

Outfitter: ACE Adventures www.aceraft.com 800-787-3982 located in Oak Hill, West Virginia

Program: 23 miles and 110 rapids with 6 grade V+ including the 14' drop at Sweet Falls. OR the upper Gauley run and lower Gauley run depending on what you are interested in as well as the New River. Contact ACE to get full information. I have made reservations. When you call use my reservation number which is 114022.

Lodging: We will be camping at ACE which has great car and tent camping with hot showers and clean up areas. If you want a motel room they are expensive and at a real premium. ACE has a number of other lodging opportunities including huts, bunk houses, cabins etc... Call them if you want something more than car camping.

Food: Friday night and Sunday on your own. A big lunch is provided by the outfitter at Sweet Falls. Dinner that evening at ACE or to Dirty Ernie's which has great ribs, other food and copious quantities of adult beverages. Of course it is Dutch treat. You could also cook at camp but believe me you will be too tired to do that.

Costs: Depending on the trip you select 2010 price for Saturday \$286.90 for the marathon in a 14' raft. Check with ACE on the cost of other trips and rafts. The camping fee is \$27.56 for two nights (Friday the 17 and Saturday the 18).

Procedures: Let me know if you are going. Make your reservations directly with ACE for the rafting trip and pay them. Make sure you mention my reservation number of 114022. Make your camping reservations with ACE as well.

What to bring: Do not bring anything on the raft that you do not want to lose. They provide raft, paddle, pfd, and helmet. You can rent a wet suit or a partial wet suit if you get cold easy. There is little room to carry stuff so a water bottle and maybe a waterproof disposable camera. Water shoes are a must. I would also recommend from personal experience a swim suit that stays on. As for the camping car camping or tent camping you all know what to bring. Of course we will have a fire and bringing a chair is a must. Contact me if you have any questions. Guests are welcome but the outfitters book up so do not wait till the last moment. Again, this is no amusement park. This is real and big water and the ultimate white water in America and again some of the best in the world so be there.

Mark J. Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H)757-220-7408 (W), markwenger@cox.net

Support Wild Rivers Program at Balliceaux

Sierra Nevada is a very green company that works to protect our environment. Some of the brewery's efforts include installing one of the largest privately-owned solar power arrays in the country, installing hydrogen fuel cells for power and recycling or repurposing as much of its waste as possible. It has even built its own waste water treatment plant. Continuing this effort, the brewery has developed the Wild Rivers program to help protect our natural waterways. Sierra donates a portion of the proceeds from all Sierra Nevada 12-packs to the River Network for river conservation.

The Richmond restaurant, Balliceaux (203 N. Lombardy St.) will be hosting an event to support the Wild Rivers program. Balliceaux was built with many green elements, such as repurposed materials, natural lighting and solar hot water. Come out & enjoy some great Sierra Nevada beer and fellowship with other club members at Balliceaux. (Monday, Sept. 13, 5-7 pm) Loveland and Balliceaux will provide some appetizers, and we'll all raise a toast to the James River!

ODATC Hike Rating Codes

Terrain	Distance
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

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.

Board Positions Available

We are seeking nominations for the Trail Maintenance Chair and the Webmaster. These are 2-year positions that will begin in January 2011; the election will take place at the club's annual business meeting in November. If interested contact Mark Dimmick (mmdimmick@hotmail.com)

Discounts

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Appomattox River Company, Rockfish Gap Outfitters and Wilderness Adventure are big supporters of ODATC.

Blue Ridge Discount Nights!

We will have our first Blue Ridge Mountain Sports Discount Nights on **September 27th** at the Broad Street store located at 10164 West Broad St. for those living north of the James and on **Oct 4th** for those living South of the James at the Chesterfield Mall store. Both will be for ODATC members only. The store will be open exclusively to our members from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Rockfish Gap Outfitters is on Route 250 in Waynesboro. They offer assistance with questions about hiking equipment.

Appomattox River Company extends a discount on all merchandise except boats and has locations in Farmville, Midlothian and Yorktown. Call 800-442-4837 for details or browse their website at www.paddleva.com.

Wilderness Adventure, located in the heart of Staunton, Virginia, now offering our members a 10% discount on most merchandise. Please visit the store the next time you are in Staunton. You will find Wilderness Adventure near the train station on 50 Middlebrook Avenue, or call 540-885-3200 for more information.

Tables for Authors/Artists

Tables will be available for those who want to buy, sell or trade equipment. In addition, there will be a table for **authors and artists** to showcase their books and artwork relative to hiking, trails and numerous scenic vistas.

Volunteers - Thank you

Our club has been so very blessed. This summer we have found great cooks, artists, writers, & many more people with skills & talents they want to share with the club. More than ten people responded to our call for club volunteers; over the summer months each of these people were contacted. If you would like to volunteer your talents, please call Claudia at 804-323-0513 or e-mail her at gregandclaudia@verizon.net Do not miss out on the fun and fellowship!

2010 ODATC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(area code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	taduffey2054@comcast.net
Vice-President	Mark Dimmick	400-3108	mmdimmick@hotmail.com
Secretary	Lori Ando	397-5306	lla043022@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Hambacker	323-0513	sendit2greg@verizon.net
Programs	Claudia Hambacker	323-0513	gregandclaudia@verizon.net
Land Management	Karl Huber	355-4619	karl.huber@dcr.virginia.gov
Membership	Jess Barton	843-813-8095	jnbarton@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance	Fran Leckie	270-6908	atfran99@verizon.net
Activities	Jenni Pendergrass	264-1633	japendergrass@co.hanover.va.us
Newsletter	Janet Bailey	432-8191	odatcwalker@gmail.com
Webmaster	Cynthia Brown	363-3225	cpascals@hotmail.com
Past President	David Olli	864-1461	dolli@smv.org

ODATC and ATC

ODATC is a maintenance club and a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Annual ODATC dues are \$15 for individuals & \$20 for families. Lifetime membership is \$250. Renewals are due in January; forms can be found online. **The Walker** is published bi-monthly with submission deadlines by the 15th of the publication month.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held on the 3rd **Tuesdays** of September, November, January, March and May. The next meeting is on **September 21st**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.** at Trinity Lutheran Church, **2315 N. Parham Rd., Richmond, VA 23229**. Bring a friend!



THE WALKER

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ODATC

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Richmond, Virginia

www.odatc.net

Next Membership Meeting:

September 21, 2010

Jon Fitzpatrick will share his hike along **Hadrian's Wall** in England. Please plan to join us at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Rd., Richmond, VA 23229. Remember to bring your mug for refreshments. Our vendor for the evening will be REI. It will be OATMEAL Cookie night. Bring some from your favorite recipe to share! Also, please remember to bring the mileage that you have hiked beginning May 1, 2010 to add to our club mileage for the year ending April 30 2011.