

The Walker

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Volume 21, Issue 2

March/April 2013

The President's Message

Greetings!!

Before we know it, the first day of spring will be upon us. Even though a beautiful but blustery day outside, I'm looking forward to warm weather arriving and staying for a while. Had to get my weather comments in! ☺

The year has gotten off to a great start so far. The hiking opportunities have been amazing. The boundary monitors have had some decent weekend weather to do their winter task. The maintainers' potluck was very nice, good food and good strategy session afterwards. We continue to have a need for Section Overseers. Check out the 'job announcement' to see if this might be a job for you. If you are not sure what is involved, there are very skilled maintainers who will be happy to teach you the proper techniques. Not to be forgotten the Outreach section has been working hard on plans for the coming year. Check out Dave's updates elsewhere in the Walker.

Something else to look for over next few months is a refresh of our Facebook page and a new ODATC blog site. While the website is a good source for information about the club and managing our membership renewals, it has limited capabilities compared to some other internet options. One of the goals is to create better access to photos of outings, hikes and monitoring/maintenance activities. Stay tuned for more on these new endeavors.

Don't forget to check the 2013 biennial conference link on the website for registration information and other updates. The conference will be held July 19-26 in Cullowhee, NC.

As always, your feedback and participation in club events and functions is always welcome. Just send me an email with your ideas and comments. (odatc.president@gmail.com)

*Happy Trails!
Theresa*

The ODATC Mission

- The construction and 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
- Offering of educational activities related to the need for preserving the great outdoors

AT Section Maintainers/Co-maintainers Needed

We are currently in serious need of section maintainers/co-maintainers to give three sections (and a possible fourth coming up) the attention, regular maintenance, and TLC that they need. Having a section maintainer to keep up the routine maintenance is critical to the proper functioning of the Club's maintaining responsibility. If the routine maintenance is not done, then the club work trips (3rd Saturday of the month) have to be used to get it done, rather than working on other larger and often critical projects. There are written responsibilities and a checklist to assist with what section work needs to be done. Training is available as well as mentoring of new maintainers. Section maintaining is one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs you can have regarding keeping the AT in good shape for hiking – you are not only a key participant in taking care of the 19.1 miles of ODATC's AT responsibility, but you are also a part of the grand 2,000+ AT miles of volunteer effort. This volunteer work is not only very rewarding in terms of the satisfaction that comes with having a great section as part of the Club/total AT miles of trail, but also in the camaraderie and friendships established with the other maintainers and volunteers that you will meet and work with, plus we do have a LOT of fun! Please consider and volunteer to become a section maintainer/co-maintainer the AT needs your support!!

Note: If you would like to see what the club's

maintainers do and see section pictures, go to the Rockfish to Reeds (Maintainer) Blog at <http://rockfishtoreeds.blogspot.com>. On the left sidebar, in the label cloud, you can click on the section number to see any work trips that have taken place on these particular sections or other stories related to them and also the "Section Page" with pictures. On the right sidebar, under 'Categories', you can click on "Trail Sections, Mileage, Features & Landmarks" to also get to the 'Section pages' that have pictures. The Rockfish to Reeds 19.1 miles of trail is divided into 12 sections. Each section has a dedicated maintainer, or overseer. This person (or persons some sections have co-maintainers) is responsible for making periodic trips to the section to check on the condition of the trail and to do routine work such as digging out water bars, keeping weeds cut back, snipping/clipping branches, brush, etc., cleaning off rock steps, closing off illegal shortcuts (from hikers cutting switchbacks), picking up and packing out litter, etc. The minimum number of trips is four per year, but maintainers often go more frequently, especially during 'weed season'. Any work that cannot be done or that is out of the comfort zone of the maintainer, or unsafe for the maintainer to do without more expertise, is reported to the Trail Maintenance Supervisor who will make arrangements to get the work on the monthly work trip schedule or get the additional assistance that is needed.

Here are the AT sections needing Maintainer Attention.

Section 6 (northern AT intersection with Howardsville Turnpike to Bear Spring)

Mileage: 1.4 miles

Access: Easy hike down the blue-blazed Howardsville Turnpike (from HB Rocks Parking Lot) to the intersection with AT (about .2 of a mile). Section 6 begins there and continues south down the AT on the Howardsville Turnpike, then winds its way up the backside of Humpback Mountain via switchbacks to Bear Spring. Maintaining this section is typically an out-and-back situation.

Erosion Control: Waterbars on Howardsville to be kept clean, but few erosion issues on the non-Turnpike tread way.

Other features to maintain: Kyle and MacDougall steps kept clear.

Weeds/Brush: light to moderate if you keep up with the snipping/clipping of brush/branches, etc.

Section "Personality": There are no overlooks on this section, but there is fabulous, historic rockwork along the Turnpike and the woods are beautiful with interesting, changing terrain. There are many nice rock projects, including the Kyle Steps and MacDougall steps. Deer are the most common wildlife spotted on this section although there has been the occasional black bear spotted, - the most recent was hiking from the section to the HB Rocks parking lot in October.

Overall difficulty rating: Easy to light moderate (this would be a great 'first' section if just getting into section maintaining)

Section 10 (from Dripping Rock on the BRP to Cripple Creek)

Mileage: 2.0

Access: Direct access from the pull-off parking at Dripping Rock on the BRP. Maintaining is usually an out-and-back situation.

Erosion Control: No waterbars, some seasonal water on one particular section of the trail during the spring runoff – generally you can't do anything about this.

Other features to maintain: Short approach trail to Little Raven's Roost overlook.

Weeds/brush: Heavy. This section gets afternoon sun and the nettle and poison ivy are "healthy." This section requires weeding trips in May (to get the tender new weeds), late June, or early July, and usually around the middle/end of August to get anything so large it is hanging over the trail. Routine, aggressive weed whipping maintenance makes a noticeable difference in keeping weed growth from coming back as vigorously the next year. If you run into hikers while weed whipping, most all are very grateful for your efforts!

Section "Personality": Cedar Cliffs is on this section – great views. The Cliffs need to be monitored for litter, trash, illegal camping. The AT is posted from Dripping Rock to well past Cedar Cliffs for 'no camping'. The cliff area vegetation is healing from past abuses. The Cliffs have the sweet-smelling Virginia Fringe trees on them (you can smell them well before the trail when blooming). This section also has the Little Raven's Roost overlook that is another great view and occasionally, there are fire rings that need to be broken up. Wildlife: an occasional deer or turkey, bear will walk the trail and pull rocks out on occasion and there are owls that, if you hear them hooting, you can whistle and they will hoot back. This section of trail can generally be described as quite rocky.

Overall difficulty rating: Challenging! This section would make a great group project.

Section 11 (from Three Ridges Overlook on the BRP to Cripple Creek)

Mileage: 2.3

Access: Direct access from the parking area at Three Ridges Overlook on the BRP. Maintaining is usually an out-and-back situation.

Erosion Control: No or very few waterbars, some seasonal water on several sections of the trail during the spring runoff – generally you can't do anything about this.

Other features to maintain: Two sets of rock steps that leaf up and need to be kept cleaned off.

Weeds/brush: Heavy. This section gets afternoon sun and the nettle and poison ivy are "healthy." This section requires weeding trips in May (to get the tender new weeds), late June, or early July, and usually around the middle/end of August to get anything so large it is hanging over the trail. Routine, aggressive weed whipping maintenance makes a noticeable difference in keeping weed growth from coming back as vigorously the next year. If you run into hikers while weed whipping, most all are very grateful for your efforts!

Section "Personality": No overlooks on this section, but lots of interesting rocks, rock slides, cliff features, and beautiful woods. Trilliums bloom in the spring near the cliffs. Seasonal water can be found on several sections of the trail (spring runoff in particular, when water has been seen cascading off the cliffs – beautiful!). Wildlife: an occasional deer or turkey, and bear will walk the trail and pull rocks out on occasion. This section is probably the rockiest section we maintain.

Overall difficulty rating: Challenging! This section would be maintained with an existing co-maintainer; however, the open co-maintaining position could be a good group project.

Beginners Backpacking Class

When: March 2 (Saturday)
9 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church
Mike Shelor (trailguymike@aol.com or 337-7076) and Bob Bendl are offering a classroom presentation on Backpacking Basics: equipment, food, hygiene, first aid, and clothing for overnight and thru hiking. *This is a two-part class. The second part is a field exercise at a future date to experience a night in the woods. Dozens of club members began backpacking after taking this class.*
Contact Mike if you plan to attend and/or for more information.

ODATC General Membership Meeting Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 PM Trinity Lutheran Church 2315 North Parham Road

Wildflowers of Virginia

Presented by Dr. Barbara Ann Wiederkehr.

One of the joys of hiking is being observant of the flora and fauna that surround you. Native wildflowers are not only lovely to behold, they are also an important part of the ecosystem.

Everyone is invited to arrive early, 6:30 PM for socializing. Bringing snacks to share is always encouraged and we ask you to bring a canned good to donate to the church food bank.

Questions?? Email Randy at randy.wendell@verizon.net

Trips, Treks, and Talks - Jenni Pendergrass, Contributor

These activities made the deadline for the newsletter. Please remember to check the website calendar frequently for new events and any updates to the activities shown below. Comments and/or pictures from your activities can be posted to the club Facebook page. Find a new restaurant, new piece of gear, favorite trail recipe, or website? Share it with others through our Facebook page!!

CARPOOLING Please honor the following suggested donation 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).

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.

<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

March 1 (Friday) Leonard Adkins - *Traversing Ancient Mountains: 2,000 Miles on the Appalachian Trail* (Henrico County Adventure Series Presentation)

Club member, Leonard Adkins, has hiked the Appalachian Trail five complete times—an accomplishment achieved by only a handful of other travelers. The presentation is a compilation of all his journeys and depicts a typical “thru” hike. The presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Henrico County Administration Board Room, 4301 East Parham Road.

March 2 (Saturday) Beginner's Backpacking Class

Mike Shelor (trailquymike@aol.com or 337-7076) and Bob Bendl are once again offering their classroom presentation covering the backpacking basics of equipment, food, hygiene, first aid, and clothing to get you ready for overnights to thru hikes. This is a two-part class. The second part of the class will be a field exercise at a future date to experience a night in the woods. Class will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church at 2315 N. Parham Rd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. Contact Mike if you are planning to attend.

March 6 (Wednesday) B&B Hike -- RVA C/4

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). The 6-mile hike goes around **Byrd Park** and on new paths around the pump house on the canal, then along the **Boulevard** in the Museum District to the Stonewall Jackson Monument. Meet at Maymont at the Spotswood Road entrance parking lot (off Boulevard/Nickel Bridge Road). Optional lunch in the Fan. Meet at 9:50 AM.

March 7 (Thursday) Pocahontas State Park - Chesterfield (C/3)

Jeff Samuels (796-7949 or jeffsamuels@yahoo.com). Experienced hikers only. A somewhat challenging 8 mile hike (3.2 miles off trail), lasting up to 6 hours, in the park's NE section. View Swift Creek Lake from ridges at the end of seldom-used unpaved forest roads and from off trail within the park's interior. Hike on sometimes very uneven and steep terrain, over and around downed trees, through sometimes very dense forest, and across up to 10 narrow streams (step over). Wear suitable long pants to protect against briars. Bring lunch and water. The park entrance is on Beach Road (Rt. 655) 4 miles west of Rt. 10 (Ironbridge Rd). Nominal parking fee without park pass. Meet in the big parking lot near the pool/picnic area at 8:50AM.

March 8 & 9 (Friday & Saturday) Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour

The festival is sold out but we will have our display table and need some volunteers to staff the booth and talk to prospective club members. If you are able to help on either night please contact Jenni Pendergrass (japendergrass@hanovercounty.gov) to volunteer. We especially need help on Friday afternoon after 4:30 to set up the display.

March 13 (Wednesday) Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery - Charles City County D/4

Ted McGarry (218-1238 or tedmcgarry@juno.com) will coordinate a new two hour hike on the 444 ac. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service property around the 18 fish ponds (raising shad, herring and mussels), and follow nature trails along Herring Creek to Harrison Lake and return. Bathrooms are a porta potty. The facility is 24 mi. east of downtown. Meet at the Carytown Martin's Food Store 3522 W. Cary St. parking lot at 9:15 am. We will carpool using the Downtown Expressway (.70c toll) to Route 5 to Rte. 658 to the Hatchery at 11110 Kimages Rd. 23030.

March 15 (Friday) Jeff Reynolds – Expedition Mountaineering: The facts and Fiction of climbing Mount Everest (Henrico Adventure Series)

From logistics and finance to conditioning and emergency response, high altitude expeditions involve significant effort and risk. Presenter Jeff Reynolds, with over 32 years of climbing experience, will discuss the fundamentals of planning, and execution for high altitude expedition climbing, and what it takes to get from concept to summit success. Jeff was recently an Expedition Leader for the S2Mountaineering's 2012 Mt. Everest expedition, placing the entire team on the summit on May 19th. The presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Henrico County Administration Board Room at 4301 E. Parham Road. Free!

March 15-16 Prince William Forest (Camping with Day Hiking)

Howard Davis (howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242). There is a \$5.00 per car entrance fee and \$16.00 per night for Camping. (Two tents -6 people per site.) Visit to Washington Capitol Mall or Day Hike(s) at Prince William or maybe Great Falls possibilities. Option for Friday, Sunday or Monday night camp over if interested. For details, contact Howard.

March 16 (Saturday) Maintenance Trip

Monthly work trip on the ODATC section of the AT (weather permitting? BRP open). 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 to register and for additional information. Please respond by March 13 if interested.

March 16 (Saturday) Turk Branch-Moormans River – Shenandoah National Park B/2

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). This popular hike is # 31 in the PATC Circuit Hikes in the SNP Guide. The 10.0 mi. hike includes an elevation change of 2730 ft (with an option to cut it to 2000 ft by not climbing Turk Mtn). The circuit hike starts at Jarman Gap, descends on the Moormans River Road along the South Fork of Moormans River then climbs Turk Branch

Trail, and returns on the Appalachian Trail. Western Vistas from the top of Turk Mountain are some of the best in the Shenandoah National Park. Bring your National Park Pass if you have one. Contact Bill for time and meeting place.

March 19 (Tuesday) ODATC General Membership Meeting

Our program will be - *Wild Flowers of Virginia* presented by Dr. Barbara Ann Wiederkehr. One of the joys of hiking is being observant of the flora and fauna that surround you. Native wildflowers are not only lovely to behold, they are also an important part of the ecosystem. Learn more about the beauty of Wildflowers that are scattered at our feet as we hike through nature. Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. but members are encouraged to arrive early for socializing. Snacks to share are always welcome and we also encourage bringing a canned good to donate to the church's food bank. The meeting will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd).

March 20 (Wednesday) Downtown Canal Walk and Church Hill Flowers – RVA C/4

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com). Meet in the parking lot just west of Tredegar Iron Works under the Lee Bridge and we will start the Canal Walk. Continue east to the Great Ship Lock, climb Libby Hill Park on Church Hill, and return by St. John's Church. The many species of spring flowers on Church Hill are beautiful this time of year. Meet at 9:50 AM.

March 22 (Friday) Telluride Mountain Film on Tour (Henrico Adventure Series)

Each year in Telluride, Colorado, Mountain Film 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 presentation will be from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Henrico Theater in Highland Springs, 305 E. Nine Mile road. Free!!

March 23 (Saturday) Maintenance Trip

Work trip in Presquile National Wildlife Refuge in Hopewell. 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 to register and for additional information. Please respond by March 20th if interested.

March 23 (Saturday) Annual Spring Hike to the Paul Wolfe Shelter (C/2)

Please join us on our annual spring hike to the shelter. We will hike 5 miles in from Rockfish Gap, have a lovely picnic lunch and hike 5 miles back out. Bring something to share with the group. For further details contact Aseeayah or Tom at solitude1957@hotmail.com or 804-382-6186. Limited to 12 participants.

March 23 (Saturday) Cold Mountain-Bald Knob Day Hike (A1)

Randy Wendell (randy.wendell@verizon.net)

This 14-miler is pretty tough because of its distance and its 4,000 feet of elevation gain. However, this hike does offer some extraordinary views that make it all worthwhile; but you do have to be in good shape for this one. Please contact Randy if you're interested or have any questions.

March 24 (Sunday) Henricus and Dutch Gap Conservation Area - Chesterfield D/4

Theresa Duffey (H 550-0955 or taduffey2054@comcast.net). This hike is # 25 in Nathan Lott's *60 Hikes within 60 miles*. To reach the park, take I-95 to Exit 61 towards Hopewell, follow Rte. 10 East only 0.2 miles, immediate left onto Rte. 732 (Old Stage Road) for two miles. Follow the signs to the park. Call Theresa for details on meeting time. Limited to 15 participants.

March 27 (Wednesday) Cherry Blossom Special - Washington, DC C/4

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com) Let's take the train from Richmond's Staples Mill Rd (RVR) up to Washington's Union Station (WAS) and hike the 2.5 miles over to the Tidal Basin to enjoy the Japanese Cherry Tree blossoms and return. 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 in the early morning and we are home by 8:00 pm. Go on line and order your tickets from (www.amtrak.com). Amtrak is \$46 Coach Round-Trip Adult if you purchase your ticket at least 14 days in advance. If you wait, it's \$66 round trip. Book Train # **84** Northbound. It leaves Richmond's Staples Mill Station at 8:00 AM and gets into Washington at 10:15 AM. Book Train # **93** Southbound. It leaves Washington at 5:50 PM and gets into Richmond at 8:07 PM. Parking is \$5 per day at the Staples Mill Station. Trip is on rain or shine. Meet at the Staples Mill Train Station at 7:45 AM. Contact Bill beforehand to let him know to look for you at the station. ALL ABOARD!

March 27 (Wednesday) Hanover Woods on the South Anna River D/4

Martha James (883-6252 or marthajames@yahoo.com). Join me for a personal walk through early spring woods on private property in Hanover County. We'll meet at my house, 15067 Horseshoe Bridge Road, Doswell. Directions from I-95: Take the Ashland exit Rte. 54 West, through Ashland. After about 4 miles you will see the sign for Poor Farm Park, take the next right, Horseshoe Bridge Road (Rte. 686). If you pass Patrick Henry H.S. turn around. Follow Rte. 686 about 2 ½ miles. The driveway is on the left across from Rehoboth Rd. Look for an ODATC sign. Optional lunch at Suzannes. Meet at 9:50 AM.

March 28th (Thurs) Fortune's Cove Preserve (C/2)

Howard Davis (howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242). We will be hiking in the Nature Conservancy's 29,000 acre Fortune's Cove Preserve, which is located south of Charlottesville near Lovingson, VA. The Preserve's 5.5-mile trail provides a challenging hike with stunning mountain vistas. Hike takes about 6 hours and includes a 1500' climb. Hike limited to 12 participants so sign up early. For details, contact Howard.

March 30 (Saturday) Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail - South of Charlottesville B/4

Ted McGarry (218-1238) This is my annual ODATC hike on this rails-to-trail adaptive reuse of the former railroad bed about 2 hours west of Richmond in the foothills of Nelson County. The Trail has a 100-foot elevation change and the scenic Piney and Tye River valley views are best seen before foliage appears. This is an out and back hike for a total of about 10 miles or a minimum of 4 hours. Bring water and lunch for the trail. A porta potty is available at the trailhead. Return afternoon stop at the Colleen Dairy Bar. Carpool from Rockville Park and Ride I-64 West Exit 173. Directions via Route 60 from Chesterfield are available by email. You may phone me between Sunday March 25 and Thursday March 28 to go on this trip and be a current ODATC member. www.trailink.com/trail/virginia-blue-ridge-railway-trail.aspx

April 1st (Mon) Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve (C/3)

Howard Davis (howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242). This 7.5-mile hike area located near Haymarket, VA has many interconnecting trails leading to old mills, homesteads, and family gravesites and Mt. Overlook. . Hike limited to 12 participants. For details, contact Howard.

April 3 (Wednesday) Wahrani Nature Park - New Kent County D/3

Mary Stahl (271-3976 or willing@comcast.net). This is hike # 54 in Nathan Lott's *60 Hikes within 60 Miles of Richmond*. Hike at least 3.1 miles among fern-blanketed hills with one sweeping overlook of the Pamunkey River valley, with a view shed not typical of the Coastal Plain. This morning hike is about 35 miles east of Richmond. Take I-64 East to Exit 220 then travel 3.8 miles on VA 33 to the trailhead parking lot on your right. Porta potty may be on site. Optional lunch in New Kent Courthouse. Meet at 9:50 AM.

April 7 (Sunday), 2:30 pm. Belle Isle (D/4)

Hank Harman's "easy hike". Meet at Tredegar St. parking lot at 2:30. We'll cross the footbridge and hike circuit around Belle Isle, taking our time. Distance is about a mile and a half. Hank Harman, hharman8@verizon.net or (804) 347-3744.

April 9 (Tues) Elliot's Knob (C/3)

Howard Davis (howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242). Elliot Knob is the highest point in the GW Forest and one of the highest peaks in Virginia. Just west of Staunton and secluded in Buffalo Gap, this hike features two waterfalls, several great views to the west and east, and a grass covered summit. Hike limited to 12 participants. For details, contact Howard.

April 10 (Wednesday) Scouts (BSA) Reservation – Goochland Court House D/4

David Gillespie (749-4438 or kndgillesp@mindspring.com). We will hike 5 miles through the grounds of the Scout Reservation located in Goochland County about 29 miles west of the Fan. Take I-64 West to Oilville Exit 167, turn left on Rte. 617 to US 250, turn right on US 250 and go 0.7 miles to Rte. 632, Turn left on Rte. 632 and go 3.5 miles to Rte. 634 Maidens Rd., turn left on Rte. 634 and the entrance to the Reservation is on the left in 1.3 miles OR go west on Patterson Ave. VA 6, to the stoplight at US 522/Rte. 634. Turn right onto Rte. 634 and go 1.1 miles to the Reservation entrance, which will be on the right. All turns are marked with brown information signs labeled Boy Scout Camp. Upon entering the camp, turn right to the Cub Scout Adventure Camp and park at the Welcome Center. Meet at 9:50 AM.

April 13 (Saturday) Jones Mountain Loop (B/2)

Jenni Pendergrass (264-1633 or japendergrass@hanovercounty.gov) 13-miles of flat to steep, rocky trail along and across the Rapidan and Staunton Rivers (creeks), a big overlook at Bear Church Rock, and an optional quick stop at Jones Mountain PATC. Group size limited to 12.

April 17 (Wednesday) Chippokes Plantation State Park – Surry County D/4

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com). This nice 5-mile hike in the Coastal Plain forest includes a one-mile beach walk along the tidal James River. 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. Follow VA 10 east of Hopewell, through Surry, left on Rte. 634. We will stop for lunch after the hike. Meet at the parking lot at 9:30 AM.

April 18 (Thursday) Fisher's Gap to Skyland - AT (C/3)

Howard Davis (howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242). Seven-mile hike on the AT in Shenandoah National Park, highlighted by view from the highest point in the Park (Hawksbill). Optional extended hike up Stoney Man Mountain. Hike limited to 12 participants. For details, contact Howard.

April 20(Saturday) Trail Maintenance

Monthly work trip on the ODATC section of the AT (weather permitting? BRP open). 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 to register and for additional information. Please respond by April 17 if interested.

April 20 (Saturday) Rivanna Trail Hike (A/3)

Ken Baker at 804-572-3808 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. Contact Ken for time and location for carpools.

April 20 (Saturday) White Oak Canyon/Cedar Run Loop Hike (B/2)

Aseeyah Abdul-Karim and Tom Rhinesmith. (804 382-6186 or solitude1957@hotmail.com)

Come out and enjoy a beautiful waterfall filled hike. This is an eight-mile trail with a steep elevation gain of 2450 feet. Bring lunch, and since you can expect stream crossings, please bring appropriate footwear.

April 24 (Wednesday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods – RVA D/4

Ted McGarry (218-1238 or tedmcgarry@juno.com). Virginia Historic Garden Week is a unique opportunity to see unforgettable gardens and beautiful houses at the peak of springtime color. As a Northside Richmond native and retired City Planner, join me in the area of my childhood, the Laburnum Park neighborhood, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was one of Richmond's streetcar suburbs which began development in 1919 and completed in the early 1930's, before my time. The houses are dominated by the Colonial Revival style, Mediterranean style and the influence of Arts and Crafts. Tour includes six houses + gardens and two additional gardens. Cost is \$40/person for all properties and benefits a fine Virginia non-profit organization. Join me for up to four hours of tours split by lunch at a local neighborhood eatery. Or you can tour fewer homes for less cost and fewer hours. Meet at 9:50 AM.

April 27 (Saturday) Doyles River - Jones Run Trail – Shenandoah National Park C/3

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). This popular hike is # 26 in the PATC Circuit Hikes in the SNP Guide. The 8.4-mile hike (strenuous) has a shorter 6.6-mile option (moderate) and features many picturesque waterfalls in deep gorges and an 1800-foot elevation change. It is necessary to cross Jones Run so be prepared for the creek crossing. Bring your National Park Pass if you have one. Contact Bill for time and meeting place.

April 28 (Sunday) Floodwall / Canal Walk – RVA (D/4)

Theresa Duffey (H 550-0955 or taduffey2054@comcast.net). Hike over the Mayo Bridge via the floodwall, follow Canal Walk to Belle Island, and loop around island back to Manchester Bridge parking area for a total of 4 miles. Optional late lunch or brew on deck at Legend's after the hike. Contact Theresa for meeting time and location. Limited to 15 participants.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, September, and November. The next meeting is March 19 at 7 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church 2315 N. Parham Road, Richmond.

The Board meets monthly on the first Wednesday. If you have anything you would like to present or discuss, please contact Theresa Duffey, odatc.president@gmail.com.

Friends are welcome!!

2013 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	odatc.president@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Dennis Schafer	314-2434	odatc.treasurer@gmail.com
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	Tayloe Moore	798-4535	tayloeg@gmail.com
Trail Maint.	Lori Ando	397-5306	odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com
Activities	Jenni Pendergrass	264-1633	odatc.activities@gmail.com
Newsletter	Katie Veilleux	919-900-8007	odatc.newsletter@gmail.com
Outreach	David Grimes		odatc.outreach@gmail.com
Webmaster	Larry Kidd		odatc.webmaster@gmail.com

Looking Ahead...

TUESDAY, MAY 21 AT 6:30 PM ODATC ANNUAL CLUB NIGHT

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2315 NORTH PARHAM ROAD

Each year we kick off our summer break with an incredible buffet dinner and spectacular slideshow. Of course, it's you, our members that provide both the dinner and the slide show. That is, we ask everyone to bring a dish (salad, entree, or dessert) to share with other members. And don't worry, trail maintainers and hikers aren't known for being picky eaters, so feel free to be creative here. Our Club will provide drinks, paper plates, napkins, and eating utensils - you just bring the grub!

As for the slide show, we're asking you to submit up to 5 digital photos of anything that you think your fellow Club members will find interesting or amusing. We'll show your photos and ask you to provide a very brief explanation. Email up to 5 photos, preferably less than 1MB, to Randy at randy.wendell@verizon.net by May 17.

...mark it on your calendar NOW!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - ODATC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Hiking the Long Trail, presented by Bob Nelson, ODATC Member

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 - ODATC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Program to be Determined

Welcome to the following new members as of January 1, 2013

Lisa Bagby	Carolyn and David	Karen and Bill Shank
Mark Bowman	Crichton	Flo Speidell and Lori Seal
Winifred Burruss	Craig Hardy	Margaret Southwick
Chris Carson	Peter Kaufman	Jane Swingle
Michelle Clark	Tom Knower	Sally Wassom
	Elaine Marolla	

Outreach - David Grimes, contributor

National Trail Day, June 1

The goal of the ODATC Outreach program is to provide resources, volunteers to create, foster, and enhance opportunities for people to engage in trail-based recreation, stewardship, and experiential place-based learning. Our program is anchored in the core values of promoting healthy lifestyles, creating a conservation ethic and inspiring the next generation of trail enthusiasts and stewards. ODATC's programs, events, and trail-based outings offer opportunities for people from diverse populations to connect with nature in a safe place and engage in physical exercise, explore nature, learn about the Appalachian Trail as a natural and cultural resource, and collectively get their hands dirty.

Currently, ODATC and two other AT clubs are actively partnering with the Nelson County ATC Community Program. The county is working on plans for their first community trail education event to be held on the grounds of the Devil's Backbone Brewery on **National Trail Day, June 1, 2013. Volunteers are needed to help with ODATC's contributions** to this event, which includes leading hikes, an ODATC / AT information booth, and backpacking demonstration / information. Please contact David Grimes at odatc.outreach@gmail.com if you can help!

Educational Resources

The ODATC is committed to helping educators, youth leaders and others to develop environmental awareness in today's youth through trail-based recreation, experiential learning, and stewardship activities. ODATC is creating a compendium of teach training resources; program funding resources, volunteer resources for assisting with trail-based experiential learning activities as well as contact information for potential third party partners.

Outreach Resources

Some of the initiatives underway include:

- Development and distribution of a new ODATC poster;
- Development and distribution of new ODATC business cards for hike leaders, trail maintainers and other "Trail Ambassadors" to give potential club members basic information about ODATC and follow up contact information;
- Meetup focused and family focused hikes;
- Continued partnering with Nelson County and other AT Community Programs;
- Development of an ODATC multi-media information display;
- ODATC branding initiative;
- Web Page redesign - MEMBERS PLEASE CONTRIBUTE YOUR IDEAS!!
- Gear for Sale page;
- Point-to-point shuttle page;
- Enhanced calendar of Events to include travel hikes and other member initiated activities;
- Scrolling picture feature on front page (members - please contribute);
- Hike descriptions and maps for ODATC area of AT (members - please contribute);
- A Google earth map of the ODATC section of the AT with designated access points

As an increasing number of potential trail partners, donors and other philanthropic entities are stipulating that they can only work with 501 (C)(3) organizations, ODATC needs to take another look at the process and requirements for obtaining this IRS tax status.

The board is largely in a fact-finding mode with this initiative, particularly with regards to costs and benefits. The club could greatly benefit from the help of any members with experience in this field of the IRS tax code. If you can assist with this initiative, please contact [David Grimes @ odatc.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:David.Grimes@odatc.outreach@gmail.com).