



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.

Thank You

A huge "Thank You" to all who helped with the May meeting. It could not have been done without our Hospitality Committee, Alice Preston, Sharyn Lowry, Asseayh Abdul-Karim, Lori Ando and Karen Koontz. I would also like to thank Greg Hambacker for his great work on the video. We had between 65 & 70 people in attendance. The food was delicious and we had plenty. Thanks to your generosity \$110 was donated toward the purchase of the meat. This money has been placed into the donation column by our treasurer and will be used for future needs identified by the club.

Share/Barter/Sell

Tables will be available at all future meetings 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. And of course, we have the ATC table.

New Volunteers

Yes! More than 10 people responded to our call for club volunteers. Over the summer months each of these people will be contacted. If you would like to volunteer your talents, please call Claudia at 804-323-0513 or email at gregandclaudia@verizon.net. Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship!

ODATC Was There

The First Annual **Love Mountain Festival** at Royal Oaks was held June 12th & 13th at Royal Oaks in Love, VA. Thanks to Howard & Sue Davis, Bob Campbell, Alice Preston, Lori Ando, Mark Dimmick, and Mary & Dave Stahl, the ODATC display was fantastic. There was food, six bands played & lots of fun mingling with the local folks.

National Trails Day, June 5th, included a workday on the James River Park System. Sharyn Lowry manned a table showcasing ODATC & our numerous activities. Eight other members worked on the trail, painting road crossings, signs or cleaning & clipping. REI was the primary sponsor & provided T-shirts & lunch for those who worked. Thanks to all!

Konnarock

July 22-July 26 & July 29-August 2

ATC recruits trail crews to work from late spring to fall on various trails. The Konnarock Crew will be working with ODATC trimming, cutting, raking, digging, collecting, crushing, stacking, etc. in hot weather & rain. To volunteer no experience is needed but a great sense of humor is helpful. Free camping is available at Sherando Lake (you can take a swim after a long hot day.) You can work as many days as you like. Look forward to a great meal on Saturday night! Call Fran Leckie at 270-6908. (She car pools every day if you need a ride.)

Black Mountain Beckons

The ATC, the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, & the Wilderness Society will be holding a one day meeting on July 24th in Black Mountain, NC at Montreat Conference Center from 10 AM to 4PM. The group is seeking input on wilderness stewardship issues associated with the AT & responsibilities for wilderness trail maintenance. Desired outcome is that trail clubs and the conservation community emerge with a shared vision for wilderness stewardship. For more information, contact Brent Martin with TWS @ 828-587-9453.

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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!!

Well, it is officially summer with all the heat and humidity that comes with it. For some of us, there is a hiatus on hiking while others are able to take time for some more serious long distance trips. Probably the biggest and most significant activity underway at this time of year for the club is the maintenance of our section of the Appalachian Trail. Our 19.6 miles of trail is broken up into 10 sections of varying lengths, plus the shelter and privy. Under Fran Leckie's guidance as trail maintenance chair, each section has a maintainer, sometimes 2 or more. Generally throughout the year on the 3rd Saturday of the month, Fran coordinates a general maintenance trip that other club members are welcome to participate on. Also, as you will read elsewhere in the Walker, we have 2 weeks with the Konnarock crew again this year to help with major trail work. The Konnarock crew is managed by ATC and generally is comprised of 2 paid crew leaders and 6-10 volunteer crew members who really like to work hard, get dirty and move some rock. Actually, for many on the volunteer crew it is an opportunity to give back to the Trail. I would encourage you if you are able to contact Fran and participate on one of the many maintenance opportunities. You might be surprised how rewarding it can really be.

Even though a year away (July 1- 8, 2011), the Virginia Journey 2011 steering committee is working hard to pull together the various items associated with our club's responsibilities. Sue Kropp is leading the charge. In order to get volunteer tee shirts prepared, she needs to know who plans to volunteer at the conference next summer. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Sue at (804) 276-0070 or freshair82@comcast.net.

On the administrative front of the club, the Board has been researching some new web options for managing such things as the website, club membership, the Walker and other methods of communication aside from my periodic email blasts, such as member blogs. We hope to announce in the fall the outcome of our search. As president, I hope to coordinate during the summer with the ATC regional office to get our 1997 ATC-ODATC MOU updated as well as seek their assistance in some other areas of our club development, such as the outreach program and volunteer recruitment. Exciting stuff, I know, but that is why I get paid the big bucks! Hope to have updates on these other endeavors when we hold our September Club meeting.

For now, I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer. Let's move some rock!!

Theresa Duffey

Annual Scenic Awards

Richmond, VA Scenic Virginia is soliciting nominations for its 2010 Scenic Awards program, and the conservation organization is asking fellow Virginians to help identify noteworthy projects.

"Virginia is recognized all over the world for its history and its beauty," notes Scenic Virginia president Jane Sale Henley of Weems. "Scenic Virginia works every day to ensure that this historic beauty is preserved for our children and grandchildren."

"Our annual Scenic Awards are a wonderful way to showcase terrific beautification programs and projects around the Commonwealth," adds executive director Leighton Powell. "To recognize the best of the best, though, we need Virginia's citizens to let us know about projects in their localities."

You can view the 2010 Scenic Awards Nomination Form, our 2010 categories, and information about past winners by clicking <http://www.scenicvirginia.org/nominationform.html>. If you have any questions, please contact us at (804) 643-VIEW (804-643-8439) or email@scenicvirginia.org.

The deadline for nominations is **Saturday, July 31, 2010**, after which a statewide committee will review the entries and select a winner in each of the categories. The 2010 Scenic Awards will be presented at a ceremony and reception on Friday, October 29 at 6:00 pm at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond.

A C T I V I T I E S

July 5-12 (Mon. – Mon.) Shenandoah N. P. Backpacking.....C/3

Aseeyah and Renata (382-6186 or solitude1957@hotmail.com) Join us on a weeklong backpacking trip in the SNP. We will start at the Tom Floyd Wayside and hike south. We plan to hike 10-12 miles a day and go as far south as possible. The plan is flexible, but definitely lots of visits to swimming holes and a stop for blackberry milkshakes. Call or email for details.

July 17 (Saturday) No Work Trip.....N/A

Rest up for Konnarock!! See details below for two trail maintenance events with Konnarock.

July 22 -26 (Thurs. – Mon) First week of Konnarock.....N/A

Fran Leckie (270-6908) Free camping at Sherando Lake with a free group meal on Saturday night. A carpool from Richmond will also be available every day if you need a ride. Please call and join "US" for hard fun and meet some neat folks from other states.

July 24 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park, 6.8 milesC/3

Hank Harman ((804) 347-3744 or hharman8@verizon.net). This month's AT section hike will begin at Rattlesnake Point on the Skyline Drive; go past the Range View Cabin, Elkwallow Picnic Grounds and Byrd's Nest No. 4 Shelter to Beahm's Gap. Total climb is 800 feet while descent is 1,200 feet.

July 29 thru August 2 (Thurs - Mon) Second week of Konnarock.....N/A

Contact Fran if you can go!! See details above.

August 7 (Saturday) Dogwood Dell, Richmond.....N/A

Jenni Pendergrass (japendergrass@co.hanover.va.us) Come out and join other club members for the musical production "Pippin" presented by Richmond Parks & Rec. The show starts at 8:30 p.m., but you should come early and look for other club members down front.

August 7-15 (Sat.–Sun.) Backpacking Section Hike-Troutville to James River.....C/3

Aseeyah (AK) ((804)382-6186 or solitude1957@hotmail.com) Join me in an attempt to complete another section of the AT in Virginia. Hiking from Troutville (VA 181/US220) to the James River Footbridge. Total distance is about 57 miles, averaging 10 miles a day. Call or email for details.

August 19 –22(Thurs. – Sun.) Backpacking Across Maryland.....C/3

Aseeyah (AK) ((804)382-6186 or solitude1957@hotmail.com) If you've been as far as Harper's Ferry and would like to continue the hike north on the AT, join me for 4 days backpacking across Maryland. We will start at the Weverton Road parking lot just north of the state line. Averaging 10 miles a day we will end at Pen Mar Park. If the group has time we could stop at the ATC Headquarters. Call or email for details.

August 21 (Saturday) Work Trip.....N/A

Fran Leckie (804-270-6908) We will "try" to work. Please call.

August 28 (Saturday) Brown Mountain Day HikeB/2

Randy Wendell (r.s.wendell@att.net) (794-7833) This ten-miler offers some pretty ridgeline views as well as some nice stream scenery along Rocky Mountain Run and the Big Run Stream. In fact, this hike has like a gazillion stream crossings so you should bring your fording shoes.

August 28 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park, 6.5 milesC/2

Hank Harman (804) 347-3744 or hharman8@verizon.net. Mary's Rock is the highlight and high point of this month's hike. It is one of the Park's best views. We start from the Drive on the Meadow Spring Trail, go over Mary's Rock and then d-o-w-n to Thornton Gap. Next is a moderate climb over Pass Mtn. and down to Beahm's Gap. Total descent, 1,900 feet; ascent, 1,400 feet.

Future Activities

September 16 – 26 (Thu – Sun) South America Hiking.....N/A

Ann McRee (264-8956) I will be traveling to South America & participating in a walking tour of Peru including Cusco, Sacred Valley, Urubamba Valley, Pisac, Inca Trail and MachuPicchu. It is a 10 day trip, including 8 nights in fine hotels/inns, 20 meals, service of 2 bilingual VBT trip leaders, full vehicle support, daily route directions and maps, free use of walking poles, a welcome reception, and sightseeing and cultural activities.

October 9-11 (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.

July 1-8, 2011 Next year the Virginia Region of ATC (Appalachian Trail Conservancy) will be in charge of the biennial ATC Conference, titled “Virginia Journeys 2011” (VJ-2011). It will be held July 1-8, 2011, at Emory & Henry College, located in Emory, Virginia, off I-81, exit 26. If you are interested in joining this elite group of AT volunteers, contact Sue Kropp at freshair82@comcast.net

Clinics and Workshops

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports

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

July 10th - Huguenot Flat-water 9am-2pm FREE

Aug. 14th - DAY TRIP from Huguenot Flat-water to Reedy Creek - lunch provided, cost \$15 - 2-3 hour paddle - Limited spots avail. (10) 9am - 1pm

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

Oct 9th - Huguenot Flat-water 9am-2pm FREE

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

The Family Adventure Program: Family Fun in the Outdoors June 1-August 28:

Show kids how rewarding it can be to spend time in the outdoors. Our Family Adventure Program involves a wide range of activities, information and how-tos. Stop by Customer Service to pick up a Family Adventure Journal. The Journal is filled with fun activities and tips for getting outside. Visit rei.com/family-adventure to print out family-friendly hikes and bike rides, learning games and ideas for getting outside. Learn more about fun trips with REI Family Adventures and REI Outdoor School family outings on rei.com. Let REI help you make getting outside with your family this summer easy and fun!

ATC—A Virginia Intern

The Southwest & Central Virginia office of ATC is hosting a summer intern. Stephen Perkins is volunteering to help ATC survey invasive species along the trail corridor, & will be engaging other volunteers & training sessions to learn more about the issues on invasive plants. Stephen, a sophomore at VA Tech in the fall, will be focused on Wildlife Management,. Stephen’s survey work will focus on Wilderness Areas that the A.T. traverses.

ATC’s southern offices received a grant from the National Forest Foundation last year to conduct surveys using the EDDmaps system (see: <http://www.eddmaps.org>) The approach of Early Detection and Distribution mapping system is a useful tool to understand where there are relatively new occurrences of invasive species along the trail. By raising awareness of invasive species we can do a better job ensuring that these unwanted plants do not settle in remote areas like Wilderness Areas. We are happy to share occurrence data with land managing partners and appreciate the sensitivity of management actions in Wilderness Areas. Based on our surveys in the Mt. Rogers area last year, we are not seeing occurrences of problematic weeds in WA’s in this area. We have detected occurrences at parking areas, however, and hope that by engaging more hikers in this important issue we can raise awareness about spreading plants from one area to another.

Stephen is very interested in visiting A.T. clubs or having additional volunteers join him for his survey work. If you might be interested in learning more & helping out, please contact Stephen at sperkins@appalachiantrail.org or by phone at ATC’s direct line (540)953-3564.

ODATC Hike Rating Codes

Terrain

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

Distance

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

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.

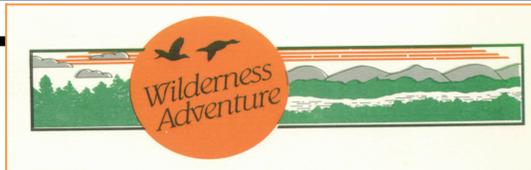
Discounts

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

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports stores are located on West Broad St. and at Chesterfield Town Ctr., which offers a Trail Talks series.

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.



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Have a Wilderness Adventure....

Thanks to **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.

**2010 ODATC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
(area code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	taduffey2054@comcast.net
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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!



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ODATC

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Richmond, Virginia
www.odatc.net