Virginia Journeys 2011 Biennial Conference

Online Registration is now OPEN! The 38th Biennial Appalachian Trail Conference, Virginia Journeys 2011, is now accepting registration reservations. VJ2011 will be held July 1-8 at Emory & Henry University in the beautiful southwest mountains of Emory, Virginia. Attendees who register on-line will receive a savings on their registration fee. An additional savings will accrue if you register early between 1 March and 30 April 2011. If you are an AT Journeys subscriber, you will receive a special registration mailing in mid February providing all the details of the week’s activities as found on the website.

Conference participants can sample the richness of the area by enjoying a hike, attending a workshop, planning their own self-guided adventure, enjoying the evening entertainment offered by the conference or by joining one of the many group excursions.

There will be over 60 different guided hikes to a variety of interesting and scenic areas in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia and Tennessee to choose from. One of the primary activities of interest is the opportunity to attend over 85 workshops covering a wide variety of outdoor and ATC related subject matter in eight tracks. All of the tracks offer information for everyone interested in hiking, backpacking, and Appalachian Trail management. There is something for everyone!

There will be local entertainment every night and even an opportunity to catch some fireworks on July 4! Wayne Henderson, a master guitar builder and musician who plays “authentic mountain music” will be one of the performers providing entertainment.

There will be an abundance of volunteer opportunities as well. Volunteer at the conference and receive a Volunteer T-shirt along with other special appreciation gifts. You may sign up to volunteer by clicking on the Volunteer Link at the VJ2011 website.

Register online at www.Virginia2011.org. Mark the date on your calendar now and plan to attend.

There are only 6 hikes left in need of leaders; but, there are 16 additional hikes that have leaders, but need co-leaders. Several of the hikes that still need leaders are in the “easy” category. Currently OADTC has 4 hike leaders or co-leaders that have volunteered and will be leading or co-leading hikes at the conference – Mark Dimmick, Jenni Pendergrass, Aseeyah Abdul-Karim and Irma Graf. Add your name!! Contact Ralph and Pat Egans at egans@firstva.com to volunteer.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival will return to James River High School, 3700 James River Road, Midlothian, on Friday, March 11 & Saturday, March 12 at 6:30 PM. There is a charge this year but it is still a great deal. Tickets may be purchased in advance for $5 a night or $8 for both nights through Chesterfield County (748-1623) or at the Chesterfield County Complex. Tickets at the door will be $7 each night (and you will have to wait in a long line!!). We will need volunteers to man a table like last year so if you can help out one night or both please contact Jenni Pendergrass at 264-1633.

Our speaker for the March meeting will be Leonard Adkins, who is the author of Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail and many other books. He will show us slides and discuss wildflowers that can be found along the trail from Georgia to Maine from spring and through fall.

Come early and enjoy the fellowship. Our snack for the evening will be provided by the Hospitality Committee. Please bring your mugs for beverages & a donation of canned food for the church’s food pantry. See you at 7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Road)!
Greetings,

Is it Spring yet? These 70 degree temperatures sure give me spring fever. Unfortunately, along with these warm temperatures have come severe wind gusts up in the mountains. I know the maintainers are anxious to get up on our section to evaluate the damage. As long as no late snows close the parkway, the first AT work trip will be held March 19. If you are a hiker and AT user and have never experienced the personal satisfaction that comes from helping maintain that precious ribbon in the mountains, you should give one of the club maintenance trips a try. Having suggested this as a way to give back, I realize that not everyone can physically swing a pulaski. I have another option for you. The Board position for secretary is still vacant and we are desperate for someone to please, please step forward. If you would like to find out more about the duties of the secretary, please contact me (taduffey2054@comcast.net) or Lori Ando (lla043022@gmail.com). Lori has graciously been pulling double duty assuming her new duties as the maintenance chair and keeping the minutes at our Board meetings. Anyone feeling guilty yet??! Please consider helping us out!

The time has arrived to register for the upcoming Virginia Journeys 2011 biennial conference. On line registration will open on March 1. As noted elsewhere in the Walker, ODATC has a prominent role in the conference. Club members have not only volunteered to assist with the club’s assigned responsibilities but have stepped forward to lead or co-lead some of the hikes being offered during that week. Be sure to check out the conference website for registration information. Also, if you can’t attend VJ 2011, I’m sure Sue Kropp could still use volunteers here locally to get the registration packets together in June.

The club website (www.odatc.net) is up and running. I have noticed folks are taking advantage of the forum and blogging capabilities to share information. Possibly the best feature of the site is the ability to add events as they become known. You will want to check the website regularly to see what new hikes and activities may have been added. The site is still a work in progress so any comments or suggestions about the site and content are always welcome. I realize those members who are not fond of spending lots of time on the internet are feeling left out. I do understand how you can feel that way. However, I will still encourage you to give this approach to sharing information a chance. It is important that you have a current email address included with your personal profile so that you can access the member only information on the website. You can set up your profile so that not everyone has access to your email address. Without a valid email address, the reminders to renew your membership won’t get to you. We would hate for your membership to lapse because we couldn’t find you. (Sorry - had to get a plug in to ‘please renew’ as we need you and your money!)

March seems to be the meeting month with our cooperative partners. The first will be focused on the Forest Service and Blue Ridge Parkway managers, VARO-ATC staff and other AT clubs within our more specific region of the AT. Then we head to Henderson NC for the Southern Partnership Meeting which includes all the southern agency partners, clubs, and ATC staff to discuss issues specific to the southern region as well as issues impacting the entire Appalachian Trail. Highlights and pertinent information impacting our trail management responsibilities will be provided in the next Walker.

Spring is coming!! Time to get out and enjoy what nature has to offer. See you soon on the trail!!

Theresa

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**Mileage:** Stomp, stomp, stomp. The miles are accumulating. As of our last meeting, club members had hiked 5,491.2 miles! REMEMBER, bring the mileage that you have hiked beginning May 1, 2010 to add to our club mileage for the year ending April 30, 2011. You may also go to the blog entitled MILEAGE on the website and enter you mileage there. Please indicated the time frame in which you hiked the miles.
This list of activities was current at the time *The Walker* was published. The **Full descriptions of all events** may be found on the website. Registration for these activities is easy online. **Please** check the website for additional events such as films, lectures, & workshops. Remember to check the Events page on the website frequently for status changes to events & to see new activities posted after *The Walker* is published. Also, events may be closed, canceled or updated with important information at any time.

**March 1 (Tuesday) ODATC Board Meeting**  
Contact Theresa Duffey ([tduffey2054@comcast.net](mailto:tduffey2054@comcast.net)) for more details.

**March 2 (Wednesday) Henricus Hike and Birder’s Delight (D-4)**  
Barb Carver (363-0013). Four mile loop hike & birding at Dutch Gap Conservation Area. Meet at the Henricus Village parking lot at 10:00 AM.

**March 5 (Saturday) Volunteer Day at James River Wildlife Refuge (N/A)**  
Trail work from 9:00 to 1:00 at James River Wildlife Refuge. Bring work gloves & wear outdoor work clothing. Also bring loppers & log moving tools. Plan for rain or shine. Lunch will be provided. Call Lori (397-5306) or Fran (270-6908) if you plan to attend.

**March 9 (Wednesday) Poor Farm Park near Ashland (D/4)**  
Martha James (883-6252 or marthajames@yahoo.com). Four mile hike. Meet at Ashland Hardee's at 10:00 AM.

**March 13 (Sunday) ODATC Section Day Hike (A/1)**  
Randy Wendell (randy.wendell@verizon.net). Twenty mile hike of our AT section. Note: Hike rated as “very strenuous” because of its extreme distance and many hills.

**March 15 (Tuesday) General Membership Meeting.** 7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Rd. See Program article for featured speaker.

**March 16 (Wednesday) Woodgrove Farm, Hanover County (D-4)**  
Ted McGarry (218-1238). Bill Gardner has invited us to hike on his family farm (circa 1730) which includes a long wooded section along the Little River. Meet at the Martin’s Food Store in the Ashland Hanover Shopping Center at 9:30 AM. Lunch afterwards on the farmhouse deck.

**March 18-20 (Friday/Sunday) Annual “Car Camping in Caroline” (N/A)**  
Robert Duesberry (804-986-5229 or robduesberry@msn.com). Children & are pets welcome. Bring a potential new member. Come out for the day or overnight & enjoy hiking the wooded trails, horseshoes, volleyball, music, evening bon fire & more. Plenty of space for tent camping or bring your travel trailer. Robert’s been known to cook up some great food at this event!!

**March 19 (Saturday) AT Work Trip (N/A)**  
Lori (397-5306) or Fran (270-6908) Trail maintenance on the ODATC section of the AT. Dress for the weather; wear long pants, boots or sturdy shoes, & gloves. Bring lunch, snacks & plenty of water. Meet at 7:30 at the Parham Road Park and Ride.

**March 19 (Saturday) Virginia Blue Ridge Rail to Trail, Nelson County (C/4)**  
Ted McGarry (218-1238) Eight mile hike along the Piney River to the bridge at Naked creek. Bring water & lunch. Phone me not earlier than March 10 & before 9:00 p.m. Thursday, March 17 to go on this trip. Limited to 12. www.traillink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6017586

**March 20 (Saturday) First Day of Spring Hike to the Paul Wolfe Shelter (A/3)**  
Aseeyah (AK) at solitude1957@hotmail.com 10 mile hike; enjoy lunch & return. Meet at Rockville/Manakin exit off of I-64 at 9:00 AM.

**March 23 (Wednesday) Boy Scout Reservation, Goochland County (D/4)**  
David Gillespie (749-4438). Five mile hike on Maidens Rd. Bathroom facilities are limited so BYOTP. Meet at the Reservation at 10:00 AM.
March 26 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail in SNP: Bearfence to South River (C/3)
Hank Harman (804-347-3744 or hharman8@verizon.net). 6.2 mile hike. A 1.5 mile hike down to the South River Falls is possible if time & weather permit. Bring lunch & water.

March 26-27 (Saturday –Sunday) Beginner’s Backpacking Trip – Paul Wolfe Shelter (D/3)
Bob Bendl/Mike Shelor (Mike at 337-7076 or trailguymike@aol.com.) Number of attendees limited so call Mike early to reserve your spot and for answers to any questions on gear, preparation, etc.

March 30 (Wednesday) Deep Run Park, Western Henrico(D/4)
Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com). 5 mile hike in the West End suburbs. Meet at 10 AM at the first parking area off the Ridgefield Parkway entrance just west of Gaskins Rd.

April 3, Sunday – Day hike the trails at Lake Anna State Park (B/4)
Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) markwenger@cox.net Hike 13 miles. Meet at exit 173 on I-64 at the commuter lot. (Approx. 9AM). At the park headquarters turn right and park at the next parking lot on the right. Pack what you need for a day hike.

April 5 (Tuesday) Fortune’s Cove Preserve (C/2)
Howard Davis (howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242). Hike 5.5 miles through the Nature Conservancy’s 29,000 acre preserve located near Lovingston, VA.

April 6 (Wednesday) Downtown Canal Walk and Church Hill Flowers (D/4)
Jim Hunt (730-2364). Meet at 10 AM in the parking lot west of Tredegar Iron Works under the Lee Bridge. Hike includes Canal Walk, the Great Ship Lock, Libby Hill Park on Church Hill & historic St. John’s Church.

April 9 (Saturday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods on a Saturday Morning (D/4)
Ted McGarry (218-1238). Meet at 9:15 AM at Bill’s Barbecue at 3100 N. Boulevard. We’ll hike the neighborhoods of Ginter Park, Bellevue & the Bryan Park Azalea Gardens.

April 9-10 (Saturday/Sunday) Calf Mountain Backpacking (A/3)
Aseyah (AK) at solitude1957@hotmail.com Hike 7 miles north along the AT spend the night at the shelter & return the same way. Tent sites are available. Meet at Rockville/Manakin exit off I-64 at 9:00 AM.

April 15 – 17 (Friday/Sunday) Tuscarora Massanutten Loop at Elizabeth Furnace (A/3)
Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) markwenger@cox.net Meet Mark at the Wal-Mart parking lot off I-95 in Ashland exit 92 at approx. 6PM. Travel to Elizabeth Furnace and camp. On Saturday hike 11 miles: the Tuscarora west & then take the Massanutten trail north to the reservoir & camp. Sunday we will hike north/east the Massanutten trail back to the cars about 5 miles.

April 16 (Saturday) AT Work Trip (N/A)
Trail maintenance on the ODATC section of the AT. See March 19 description for details.

April 16 (Saturday) Three Ridges/Mau Har Day Hike (A/1)
Randy Wendell (randy.wendell@verizon.net) 14-mile hike with 4,000 ft of elevation gain. Includes nice overlooks, a beautiful stream and cascades that parallel the trail.

April 20 (Wednesday) Fox Hunt Trails and more, Goochland County (D/3)
Jack Martin (784-1979 or rimartiniii@yahoo.com). Hike old fox hunting trails along Buffalo Creek on private property. Please RSVP by April 17 in order that I may plan lunch. Meet at I-64 Oilville Exit 167 Park and Ride at 9:45 AM.

April 23, Saturday – Day hike the trails at Powhatan Wildlife Management Area (B/4)
Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) markwenger@cox.net For this 12 mile loop hike, meet Mark at approx. 9AM at exit 173 on I-64 at the commuter lot .

April 30 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail in SNP: Skyland to Big Meadows (B/3)
Hank Harman (804-347-3744 or harman8@verizon.net) This 7.3 mile hike is strenuous if we include Hawksbill Mt. Bring lunch and water. Hank may reserve a PATC cabin.
**May 6 – 8 (Friday/Sunday) Hike Big Schloss and Little Schloss Backpack Trip (A2)**
Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) markwenger@cox.net  See website for details.

**May 7 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail Hike Across Maryland ........................................A/2**
Tired of those wimpy 10-mile day hikes around Richmond? Then try this day hike on the “AT” across Maryland - a distance of about 40 miles from Pen Mar Park, PA to Harpers Ferry, WVA. A challenging hike, but doable by those in good physical and mental condition. Need to register with the Mountain Club of Maryland by the end of January - this event usually fills up quickly.

**May 13-15 (Friday-Sunday) Appalachian Trail Days Festival**
Ken Baker 804-749-3625 or lightfoot230@juno.com. The annual Trails Days Festival is held in Damascus, VA to honor hikers of the Appalachian Trail. I may hike the AT – Iron Mountain Trail loop (63 miles) before the festival.

**May 21-22  Charlottesville (at Ivy Creek Natural Area)**
**Wilderness First Aid Certification Course** in Charlottesville and Norfolk:
Course details are online at www.outdoorsocial.com/wfa.htm
Flyer can be accessed at www.outdoorsocial.com/wfa_flyer.pdf
Contact is Matthew Rosefsky, Instructor and Wilderness EMT, Solo Wilderness and Emergency Medicine, and General Manager, Outdoor Adventure Social Club, 420 E. Main St. #3, Charlottesville, (434-760-4453)

**May 27 – 30 (Friday/Monday) Tuscarora Trail Gore, Virginia to Hancock, Maryland (A/1)**
Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) markwenger@cox.net  See website for details.

**June 3 – 5 (Friday/Sunday) Canoe/Kayak Trip on the Maury and James Rivers (Moderate)**
Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) markwenger@cox.net  See website for details.

**June 24 – 26 (Friday/Sunday) St. Mary's Wilderness Backpack Trip (A/2)**
Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) markwenger@cox.net  See website for details.

**September 23 - 25 (Friday/Sunday) Rafting the Gauley River (Moderate/Strenuous)**
Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) markwenger@cox.net  See website for details. You must contact mark soon to register and payment will be due by June 1st.

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**March/April 2011 Clinics, Workshops & Other Activities**

**March 8 - Leonard M. Atkins (Bon Air Library) (March 9 Chester Library): Across the Roof of Canada: Along the Great Divide Trail**

**March 9 - - Traversing Ancient Mountains: 2,000 Miles on the Appalachian Trail—Science Museum of Virginia**

**March 29 Leonard M. Atkins - Bon Air Library; on Wednesday, March 30, at the Chester Library; and on Wednesday, April 6, at the Midlothian Library (521 Coalfield Rd., Midlothian, VA, 804-768-7907), he will present Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail**

**April 6 - local author/photographer Will Daniel on his upcoming book release James River Reflections**

**April 27 (bluebirds) and May 25 (Identifying birds by song) - Master Gardener and docent at Lewis Ginter, Dr. Barbara Ann Wiedekehr**

**April 19 Leonard M. Atkins at the Bon Air Library and on Wednesday, April 20, at the Chester Library, presentation of Haute Randonee Pyreneenne (Pyrenees High Route): From the Atlantic to the Mediterranean—**

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**Want to know who’s hiking on ODATC trips?**
How about 42 members participating in at least 1 ODATC hike for a total of 400 miles since January!!! Leading the pack is Bill Tennant with five ODATC hikes and 30 miles so far this year. On his heels are Ken Baker with 26 miles, and Jim Hunt with 25 miles. By the way, Ken Baker had at least a dozen crazy backpackers for the Paul Wolfe Shelter Freezeree in January. If you didn’t go, you missed out on Robert Duesberry’s family secret “Possum Stew” cooked over the fire, and the birthday cake for Beth Kirwin, Janet Johnston and Aseeyah Abdul-Karim. Congratulations to Janet Bailey, Renata Manzo, Ann Gilson and Aseeyah Abdul-Karim on their first January backpack trip!!”
Let’s make this the “unofficial” Year to Volunteer. After all, volunteering is a rewarding experience, and, what does it take? Just a little time.

“Yes”, you’re saying. “I would be thrilled to help, but, where do I start?” Excellent question! Being an outdoor enthusiast, trail maintenance is a fitting opportunity. Think about it. You’re out on the trail hiking along, just like any other hike, only stopping along the way to do some repairs. What could be more perfect? Intrigued, but, concerned about what “some repairs” actually means?

Repairs can be as simple as moving debris off the trail. Those twigs blown down by a strong wind, or, rocks rearranged by a bear looking for some grub. (Can’t they see they’re messing up the trail?) Or, a little more challenging such as sidehilling, creating water bars, check steps or stairs, cribbing, placing stepping stones in the creek, clearing trees or the much sought after task of digging a hole for the privy. As you can see, there’s a wide variety of odd jobs available for all skill levels, it all depends on what Mother Nature had planned for the area. Which is all part of the fun, not knowing exactly what needs to be done until you’re actually out on the trail.

Don’t worry if you’re unfamiliar with what all these odd jobs entail. Just come out on one of the maintenance weekends, which are the third Saturday of the month, where there will be friendly maintainers on hand eager to share the tricks of the trade. All maintenance trips are posted on the ODATC website listing location and contact information. How else can you help? Be a scout while you’re out on the trail. Reporting trail conditions back to the trail maintainers is extremely helpful for planning upcoming work trips. So, when you see downed trees or any other issue with the trail please jot down some simple information. First, what is the approximate location? Do you know what section you are on and if not, can you describe where you were hiking? Are there any landmarks (creeks, shelter, large rocks, trail intersections, etc.) nearby for reference? Give information about the obstruction. For example, if it is a tree can you easily step over the tree and continue without leaving the trail? Is the part of the tree across the trail bare trunk or are there branches on it that get in the way or possibly make passage impossible? Is the trail being damaged by hikers trying to get around? Are they making new bypass trails either on the uphill or downhill sides of the tree? How big is the tree - is the trunk so big you wouldn't be able to get your arms around it or is it the size of a 5 gallon bucket or a new roll of paper towels? You can also use actual measurements (6 inch diameter, 20 inches around, etc.) if you are comfortable making such estimates and can do it fairly accurately.

If you have a camera or cell phone, take a picture of the situation and send it to trail maintenance - the old adage of "a picture is worth a thousand words" still hold true in most cases. It is helpful if you include a person, pack or something else in the picture to provide a reference for 'scale' purposes.

Finally, a contact number or e-mail is also useful so that a maintainer can ask more specific questions about the situation, if necessary.

Again, the ODATC website is the place to go either for trail maintenance contact information, or, to report issues using the Trail Conditions forum. If you’re not on our section of the trail, other AT maintaining clubs will also have similar contact information on their websites. So, while you’re out on the trail, remember to keep your eyes open for areas of improvement.

Also, make it a goal this year to attend at least one work trip. Volunteering has many rewards. You get to meet great people, not only fellow maintainers, but, hikers who stop to chat and to say thank you. They really do appreciate all the effort involved in keeping the trail clear. You will learn new skills. How many other people do you know that can put sidehilling, rock work or even privy digging on their resume? And finally, seeing the finished product as you’re hiking along the trail and being able to say “I did that” is rewarding!
Volunteers Needed at Banff Festival
Seeking club members to assist with ODATC display at the Banff Mountain Film Festival on Friday March 11th and Saturday, March 12th. This is a great opportunity to showcase our club. Contact Jenni Pendergrass at 264-1633 to help. We especially need help on Friday evening to set up the display.”

Thanks!
The Hospitality Committee wishes to thank all who provided snacks for our last meeting.

Position Open on Board of Directors
We are looking for a new secretary! If you are interested, please contact a board member. This position can be filled immediately. Primary responsibility is taking minutes at all board meetings.

Tee Shirts
We have a variety of Tee Shirts available for purchase: the blue shirts have the round logo; the grey shirts have the green embroidered ODATC logo; the olive shirts have white embroidered ODATC logo & are tailored for women!

blue S/S $14.00
gray S/S $16.00
blue L/S $16.00
olive S/S $18.00

Contact Greg (sendit2greg@verizon.net) for more information.

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 has a new location at 12020 West Broad St., Henrico, VA 23233 (in front of Hilton West of Short Pump Towne Center) in addition to their locations at Chesterfield Towne Ctr. and 10164 Broad St.

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.

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

$10 per rider for travel to and around the Charlottesville area (60-75 miles approx)
$15+ per rider for travel beyond Charlottesville (over 75 miles)

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 March 15th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Rd., Richmond, VA 23229. Bring a friend!