

The Walker

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Volume 20, Issue 1

January/February 2012

Celebrating 75 Years - The Appalachian Trail The First Sixteen Years

The October 1921, publication of "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning" in the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects* is almost universally seen as the moment of birth for the Appalachian Trail. Benton MacKaye was a former forester, government analyst, newspaper editor; and at the time, intermittently employed as a regional planner. He proposed, as a refuge from work life in industrialized cities, a series of work, study and farming camps along the ridges of the Appalachian Mountains, with a trail connecting them, from the highest point in the North (Mt. Washington in New Hampshire) to the highest in the south (Mt. Mitchell in North Carolina).



Benton MacKaye and Myron H. Avery

MacKaye immediately began promoting his idea within his network of friends and colleagues in Washington, New York, and Boston. However, it was hikers who really took up the cause. Especially newspaper columnist Raymond Torrey in New York, who led a small crew in building the first A.T.-specified miles in Harriman, Bear Mountain State Park. Under the leadership of Maj. William A. Welch, the goal soon shifted to "Maine to Georgia." Welch also designed the iconic diamond Trail marker.

By March 3, 1925, MacKaye and the Regional Planning Association had enough support to convene the first "Appalachian Trail conference... for the purpose of organizing a body of workers (representative of outdoor living and of the regions adjacent to the Appalachian range) to complete the building of the Appalachian Trail." The organization, Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), was formed and Welch named its first chair. Building new trail and connecting to existing trails in New England did not follow to a significant degree for about three years. A retired Connecticut judge, Arthur Perkins, and a young federal admiralty lawyer in Washington, Myron H. Avery, took charge of the efforts as a hiking-focused cause and MacKaye faded from an active role.



After Perkins died in 1932, Avery led a small corps of activists - eventually numbering perhaps 200 - in identifying and blazing routes. He worked to establish local clubs from Pennsylvania to Georgia, setting standards, publishing guidebooks and maps, and negotiating with national parks and other federal agencies. On August 14, 1937, the Appalachian Trail finally was on the ground, a continuous "wilderness" footpath of from Mt. Oglethorpe, Georgia to Baxter Peak on Katahdin in central Maine.

From the Appalachian Trail Conservancy website, A.T.'s Journey Magazine, History

Happy New Year!!

Hard to believe 2012 is already upon us. I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday season and was able to spend time with family and friends. The weather was quite unseasonal this December so I hope folks were able to either get in some good hikes around the city or out in the mountains. The views in winter can be so spectacular without the leaves. In the first newsletter of the New Year, it is customary to give a re-cap of the past year. In general, I would say it was a very good year for the club.

We have continued to learn new capabilities and make improvements to our website. I know the content will continue to evolve and become more dynamic as use continues to grow. If you have not visited the website recently, elsewhere in this newsletter are helpful tips to gain access.

The club participation in the Virginia Journeys 2011 conference was probably the best ever. Over 45 individuals attended the conference volunteering in many different aspects to assist other attendees. Another wonderful outcome of the conference was the \$4,600 we received as one of the hosting clubs. This was a great boost to the club finances and should keep us going for several years without the need to raise membership dues.

In November, we held our annual business meeting and elected nine individuals to serve on the club Board of Directors. While three nominees were incumbents, including me as president, there will be seven new board members serving the next 2 years. I look forward to serving with the new board yet am also sorry to see others move on. I cannot thank Jess Barton, Janet Bailey, and Claudia and Greg Hambacker enough for their time, energy, and dedication to the club over the past 2 years.

We also updated our club By Laws approving the creation of a new board position - Outreach. While the duties of this position are still evolving, it is my hope that through a renewed focus on outreach, we will be able to expand our presence in the Richmond regional area by increasing not just our membership but also the level of participation by club members in the activities and functions of the club.

During 2011, LL Bean granted us \$750 to upgrade our club display and promotional information. Some very creative ideas are proposed; we just have not had the opportunity to implement these ideas yet. If you have the time and graphic capabilities, you might just be the one to see this project to the finish line. I know these skills exist amongst our members so please contact me if this peaks your interest.

So here we are, staring at 2012. What will be our focus over the next year or so? I welcome your input and thoughts as club members about what you think we should be focusing on as a group. As I mentioned above, one of our greatest needs is to increase member participation in all aspects of the club functions and offerings. I have mentioned repeatedly the need for more hike leaders and trail maintainers. We have gotten a few new folks but could always use more help. If you have considered leading a hike or joining in on a trail maintenance day yet have not made that final commitment, tell me what help or incentive you need to do so. There are folks who will be happy to help you coordinate a hike. There are several very skilled trail maintainers who can teach you the proper techniques so your day on the trails will be a rewarding experience.

Hmmm.... I think I have brow beat you enough with my requests to get more involved in YOUR club. I am quite serious in that I want and need your thoughts and ideas on how we will move the club forward over my next term as club president. My contact information is on the website and in the newsletter. Please feel free to contact me and share your ideas.

With these final words, I wish you and yours a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing more of you during the coming year!!

Happy Trails,
Theresa

2012 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	odatc.president@gmail.com
Vice President	Jan Taylor		janmact@comcast.net
Secretary	Leonard Adkins	275-1208	odatc.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dennis Schafer	314-2434	schaferdp@verizon.net
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	Tayloe Moore	798-4535	tayloeg@gmail.com
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Outreach	Jay Lindsey	757-418-4337	jmlindsey@vcu.edu
Webmaster	Kimberly Lawrence	992-3731	odatc.webmaster@gmail.com

Trail Maintenance Season Finale - *Lori Ando, Contributor*

The party's over for 2011. An absolutely gorgeous workday greeted the team for the final work trip of the season. That day saw many crews covering every inch of the trail, tidying up before the winter sets in. Three sawyer crews divided up our section and removed all the downed trees. Hauling those chain saws through the woods one last time before they are stowed away for the winter, knowing that more trees would fall on the trail before crews returned in the spring. In fact, a few tree reports have already been trickling in already. Remember, you can help. Right now, we're making a list, and will check it twice before, going to find out how to tackle removing trees in the spring.

The mild temperatures supplied the window of opportunity to finish all the white blazing along the trail. Sponged on using a time-honored technique perfected by Fran, it's no wonder that we receive compliments on our trail markings. Watch out blue blazes, it's your turn next year. Speaking of blazes, have you noticed the new double blaze at Rockfish Gap? You can't miss it. The blaze is on a long pole attached to the guardrail. If you haven't seen it, shame on you! It's time to get out and do some more hiking... if only to go out and admire the new pole!

Crews were also out continuing work on the west side of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and, hauling lime down to the privy. The west section has rough areas being rehabbed to make it more hiker friendly. Forty pounds of lime were hauled down to refill the empty bucket in the privy. A tiny request, please use small scoops of lime in the privy. Forty pounds is heavy. In addition, if you notice the bucket is empty, please let us know.

All in all, we had a wonderful maintenance year, seeing many new faces on the crews. Thanks so much to everyone who has been out supporting the trail. We couldn't do all that work without YOU. Maintenance activities will begin again early spring. Watch the website for details. If you have any questions, or, would like to report anything on the trail, please contact Lori or Fran. You can also use our maintenance email address: odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Looking forward to seeing more new, smiling faces in 2012!

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

Trips, Treks, and Talks - Jenni Pendergrass, Contributor

This list of activities for January and February was current at the time *The Walker* was published. You should check the website for additional events such as films, lectures, workshops, etc. that you may also be interested in attending. **We are short on weekend activity coordinators. Please consider making your next outing a club event!** Remember to check the **Events** page on the website frequently for any status changes to events you are interested in or to see new activities posted after *The Walker* is published. Events may be closed, canceled, or updated with important information at any time so check the website frequently

January 4 (Wednesday) ODATC Board Meeting

Contact Theresa Duffey odatc.president@gmail.com for more details.

January 4 (Wednesday) Fredericksburg Historic Trail (C/4)

Hank Harman (C 347-3744) - This interesting hike covers Revolutionary and Civil War sites including the graves of Mary Washington (mother of George) and ODATC's Pete Tansill's Confederate soldier grandfather. Meet at the Downtown Fredericksburg Visitor's Center, 706 Caroline Street at 10:00 AM or contact Hank about carpooling. Hank is ODATC's 'chronological leader' and co-founder of the Wednesday hike series. Honor him on his annual 5 1/2 mile hike on the sidewalks of the old and historic City of Fredericksburg. Lunch in downtown Fredericksburg. www.mapquest.com.

January 7 (Saturday) City Walk (C/4)

Randy Wendell Randy.Wendell@verizon.net - Join Randy for this 8-mile winter stroll through the streets of Richmond. Meet at 10:00 AM at Maymont Park, at the Spotswood entrance, which is nearest the Children's Farm. This walk will take you over both the Nickel and Lee Bridges, and through Forest Hill and Byrd Park. Randy recommends that you carry a small water bottle.

January 11 (Wednesday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods (D/4)

Ted McGarry (C 218-1238) - One in a series of two-hour morning hikes by a Richmond native and retired City Planner. Coordinator's choice: **Monument Avenue**. Meet at the Arthur Ashe Monument at Monument and Roseneath Avenues at 10:00 AM. Hike one of the 'Top Ten Avenues in America' from the Arthur Ashe Monument to VCU for bathroom stop. Return along Park Avenue. Optional lunch at Joe's Inn or Robin Inn.

Trips, Treks, and Talks continued

January 17 (Tuesday) ODATC General Membership Meeting - We really are fortunate to live in a city that has this incredible river running right through it. Yet few of us really know much about our river. Our keynote speaker, Will Daniel, will present his book [James River Reflections](#), which features some of the remarkable history, rich culture, and beauty of the James River. (More information can be found at www.willdaniel.com/james. If you have even the slightest interest in Richmond or the James then you won't want to miss this presentation. The meeting will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd.) and begins promptly at 7:00 PM. Also, please bring a canned good for the church's food bank.

January 18 (Wednesday) B&B Hike (D/3) - Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). Enjoy this new 5-mile hike around Byrd Park then along the Boulevard in the Museum District to the Stonewall Jackson Monument. Meet at the Spotswood Road entrance parking lot (near Dogwood Dell) at Maymont at 10:00 AM. Optional lunch in the fan.

January 21 (Saturday) Piney Ridge - Little Devil's Staircase (B/2) - David Olli (928-8702 cell, 8641461 work, dolli@smv.org) See Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park for a more detailed description of this fairly rigorous trek just outside Sperryville, VA. The 11 to 12-mile hike features a steep, boulder-strewn climb up Keyser Run, beautifully wooded trail, a few small creek crossings, and a rest stop at an old family cemetery. Be ready for snowy and/or icy conditions. Trailhead starts from the lowlands so no worry if Skyline Drive is closed to weather. First 12 responders, no children or pets please. Will meet/leave from designated park and ride no later than 7:15 AM to maximize daylight hours.

January 25 (Wednesday) Maymont (D/4) - Mary Stahl (271-3976) Enjoy this 4-mile hike around Richmond's Crown Jewel with winter vistas of the James River. Meet at 10:00 AM at the Spotswood Rd. entrance parking lot (near Dogwood Dell). Optional lunch.

January 26 (Thursday) Carter Taylor Trail (B/4) - Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or rjmartinii@yahoo.com) Meet at 9:30 AM (contact Jack about meet-up location) for this 12-mile hike in Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. Bring a lunch.

January 28 (Saturday) Motley Shades of Winter (D/3) - Ted McGarry (218-1238 cell) Testing a new series of two-hour (5-mile) Saturday morning hikes in the Wednesday morning format. Coordinator's Choice: **Pocahontas State Park, Chesterfield**. Hike has heated bathrooms and ends by Noon. Meet at the pool at 9:30 AM. The Park address is 10301 State Park Rd. Chesterfield, VA. Its entrance is on Beach Road, Route 655 that connects to Ironbridge Road (Rte. 10) at the Chesterfield County Government Center. There is a nominal parking fee. Rain date: January 29 (Sunday).

February 1 (Wednesday) Dodd Park (Point of Rocks), Chesterfield (D/4) - Jim Hunt (730-2364). This new 4-mile hike along the Appomattox River is #12 in John Molloy's new book [Best Easy Day Hikes - Richmond Virginia](#). We will meet at 10:00 AM in the parking lot for Shelters 1&2. Take I-95 to Exit 61 Hopewell, follow Rte. 10 East for 3.1 miles, turn right on Bermuda Orchard Lane (Rte. 828). After 1.6 miles, the road ends and the park entrance is 100 yards on the right.

February 8 (Wednesday) ODATC Board Meeting - Contact Theresa, odatc.president@gmail.com for more details.

February 8 (Wednesday) Oregon Hill + Hollywood Cemetery (D/3) - Jim Gillespie (749-4438 or kndgillesp@mindspring.com) This 5-mile hike will go through the gentrifying neighborhood of Oregon Hill and the rolling landscape of Hollywood Cemetery. This is not a tour of the cemetery. Meet at 10:00 AM on Second Street at the Virginia War Memorial. Lunch optional.

Trips, Treks, and Talks continued

February 9 (Thursday) South River Falls (B/3) - Jack Martin (804/678-8083) or fjmartinii@yahoo.com second attempt for a scheduled December hike cancelled due to closing of SNP. Ten-miles on the Appalachian Trail, pass Kites Deadening (former farm), down South River Trail through a deep wooded gorge to the third highest waterfall in the Shenandoah National Park. On the return leg, pass the Upper Pocasin Mission and a cemetery. Bring a lunch. Meet at Oilville Park and Ride (I-64 West) at 8:30 AM.

February 15 (Wednesday) Hanover Woods on the South Anna River (D/4) - Martha James (883-6252 home) or marthajames@yahoo.com Join Martha for a personal walk through deep winter woods without foliage on private property in Hanover County. Meet at 10:00 AM at Martha's house, 15067 Horseshoe Bridge Road, Doswell. Directions from I-95; Take the Ashland exit (Rte. 54 West), go 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 2.5 miles. The driveway is on the left across from Rehoboth Rd. Look for an ODATC sign. Optional lunch at Suzanne's.

February 22 (Wednesday) Pocahontas State Park, Chesterfield (C/4) - Jim Hunt (730-2364) New hike on the Old Mill Bicycle Trail loop for 6.1 miles is #17 in Johnny Molloy's new book [Best Easy Day Hikes - Richmond Virginia](#). Hike has heated bathrooms. Meet at 10:00 AM at the contact station parking lot. The park address is 10301 State Park Road, Chesterfield. Its entrance is on Beach Road (Rte. 655), which connects to Ironbridge Road (Rte. 10) at the Chesterfield County Government Center. There is a nominal parking fee.

February 23 (Thursday) Dark Hollow Falls/Rose River (C/3) - Jack Martin (804/678-8083) or fjmartinii@yahoo.com Leave from Big Meadows, travel along Rose River on the east side of Skyline Drive. Pass Rose River Falls and an old copper mine. Good views from the Appalachian Trail. Bring a lunch. Meet at the Oilville Park & Ride (i-64 West) at 8:30 AM.

February 25 (Saturday) Beginners Backpacking Class - Mike Shelor (337-7076 or trailguymike@aol.com) and Bob Bendl are once again offering their classroom presentation (approximately 4 hours) 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. Mike and Bob have dozens of club members who began backpacking after taking this class. Contact Mike for information of time and place for the classroom session.

February 29 (Wednesday) Henricus and Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chesterfield (D/4) - Judy Strawn (748-2129) Join our newest Wednesday hike coordinator. Meet at the Henricus Village parking lot at 10:00 AM. To reach the park, take I-95 to Exit 61 Hopewell, follow Rte. 10 East 0.2 miles, left onto Rte 732 (Old Stage Road) for two miles. Follow the signs to the park. This is #25 in Nathan Lott's [60 Hikes Within 60 Miles](#).

UPCOMING EVENT

March 9 & 10 (Friday/Saturday) Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour - Experience adventure on the big screen! Explore the world's last great wild places. The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will exhilarate and inspire as you journey to exotic locations, paddle the wildest waters, and climb the highest peaks. Different films each night. James River High School, 3700 James River Road. Movies begin at 6:30 PM each night. Cost is \$5 each night or \$8 if you get a ticket for both nights. For tickets, call 804/748-1623. It's recommended that you get your tickets early. ODATC will have a table to promote the club. Look for club members down front in the auditorium.

ODATC Website Reminders

Keeping up-to-date with ODATC activities has become faster and more cost efficient with the use of the club website. WWW.ODATC.NET provides the membership with links to the ATC newsletter, store, stewardship, blogs, events, and general membership information.

Webmaster Kim Lawrence does an excellent job keeping relevant information available on your schedule with a click of the mouse. Some information is available to everyone, while other items are available to members only.

Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about accessing the "members only" portion of the website.

1. What do I do if I forget my password? In the login area, enter your e-mail address and then click on the **forgot password** link. This takes you to a page where you are asked to enter your e-mail address where instructions for how to reset your password are sent. Go to your e-mail to find the message and follow the instructions.

2. I changed my e-mail address. Can I still log into the ODATC website? Of course, you can. Just use your old e-mail address and your current password to log on. Please remember to update your profile with the new e-mail address. Remember to **save** your changes.

3. How do I edit my profile? To do this, first log in and click on the **view profile** link. Once your profile is

displayed, click on the **edit profile** button. This will allow you to change your e-mail address and any other personal information that has changed. Remember to **save** your updates.

4. How do I renew my membership? First, log in. Then click on the link. Once your profile is displayed, find the **Renew Until *day month year*** button on the right side of the page. Click on this link. This takes you to the membership renewal page. Just follow the instructions to renew your membership for another year.

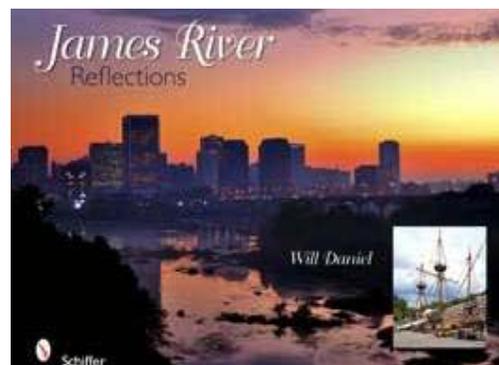
5. What payment options do I have? You can pay by check or by credit card. If you are mailing a check as payment for membership, remember to include a copy of the invoice that was e-mailed to you. The online payment mechanism goes through PayPal. You can use your PayPal account, if you have one, or your credit card.

6. How do I register for an activity?

Click on the **EVENTS** tab in the left hand frame. This takes you to a list of scheduled events. Find the event that you want to attend. Click on the **register** button. The next screen displays your e-mail address, if you are signed in, or you are asked to furnish an e-mail address. Click **next** and either verify or enter the information requested. On this screen, you will see an attendee's list check box. You need to check this box if you want your name included in a list of attendees that is viewable by others. If you don't check this box, you will show up as an *anonymous user* in the attendees list.

January 17 (Tuesday) ODATC General Membership Meeting

We are very fortunate to live in a city that has this incredible river running right through it. Yet few of us really know much about our river. Our keynote speaker, **Will Daniel**, will present his book **James River Reflections**, which features some of the remarkable history, rich culture, and beauty of the James River. If you have even the slightest interest in Richmond or the James then you will not want to miss this presentation. The meeting will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Road) and begins promptly at 7:00 PM. Also, please bring a canned good for the church's food bank.





CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the
Third Tuesdays of January, March, May, September, and November.
The next meeting is January 17 at 7:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church 2315 N. Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23229
Friends are welcome!

ODATC and ATC

ODATC is a maintenance club and a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Lifetime memberships are available for \$250. Renewals are due annually based upon the month you joined. Renewals and applications for membership can be processed online. If you prefer the USPS, forms for renewal and application may be printed from the website.

CARPOOLING

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

\$10 per rider for travel to and around the Charlottesville area (60 -70 miles approx.)

\$15+ per rider for travel beyond Charlottesville (over 75 miles)

THE WALKER

The Walker is published bi-monthly with submission deadlines by the 15th of the publication month. Club member stories and photos are welcome! Please send material to Katie Veilleux at odatc.newsletter@gmail.com