



# The Walker

## Climb Against The Odds

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

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I love hiking, love it! Last year when I saw an article about the opportunity to climb a mountain in the name of breast cancer prevention I was like - "sign me up! I spent 8 months training and fundraising and was able to raise \$7,320 for breast cancer prevention.

During the summer of 2009 I was honored to be a part of a team of breast cancer survivors and others touched by this disease who climbed a mountain for breast cancer prevention. Together we climbed 14,179-foot Mt. Shasta in Northern California. The experience was AMAZING - the mountain, the climb, the people. For more on my Shasta experience you can visit my Climb blog at <http://jessbartonclimb09.blogspot.com/>



Every dollar raised will support the Breast Cancer Fund's groundbreaking work to identify and eliminate the environmental causes of the disease, including toxic chemicals found in our everyday environment. Climb Against the Odds directly supports the policy initiatives, corporate accountability campaigns and other innovative programs that aim to stop this disease before it starts.

Since my Climb last year, I have continued to be involved in supporting and believing in the Breast Cancer Fund's work. This year I am a mentor to a 2010 climber. I hope to inspire and help Terra on her climb and I also aspire to support the Breast Cancer Fund's work by continuing to fundraise.

Did you know that today there is a 1 in 8 odds of a woman getting breast cancer in her lifetime?? Please help change these odds by supporting my *Climb Against the Odds*. You can donate on-line at [www.breastcancerfund.org/10Climb/Jess](http://www.breastcancerfund.org/10Climb/Jess) or by joining me on a fundraising hike April 10th: Three Ridges/Mau Har located 30 miles southwest of Charlottesville. (See details listed in Activities Section.)

Thanks,  
Jessica Barton

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Theresa Duffey



Fellow Members:

Is it spring yet?!! Generally I love snow. As I write this message in yet another snow storm, I don't know about anybody else, but I'm sooo done with this. Spring can't get here soon enough!! But enough about the weather, let's talk about some opportunities for getting folks out and on the trail.

Over the past several years, there has been a great deal of discussion about getting families and especially children reconnected with the outdoors. In 2005, Richard Louv's book Last Child in the Woods brought to the forefront a situation that many in the field of outdoor recreation – and I mean nature based recreation – had recognized for several years. Kids were not outside playing the way we did way back when. There are plenty of theories as to why this is the case but I'll not get into those. Suffice it to say, many federal and state land management agencies began emphasizing programs that would entice children, and their parents who would need to drive them, to come to the forests, nature preserves, and parks. The NPS Appalachian Trail Project Office (ATPO) and Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) have been right there with the rest in promoting the benefits of the outdoors.

The ATC and ATPO have developed a program called "A Trail to Every Classroom". Promoted as a place based, service learning professional development workshop series connecting youth and communities along the Appalachian Trail, this program, oriented toward educators, is free of charge for lodging, meals and materials. The due date for registering is March 5. If you are interested in more information, check out our website under the new section called Education and Outreach for the brochure or go to the ATC website and search for conservation programs. Also, check out the activities section of The Walker for other programs offered in our area.

As we continue our efforts to get club members more involved, a renewed focus will be on the third component of our club mission "to conduct educational activities related to the need for preserving areas suitable for outdoor recreation". There are many opportunities locally, and on the state and national level to learn about the natural environment and enjoy the out of doors. Probably many of you have been or might still be involved with scouts and other youth oriented organizations, or are associated with education as a teacher, professor, or administrator. We need your ideas, guidance and involvement as we expand the club's role in providing educational opportunities. In general, our club membership is more the retired or empty nester group. However, we will need folks to fill our shoes so let's take this opportunity to encourage future generations, families, youth groups, college kids, and so on to experience the rewards of hiking, trail building and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

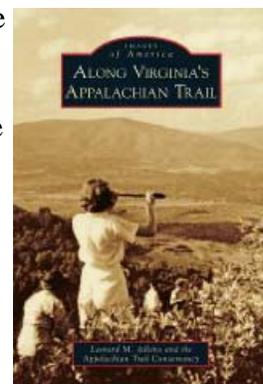
See you outside!!

*Theresa Duffey*

## THE MARCH PROGRAM

Our March program welcomes **Leonard Atkins**, an ODACT member and author!

Leonard has hiked the AT five times and has walked more than 19,000 miles in the U.S., Europe and the Caribbean and has many adventures to share. His most recent book is titled *Along Virginia's Appalachian Trail*. He will be talking to us about life in the mountains before the trail was created, the many relocations of the trail and the volunteers who have constructed it and maintained it. Leonard has been invited to bring copies of his book to sell and will gladly autograph your copy. To read more about Leonard, please visit his website: [www.habitualhiker.com](http://www.habitualhiker.com).



P.S. Bring your own mug or commuter cup for beverages.

Please join us and bring a friend to the Science Museum March 10th at 7PM.

**MARCH / APRIL ACTIVITIES**

**March 2 (Tuesday) ODATC Board Meeting.....N/A**  
 Contact Theresa Duffey for details.

**March 3 (Wednesday) James River Loop - Downtown.....C/4**  
 Jim Hunt (730-2364) Meet at 10:00 am in the parking lot just west of Tredegar Iron Works under the Lee Bridge. Hike the north bank trail from Tredegar to the Boulevard Bridge, the Buttermilk Trail on the south bank and return crossing Belle Isle and the Pedestrian Bridge. The hike is about 8 miles and will take over 3 hours to hike. Bring water and lunch.

**March 3 (Wednesday) The James River Journal: A Year in the Life of a River.....N/A**  
 The Science Museum of Virginia (2500 W. Broad St.) will have a lunchtime presentation by Richmond Times Dispatch reporter P. Kevin Morley and photographer Rex Springston as part of the 2010 Lunch Break Science series. The presentation is from 12:00 to 1:00 and is free. This event will be repeated as part of the Henrico Adventure Series on **Friday, March 5th.**

**March 5 (Friday) The James River (Henrico Adventure Series)..... N/A**  
 The first presentation of the Henrico Adventure Series will focus on one of our area’s most treasured resources. Richmond Times Dispatch environmental reporter Rex Springston and photographer P. Kevin Morley collaborated on a series titled the “James River Journal” that was featured in the newspaper from November 2008 through October 2009. Their work has since been made into a book, *James River Journal: A Year in the Life of a River.* Join Springston and Morley as they present their series and discuss other environmental issues pertaining to the James River. Henrico County Administration Board Room, 4301 E. Parham Road, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. This is a free event.

**March 5 - 7 (Friday Evening – Sunday) St. Mary’s Wilderness Hike.....A/3**  
 Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) or [markwenger@cox.net](mailto:markwenger@cox.net). We will leave from Williamsburg at 5:00 p.m. Friday and pick up anyone in Richmond at the commuter parking lot at exit 173 on I-64 on the way. We will eat a quick supper on the road and drive to the trail head at Cellar Mountain Trail on Forest Road 42 and camp at the trail head. On Saturday we will hike 12 miles Cellar Mountain Trail to Forest Road 162A to Bald Mountain Trail to Mine Bank Trail to the campsite at the old ore processing site on St. Mary’s River. For those who might want a shorter trip, they can skip Bald Mountain and Mine Bank. On Sunday we will hike St. Mary’s Trail to Forest Road 162A back to Cellar Mountain Trail and the cars. St. Mary's is a designated wilderness area so the trails are unmarked. However, it is one of the most beautiful areas in the central Blue Ridge. This is considered a easy/moderate hike.

**March 6 (Saturday) Introduction to Backpacking .....N/A**



Mike Shelor (804-264-8308; [trailguymike@aol.com](mailto:trailguymike@aol.com)) Join Mike and Bob Bendl from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and learn the rudiments of backpacking. During this workshop, we will be discussing technique, equipment, clothing, cooking, hydration, etc. There will be demonstrations and exhibits of many types of equipment to make your backpacking experience a good one! Don't miss this very informative session! Contact Mike to sign up.

Ramsey Memorial United Methodist Church, 5900 Hull St. Rd., Richmond, VA 23224 (From Richmond: Chippenham South to 360 East; .9 mile & turn left at Roberson Ln. Use rear entrance to Fellowship Hall.)

\*As a follow-up to this workshop, there will also be a field practical at the Paul Wolf Shelter on April 10-11 (see calendar for details) to utilize your new skills and equipment. So mark your calendars and extend those day hikes into an overnight adventure.

**A C T I V I T I E S ( C O N T I N U E D )**



**March 10 (Wednesday) Dorey Park – Varina.....D/4**  
 Hank Harmon (804-264-8524 or [hharman8@verizon.net](mailto:hharman8@verizon.net)) Shortly before World War I, Mr. Dorey came to the Richmond area from Wisconsin with his herd of cows. He established his dairy farm off Darbytown Road about 1 1/4 miles east of the present Laburnum Ave. His silo and barn are now part of the Park's office and visitor's center. Stop there on your way in and pick up a map, then go on to the beautiful small lake which has been enlarged from the Dorey farm pond. We will meet there at 10:00 am. The hike is about three miles over mostly level, wooded terrain. We partly follow the route in Lott's book.

**March 10 ODATC General Membership Meeting..... N/A**  
 Join us for our second annual general membership meeting at the Science Museum of Virginia in the Eureka Theatre on the third floor. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. but come any time after 6:30 for some social time with fellow ODATC members. Featured speaker is ODATC member, Leonard Atkins, who will share his adventures along the AT as well as a glimpse of life in the mountains before the trail was created. See more details on page 2.

**March 11 (Thursday) James River Flood Wall – Southside.....C/3**  
 Odelle Robertson ([river.odie@verizon.net](mailto:river.odie@verizon.net)). This will be something a little different. We will follow the flood wall and the Buttermilk Trail along the south side of the James River. The Buttermilk has some ups and downs on it so it is not a flat walk. Contact Odelle for meeting place and time.

**March 12 and 13 (Friday and Saturday) 34<sup>th</sup> Banff Mountain Festival Tour .....N/A**  
 Annual favorite returns to Chesterfield County with **two nights** of film from the 34<sup>th</sup> Banff Mountain Festival World Tour. Displays from the 2008 Banff Mountain photography competition are part of the presentation. The films begin at 6:30 but you need to arrive early to snag seats down front with other ODATC folks. Location: James River High School, 3700 James River Road, Midlothian, VA 23113. This is a free event offered by Chesterfield Parks and Recreation.

**March 12 (Friday) Christmas in Patagonia (Henrico Adventure Series).....N/A**  
 During Christmas 2008, students and faculty from Longwood University visited Torres del Paine National Park, and Pucon, Chile as volunteers with the Mapuche tribe and CONAF (National Park System). The group trekked among the lakes, glaciers and granite spires of Torres Del Paine and climbed an active volcano in Pucon. Dr Rena Koesler of Longwood and Dan Caston of Ferrum College will present a slide presentation of the trip. Henrico County Administration Board Room, 4301 E. Parham Road, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. This is a free event.

**March 13 (Saturday) SNP - Piney Ridge - Little Devil’s Staircase.....B/2**  
 David Olli (864-1461 or [dolli@smv.org](mailto: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 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. I’ll take the first 12 responders, no children or pets please.

**March 14 (Sunday) Motley Shades of Winter .....C/4**  
 Ted McGarry (218-1238). Last in a series of easy Sunday afternoon winter hikes in the mountains followed by a social meal. Coordinator’s Choice: **Rivanna River Trail, Albemarle County, Hike # 4.** Hike from Charlottesville’s Riverview Park MP 1.89 along the Rivanna River and Meadow Creek to McIntire Park, MP 5 and return. Minimal elevation change. The Richmond departure time is after lunch, so allowing for travel time, plan for a 1:30 to 4:30 pm hike. Carpool from I-64 Parham Road Park and Ride, Exit 181South. Optional meal afterward at one of the Downtown Mall eateries. I will not be returning with the carpool. You must call before 9:30 pm Friday March 12 to go on this trip.  
[www.rivanna.avenue.org](http://www.rivanna.avenue.org)

**ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**



**March 17 (Wednesday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods.....D/4**  
 Ted McGarry (218-1238 or [tedmcgarry@juno.com](mailto:tedmcgarry@juno.com)). One in a series of two-hour morning hikes by Richmond native and retired City Planner. Coordinator's choice: **Westover Hills**. This historic 1920's residential neighborhood in South Richmond is centered on the shops at Forest Hill Avenue and Westover Hills Boulevard. Park on 48<sup>th</sup> Street south of Forest Hill Ave. next to O'Toole's Restaurant and Pub at 10:00 am. It is St. Patrick's Day, so the optional lunch with your Irish coordinator will be at O'Toole's. [www.otoolesrestaurant.com](http://www.otoolesrestaurant.com)

**March 19- 21, (Friday evening – Sunday) The Roller Coaster Revisited on the Appalachian Trail Hike.....A/2**  
 Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) or [markwenger@cox.net](mailto:markwenger@cox.net) We will leave from Williamsburg at 5:00PM Friday and pick up anyone in Richmond at the Walmart parking lot of I-95 in Ashland on the way. We will eat a quick supper on the road and drive to Harper's Ferry and camp or stay in a motel. On Saturday we will shuttle the vehicles and hike 16 miles south on the Appalachian Trail to camp near a spring. On Sunday we will hike an additional 17 miles to Ashby Gap on US 50 and the cars. Here is a chance to take on the roller coaster that you have heard about and at a time of year with no bugs or poison ivy.

**March 20 (Saturday) Work Trip.....N/A**  
 Fran Leckie (270-6908) We will be working with Cyrus Brame with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Please call for more details.

**March 20 (Saturday) Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail – Nelson & Amherst Counties.....C/4**  
 Ted McGarry (218-1238 or [tedmcgarry@juno.com](mailto:tedmcgarry@juno.com)). I am still looking for the first ODATC hike on a new rails-to-trails section about 2 hours west of Richmond. The hike will be co-led with the Blue Sierra Club whose coordinator has legitimate access to an unopened portion of the new section. The former railroad bed has minimal elevation change and the valley and river views are best before foliage appears. From the parking area at Roses Mill we will hike eastwardly on asphalt which transitions to crushed stone, along the Piney River to the bridge over the Tye river below its confluence with the Piney and return for a total of 8 miles. Hike can be extended westwardly 3.5 miles on the old section. Bring water and lunch. A portajohn is available only on the old section. Carpool from the I-64 Rockville Manakin Park and Ride, Exit 173. I have detailed directions for the drivers and by email. The number of hikers is not limited but you must contact me before 9:00 p.m. Thursday, March 18, to go on this trip. [www.trailink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6017586](http://www.trailink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6017586).

**March 20–21 (Saturday-Sunday) Paul Wolfe Shelter Backpacking Trip.....C/4**  
 Aseeyah Abdul-Karim (382-6186 or [solitude1957@hotmail.com](mailto:solitude1957@hotmail.com)). Dust off your backpack and join me for an easy spring overnighiter to our Paul Wolfe Shelter. We will hike 5 miles south along the AT from Rockfish Gap, spend the night and return the same way for a total distance of 10 miles. Meet at the Rockville/Manakin exit at 9:00.a.m.

**March 24 (Wednesday) North Anna Battlefield Park – Hanover County.....D/4**  
 Martha James (883-6252) This Hanover County Park is a pleasant woodland setting along the banks of the North Anna River especially in early spring. There are no entrance fees or bathrooms. Meet on the side of the Ashland Ukrop's at the northeast quadrant of the intersection of VA 54 and US Rt 1 at 10:00 a.m. Optional lunch at Suzanne's afterwards. This is hike #36 in Nathan Lott's 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles. [www.co.hanover.va.us/parksrec/default.htm](http://www.co.hanover.va.us/parksrec/default.htm)

**A C T I V I T I E S ( C O N T I N U E D )**



**March 26 (Friday) An Evening with Mountain Film.....N/A**  
 Each year in Telluride, Colorado, MountainFilm 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. You won't want to miss this spectacular collection of short outdoors films that completes the Henrico Adventure Series. Note location!  
 Henrico Theater, 305 E. Nine Mile Road, Highland Springs, VA 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Free event.

**March 31 (Wednesday) Maymont Park.....D/4**  
 Mary Stahl (271-3976 or [twilling@comcast.net](mailto:twilling@comcast.net)). Mary's brother-in-law is visiting Richmond this Spring so it is fitting he see Richmond's crown jewel, Maymont. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Spotswood entrance parking lot (near Dogwood Dell) to enjoy this 4 mile walk through Richmond's loveliest park.

**April 3 (Saturday) Rivanna Trail Day in Charlottesville.....A/3**  
 Ken Baker (804-749-3625 or [lightfoot230@juno.com](mailto: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 about 19.5 miles. This is a fairly easy hike; don't let the distance scare you - doable by anyone in reasonable good physical condition.

**April 7 (Wednesday) Downtown Canal Walk and Church Hill Flowers.....C/4**  
 Jim Hunt (730-2364) Meet at 10:00 a.m. 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 near St. John's Church. The many species of Spring flowers on Church Hill are beautiful this time of year.

**April 9-11 (Friday- Sunday) Car Camping in Caroline.....N/A**  
 Robert Duesberry (804-986-5229 or [robduesberry@msn.com](mailto:robduesberry@msn.com)) Save the date. All are invited to attend 3<sup>rd</sup> annual club wide event at my family farm in Caroline County. Beautiful rustic home site with barns, fields, woods and 5-6 miles of walking trails. We have electric hook-up, grills and cooking facilities. Bring tents, chairs, camping gear, drinking water, flashlight, "beverage of choice", etc. We will provide exquisite outdoor meals for a small donation. Big bonfire both nights and other activities planned, horse-shoes, volleyball, hiking, etc. And rumor has it that The Old Crusty Minstrels may make a rare guest appearance! RV's and ATV's welcome! Children and pets allowed!  
 Bring a new potential new member! Contact Robert & RSVP by Wed. April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**April 10 (Saturday) Rivanna River Paddle.....N/A**  
 John Festa (804-273-2107 or [johnfesta@comcast.net](mailto:johnfesta@comcast.net)) This will be a 3-4 hour beginner's paddle along with the Coastals club on the scenic Rivanna River between Crofton and Palmyra with a lunch stop. Crofton is about one hour west of Richmond. You must provide your own boat and equipment including PFD's. Email is best in contacting John for information.

**Saturday, April 10 (Saturday) Three Ridges/Mau Har.....A/1**  
 Special hike led by Jess Barton ([jnbarton@gmail.com](mailto:jnbarton@gmail.com)) to support the Breast Cancer Fund. This is a superb 14.4 hike that should be really pretty in April with lots of mountain flowers and waterfalls! Three Ridges is one of Virginia's most popular backpacking circuits. Situated in Central Virginia, just 30 miles southwest of Charlottesville, the hike has vista after vista along the Appalachian Trail, and many small waterfalls and pools on the Mau-Har Trail on Campbell Creek. We will meet at Panera Bread in the Willow Lawn Shopping Center (corner of Broad and Willow Lawn Dr.) at 8:00 am - leaving parking lot by 8:30. A contribution of \$10 is requested to support the Breast Cancer Fund. For a description of the trail, visit <http://www.hikingupward.com/GWNF/Three>

**ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**



**April 10 -11 (Saturday - Sunday) Paul Wolfe Shelter Overnighter.....C/4**



Mike Shelor (804-264-8308 or [trailguymaika@aol.com](mailto:trailguymaika@aol.com)) Field practical for beginning backpackers. Test out what you learned (and bought) after the March Intro to Backpacking class. Other members are invited to join in on the fun.

**April 14 (Wednesday) Windsor Farms and Pot-Luck Lunch.....D/4**

Larry Murtaugh (432-0635 or [lpmurtaugh@gmail.com](mailto:lpmurtaugh@gmail.com)). This is a 4-5 mile hike on the streets of the Windsor Farms neighborhood in the City's West End. There will be a pot luck lunch following at Larry's house. Meet at 10 AM and park on the street at Larry's home at 107 Berkshire Rd. From Cary Street Road, turn south on Berkshire Rd which is opposite Mary Munford School.

**April 17 (Saturday) Work Trip.....N/A**

Fran Leckie (270-6908) Back to our home land. Mostly checking trail for down trees, and clearing trail also. Newcomers always welcomed. Bring lunch, work gloves, water and money for car pool and eating out. Hope to hear from you. Please call.

**April 17-18 (Saturday/Sunday) Calf Mountain Backpacking Trip.....C/3**

Aseeyah Abdul-Karim at (804)382-6186 or [solitude1957@hotmail.com](mailto:solitude1957@hotmail.com). This is a moderate backpacking trip for those who want a little more experience carrying their packs. We will hike 7 miles north along the AT through the SNP, spend the night at the Calf Mountain Shelter and return the same way. Tent sites are available. Beautiful view from the top of Calf Mountain! Total distance 14 miles. Meet at Rockville/Manakin Park and Ride at 9:00 a.m.

**April 21 (Wednesday) Spotsylvania Battlefield ..... C/3**

Hank Harman (804-264-8524 or [hharman8@verizon.net](mailto:hharman8@verizon.net)) Many, many men in blue and gray struggled and died in this 1864 battlefield so allow three hours for traversing the five and a half mile interpretive trail. Bring lunch and water as we will picnic along the trail. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Battlefield Exhibit Shelter on Grant Drive near its intersection with VA 613 about 45 miles from Richmond. See hike number. # 50 in Lott's book. Contact Hank Harman for info and carpooling details.

**April 21 (Wednesday) On the deck at Legends Brewing Co.....N/A**

Odelle Robertson ([river.odie@verizon.net](mailto:river.odie@verizon.net)) What do you say we get together on the deck (if the weather will not cooperate we will meet inside) and talk about our winter adventures/misadventures, new gear and upcoming trips? I'll arrive about 5:00 p.m. Come join me at Legends, 321 West 7<sup>th</sup> St. [www.legendbrewing.com](http://www.legendbrewing.com)

**April 23-25 (Friday-Sunday) PATC Cabin.....C/3**

Odelle Robertson ([river.odie@verizon.net](mailto:river.odie@verizon.net)) Come join me for a weekend in a rustic PATC cabin. Mutton Top sleeps a max of 12. Bring your sleeping bag and pad, food, water for the first night (there is a spring for refills), and "tonic" for what ails you. Last trip we bushwhacked up to the AT, which will be an option again. Great porch to just "kick back on". If interested contact me for cost and other details.

**April 24 (Saturday) Doyles River / Jones Run Day Hike..... C/3**

Randy Wendell ([r.s.wendell@att.net](mailto:r.s.wendell@att.net); 794-7833) This is one of the most popular hikes in the southern section of the SNP – and for good reason: much of this hike parallels the Doyles River and Jones Run, which features some beautiful cascades and several waterfalls. Randy plans on doing the slightly longer 8-mile version, but it is still very manageable with a 1,500 elevation gain. Contact Randy for more details.



Special Event for ODATC  
Virginia Journeys 2011

**AN EXCITING CHALLENGE FOR ODATC VOLUNTEERS!**

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 1-9, 2011, at Emory & Henry College, located in Emory, Virginia, off I-81, exit 26.

The various ATC maintaining clubs have the opportunity to organize and manage these conferences every two years, on a rotating regional basis. In 1999, ODATC played a major role in the success of the biennial ATC conference "Radford '99" at Radford University, Virginia.

ODATC has volunteered to be in charge of Registration, Exhibits and Hospitality (Information Desk). Sue Kropp has agreed to chair the volunteer activities for ODATC. Sue will need subcommittee chairs for those three functions and a lot of additional willing workers. You can assist with organizational activities in Richmond as well as at the conference. This is a challenging task and numerous volunteers are needed to assist in making VJ-2011 a success.

Please contact Sue by phone (276-0070) or email [freshair82@comcast.net](mailto:freshair82@comcast.net) to let her know how you will help, or to obtain more information about this exciting event.

Upcoming Activities



**May1-2 (Friday evening–Sunday) Variations on Wild Oak/Ramsey Draft Trails.....A/2**

Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) [markwenger@cox.net](mailto:markwenger@cox.net). We will leave from Williamsburg at 5:00PM Friday and pick up anyone in Richmond at the commuter parking lot at exit 173 on I-64 on the way. We will eat a quick supper on the road and drive to the trail head at Wild Oak Trail on Forest Roads 95 and 101 and camp at the trail head. On Saturday we will shuttle the cars and hike 12 miles Forest Road 101 to Grooms Ridge Trail to Wild Oak Trail to Hiner Springs in the Ramsey' S Draft wilderness area and camp. For those who might want a shorter trip they can hike in from Shenandoah Trail. On Sunday we will hike 11 miles either Ramsey Draft Trail and Bridge Hollow Trail to Bald Ridge Trail or Bald Ridge Trail the whole way to Braley's Pond and the cars. By weaving these trails together we can enjoy the very best of both.

**May 28 – 31 (Friday evening – Sunday) Monday Appalachian Trail in New York.....A/2**

Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) [markwenger@cox.net](mailto:markwenger@cox.net). We will leave from Williamsburg at 5:00PM Friday and pick up anyone in Richmond at the Walmart parking lot of I-95 in Ashland on the way. We will eat a quick supper on the road and drive to New York staying at a motel or camp near the trail head. On Saturday we will shuttle the vehicles and begin the hike at Bear Mountain Bridge on the Hudson and hike north on the Appalachian Trail 13 miles north to Fahnestock State Park where we have paid for a camping site for the evening and camp. On Sunday we will hike north 17 miles to New York 55 and the cars and stay at a motel that night. We will drive home that Monday morning. A beautiful section of New York with great views of the Hudson Valley.

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

Mark J Wenger (Animal) 757-253-0056 (H) [markwenger@cox.net](mailto:markwenger@cox.net). This is the rafting trip you have waited for all year. The top white water in the America and one of the top in the world. We will leave Williamsburg on Friday and drive to Oak Hill, West Virginia and camp at the outfitter ACE Adventure. On Saturday we will raft all 23 miles and 110 rapids. Of course you can also take other rafting trips on parts of the Gauley or on the New River. In 2009 the cost for the marathon was \$230 while parts of the Gauley or New were in the \$165 range. You must be at least 16 to do this trip. The camping fee in 2009 was \$12 a night. On Saturday evening we will celebrate and drive home on Sunday. If interested please let me know by the end of June.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Have you renewed your ODATC membership for 2010?



If payment is received by March 1, you can pick up your new card at the March Meeting.

ODATC Membership  
Jessica Barton

Facebook



The club has a Facebook account. We need someone to maintain that account. Are you a social networker and interested in maintaining the club's account?

If so, please contact Dave Olli, dolli@smv.org, for details.

Bring your "Green" Cup



Beginning in March we encourage you to bring your own mug or commuter cup for beverages served during meetings.

Our goal is to minimize the use of disposable products thereby promoting environmental & economical awareness.



This would be a great time to use your new 40th ODATC mug!

OFF THE TRAIL

For discounts on all of your hiking essentials !

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Appomattox River Company, Rockfish Gap Outfitters and Wilderness Adventure are big supporters of ODATC. They offer ODATC members a discount on most purchases or at special times!

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

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports

stores are located on West Broad Street and at Chesterfield Town Center. The Chesterfield Town Center store offers a Trail Talks series. Go online or call 794-2004 for details.

Appomattox River Company extends the discount on all merchandise except boats and has locations in Farmville, Midlothian and Yorktown. Browse their website at www.paddleva.com or call 800-

442-4837 for details.

We are pleased to introduce 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.

Special thanks to Delmar Branch, Doug Yancey and Rob Anderson of Bizport

**BOOK CORNER**



*Undulations: A Journey on the Appalachian Trail*

by Karen Thompson  
(Reviewed by Bill Cooke, PATC)

It was mid-life on Leap Year Day 2004 when the former National Park ranger stood atop Springer Mountain, Georgia to begin the 2,175-mile trek to Mt. Katahdin, Maine. *Undulations - A Journey on the Appalachian Trail* recounts her story.

Books by AT hikers seem to proliferate every year but *Undulations* stands out in two respects. First of all the book is organized thematically as opposed to chronologically. Readers who are bored with the standard day-by-day rendition will find Thompson's approach refreshing. Secondly, the author offers a vantage point not common among first-time AT "2,000 milers" - those who have walked the entire trail - by having hiked half the trail as a "thru-hiker" and half as a "section-hiker." Along with experiencing the physical toil and adventures, she immersed herself thoroughly in the culture and community of thru-hikers.

The stunning cover drawn from a painting by Tennessee artist Butch Hodgkins portrays Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains with "undulating" waves of mountain ridges rolling out to the horizon, an image resonating with the book's title. And as the loftiest point above sea level on the entire trail, it symbolizes the "high" Thompson and countless others felt as they hiked this venerable trail.

**BUDGET CUTS?**

**Chesterfield Outdoors Programs**, which offers the only public kayaking instruction in the metro area, is **slated to be eliminated**. The entire Outdoors section also includes- kayaking, hiking, rock climbing, ropes challenge course, surfing, summer camps, Rockwood Nature Center, overnight camping, Tuesdays for Twos, plus so much more.

Please, take the one-question poll at <http://www.nbc12.com/Global/story.asp?S=11936250> to help bring sanity to the budget cuts. (Other programs are getting 5% cuts, Outdoors has a 100% cut).

The Parks and Rec Advisory Committee (PRAC) rightly believes the proposed budget is insane. **THEY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!** You don't have to be a Chesterfield Co. resident as the Outdoors programs are open to all so all will be losing this amazing resource.

Ron Maxey is the chair of PRAC: [maxey.rp@pg.com](mailto:maxey.rp@pg.com)

Board of Supervisors:

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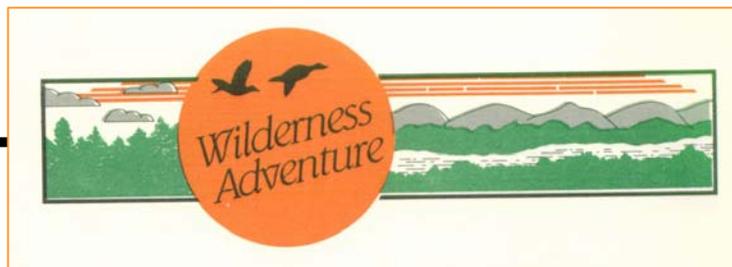
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The mailing address for all the Supervisors: P.O. Box 40 Chesterfield, VA 23832

**Let your concerns be heard!!!**

Thanks to Emily Kimball for sharing this information with us!



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### ODATC Hike Rating Codes

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 = Very Strenuous | A = More than 13 miles |
| 2 = Strenuous      | B = 9 to 13 miles      |
| 3 = Moderate       | C = 5 to 9 miles       |
| 4 = Easy           | D = Under 5 miles      |

Hiking boots are strongly recommended for all hikes. Hikers must be properly equipped, aware of their limitations and hike within their ability. In the interest of safety, activity coordinators may refuse to allow participation by club members or their guests.

**Go Green! Please recycle your paper Walkers!!! Or better, access a digital copy at [www.odatc.net](http://www.odatc.net)**



### 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 Wednesdays of September, November, January, March and May. The next meeting is on **March 10th**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.** at The Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 West Broad St., Richmond, Virginia. Bring a friend!

## 2010 ODATC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Share Your Great Photographs!**

Please send your fabulous photos of your hiking adventures to our webmaster:  
**Cynthia Brown:**  
[cpascals@hotmail.com](mailto:cpascals@hotmail.com).

She is in the process of updating this portion of our website and welcomes your input.



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Richmond, Virginia

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