



Volume 23, Issue 1

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President's Message

Happy New Year!!

Hopefully everyone had a very pleasant and joyous holiday season with family and friends. As a club we are so very fortunate to have many dedicated individuals giving of their time to make ODATC a fun and productive organization.

I am happy to report 2014 was another good year for the club. Financially we are stable. Our membership continues to remain around 400 which is a combination of family and individual memberships. A major highlight was our 45th Anniversary. The attendance was great, the food wonderful, and the program and musical entertainment fantastic. Details of this event are highlighted later in the newsletter. Also, the various program chairs have provided their synopsis of the year's accomplishments.

At the November General Club meeting, elections were held for 5 Board positions. With many thanks for her dedication, Lori Ando is stepping down as Trail Maintenance Chair after serving 2 terms. I know Lori will continue to be an active member. We welcome Mark Heede as the new Trail Maintenance Chair. Larry Kidd has volunteered to continue as Webmaster, and Susan Kidd continues as our acting Newsletter editor. Dave Prestia stepped down as vice president. Our thanks to Dave for his contributions. David Grimes has done a great job as the club's first Outreach Chair. He will be handing the reins over to Parker Webster, who I am thrilled to have join the Board. I am also delighted that David Grimes has accepted the position of Vice President as he brings some great ideas to the table.

So what do we have on the horizon in 2015, the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline! Dominion Resources Inc. is proposing as their preferred alternative, a 554 mile gas pipeline from West Virginia to North Carolina traversing 35 miles in Nelson County. Based on available maps, it appears the pipeline would cross our section of the AT about ½ mile north of the shelter, which is National Park Service land. The US Forest Service is requesting comments on proposed pipeline survey work. The Board will be submitting comments on behalf of the club. This issue is a big deal to the club and we will be providing information on the website as it becomes available. The March-April Walker will also contain more information.

President's Message (cont'd)

As 2014 comes to a close, I want to extend my thanks to all who have graciously given of their time whether out in the woods or handling the administrative functions of the club. My special thanks to the ODATC Board members for their dedication and commitment over the past year! I hope everyone has a wonderful, safe and adventurous year!! Bring on 2015!!!

Happy Trails! Theresa

Treasurer's report:

ODATC is completing another successful year financially as I prepare this report on December 26. Operating expenses for the 2014 were \$4186 against ordinary income to date (memberships, donations, tee shirt sales, interest) of \$4004, yielding a deficit of \$182. (Note that this deficit will most likely disappear by the time we formally close our books at the end of the month, as online membership renewals are typically quite heavy during the final days of the year.)

Over and above our normal operating expenses, 2014 was an unusual year financially in two ways. First, the Club received a major LL Bean grant of \$1300 for outreach activities, specifically the construction of a new kiosk at the Rockfish Gap end of our section of the Appalachian Trail. This grant is not included in 2014's ordinary income noted above, as it is dedicated to expenses that will be incurred in the future. Second, we held our 45th Anniversary Celebration in November, for which the Board allocated \$1000 to be used from savings. Due to high attendance, excellent cost management by the Anniversary Committee (kudos to Sue Kropp, Jim Hunt, Dave Prestia and the host of volunteers who helped them) and a spectacular job by our caterer (thank you, Richard Brett and all your helpers), the Anniversary Celebration had a net cost of only \$779, of which \$450 was a donation by the Club to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Finally, our reserves stood at \$21,396 as of December 26. In discussing future plans for the Club, the Board contemplates several possible uses for these reserves. One issue of particular importance is the need to upgrade the outhouse system at the Paul Wolfe Shelter, which is no longer capable of serving the growing volume of activity at the Shelter. Discussion of this issue and other possible applications for our reserves within the core mission of the club will continue in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Schafer
ODATC Treasurer

ODATC Outreach – the first two years

It doesn't seem like two years have gone by since I started on the ODATC board in the new Outreach Coordinator position but with the passing of the last elections I guess I have to admit to have been at it that long! Two years ago the club was quickly realizing that ODATC was at risk of "aging out" and there was some real potential for us to just not be able to maintain trail and do the numerous other things ATC expects of our club. This was not unique to ODATC as most other trail clubs were also struggling to recruit members in the under 40 age category. What to do about it was the subject of a two day ATC conference in Shepherdstown in the summer of 2012 and many clubs contributed many ideas on how to attract those ever so elusive Gen-xers and millennials. The bottom line was that the clubs needed to attempt to communicate with these younger folks through mediums and vocabulary that would get their attention – if just for a moment.

Over the past couple of years the club tried several things to attract new members including:

- Up-styling our club logo by adding color to the black and white logo developed years ago;
- creating ODATC business cards featuring our new logo and club information – with the idea that trail maintainers and hike leaders would pass them out to people they met hiking our section of trail;
- created a new membership recruitment poster using the new logo and new pictures of club hikes as well as creating a QR code for accessing the ODATC web site. These posters were placed in REI, Blue Ridge Mt. Sports, Tuckahoe YMCA and other locations where active people could see them;
- In the summer of 2013, ODATC participated in Nelson County's first Trail Daze event to help them kick off their new membership in the ATC Trail Community program and explored prospects for bringing ATC's "Trail To Every Classroom" program to Nelson County schools;
- In 2014, ODATC got invited to have a table at the Richmond NPR Outdoor festival – which is focused on exposing families to outdoor recreation. We look forward to returning in 2015!
- In 2014, ODATC experimented with hosting a summer series of "Meetup" hikes for members and non-members that concluded with a hike on the Albright loop trail in September;
- This past fall the club's Facebook page was re-launched and a twitter account set up;
- ODATC coordinated with the Boy Scouts to help Stephen Perdue, a Richmond area eagle scout, construct the club's new trail kiosk at Reid's Gap – which we quickly filled with club information!
- ODATC was successful in being awarded the ATC L.L. Bean grant in 2014 for the installation of a second trail kiosk at Rockfish Gap which should be completed by the summer of 2015 thanks to the continued interest of the Boy Scouts in ODATC trail projects;
- Some minor renovation of the Humpback Rocks parking area kiosk was done this past summer to make the trail map a bit more user friendly and to put the ODATC name a little more front and center. We will continue to work on this kiosk as well in 2015;
- ODATC continued to have its table at the wildly popular Banff Film Festival in Chesterfield;
- ODATC continued supplying the Humpback and Afton visitor centers with our club brochures;
- etc.!

Have these efforts generated new memberships? "Maybe" is the best we can answer at the moment. The ODATC membership has steadily increased over the past couple of years to about the 400 member mark. Still well below the club's high member mark of 500 or so, but well above the low mark when we were flirting with the low 200s. As with any initiative, the club's outreach efforts have had to experiment, assess, adjust and keep moving forward and that process will likely continue for the foreseeable future until we can determine where we get the best bang for our buck. My personal observations over the past two years tell me that there is no better way to bring a new member to the club than to mentor a new

member. We all know someone who at one time or another has expressed an interest or desire to do some hiking. We members need to grab that opportunity and nurture that interest through participation in club sponsored hikes so those perspective new members gain a sense of trail community and want to come back for more. If you can help a newbie down the trail for six months then ODATC will be stronger for years to come!

I want to conclude my term as Outreach Coordinator with a big “Thank You!” to all the ODATC members who have volunteered over the past couple of years to help out with these events. Without you all there would be no outreach! Thanks again and I look forward to continuing with these and other club initiatives as the in-coming vice president in 2105.

Dave Grimes

Border Monitoring in 2014

This past year saw some rearrangement of border monitoring sections within the border lines and monuments monitored by ODATC for the National Park Service (NPS). Due to the late March ice and snow and the expected leaf-out of early May, all monitoring occurred in April. We had several new monitors come aboard – Lisa Bagby, Rick Henning, Jim Deitz, and Mike Hall – who joined section leaders Mike Shelor and Karl Huber for their initial monitoring efforts. Other monitors in 2014 included Bill Beck, John Farmer, Sue Kropp, Alec Alexander, and Jennifer Hoeffner, as well as Joshua Kloehn of the ATC VARO office. All told this group visited 80 of the 167 monuments our club is responsible for monitoring, maintained and reported on just over 7 miles of the 15.9 miles of NPS land borders we monitor, and hiked many more miles off trail and on to get to these borders, all while suffering only one broken wrist of the 24 we took out on the ridge.

We hope to start a few new monitors in 2015, and will be sure to visit and monitor those monuments and borders that we skipped in 2014.

(submitted by Karl Huber)

2014 - An Awesome Maintenance Year

It’s unbelievable that our maintenance year is over. From our start in January with the Maintainer Pot Luck to our last work trip in November, our maintenance calendar was chalk full of fun, adventure, and yes, work. In counting up the numbers, a total of 148 people attended all trips averaging about 15 people per trip. Woohoo!! This number includes our dedicated group of repeats who attend multiple trips per year. We truly have a fantastic support team for our section of the trail.

There is always a lot to do on the trail and this year was no exception. The sawyers were kept busy removing fallen trees. This group of skilled and highly trained individuals is the key to keeping our pathway clear of various size trees that tend to fall across the trail. There was no Big Tree, or Big Tree Junior this year, but enough down to keep those chainsaws buzzing. A special salute to these brave individuals. Removing fallen trees is dangerous work and they look forward to the challenge. A special thanks to Ed P, Richard W, Jim S, Dave W and Chris W for keeping your certifications up to date and taking on this challenge.

Another salute to our committed group of Section Maintainers. These individuals work on their assigned sections between maintenance trips going out on their own to whack those weeds; trim brush; clean

waterbars; remove loose rocks, branches, unwanted fire rings and garbage; report downed trees and other major repairs needed; the list goes on and on of the tasks they perform. It is because of their dedication that the work trips can focus on more major work. Another special thanks to Fran L, Theresa E, Jim S, Jim H, Dennis S, Bill F, David A, Karen K, Paul G, Jason C, Bob C, Mark H, John S, Bill T, Barbara S, Bob K, Randy W and Lisa K.

In going through the work trip reports, our biggest feat this year was moving the privy. The old hole had filled up and it was time to dig another. Jim S and Christina W took on the task of digging the new hole. This is not the most pleasant task and we're certainly grateful to Jim and Christina for getting it done. That made moving day go more smoothly for Jim S, Dave G, Margaret M, Eric J, and Chris W. Moving the privy is not easy, having to watch out for two holes, one empty and one full. But this group worked well together to make the move successful. Thanks so much!!!

This year also brought some young folks out on the trail. In April, William W, who was 13, helped on a rockwork crew on the blue blaze near Humpback Picnic. William was doing volunteer work as required by his school and worked hard to install waterbars in that area. We also had an Eagle Scout, Stephen P, who lead the effort to install a new Kiosk near Reid's Gap. Check it out when you have a chance. It looks fantastic.

We also helped out our partners on the trail, the Blue Ridge Parkway, by installing a new sign at the intersection with the AT and Humpback Rock's Blue Blaze. This sign was really needed to help when hikers made it to the top to find their way back down, if they wanted to make the loop. We also worked locally with our friend from the James River National Wildlife Refuge, Cyrus, to clean-up Presquile Island for the kids going there for summer programs.

Of course, no year would be complete without Fran and her amazing blazing, refreshing those perfect white blazes along the trail. We also cleaned out the tool shed and took inventory, cleaned the shelter multiple times, and completed numerous rockwork stairs, check steps, waterbars in addition to lots of side hilling. Whew!!! Our September Picnic was fabulous as usual with Richard B and Stephen P as the master outdoor chefs cooking for the hungry crew that day. In October, the Tidewater Club invited us to their Fall Maintenance Dinner and Campout, which was a great way to get to know our neighbors to the south a little better.

As you read, we had a very busy and successful year. Thanks really go to ALL who helped during the year -- Tom R, Jim S, Christina W, David G, Phil Y, Kim R, Phil R, Fran L, John S., Bill F., Richard W, Ed F., Craig H, Karen K, David A., Mark H, Steve Y, Linda W, John O, Ed P., Carol T, Carolyn M., Margaret M, John W, William W, Dave W, Chris W, Eric J, Regina R, Woody C, Rob M, Jim F, Lisa B, Theresa D, Mark F, Chris W, Jean H, Jason C, David L, Richard B, Stephen P, Jenni P, Gail K, Dennis S, Dee, Karl H. Whether you volunteered for one trip or many, your contribution goes a long way. The great shape of our section of trail is testament to that. You can still make a difference when hiking between Rockfish Gap and Reid's Gap by picking up trash, removing small branches/twigs and reporting any downed trees to odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com. When reporting trees, please note location, diameter and how high it is off the ground.

It is now time to pass on the baton to Mark Heede, our new Trail Supervisor, who already has some wonderful ideas to continue to make our Rockfish to Reid's section the BEST on the AT.

Thanks for an awesome year!!!

Lori Ando

Activities Report

The goal for 2014 was to offer a weekend hike for the 10 nice spring and fall weekends. This was achieved and then some! The first annual hike leader dinner was held for all 2013 hikes leaders. All in attendance ate very well!! Great incentive to lead a hike!

Hiking numbers:

- 134 planned events in 2014
- 257 hikers in 2014 through first half of Dec. vs. 163 hikes for all of 2013
- 9034 miles hiked 2014 through the first half of Dec. vs. 7288 for all of 2013

Many thanks to Jim and Ted for a great 2014!

Programs Report

A diverse array of programs were offered in 2014. Battling snow and ice at the start of the year, Pete Tansill had the crowd in stitches with Walking across America (Part II of Pete's 3-Part series). Despite the unfortunate fire and miscellaneous AV issues, Sue Kropp carried on with Marilyn Nicol's Hiking in Nepal, the annual potluck dinner and member slide show, Jenni Pendergrass' Hiking on the Dingle Way, Ireland, and finishing out the year with Jane and Lee Hesler's Master Naturalist Program in Virginia. On average program attendance is around 68, except when Pete takes the stage AND you mention birthday cake!

Big news for 2015, the club will be shifting the meetings back to the Science Museum hopefully starting in September once renovations are complete at the museum. Watch the newsletter for updates. Be sure to join us for more interesting and inspiring programs in 2015.

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.

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

CARPPOOLING Please honor the following suggested donation to your driver when carpooling to and from hikes: \$10 per rider for travel to and around the Charlottesville area (60-70 miles approx.) \$15+ per rider for travel beyond Charlottesville (over 75 miles).

Trips, Treks, and Talks - Ted McGarry & Jim Hunt, Contributors

January 1 (Thursday) First Morning Walk - Pocahontas State Park - Chesterfield (D/4)

Jeff Samuels (796-7949 or jeffsamuels@yahoo.com) This is the first of two New Years' Day hikes at this park. Start the morning off with this moderately paced 4 mile hike in the park's central section on wide multi-use trails, with just a wee bit of easy off trail. Points of interest include those from the Civilian Conservation Corps era, remnants of an old home site, and several family cemeteries. Bring water. If staying for the Park-sponsored "First Day Hike" in the afternoon, which begins at 1:00 PM and starts from the same parking area as this hike, bring lunch to eat between hikes. Restrooms at parking location only. Park entrance: Beach Road (Rt. 655) 4 miles west of Rt. 10 (Ironbridge Rd.). \$5 parking fee without park pass. No need to contact Jeff unless you have questions. Meet in the big parking lot near the pool/picnic area at 9:50AM.

January 1 (Thursday afternoon) - First Day Hike - Pocahontas State Park - Chesterfield (D/3)

Jeff Samuels (796-7949 or jeffsamuels@yahoo.com) Jeff, a Pocahontas State Park Volunteer, will assist the Park's Lead Interpreter as he leads a 2.5 mile hike on the Forest Exploration Trail. This free Park-sponsored hike is open to all Park visitors, so expect a very large turnout (310 hikers last year). Restrooms at parking location only. Park entrance: Beach Road (Rt. 655) 4 miles west of Rt. 10 (Ironbridge Rd.). \$5 parking fee without park pass. No need to contact Jeff unless you have questions. Meet in the big parking lot near the pool/picnic area at 12:45 PM to sign the ODATC sign-up sheet. After signing up you will be free to mingle with the crowd and enjoy this Park-led hike on your own. If you have trouble finding Jeff to sign up before the hike starts, no problem - catch him during the hike or after the hike when we will cap the day off with hot apple cider (compliments of the Park). This Park activity is scheduled to begin at 1PM at Shelter #2 at the end of the parking lot. Suggest arriving early to avoid traffic and park entry delays.

For hike details and event specifics:

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/park-event-info.shtml?id=PO150001-00>

Saturday, January 3, 2015 Old Rag (B/1)

Matt Powell (804-230-0154 or mjp20k@yahoo.com) Join us on this perennial favorite, a nine-mile loop with approximately 2300' elevation gain. This is a fairly strenuous hike, and participants should come prepared for some rock scrambling. If we have winter conditions (i.e. cold, ice, snow, etc.) then folks should bring some form of traction for their footwear (microspikes, crampons, etc.). Contact Matt for meeting time and location.

January 7 (Wednesday) Windsor Farms RVA (D/4)

Suzanne Hallberg and Jim Metz (285-8632) Join Suzanne and Jim for the hike through Windsor Farms and Agecroft Hall grounds and bathroom stop. Meet at the Tuckahoe Women's Club located at 4215 Dover Rd. south of Cary St. Optional lunch afterward. Meet at 9:50 am

January 8 (Thursday) Doyle's River Trail SNP (C/3)

Barbara Stewart (bleafstewart@gmail.com, 804-271-4631 (h), 804-502-8193(c) day of hike only) There is a 1330 ft. elevation change in this 8.8 mile circuit hike past several waterfalls (frozen?). Be prepared for possible stream crossings. Space limited. Contact Barbara for meeting time and place.

January 10 & 11 Paul Wolfe Shelter Freezeriee backpacking (C/3)

Anne Gilson and Beth Kirwin will head up the annual January Freezeriee. It will take place January 10-11, 2015. People will get a chance to test out their winter gear. We will meet at the Rockville Park and Ride on Saturday, 1-10-15, and carpool. We will start bonding over lunch at Every Day Cafe in Charlottesville. We will park at Rockfish Gap and hike five miles to the Paul Wolfe Shelter. We might

make a stop at the Rockfish Gap Outfitters if there is a need or desire prior to the hike. We will hike out Sunday morning, 1-11-15 and stop for lunch in Charlottesville. Don't be afraid of the[JH1] cold. Many have braved this trip in the past. This is a great opportunity to celebrate January birthdays! Join us if you have a January birthday, know someone who has a January birthday...or even if you will celebrate a birthday anytime in 2015...or know someone who will. Contact Beth Kirwin and Anne Gilson at elkirwin@gmail.com for meeting time and to join in the fun!

January 14 (Wednesday) Rockwood Park - Chesterfield (C/4)

Joanne Berdall (jberdall@hotmail.com) or Ellie Tuck (cell – 370-2603). Rockwood Park is Chesterfield County's oldest park located at 3401 Courthouse Road, North Chesterfield, VA 23236, near the intersection of Courthouse Road and Hull Street Road. This park has an extensive system of both hard and soft surface nature trails. We will hike through 5 miles of these shaded trails. Restrooms and picnic tables are available for anyone wishing to bring a picnic lunch following the hike, should the day be unexpectedly warm. Numerous restaurants are also within a half mile of this park. We will meet in the parking lot across from the park office. This parking lot is near the tennis court restrooms, but is not the smaller tennis court parking lot. Note: The Nature Center is NOT Park Office. Meet at 9:50 am.

January 17(Saturday)Dark Hollow Falls/Rose River (C/3)

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or rjmartiniii@gmail.com) Leave from Big Meadows, travel along Rose River on the east side of Skyline Drive. Pass Rose River Falls and the old Copper Mine. Good views from the Appalachian Trail. Bring a lunch. Meet at Oilville Park & Ride (I-64 West) at 8:30 am. (Note: Cancellations possible due to weather so give Jack your contact information if planning to go).

January 21 (Wednesday) Fredericksburg Historic Trail (C/4)

Hank Harman's annual favorite with Jack Martin (784-1979 or rjmartiniii@gmail.com) assisting this year. Hike 5-1/2 miles on the sidewalks of Fredericksburg. This historical hike includes a cemetery which contains the grave of Mary Washington (Mother of George). Lunch Downtown. Carpool from the south end of Martin's parking lot in the Ashland/Hanover Shopping Center, located at the northeast corner of Route 54 and Route 1. We leave from there at 9:00 am, so please plan to be there earlier to co-ordinate carpools. If not carpooling, meet at the Downtown Fredericksburg Visitor's Center at 9:50 am.

January 24 (Saturday) Mount Marshall/Bluff Trail/AT Loop Hike (A/2)

Jenni Pendergrass (804-221-3226 or japendergrass@hanovercounty.gov) Starting at Jenkins Gap in the northern section of SNP, we'll hike south on the Mount Marshall and Bluff Trails for approximately 8 miles to the Gravel Spring Hut for lunch. We will return to Jenkins Gap (6 miles) by way of the AT. Elevation changes are gradual for the most part. The strenuous rating is really more for the length of the hike than the difficulty. Most of it is very pleasant hiking. Meet at the Rockville/Manakin Park and Ride off of I-64. Call or e-mail for time.

January 28 (Wednesday) B&B Hike -- RVA (C/4)

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

January 31 (Saturday) Prince William Forest Park (C/3)

Aseeyah and Tom Rhinesmith (solitude1957@hotmail.com) invite you to a pleasant walk in the woods at Washington D.C. area's signature national park. We will be doing a five to six mile hike with a significant part of it along the Quantico Creek. All those interested should meet us at the Manakin P & R

no later than 8:00 A.M. If you have signed onto the hike but decide at the last minute to cancel, please contact us on the day of the hike by calling 804 382-6186. See you there!

February 4 (Wednesday) Cary Street to VCU RVA (C/4)

Jack Martin (784-1979 or rjmartiniii@gmail.com). Come take a walk from Martin's in Carytown on Cary Street (park in the Martin's lot nearest to Cary Street) down Cary Street, Floyd Avenue to VCU and back via West, Park, Stuart, and Grove Avenues. Lunch available afterwards at a local eatery. Meet at 9:50 am.

February 7 (Saturday) Walnut Creek Park - South of Charlottesville (C/3)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com). Let's take a walk on a cold winter day. The Albemarle County Park is 480 acres, located just south of Charlottesville about one hour west of Richmond. This hike will be about 8-9 miles of gentle ups and downs around the lake with the ruins of a few old homesteads to add a little interest and views of mountains. Contact Bill for time and meeting place.

February 11 (Wednesday) Slave Trail and Floodwall - RVA (D/4)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). Hike over the Manchester Bridge, take in a few blocks of the Canal Walk and then on to Lumpkin's Jail, the beginning of the Richmond Slave Trail. Loop back and cross the Mayo Bridge, tour the docks on the South side of the James and return to the cars via the flood wall for a total of 5 miles. Optional lunch at Legend's after the hike. Meet at the Southside floodwall parking lot at Semmes and 7th at the south end of the Manchester Bridge at 9:50 AM.

February 18 (Wednesday) Pole Green Park - Hanover (D/4)

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com) From I-295 take Pole Green Rd East Exit for 4.1 miles, pass the Pole Green Elementary School on the left, take the next left on Pole Green Park La., travel 0.4 miles, right turn on Pole Green Park Dr. to parking lot. (8996 Pole Green Park Lane, Mechanicsville 23116). Meet at 9:50 am.

February 21 (Saturday) Cedar Run/White Oak Canyon (B/2)

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or rjmartiniii@gmail.com) 9 miles with views of waterfalls, cascades and high cliffs. Hike through two of the deepest and steepest ravines in Shenandoah National Park with substantial elevation change. Hiking poles recommended. Bring a lunch. Meet at Oilville Park & Ride at 8:30 am (Note: Cancellations possible due to weather change so give Jack your contact information if planning to go).

February 25 (Wednesday) Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery - Charles City County (D/4)

Ted McGarry (218-1238 or tedmcgarry@juno.com) will coordinate a two hour hike on the 444 ac. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service property around the 18 fish ponds (raising shad, herring and mussels), and follow nature trails along Herring Creek to Harrison Lake and return. Best bathroom stop would be the Exxon store on Rte. 5 on the east side of I-295 as porta potties on site in the winter may not exist. The Hatchery is 24 mi. east of downtown so there will be a carpool from the Carytown Martin's Food Store 3522 W. Cary St. parking lot. We will take a direct route using the Downtown Expressway (.70c toll) to Route 5 east to Rte. 658 north to the Hatchery at 11110 Kimages Rd. 23030. Meet the carpool at Martin's at 9:15 am or the Hatchery at 10:00 am. Lunch option back in Carytown.

February 28 (Saturday) Lake Anna State Park northwest of Richmond (C/4)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com) How about the peace and quiet of Lake Anna in the wintertime? Hike about 8 miles in mostly hardwood forest with views of Lake Anna from coves and follow creeks in the park's interior. The Park is about one hour northwest of Richmond. Bring a state park pass if you have one or pay a nominal parking fee. Contact Bill for time and meeting place.

Upcoming Activities

January 14 – Dr. David E Kitchen, Associate Dean, Associate Professor, School of Professional and Continuing Studies, University of Richmond – Climate Change: Understanding the Science

February 25 – Dr. Michael Fenster, Watts Professor of Science - Geology, Director of Environmental Studies Program, Randolph-Macon College - Earth, Wind and Fire: See Geology's R & B Band Perform in Hawaii and Ice

April 16 Hike Leader Dinner (Sunday) Powhatan State Park - Save the date

Upcoming Programs - Sue Kropp, Contributor

January 20, 2015 (Tuesday, 7:00 PM) Woody Cumbo, horticulturist, educator, and land manager, will speak on the majestic trees of the Great Smoky Mountains. He will provide us with an insiders view of the park and introduce us to the largest varieties of trees in any one location in the U.S. Snacks to share are always welcome and we also ask that you consider bringing a canned good to donate to the church's food bank. Join us at 6:30 for some socializing time before the meeting begins. For more information, contact Sue Kropp at: odatc.programs@gmail.com. The meeting will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Road).

March 17, 2015, Prepare for an exciting ride up the New River with River Raft Guide, Dave Prestia. Learn what river rafting is like from a rafting guides' point of view. This presentation is rated PG13!

May 19, 2015, ODATC potluck and member slide show. Bring your favorite dish and be prepared to travel the world with your fellow club members. Members are encouraged to submit up to 5 slides of your favorite trip or club related activity prior to the meeting.

All meetings are held in Bruneing Hall at *Trinity Lutheran Church*
located at 2315 North Parham Rd., Richmond, Va. 23229.

The meetings officially begin at 7PM, but members are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes early for socializing. Snacks to share are always welcome. Please bring non-perishable food items to add to their food bank.

For more information contact Sue Kropp at odatc.programs@gmail.com.

ODATC's First Walker

Sadly, the founding member and first president of ODATC passed away November 17, 2014 at the age of 98. Tom was the inspiration and guiding light that started our club back in 1969. Around midyear, Tom gathered 25 or so men at First Baptist Church house on Monument Avenue. Then our Club was off and running or should I say walking.

Tom also had an expanded vision. It was to give an outdoor experience to underprivileged boys. He referred to this group affectionately as the "Blue Ridge Mountain Boys".

The Baptist Churches in Richmond support "Goodwill Centers" which are located in Church Hill, Oregon Hill and Southside. These Centers provide day care, Bible study and other opportunities for the surrounding communities. Tom and several men would organize hikes and overnight campouts for these teenagers. There were many hikes along the AT in the Shenandoah Park, the AT near Lynchburg and even Fort Lee.

Things really started to happen in the early 70's. The Club grew with such notables Jack Albright, Hank Harman and Pete Tansill joining the Club. The Club assumed maintenance of the AT for about 20 miles south of Afton Mountain.

Tom loved the outdoors and being "out and about" in God's World. His love of the outdoors led him to a lifelong love affair with hiking, skiing, gardening and photography and he was in love with all of the people in his life that shared those interests. This strong direction in his life also led Tom into a great love of music and poetry. He received an education in religious studies at Union Presbyterian Seminary and at the University of Richmond which he later enthusiastically supported with several scholarships.

Tom was a member of First Baptist Church for over 70 years during which he was involved in nearly every aspect of the life in that Church. He slowly became inactive because of age but continued to walk in his neighborhood for many years. Who would have thought that a club with such small beginning would have grown into what it is today.

Thank you, Tom

by: Meredith House and John Farmer, Charter Members

Across the Miles, Across the Years – ODATC 45th Anniversary Celebration

On November 8, after months of preparation, the big celebration began with an afternoon of hikes and ended to the tunes of the Old Crusty Minstrels. While some may have wondered why such a big to do for the 45th when the 50th is just around the corner, we were very fortunate to have several of our founding and early club members join us for this special occasion. Many of the past presidents and distinguished members were also there, along with long standing club members, one from as far away as Nevada. The estimated attendance was close to 120. It was truly an event not soon to be forgotten!

The primary organizers, Sue Kropp and Jim Hunt, can't be thanked enough for their hard work. Of course they couldn't do it alone, and there are so many folks who volunteered: Randy Wendell as MC; Richard Brett as main chef; Mike Shelor, Sue Kropp, and Bob Bendl as the Crusty Minstrels. Others included Donna Russell, Susan Turner, Dave Prestia, Karl Huber, Maggie Hillard, Alice Preston, Hank Harmon, Theresa Duffey, Lori Ando, Roger Clifton, Bill and Barb Tennant, Venture Crew members, Lynn Crump, Larry and Susan Kidd, Donna Edwards, Lisa Bagby, John Spindler, Bob Campbell, Kathy Dyer, Norm Kropp, Kathy Winston, Janet Bailey, Barbara Stewart, and Howard and Sue Davis. I feel certain someone is left off the list but not the appreciation for their contributions.

During the program, special recognition and awards were given to several club members. The following awards went to individuals for their exemplary contributions to the club and Appalachian Trail:

Distinguished Member Award: Mike Shelor and Dave Wilcox
Fran Leckie Maintenance Award: Bob Reid and Karen Koontz

Other recognitions included:

Amazing contributions over past 45 years: Pete Tansill

Outstanding contributions over past 5 years: Lori Ando, Karl Huber, and Jenni Pendergrass

Congratulations to all the award recipients! Again, our thanks to the organizers and numerous volunteers. It was indeed a great deal of fun and wonderful opportunity to see old and new friends.

So... Who wants to volunteer for the 50th!!

Welcome to New Members

ODATC would like to recognize and welcome new members. Current club members are encouraged to welcome and get to know them better as they join us on scheduled hikes listed above.

2015 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	odatc.president@gmail.com
Vice President	David Grimes	833-8974	odatc.vicepresident@gmail.com
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Board meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meeting dates are occasionally changed so please contact the president for times and location. All meetings are open to the membership.

Lest we forget...

The ODATC Mission

- The construction and maintenance of foot trails for hikers, including the trail between Reeds Gap and Rockfish Gap.
- The provision of excursions on such trails or other areas
- Offering educational activities related to the need for preserving the great outdoors.

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. If you are interested in becoming a member of the ATC you can call (304) 535-6331, ext. 119, e-mail them at membership@appalachiantrail.org or use this link to their website: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/donate/join-renew>.

THE WALKER

The Walker is published bi-monthly
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of the pre-publication month.

Club member stories and photos are welcome!

Please send your material to odatc.newsletter@gmail.com.