

# The Walker

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Volume 23, Issue 3

May/June 2015

## *President's Message*

Happy Spring!!

Finally the weather has gotten warmer and the spring flowers and trees are blooming. Of course that also means that things are starting to grow along the trail. Also, the AT thru hikers are on their way north so time to start sprucing up our section.

Work trips in March and April have been well attended. As I hear we have had some new folks giving maintenance a try. If you would like to participate, maintenance trips are held the 3rd Saturday of the month. I believe we might still have an opening for a section maintainer so if you would like to give that a try or learn more about this position, please contact Mark Heede, trail maintenance supervisor at (odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com).

On April 18, several club members joined Josh Kloehn from the ATC VARO office in the AT garlic mustard challenge. The goal of the challenge is to remove one pound of garlic mustard for every mile of the Appalachian Trail (2,189 miles). Garlic mustard is an extremely invasive plant, outcompeting many of our beneficial native plants. Our hardy workers came out of the woods with well over 100 pounds, definitely many more pounds than our 19.1 mile section!! Way to go!!

Don't forget, the 40th ATC Biennial Conference is being held July 17-24 in Winchester, VA at Shenandoah University. Registration is now underway. I've heard that dorm rooms are limited so sign up soon. There is a link on our website for more conference information. If you are also interested in volunteering at the conference, there is a link for volunteer opportunities and a sign up form. Our own Hank Harmon and Leonard Adkins are presenters during the workshop sessions. Looks like some great hikes and excursions also! Hopefully with the conference fairly close to home many club members will be attending this year. I've got my registration in!

While I won't go so far as to say there is good news about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the current information gives the impression the possibility of boring under the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail is being explored. There are still too many unknowns even with that proposal so we continue to monitor the process.

Still lots of nice weekends and weekdays to be had as we move into early summer. Be sure to check out the great list of hiking opportunities being offered. The second annual hike leader dinner was held in

## *President's Message – cont'd*

mid-April with over 20 attendees. Great opportunity to say thank you to our growing number of hike leaders. To participate in the dinner you need to have led at least one hike the previous year. Great incentive to lead a hike out on the AT or closer to Richmond!!

As always, your feedback and participation in club events and functions is more than welcome. Just send me an email with your ideas and comments. (odatc.president@gmail.com)

Happy Trails! Theresa

### **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

### **May 2 (Saturday) Moorman's River**

Bill Tennant ([Willyten10@aol.com](mailto:Willyten10@aol.com) or 282-0590) This 8 mile hike is described in the PATC's Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park. We start down the easy Moorman's River trail then climb out of the valley on the Turk Branch Trail. After lunch we come back on a pleasant section of the AT. Not too strenuous. A Saturday walk in the woods. Optional additional 1 mile hike up Turk Mountain for a great view to the West. Bring National Park pass if available. Contact Bill for meeting time and location.

**May 3 Bike the Virginia Creeper Trail and hike Grayson Highlands State Park.**

Travel to Damascus, Va on Sun 3 May. Mon 4 May Ride the Creeper Trail between Damascus and White Top Station. 17 miles each way. 34 total. I will ride both ways. Most people plan to take the shuttle to White Top Station and ride down. There are several shuttle and bike rental shops in town. Tues and Wed May 5 & 6 Drive over to Grayson Highlands State Park and hike. Thurs May 7 Ride the Creeper Trail between Damascus and Abingdon. 15 miles each way. 30 total. Most people will take the shuttle to Abingdon and ride back to Damascus. Head home in the afternoon. As it is unpleasant to ride in the rain, we may alter the schedule to suit. You will have to make your own arrangements for lodging. Contact Alec ([jrob505@verizon.net](mailto:jrob505@verizon.net)) for a list of people going to make carpool arrangements.

**May 6 (Wednesday) Oregon Hill / Hollywood Cemetery - RVA (C/4)**

Dennis Schafer (314-2434). This is Dennis's inaugural hike as a coordinator. It is a two hour walk through the rolling landscape of Oregon Hill and Hollywood Cemetery. It is not a historical tour of the Cemetery. Meet in the free parking lot on Tredegar St. between the 2nd St. connector and the Lee Bridge near The American Civil War Center (Tredegar). Meet at 9:50 AM.

**May 9 (Saturday) Rivanna Trail Day Hike (A/3)**

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 is about 19.5 miles. This is a long but fairly easy hike; don't let the distance scare you - doable by anyone in reasonable good physical condition. Contact Ken Baker at 804-572-3808 or [lightfoot230@juno.com](mailto:lightfoot230@juno.com).

**May 11 (Monday Afternoon) Buttermilk Loop – James River Park RVA (C-3)**

Diana Nunez-Hoyle ([diana.nunezhoyle@gmail.com](mailto:diana.nunezhoyle@gmail.com).) This is Diana's inaugural hike as a coordinator. The 7 mile hike starts on the trail on the north bank of the River, crosses the Boulevard Bridge, proceeds through James River Park on the Buttermilk Trail and re-crosses the River over Belle Isle and the pedestrian bridge, ending at the cars. Meet in the free parking lot on Tredegar St. between the 2nd St. connector and the Lee Bridge near The American Civil War Center (Tredegar). Bring water and snack. Meet at 4:00 PM.

**May 13( Wednesday) Cary Street to VCU – RVA (C/4)**

Jack Martin (784-1979 or [rjmartiniii@gmail.com](mailto:rjmartiniii@gmail.com)). Start at Martin's in Carytown on Cary Street (park in Martin's lot nearest to Cary Street) travel down Cary Street, Floyd Avenue to VCU and back via West, Park, Stuart and Grove Avenues. Bring water. Lunch available afterwards at a local eatery. Meet at 9:50 AM.

**May 14 (Thursday) Virginia Capital Trail Bike Ride – Charles City Co.**

Jim Sturgill (804-883-5842) Ride from the Chickahominy River to Charles City Court House and back. 26 total miles plus an option for an additional 15 miles to Jamestown and back. Call Jim for details.

**May 15 - 17 (Friday - Sunday) Appalachian Trail Days Festival in Damascus, VA**

The annual Trails Days Festival is held in Damascus, VA to honor hikers of the Appalachian Trail. Major events include a high-spirited hiker's parade, a hiker's talent show, a variety of live entertainment, presentations on various hiking topics, and displays by gear manufacturers, outfitters and other vendors. For more information visit: [www.traildays.us](http://www.traildays.us). I plan to hike part of the "AT" and other trails in the Mount Rogers area after the festival. Contact Ken Baker at 804-572-3808 or [lightfoot230@juno.com](mailto:lightfoot230@juno.com).

**May 18 (Monday) Buttermilk Trail - James River Park RVA (C-3)**

Susan Turner ([turnerskt7@verizon.net](mailto:turnerskt7@verizon.net)) We will meet at the parking lot on Pump House Drive by the Boulevard Bridge and hike south across the Bridge then start hiking at the beginning of the Buttermilk

Trail. Bring water and maybe a snack. Please e-mail Susan so she can get a count of the numbers of hikers. Meet at 9:00 AM.

**May 20 (Wednesday) Pocahontas State Park - Chesterfield (C/3)**

Jeff Samuels (796-7949 or [jeffsamuels@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffsamuels@yahoo.com)) Hike 5.5 miles on two of the park's most popular trails - Forest Exploration and Beaver Lake. They are wide, mostly wooded trails, with many short steep hills. Restrooms. The park entrance is on Beach Road (Rt. 655) 4 miles west of Rt. 10 (Ironbridge Rd.). Parking fee is \$4 without a park pass. Meet in the big parking lot near the pool/picnic area at 9:30 AM.

**May 22 (Friday) Crabtree Falls and the Priest - Nelson County (B/1)**

Brad Swingle (594-2347). This is an out and back hike of 10.6 total miles. The total climb on the outbound portion is about 2,500 feet. At the top (4,063' elev.), turn around and walk back down. The parking fee is \$3.00 (\$1.50 with National Park pass). Call for meeting time and place.

**May 23 (Saturday) Carter Taylor Trail – Appomattox-Buckingham State Park (B/3)**

Jack Martin 804/784-1979 or ( [rjmartinii@gmail.com](mailto:rjmartinii@gmail.com) ) Loop trail (12 miles) is named for long time state forester who devoted himself to this 19,710 acre state forest. Rolling hills of the Piedmont with relatively flat forest roads, dense woods and open fields. Bring water and lunch. Contact Jack for meet-up location.

**May 27 (Wednesday) Henricus and Dutch Gap Conservation Area - Chesterfield (D/4)**

Mary Stahl (271-3976 or [twillig@comcast.net](mailto:twillig@comcast.net)). This five mile hike is an expansion of hike # 25 in Nathan Lott's *60 Hikes within 60 miles*. To reach the park, take I-95 to Exit 61 towards Hopewell, follow Rte. 10 East only 0.2 miles, immediate left onto Rte. 732 (Old Stage Road). Travel two miles and follow the signs to the Park. Meet at the Henricus Village parking lot at 9:50 AM.

**May 29 - 31 (Friday - Sunday) Capital Trail Biking Camping**

Saturday at 9:30 AM we will bike to Jamestown Island from Chickahominy Riverfront Campground. Roundtrip will be 12-20 miles depending on side trails taken. Bring a lunch so we can eat on the point. The park is located at 1350 John Tyler Memorial Highway (Route 5), Williamsburg, VA 23185. Camping reservations can be made by calling 757-258-5020.

Website: [www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation/parks/chickahominy-park.html](http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation/parks/chickahominy-park.html)

Contact Janet Bailey: [jbcornsilk@gmail.com](mailto:jbcornsilk@gmail.com)

**May 30 (Saturday) Insanity I (A/1)**

Randy Wendell ([randy.wendell@verizon.net](mailto:randy.wendell@verizon.net) ) This is the first hike of Randy's 4-part Insanity Series. The hikes get progressively more challenging and Randy kicks things off with the ODATC's entire 19-mile portion of the AT. Randy isn't certain about the elevation gain, but it isn't trivial so you need to be in good hiking shape for this one. Please email Randy for more details.

**June 3 (Wednesday) Chippokes Plantation State Park – Surry County (D/4)**

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or [Willyten10@aol.com](mailto:Willyten10@aol.com)). This nice 5 mile hike in the Coastal Plain forest includes a one mile beach walk along the tidal James River. This is hike # 11 in Nathan Lott's book *60 Hikes Within 60 Miles of Richmond*. Please note the drive is a little more than one hour from Richmond. Consider local car pools with other hikers in your area. Follow VA 10 east of Hopewell, through Surry, left on Rte. 634. Bring your state park pass or pay a small daily fee at the gate. We will stop for lunch after the hike. Meet at the parking lot in the state park at 9:30 AM.

**June 4 (Thursday) High Bridge State Park Bike Ride – Farmville**

Jim Sturgill (804-883-5842 ) Ride from Rice north through the Town of Farmville and west to Tuggle and return. Features views from the High Bridge. 27 total miles plus optional 14 total miles to the Burkeville end of the trail. Call Jim for details.

**June 6 (Saturday) Hazel Mountain loop in Shenandoah National Park (B/2)**

Bill Tennant ([Willyten10@aol.com](mailto:Willyten10@aol.com) or 282-0590) Here's a new one for us that I had to cancel in December. This isn't the old lung buster that had all that climbing at the end. This will combine several old roads and trails and we'll hike 10.8 miles around Hazel Mountain without having to hike all the way down off the Skyline Drive ridge line. It should be about 1500 feet of elevation with no major climbs. We'll visit a waterfall, cross Hazel River a few times (water should be low) and enjoy a nice walk in the woods. **NOTE: THIS IS AN INTERMEDIATE HIKE. IT HAS TWO NOT STEEP BUT FAIRLY LONG ASCENTS AND SEVERAL ROCK HOPPING WATER CROSSINGS.** Contact Bill for time and meeting location.

**June 6 (Saturday) Insanity II (A/1)**

Randy Wendell ([randy.wendell@verizon.net](mailto:randy.wendell@verizon.net)) This is part II of Randy's Insanity Series. Here Randy has selected Rocky Top, a classic hike, but made an alteration to the route to make it a 20-miler and with plenty of elevation gain. Along with water shoes, for several stream crossings, you'll also need to be in pretty good shape. Please email Randy for more details.

**June 8 (Monday) Lake Anna State Park - Spotsylvania Co. (C/4)**

Jim Hunt ([hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com](mailto:hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com) or 804-730-2364). Hike mostly hardwood forest with views of the fingers of Lake Anna and creeks in the park's interior for 8 miles. The Park is about one hour northwest of Richmond. Meet at the I-64 Oilville Park and Ride Exit 167 to carpool as there is a car entrance fee. Lunch in Mineral. Meet at 9:00 AM.

**June 13 (Saturday) Insanity III (A/1)**

Randy Wendell ([randy.wendell@verizon.net](mailto:randy.wendell@verizon.net)) This is part III of Randy's Insanity Series. The best way to describe this 21-miler is to think Bald Knob, Cold Mountain, and Mount Pleasant. The views should be spectacular, but in all honesty there won't be much time for sightseeing given the distance and elevation gain of this trek. This is a tough one so you need to be in good shape and be able to tolerate potential periods of discomfort. Please email Randy for more details.

**June 20 (Saturday) Insanity IV (A/1)**

Randy Wendell ([randy.wendell@verizon.net](mailto:randy.wendell@verizon.net)) This is part IV, the finale, of Randy's Insanity Series. Training for Everest? Then this hike might be for you. Here Randy combines the Three Ridges/Mau Har loop with the Priest, which totals to 23-miles and 7,500 feet of elevation gain. This nightmare actually came as a suggestion from another ODATC'er who shall remain nameless (hint: his first name begins with "Matt" and his last name begins with "Powell") Saying that this hike is tough would be an understatement. For this one you need to be in strong hiking shape and have a very positive disposition. Oh, and Happy Summer Solstice! Please email Randy for more details.

**June 20 - 27 (Saturday - Saturday) 30th Annual James River Batteau Festival**

A fleet of replica batteau and various canoes and kayaks navigate the James for a week from Lynchburg to Maidens Landing in Goochland. Camping is available at stops along the way. For more information visit: [www.vacanals.org/batteau](http://www.vacanals.org/batteau). I am planning a self-supported canoe trip down the James during the Festival starting in Lynchburg and finishing a few days later probably at Scottsville. If you are interested in joining me on this trip, contact Ken Baker at 804-572-3808 or [lightfoot230@juno.com](mailto:lightfoot230@juno.com).

## **Upcoming Activities**

**May 27, 2015 Science Museum of Virginia Lunch Break Science Series - Noon**

Max Hepp-Buchanan, Director of Bike Walk RVA, Sports Backers - The Rise of Bicycle Boulevards and Protected Bike Lanes in Richmond, VA

**June 24, 2015 Science Museum of Virginia Lunch Break Science Series - Noon**

Brigitte Tanner Carter, Account Executive, RideFinders, and Dan Salkovitz, Meteorologist, VA  
Department of Environmental Quality – Air Quality and You

**Upcoming Programs - Sue Kropp, Contributor**

**May 19, 2015**, (Tuesday, 6:30 PM) Annual CLUB NIGHT event. Bring your favorite dish to share and be prepared to travel the world with your fellow club members. This is the opportunity for you to be part of the presentation portion of the evening. Members are encouraged to submit a maximum of 5 slides of your favorite trip, outdoor activity, or club related activity to Sue Kropp at: [odatc.programs@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.programs@gmail.com). Please indicate the location or any other descriptive information with your slides. The event will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd). Don't forget to bring along a canned good to donate to the church's food bank. Due date for slides is: Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

**September 8, 2015** - will be our first meeting at the Virginia Science Museum. Take note of the new date. We are honored to have a special guest speaker to kick off our new location. Ralph White, the former director of the James River Parks System in Richmond will be our featured guest speaker. This will be a very exciting and informative event.

**November 10, 2015** - We will be getting back to our roots with Matt Hayden. It has been some time since we have heard from an AT thruhiker, so Matt will provide us with some insight on his experience hiking the AT. We are please to have Matt as a club member and the general manager of Greenlife Adventure Sports on West Broad.

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](mailto:odatc.programs@gmail.com).

**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.*

Doug Briskman & Wendy Hevener  
Herb Sening  
Elizabeth Beverly  
Jim Henry  
Andrew Perkins

Rose King  
Nick Vanias  
Maria Flint  
Kate Patterson  
Will Lacy

John Dietrich & Family  
Jeff Anchell & Family  
Kenneth & Gail Forrester  
Kevin Ryan

## **FUTURE ODATC BOARD OPPORTUNITIES**

Even though our November general meeting is still months away, I wanted to remind folks of the potential opportunities that will be available to serve your club and its membership. The official request for nominees will go out in the July-August Walker but it's never too early to start pondering whether this might be the time for you to join the ODATC Board. If you have any questions about any of these positions, please feel free to send me an email at [odatc.president@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.president@gmail.com). The positions that will be up for nomination include:

President  
Membership  
Activities

Treasurer  
Land Management  
Newsletter

Secretary  
Programs

### 2015 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	<a href="mailto:odatc.president@gmail.com">odatc.president@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	David Grimes	833-8974	<a href="mailto:odatc.vicepresident@gmail.com">odatc.vicepresident@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Leonard Adkins	275-1208	<a href="mailto:odatc.secretary@gmail.com">odatc.secretary@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Dennis Schafer	314-2434	<a href="mailto:odatc.treasurer@gmail.com">odatc.treasurer@gmail.com</a>
Programs	Sue Kropp	276-0070	<a href="mailto:odatc.programs@gmail.com">odatc.programs@gmail.com</a>
Land Mgmt.	Karl Huber	355-4619	<a href="mailto:odatc.landmgmt@gmail.com">odatc.landmgmt@gmail.com</a>
Membership	John Spindler	746-4717	<a href="mailto:odatc.membership@gmail.com">odatc.membership@gmail.com</a>
Trail Maint.	Mark Heede	364-1658	<a href="mailto:odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com">odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com</a>
Activities	Jim Hunt (weekend events)	730-2364	<a href="mailto:odatc.activities@gmail.com">odatc.activities@gmail.com</a>
	Ted McGarry (weekday events)	218-1238	<a href="mailto:odatc.activities@gmail.com">odatc.activities@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Susan Kidd (acting)	784-3617	<a href="mailto:odatc.newsletter@gmail.com">odatc.newsletter@gmail.com</a>
Outreach	Parker Webster	628-2681	<a href="mailto:odatc.outreach@gmail.com">odatc.outreach@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Larry Kidd	784-3617	<a href="mailto:odatc.webmaster@gmail.com">odatc.webmaster@gmail.com</a>

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](mailto: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  
with the submission deadlines by the 15<sup>th</sup>  
of the pre-publication month.

Club member stories and photos are welcome!

Please send your material to [odatc.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.newsletter@gmail.com).





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