

# The Walker

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Volume 22, Issue 6

November/December 2014

## *President's Message*

Greetings!!

So, did you get signed up for our 45th Anniversary celebration? It is going to be a fantastic event. Great food, friendship, door prizes galore, a little recognition, followed by some home grown musicians!! I can't wait to see friends who haven't been in our area for quite some time. The organizers of this event have done such an amazing job!

We have had some great hikes and other activities offered this fall with more to come. I was so excited on the annual AT Family Day hike to actually have a family with some youngsters join us this year. Not that I wasn't delighted to have a few couples and my daughter and her cousin along on such a nice day also. I hope you are able to get out in the woods as we move toward the holidays. The leaves are reaching their peak in the mountains but we still have some time closer to home for those fall colors. Don't forget to wear bright colors or blaze orange if you are hiking in the state and national forests as hunting season is upon us.

Our maintenance folks have really been busy this past season. They have accomplished a lot in the way of moving water off the trail. Trust me there was a lot of rain this year! I have never seen such enormous weeds on the section I co-maintain before, felt and looked like a jungle until we got things back in shape. You still have a chance to help on the AT as there should be one more maintenance weekend in November weather permitting then the crews tend to stay a bit closer to home until March. Be sure to watch for potential opportunities to assist at the James River National Wildlife Refuge or possibly at the local James River City Park; organizations that often seek our assistance during the winter.

An item of concern that may threaten our section of the AT is the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. You may have heard about it in the news back in August when it was endorsed by the governor and others touting its economic benefit. The pipeline is intended to move natural gas from West Virginia through Virginia and down to North Carolina. The project is still in the preliminary planning stages but as more information becomes available we will keep you posted.

## ***President's Message (cont'd)***

The November General Club meeting is also the annual business meeting when we vote on nominees for the next ODATC Board. Unfortunately, we are still seeking nominations for several major board positions. The list of candidates and additional information is included elsewhere in the newsletter. Please consider giving of you time to help keep our awesome club moving forward by volunteering to serve on the Board!!

As always happens with this particular edition of the Walker it is impossible to believe that no sooner do I wish everyone a great fall, then it is time to wish you Happy Holidays!! Hope to see you at the 45th!!

See you on the trail! And oh yes, Happy Holidays! ☺

Theresa Duffey

### **Your club is looking for a few good members to join the dynamic ODATC Board!!**

Do you have an interest in giving back to your club? Perhaps you have an interest in learning more about the relationship of the club and how it fits into the overall cooperative management partnership for the Appalachian Trail. Maybe you have some great ideas that will help the club grow and become more visible in the Richmond area.

Nominations are being sought for the following ODATC Board positions:

- Vice President: Open ... no nominees
- Trail Maintenance: Open ... no nominees
- Webmaster: Larry Kidd
- Outreach: Open ... no nominees
- Newsletter: Open ... no nominees.

Each of these positions plays an integral role in the oversight of your trail club.

In general, each position is a 2 year term; board members are expected to attend a minimum of two-thirds of the board meetings which are held every other month. Each position has different responsibilities yet contributes to the overall decisions that guide and direct our club's functions. In today's technology driven world, it is important that board members have regular access to the internet as much of the communication is through email. To learn more about the responsibilities of these positions, please feel free to contact the current board member in your position of interest. You can also review the duties of each position by going to the website. You will need to log in as a member, go to the Member only tab, then to Governing documents, and click on ODATC Standing Rules which is the guidance document for the board. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Theresa Duffey ([odatc.president@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.president@gmail.com)) or Larry Kidd ([odatc.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:odatc.webmaster@gmail.com)).

**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

**CARPOOLING** 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

**November 1 (Saturday) Pocahontas State Park - Spillway to Spillway – Chesterfield (B/3)**  
 Jeff Samuels (796-7949 or jeffsamuels@yahoo.com). A moderately paced 11 mile hike through the park's N. central section near Beaver Lake dam and through the N.E. section above Swift Creek Lake and its dam. On unpaved forest roads and wide multi-use trails. Points of interest include three family cemeteries. Bring lunch and water. Restrooms at start and at 2.3 miles. Park entrance: Beach Road (Rt. 655) 4 miles west of Rt. 10 (Ironbridge Rd.). \$5 parking fee without park pass. Meet in the big parking lot near the pool/picnic area at 7:50AM ( <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/documents/data/trail-guide-pocahontas.pdf>.)

**November 1 to November 2 (Saturday to Sunday) Halloween Hoot (B/3)**  
 Mike Shelor [trailguymike@aol.com](mailto:trailguymike@aol.com) Come join Mike on one of the great ODATC overnight events at our shelter.

### **November 5 (Wednesday) Not So Classic Richmond Neighborhood - Twin Hickory Western Henrico (D/3)**

Dave Gillespie (dwg6447@gmail.com or 360-3417). We will walk 5 miles through the recent, by Richmond standards, Twin Hickory development which is just north of I-64 and Short Pump. Exit I-295 to Nuckols Road North, (and watch your speed exiting the interstate as the Henrico Police frequently have a radar unit set up). Turn left at the second traffic light and then right into the shopping center. Lunch afterward in any of the seven restaurants in the shopping center. (Apparently these suburbanites never eat at home.). Meet in front of the Food Lion at 9:50 am.

**November 6 (Thursday) The Priest-AT Bedford County (B/1)**

Alec Alexander (jrob505@verizon.net,741-1241 ) or Barbara Stewart (bleafstewart@gmail.com, 271-4631). This difficult section on the Appalachian Trail has a 3,000 ft vertical rise in about 4 miles and is located in The Priest Wilderness. The hike will be either a shuttle or in and out depending on group size and interest. Group size is limited. Contact Alec or Barbara to register.

**November 8 (Saturday) 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party with hikes, dinner with band**

See details for party in other sections of this issue of Walker. An RSVP form is also included in this Walker and you can go to the home page of our web-site ([www.odatc.net](http://www.odatc.net)) and in the 45<sup>th</sup> write-up there is a link to a RSVP from using paypal.

**November 8 (Saturday) Deep Run - 3 mile hike (D/4)**

Lori Ando ([lla43022@gmail.com](mailto:lla43022@gmail.com)). This three mile hike in the fashionable West End suburbs. Go to the first parking area off the Ridgefield Parkway entrance which is west of Gaskins Rd. Meet at 3:00 pm. This hike is part of the 45th anniversary party and should end at 4:30 in time for the party at 5:00

**November 8 (Saturday) Deep Run - 5 mile hike (C/4)**

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or [willyten@aol.com](mailto:willyten@aol.com)) A five mile circuit hike into all of the corners of Deep Run Park to include old beaver dams, railroad right-of-ways and bike trails. Enter Deep Run Park off Ridgefield Parkway between Gaskins and Pump. Go to the first parking area on the right off the Ridgefield Parkway entrance. Meet at 2:00 pm. This hike is part of the 45th anniversary party and should end at 4:30 in time for the party at 5:00

**November 8 (Saturday) Powhatan State Park - 10 mile hike (B/3)**

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or [hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com](mailto:hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com)) Join us on this 10 mile hike in Virginia's newest state park, Powhatan State Park which is on the James River. From Goochland C.H. take US 522 South to Maidens, cross the River, travel 1.3 miles, and look for Powhatan Park sign, right turn on Rte. 617. Go 1.4 miles and turn right into the Park. Go 0.7 miles, right turn into picnic area. From Southside, take US 60 west from Midlothian to US 522 North to left turn at Rte. 617 etc. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 11:00 am. Nominal parking fee without park pass. This hike is part of the 45th anniversary party and should end at 4:00 in time for the party at 5:00

**November 12 (Wednesday) Petersburg National Battlefield Park (C/3)**

Ted Nelson (theodore.nelson@yahoo.com or 804-892-5517) Ted is a knowledgeable Civil War buff who will lead a 6 mile hike on trails in the Park (or more is possible if the Crater is included) Take I-95 Exit 52 Washington Street East (Rte. 36) towards Hopewell about 3 miles to the Park. Meet at the Visitors Center which is a Federal Fee Area so remember to bring your Pass if you have one. Lunch afterward is optional. Meet at 9:00 am.

**November 15, (Saturday) York River State Park (9-10 mi) (B/4)**

Joanne Berdall and Ellie Tuck ([jberdall@hotmail.com](mailto:jberdall@hotmail.com) or Ellie's cell – 370-2603) Join Ellie and Joanne for an 8-mile hike at York River State Park. Bring lunch and water. Highlights include river views, a fossil beach and archeological remnants of Taskinas Plantation. Leaving the Bottoms Bridge park-n-ride (exit 205 off I-64) at 9:00 AM for those who want to carpool, or leaving the York River State Park Visitor's Center at 10 AM to begin the hike. Contact Ellie or Joanne if you need details about the hike or the park-n-ride location (call Ellie: 370-2603, or e-mail Joanne: [jberdall@hotmail.com](mailto:jberdall@hotmail.com)). \$4.00 per car weekend parking fee at York River State Park. York River State Park, 5526 Riverview Road, Williamsburg, VA

**November 16 (Sunday) AT Airplane Crash Hike (B/3)**

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or [hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com](mailto:hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com)). There are 2 airplane crashes on our section of the AT. Both are not more than 1/4 miles off the trail. Come join us on this about 11 mile adventure and see both planes. Bring lunch and water. Call for details.

**November 18 (Tuesday) ODATC General Membership Meeting**

ODATC members Jane and Lee Hesler are Master Naturalists. They will give a presentation on this program and how it is making an impact on our local environment and natural conservation efforts here in Virginia. The meeting begins at 7PM, but members are encouraged to arrive at 6:30 for socializing and calisthenics. Snacks to share are always welcome and we'd also like you to bring a canned good to donate to the church's food bank. Meeting is at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Rd.

**November 19 (Wednesday) Spotsylvania National Military Park - Spotsylvania County (C/4)**

Bill Tennant ([Willyten10@aol.com](mailto:Willyten10@aol.com) or 282-0590) Come take a 5.5 loop hike through the woods and fields of the Spotsylvania Civil War Battlefield southwest of Fredericksburg. Civil War stories (of varying veracity) included at no extra charge. Meet at 9:00 am to carpool from the Ashland Hanover Shopping Center in Ashland and park near the Martin's Food Store (northeast corner of Route 54 and Route 1). Rte. 54 is exit 92 on I-95. Or meet at the Spotsylvania National Military Park Exhibit Shelter off Brock Road just west of Spotsylvania Courthouse at about 9:45 am. Pack a lunch and we'll enjoy a picnic in the park after we finish the hike. We should be back in Ashland about 3 pm.

**November 22-23 (Sat/Sun) Overnight Camp-out - Bremo Plantation in Fluvanna County D/4**

Jenni Pendergrass ([jennipendergrass@aol.com](mailto:jennipendergrass@aol.com) or 804-221-3226). We had so much fun in the spring we've decided to do it again. Enjoy a rare opportunity to hike the woodland trails and pathways of historic Bremo Plantation, a 3,500 acre property located along the James River and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. You can arrive anytime on Saturday after 10:00 a.m. and we plan to begin our guided hike around 1:00 in the afternoon. We'll pass by the 3 historic homes, view the river, and hear the history of General John Hartwell Cocke's development of the plantation and its homes (Upper Bremo, Recess and Lower Bremo). After the hike it's time to kick back, have some dinner and enjoy a bonfire to cap off the day. Dinner will be pot-luck this time so please bring a cold or hot dish to share. You can bring your tent (or inside sleeping space is available) if you'd like to spend the night. For those staying the night we'll have a big breakfast on Sunday morning before you head back to Richmond. Our host & guide for the weekend is Woody Cumbo, long-time property manager of Lower Bremo, who has graciously offered us the use of his home on the grounds for our overnight stay. Directions will be provided.

**November 23 (Sunday) A loop of Robertson Mtn and Corbin Hollow (C/1)**

Mountain hike of about 8 miles with 2600 foot elevation change. You've seen Robertson Mtn from the top of Old Rag and now you'll see Old Rag from a different perspective. The loop through Corbin Hollow has some of the biggest trees in the SNP. Limited to 12 people/ Call Ted Nelson at 530-0666 for more details.

**November 26 (Wednesday) Pocahontas State Park – Chesterfield (C/3)**

Mary Stahl (271-3976) Hike on the Old Mill Bicycle Trail loop which has heated bathrooms. Follow the entrance road to the large parking lot next to the pool. The park address is 10301 State Park Rd. Chesterfield, VA. Its entrance is on Beach Road, Route 655 which connects to Ironbridge Road, Rte. 10 at the Chesterfield County Government Center. There is a nominal parking fee. Meet at 9:50 am.



**December 3 (Wednesday) Town of Blackstone and Bevell's Hardware model train operating layout. (D/4)**

Bill Weatherford (804-221-0369) will lead a 2+ hour hike in his boyhood town of Blackstone, a tobacco and railroad town. The hike will begin in the municipal parking lot at Bevell's hardware and will wind through the town, stopping downtown for lunch and then back to the hardware to view the model train exhibit. The train exhibit is 20' X 58', and some portions change from year to year. This is truly a highlight for this small town of 3,600 people. The exhibit is open from Thanksgiving to the first week in January, and last year 31,000 people went through the hardware store door during this time.

Bill will coordinate a carpool from the "Park and Ride" at the intersection of US 360 and Route 153, about 35 miles west of Richmond. We will leave this carpool at 9:25 AM. Ted (218-1238) will coordinate a carpool from Home Depot 12300 Chattanooga Plaza, Chesterfield Crossing Shopping Center on the East (Richmond) side of route 288 and Hull Street Rd. (US 360) at 9:00 AM and join Bill at Rte. 153. You should plan on leaving Blackstone around 2:30 PM if you plan on seeing everything available.

As you enter the town of Blackstone the speed limit drops to 25 mph, slow down, the police don't have much to do in Blackstone. Just before the first stop light there is a MacDonal'd's on your right (this is the rest room stop), if you miss this stop go one block and you will see a Hardee's also on the right (your second chance for a rest room stop). We will turn left at the Hardee's, onto Tavern Street, and the municipal parking lot is a 1/2 block on your right, in front of the Bevell's Hardware. We will meet here at 10:00 AM for a short briefing and begin our hike.

**December 6 (Saturday) Mount Marshall/Bluff Trail/AT Loop Hike (A/2)**

Jenni Pendergrass (804-221-3226 or [japendergrass@hanovercounty.gov](mailto: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

**December 10 (Wednesday Night) Christmas Lights – RVA (D/4)**

Hank Harman's annual hike with Sue and Norm Kropp (276-0070 or [freshair82@comcast.net](mailto:freshair82@comcast.net)). Four mile round trip hike along Franklin St. to the James Center in Downtown Richmond to see the Christmas lights, usually with a return stop for refreshments. Meet in the Lombardy Street parking lot behind St. John's United Church of Christ located between Stuart Circle and Grace Street at 6:50 PM.

**December 13 (Saturday) Hazel Mountain in Shenandoah National Park's Central District (B/2)**

Bill Tennant ([Willyten10@aol.com](mailto:Willyten10@aol.com) or 282-0590) Here's a new one for us. 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 ridgeline. 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 on a winter day. Contact Bill for time and location.

**December 17 (Wednesday) Henricus and Dutch Gap Conservation Area - Chesterfield (D/4)**

Bill Tennant ([Willyten10@aol.com](mailto:Willyten10@aol.com) or 282-0590). Come take a winter walk around the lagoon at Dutch Gap. Plenty of Colonial and Civil War History. 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) for two miles. Follow the signs to the park. Hike is on rain or shine. Hike is cancelled in the event of nowy/icy conditions Meet at the Henricus Village parking lot at 9:50 AM.

**December 24 (Wednesday) Christmas Eve - NO HIKE**

**December 31 (Wednesday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods – RVA (D-4)**

Ted McGarry (218-1238). One in a series of two-hour morning hikes by Richmond native and retired City Planner. Coordinator's choice: Westover Hills a 1920's neighborhood centered on Forest Hill Ave. and Westover Hills Boulevard, located south of the James. Meeting place is also our lunch spot, O'Toole's Restaurant, 4800 Forest Hill Ave. Park along 48th St. Meeting time 9:50 AM.

## **Upcoming Activities**

**November 8, 2014 (Saturday 5-8 pm) ODATC 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party at Deep Run Park, Ridgefield Ballroom, Henrico County**

**November 18 (Tuesday) ODATC General Membership Meeting**

ODATC members Jane and Lee Hesler are Master Naturalists. They will give a presentation on this program and how it is making an impact on our local environment and natural conservation efforts here in Virginia.

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

## **Upcoming Programs** – Sue Kropp, Contributor

**November 18, 2014**, ODATC members Jane and Lee Hesler are Virginia Master Naturalists. They will give a presentation on this program and how it is making an impact on our local environment and natural conservation efforts here in Virginia. 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](mailto:odatc.programs@gmail.com). The meeting will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd)

**January 20, 2015**, Woody Cumbo, a trained Horticulturist, spent many years teaching and exploring the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina. He will enlighten us on the many species of trees found there and what to look for when hiking this beautiful part of the country.

**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!

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 the following new members. Current club members are encouraged to welcome and get to know them better as they join us on scheduled hikes listed above.*

John Donelson

Martie Wiedeman

### 2014 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 Prestia	527-2001	<a href="mailto:odatc.vicepresident@gmail.com">odatc.vicepresident@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Leonard Atkins	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.	Lori Ando	397-5306	<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	David Grimes	833-8974	<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).