

## TATC Activity List for April 10th General Membership Meeting

- This listing is current as of the date of the meeting, see the Google calendar and/or the TATC web site for up-to-date information as new items get added, and occasionally published schedules get modified.

### See also the TATC Google Calendar for information.

- It is viewable at the bottom of the TATC Home Page or can be added to your Google calendar on your computer or phone using the following link – [Calendar Events](#)

**Tuesday Group** - More information on the TATC Tuesday group can be found at - [TATC Tuesday Group Website](#) Many of their events are planned only a week or two prior to the event date, and thus do not get listed in this General Meeting snapshot of events. Also, they do not get copied onto the main TATC Google calendar until details have matured, but some advance info is available on the Tuesday Group website prior to being included on the main TATC calendar. They have an event almost every Tuesday morning.

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### General Meeting (Norfolk)

Date: Wednesday, April 10th

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503

### Spring Backpacking Walk-thru (Roseland, VA)

Date: Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>– Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

Location: Reeds Gap Parking lot along the Blue Ridge Parkway. (Blue Ridge Parkway & Rt 664 Intersection) 5832 Beech Grove Rd, Roseland, VA 22967

Description: **Backpacking/Walk-Thru that will run Friday-Sunday.** If there are enough folks to cover the AT walk-through, Andy Grayson will be taking a group through the St. Mary's Wilderness. This will be a combination walk-through and trail clearing. The tentative plan would be to hike down the Mine Bank Trail on Friday and set up camp, work about a half day or so on the St. Mary's Trail on Saturday, and then hike up to Green Pond to camp on Saturday night. We would then hike back to the trailhead via the fire toad and the Bald Mountain Trail on Sunday.

**To sign up or for more information, contact:**

John Sima - TATC Trail Supervisor - [trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com](mailto:trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com)

Brittany Collins - TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - [assistantts@tidewateratc.com](mailto:assistantts@tidewateratc.com)

## **Merchants Millpond Hike -Tuesday Group (Gatesville, NC)**

Date: Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

Location: Merchants Millpond State Park, 176 Mill Pond Rd, Gatesville, NC 27938, USA

Meet: At the Visitors Center Parking lot. **Registration 9:15**; hike begins at 9:30.  
Restrooms are available at the Visitors Center. at 9:15AM for a 9:30AM departure.

Directions: Please use the (map) function above for turn by turn directions to the Park.  
From U.S. 158 go ~ one mile South on Millpond Rd. Visitors Center parking lot will be on your left.

We usually visit Merchants Mill Pond in the winter, but let's explore it in the Spring for a fresh perspective. We might see baby bears and alligators,. **This is a minimum 5 mile hike but seems to usually run closer to 7 so be flexible.**

Wear appropriate clothing and comfortable shoes. Bring, snacks and lunch, water, sunscreen, and BUG SPRAY. A group cloth for lunch may be a good idea also.

There is no good place for ice cream after so Judy will bring her Bear Bait Brownies for a sweet treat at the end of our adventure.  
to follow.

Contact Judy to sign up: [judywelp47@gmail.com](mailto:judywelp47@gmail.com)

## **First Landing State Park Trail Maintenance Workday (Virginia Beach)**

Date: Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 12:00pm

Location: The meeting location is the parking lot by the picnic area.

Description: Live Oak and Cypress Swamp trail maintenance. At least 3 volunteers are needed. *If you have one, please wear a hat, shirt, or jacket with the TATC logo when participating in FLSP work days to identify you as a member of the club.*

Contact: Paul Heymann [localtrails@tidewateratc.com](mailto:localtrails@tidewateratc.com) with questions or to sign up.

## **Cabin Maintenance and Orientation Weekend #1 (Vesuvius, VA)**

Date: Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Location: TATC Douglas Putman Memorial Cabin

Description: This is the 1st of 4 annual trips to do maintenance work and to provide

orientation to members so that they can be qualified to rent the cabin.

If you have questions or want to participate, please contact trip leader, Gregory Hodges, at [cabin@tidewateratc.com](mailto:cabin@tidewateratc.com) or at (757) 439-1552. Call or text is fine.

### **Noland Trail Hike (Newport News)**

Date: Saturday, April 20th from 8:45am - 1:00pm (approx.)

Location: Mariners' Museum parking lot, near Noland Tail trailhead

[Click here for map link](#)

Meet: We will meet in the parking lot by 8:45 AM to register for the hike. Bathrooms at start of hike: Porta potties in parking lot and restrooms inside museum (free). We will start the hike at 9:00 AM and hike 5 miles around the loop trail returning to the parking lot. We should have some great views of the lake and possibly some wildlife. We will probably hike rain or shine, cold or warm but we will notify everyone by 8 PM on April 19th if there is a cancellation. The hike will be cancelled if extreme weather is expected. Please bring/wear appropriate clothing for the weather, footwear, water, snacks and/or lunch. We may eat out afterwards, details at the hike. This hike is leashed dog(and poop scooped) friendly!

Contact: Bill Bunch at [bbunch@att.net](mailto:bbunch@att.net) to sign up!

### **TATC at the Virginia Beach Earth Day Celebration (Virginia Beach)**

Date: Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

Time: 11:00am – 3:00pm

Location: Mount Trashmore Park, 310 Edwin Drive, Virginia Beach

Description: Need 3-4 volunteers needed per shift; morning shift 11-1, afternoon shift is 1-3. Join us for this fun event to let potential members know about all the cool stuff we do.

To sign up, contact John Barnes at [vbjcb123@gmail.com](mailto:vbjcb123@gmail.com)

*Can't volunteer? That's alright, come by and say, "hi!"*

### **High Bridge State Park Bike Trip – Tuesday Group (Farmville, VA)**

Date: Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

Details: see below

#### History:

High Bridge Trail State Park is a multi-use trail about 31 miles long. The trail, once a rail bed, is wide, level and generally flat. Its surface is finely crushed limestone. Its centerpiece is the majestic High Bridge, which is more than 2,400 feet long and 125 feet above the Appomattox River. The original bridge was built in 1853 as part of the South Side Railroad. The current steel-tower bridge was completed in 1914. It was originally made of wood, standing on 21 brick piers and included a pedestrian walkway next to the tracks and a nearby wagon bridge. During the American Civil War, both Union and Confederate forces attempted to destroy the bridge to their advantage. Confederates succeeded in setting the bridge on fire, but the fire apparently self-extinguished, and the bridge was not repaired until 5 months later. After the Battle of High Bridge and his surrender at Appomattox, Robert E. Lee told the very men who had destroyed the bridge – including civil engineer Major General William Mahone – to go home and start its rebuilding.

High Bridge Park website: [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/hig.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hig.shtml)

#### Description:

Day One Tuesday: We will meet at the Main Street Plaza Trail Head (Corner of 1st Street and N. Main), Farmville, VA at 10:00 for registration. The ride will start at 10:15. We will ride ~12 miles toward Pamplin, turnaround riding East to the High Bridge, tour the bridge and return to Farmville for a total of ~30 miles. Some may head home after the ride. We will eat our bag lunches at one of the picnic tables on the trail.

Day Two Wednesday: From the hotel we will drive ~7 miles to the Camp Paradise Parking lot, 1466 Camp Paradise Road, Rice. Bring your State Park Pass or \$5.00 for admission. From there we will ride our bikes to the High Bridge (~.3 miles) where we will tour the bridge. After touring the Bridge we will ride East toward Moran near the Eastern terminus of the trail (~10 miles each way), return to Paradise Parking Lot, load up our bikes and head home.

#### Bring:

Bike in good working order, spare tube, helmet, lunch, snacks, sunscreen and PLENTY OF WATER. Pit toilets and picnic tables are placed every few miles along the trail; however, no services are available.

#### Wildlife:

Deer roam freely along the Trail. We will need to be alert for them. Turkey and bear have been reported as well.

#### Lodging:

We'll spend Tuesday night at the Hampton Inn, Farmville (<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/fmvvahx-hampton-farmville/>) (300 Sunchase Blvd, Farmville, VA 23901 434-392-8826) located a short drive from the trail. Everyone should

make their own reservations. Farmville is a historically significant town ([www.farmvilleva.com](http://www.farmvilleva.com)) with nearby Saylor's Creek Battlefield, VA Civil War Trails, Longwood University and Appomattox Courthouse. Appomattox River Company is nearby. The Inn itself has an exercise room, outdoor pool and complimentary breakfast. Rates (Approximately \$109/night plus tax).

An after-ride victory celebration happy hour back at the Inn is anticipated. For dinner, there are several dining options available, but we may choose the local's favorite "Charley's Waterfront Cafe" ([www.charleyswaterfront.com](http://www.charleyswaterfront.com)).

Carpooling is encouraged. This is going to be a FUN trip!!! I encourage folks to sign up asap. Please note that in case of inclement weather ride will be cancelled.

To sign up contact Ellis 757-285-1252(cell) [malabad2@gmail.com](mailto:malabad2@gmail.com)

### **TATC Pub Night aka Happy Hiker Hour at Bold Mariner (Norfolk)**

Date: Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Location: Bold Mariner Brewing 1901 E Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503

*Come join us for good food, beer, and conversation at Ocean View's Bold Mariner*

*[Click here for Bold Mariner Website Link](#)*

Contact: Lelia [leliavann@gmail.com](mailto:leliavann@gmail.com) with questions, signing up is not necessary.

### **Spring Maintenance Weekend (Lyndhurst, VA)**

Date: Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>

Location: Williams Branch Picnic area of Sherando Lake - 96 Sherando Lake Rd, Lyndhurst, VA 22952, USA

Maintenance: Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

Camping: Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

Saturday Dinner: the club will be providing dinner on Saturday!

Description: This is a weekend for us to do what the club was set up to do! We'll maintain our assigned section of the Appalachian Trail, the Mau-Har Trail, the White Rocks Falls trail, plus more! Come out to our base camp at Sherando Lake Recreation Area on Friday as early as noon; set up your tent at the Williams Branch Picnic Area, keeping in mind that the gate is usually locked at 10PM and opens on Saturday morning at 6AM. If the gate is staffed, let them know you are with TATC to help with AT maintenance and you will not be charged an entry fee. Crew signup sheets will be available Friday; Saturday organizational meeting at 7:45AM.

To sign up or for more information on maintenance, contact:

John Sima - TATC Trail Supervisor - [trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com](mailto:trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com)

Brittany Collins - TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - [assistantts@tidewateratc.com](mailto:assistantts@tidewateratc.com)

### **Botanical Gardens Walk – Tuesday Group (Norfolk)**

Date: Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup>

*details to follow...* check the website calendar for updates.

Contact: Margaret to sign up [yabchvic@hotmail.com](mailto:yabchvic@hotmail.com)

### **TATC at Norfolk's Bike Expo**

Date: Monday, May 1st, 2024

Time: 5:00-7:00 PM

Location: Slover Library, 1st floor, 235 E. Plume Street, 6th floor, Norfolk, VA 23510

### **General Meeting (Norfolk)**

Date: Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Location: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503

### **Bike-hike into Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge & False Cape SP (Virginia Beach)**

Date: Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

Time: 8:45am – 2:00pm approximately

Location: Little Island Park parking lot, Sandbridge Road, Virginia Beach 23456

Description: Please meet at Little Island Park parking lot, (the south end of Sandbridge) by 8:45 AM to sign in and we will depart at 9:00 AM. There is a fee to park in this lot. Ride sharing is encouraged. On-street parking may be available north of Little Island Park if you would like to ride your bike to Little Island Park. We will ride approximately 2 miles on Sandpiper Road to Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

At the visitor center, we will park bikes and visit the boardwalks and trails at BBNWR. After we have a chance to visit the trails at the refuge, we will gather and ride an additional 3.5 miles to False Cape State Park Visitor Center on one of the refuge's dike trails. At the visitor center, there are bathrooms, picnic tables and a chance to refill water bottles. After a break at the visitor center, we will ride further into the state park and explore more of FCSP before returning to Sandbridge through BBNWR. This plan may be adjusted if we run longer than expected at any of our stops. Total mileage for the hike is approximately 20 miles round trip. This hike is limited to 20 participants.

The road surfaces range from paved roads with traffic on Sandpiper Road and the refuge access road to crusher run surfaces with loose gravel and uneven surfaces on the BBWR dike roads and within the state park. Bicycles with hybrid tires or wider tires are recommended.

Please become familiar with Tuesday Group's bike safety download before signing up for this hike. Here is the link to this download: <https://sites.google.com/site/tatctuesdaygroup/home/biking/safety-cycling-tips?authuser=0>

This hike will be cancelled if any extreme wet or windy conditions are expected. The hike will also be canceled if the refuge is closed for any reason.

Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, bike helmet, water, snacks, lunch, insect repellent if needed and bike lock if desired.

**Contact Bill Bunch to sign up:** [bbunch@att.net](mailto:bbunch@att.net)

### **Coming Up...**

Tuesday Group going strong with an event every Tuesday – *check calendar for details*

May 16<sup>th</sup> First Landing SP Trail Maintenance

May 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> Hiking and Jazz Music weekend in PA

June 1<sup>st</sup> Trail magic at Tye River

June 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Lopperfest I

June 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Cabin Maintenance and Orientation II (**Greg needs volunteers to lead this trip**)