Notice of Future Meetings
Meetings are open to all members. NBATC welcomes and encourages your attendance at Board and Outing Planning Meetings.

Hiker Happy Hour
Wednesday, October 4
Starts at 5:00 PM
Emerald Stone Grille
1001 Jefferson St., Lynchburg
(434)439-4906

Healthfest
Saturday, October 7, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Miller Park
2100 Park Ave., Lynchburg
Viki Gossen, (434)258-0883
Jordan Welborn

NBATC Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 6:00 PM
Peakland United Methodist Church
4434 Boonsboro Road, Lynchburg

Regional Partnership Committee Meeting
Saturday, October 14
Location and Time TBD
Doug DeJarnette

Hiker Happy Hour
Thursday, November 2
Starts at 5:00 PM
Loose Shoe Brewery
198 Ambriar Plaza, Amherst
(434)946-2337

NBATC Board Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 7:00 PM
Rm 306, Miller Center, 301 Grove Street, Lynchburg

Hiker Happy Hour
Thursday, December 7
Starts at 5:00 PM
Beale’s Brewery and BBQ
510 Grove St., Bedford
(540)583-5113

Adopt-a-Highway
Saturday, December 9, 9:00 AM
Boonsboro SC
Larry Spangler, (540)460-6903

President’s Message by Mike Rieley
Many of our maintainers agree that 2017 will go down as “the year of the weed.” Conditions must have been perfect for weed growth because they were hardy and relentless. We must have done an excellent job of keeping the trails clear though because we received our usual kudos from hikers about the excellent condition of our section. We now are seeing the very end of the SOBOs (south-bound thru hikers) bubble that was larger than usual but did not compare to the huge numbers of NOBOs (north-bound thru hikers) we saw in the late spring and early summer. Some of us are beginning to look forward to the first frost and the end of weeds, bugs and bees. Falling leaves will open vistas we

(Continued on page six)
Hiking Schedule - October, November, December 2017

Hikes are graded according to difficulty. Consult the hike leader for a more specific appraisal.

- E = Easy hike, 2-5 miles. Expect good trails, often old roads.
- M = Moderate, 5-8 miles. Trails may be difficult walking in places.
- S = Strenuous. Expect long hikes and hill climbing with large elevation gains, bushwacking.
- HD = Hiking Distance     DD = Driving Distance     MRT = Miles Round Trip     PCIAFD = Please Call In Advance For Directions

You may drive your own car if you wish. However, carpooling is suggested to save gasoline and because parking at trailheads is often limited. The hike leader is responsible for arranging transportation. The amount to help defray car expenses is noted on the schedule and should be given to your driver. If you are unable to contact the hike leader and the weather is suitable for hiking, it is suggested you go to the meeting place as planned.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY

There are certain risks that are inherent in any hike or other club activity. These include, but are not limited to, weather conditions, trail conditions, ticks, wildlife, plant and insect allergens, etc. Each NBATC member, guest, or non-member agrees to accept responsibility for his or her own safety. Adults who are accompanied by minors agree to accept responsibility for those minors. Hike leaders are responsible for hike organization, reasonable instruction and guidance, and proper documentation. Hike participants are responsible for following this reasonable guidance and instruction. By signing this form, each hike participant is affirming that he/she has read and understands these responsibilities.

From the Outing Planning Committee

If you are planning to go on a hike, please call the hike leader at least the evening before the hike. That’s not only a courtesy to the hike leader, but also an aid to planning transportation to the trailhead. It’s the fall quarter – it’s hunting season, so wear very visible colors. It’s one of our best hiking seasons, with beautiful foliage and crisp days.

October 2017

Sun. October 1 Hike #5992 (MS)
Apple Orchard Falls and Cornelius Creek Trails Loop
9:00 AM @ Forest Square SC
Leader: T. Upshur, 434-610-8808
HD: 7 miles - DD: 60 MRT - carpool share: $4

We will stay close to the cooling waters of Cornelius Creek and Apple Orchard Falls as we enjoy this beautiful area.

Sat. October 7 Hike #5993 (E)
Wildcat Mountain Hiking Trail
8:00 AM @ Boonsboro SC - form carpool and meet leader at James River Foot Bridge at 8:30 AM
Leader: Coby Pieterman, 540-586-8464
HD: 4 miles - DD: 60 MRT - carpool share: $4

The trail is located inside Cave Mountain Lake Recreation Area, near Natural Bridge Station. We will form a carpool at the James River Foot Bridge and drive to the trailhead. There is a $5 per car fee to enter Cave Mt. Recreation Area. Come out and join the Wildcat Trail loop hike.

Sun. October 8 Hike #5994 (S)
North Mountain Trail
8:00 AM @ Waterlick Plaza
Leaders: Trudy and John Phillips, 434-384-4870, trudyephilips@gmail.com
HD: 11 miles - DD: 104 MRT - carpool share: $5

The North Mountain Trail was the route of the A.T. in the 1970s. We will start at the parking area for the Andy Layne Trail (also former A.T.), ascend to the top of North Mountain from the Catawba Valley, and then follow the rolling ridge line to Route 311.

Thursday, October 12
NBATC Annual Dinner Meeting
6:00 PM @ Peakland United Methodist Church
4434 Boonsboro Road, Lynchburg

This is the annual membership meeting of the NBATC at which we elect new officers and directors. This is a good opportunity to socialize with other club members and share your culinary skills. Everyone is asked to bring a dish sufficient to serve at least six people.

October (Cont’d) 2017

Sat. October 14 Hike #5995 (M)
Otter Creek Trail
9:00 AM @ Boonsboro SC
Leader: Mahendra Punatar, 434-221-0792
HD: 7 miles - DD: 40 MRT - carpool share: $3

We’ll hike the Otter Creek Trail from the James River Visitor Center to the campground and back. It’s a lovely hike along the creek. Bring hiking sticks and dry socks in case we encounter wet areas.

Sun. October 15 Hike #5996 (E)
James River State Park
1:30 PM @ Madison Heights Lowe’s
Leaders: Nora and Jim Cox, 434-845-0048
HD: 3 miles - DD: 50 MRT - carpool share: $3

We will take an ecological exploration of the James River State Park hiking trails. Come out to our local state park and enjoy a wonderful fall hike.

Fri/Sat/Sun October 20-22 Hike #5997 (M)
Beginner’s Backpacking Trip
Contact hike leader for meeting time and location
Leader: Becky Mahlburg, 816-261-6372
HD: 6 miles - DD: 50 MRT - carpool share: $3

Do you want to try backpacking? Join us for a beginner’s 1-2 night backpacking trip featuring Apple Orchard Falls. For the two-night option (Friday Oct 20 to Sunday Oct 22), we will set up camp Friday evening near the trailhead and hike a circuit on Saturday with another night in camp. The one-night campers may join us for the hike and Saturday camping. The shorter version of the hike is 5.6 miles with an elevation gain of 1,680 feet. Contact the hike leader a week in advance for details and planning.
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<th>Contact Information</th>
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<td><strong>Sat. October 21</strong></td>
<td>Hike #5998 (VS)</td>
<td>Long Mountain Wayside to Hog Camp Gap Loop</td>
<td>Mike McCormack, 434-384-1944</td>
<td>14 miles</td>
<td>65 MRT</td>
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<td><strong>Sat. November 4</strong></td>
<td>Hike #6002 (M)</td>
<td>Carvin Cove to Hay Rock on the A.T.</td>
<td>Laura Jones, 434-221-1797</td>
<td>8 miles</td>
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<td><strong>Sun. November 5</strong></td>
<td>Hike #6003 (M)</td>
<td>Candlers Mountain trails</td>
<td>Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843</td>
<td>7 miles</td>
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<td><strong>Sat. November 11</strong></td>
<td>Hike #6004 (S)</td>
<td>Whetstone Ridge Trail</td>
<td>Jeff Monroe, 434-962-1808</td>
<td>11 miles</td>
<td>90 MRT</td>
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<td><strong>Sun. November 12</strong></td>
<td>Hike #6005 (M)</td>
<td>Walnut Creek Park</td>
<td>Becky Mahlburg, 816-261-6372</td>
<td>6 miles</td>
<td>114 MRT</td>
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This loop hike starts at Long Mountain Wayside and we’ll follow the A.T. north to Hog Camp Gap. The return will be via the Old Hotel Trail and Cow Camp Gap Shelter, then hiking south on the A.T. back to the Wayside. This incredible hike includes a 5,500 foot elevation gain, amazing views, plus fantastic fall colors.

Sun. October 22 Hike #5999 (E)  
Claytor Nature Study Center trails  
1:30 PM @ Forest Square SC  
or 2:00 PM at entrance at 1844 Woods Road  
Leaders: Bob and Polly Flint, 434-841-7633  
HD: 4 miles - DD: 30 MRT - Carpool Share: $3

The 470-acre Claytor Nature Study Center encompasses freshwater streams, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, rare plants, wildlife, and a portion of the Big Otter River. The 18th century farm and plantation house were given to Lynchburg College by A. Boyd Claytor III as an education and research center for environmental study and to preserve the land for future generations. We’ll hike the nature trails that wind their way through the preserve, and may be able to explore newly acquired acreage north of Woods Road.

Sat. October 28 Hike #6000 (M)  
Slower-Paced Hike: Bearwallow Gap to Jennings Creek  
8:00 AM @ Forest Square SC  
Leader: Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826  
HD: 7 miles - DD: 75 MRT - carpool share: $4

This will be a special slower-paced hike. We will take our time with plenty of stops along the way for hikers to rest, catch their breath, and enjoy the views. We will start at Bearwallow Gap, climb 500’ in the first mile and then mostly descend for the next six miles to Jennings Creek. There should be a variety of fall colors and lunch will be at Cove Mountain Shelter. Come join us for our first “choose your pace” weekend hike. It’s also club hike #6000 – don’t miss it!

Sun. October 29 Hike #6001 (S)  
Douthat SP, Blue Suck Falls Loop  
8:00 AM @ Boonsboro SC – form carpool and meet leader at Tractor Supply Co. in Lexington (800 N. Lee Hwy, US-11, just north of the Maury River)  
Leader: David Agnor, 614-323-5310  
HD: 10 miles - DD: 150 MRT - carpool share: $5

This loop hike is on well maintained trails and includes a 2,200 foot elevation rise, many mountain overlooks, views of the lake and falls, even an old log cabin. Note: the entry fee for Douthat State Park is $5 per car. Special note to hikers from the Lexington & Rockbridge County area: Contact the hike leader to arrange carpool from Lexington to the state park (carpool share $3).
November (Cont’d) 2017

Sun. November 26 Hike #6008 (EM)
Blackwater Creek Trails
1:30 PM @ Ed Page entrance (off Langborne Road)
Hiking Distance 3 to 6 miles

The Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club invites members and non-members to come out and hike some of the trails in the Blackwater Creek Natural Area. We’ll meet at the Ed Page entrance and collectively decide which trails to hike. Hikers can opt out at most any time, perhaps with just a little help to get back to the main paved trail. All minors must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult. Dogs must be kept on leash at all times and owners must come prepared to clean up after their pets. Call 434-385-1826 if you have questions.

December 2017

Sat. December 2 Hike #6009 (S)
Hunting Creek Trail, A.T., and Glenwood Horse Trail Loop
8:00 AM @ Boonsboro SC
Leader: Nancy Anthony, 434-283-5431
HD: 10 miles - DD: 40 MRT - carpool share: $3

This will be a loop hike on Hunting Creek Trail, the A.T. from the junction with Hunting Creek Trail to Petites Gap and a section of the Glenwood Horse Trail. The hike will start either at Petites Gap or at the Glenwood parking area on the Hunting Creek Road, depending on the hikers planning to join the hike. Therefore, please call the hike leader in advance.

Little Free Library

Please come by and visit the Little Free Library at the AT shelter in Glasgow and drop off a favorite paperback or two for the hikers to take on their journeys. Thank you!
Sat. December 3 Hike #6010 (M)
Super-size Full Moon Hike
1:30 PM @ Madison Heights Lowe’s
Leaders: Jordan Welborn, 434-209-4935 & Jason Hammer, 434-401-4204
HD: 2 miles - DD: 75 MRT - carpool share: $4

The full moon will be closer to the earth and larger than usual. From Hog Camp Gap, we will hike one mile up to the vast open view on top of Cold/Cole Mountain. Sunset is 4:58 PM and moonrise is 5:28 PM. Bring warm clothes, blanket, headlamp or flashlight, and a picnic to enjoy before the show begins. Please note: We will be descending in the moonlight, but it will still be dark. Please contact the hike leader if sky visibility is questionable.

Sat. December 9 Hike #6011 (E)
Adopt-A-Highway
9:00 AM @ Boonsboro SC; form carpool and meet hike leader at pull-off near the dam on US 501 & VA 130
Leader: Larry Spangler, 540-460-6903
HD: 3 miles - DD: 40 MRT - carpool share: $3

NBATC cleans up litter along a section of US 501 and VA 130 near the A.T. crossing at the Foot Bridge. Please come out and help keep our area free of litter and earn some maintenance hours, too!

Sun. December 10 Hike #6012 (S)
Salt Log Gap, Seeley Woodworth, and Lovingston Spring Loop
8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe’s - form carpool and meet leader at Long Mountain Wayside at 9:00 AM
Leader: Laura Neale, 540-261-1909
HD: 11 miles - DD: 75 MRT - carpool share: $4

We will hike a lollipop loop starting from Salt Log Gap going up and over Elk Pond Mountain via the Lovingston Spring Trail to Seeley-Woodworth Shelter, and returning south on the A.T.

Sat. December 16 Hike #6013 (S)
The Cardinal
8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe’s - form carpool and meet leader at Long Mountain Wayside at 9:00 AM
Leader: Mike McCormack, 434-384-1944
HD: 8 miles - DD: 70 MRT - carpool share: $4

This is a great hike to start the winter season. This distinctive bushwhack hike is challenging but rewarding with beautiful views along the way. Come along and see what is on top of one of the dominant peaks in the “Religious Range.”

Sun. December 17 Hike #6014 (MS)
A.T. to Mau-Har Trail to Waterfall Grotto
8:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe’s
Leader: Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826
HD: 7 miles - DD: 80 MRT - carpool share: $4

This fun in-and-out hike is rated MS because of some steep trail sections and a significant elevation rise going up the mountain then down to the waterfall grotto. The hike is in a Wilderness area, limiting it to ten hikers. Please call the hike leader to register for the hike.

Hiking Tips for Hunting Season
by Herb Vreeland

It’s that time of the year again. Hunting season of some kind will be in effect throughout most of the 4th Quarter, so be careful out there. Here are some hiking tips taken from the ATC website:

- Know local hunting seasons (Bedford, Amherst, Nelson Counties)
  Peak deer season is November 18 – December 2 and
  Peak bear season is November 27 – January 6
- Wear blaze orange
- Avoid wearing white, red, and blue
- Use extra caution at dawn and dusk
- Use extra caution near roads and in valleys
- Be heard

Also, and very important, hunting is still prohibited on Sundays on all public lands in Virginia. See http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/ for a complete list of seasons and regulations.
NBATC New Member Report

Period From: 6/3/17 To: 9/7/17

NBATC is pleased to welcome nine new members listed below. If you have any membership related questions, please contact me by phone (832-4506) or email (nstanner12@earthlink.net).

Karen and E L McGuire Jr, Bedford
Mike and Vicki Martin, Bedford
Rick Milam, Lynchburg
Kacie Shifflett, Glasgow
Kenneth and Peggy Williams, Saxe
Frances Phetteplace, Lynchburg
L.L. Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs

by Bob Flint

Thanks to a grant from ATC’s L.L. Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs program of $1,630 we have purchased two gas-powered tools. One is a Stihl BT45 wood-boring drill; the other is an AUS 125 GHD rotary-hammer drill for drilling and chipping rock. We’ve bought bits for both tools and NIOSH certified N95 Particulate Respirators to be worn when drilling or chipping rock. In our grant application we said that we anticipate volunteer labor using these tools 20 to 40 hours annually.

Volunteer Hour Recording Period Ends Sept. 30

By Emily Helms

NBATC reports volunteer hours to our agency partners where they are used for management and funding purposes. NBATC uses volunteer hours for management and funding and also for awards purposes.

Due to reporting deadlines, volunteer hours for the period Oct 1, 2016 - Sept 30, 2017 need to be reported by Monday, October 8.

Please report hours via email.

Nominations for Board of Directors

by Bill Bishop, Bev Henderson, & Jason Hammer

The following members have agreed to be nominated for positions on the NBATC Board of Directors. The election of all officers and half of our directors up for election will take place during the annual membership meeting on October 12th:

President - Mike Rieley
Vice President - Doug DeJarnette
Supervisor of Trails - Jason Hammer
Treasurer - David Helms
Secretary - Becky Mahlburg
Directors-at-Large - Nancy Anthony, Carol Caswell, Viki Gossen, Bev Henderson, Cowles Meredith

At the July Board Meeting, the Board of Directors elected Herb Vreeland to fill Berndie Lunsford’s 2016-2018 Director position after Berndie resigned. Thank you, Berndie for your service!
**Committee Chairs**

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<td>Sharon Ripley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:samandsharon211@gmail.com">samandsharon211@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Asst. Supervisor of Trails</td>
<td>Norman Sykora</td>
<td><a href="mailto:njsykora80@gmail.com">njsykora80@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Nora Cox</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jimandnor@verizon.net">jimandnor@verizon.net</a></td>
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**NBATC Board of Directors**

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**NBATC is a Class A member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, an affiliate member of the American Hiking Society, and maintainer of 90 miles of the A.T. from the Tye River to Black Horse Gap.**

Website: www.nbatc.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/nbatc.hiker
E-mail contacts: happifeet@msn.com

Happy Hiker Leah Weiss at book signing in Waynesboro for her newly published national bestseller, “if the creek don’t rise.” Happy Hikers from left: Judi Williams, Ellen Martin, Leah Weiss, Debbie Maurer and Dave Harpster.