

Virginia Creeper Trail Club Meeting  
June 26, 2013  
Washington County Public Library

Present: Susan Brown, Jane Caldwell, Bo Catron, W.J.Cober, Tom David, I.B.Dent, Jim Dial, Myrl Dunham, Lawrence Dye, Eleanor Grasselli, Caroline Hassinger Lindsay, Gerry Henninger, Kitty Henninger, Bob Horsch, George Kilgore, John Legard, Stacey Levin, Doug Levin, Chris Lindeman, Steve Lindeman, Paul Lindsay, Ello Lindsay, Anne Maio, Lee Massicotte, Dean McCall, Marsha McGovern, Debbie Meade, Greg Meade, Wayne Miller, Mary Anne Multer, Anna Sherrill, Debbie Stern, Chris Sullivan, Mike Valenza, Jeff VanCleaf, Bob Widner

Guests: Mark Bennett, Tom Blevins, Ben Bronstein, Nancy Campbell, Wil Corbin, Robert Kahu, Paula Kahu, Bob Leffler, Debra Lyon-Dye, Mayme Peery, and others.

VCTC President Wayne Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**President's Report—Wayne Miller**

- Copies of the Minutes from our previous club meeting of 29 May 2013 were provided to attendees and Board members to supplement the approvals received on-line.
- A big thanks to the following VCTC Officers, Directors, and other Service positions for their support:
  - President - Wayne Miller
  - Vice President - Eliot Cannon
  - Secretary - Jeff VanCleaf
  - Treasurer - Gerry Henninger
  - Director - Chris Sullivan
  - Director - Kevin Costello
  - Director - Greg Meade
  - Director - Chris Lindeman
  - Director - Belle Avery
  - Director - Lawrence Dye
  - Newsletter Publisher - Debbie Stern
  - Merchandise Coordinator - Lisa Quigley
  - Events Coordinator - Chris Lindeman
  - Membership Coordinator - Amy Sullivan
  - Work Projects Coordinator - Bob Horsch and Wayne Miller
  - Publicity Coordinator - Anne Maio and Greg Meade
  - Webmaster - Link Elmore
  - Archivist - Jane Caldwell
- The VCTC has been nominated for the 8th Wonder of the World. Daily votes are accepted through 30 September on the website [www.virtualtourist.com](http://www.virtualtourist.com). Jeff VanCleaf demonstrated the ease of daily voting and casted a vote.
- Newly elected Treasurer Gerry Henninger has purchased and donated financial software "Quick Books" to the VCTC. Gerry stated that he had provided an initial report to board members on-line and is always receptive to feedback as he continues in his new role.
- The next VCTC event is August 3 Ride with the Legend during the Virginia Highlands Festival.
- The 658ft trestle #7 obliterated by the April 2011 tornado will be replaced by a 450ft wooden trestle. From Kevin Worley's pre-brief email regarding trestle #7 replacement: Inland Construction has subcontractors in place and materials on order. Timbers and frame work will begin after completion of onsite grading and footer construction. Any temporary trail closures will be limited to Monday through Thursday; no work on Sunday and barring any weather problems or major issues, work is anticipated for completion within 220 days.
- The next Trail Advisory board meeting is 10 July. The board consists of representatives from the Towns of Abingdon and Damascus, US Forest Service, VCTC, trail neighbors, and Washington County.
- Thanks to the Town of Abingdon for quickly removing the leaning trees that were reported during our previous VCTC meeting.

### **State of the Trail—Lawrence "the Legend" Dye**

In preparation for the construction of the replacement for trestle #7, work has begun on a temporary trail to safely route trail traffic away from construction activities.

### **USFS—W.J. Cober**

- The trail has been reopened for several weeks now that the replacement of the blocked culvert is complete; the seeded grass is looking great.
- The drainage ditches between Green Cove and White Top stations have been cleaned/excavated.
- Within the last month, activities include brush clean up and trail widening from Green Cove to Creek Junction and towards Straight Branch.

### **Trail Neighbors—**

- Myrl Dunahm noted that trail surfacing and grading is necessary between mile markers 10 and 11. Wayne Miller to request assistance from the Town of Abingdon.
- There is an erosion issue about 20 yards north of Green Cove station. W.J Cober to investigate.

**Program** – Thomas H. "Tom" Blevins presents the History of the Virginia Creeper Trail  
Tom works for the USFS as a Range Specialist for the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. As a lifelong resident of Southwest Virginia, Tom has a passionate interest in railroads and preservation of railroad history of Southwest Virginia. Tom is a member of the Norfolk and Western Historical Society of Washington County and the Holston Valley Modular Railroad Club in Marion, Virginia.

Tom is the author of *A Brief History of the "Virginia Creeper" -The Famed Abingdon Branch of the Norfolk and Western Railway*. A few remaining copies were available for purchase.

Tom presented a brief and condensed history of the Virginia Creeper Trail which incorporated many pictures and facts regarding affected communities in the region and the involvement of numerous railroad companies, entrepreneurs, and businesses, including Walt Disney.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff VanCleaf, VCTC secretary