

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB



Summer 2005

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is a recreational hiking association of volunteers who preserve and improve the Appalachian Trail as the nation's premier, continuous, long-distance footpath.



Grayson Highlands State Park

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TRAIL BLAZER

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
PO BOX 12282
ROANOKE VA 24024-2282

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Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Curt & Nicole Kaucher

J. Michael & Louise Maloney

We look forward to meeting you soon – hiking on the trail, at work, social event, or a board meeting.

Mervin Brower

President's Message

I am embarrassed to be an issue late. In March, John F. Edwards in Arlington, made a donation in memory of Thomas A. Edwards, one of our members. We regret the loss of Tom, and thank John for this memorial.

The Appalachian Trail Conference 35th Biennial Meeting will be at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN from July 1 to 8. Two web sites are <http://www.southernhighlands2005.org/> and <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/about/biennial.html> This year there will be a silent auction containing lots of interesting things for folks to bid on. Please consider bringing along a little something for the auction. A T-shirt, book, or trail gear would be ideal. Historically, the club contributions have been highly sought after by our attendees, and the proceeds will help ATC to continue its support of the ATC Biennial Conference.

The items can either be brought to the conference on Friday or early Saturday or mailed to: Don Walton, 16 Elkhorn Court, Arden, NC 28704, phone: 828-654-991004, cell: 828-713-9375.

The Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club will be hosting the 2005 Multi-Club Meeting for the Southern Region at Sherando Lake - USFS Recreation Area over Labor Day weekend. We have a registration form and a general information sheet for the meeting in this Blazer. All information is available on the NBATC club website, www.nbatc.org.

NBATC is working hard to provide an enjoyable weekend for everyone. We hope to see many of you there.

Bob Peckman

Trail Supervisor's Report

By the time that you read this we will have only two weeks left to work with the Konnarock Crews. They will be July 14 - 18 on the power-line relocation on Pearis Mountain about 5 miles south of Pearisburg, and August 4 - 8 on Angel's Rest rehabilitation. Actually, the latter is more of a relocation, as we will be putting in a new switchback. I expect to work all 10 days, so you can come out any of these days you wish to. We have already completed one week in the Angel's Rest area and one week on the Pearis Mountain relocation. We hope to finish the power-line relocation and should finish the switchback on the Angel's Rest Trail, but not

all the re-hab work that needs to be done. Another two weeks of Konnarock in the future might get us close to finishing it. After the Crews leave we will put our 2 final work-hikes for the summer on Sawtooth Ridge. The trail needs re-blazing if Ed and Ralph don't get it done first. Also, near the south end of the ridge, some steps need to be replaced and some drainage control work including some rock steps would be desirable. As our overseers are always changing I am including an updated list in this issue. We rely on our overseers for most of the routine maintenance and I certainly appreciate all the work that they do.

Charles Parry

2005 MULTI CLUB MEETING
September 2 – 4, 2005
Sherando Lake Recreation Area

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOST - Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club
www.nbatc.org

HOURS OF REGISTRATION – Friday 3:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Sherando Lake USFS Recreation Area is located on Route 664 on the west side of the Blue Ridge. From Interstate 81 take exit 217 “Stuarts Draft”, left on Rt. 340 “Stuart’s Draft Hwy.” right on Rt. 608, left on Rt. 610, and right on Rt. 664 to Sherando. From Interstate 64, exit 96 and go south on Rt. 624 that goes into Rt. 664 to Sherando. From the Blue Ridge Parkway near Afton, exit on Rt. 664.

CAMPING FACILITIES:

A rustic walk-in Group Camping site has been reserved for the meeting at no cost. No showers or electricity are available; however, toilets and water are available in the camping area plus showers are available nearby at the main pavilion.

Camp sites with electric hookups but no water are available for \$20.00 per night. Potable water and showers are close by. Arrangements must be made at Sherando upon arrival. Campsite rentals are on a first-come first-served basis and are open to the public and usually fill up quickly over the Labor Day weekend.

HIKING: Hikes will be planned for Saturday and Sunday and will range from serious all day hikes to half-day easy hikes on the Appalachian Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway trails with NBATC members as leaders. Sign-up sheets and maps will be available at Registration Table. Information is available for view on the website.

MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT: There will be two catered meals in the group picnic area - Saturday chili dinner (\$8.00 per adult, \$4.00 for 11 and under) and Sunday catered dinner (\$13.00 per adult, \$6.00 for 11 and under). **Advanced reservations are required.** You are on your own for all other meals. There will be free entertainment each evening and the general meeting will be Sunday night after dinner. Bring your own chairs.

MOTELS AND RESTAURANTS: Stuarts Draft, Waynesboro and Staunton are the closest towns to Sherando Lake. There is a list on the website and there will be a list at the registration desk.

RECREATION:

Swim in Sherando Lake and enjoy a sandy beach, bathhouse and concessions pavilion.

Hand-powered boating on the 25-acre Sherando Lake and 7-acre Upper Sherando Lake.

Fishing for brook trout, brown trout, bass, bluegill, and catfish. Virginia state license required.

Scenic areas on the Blue Ridge Parkway which are suitable for small children.

Tour the following within a 20-mile radius: Rocky’s Antique Mall, Frontier Culture Museum, Woodrow Wilson Historic Home, Rockbridge Vineyard, Buffalo Spring Herb Farm, Wades Mill, Cyrus McCormick Farm, P. Buckley Moss Art Museum, etc. Additional information will be available at the registration desk.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the beach area, parking lots, or picnic areas.

Pets are permitted, but only on leashes and not on the beach or in swimming areas.

PARK GATES CLOSE FRIDAY AT 11:00 P.M. AND SATURDAY AT 10:00 P.M.

2005 MULTI CLUB MEETING
September 2 – 4, 2005
Sherando Lake Recreation Area

HOST - Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club

REGISTRATION FORM
(Deadline: August 1)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CLUB AFFILIATION: _____

ARRIVAL DAY: _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday

NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY/FAMILY _____

PLEASE CHECK FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES YOU WISH

_____ Registration Fee - Weekend	\$15.00	x _____ persons = \$ _____	(11 and
_____ Registration Fee - Day	\$10.00	x _____ persons = \$ _____	under free)
_____ Saturday Dinner - Adult	\$ 8.00	x _____ persons = \$ _____	Meals
_____ Saturday Dinner - 11 & under	\$ 4.00	x _____ persons = \$ _____	must be
_____ Sunday Dinner - Adult	\$13.00	x _____ persons = \$ _____	pre-
_____ Sunday Dinner - 11 & under	\$ 6.00	x _____ persons = \$ _____	registered

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

_____ Group Tent Area (Free) x _____ persons

Recognizing possible dangers to which I may be exposed, I hereby release all claims against the USFS and NBATC for any personal injury, death or property damage arising out of or in any way connected with any activities, including, without limitation, any acts or omissions caused in whole or in part by their negligence.

Adult Signatures _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: Chuck Dideon 540-297-4848

Laurie Foot 434-384-0013

Mike McCormack 434-384-1944

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL REGISTRATION TO:

NBATC Multi Club Registration

1435 Tunbridge Road

Lynchburg, VA 24501

FOR ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION FORMS AND INFORMATION GO TO www.nbatc.org

RATC Overseer Assignments Spring 2005

VA 611 (South end): Kenny Garrett
 VA 608 : John Lynham & Jerry Kyle
 VA 606: Mike and Virginia Reilly
 Dismal Creek: Bill Floyd & Leslie Kay
 Ribble Trail (north end): David Hicks & Greg Still
 Powerline: Charles & Gloria Parry
 US 460 Bridge: (Break in our section)
 Pine Swamp Shelter: Mike Ferguson
 Bailey Gap Shelter: Hal Cantrill & Bob Foutz
 War Spur Trail: Bob Stimson
 Rocky Gap: Brian & Leigh Anne Kelly
 Sinking Creek: Chase Davidson
 Niday Trail: Red Crone

VA 621: Blanche & Mervin Brower
 VA 620: Bob & Kris Peckman
 VA 624: Ed Bessel, Ralph Hart, Don Nulph & Maurice Turner
 VA 311: Leonard and Laurie Adkins
 Campbell Shelter: Ron McCorkle
 Brickey's Gap: Bill Gordge
 Ditch Trail: Zetta Campbell & Dick Clark
 Angel's Gap: Greg Tinaglia, Hettie & Wes Barnes
 US 220: Homer & Therese Witcher
 VA 652: Jim & Linda Hutchings
 Salt Pond Road: Dana Helsley and Fred Coughlan
 Black Horse Gap: (North end)

CORN BOIL

Saturday, August 6, 2005 6-9 PM
 Whispering Pines Park

The club will provide BBQ, corn, fixings, beverage and table service. Members will provide a dish to pass. We will be feeding the Konnarock Crew so please bring enough for you plus one. No need to RSVP for this event.

Directions from Hanging Rock: Route 311 North for approximately 3 miles. Turn right on Absalom Smith Road (just past Roanoke Moose Lodge). Park is ½ mile on right. Questions? Call Carol McPeak 890-2855

Hike-a-thon for Read Mountain

Sunday, October 2 2:00 PM
 Bonsack Elementary School

The 2005 Hike-a-thon is a fund-raising event of the Read Mountain Alliance to raise money to purchase the upper slopes and ridge line of Read Mountain. The goal is to set aside the mountaintop as a public preserve for everyone to enjoy. All hikers must have sponsors. Those sponsored for \$25 or more will receive a "Take a Hike-a-thon" T-shirt. Tax-deductible checks should be made out to the Western Virginia Land Trust and marked for the Read Mountain Alliance.

The hike of approximately 3 miles is moderate difficulty starting with a steep ascent in the first half mile. Hikers should bring water. Those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. At registration, hikers will be asked to sign a release for the private landowners who have given us permission to hike across their property. All hikers please pre-register by calling 977-4540 or by registering on the web site: www.readmountain.org.

Hike Reports

Sunday, March 6, 2005 8:00AM Curry Gap (BRP) to Daleville (RT 220) 113-Mile Hike # 2

Laura H. Montague (leader), Lois C. Smith (assistant leader), H.R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett & Shelley Himel

Our original hike was to be from Curry Gap (BRP) to Daleville but the parkway was closed due to snow. We met Sunday morning and decided as a group where to hike. We started the hike on Route 11 and headed north and hiked up to the Fullhardt Knob shelter. I remember thinking at one point how lucky we were to be on the side of the mountain without snow. Then we turned the corner and we were in snow. It was rather deep at times but we all made it and had a good time. We had an early lunch at the shelter and then decided to walk back to 220 (where some cars were) to get in a little extra distance. Total distance approximately 8.5 miles.

Wednesday, March 9, 2005 Indian Branch Work Hike, Session 1

Charles Parry, Red Crone, Maurice Turner, Bill Gordge, Lynn Bryant, Peggy Bryant, David Foster, Jim Lewis, Jim Overholser, Eddie Baldwin

This was my first ever outing with the mid-week crew, made possible by the fact that I was on spring break. Our first job was to recover as much as possible of the bridge that washed out last fall and return the parts to the area of the original bridge site. The stringers had previously been located just upstream from the Blacksburg Road. However, the decking and rails were scattered all over the place amongst debris, with some of it below the road. A large mud hole separated the material from the old road up to the bridge site. Red and Lynn managed to get their vehicles through the mud and we transported the remains of the bridge back to the vicinity of the former site in Red's truck. We also got a count on the material, so we would know how much new lumber to purchase. After lunch, we moved to John's Spring Shelter where we dug a new privy hole and moved the privy.

Sunday, March 13, 2005 Indian Branch Work Hike, Session 2

Charles Parry, Dana Helsley, Maurice Turner, Homer Witcher, Mervin Brower, Bob Stimson, Alan Heath

Due to snow on Saturday, we postponed our workday until Sunday. Unfortunately, we lost workers because of that. With only four people on Sunday morning, we knew we were short handed. Consequently, Dana and I tried unsuccessfully to get our trucks through the mud hole. As we were building a new pier for the bridge this meant a lot of carrying. By lunchtime we had a good part of the material up there and sorted out the pieces for the pier. Also, Mervin came in as a sub for Homer. By mid afternoon, we had our piers ready on both ends and were wondering how the four of us were going to move the stringers. About then Alan, Bob and Bob's dog came through on a hike. Anyway, they either volunteered or were coerced into helping us move the stringers. Even with them we had barely enough muscle to move them. Once that was done the remainder of the job went quite quickly. By late afternoon the bridge was back in place and cabled to a tree to prevent it from washing so far downstream again.

Sunday, March 13, 2005 1:00PM Stewarts Knob

Lynn Bryant (leader), Dave Sutton (assistant leader), Peggy Bryant, Emory Richardson, Bill Mistele, Marianne Demko, Mike Ferguson, Margaret Ferguson, Billy Ferguson, Natalie Ferguson, Allison Dubenezic, Mary Lou Gaminde, Mary Gilbert, Winfred Noell, Dale Phillips, Charles Musgrove

14 adults and 2 children did the Stewart's Knob trail. We couldn't have asked for a better day, clear skies and 60 degree temperature. From the knob overlook, the greater Roanoke Valley and mountain ranges west of Roanoke were in clear view. Someone commented as to how small Mill Mountain appeared from this perspective. A number of hikers and bikers on the trail today, but no horses. This popular and well used trail is in good shape, although some water bars need to be installed. Started hike at 1:10 PM and finished at 3:15 PM.

Hike Schedule

Going on a group hike can fulfill a number of worthwhile purposes. These include such things as physical conditioning, social interaction, the enjoyment of nature, and the thrill of reaching a spectacular viewpoint. The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club consistently tries to provide a wide range of hiking opportunities for people of all ages, interests and abilities. Guests are always welcome to join us.

For the most part, we rate our hikes as follows:

Easy – 3 to 5 miles; good trails or old roads; modest elevation changes.

Moderate – 5 to 8 miles; steeper trails which may be rough in places.

Strenuous – 8 miles and up; long hikes with extensive climbs and possible rough trails or bushwhacking.

Hikes which do not fall neatly into one of these categories may be rated **easy-moderate** or **moderate-strenuous**.

You may drive your own car to the trailhead if you wish. However, carpooling is encouraged to save gasoline and because trailhead parking may be limited. The hike leader is responsible for arranging such carpooling as may be required. While there is no fee to hike with the club, the indicated amount is to defray automobile expenses and should be given to the driver of your carpool.

You will need to call the leader to find out where the hiking group will be meeting. If you are new to hiking, the leader can also give advice about clothing, footwear, and equipment. If you are unfamiliar with the hike, the leader will be glad to answer your questions and help you evaluate whether or not it is suitable for you.

Sunday, July 10, 2005 8:00 AM

Andy Layne Trail (Rt. 779) to Daleville (Rt. 220) 113-Mile Hike # 3

11.0 miles, Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee
15 miles from Roanoke

The hike is just north of Roanoke, starting in the Catawba Valley and ending in Daleville. The hike is a stiff uphill on the relocated Andy Layne Trail and then a scenic ridge walk overlooking Carvins Cove.

Kenny Garrett 537-5347
Diana Christopulos 387-0930

Sunday, July 10, 2005 1:00 PM

Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to McAfee Knob

7.4 miles, Moderate, \$0.50 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

Located west of Salem in Roanoke County, the hike follows the Appalachian Trail up and back. Extensive cliffs at the top afford unparalleled views of both the Catawba Valley and the city of Roanoke.

Bobbie Stitcher 397-2760
Ed Wallace 774-0175

Saturday, July 16, 2005 8:00 AM

Pearis Mountain Relocation with Konnarock

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.50 carpool fee
63 miles from Roanoke

We will relocate about 1/2 mile of trail near the powerline crossings south of Pearisburg.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Kris Peckman 366-7780

Sunday, July 17, 2005 8:00 AM

Pearis Mountain Relocation with Konnarock

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.50 carpool fee
63 miles from Roanoke

We will relocate about 1/2 mile of trail near the powerline crossings south of Pearisburg.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Michael J. Vaughn 992-1350

Sunday, July 17, 2005 1:00 PM

War Spur; Loop , Connector , Overlook Hike

4.0 miles, Easy, \$4.50 carpool fee
52 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located on Salt Pond Mountain in Giles County and in the Mountain Lake Wilderness. You hike to War Spur overlook and the AT, you return from the overlook through a virgin hemlock, fir, and spruce stand. Buffet at Mountain lake Lodge is an option.

Mary Lou Gaminde 344-1637
Diana Christopulos 387-0930

Sunday, July 24, 2005 8:00 AM
Hoop Hole, Upper Loop

7.3 miles, Strenuous, \$2.50 carpool fee
 28 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Botetourt County between Eagle Rock and Oriskany – some 45 minutes from Roanoke. This hike uses part of the lower loop to get to the upper loop which includes a steep climb to the top of Montgomery Knob in the Jefferson National Forest.

Michael J. Vaughn 992-1350
Charlie Scharnberg 342-3104

Sunday, July 24, 2005 1:00 PM
Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve

6.0 miles, Moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee
 30 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Franklin County, just outside of the town of Rocky Mount at the Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve owned and managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation. This hike will traverse Grassy Hill which is a formation composed of ancient volcanic rocks rich in magnesium. Hikers will get to see a mixture of habitats including areas that support rare plants. The hike leader will identify trees and other plants along the hike as well as discuss the site's natural history.

Mike Leahy 989-0224
Kris Peckman 366-7780

Sunday, July 31, 2005 8:00 AM
Potts Mountain (LA)

6.0 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee
 36 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Craig and Alleghany counties.

Charles Musgrove 345-7969
Greg Tinaglia 989-0374

Sunday, July 31, 2005 1:00 PM
Roaring Run

2.0 miles, Easy, \$2.50 carpool fee
 27 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County. The hike visits a cascading stream and scenic waterfalls, standing pre-civil war iron ore furnace, used for making iron ingots, stoves, and other iron products for the building of America.

Georgia Gallaher 345-8700
Gene Downs 473-2326

Saturday, August 6, 2005 8:00 AM
Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.50 carpool fee
 62 miles from Roanoke

We will add some new switch backs and rock work on the trail between Pearisburg and Angel's Rest.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732

Sunday, August 7, 2005 8:00 AM
Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.50 carpool fee
 62 miles from Roanoke

We will add some new switch backs and rock work on the trail between Pearisburg and Angel's Rest.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Donald Nulph 774-8618

Sunday, August 7, 2005 1:00 PM
Otter Creek Trail

3.4 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$4.00 carpool fee
 44 miles from Roanoke

Located in Amherst County just off the Blue Ridge Parkway and little way from James River

Kenny Garrett 537-5347
Mary Lou Gaminde 344-1637

Sunday, August 14, 2005 8:00 AM
Cove Branch, Potts Arm Loop

5.4 miles, Moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee
 28 miles from Roanoke

The hike, located in Craig County, will ascend Cove Branch, a beautiful streamside trail, and then cross over to Potts Arm through mature hardwoods in a remote section of the National Forest near Shawvers Run Wilderness. We will have lunch on a grassy bald on the ridge of Potts Arm and then descend Potts Arm trail through woodlands to the forest service road at the bottom.

Greg Tinaglia 989-0374
Carl Cornett 342-3950

Sunday, August 14, 2005 1:00 PM
James River Foot Bridge to Auto Bridge

5.0 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee
 39 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Bedford County. It will cross the James River Foot Bridge following the AT to Matts Creek Shelter then come back on the old AT to just south of the AT's old James River crossing on the public highway bridge.

Bobbie Stitcher 397-2760
Gary Bible 977-2954

Sunday, August 21, 2005 8:00 AM
Dragon's Tooth Parking to Trout Creek (Rt. 620) via Rawies Rest , 113-Mile Hike # 6

7.0 miles, Strenuous, \$1.50 carpool fee
 9 miles from Roanoke

The hike is in Craig and Roanoke County west of Salem. The hike starts on a blue-blazed trail (known as the Boy Scout trail) leading to the AT and almost to Rt. 624. It then follows the AT south to Dragon's Tooth with great views, descending Cove Mountain, passing by Pickle Branch Cove Mountain, passing by Pickle Branch Shelter and over Trout Creek ending at Rt. 620.

Mike Ferguson 344-8525
Linda R. King 342-2411

Sunday, August 21, 2005 1:00 PM
Black Horse Gap (BRP) to Curry Gap (BRP)
113-Hike # 1

6.9 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$1.00 carpool fee
 9 miles from Roanoke

This hike is located in Botetourt County.
Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732
Carl Cornett 342-3950

Sunday, August 28, 2005 8:30 AM
Sawtooth Work Hike

Some miles, Moderate, \$0.50 carpool fee
 6 miles from Roanoke

Reblaze the trail if not already done. Replace some steps. Install new steps and drainage controls.
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Maurice Turner 334-2128

Sunday, September 4, 2005 8:00 AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to Andy Layne
Trail (Rt. 779) 113-Mile Hike # 4

11.5 miles, Strenuous, \$1.00 carpool fee
 6 miles from Roanoke

This hike offers the opportunity to see two of the prime vistas of the Appalachian trail in one day! The hike first climbs gradually to McAfee's Knob, then follows the AT on the ridgeline to Tinker Cliffs before dropping down to Rt. 779 on the Andy Layne Trail.

Homer Witcher 992-3932
Charlie Scharnberg 342-3104

Sunday, September 11, 2005 8:30 AM
Sinking Creek(RT 630) to Lee Hollow (RT 621)
113-Mile Hike # 8

10.4 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee
 18 miles from Roanoke

Joint hike with Natural Bridge AT Club. Located in Craig County, the hike climbs up Sinking Creek Mountain, then follows the ridge where rock piles and old apple trees remain from the days when even the top of the mountain was farms. Several slanted rocks offer views of Craig Creek Valley and the mountains beyond. Side trip down to visit the new Sarver Shelter on the old Sarver homestead site.

Kris Peckman 366-7780
Michael J. Vaughn 992-1350

Sunday, September 11, 2005 1:00 PM

Chessie Nature Trail

7.0 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$4.00 carpool fee
42 miles from Roanoke

The hike is along the Maury River between Lexington and Buena Vista. It has river views, high cliffs and well-preserved locks of 19th-century canal system.

Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732

Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

Sunday, September 18, 2005 8:00 AM

Johns Creek (Rt. 632) to Sinking Creek (Rt. 630) 113-Mile Hike # 9

8.3 miles, Strenuous, \$4.50 carpool fee
41 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Craig and Giles counties.

Kenny Garrett 537-5347

Don Nulph 774-8618

Sunday, September 18, 2005 1:00 PM

Poverty Creek-Jacob's Ladder-Horse Nettle Trails

6.0 miles, Moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee
39 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Montgomery County north of Blacksburg. It starts at Pandapas and uses some of the trails in Poverty Creek and Gap Mountain.

David Sutton 774-0648

Gary Bible 977-2954

Sunday, September 25, 2005 8:30 AM

Sawtooth Work Hike

Some miles, Moderate, \$0.50 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

Reblaze the trail if not already done. Replace some steps. Install new steps and drainage controls.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402

Maurice Turner 334-2128

Sunday, September 25, 2005 1:00 PM

Bottom Creek Gorge

5.3 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee
15 miles from Roanoke

Hidden away at the corner of Montgomery, Roanoke, and Floyd counties is the Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve on top of Bent Mountain. The Nature Conservancy has developed a network of trails that pass ponds, streams and meadows and follow tunnels of rhododendron that lead you around and down to the Bottom Creek Gorge, then up to a vantage point to see Bent Mountain Falls flow from a mountain side.

Bobbie Stitche 397-2760

Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Application New & Renewal

- If accepted for membership, I agree to:
1. Support the objectives of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
 2. Abide by the rules of the National and State Parks and Forests
 3. Respect the interests of the owner when on private property
 4. Keep trails and woodlands free of litter and
 5. Abide by instructions of the leader on group hikes and trips

Names(s) _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ - _____

Home Phone _____ **Work Phone** _____

Email _____ **Amount Enclosed \$** _____

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Family Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> New 1 year \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> New 2 year \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew 1 year \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew 2 year \$30 |
| Individual Member | <input type="checkbox"/> New 1 year \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> New 2 year \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew 1 year \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew 2 year \$20 |
| Make checks payable to | RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, VA 24024-2282 | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500 |

Hike Reports (Continued)

Sunday, March 13, 2005 8:00AM Spec Mines Trail Circuit via Blackhorse Gap

Larry Austin (leader), Terri McClure (assistant leader), H. R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Laura Montague, Kris Peckman, Jen Schaeffer, Meg Green & Cocoa, Terri's beautiful lab

The weather for this hike turned out to be beautiful in spite of the forecast. Temperatures ended up in the low 60's under mostly sunny skies. The hike commenced just above Camp Bethel near Nace at the junction of the gated "Old Fincastle Road" and Forest Service Road 634. From there we ascended the grassy road to Black Horse Gap where we turned north onto the AT. We followed the AT to the Montvale Overlook where we crossed the Parkway and entered the Spec Mines Trail. We had great views from the AT as it crossed Taylor Mountain Overlook and again at the Montvale Overlook. Our side trip to the Spec Mines from Forest Service Road 634 was quite an adventure. The initial climb from FSR 634 was extremely steep but did not last too long. We then followed an old road bed to the mines. These mines are quite interesting to see and raise a lot of questions about the mining operation and those hardy individuals who did the mining. Just below the mines along a creek two small brick buildings were still standing which prompted much conjecture about their purpose. We decided to follow the creek back out to FSR 634 using a somewhat faint old road bed perhaps used by the miners to access the mines. This resulted in numerous creek crossings and some interesting maneuvers to get under, over or around fallen trees and bushes. The creek was beautiful with cascading waterfalls. In places the creek was almost green with algae even though it had a rapid flow. Once out from the mines, we rapidly hiked back on FSR 634 to our point of origin. All seemed to enjoy the hike and especially the side trip to the Spec Mines.

Sunday, March 20, 2005 8:30AM Trout Creek Work Hike # 2

Charles Parry (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant leader), Dana Helsley, Mike Vaughn, Mike Leahy, Mervin Brower, Blanche Brower, Dan Phlegar

This was our second day of work on a short relocation about 1/2 mile north of Trout Creek. We started with 5 people in the morning and when Mervin and Blanche arrived, we realized that we were short on tools. Consequently, I made a quick run down to the truck for more. It was a good thing I did as Dan arrived a short time later. We made good progress on the relocation and felt that we would be able to finish it in April.

Sunday, March 20, 2005 1:00PM Cascades

Kenny Garrett (co-leader), Mary Lou Gaminde (co-leader), Jesse Garrett, Lance Garrett, Renee Garrett, Carl Cornett, Charles Musgrove, Bill Mistele, Mary Gilbert, Brett Collard & Cynthia Chan

This hike fell on the first day of spring and the temperature reflected the date. The partly cloudy afternoon was graced with mild temperature in the mid-60's. The trail was not as crowded as we had feared. We had a great group of walkers who seemed to really enjoy the afternoon stroll to view the magnificent falls. A little ice was still hanging onto the remnants of winter around the falls. Many chose to take the low trail in and the high trail out from the beautiful Cascades. We exited the park in plenty of time to beat the darkness. PS. the parking fees have increased to \$3.00, which is still a great deal considering the great facilities and the well maintained trails.

Sunday, March 27, 2005 8:00AM Buffalo Mountain

Hike cancelled due to bad weather. Also, only one call.

Sunday, April 3, 2005 6:00AM Alleghany Trail to Pine Swamp

Hike canceled due to high winds. This will be rescheduled at a later date.

Sunday, April 3, 2005 1:00PM Price Mountain, Sulphur Ridge Loop

David Wickersham (leader), Mary Gilbert (assistant leader), Linda Akers, Navneet Bhullen, Mervin Brower, Carl Cornett, Marianne Demkó, Jeanne Duddy, J.G. Fisher, Emilee Hall, Lynn Jacoby, Charles Musgrove, Sue Scanlin, Bobbie Stitcher & Madeleine Taylor.

This hike is normally just a pleasant walk in the woods. On this particular day, however, Mother Nature spiced things up a bit. Following a week of rain the normally inconsequential stream crossings were a bit dicey. No one fell in which was quite amazing considering the creek had its pick of fifteen potential victims at about half a dozen crossings.

The other amazing thing about this hike was the incredible wind. All day long it was rarely less than 25-30 mph and sometimes gusted to around 45 mph. The forest was in a constant roar and the trees were creaking and moaning. Part of the fun on a club hike is the camaraderie but on this day the wind was so fierce you couldn't carry on a conversation with anyone further than three feet away.

The trail has not been maintained for years but the route is usually obvious. There are faint yellow blazes

now and then and good signage at the major intersections. The official club mileage for this hike is 4.5 miles although the signs indicate 5.5. It starts where Virginia secondary route 606 crosses from Botetourt County into Craig County. We hiked the loop in a clockwise direction so we started out with a mile of downhill and finished with a mile of downhill with three miles of uphill in between.

**Sunday, April 10, 2005 8:30AM
Trout Creek Work Hike #3**

Charles Parry (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant leader), Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan, David Jones & Mervin Brower

As the end of the relocation was in sight, we carried a paint bucket in with us. It was another beautiful day and the work progressed well. We were finishing the digging about the time a large group of afternoon club hikers passed through on their way to Pickle Branch. Fred and Kris were given the honor of blazing the new trail, while the rest of us finished up and closed the old trail. This relocation eliminated a badly eroding section of trail and was a big improvement. We still need some water bars on the old trail a bit closer to Trout Creek.

**Sunday, April 10, 2005 1:00PM
Trout Creek (Rt. 620) to Pickle Branch Shelter**

Linda Akers (leader), Dave Sutton (co-leader), Linda Sutton, Sherry Kessel, Carolyn Baratta, Kenny, Jesse & Lance Garrett, Taylor Moon, Charles Musgrove, Carl Cornett, Lynne & Bill Jacoby & Hooper, Emory Richardson, Alan Perkin, Sheri Pippin, Mary Gilbert, Bobbie Stitche, Cindy Reardon, Zetta Campbell & Marianne Demkó.

Good turnout on a beautiful, cloudless day. A little slow getting started with this many people to carpool. The group quickly separated into fast and slow hikers. Met up at the shelter where the group split even more -- with several retracing the trail we'd come in on, while the others crossed and followed the creek back to the road. We got fussed at for crossing private property, so that route is out in the future. We all arrived back safely at about the same time. Good to talk with the trail workers who were just finishing up the relocation.

**Sunday, April 17, 2005 8:30AM
Belfast Trail, AT, Sulphur Spring Trail Circuit**

Larry Austin (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant leader), H. R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Mike Vaughn, Blake Mitnick, Charlie Scharnberg, Shelley Himel, Kirk McGuire and Meg Green

This was a glorious day for hiking. Beautiful sunshine with temperatures rising to the upper 60's to low 70's. We had a little trouble with the parking at the trailhead of the Belfast Trail as there was a gathering of Boy Scouts at the former site of Camp Powhatan and a lot

of vehicles were already there when we arrived. Once at Devil's Marbleyard, we got out on some of the boulders for a nice view of the valley below. We enjoyed lunch at a wonderful overlook just off the AT with a nearly 360 degree view of the surrounding mountains and valleys. It was quite spectacular. The Sulphur Spring Trail was surprisingly in good shape and all down hill too. At a rock outcropping on the Sulphur Spring Trail, there were numerous Bleeding Hearts in full bloom. We also saw several other wild flowers including Toothwort, Great Chickweed, smooth Yellow Violet, Common Blue Violet, Bird-foot Violet, Trailing Arbutus, and Wood Vetch. Elk Creek offered several good pools of waters for the viewing. With a great group of hikers, we were able to finish this hike around 2:00 p.m. and had time to enjoy lemonade and cookies.

**Sunday, April 17, 2005 1:00PM
Bottom Creek Gorge**

Maurice Turner (leader), Mary Gilbert (co-leader), Malcolm Black (co-leader), Susan Leither, David Bowers & dog Catcher, Margarita Cubas, Amanda Campbell, Valeria Cubas, Amanda Cubas, Mary Lou Gaminde, Paul Blaiklock, Nancy Utz, Connie & Milton Carter, Carolyn Baratta, Marianne Demkó, Sheri Pippin, Stu Israel, C. Miller, Charles Musgrove, Maya Bohler, Lynne & Bill Jacoby, Lorrie Huffman and Jim & Mary Lou Lewis

Sunny weather with temperatures in the 70's brought out the hikers today. We hiked the yellow blaze trail that passed by the pond and along Bottom Creek where we saw many trilliums in full bloom. We took a long snack break at the falls which was enjoyed by all. Afterwards, some hikers came back the blue blazed trail while others took the red trail. Everyone seemed to enjoy the hike.

**Sunday, April 24, 2005 7:00AM
Allegheny Trail to Pine Swamp**

Don Hoke (leader), Shelley Himel (co-leader), Charlie Scharnberg, Meg Green & Jen Schaefer

This hike was originally scheduled for April 3rd but was canceled by hurricane-like winds and was rescheduled for better weather.

We left Roanoke at 7am and met Jen in Blacksburg. She followed us in her car and after a long car shuttle we were on the trail at the top of Peters Mountain at 9:30.

The hike started out on the yellow blazed Allegheny Trail in blowing snow and temperatures around freezing. That continued for the rest of the day so the views of the valley through the trees were limited.

After the first mile we came to the Hanging Rock Hawk Observatory. This gave us a break from the wind and gave us our one of two good places for views. The Observatory sits on a rock above the trees with a deck that encircles the glass enclosed structure.

During hawk migration season this is a good place to be, as on some days hundreds of different species of

hawks and eagles can be seen from here. A little ways past the Observatory we hiked through an open field of grass.

The rest of the day we walked mostly on roads of different levels of usage. Some have seen recent use; some have not been driven on in years. The trail was in better shape than I would have thought. Signs of recent tree cutting could be seen but still a fair amount of trees were on the trail. I thought the trail might be hard to follow since this trail does not get the traffic or the maintenance of the AT but the blazes were fairly fresh and in some places, on almost every tree. No chance of getting off the trail.

After a couple of hours of hiking we came to the back side of a house. This was our second viewing spot and the views into West Virginia were impressive. A couple of miles more and we passed by an abandoned cinder block house with the remains of a truck beside it.

A little ways farther we got on the old carriage road that was used to move guests from the Mountain Lake resort to Sweet Springs resort in West Virginia during the late 1800's and early 1900's. We also went by the site of the horse livery where they would rest their horses. Nothing is left but the rocks that were used as footers for the stables, and they are now being utilized as a large fire ring.

Carl, Charlie and Meg moved ahead of us at this point and after walking on a muddy road with a little snow on it, the rest of us realized that we hadn't seen any foot prints in a good while. After we talked about our options, it was decided that I would back-track to see if I could find where they might have left the trail. I walked about 100 yards when the others yelled that they had found their tracks. They had turned onto the loop trail which circles back to the main trail after about a mile. This trail is also marked with yellow blazes. The loop comes back into the main trail about 10 yards farther up the trail from where we had stopped. So knowing that we haven't lost anyone, we tried to catch up. After about 5 miles we found them at the junction of the Allegheny and AT trail.

We headed down off the mountain on the AT passing by the Pine Swamp shelter which was occupied by the only other person we saw on our hike, a lone thru hiker. He didn't seem too happy being as cold as it was and he was at a shelter with a fireplace with no matches or a lighter. We checked around and none of us had any to give to him.

We got to Jen's car at around 5, and it was determined that the mileage of around 15 miles was correct. We went by way of Paint Bank and stopped along the way to take some pictures of the buffalo that were near the fence. Meg bought some buffalo patties at the store and we can't wait to hear how they turned out.

Everybody said they enjoyed the hike. Thanks to Jen for volunteering with the car shuttling.

Sunday, April 24, 2005 1:00PM

Flat Top Mountain, Trillium Hike

Ed Wallace (leader), Maya Bohler, Caryl Conolly
William Chester, "Chet" Chandler & Mary Gilbert

According to the calendar it's supposed to be spring. Darn groundhog! We had snow and sleet all the way up and back down Flattop. We did see some very cold trillium, bellwort, Dutchman's breeches, and toothwort. We also saw some wild turkeys on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Nice hike.

Sunday, May 1, 2005 8:00AM

Bailey Gap Area Work Hike

Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Jerry Kyle

Due to rain, the Saturday portion of this work hike was canceled. On Sunday, Hal and I met at the Pandapas Pond parking lot. We drove to the Stony Creek trailhead where we met Jerry. We then drove to the Windrock parking lot. After a brief walk to Windrock to replace some blazes at a key turn in the trail, we headed toward Bailey Gap with loppers and chainsaw. We met many thru-hikers along the way and found the trail not in too bad condition, but had enough work to keep us from getting bored. We noted that the trail would need reblazing next year. We stopped at Bailey Gap Shelter and made note of needed work on the Shelter and privy. We also noted the need for a few more weeks of Konnarock on the upper part of this trail.

Sunday, May 1, 2005 1:00PM

Falls Ridge

Maurice Turner (leader), Dave Sutton (co-leader), John Miller, Lisa Wiseman, Carl Cornett, Gene Downs, Jim and Mary Lou Lewis, Ron Overstreet, Paul Blaiklock, Pat Mankin, Linda Sutton, Winfred Noell, Suzanne Osborne, Mary Gilbert, C. Via, Cindy Bowles, Marianne Demkó, Carol McPeak, Alan Perkins, and Malcolm Black.

Another great day for a hike with sunny weather and temperatures in the 70's. There were still a lot of trillium in bloom and also some columbine and spiderwort to name a few. The hike went well and most hikers had finished in about two hours. Some hikers spent more time admiring the wildflowers, while others explored around the caves near the stream.

The trail looks like it is getting a lot more traffic; we asked some of the other hikers not in our party how they learned about the trail and they mentioned the recent article in the Roanoke Times on Falls Ridge by Mark Taylor.

Sunday, May 8, 2005 8:00AM
Thunder Ridge Overlook to Jennings Creek

Kenny Garrett (leader), Shelly Himel, Charlie Scharnberg, Jen Schaeffer, Mike Vaughn & Ishmael Jenks

Six people gathered for a Mother's Day stroll on this beautiful spring day. There was not a single cloud in the sky, and the temperatures ranged from low 60's in the morning to high 70's in the late afternoon. The walk started off easy with a criss-cross of the Blue Ridge Parkway a couple of times and the passing of Thunder Ridge Shelter. We all made jokes while walking under the Guillotine, which is an amazing rock formation. We stopped to admire the views from the field and rocks behind the radar installation on Apple Orchard Mountain. We then continued on to Black Rock for another amazing view. By this time, the fog had lifted out of the lower valleys. We stopped at Cornelius Creek Shelter for lunch, then went over Floyd Mountain. We then stopped at Bryant Ridge Shelter, which is a real architectural marvel in a rural setting. After a short break, we made our way over Fork Mountain to finish up our trek at Jennings Creek. We met 15 northbound thru-hikers, most of which started in early March from Springer Mountain. We saw one turkey, one frog, numerous small lizards, chipmunks, and birds. We also observed many flowers, but I didn't know the names of any of them. Also, hats off to the Natural Bridge Club for keeping this section of trail in excellent shape.

Sunday, May 8, 2005 1:00PM
Bearwallow Gap to Little Cove Mtn loop
Lady Slipper Hike

Mervin Brower (leader), Blanche Brower (assistant), Janie, John and Trent Bible, Maya Bohler, Mary Gilbert, Alan Perkins, Allison Dubnezic, Bill, Lynne & Hooper (dog) Jacoby, and Zetta Campbell

It was a warm sunny day good for hiking. We saw lot of ladyslippers, Blanche had a count of 64. The azaleas were out in full bloom, with a sprinkling of wild Iris, violets, one rhododendron and some others which I could not name. Every one made it to the Cove Mountain trail but could not interest anyone in going farther.

Sunday, May 15, 2005 8:00AM
Falling Water Cascades, Flat Top Mountain,
Harkening Hills Trails

Larry Austin (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant leader), Bob Peckman, H. R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Maurice Turner, Shelley Himel, Charlie Scharnberg, Ishmael Jenks, Beige Jenks, and Meg Green

The weather for this hike was mostly cloudy and cool. We only got a few sprinkles at the very end of the hike. We first descended the trail to Falling Water Cascades and then climbed back out to the Parkway to get

on the trail to Flat Top. This gave us about a 2,000 foot elevation change since Flat Top's elevation is 4,001 feet. Some of the brave ones made a side trip to Cross Rock (an unusual rock formation) but it required a steep down hill hike for about one-tenth of a mile and of course we had to climb back out. It was foggy in the valleys below Flat Top and we could not see much. We did spot a break in the fog once or twice which was quite nice. We identified 22 wild flowers including some that do not occur with great frequency such as Showy Orchis, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Dutchman's Pipe and Pink Lady Slipper. There were masses of Trillium still in perfect bloom near the summit of Flat Top. We took a lunch break at the Peaks of Otter Picnic Grounds and then walked the Lake Trail around Abbott Lake where a snake was spotted in the water near some cattails. We then hiked to the Johnson Farm and took in the sites there which is always interesting and reflective of earlier times. The climb to the summit of Harkening Hill from the Johnson Farm provided a good workout (as if we need another climb). In fact, Bob said it should be named something other than Harkening "Hill". We ended up at the Peaks of Otter Museum where we enjoyed some post-hike fellowship with Berry Punch and Strawberry Trifle. We were glad to have a first-time hiker with RATC--Beige Jenks. She did quite well as did everyone else.

Sunday, May 15, 2005 1:00PM
New River (Rt. 460) to Angel's Rest

Dave Sutton (leader), Linda King (assistant leader), Lynne and Bill Jacoby and Hooper, Jeanne Duddy, Jonathan Lancaster, Charles Musgrove

We met Jonathan at the intersection of Hwy 100 and the AT about 2:20pm. We began the hike through a stand of white pine which led to very lush vegetation. We passed poison ivy, poison oak, wild geranium, and wild violets. Wild azalea was in bloom towards the top of the mountain. Warblers sang overhead as we continued. Jonathan brought his GPS navigator indicating we were almost at the top of this steep mountain. There were plenty of large boulders on top and the view from Angel's Rest was incredible. Hooper got a good view also. It was a great hike and a terrific group of people.

May 19-23, 2005 8:00AM
Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

Charles Parry, Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Dana Helsley, Gretchen Willard, Malcolm Black, Mike Vaughn, Suzanne Barnett
 Konnarock Crew: Casey, Christina, Nolan, Tracey, Brian, Carl, Eric, Jackie

On Thursday, Blanche, Mervin and I met at the trailhead. Our first task was to install some new steps on the bank on the uphill side of the road. This time we used

treated lumber and re-bar. As we had previously had trouble getting stakes in the ground, it was no surprise that we hit rock with the re-bar and had to cut off several pieces with a hacksaw. The Konnarock crew arrived while we were working, but continued on up to the road to their campsite. By lunchtime, we ran out of re-bar, so decided to finish the job on Friday. We ate lunch at the vehicles and then headed up the mountain to begin work on a new switchback. The crew came up right behind us. Neither of us had a chainsaw so we had to work around some blow downs.

On Friday, with a fresh supply of re-bar and more lumber, we finished our steps by mid-morning. Dana arrived before we finished. This time we got up to the relocation by lunchtime. There were several large rocks near the switchback that had to be dug out of the trail. After that was done, we decided to start the switchback corner. There was one huge boulder just above the trail that we decided to use for the first step. After getting a spot dug out for it, six of us moved it into place with picks and rock-bars. By quitting time we had 3 steps set.

On Saturday, several more steps were installed at the corner and below. Also a couple of check steps were put in. In addition, the digging of the switchback was essentially complete. The crew took a trip to Angel's Rest, while we finished the second check step. When we got to the vehicles, Suzanne, who had been clipping, was not there. Dana soon found her on the corner near Dairy Queen.

On Sunday, we had a ribbon cutting ceremony complete with champagne. After that, the crew started work on the second switchback while Mike and I did some step work on the old trail between the two switchbacks. We uncovered one rock that was a lot bigger than we expected. After much digging and some crew help, we finally got it in place and made a good step out of it. Again Suzanne was not at the truck when we arrived. We drove down to Bluff City and found her sitting at a corner near the trail.

No club members were able to work on Monday, but the crew planned to work a couple of hours. The second switchback will be finished when the crew returns to this project in August. I think that we will still need a couple of more crew weeks to get the trail in the condition that I want to see it.

Sunday, June 5, 2005 8:00AM

**Cornelius Creek Trail, AT, Glenwood Horse Trail,
Apple Orchard Falls Trail**

Larry Austin (leader), Lois Smith (assistant leader), H. R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Shelley Himel, Charlie Scharnberg, Maurice Turner, Navneet Bhullar, Diana Christopoulos, Jen Schaeffer

This circuit hike can be done from several starting points. We decided to begin from Floyd Field just off the Blue Ridge Parkway using a Forest Service Road to enter the Glenwood Horse Trail. The weather was hot and

humid but sunny. Three of us spotted an adult black bear at the waterfalls on the Horse Trail while we were waiting for the others to catch up. The bear ran up a bank and then turned around to look at us. It apparently did not like what it saw and ran off up the mountain. The Horse Trail provided spectacular Rhododendron thickets in full bloom. We stopped for lunch at the bottom of Apple Orchard Falls where the water was freely flowing with more Rhododendrons dangling from the top over rock cliffs. Ascending the Cornelius Creek Trail back to the AT was rather warm but the creek provided some coolness and it was quite beautiful as usual. We returned to Floyd Field by the AT going up to the Cornelius Creek Shelter and following a footpath back to the Parkway. We spotted scores of swallowtail butterflies on the ground at the entry to Cornelius Creek Trail. Apparently someone had disposed of something sweet on the ground and they were taking advantage of it. There were a number of wildflowers still blooming, including spiderwort, star grass, wild geranium, galax beetleweed, pink ladyslipper, bleeding heart, Robin's Plantain, cancer root, Canada violet, and the mountain laurel were also beginning to bloom out. We finished the hike around 2:30 and enjoyed some much deserved refreshments at the end. All seemed to enjoy the hike and fellowship.

Sunday, June 5, 2005 1:00PM

Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth

Linda Akers (leader), Mike Ferguson (assistant leader), Billie & Natalie Ferguson, Mary Gilbert, Nancy Utz, Emory Richardson, Bobbie Stitcher and Maya Bohler

What a humid day for this climb to the tooth! The two youngsters were the only ones who managed to ignore the heat. We took it slow and easy, but still managed to return by 5:00. Rhodendron was sparse, but plenty of Bowman's root, a few Jack in the Pulpit's, blue eyed grass, fire pinks, etc. in bloom. When I left, Mike was still waiting for Billie & Natalie, who were teaching a garter snake to swim in the creek. They were a treat to have on this muggy hike.

Attention all shutterbugs

Every quarter, we are in need of a picture for the front of the blazer. Please submit interesting pictures to witchers4@juno.com.

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CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

Corn Boil
Saturday, August 6 – 6-9 PM

WORK HIKES

July 14-18 - 8:30 AM
Pearis Mountain with Konnarock

August 4-8- 8:30 AM
Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock

Sunday, August 28 - 8:30 AM
Sawtooth Work Hike

Sunday, September 25 - 8:30 AM
Sawtooth Work Hike

Hike Scheduling

Contact Don Nulph
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BOARD MEETINGS

(All members are always welcome.
Please let the host know you plan to attend.)

Monday, June 27, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Charles Parry

Monday, August 29, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Mervin Brower

Monday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Roger Holnback at
Southwest Virginia Land Trust Office.

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of
The Appalachian Trail Conference
and a member of The Nature Conservancy