

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Summer 2008

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.



Maya & Carl find the first step is a long one.

Name-the-steps Contest

1st place = one week in Philadelphia

2nd place = two weeks

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Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Barbara Bricks | Sharon Gilpin | Melanie Montgomery |
| Jason & Lisa Cash | Robin Hinrichs | Kathryn Newman |
| Ted & Linda Creighton | Richard & Becky Koffman | Sue Ann Sumpter |
| Theresa Dasseretti | Richard Krieg | Norman Therrien |
| Marty Farris | Jonathan McGlumphly | Ron & Edith Reese |
| Matt Fitzgerald | John & Kathy Merkwan | Cammye Obenchain VanHoy |

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

Mervin Brower

President's Message

Two significant efforts are underway to protect and improve the AT in the Roanoke and Catawba area. First, in April of 2008, the City of Roanoke placed 6185 acres of the Carvin's Cove Natural Reserve under a conservation easement, with the Western Virginia Land Trust and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. This is the largest easement in the Commonwealth's history, and protects 14 miles of incredible views from McAfee Knob, Tinker Cliffs and on past Hay Rock to Daleville. This project was 12 years in the making and it is hoped that in the coming year or so, the remaining 6000 acres of the Cove Natural Reserve will be under easement as well. Carvin's Cove reservoir provides over 50% of the Roanoke Valley drinking water, and while the AT viewsheds are important it should be noted that the protection of the water supply is the most important reason for the conservation easement, which allows only trails, and very minimal recreational facilities to be placed in the higher elevations of the Cove. The citizens of the Roanoke region are behind it and City Council was unanimous in their support for the easement. The area under the easement is all land above the 1500-foot contour line along the AT and on Brush Mountain within the Cove.

The second effort that is taking place is the creation of a blue-blazed connector trail from the AT near the 311 parking lot down through the 400 acre Virginia Tech

Farm to the Village of Catawba. For many years hikers have been forced to walk the mile between the AT parking lot and Catawba along a heavily traveled 55 mph section of Rt. 311. A well-designed and sited footpath built to AT standards between the AT and Catawba will make for a much safer and more enjoyable excursion from the AT and yet have minimal impact on the Farm property and its future uses. This trail was first mapped on the 90's, but the pieces never quite fell into place to get it done. Now under the leadership of Christy Gabbard at Tech's Conservation Management Institute within the College of Natural Resources and Janet Scheid, the greenway coordinator for Roanoke County, it looks like this project has found new life. With the strong support of the Catawba Civic League, the Western Virginia Land Trust, and the Roanoke Valley Greenways Commission, we are hopeful that this project will be completed by this Fall, and ready for both day and through hikers to enjoy the wonderful views of the Catawba Valley as they venture off the ridge down into the valley to enjoy the hospitality of the Home Place Restaurant and Catawba Market. For the through hiker, of course, a visit to the Post Office for mail drops is a must and right along the way. Happy Hiking!

Roger Holnback

Trail Supervisor's Report

Hopefully, we will have the new roof on Pine Swamp Shelter by the time you read this. If not, we may be bugging you for help with that. We also will have our second and final visit of the Konnarock Crew from July 31 to Aug. 2. I hope to work every day during that session, so call me if you wish to go out. We will be working on some short relocations about 1 mile north of Pine Swamp

Shelter. Later in the summer, I hope we can finish re-blazing the AT south of Pearisburg. We have a trip there scheduled for late August. This fall, beginning in September, we will be back working on the Tinker Ridge relocations. As always, we never have too much help on our work-trips.

Charles Parry

Hikemaster's Report

This is the time of year when many north-bound through hikers pass through our section of trail. Typically, they start out at the trail's southern terminus on Springer Mountain in Georgia in March or April. Many of the through hikers maintain on-line journals of their experiences on the trail. You can read many of these at trailjournals.com.

Diana Christopulos is the latest member of the "113 Mile Club", completing all 113 miles of the section of the A.T. maintained by our club. Diana has been section-hiking the A.T. for the past few years. She now has about 400 miles to go to complete the whole trail. She hopes to complete it this Fall.

The Roanoke Parks and Recreation Department web site has an informative section on hiking in the area. It includes a map of trails at Carvin's Cove and maps of the greenways in our area. Also included are hike descriptions of about a dozen popular trails in our area, including McAfee Knob and Crabtree Falls. Driving directions to trails are also available. The web site can be found at www.roanokeva.gov. We have also set up a link to their site on the club's web site.

Interested in helping lead hikes for the club? Please call me at 540-992-1350 or email me at mikeva999@yahoo.com. The Club is always in

need of new hike leaders. Please consider helping out if you can.

As you probably heard in the media, a young hiker was abducted and murdered a few months ago along the A.T. in Georgia. The hiker had been out for a day hike with her dog. Recently a through-hiker was abducted and attacked near the trail in Botetourt County. Below are some guidelines to help keep you safe while hiking on the trail. More detailed safety guidelines have been posted in the resources section of our web site www.ratc.org.

SAFETY TIPS

- Exercise the same caution on the trail as you would anywhere.
- Always let someone know where you are going.
- Plan your route and take a map.
- Try to hike with a companion. If alone, don't tell strangers.
- Observe the surroundings. Be friendly, but cautious.
- Be wary of people who make you uneasy.
- Don't camp or linger near road crossings or trailheads.
- Sign in at trail and shelter registers.
- Don't hitchhike or accept rides from strangers.

Mike Vaughn

RATC Overseer Assignments Spring 2008

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| VA 611 ----- | Kenny Garrett |
| VA 608----- | Jerry Kyle, John Lynham |
| VA 606----- | Mike and Virginia Reilly, Mike Sowder |
| Dismal Creek----- | Bill Floyd & Leslie Kay |
| Ribble Trail (north end)----- | Matt Gentry |
| Powerline ----- | Charles & Gloria Parry |
| US 460 Bridge ----- | VA Tech Outing Club Section |
| Pine Swamp Shelter ----- | Mike Ferguson |
| Bailey Gap Shelter ----- | Hal Cantrill, Bob Foutz, Theresa Knox |
| War Spur Trail ----- | Bob Stimson |
| Rocky Gap ----- | Joe, Brian & Leigh Anne Kelly |
| Sinking Creek ----- | Chase Davidson, Linda King |
| Niday Trail ----- | Mike & Betty Smith |
| VA 621 ----- | Mervin and Blanche Brower |
| VA 620 ----- | Bob & Kris Peckman |
| VA 624 ----- | Ralph Hart, Mac McDaniel & Maurice Turner |
| VA 311 ----- | Laurie & Leonard Adkins, Frank Haranzo |
| Campbell Shelter ----- | Ron McCorkle |
| Brickey's Gap ----- | Homer & Therese Witcher |
| Ditch Trail ----- | Dick Clark |
| Angel's Gap ----- | Greg Tinaglia |
| US 220 ----- | Homer & Therese Witcher |
| VA 652 ----- | Mike Vaughn |
| Salt Pond Road ----- | Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan |
| Blackhorse Gap ----- | |

 Andy Layne Trail:----- RATC

Overseers Emeritus: Seigfried Kolmstetter, Bill Gordge

Hike Reports

Sunday, March 16, 2008 8:30AM & 1:30PM Tinker Ridge Work Hike

Cancelled due to conflict with chain-saw training.

Friday, March 21, 2008 5:30PM Moonlight Hike to McAfee Knob

Maya Bohler (leader), Linda King (co-leader), Larry Austin, Hetty Barnes, Veda & Chris Butcher, Jodi Bower, Dick Clark, Chase Davidson, Diane D....., Matt & Colleen Gentry, Mary & Jimbo Harshfield, Sue Norwood, Jim O'Neil, Susan Sperdito, Vitaly & Violeta Tkachuk, Jim Walke, Sheila & Mike Vaughn

A large group met us at the Orange Market, and more hikers showed up at the trailhead. The final count of all the moon worshippers was 22. Matt Gentry, a reporter from the Roanoke Times, was hiking with us and videotaped the hike. As of March 28, a short video can be seen on the Roanoke times website (www.roanoketimes.com). It was sunny, warm and spring-like as we started on the trail at about 6PM. The clear weather put everybody into a good mood since it promised us to see the full moon later on.

Most of us made it to the top just after sunset. The western sky was still bright and red as the full moon rose as an orange globe over the eastern horizon. A group of backpackers were having dinner on one of the rocky outcrops. We lingered on top to take in the beauty of the view. The Roanoke city lights were clear and bright, and there was enough moonlight to make out the mountain ranges all around.

Descending from the mountain we made sure to stay together as a group. It was fun to see the long string of moving lights meandering down the trail in the dark. Since it was early in the year and the leaves had not come out yet, we could see the moon and the stars as we headed back to the parking lot.

Sunday, March 23, 2008 1:30PM Harkening Hill / Johnson Farm Beginner Hike

Zetta Campbell (Leader), Barbara Bricks, Carl Cornett, Dena Goldberg, Mark, Elizabeth & Madeleine Taylor

It was a very nice sunny day as we seven gathered at the Peaks of Otter visitor center. First we went by to visit the Johnson Farm, checking out the outbuildings, the rusted old-time farm implements and the many

daffodils blooming there. The house was not yet open as it was too early in the season. As we were hiking along, Mark revealed that he was actually working. He was a reporter for the Outdoors section of the Roanoke Times, here to cover this "beginner" hike. From the farm we ascended to the top. Once there, most took the side trail down to Balanced Rock. On the descent, back to our starting point, Mark's 6-year-old daughters (twins) raced down the trail and so did Dena. The following Friday, March 28, Mark's coverage of this hike was featured in the Outdoors section, together with excellent photographs, including one of me leading the crew up the trail.

Sunday, March 30, 2008 8:00AM Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to Trout Creek (Rt. 620) Yellow Mountain, Star Trail/Mill Mountain

Kris (leader) & Bob Peckman, Carl Cornett, and Maya Bohler

We awoke to ice or sleet on the deck and drizzle corroborating the weather forecast. We hike in the rain, but 13 miles in a cold rain with possible icy conditions on the rocks of Rawie's Rest and Dragon's Tooth did not sound like a fun way to spend the day. So we called the participants to cancel. Susan was already on the road from Lynchburg and wondering if the road conditions were going to get worse. The four of us were too geared up to quit, so Maya suggested we convene at 9:00 to hike the Mill Mountain surrounds.



Don't let Carl drive the car shuttle!

It was too late by then to include Susan :(We parked at the Star-Trail parking lot and made a left turn at the water tower. We didn't get far before the rain gear came on. We walked in a clockwise loop, connecting

with the Yellow Mountain Trail over that mountain and back into the Mill Mountain system to the Visitors Center and down the Star Trail. We completed the hike by walking the Taaza parking lot to Indian Buffet.

**Sunday, March 30, 2008 1:00PM
Daleville (Rt 220) to Hay Rock**

Jean Warren & Hugh Hall (co-leaders)

For five days in a row the weather had been beautiful - mid 60's to 70's. This morning I found ice and snow on my car, along with a light rain coming down. Two people originally thought of coming on the hike, Zetta Campbell and Laura Brock, but understandably decided to opt out. Hugh and I carpoled from the Orange Market and drove to the beginning of the hike, the Daleville Commuter Parking Lot. We got out of the car, and I asked Hugh about his daypack. "I forgot it, but I don't need it," he said. About 10-15 minutes into the hike, he stops dead in his tracks and says. "Oh. No! I left my glasses on the top of your truck." Back he goes to retrieve his glasses. About another 30 minutes later, Hugh says. "Aren't we suppose to go over railroad tracks on this hike?" "Yeah, Hugh," I said, "We crossed them about 10 minutes ago." I'm thinking to myself, "What's with this guy?" Come to find out, the simple explanation was that the poor fella had been hit with Cupid's arrow. He was basically sleepwalking, with his mind completely consumed with "other" thoughts than hiking. He did manage to comment on the beautiful view of Carvins Cove, even prettier with the clouds and fog. The top of the ridge had some white buds in bloom, along with patches of ice/snow. A lot of clear cutting had been done on the top near the power lines. We stopped only a few times the whole 8 miles, since you know who was in a hurry to see a particular someone. Ahhhhhh, spring has definitely sprung, and love is in the air!!!!!!!

**Saturday, April 5, 2008 8:00 AM
Pine Swamp Shelter**

Charles Parry, Kenny Garrett, Hal Cantrill

We peeled logs, finished cutting logs and hauled some down to the shelter. We only had Hal's 2 drawknives and our attempts to peel logs with other tools were unsuccessful. For much of the day, I was the person without a knife, so I had to find other jobs to occupy my time. Kenny had to leave early, so I had a knife after he left.

**Sunday, April 6, 2008 8:00AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to Dragon's
Tooth parking lot via Andy Layne and North
Mountain trails**

Cancelled/postponed due to thunder storm.

**Sunday, April 6, 2008 1:00PM
Bottom Creek Gorge**

Sue Scanlin & Ed Wallace (co-leaders), Peggy Bryant, Jean Warren, Dena Goldberg, H.R. Blankenship, Rita Krasnow, Laura Bracht, Malcolm Black

Several people who had called didn't show up after all. At about 1:05 p.m., eight of us took off from Cave Spring Corners in two cars. After parking our cars at the trailhead, Jean played Master of Ceremonies and had the group sing "Happy Birthday" for Sue. Thank you to all!

We met up with Malcolm at the kiosk and from there did the loop in a clockwise direction. I had always done it counterclockwise before and thought a change might be nice. And sure enough, entirely new vistas revealed themselves. The trees were still bare and allowed the sound of Bottom Creek to easily travel up to the trail to provide us with pleasant background 'music'.

As usual, H.R. was in the lead most of the time in spite of his health setback late last year. We took a lengthy break at the overlook to the falls before continuing past the cemeteries and remnants of cabins and barns. Along the way, Malcolm shared his knowledge of the history of the former settlement there. We're so fortunate to have him as an expert on the area to enlighten us. Thank you, Malcolm!

**Sunday, April 6, 2008 1:30PM
Hanging Rock Greenway – Beginner Hike**

Sharon Rippee (leader), Bud Swiger, Joan Ramsey, Sharon & David Probst, Zetta Campbell, Kathy Ruble, Debbie Carroll, Teddy Jefferson & Jimmy Glass

We started at the 'Hanging Rock' end of the trail and walked eastward toward Lakeside and back again totaling 3.4 miles, mostly along the road. There are a few 'woody' spots where the trail is obscured from the traffic. Even though it had poured rain the night before, the trail was surprisingly dry with a few wild flowers along the way, mostly common vetch and violets; of course we did see those unwanted yellow flowers popping up everywhere called dandelions. Unfortunately the sun was behind the clouds but still a pleasant walk on a Sunday afternoon with new friendships made.

Saturday, April 12, 2008 1:30 PM
Roanoke River Greenway – Beginner Hike

Laura Montague (leader), Kathy Ruble, Zetta Campbell, & Shylah Montague (6 year old great niece of Laura)

We did some changes to the original hike which had been scheduled from the Water Treatment Plant to Wasena Park. Kathy Ruble had spent the morning donating blood at the ARC downtown and I picked her up there. I am still quite impressed that she walked over five miles after having donated blood. My great niece Shylah was spending the weekend with me so she could only be in a car that had a booster seat. We decided to start at the Water Treatment Plant since this was the section we had not walked before and walked to about half way between Piedmont Park and Roanoke Memorial and then turned around and went back. This gave us a little more than five miles. It was a pretty day but a little breezy. We saw ducks in the river and quite a few other walkers and many of those with their dogs. Several dogs were playing and swimming in the river. There was a lot of tall phlox blooming. In case you are wondering, the 6 year old had no intention of walking almost 6 miles. I had brought along her baby sister's stroller so Shylah hopped in and out at her leisure and took a nap at the end. A wonderful way to spend an afternoon with old and new acquaintances and family.

Sunday, April 13, 2008 8:00AM
Fuller Rocks, Big Rocky Row

Dan Phlegar (Leader) & Carl Cornett (Co-leader), Kathy Phlegar, Mike & Sheila Vaughn, Bob & Kris Peckman, Pat Guzik, John Merkwan, and Dan's dog Sage

We met at the Coverdale Park-N-Ride at 9:00 AM, an hour later than scheduled because of concern about the weather. The weather turned out just fine for a great ten-mile hike. While traveling to the hike, one car had a history lesson at Glasgow about the old C & O canal locks. After placing one car at the hike finishing point we headed to the starting point of the hike. The old Hercules lightweight aggregate plant, which has been dismantled and land reclaimed, was the starting point of the hike. The manufacturing process was described along with old pictures of the plant. The old abandoned quarry pit offered great views of the mountains to the west. We hiked on an old trail to Salt Log Gap, where it intersected the AT not far from Punch Bowl Mountain. After having lunch at Salt Log Gap we headed south on the AT going past Saddle Gap, Big Rocky Row, and Fuller Rock. We had numerous stops to view the wild flowers. The rock

outcroppings along the AT provided beautiful panoramic views of the James River and surrounding mountains. We would have finished the hike several hours sooner, but Kris Peckman kept asking Bob for the digital camera to take pictures of the wild flowers. Just kidding, we saw ten or more different wild flowers and every stop was worth it. At the end of the hike we had a cooler waiting for us with some sodas and cold ones for everyone. We even had another history lesson on the way back when we stopped at an old railroad bridge constructed by the Valley Railroad in 1871.

Sunday, April 13, 2008 1:00PM
Bennett Springs Loop

Jean Warren & Chuck Walz (co-leaders), H. R. Blankenship, Paula Willis, Debbie Smith, Leahna Smith, Luba Smith, Peggy Bryant, Catherine Detweiler, Mary Lou Gaminde, and Ronnie Stanley

As predicted, the weather was unseasonably warm all week, only to have possible rain, wind and cool temperatures on hiking day. We met at the Orange Market, carpooled to my home on Carvins Cove, then carpooled again in two vehicles to the parking lot. H. R., Chuck, and Ronnie were good sports to sit in the back of my truck for the 1.5 mile ride. Wheee! My truck is registered for a yearly pass to park at the lot (Carvins Cove Reservoir). And the other car? No fear - Peggy is here! She whips out her work hike permit (that was easy). We took a side trip to see the bridge that Peggy had first-hand experience in building; very well constructed. Then we ascended the 1-mile steep grade, everyone peeling off layers. Mary Lou needed a paper towel -- magic! Peggy had one! Paula found a pine branch with beautiful pinecones and needed something to carry it in. Need you guess? Yep. Peggy had a big plastic bag. Whatever was needed, she had it. The wind on top of the ridge was cool and strong, so we didn't break. This is the mountain where the fire occurred in February, and the trees on the ridge were particularly blackened. It was fascinating to find some delicate blue/purple flowers coming out of pure black ash. We saw views of the Cove, crossed streams, and admired the work of a talented someone who built a rock formation in a round, five-foot cone. We took only one break for about 5 minutes -- the only time the sun came out. We all stayed together, with the faster group waiting at intersections. From what I understand, H. R., Chuck, and later on Catherine, kept up with Luba in her power walking. What a fun day!

**Saturday, April 19, 2008 8:00AM
Pine Swamp Shelter Roof Repair**

Charles Parry, Kenny Garrett, David and Lori Jones, Kerry Wood, Rhonda Chewing

The masons met us at the parking area and we hauled 5 bags of cement into the shelter for them on the ATC cart. Again we had only Hal's 2 knives for peeling logs, so I made a rule at the start of the day that the knives would not lie idle. If a log peeler wanted a break, someone else would use the knife. In addition to peeling, we re-piled the burnable waste from the roof and removed more nails. We also finished tearing apart the old beams. In the afternoon we began hauling down the peeled logs and stashing them behind the shelter. By quitting time we thought we had close to enough material peeled and hauled down. On the way out we hauled out some of the old lumber.

**Sunday, April 20, 2008 8:00AM
Pine Swamp Shelter Roof Repair**

Cancelled

**Sunday, April 20, 2008 1:30 PM
Bearwallow Gap to Little Cove Mt. Trail**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Peggy Bryant & Kathy Ruble

Saturday's rainy weather and the forecast of more on Sunday probably put some folks out of the mood for a hike. However, Sunday dawned with thick fog which lifted and revealed blue sky with heavy clouds scudding across it. So we three set out. This was not a Point A to Point B hike since we were so engaged in identifying spring flowers and plants that we never reached Point B. As for Point A, it was blocked and had a sign pointing 500 feet down Route 43 toward Buchanan. There we found the new Point A, the trail crossing 43 at that point. The Natural Bridge AT Club had relocated it since is on their part of the trail. The climb to the top seemed to me to be longer, but with a moderate grade. On top it was definitely the old trail, basically level. It was too early for ladyslippers. The first half of May seems to be the best time for that here. Yet there was an abundance of what we called laurel (if we were right) with white flowers. We saw yellow cinquefoil, pussytoes, violets, blades of dwarf iris. We met two through hikers, planning to meet friends in Lynchburg, intent on hiking the whole trail. Before we returned to the start, a light sprinkle caught us, but we were prepared. Although it was a day of scattered showers, we were given a good window of opportunity for this hike.

**Sunday, April 27, 2008 8:00AM
House Mountains, Big and Little**

Kris Peckman (leader), David and Lori Jones

At the final count, we were down to three hikers, our assistant having got sick, and one participant having had to cancel to referee two soccer games. David and Lori had a new digital camera and lots of wildflower knowledge, so we made our way very slowly up the two miles to the saddle. Here are some of the flowers we saw: rattlesnake weed (not yet blooming, but close to it), wild oats (sessile bellwort), pink azalea, dwarf iris, yellow ladyslippers, wild geranium, trailing arbutus, star chickweed, cut-leaved toothwort (both white and lavender), field pansy, all manner of violets, sedum, Solomon's seal, a high-bush blueberry, and garlic mustard everywhere. The saddle had many apple trees in bloom. Continuing up Big House, we saw pussytoes and smooth rock cress, as well as serviceberry, a small magnolia just putting out a leaf or a flower, and early saxifrage. Lori also found a mint that smelled remarkably like oregano. Here we heard what at first we thought was a barking dog, but when it kept repeating the same tune, David said it was an owl, probably a barred owl.

We bushwhacked to the overlook toward North Mountain and Green Hill, then across the top of Big House back to the trail, passing an impressive balanced rock. We had lunch looking across toward Little House, then returned to the saddle and climbed up the steep, blue-blazed, not-built-to-AT-specs trail up Little House. At the top we tried to identify the flowering bushes that were all over Little House, but came to no definite conclusion. I've been calling them leatherleaf, but they don't perfectly match that description. We followed the blue-blazed trail across the top of Little House to the north-facing overlook, where we took a break to watch a big party of vultures soaring. Then David suggested we try returning by the trail going down the opposite side of Little House from the way we came up, for a change and to shorten the return trip. I think this is the trail the VMI cadets use on their annual assault on the mountain. It's very steep, built even less to AT specs than the one on the other side. We scrambled down, and then when this trail threatened to take us into a farmer's field far from our car, we bushwhacked over two ridges, through easy-walking open woods with several conveniently placed woods roads. As we were examining the remains of a chimney and foundation, and David dug up an old plow blade, we heard voices that led us back to the road we started on much earlier in the day. All in all, it was a most delightful day on House Mountain, which fortunately did not turn into a Night on Bald Mountain.

**Sunday, April 27, 2008 1:00PM
Andy Layne Trail to Tinker Cliffs**

Sue Scanlin (leader), Rita Krasnow & dog Lola and guest Nancy Friedman

How unusual to have only three female hikers participate! Especially considering that it was a perfect hiking day. We left Hanging Rock OM promptly at 1pm and returned there around 7pm. For lack of a co-leader, Lola volunteered to be the leader and Sue was the sweep (not really necessary because we stayed together as a close-knit group the entire time). We had the best of times, first taking in the sights and sounds of the Catawba Valley with redbuds still being in their prime, Osage Orange blossoms in full bloom, loads of bluebells, and many other flowers we couldn't identify, and the creek and birds providing the background audio.

Later, up at the top, we had a pretty good view. The valley was bathed in lush green tones and way back behind McAfee Knob, there was a sunny opening between the threatening rain clouds. As much as I'd like to say 'picture perfect', seeing sights like this one with one's own eyes beats a picture every time, yet language rules don't allow to say 'more perfect'. Also up there, we met the only other hiker. Hard to believe there weren't more.

On the way down, Lola must have figured there was no longer a need for a leader and decided to extend her fun by treeing some squirrels. We returned to our cars just in time before the rain started. Now THAT was perfect!

**Sunday, May 4, 2008 8:00AM
A.T., Black Horse Gap to Bearwallow Gap**

Mike Vaughn & Maya Bohler (leaders), Peggy Bryant, Carl Cornett, Pat Guzik, Don Krek, Kris & Bob Peckman, Sheila Vaughn

The day started out cool and clear, without a cloud in the sky. We got on the trail about 9:15. The trail was fairly level for most of the way. Three through hikers passed us early on the hike. One was wearing a kilt. They had started out in Georgia in early March. They said they were planning on hiking about 20 miles, which is about their daily average.

The nine-mile section of the A.T. that we were hiking crosses the Blue Ridge Parkway about five times. There were great views of the Peaks of Otter and the valley from the BRP overlooks. We stopped for lunch at an A.T. shelter at about the halfway point. The three through hikers were already there. They were all from

New England. Two of them said they were taking a break from furniture-making school to hike the trail. We finished up the hike around 2:00.

**Sunday, May 4, 2008 1:00PM
Flat Top Mountain**

Dave Sutton & Gary Bible (co-leaders), Linda Sutton, Janie Bible, Kathy Keiter, Nancy Friedman, Kim Ferguson, Andy Robinson, Susan Sperduto, Sharon & Dave Probst

This hike is also known as the "Trillium Hike" as many trilliums along the trail are at their peak during this time. It was great conditions for the hike and an enthusiastic group eager to reach the top. Some of the hikers ventured off the trail (a very steep one tenth of a mile) to see the mysterious "Cross Rock". This consists of two enormous pillars of rock appearing as a section of Stonehedge on its side. The view on Flat Top was awesome! With binoculars we could see the initials "L.U." in Lynchburg. The southern slope, covered with spider wort, of Flat Top Mtn is much more lush and green than the northern slope.

**Saturday, May 10, 2008 1:00AM
Belfast Trail to the Devil's Marbleyard**

Kenny (leader), Dawn & Lance Garrett, Jared Whittaker, Jim Belcher, Carl Cornett & Sally Sizer
Guests: Allen Sowder, Rita Krasnow & small k-9

The afternoon was beautiful for a drive to Arnold's Valley to the trail head of the Belfast Trail. There were several groups of people and Boy Scouts out there. We took a comfortable stroll up the trail to the famed boulder field known as the Devil's Marbleyard. We climbed and scrambled for a while as a few just took to resting on the rocks. Fun was had by all. A stop at Natural Bridge Station for ice cream and drinks topped off a wonderful day.

**Sunday, May 11, 2008 8:00AM
Trout Creek (Rt 620) to Sandstone Ridge (Rt 624)**

Kris Peckman (leader), Peggy Bryant, Carl Cornett, Pat Guzik, Hugh Hall, Mary Harshfield, John Merkwon, Bob Peckman, Sue Scanlin

Mother's Day didn't stop fourteen people (including at least three mothers) from signing up for today's hike, and 100% probability of rain only reduced the number to nine. We could see raindrops in the water of Trout Creek as Carl took the start-of-hike photo, but it wasn't until we were almost to the top of the ridge that we needed our raincoats. On the way up we saw turkey's beard in partial bloom. The rain stopped shortly after we reached the ridgetop, and we had a very enjoyable

walk along the ridge of Cove Mt. The lack of views was well compensated by the abundance of wildflowers: lilies of the valley and blueberries were in bloom all along the way, and we saw many pink ladyslippers and lots of pink azalea and leatherleaf in bloom. Fire pinks, too, and wild pink, and pussytoes and wild geranium, and even two trillium. A brisk wind was blowing by the time we reached Dragon's Tooth, so we huddled behind the rock to eat our lunch as we watched fog blowing wildly past us. We were just commenting that we hadn't seen any other hikers today, not even thru-hikers, when a hiker appeared – Maurice Turner had come up from 624 to meet us! We managed to get past the rocks on the way down before the rain started again. From Lost Spectacles Gap down to 624 we were treated to a spectacular display of rhododendron in bloom, all the way from rich raspberry-colored buds to full pink blooms, highlighted by the rain-washed green leaves and fresh new-growth green background. Just before we reached 624, the downpour struck in earnest, accompanied by a burst of hail. We crammed our drenched bodies into the two cars that Bob had providently insisted we be sure to leave at 624. Before we left we noticed a fine crop of May-apples (well, the plants, no apples yet) at this end of the hike, just as there had been at Trout Creek when we started. After completing the car shuttle, as we arrived at the Orange Market, still soaked and shivering, the sun burst forth, and the sky stayed blue for the rest of the day.

**Saturday & Sunday, May 17 & 18, 8:00AM
Mountain Lake, Stony Creek Work Hikes**

Charles Parry, Fred Meyer, Hal Cantrill, Jonathan McGlumphy

On Saturday it was just Fred and I. We left Fred's vehicle down by Stony Creek and drove up to the Windrock parking lot. I had the chainsaw on the saw pack, so we were both able to clip. The trail wasn't too bad, although we removed several small blow downs and finally one major one shortly before finishing. We had some clipping to do, but nothing excessive. We met several through hikers during the day. One of the last of them warned us about the large blowdown near the final road crossing. It was the first time that I had seen the controversial controlled burn in about a year. It is better than it was last year. Most of the rhododendron is showing fresh sprouts from the roots. However, there is still plenty of evidence of the fire and will be for a few years. Close to the road, we met two hikers from Roanoke who were asking about the fire. When I told them it was a Forest Service controlled burn they asked why it was done. The best answer I could give them is that the District Ranger

really believes in controlled burns. It was a beautiful spring day.

On Sunday, Hal, Jonathan and I met at Pandapas Pond parking area. We decided that Hal would go up to the Mountain Lake Wilderness, meet Fred and work up there. Jonathan and I would go up Stony Creek road and work on the section, partly in the Peter's Mountain Wilderness area, that parallels the creek and road. Jonathan and I found considerably more work per mile than Fred and I saw on Saturday. I had rigged up a harness for the crosscut saw so I could have free hands to clip with. It was a drizzly day, but did not rain hard. When we finished, we had to wade the creek and hike the road back to my truck. We finished about 3 o'clock. Jonathan is a new member and a good worker. I hope we see more of him. Hal reported that he and Fred also had a successful day.

**Sunday, May 18, 2008 1:00PM
Cascades**

Jean Warren (leader), HR Blankenship, and Peggy Bryant

Initially, there were nine people signed up for this popular hike. However, due to the cool rain there were only three of us hardy souls. We left Orange Market in my truck, leaving Peggy folded up (accordion style) in the back seat. It stopped raining along the way, and we enjoyed the beautiful drive. Arriving at the parking lot, we were greeted with the roar of the nearby rushing stream. I've never seen so much water here! The two-mile walk following this stream was, obviously, enchanting. The falls were overflowing with abundance of water! We returned via the road, where it began to gently rain. The only people we saw were a young couple (obviously in love) and teenagers carrying a puppy. They were all wearing scant clothing, as if it were 90 degrees outside, while we were huddled in our warm rain gear (I even carried an umbrella).

**Sunday, May 25, 2008 8:00AM
Rock Castle Gorge**

Linda King (leader), Hugh Hall (assistant), Sue Scanlin, Sharon Lampert, Pat Guzik, Matt Fitzgerald, Melanie Montgomery, Karl Kunkel from High Point, NC and Fred Meyer from Charleston, WV.

We could not have asked for a more beautiful day for our hike, nor a more congenial group. Many

wildflowers were blooming along the path and we had the special treat of seeing flame azalea and rhododendron in bloom. Lovely!

**Sunday, May 25, 2008 1:30 PM
Rock Castle Creek - Beginner Hike**

Zetta Campbell, Carolyn Baratta, Marianne Demkó, Dena Goldberg, Sherry Kessel, Mary Gilbert, Son Gilbert (dog)

This was an all-girl hike except for Son, Mary's dog (Yes, that's his name). Upon arrival at the trailhead, we saw that we would have some company, and we did, for there were many cars parked. We managed to get maybe the last parking place in the parking zone because, beyond that, parking was prohibited, possibly because there were houses close to the trailhead. Mary Gilbert, who used to live here but now lives in Alabama, was in town visiting her mother. She was minus an arm. Many years ago she had injured her arm in a motorcycle accident and that arm was completely useless thereafter; so she had had it amputated. She had a prosthetic arm, but it was so heavy that she felt she was better off without it. The trail basically parallels the creek, a beautiful stream with miniature waterfalls. We did not find many plants in bloom, but Marianne and Carolyn, plant identifiers that they are, found some. Maybe we should have this hike about a month earlier. We came to the mountain homestead and looked around the place a little. It looked like someone had been working on it. The trail, a broad road, had some very minor ups and downs. Beyond the homestead, it increased to a moderate grade. Here we turned back. We may have covered four miles. It was a beautiful day. Son enjoyed it thoroughly as did we all.

**Sunday, June 1, 2008 7:00AM
Garden Mountain (Rt 623) to
Brushy Mountain (Rt 52)**

John Miller (leader), John Merkwán and Pat Guzik

Due to circumstances beyond our control the hike was changed to Garden Mountain (Rt 623) to Blue Blaze High Water Trail and back (10.4 miles). The start of the hike was cool but humid. We saw some Flame Azalea in bloom along the road and more along the trail, both the yellow and orange varieties. We also had a few orange newts and a toad pose for our cameras. The day grew warmer as we hiked. We turned around and started back to the truck and stopped at the Jenkins shelter to eat lunch. There we met our first through hiker of the day. We talked with him while we all ate. After leaving the shelter and making the climb to the top of the mountain we met several more hikers and it started to rain. The sun was

shining again by the time we got back to the truck and headed back to Salem. Changing the hike made it shorter but more of a challenge.

**Sunday, June 1, 2008 1:00PM
Thunder Ridge Overlook to Cornelius Creek Shelter**

Maurice Turner and Blanche Brower (coleaders), Mary Gilbert, Ken Angelmi and Rita Krasnow .

The weather was very nice and the hike very enjoyable. We met 6 thru-hikers and saw several wild flowers: Rhododendron, Squaw Root, Mt. Laurel, Columbine, Yellow Mandarin, Stinging Nettle, Yellow Lady Slippers, Spiderwort and Solomon's Seal. As we left the woods it started to rain.

**Sunday, June 1, 2008 1:00PM
North Face of Mill Mt. via Mill Mt. Greenway
Beginner Hike**

Ron McCorkle, Reanna, Jacqueline Watsen, Sharon Probst

It was a beautiful day. We decided to route our hike as we progressed. We started following the Mill Mountain Greenway Trail, which intersects the Roanoke River Greenway approximately 1/8 mile east of Piedmont Park. Following the Mill Mountain Greenway Trail is not easy. All four of us were searching for the signs showing the way of the trail. We found them to be small, difficult to read, sometimes gone and generally poorly placed. At one point, if we had followed the signs, we would have ended up in South Roanoke. We did have enough sense between the four of us to continue up, knowing that this was a mountain climb. I knew where we were going, but it was fun looking for the signs. Kinda like a scavenger hunt. Half way up the Mill Mountain Greenway Trail, we decided to make a right on the Big Sunny Trail. It is wonderful how well this and the remainder of the trails we took are marked. Very nice. We took the Big Sunny Trail to the Ridgeline Trail, which goes up to the Discovery Center and the zoo. We stopped for water and restroom at the Discovery Center, then continued to the star. The Discovery Center also has great maps of the trail system. At the star, we saw the sign saying we were on the internet, but decided anyway to call our friends to confirm. It is true, with a 15 second delay. We returned via the Watchtower Trail, which is a terrific trail behind the star that leads back to the Mill Mountain Greenway Trail. The return took about 30 minutes, compared to the hour to get there. All in all, it was a great hike with pleasant conversation. We decided that out-of-towners may not make it if they rely on the signs.

Saturday, June 7, 2008 8:30 AM
Lick Run Greenway – Beginner Hike

Rupert Cutler (leader), Sally Sizer, Mark Taylor

Braving record heat, this trio walked from one end of this new, paved city greenway trail (across from the Hotel Roanoke) to the other end (at Valley View Mall) and back in 2 1/4 hours. The temperature was moderated by a nice breeze and the birds along the trail were in good voice. Some 22 species of birds were seen including a kestrel, a great blue heron, a bluebird and a mallard. Sally and Mark were surprised at the diversity of habitats along this in-the-city trail. Mark, Outdoor Editor for the Roanoke Times, will write an article for the paper on this little-known recreational asset so close to downtown. (it appeared in the Roanoke Times 6/13/08 Outdoor Section.)

Saturday & Sunday, June 7&8, 2008 8:00AM
Pine Swamp Trail Relo. with Konnarock Crew

Charles Parry, Mike Ferguson, Billy Ferguson, Laurie Adkins, Ron McCorkle, Steve Burt, Jerry Kyle
 Konnarock Crew: Ken & Sandy Feind, Larry Reagan, Nathan Gandy, Tony Freeze, Sherry Bell, Bill Feind, Russell Stansbury, Lauren Asprooth, David Pristupa, Christine Hoyer, Dannon McKinnon

On Saturday, most of the RATC workers met at the parking area around 9:30. We had just gone a little

ways in when we met Jerry coming out for rock bars. I asked which of the relocations they were working on. When he said the second, I decided to go back to my truck for rock bars also. At the north end of that relocation there was a steep, rocky section of the old trail that could not be relocated because of some cliffs. I had planned to put in rock steps there. Ron, Steve and I worked on it all day Saturday Ron and I went back at it on Sunday and worked there until Ron left. I then recruited Bill and Nathan to help me finish. We put in about 20 steps.

On Sunday morning, I met the crew at the parking area around 8:20. We went up to the Shelter to put three beams (logs) up for the Shelter roof. Three of us had scouted it out before leaving on Saturday Our plan was to make a ramp out of some shorter logs, then pull and push one end of the log up on the Shelter wall. Then we would slide the end of the log past the chimney and onto the far wall with one end resting on each wall. With the aid of two ropes and thirteen people, it worked to perfection and no one got hurt. As for the trail digging, which I had no part of, the workers did an excellent job. It is high quality trail. It will take at least one day of the next week to finish this part of the relocation. Hopefully, we will get a good start on the second part also. In addition, I hope we get a better RATC turnout next time.

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.

The club is always looking for experienced hikers to help lead club hikes. If you know of someone that you think would be a good hike leader, or wish to nominate yourself, please contact Mike Vaughn at 540-99-2350 or email mikeva999@yahoo.com.

**Sunday, July 6, 2008 1:00PM
Daleville (Rt 220) to
Mountain Pass Road (Rt 652)**

3.2 miles, Easy, \$1.00 carpool fee
0 miles from Roanoke

This hike will head north on the A.T., crossing route 11 near Troutville. It will then ascend a hill to an open field, which provides good views of the surrounding mountains.

Dave Sutton.....774-0648

**Sunday, July 13, 2008 1:00PM
Price Mountain, Sulphur Ridge Loop**

4.9 miles, Moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee
15 miles from Roanoke

Located along the border of Craig and Botetourt County, about 15 miles north of Roanoke, this loop hike offers a great sense of isolation for being so close to Roanoke. The trailhead begins on VA 606 and descends for one mile into a quiet valley. After a creek crossing, the route climbs to the top of Price Mountain on the Sulphur Ridge Trail. At the crest of the mountain, the route turns right onto the Price Mountain Trail. The trail then descends along the ridgeline, with views into the Craig Creek valley, to return to the trailhead.

Dave Wickersham.....774-0439

**Sunday, July 20, 2008 8:00AM
Hoop Hole, Upper Loop**

7.3 miles, Strenuous, \$4.00 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.

Homer and Therese Witcher.....992-3932

**Sunday, July 27, 2008 8:00AM
Devil's Marbleyard/Gunter Ridge Trail Circuit**

8.1 miles, Strenuous, \$4.00 carpool fee
35 miles from Roanoke

Located a few miles beyond Natural Bridge Station, this hike will ascend the steep Gunter Ridge Trail to its intersection with the Belfast Trail in the Jefferson National Forest. The hike will then descend on the Belfast trail passing the Devil's Marbleyard. This is an eight-acre field of quartzite boulders which affords

endless scrambling opportunities (watch out for snakes!) and great views.

John Miller..... 375-3250
Maya Bohler..... 344-6588

**Sunday, July 27, 2008 1:00PM
Roaring Run**

2.0 miles, Easy, \$3.50 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.

Linda King..... 342-2411

**Saturday & Sunday, August 2 & 3 8:00AM
Work Hike: Pine Swamp Trail Relocation with
the Konnarock Crew**

0.5 miles, Moderate, \$7.00 carpool fee
60 miles from Roanoke

We will be working on the relocation of an eroded section of the trail near Pine Swamp in Giles County Saturday:

Charles Parry..... 540-951-1402
Dana Helsley..... 977-4154

Sunday:

Charles Parry..... 540-951-1402
Maurice Turner..... 540-334-2128

**Saturday, August 2, 6-9 PM
Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
Annual Summer Cornboil
Whispering Pines Park**

The Club will provide pork BBQ, corn, fixings, beverage and table service.

Members bring a covered dish (big enough for the Konnarock Crew).

**Sunday, August 10, 2008 8:00AM
St. Mary's River**

8.8 miles, Strenuous, \$8.00 carpool fee
63 miles from Roanoke

This hike will be along the St. Mary River in the St. Mary's Wilderness Area in Augusta County, north of Roanoke. We will be passing several swimming holes, so bring your bathing suit and a towel so you can take a dip in the river.

Mike Vaughn992-1350
Hugh Hall725-8874

**Sunday, August 10, 2008 1:30PM
Smart View Loop Trail (BRP) Beginner Hike**

3.0 miles, Easy, \$5.00 carpool fee
37 miles from Roanoke

This is one of the trails off the Blue Ridge Parkway. There are wildflowers, an old mountain cabin built in the 1890's, wonderful views and a creek with a stone bridge. There is a picnic area with a water fountain and restrooms. There are also benches along the trail.

Zetta Campbell366-8165

**Sunday, August 17, 2008 8:00AM
Cascade's/Barney's Wall**

7.9 miles, moderate, \$7.00 carpool fee
54 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County near Pembroke, the hike will first go along Little Stony Creek, to the Cascades – an impressive waterfall. It will then go up the nature Conservancy Trail to Barney's Wall, a cliff that features a 700 foot drop. There is a great view of the New River Valley from Barney's Wall. The Forest Service charges a nominal fee (\$3.00) to park at the trailhead.

Gary Bible977-2954

**Sunday, August 17, 2008 1:00PM
Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth**

5.2 miles, Moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee
9 miles from Roanoke

Located on Cove Mountain near the Craig and Roanoke County line, the hike to Dragon's Tooth ascends steep, rugged outcrops of quartzite which form the spine of Cove Mountain. A difficult hike, Dragon's Tooth summit offers magnificent views of nearby and distant peaks year-round.

Dick Moran389-3744
Ed Wallace774-0175

**Sunday, August 24, 2008 8:00AM
Pearis Mountain Work Hike**

4.0 miles, Moderate, \$7.50 carpool fee
60 miles from Roanoke

We will be doing clipping, blazing, and blow-down removal south of Pearisburg.

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

**Sunday, August 24, 2008 1:00PM
Mill Mountain Star Trail**

3.4 miles, Easy, \$.00 carpool fee
0 miles from Roanoke

This hike starts off Riverland Road just below the water tower. Passing mostly through woods, it climbs over 800 feet from just above the Roanoke River to the top of Mill Mountain, once crossing the J.B. Fishburn Parkway. The return to the Star Trail parking lot follows the same route.

Maurice Turner 540-334-2128

**Sunday, September 7, 2008 8:00AM
Brushy Mountain (Rt 16) to Dickey Gap (Rt 16)**

14.7 miles, Strenuous, \$9.00 carpool fee
71 miles from Roanoke

This hike will start at the Mt. Rogers NRA headquarters building and head south on the A.T., crossing the south fork of the Holston River around the halfway point. It will then conclude with a 1,200 climb up to High Point. It will pass two shelters along the way.

John Miller 375-3250
Hugh Hall 725-8874

**Sunday, September 7, 2008 1:30PM
Hoop Hole, Lower Loop – Beginner Hike**

4.0 miles, Easy, \$4.00 carpool fee
28 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, the hike makes a loop by following two delightfully wild streams: Hipes Branch and Stony Run. Both of these pass through steep-sided canyons and have plenty of cascades and deep pools. While there is little change in elevation, there are many stream crossings – some of which may be tricky if the water is high.

Zetta Campbell 366-8165

**Sunday, September 14, 2008 8:00AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to
Trout Creek (Rt. 620)**

12.9 miles, Strenuous, \$1.00 carpool fee
9 miles from Roanoke

Located in Roanoke and Craig County, the hike follows the roller coaster Sawtooth Ridge, with views of Fort Lewis Mountain on the left and Cove Mountain and North Mountain on the right. The hike continues over Sandstone Ridge and then you begin the climb to Dragon's Tooth. From there it descends Cove Mountain to Trout Creek.

Kris Peckman.....366-7780

**Sunday, September 14, 2008 1:00PM
Apple Orchard Falls, Cornelius Creek Loop**

5.7 miles, Moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee
26 miles from Roanoke

This is a popular hike located in the North Creek camping area, near Arcadia. A blue-blazed trail, steep in places, leads uphill to Apple Orchard Falls. The falls are impressive and the trail has been greatly improved in recent years. Beyond the falls, a crossover path leads to the Cornelius Creek Trail which follows the creek downhill - back to the parking area.

Mervin & Blanche Brower387-9732

We will be working on relocating a short section of worn-out trail on Tinker Ridge.

8:00AM:
Charles Parry..... 540-951-1402
Dick Clark..... 989-7053
1:00PM:
Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732

**Sunday, September 28, 2008 8:00AM
Old Hotel Trail, Cole Mountain Loop**

6.2 miles, Moderate, \$7.50 carpool fee
57 miles from Roanoke

Located in Amherst County some 20 miles northeast of Buena Vista, this loop hike offers some of the most outstanding views anywhere in the area. The Old Hotel Trail trailhead is at Hog Camp Gap, roughly 8 miles from route 60 on a dirt and gravel road. The trail climb steadily through woods and an open area, passing an A.T. shelter (during the stagecoach days there was an inn in this area, but nothing remains of it today). The trail intersects the A.T. at Cow Camp Gap. Following the A.T. north, the route climbs Cole (a.k.a. Cold) Mountain. The summit of Cole Mountain offers extraordinary views in all directions.

Gary Bible 977-2954

**Sunday, September 28, 2008 1:00PM
Read Mountain Trail**

4.5 miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee
7 miles from Roanoke

Join us for a hike up the newly opened trail to the summit of Read Mountain. The trail was built by the mid-week work crew.

Maurice Turner 540-334-2128

**Sunday, September 21 8:00AM & 1:00PM
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

0.5 miles, Moderate, \$.00 carpool fee
0 miles from Roanoke

**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

Name(s) _____ New Member Packet fee \$5.00 _____
Address _____ Indiv. # of years _____ x \$10.00 _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____ Family # of years _____ x \$15.00 _____
OR
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Individual life membership \$250.00 _____
Email _____ Family life membership \$300.00 _____
Year you joined RATC (make a guess!) _____ Donation \$ _____
Make checks payable to RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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 Sir Speedy Printer
344-8550 sirspeedy@rbnet.com

CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES**Corn Boil**

Saturday, August 2, 6-9PM
Wispering Pines Park

WORK HIKES

Saturday & Sunday, August 2 & 3 - 8:00 AM
Konnarock - Pine Swamp trail relocation

-
Sunday, August 24 - 8:00 AM
Pearis Mountain clip, blaze etc.

-
Sunday, September 21 - 8:00 AM
Tinker Ridge trail relocation

Hike Scheduling

Contact Mike Vaughn
992-1350 – mikeva999@yahoo.com

BOARD MEETINGS

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

Monday, July 21, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by *Bob Stimson*

Monday, September 8, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by *Roger Holnback & Liz Belcher*

**The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of
 The Appalachian Trail Conservancy
 and a member of The Nature Conservancy and the Western Virginia Land Trust**