

# TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

FALL 2002

*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.*

## Holiday Pot Luck

December 14, 6:00 PM  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Corner Brandon & Grandin

**We are saddened  
by the death of  
Ken Fitzgerald.**

**See obituary  
on page 4**

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## TRAIL BLAZER

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**CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES****Saturday, December 14 – 6:00 PM****Christ Lutheran Church****Holiday Pot Luck****WORK HIKES****Sunday, October 20 - 8:30 AM & 1:00 PM****Catawba Mountain****Sunday, November 10 - 8:30 AM & 1:00 PM****Catawba Mountain****Sunday, December 8 - 8:00 AM****Bailey's Gap****Hike Scheduling****Tuesday, November 5 - 7:00 PM****Hosted by *Suzanne Barnett*****BOARD MEETINGS****(All members are always welcome.****Please let the host know you plan to attend.)****Thursday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.****Hosted by *Mervin Brower*****Thursday, November 7, 7:30 p.m.****Host *Brian Chisom - Roanoke College*****Thursday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.****Hosted by *Lucien Metayer***

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

## Hike Schedule

**Guests** Visitors are always welcome. Come dressed for hiking. You are expected to follow the directions of the hike leaders.

**Transportation** You may drive your own car if you wish; however, the hike leader is responsible for arranging transportation and all will follow his/her directions. The carpool fee to help defray car expenses is noted on the schedule and should be given to the driver.

**Meeting Place** The point of departure is at the discretion of the hike leader, so always check with the leader when planning to attend.

**Sunday, October 6, 2002, 8:00 AM  
Montebello Fish Hatchery to Hog Camp Gap-  
Amherst County**

11-miles, moderate to strenuous, \$4.00 carpool fee  
Laura Montague 725-3682,  
Bobbie Stitcher 890-2140

**Sunday, October 6, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Carvins Cove Boat Launch to Cemetery**

5-miles, easy, \$1.50 carpool fee  
Sue Scanlin 989-0497, Jean Warren 384-6229

**Sunday, October 13, 2002, 8:30 AM  
Douthat State Park**

9-miles, moderate to strenuous, \$3.50 carpool fee  
John Lynham 336-292-7637,  
Maurice Turner 334-2128

**Sunday, October 13, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Andy Layne Trail to Tinker Cliffs**

8-miles, moderate to strenuous, \$2.50 carpool fee  
Kenny Garrett 890-8946,  
Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Sunday, October 20, 2002, 8:30 AM  
Workhike—Catawba Mountain**

\$1.50 carpool fee  
Charles Parry 540-951-1402,  
Bob & Kris Peckman 366-7780

**Sunday, October 20, 2002, 1:00 PM  
McAfee's Knob**

7-miles, moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee  
Dave Sutton 774-0648, Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Sunday, October 20, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Workhike—Catawba Mountain**

\$1.50 carpool fee  
Meet with the 1:00 PM hike to McAfee's Knob

**Sunday, October 27, 2002, 8:00 AM  
113-mile hike #4, Rt. 311 to Rt. 779**

13-miles, moderate-strenuous, \$2.50 carpool fee  
Bobbie Stitcher 890-2140,  
Laura Montague 725-3682

**Sunday, October 27, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Flat Top**

5-miles, moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee  
Linda Akers 776-1969, Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Sunday, November 3, 2002, 8:30 AM  
Hoop Hole**

9-miles, moderate to strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee  
John Lynham 336-292-7637,  
Kenny Garrett 890-8946

**Sunday, November 3, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Daleville to Hay Rock**

7-miles, moderate, no carpool fee  
Mervin and Blanche Brower 387-9732

**Tuesday, November 5, 2002, 7:00 PM  
Winter Hike Scheduling**

Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Saturday, November 9, 2002, 7:00 AM  
Fox Creek to Massie Gap**

11 miles, moderate to strenuous \$4.50 carpool fee  
Jimmy Whitney 344-4117

**Sunday, November 10, 2002, 8:30 AM  
Workhike- Catawba Mountain**

\$1.50 carpool fee  
Charles Parry 540-951-1402,  
Leonard and Laurie Adkins 384-7485

**Sunday, November 10, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Workhike- Catawba Mountain**

\$1.50 carpool fee  
Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

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## President's Message

Thirty years ago huge chunks of the Appalachian Trail were in unsuitable locations, crossed private property or were otherwise unprotected. In Virginia, for example, most of the trail between Shenandoah National Park and the West Virginia state line was routed along secondary roads.

Today the situation is quite different: with the recent resolution of the Saddleback Mountain controversy in Maine, about 99% of the Appalachian trail is now under permanent protection. Does this mean that we can sit back and rest on our laurels? (Oops ? gotta run! The cliché police are closing in!) ... Not a chance.

As the twenty-first century unfolds, the challenges that we face are monumental. Cellular phone towers, utility line crossings, wind farms, creeping suburbia, noise pollution and smog are just some of the more obvious issues that affect, if not the Appalachian Trail per se, the overall trail experience. And on a more subtle level are such

things as commercial use of the trail and handicapped accessibility.

Clearly the pressures will continue to increase – probably exponentially. As Pam Underhill of the Appalachian Trail Park Office puts it, “Nobody likes us. The Appalachian Trail is in everybody’s way.”

To win this fight, the stewards of the trail must anticipate problems rather than react to them. We must use a variety of strategies ranging from political activism, community involvement and education to acquisition of viewsheds by outright purchase or conservation easements.

The physical Appalachian Trail is largely intact. Getting there was relatively easy. Now comes the hard part.

***Dick Clark***

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## Trail Supervisor's Report

We had 10 people earn Konnarock T-shirts by working 5 or more days with the crews, but only 18 people work with the crews. I consider this very good depth, but rather poor breadth. I wish to thank everyone who worked with the crews. The T-shirt winners were Laurie Adkins, Suzanne Barnett, Fred Coughlan, Bill Floyd, Bill Gordge, Jim Hutchings, Linda Hutchings, Ron McCorkle, Jim Overholzer and Charles Parry. I believe that Fred and Jim O. are first time winners. Hopefully, it won't be their

last time.

This fall we will get back to work on the Catawba Mtn. Trail. The first order of business will be to establish a good trail in the neighborhood of the new parking lot. After that we will continue to install steps and make other improvements between 311 and the Catawba Mtn. Shelter. I hope to see many of you out there.

***Charles Parry***

## Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

**Jerry Austin,  
Ray Batiato,  
Carol Broderson,  
Jennifer Divers,**

**Jeanne Duddy,  
Joanne Gaeta,  
Dan & Donna Haley,**

**Raymond F. McKee ,  
Patrick B. Setter,  
and Bob Stimson**

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

*Mervin Brower*

## Ken Fitzgerald (1914-2002)

Those of us who knew and hiked with Ken were saddened to hear of his passing.

Ken joined the RATC in 1959 and was club president four times.

I always enjoyed hiking with Ken, as he would tell stories of hikes back in the “old days”. They would catch a train to a trailhead in Arcadia and other places, hike, and then get back in time to catch the return train back to Roanoke. One embarrassing hike for Ken occurred when he dropped us off at a no longer existing parking lot on Route 624 north of Dragon’s Tooth, then drove around to pick us up on Route 620 south of Pickle Branch Shelter (which didn’t exist at that time). The problem was that one had to ford Trout Creek, which had no bridge in

those days. When Ken wasn’t found at the end of the hike, we walked up to the creek crossing just in time to see a farmer with a tractor pulling Ken’s car out of the creek. He said that he had hoped the farmer would have got the car out before we got there.

Ken’s love of hiking wasn’t diminished with the health problems which accompany advancing years. He would take his grandchildren out for walks in the woods after he could no longer hike with the club.

He is probably doing his celestial hiking with Andy, Phil and Gary, who had gone on before to clear some trail.

*Ed Wallace*

**Corn Boil** - The August 10 Corn Boil was attended by over 45 club members and Konnarock work crew. The entertainment was by the Front Porch Bluegrass Band of Catawba.

**Holiday Pot Luck** - Just like the malls, we’re already thinking about the December Holidays. The annual holiday pot-luck dinner will be Saturday, December 14, 6:00 PM at Christ Lutheran Church, the corner of Brandon and Grandin Avenues in Roanoke. The club will provide table settings and beverage. Members are to bring a dish to share. In the spirit of the season, we are considering asking members to bring a gift to either a charity, or “the Trail”. Details will be included in the reminder card a few weeks before the dinner.

We look forward to seeing you. RSVP by Dec 12 to Dave and Lucy Downs 384-7219 dwnhmbb@rbnet.com and also RSVP if you can come at 5 and help set up

*Dave & Lucy Downs*

## Hike Reports

### Sunday, April 21, 2002, 1:00 PM Montvale Overlook to Bobblets Gap & back

Jim Law (leader), Cindy Bowles, Greg and Julie Weidmann, Vada Sarsfield

The assigned leader, Kenny Garrett, had to go out of town on business, so the assistant took over.

Great day for a hike—overcast with cool breezes and occasional sprinkles of rain. Breaks in the clouds gave us glimpses of the valleys and mountain tops. Some wildflowers were in bloom.

Cindy found a “magic” stick to ward off snakes and took lead point for a while. Greg and Julie, having relocated from Wilmington, NC, were adjusting to terrain changes. Cindy and Vada “kidnapped” a beetle, claiming it was trying to flee its present environment!

Oh! Jim fell in the mud! Great day for a hike!

### Saturday, May 18, 2002, 6:00 AM. Old Rag

Jim Law (leader), Kenny Garrett (assistant), Kenny’s son, and Sharon

Four people showed up during the early morning downpour of rain. Due to forecasted rain and high winds, and the type of terrain, a decision was made to cancel the hike.

### Saturday & Sunday, June 1&2, 2002 , 8:00 AM Whiterocks Workhike

Charles Parry (leader), Hal Cantrill (assistant), Mike Ferguson (Sunday assistant), Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan, Suzanne Barnett, Marianne Demkó

Dana and Fred followed me up Salt Pond Mountain to the War Spur Trail parking area. A few minutes later Hal arrived saying that Suzanne and Marianne had failed to show up at the Orange Market. We decided what we were going to do for the day and were about to leave when a white car

came around the bend. It was Suzanne and Marianne, so we had to amend our plans. We decided that Hal and the girls would do the Windrock – War Spur loop while the other three of us would do the Bailey Gap section. We proceeded to the Windrock parking area where one crew started work. The rest of us left Dana’s truck there for our return trip and proceeded down to the Rocky Mtn. Road trail crossing, where we began work. The work for the day was clipping and blowdown removal. We saw several hikers during the day, including one south bounder who had met the other crew. The morning was uneventful, but at lunchtime we started hearing thunder. It kept getting louder for about an hour and a half before it finally hit. It was a good heavy rain and hail, but fortunately no close lightning. Fortunately, it did not last too long and we were soon back at work. Dana used his global positioning gadget a couple of times to see how far we were from VA 613. We finally got there shortly after 5, and as we expected, the others were gone. We drove down to the Rocky Mtn. Road to retrieve my truck, before Dana and Fred departed.

I drove down to the campground to find Hal already had a tarp and his tent set up. The other three of us planned to sleep in the vehicles. Marianne was the only one with enough energy to walk the nature trail. Hal supplied us with his usual fresh baked biscuits and cookies. Suzanne had company during the night, in the form of a mouse that had gotten in her car.

Shortly after getting up we heard thunder, so I hurriedly packed up my camping gear and got the tools back inside my truck. It wasn’t much of a storm, but it hit during breakfast. We decided that Hal would shuttle the girls and me to the Rocky Mtn. Road trail crossing and then he would meet Mike down on the Stony Creek Road. The three of us crossed the Stony Creek Road before noon and proceeded about half a mile where we found Mike setting on a large blowdown that I already knew about. It took us 15 minutes or so to clear the trail. As Hal had not yet arrived, we decided to eat

lunch. Hal arrived before we finished. After lunch, we proceeded back to the parking area and everybody except Mike and I decided to leave. About a quarter mile north of the Stony Creek Road, I noticed a section of about 100 feet where the trail was a stream and wanted to relocate to higher ground. Mike and I looked it over and discussed options, before deciding on a minimal relocation. We cleared out the brush and decided to move a few rocks. The only tool we had was a pulaski, which was slightly better than nothing. Unfortunately, we uncovered a large nest of rocks, but after a bit of a struggle, we made it into a halfway decent trail. The next job was to put a new roof on the register box. That only took a few minutes and then Mike departed. I still wanted to do some weedeating and walked in about a quarter of a mile to a grassy area. As soon as I started the weedeater, the last foot of cord came flying out. I tried unsuccessfully to put it back in, so had to return to the truck for new cord to rewind the weedeater. The next time I was successful. After completing that task I headed home thinking that we had a productive weekend.

**Sunday, June 2, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Rhododendron Hike  
Thunder Ridge to Cornelius Shelter**

Mervin & Blanche Brower (leaders), Gary Hale, Sarah Burns, Henry Hall, Christopher Dalton, Lonnie Dalton, Loraine Dalton, Lynn Carter, Paul Blaiklock, Louis Smith, Don Lawhorn, Garry Adams, Zetta Campbell

The hike started from Market Square East on Route 460. We organized the car switch at the parking lot to leave one car at Cornelius Creek shelter and then drive on to Thunder Ridge. The day was nice and sunny and the temperature was about 80° F. The Rhododendron were just coming out on the trail and on the Blue Ridge parkway north of the Peaks of Otter they were giving a very impressive display. At the Cornelius Creek shelter we saw a deer wearing a collar and which did not seem to be too afraid of hikers. We were in two groups: Blanche and Zetta in the rear, then the rest of us. Zetta stopped at the Sunset strip where we picked her up. Blanche put on a fast walk and caught up to us before the cars got back from the car switch.

**Saturday, June 8, 2002, 9:30 AM  
Seven Mile Mountain**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Suzanne Barnett (assistant), Keith Hennessy, Doug Hibshman, Tracy Kidd, Shannon Johnson

What a beautiful hike this was! The air was clear, the humidity down, the sky blue with white fleecy clouds. Laurel was in full bloom and was the glory of this hike. On the ridge we walked through mile after mile of the white blooms. Both leaders enthusiastically recommend this hike at this time of the year. We could add this to our other special spring hikes: trillium hike, ladyslipper hike, fire pink hike, and call it the "laurel hike". The trail was in good shape. There were some blowdowns needing some chainsaw work, but nothing too bad.

**Sunday, June 9, 2002,  
113-mile Hike #11  
Big Horse Gap to Pearisburg & RT 460**

Kenny Garrett & HR Blankenship (co-leaders), Don Hoke, Gary Hale, Dana Helsley, Maurice Turner, Laura Montague, Gary Bible, C.W. Houghton, Carol Broderson, Jim Folger, Harry Neumann, Laurie Baumfield

What a beautiful day for a walk. The sky was clear, the breeze was light, and the temperatures remained in the low 80s. We had a wonderful group for this stroll. The ridge line took us through laurel, azaleas, and rhododendron. We saw one deer, at least 100 chipmunks, and numerous birds. We had an early lunch at Doc's Knob Shelter, and then onward towards the New River. The best view of the day was at the overlook of Wilburn Valley. We encountered a few blowdowns north of Doc's Knob and a little clearing is needed for some of us taller hikers. Ten walked 12 miles, while three of us went 14 miles to the parking area at the south end of Peters Mountain.

**Weekend, June 13-17, 8:00 AM  
Konnarock - Bailey Gap**

Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Jim Hutchings, Linda Hutchings, Fred Coughlan, Laurie Adkins, Ron McCorkle

Konnarock Crew: Mike Dwyer, Jason Sherer, Alex Nichols, Mel Cooper, Malcolm Gillis, Caroline Ailanthus, Joe Lowe, Jon Phipps

All the club members worked at least two days with Jim and Linda putting in the maximum of five. The work was in two areas and I am only qualified to report on one, as I neither participated in nor saw the other one. The two types of work were installation of waterbars and check dams between The Rocky Mtn. Road and Bailey Gap Shelter and rock work to the north of the Shelter. As Hal and I decided to come in from the upper road, we only saw the rock work. I was impressed by both the quantity and quality of the rock work. Having hiked this entire section of trail on a workhike two weeks earlier, I am sure that we did not get half done with what needs doing, but it was a very good beginning. It has been 25 years (1977) since we moved the trail off the road to its present location. The day that we first blazed it we noticed the problem with all the rocks. Hopefully, it won't take another 25 years to finish the job we started this year.

**Sunday, June 23, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Chessie Nature Trail**

Suzanne Barnett (leader), Ralph Hart, Paul Blaiklock, Pat Cousins

We started out from Daleville and got on I-81 N. After going a short ways we ran into backed-up traffic caused by a tractor-trailer wreck past the Natural Bridge exit. As I was driving my car I got off at the Arcadia exit and got on the frontage road, but Ralph and Paul did not get off until Natural Bridge. Since we got separated we did not see each other for the rest of the day. Pat and I took the Lexington end of the Chessie Trail and Ralph and Paul walked the Buena Vista end.

**Sunday, June 30, 2002, 8:30 AM  
Wind Rock to Rocky Gap**

Linda Akers 776-1969 & Bobbie Sticher 890-2140 – No Report.

**Sunday, June 30, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Sawtooth Ridge to Blacksburg Road**

Blanche & Mervin Brower (leaders),

Jean Warren, Harry Ballard, Paul Blaiklock, Blake Mitnick, Sherry Kessel, Zetta Campbell.

We left the Orange Market parking lot at 1:05 and drove to the start of the trail on Catawba Mountain. A car switch was arranged where we left the slower hikers to start the hike and we took two cars to be left on Blacksburg Road. The car switch people caught up with the other hikers and passed them. All cars were waiting for the other hikers when they finished their hike. The weather was overcast and the temperature in the 80s. It was a pleasant outing for all involved.

**Sunday, July 7, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Petites Gap to Thunder Ridge**

Mervin and Blanche Brower (leaders), Betty Matthews, Charlotte Lomax, Skip Abercrombie, Steve Rittenhouse, Dana Helsley, Paul Blaiklock, Carolyn Baratta, Liz Wicks, Zetta Campbell.

The hike started from Market Square East on Route 460. We organized the car switch at the parking lot to leave one car at Thunder Ridge and then drive on to Petites Gap. This meant that no one had to wait for the car to be taken to the parking lot. The climb up from Petites Gap is fairly long but gives one a good work out. The temperature was in the 80s and sunny. We could see where the trail had just been maintained and it was in great shape. Everything was very dry. The thing we saw most of were butterflies.

**Sunday, July 14 & 21, 2002, 8:00 AM  
Brushy Mtn. Workhike  
Jenny's Knob Re-roofing Project**

Day 1: July 14

Charles Parry, Kenny Garrett, Dana Helsley, Bill Floyd, Walter Parry, Dorothy Hoskins

Day 2: July 21

Charles Parry, Kenny Garrett, Dorothy Hoskins, Greg Still, Dave Cheslow, Chris McNabb

On both days we met at Licksillet Hollow about 9:30. On both days, we drove the short road section of trail before unloading. On Day 1 we had 9 1/2 bundles of shingles, felt, drip-edge, nails and tools to carry in. We had the not so trusty two-wheel cart to carry the load in. We hoped that two

trips would be enough to get everything in. Almost immediately, we started having trouble with the cart wheels and realized we needed more washers to hold them together. There were some on the cart that we could rob, but the nuts wouldn't come loose. I had two crescent wrenches in my truck, so headed back after them. When I got back, I learned the others had made a rope washer that was working fairly well. After a while we noticed the wheel on the low side of the trail was taking a beating. We swapped wheels and added more washers, but soon began to notice the axle was bent. Bill volunteered to carry a bundle to lighten the load. Shortly thereafter we decided to abandon ship and carry the material in. We were about 3/4 of the way in but still had half the shingles back at the trailhead. Everybody made two trips and some made three. It was hard work, but we had it all in by around 2 o'clock. About that time Kenny suggested that we come back next week to finish the job. We decided to re-roof the privy that day and let the shelter wait a week. That worked fine and we got back to the vehicles around 4:30 just as it started to rain. Kenny had brought a tarp, so we had covered the shingles felt and nails, but packed out all the tools. We decided that we needed at least one more bundle of shingles, so I picked up an extra bundle during the week and brought half a bundle of a slightly different color that I had in stock for starter strips.

Kenny had told me about a few blowdowns on this section and asked me to bring a chainsaw, which I did and got them all removed without incident. Kenny also told me about a small one near the Pearis Cemetery so I decided to get that on the way home. I found it and made one cut with no problem. After moving it out of the way I noticed that I needed to make another cut and proceeded to start the saw, but the starter cord snapped. I realized that I was lucky that it had not broken back near the shelter. I had a hand saw in my pack that would have finished the job, but had left it in my truck. As I need to go back there to cut grass, I left it.

On day 2, I brought my wheelbarrow for transporting shingles. As I also wanted to cut the grass in the field above Kimberling Creek, I also had the sickle-bar mower in the back of my little truck. The others had a head start on me since I had to drive my truck back to the parking area and

walk the road to the trailhead. I began to think that I was not going to catch them when I heard voices, but we were already over halfway in. Everything was working fine this time and we got to the shelter without difficulty. I would have preferred burning the old shingles, but the Forest Service told me that was against their regulations.

Therefore, we agreed to bury them away from the shelter and trails. The first day, Dorothy and I chose a spot that was clear of brush and stacked the old shingles near there. Today we had to dig a hole to bury them. Chris and Dorothy volunteered for that job, Kenny and Greg stripped the old ones off, while Dave and I loaded them into the wheelbarrow and transported them to their final resting place. The old shingles were off and everything transported to the burial site well before lunchtime. Dave joined the grave diggers and I joined the roofers. By lunch time we had the front side of the roof done. Shortly after lunch a hiker came in and was out of water. We gave him some and showed him where the water source was. We had about finished the roof by the time he returned. He had found some water and headed back to get his pack. We finished the roof with about half a dozen shingles to spare, which were stored under the shelter. We discovered that one grave had been filled, but that a second smaller one was needed. It was already started and with three fresh diggers, it went pretty fast. We returned to the shelter to pick things up just as another hiker arrived. He had met the boy without water. He left before we got things packed up. The only thing we left were the extra shingles. Kenny did some clipping on the way out and was going over to clip near the Kimberling Creek bridge. Greg and I headed over to mow and clip the trail through the open field. We saw two more hikers, but the work was otherwise uneventful. I noticed that one of the green and white AT signs on the big bend in the field had been stolen. As I keep spares in my truck and we had hammer and nails, I told Greg I thought that we should replace it. That was the last trail work for the day.

It was great having some new people help with the job. Dorothy was there both days and Chris the second day. Also Greg is relatively new. We hope to see more of all three.

**Sunday, July 14, 2002, 1:00 PM  
McAfee's Knob**

Weather was unpredictable. No one showed up at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock.

**Sunday, July 21, 2002, 8:00 AM  
Crabtree Falls and the Priest**

Bobbie Sticher (leader), Laura Montague (assistant), H.R. Blankenship, Gary Hale

Since the parking lot for Crabtree Falls was closed due to enlarging it to accommodate more cars, we decided to start the hike from the Montebello Fish hatchery and hike on the A.T. to the Tye River. Some of us visited Spy Rock and we saw many Turk's cap lilies. Laura and Bobbie ate lunch at the Priest shelter and had the only rain of the day during our lunch!!!! After lunch we began the descent of 3,100 feet and 37 switchbacks to the Tye River.

**Sunday, July 21, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Roaring Run**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Carolyn Baratta, Georgia Gallaher, Robert Guthrie, Helen Guthrie

Because Zetta's mother is not supposed to be left by herself any more, Suzanne Barnett, the assistant, assisted by staying with Zetta's mother so Zetta could go and lead the hike.

Although the group was small, we had a good time. Sometimes it is more fun with a small group. Things had changed since Zetta and Carolyn had been to Roaring Run; so the group had to search a bit before finding the trail. We found a new sign directing the way to the falls, but the trail kept to this side of the run at first instead of crossing a bridge to the other side. On this sign there were also directions to the connecting trail with Hoop Hole Trail. We decided to trust the sign, and sure enough, we got to the falls! Although this is a very short hike, the area is beautiful. After admiring the falls, we returned by the high trail, going by the furnace, going across the bridge, and back to the car. At the car, we had an interesting talk with a real railroad engineer, and his friend, who worked for Norfolk Southern.

**Sunday, July 28, 2002, 8:00 AM  
113-mile hike #3, Daleville to Rt. 779**

Laura Montague (leader), Gary Hale and Maurice Turner (assistants), Linda King, Carol Broderson, Fred Meager

Our original leader John Lynham had a scheduling conflict so I was promoted to leader, and Gary and Maurice volunteered to step up to the position of assistants. We had two hikers from out of town - Carol from Independence VA and a guest - Fred - all the way from Charleston, West Virginia. The day was hot and sunny and we had beautiful views into Daleville and Carvin's Cove. Everyone came off the trail together and we immediately headed for the cold drink section of the store at the end of the trail!

**Sunday, July 28, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Buffalo Mountain**

Suzanne Barnett (leader), Butch Nottelman, Sherry Kessel, and Skip Abercrombie

We had a very hot day to hike. We all rode in one car. The men had never been to Buffalo Mountain and found as we always do the beauty of that mountain's surroundings. Going up we went on the Parkway, but coming back on Rt. 221 we were able to go through Floyd. Sherry wanted the men, who are newcomers to the Roanoke Valley, to see the sights of that country town.

**Sunday, Aug 4, 2002, 1:30 PM  
Rt. 621 to Niday Shelter**

Suzanne Barnett and Dave Sutton (leaders), along with Mary Lou Gaminde, Georgia Gallaher, and Ann Rogers

As usual it was in the 90s this Sunday afternoon. But being together and talking to one another made the hike a pleasant one. We took a break at the shelter. Then we walked down to the water source. There were mushrooms of many shapes and sizes. We returned to the trail and had a nice time walking to our cars.

**Sat and Sun. August 8 & 12, 8:00 AM  
Konarock Crew - Angel's Rest Workhike**

Charles Parry (leader), Bill Gordge (assistant), Bill Floyd, Suzanne Barnett, Jim Overholser, Jerry Austin, Laurie Adkins, Leonard Adkins, Malcolm Black, Ron

McCorkle, Nick Mehl, Jody Bickel, Dorothy Hoskins, Fred Coughlan, Dana Helsley, Greg Still

**Konnarock Crew:** Mike Dwyer, Jason Sherer, Johnny Secrest, Mac McDaniel, Paul O'Sheid, Heidi Hase, Rory Krichbaum, Christina Kemp, John Giacalone

Good weather and good club turnouts translated into getting a lot of work done. The club volunteers started near the top of the mountain and some of us never got too far down. The club members divided into two groups: a step group and a re-grading group. The former group worked in two separate locations near the top and installed over 30 rock steps. The digging crew covered somewhere close to a mile of trail. The Konnarock Crew arrived Thurs. afternoon and began work on the long rocky drainage. Progress was slow at first, but by Saturday at quitting time it was close to completion. On Sunday, some of the crew members came up to work on the second, but smaller drainage. Bill Floyd and I were still building steps in the area and we helped each other move big rocks as needed. We made a lot of use of the club come-along, both going up and down hill with the rocks. Some rocks in the 500 to 700 lb. range were moved quite easily.

Our casualty list for the week included 4 broken sledgehammer handles. Somehow smashing rocks seems to take its toll on sledgehammer handles.

This work had been on my to-do list for about 20 years. It was the first time the crew had worked on my section of trail and I was very pleased with the results. As I still have a significant to-do list for my section of trail, I hope we can get the crew back there in less than another 20 years.

**Sunday, Aug 11, 2002, 1:00 PM  
Stiles Falls**

Bobbie Stitcher (leader), Linda Akers (assistant), Cindy Bowles, Georgia Gallaher, Jimmy Ribble, Ralph Hart, Ester Kargl, Marianne Demkó, Sherry Kessel, Doug Hibshman, Gloria Elliott, Paul Blaiklock, Mary L. Gaminde, Emory Richardson and Carolyn Baratta

On a hot Sunday afternoon we drove to Alta Mons and 14 hikers began the hike to Stiles Falls. There was just a trickle of water running down the falls. We rested on the many rocks at the falls and then hiked back to our cars and returned to Roanoke.

**Sunday, Aug 18, 2002, 10 AM  
Warspur-Chestnut Trail and AT**

Ed Wallace (leader), Terri McClure (assistant), Reid McClure, Scott Ikard, Evan Sandefur, Pat Cousins, Doug Hibshman

We started the hike too late to finish in time for the buffet at Mountain Lake Hotel. Costs too much anyway - \$17.95.

Nothing uneventful or eventful to report about the hike – just a usual generic hike, not that that is bad.

**Sunday, August 18, 2002, 1 PM  
Apple Orchard Falls from Sunset Fields**

Dave Sutton (leader), Georgia Gallaher (assistant), Mary Lou Gaminde, Marianne Demkó, Betty Mathews, Charlotte Lomax, Mervin and Blanche Brower, Carolyn Baratta, Paul Blaiklock.

The hike began at Sunset Fields and headed downhill all the way for 1.3 miles to Apple Orchard Falls. The weather forecast called for a chance of thunderstorms but all we heard was thunder and no rain. When we reached the falls we had quenched our thirsts with the drinks we each brought, and snacked on our food. We stopped for a while to view what was only a trickle of water down the falls but it was still an inspiration. A super nice bridge and observation deck has been added for the comfort of hikers. On the way back, which was much more strenuous, some of the hikers took the Cornelius Creek Loop trail; however, Georgia and Marianne missed the turnoff and arrived at the finish a bit later than expected but we were sure happy to see them!

**Sunday, Aug 25, 2002, 8 AM  
113-mile hike #13, Ribble Trail to Rt. 611**

Kenny Garrett (leader), Maurice Turner (assistant), H.R. Blankenship, Dorothy Hoskins, Linda King, Laura Montague, Don Hoke, Gary Hale, Carol Broderson

After a brief discussion, we decided to start this walk at Rt. 611 and go north to the Ribble Trail. The sky was overcast, which helped keep the temperatures in the low 80s. Everyone picked their own comfortable pace and enjoyed a beautiful day in the mountains. We observed a few deer, squirrels and chipmunks. We took our first break at Jenny's Knob shelter to admire the recent work on the shelter. Many thanks are in order to Dave Cheslow for the shelter hooks and privy toilet paper mailbox. Our next stop was for lunch at a newer blue-blaze overlook just south of Kimberling Creek. The view was fantastic. A couple of people also enjoyed the blue-blaze to Dismal Falls. All in all, a most satisfying day!!

**Hike Schedule (Cont.)**

**Sunday, November 17, 2002, 9:00 AM**  
**113-mile hike #5, Sawtooth Ridge to Dragon's Tooth Parking Lot**

7-miles, moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee  
 Bobbie Stitche 890-2140, Linda Akers 776-1969

**Sunday, November 17, 2002, 1:00 PM**  
**Harkening Hill**

4-miles, moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee  
 Dave Sutton 774-0648, Sue Scanlin 989-0497

**Sunday, November 24, 2002, 9:00 AM**  
**Shelter Workhike—Laurel Creek**

\$2.00 carpool fee  
 Ron McCorkle 982-8289

**Sunday, November 24, 2002, 1:00 PM**  
**Chestnut Ridge Trail**

5-miles, moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee  
 Dave Sutton 774-0648, Jean Warren 384-6229

**Sunday, December 1, 2002, 8:00 AM**  
**113-mile, hike # 6**  
**Dragon's Tooth Parking Lot to Trout Creek**

7- miles, moderate to strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee  
 Bobbie Stitche 890-2140, Linda Akers 776-1969

**Sunday, December 1, 2002, 1:00 PM**  
**Fort Lewis Mountain**

6-miles, moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee  
 Ed Wallace 774-0175, Maurice Turner 334-2128

**Sunday, December 8, 2002, 8:00 AM**  
**Workhike—Bailey's Gap**

\$3.50 carpool fee  
 Charles Parry 540-951-1402,  
 Mike Ferguson 344-8525

**Sunday, December 8, 2002, 1:00 PM**  
**Roanoke Mountain Loop**

4-miles, easy, \$1.50 carpool fee  
 Dave Sutton 774-0648, Sue Scanlin 989-0497

**Sunday, December 15, 2002, 8:00 AM**  
**Black Horse Gap to Bearwallow Gap**

9-miles, moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee  
 Kenny Garrett 890-8946,  
 Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Sunday, December 15, 2002, 1:00 PM**  
**Wolf Creek Greenway**

4-miles, easy, \$1.50 carpool fee  
 Maurice Turner 334-2128, Ed Wallace 774-0175

**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     New 1 year \$20     New 2 year \$35     Renew 1 year \$15     Renew 2 year \$30  
 Individual Member     New 1 year \$15     New 2 year \$25     Renew 1 year \$10     Renew 2 year \$20  
 Make checks payable to **RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282**     Life \$500