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.

Social Chairman Needed!
The Corn Boil is the creation of Ken Fitzgerald, who organized it from buying the corn to gathering the volunteers. Maybe we could have a Corn-Boil person like Ken, etc. and spread the social job around. Carolyn shucked the corn herself last year and that is sick! We need a few good men and women to step forward. I’m sure that Carolyn would be willing to help you.

Bob Peckman

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

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President’s Message

This is my first Blazer report as the new club president, and I am pleased to report that due to the old hands still on the RATC board, I can do little harm, but in fact have little to do except keep the meetings under three hours and on task. Sometimes it’s like herding cats, but the desserts after our meetings made by our member/hosts makes it all worth it. As it was ten years ago when I began my involvement with the ATC and RATC, I am still amazed by the level of passion and commitment to the protection and maintenance of the trail that our members provide. It is a great group of folks who care for the ribbon of trail that is the AT, and a wonderful partnership of volunteers, non-profits and state and federal partners that make it all happen. I am honored to be the RATC president and do what I can to keep the RATC going, and as executive director of the Western Virginia Land Trust, I will continue to make protecting the trail corridor in SW Virginia a priority for that organization as well.

Cindy Schiffer, the District Ranger from the New River Ranger District, spent a lot of time with our Board, explaining the Rocky Mountain prescribed burn because the AT will be used as a control line for this and many other prescribed burns. By using an existing road, trail or stream, their first choice when it comes to control lines, they don’t create a new path through the woods. The Forest Plan recognizes this as a good approach and includes the use of prescribed fire as an appropriate activity in the AT corridor. Using the AT as a control line means they will go along the trail and blow the leaves off, cut out any blow down in the trail, and brush the trail to the minimum necessary to keep the fire from jumping the trail. This is, in essence, doing basic trail maintenance work. Then when they implement the burn, they back burn off of this line with a very light, slow burning, and low intensity fire along the line. The objective is to widen this control line by burning up the ground fuels (mostly leaf litter and dry grasses) next to the line. At no time would a fire near a control line be intense enough to kill rhododendron. Additionally, in wet, rocky bottoms there is very little fuel consumption at all, but it is enough to strengthen our control line to control the prescribed burn.

A committee from the RATC Board made up of Charles Parry, Liz Belcher and myself went out with Cindy Schiffer to review the burn proposed for Rocky Mountain. Some preparation of the fire line has since been done, but this has been a very dry spring, and therefore not a good time to control a burn. But you will be seeing this and other prescribed burns in the future when all the stars line up, i.e. the spring is wet, the helicopter and crews are available, etc.

And the Board was impressed that a powerhouse like Cindy Schiffer would take the time to come to our meeting and go out with the committee to bring us all on board!

Roger Holnback

Vice President’s Idea

An RATC membership is a great gift for friends and relatives. The cost is very low and the benefits are large. You already know how much invaluable information our newsletter provides on hikes and activities in our region. We think it is impossible to find a better value and your gift will be re-appreciated as each new issue arrives. Who do you know that would benefit by knowing more about the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club? Use the new application section of this newsletter to start their membership today!

Greg Tinaglia
**Trail Supervisor's Report**

A reminder that the Konnarock crew will be working on the Angel’s Rest trail June 28 – July 3 and July 20 – 24. The work site is only about 1/2 mile above the road crossing below the Rest. We will be putting in a couple of new switchbacks and doing some step work as well as some drainage control. Our August work hike will be in the Laurel Creek area, putting in steps where the trail descends to the creek. In September, we will do some step work to the north of McAfee Knob.

For 2007 we have three weeks of Konnarock for the Angel’s Gap relocation. Hopefully, the land deal will be completed by that time. We have two weeks of Konnarock approved for each of 2008 and 2009.

There will be a chainsaw certification course held at Konnarock base camp at Sugar Grove on July 22-23 and a crosscut saw certification course held at Sherando Lake on August 25 –26. Please let me know if you wish to take either course.

Hope to see lots of you on our work-hikes.

*Charles Parry*

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**Hikemaster’s Report**

I’m very pleased to take over as Hikemaster. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas for hikes or changes to our hike format. If you have been out on hikes several times and would feel comfortable assisting on a hike, let me know also.

Larry Austin, Dave Miller, and Vicky Herrala have recently earned their 113-Mile patches. This is quite an accomplishment. Members earn the patch by hiking all of the 113 miles of trail that the RATC maintains, from Route 611, south of Pearisburg to Black Horse Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Botetourt County (excluding the AT section on Peters Mountain, which is maintained by the Virginia Tech Club).

Diana Christopulos, one of our hike leaders, recently returned from a 30-day section hike. She hiked from Duncannon, PA to Hog Camp Gap, VA.

At our March banquet several hike leaders received hats and club T-shirts for leading multiple hikes over the past year. Hats for leading 4 - 6 hikes went to Gary Bible, Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Carl Cornett, Georgia Gallaher, Mary Gilbert, Lois Smith, and Maurice Turner. T-shirts for leading 7 – 8 hikes went to Linda Akers, Larry Austin, Kris Peckman, and Dave Sutton. Kenny Garrett received both for leading nine hikes.

*Mike Vaughn*

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**News from the ATC**

**Chain Saw Certification**

Howdy folks! As I am settling into my new job and the dust is clearing from a great start to the Konnarock season, I am beginning to work on training. So, with that in mind we have two sawyer safety courses scheduled for the summer; the dates and locations are listed below. Trail Supervisors, to reduce confusion (on my part) please gather the names and contact info for individuals interested in either course and send it to me rather than each individual sending it to me; I will then compile a roster for each course and get the appropriate materials and info to everyone.

Upcoming Courses:

- **Course:** Chainsaw
  - **Date(s):** July 22-23
  - **Location:** Konnarock Basecamp
  - **Instructor:** Warren Bonham

- **Course:** Crosscut
  - **Date(s):** August 25-26 (note: the 25th is a Friday)
  - **Location:** Sherando Lake
  - **Instructor:** Dennis Helton

Questions? Concerns? 540-961-5551

*Kerry Wood*
Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Dan, Mei Li, Angie, Nathan & Collen Foy
R. Lee Pyle
Debi Peters
Kevin Jordan
Jerry & Caroline Stidham
Robin Haldaman
Sarah Troy

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

Mervin Brower

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

Please include you email address!

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
Annual Summer Cornboil

At Green Hill Park, Salem, Va.
Saturday, July 22, 2006
Music and Food 6-9 PM

Bring a covered dish (big enough for the Konnarock Crew)
Hike Reports

**Sunday, March 5, 2006  1:00PM**
Roaring Run

Sue Scanlin (leader), Georgia Gallaher (assistant), Marianne Demkó, Carol Crosby, Hugh Hall

*(Editors note: I lost this one last time, sorry!)*

In spite of this having been a beautiful day to hike, only five of us accepted Mother Nature’s invitation. We had two meeting places, one at Towers at 12:30 and one at the Daleville commuter parking lot at 1 pm. That seems to work out fine.

Once at the trailhead, we followed the loop trail in a counterclockwise direction. It is such a pleasant – short but sweet – hike that we met quite a few others enjoying the scenery and sounds of Roaring Run as we did. We stopped for a bite to eat, talk, and explore leisurely at the top of the trail before returning to our cars and heading back to Roanoke.

A warm and sunny day, a nice group, and a beautiful area all added up to a great time for all of us.

**Sunday, March 19, 2006  8:30AM**
Sawtooth Work Hike

Charles Parry, Maurice Turner, Dana Helsley, Larry Austin, Jerry Kyle, Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower

Maurice and Larry cleared blow downs out on Sawtooth Ridge in the morning starting at the 311 parking lot and going south. At the same time Dana, Jerry and I drove out the fire-road to repair steps on the last rock-bridge. After finishing that job, we drove around to Catawba Valley and up to the south end of Sawtooth Ridge. We met the other group a ways up into the woods, just before lunchtime. Shortly after lunch Blanche and Merv arrived. In the afternoon they installed another 15 rock steps in the same area we have worked on recent trips. While we have made considerable progress, we can probably work there several times next fall and winter in the same area without running out of work to do.

**Sunday, March 19, 2006  1:00PM**
Seven Mile Mountain

Dick Moran was originally scheduled to lead this hike, but due to a knee injury; Gary led the hike. Gary Bible (leader), Bobbie Stitcher (drafted co-leader), Joan Miller, Carol McPeak, Maya Bohler, Jeanne Duddy, Rod Liebl, and Zetta Campbell.

We met and promptly departed from the Orange Market at 1:00 p.m. We took a total of 3 vehicles to arrange for a car switch. Zetta went with the lead vehicle and got a head start on us, while we made arrangements to leave Bobbie's car at the end of the trail.

We had a wonderful spring day with beautiful weather. The ridge tops with little leaf cover allowed for many wonderful vistas. This was a pleasant hike and enjoyed by all.

While waiting at the end of the trail for the return of the cars, we enjoyed snacking on jelly beans. We also discovered what appeared to be a carcass dump off the side of the road at the end of the trail. Much discussion went into trying to determine the origin of these animal remains, believe we finally decided these must have been Wooly Mammoths fossils.

**Sunday, March 26, 2006  9:00AM**
Bearwallow Creek Hollow Exploratory

Larry Austin & Carl Cornett (leaders), Paul Jones, Ishmael Jenks, Fred Meyer, Greg Tinaglia and dog Colby, Maurice Turner, Jen Schaeffer, Maya Bohler, Kris Peckman, Bob Peckman, Mike Vaughn, Lois Smith, Larry Davidson, Janice Davidson, Mark Logwood and Dana Helsley

Apparently, this hike intrigued a lot of people as it brought out 15 hikers plus the two leaders. The weather was not exactly what the forecasters were predicting. It was mostly cloudy, windy and cool but perhaps that was good in view of the somewhat rough terrain we had to cover. Bearwallow Gap is thought by some historians to have been one of the major buffalo crossings of the Blue Ridge when that animal was plentiful in the East. After leading this group along Bearwallow Creek to the gap, it occurred to me that the buffalo must have been very versatile with a few mountain goat genes. The initial hike route led us along beautiful Bearwallow Creek. The hike became more rugged as we hiked toward Bearwallow Gap. The gorge gradually narrows, and we had to climb above a waterfalls to continue the hike. In a couple of spots, we had to revert to pre-human stances in order to negotiate the terrain. We eventually exited onto Route 43 for about 1/4 mile to a point where the AT intersects the road. We headed north on the AT to the top of the mountain where we were greeted by 3-4 inches of snow. We then began another bushwhack for about one-half mile to a rock outcropping on the side of the mountain. This provided a terrific view of mountains to the north and west with a gasping glance of the
area where we had been. We spotted a cavern/mine on the mountainside across the gorge from which we had just emerged. It looked quite large and will be the destination for another outing. We then descended quite sharply down the mountainside to reconnect to the Horse Trail which we followed back to our beginning point. We concluded the hike around 2:30. Although the leader was somewhat nervous leading such a large group over such unfamiliar and rugged terrain, it became obvious that everyone were seasoned and careful hikers. I believe all enjoyed this out-of-the-ordinary hiking adventure.

Sunday, March 26, 2006  1:00PM
Belfast Trail to Devils Marbleyard

Kenny Garrett and Bobbie Stitcher (leaders), Jesse Garrett, Lance Garrett, John Miller, Homer and Therese Witcher, David Bowers & dog Catcher, Dave and Lucy Downs, Jen Feeny, Taylor Feeny and Guests: Brice Moon, Margarita Cubas, Katie and Phillip Pickard

The day was warm, despite the late March snow scattered through the shady areas in Arnold's Valley. The walk up the Belfast Trail was full of great conversation and laughter. Many enjoyed the rock scrambling over the eight acres of quartzite boulders along this beautiful mountainside. We were lucky to have such a great number of members and guests to share this great experience with. This is such a great short hike for kids, and for the adults who still have the playfulness in their hearts and spirits, as demonstrated by this great group of hikers.

Sunday, April 2, 2006  1:00PM
Andy Layne Trail (Rt. 779) to Tinker Cliffs

Sue Scanlin (leader), Jean Warren (assistant), Linda and David Sutton, Charles Musgrove, Emory Richardson, Hugh Hall, Dave Miller, Mary Harshfield with Prancer (Sheltie), Andy Robinson, Sally Sizer, Marianne Demkö, Penny McIver, Sue and Rick Terrell

How user friendly can you get? We had three meeting places for this hike: one group met at Towers at 12:30pm and carpooled from there to the Daleville Park & Ride. There another group was picked up and the carpool was rearranged before we continued on to the trailhead. The third group met at Hanging Rock Orange Market at 12:45pm and drove directly from there to the trailhead. This works out very well and cuts back on individual driving from the southern part of the Roanoke Valley to Daleville.

By 1:20pm everyone was at the parking lot for the Andy Layne Trail, the formalities (signing in, hike description, etc.) were taken care of and we were heading up the trail by 1:30pm. David Sutton agreed to be the designated lead hiker and soon the group was spread out over quite some distance. Several participants had expressed interest in seeing the movie ‘Southbounders’ at VWCC at 6:30pm and wanted to be off the trail early enough to get there in time. Others wanted to proceed at a more leisurely pace.
Along the way, lots of wildflowers were showing off their beauty and were duly admired and enjoyed. From up at the top of the cliffs, we could see a kettle of hawks first from above, then at eye level and finally overhead before they moved on to the other side of the mountain top. They seemed to have as good a time as we did. A beautiful day, a superb vista and a nice group of people made for an unbeatable combination.

What a wonderful experience!

Marianne Demkó’s Plant list
Early blue violet, Pawpaw, (I was a bit disappointed that most of the bushes were only in the bud stage. With no leaves on the plants yet, the unopened buds looked like tiny Christmas balls hanging from the branches.) Redbud, Amelanchier, Spice bush, Pussytoes, Virginia spring beauty, Hepatica americana (two blue ones at the very end of their flowering), Virginia bluebells, Trout lily – an entire hillside was covered with spring beauties and trout lilies; I have never seen these two flowers in such abundance., Cut-leaf toothwort, Zizia sp. Golden alexanders?, Bloodroot, Ragwort, Broadleaf sedge (I find its leaves all the time, but I never before saw it blooming.) Tremella mesenterica  a jelly fungus desiccated because of the dry, hot weather
It may have been difficult to believe that the hard, orange-yellow shapeless substance protruding from a dead branch was a jelly fungus, but I am sure it has duly turned into a more jelly-like substance after the rains we have had recently.

Sunday, April 9, 2006  8:00AM
Angel’s Gap on Tinker Ridge Work Hike
Charles Parry, Mike Vaughan, Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan, Kris Peckman, Homer Witcher

This time I decided to drive up to where the driveway gets close to the gas line. I walked on up to the houses, to seek permission for what I had done, but nobody was stirring at either place so I did not wake them. I joined the others up at the gap. Dana, Fred and I started working on rock steps that had not been finished on the January trip. The others went further up the trail to dig. We had barely gotten started when we realized that we needed a second rock bar. Also, I was missing a glove. As the truck was only a quarter of a mile away, I made a trip down for the extra items. By noon we had finished our steps and joined the diggers. However, I didn’t get too much digging done as others kept running into big rocks that needed moving. Homer left early, but promised to come back the following week to finish the digging. As he would have not have rock bars we decided to get the rocks out for him. We ran into a couple of big ones, and had to work overtime (double pay) to get the job done. Homer did get back the next week and finish the digging. I believe that he and Therese have since opened the relocation.

Sunday, April 9, 2006  1:00PM
Jennings Creek (Rt. 614) to Bryant Ridge Shelter
Mervin (Leader) & Blanche Brower, Mike Ferguson (Assistant), Kathy & Les Brown, Zetta Campbell, Carole Crosby, Billy Ferguson, Rachel Lotts, Laura Montague

The hike started from Daleville commuter parking lot where we car pooled and the drove to our starting location.
We arranged to go in two cars and left shortly after one o’clock. The redbuds were out on our drive up I-81. On the way into Jennings Creek there were lots of fishermen out. We started our hike up and broke into two groups: Zetta &Carole who only completed half of the hike, and the rest of us who went all the way. We encountered several blowdowns going down the first hill. Then just before we crossed the creek going up to the shelter there was a massive blowdown of several trees and we could not go over it. We had to come farther up to cross the creek. When we reached the shelter it was full with a Boy Scout troop from Norfolk. We also encountered two through hikers. On the way back we caught up with Carole and Zetta on the way down the last stretch of trail. So we all finished with in 15 minutes of each other.

Saturday, April 15, 2006  8:00AM
Torry Ridge-Sherando Lake-White Rock Falls Loop
Cancelled

Sunday, April 16, 2006  1:00PM
Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to Sandstone Ridge (Rt. 624 )
Bobbie Stitcher (leader), Zetta Campbell, Hugh Hall, John Miller and Patrick and Tracy

This Easter Sunday afternoon hike had the threat of rain and thunder, which we heard in the distance. But we escaped with only a few drops as we ended the hike.
We saw many wildflowers, 16 identified, and lots of Spring Beauty near the creeks. We heard a lizard scampering through the leaves and we saw a very large black snake on Sandstone Ridge.
We had new members Patrick and Tracy on their first hike They brought "peeps", graham crackers and chocolate to make "Peep S'Mores" for us. We thank them and hope they will hike with us again.
Sunday, April 23, 2006  11:00AM
Sinking Creek(RT 630) to Johns Creek(RT 632)
113-Mile Hike # 9

Kenny Garrett and John Miller (leaders), Carl Cornett, and guest David Sockey

The day was beautiful and the group was surprisingly small. We started the stroll at Sinking Creek and crossed the open fields above Rt 42. We laughed, talked, joked, and told stories as we made our way up to Kelly's Knob Shelter. Just prior to the shelter, Carl almost went for a swim at one of the creek crossings. Carl's graceful swing across the creek holding a low hanging branch made for a good laugh. A check of the shelter found all in order with a few minor repairs planned for the future. We then climbed to the top of Kelly's Knob and took a break on the rocks to enjoy the awesome views of the valley. We met several through hikers there and engaged in great conversation. We then continued our walk down across Rocky Gap to the trailhead at John's Creek. We finished our excursion at the ice cream shop in New Castle.

Sunday, April 23, 2006  1:00PM
Daleville (Rt. 220) to Hay Rock

Gary Bible (leader), Maya Bohler (co-leader), Bobbie Stitcher, Greg Sexton, Penny McIver, Lorrie Huffman, and Hugh Hall.

We met at the Daleville Park & Ride, next to the trailhead. Maya was preparing for a back-packing trip by carrying a fully loaded backpack on this hike. We started promptly at 1:00. We made a brisk climb up the east side of the mountain. The climb was rather warm with no air movement, but we were greeted on top with a comforting breeze. The ridge walk afforded many beautiful views of Carvin's Cove. Hay Rock was our destination and we were greeted with more scenic views. After about a 30 minute break, we returned to the trailhead via the same scenic trail. The weather turned out to be just perfect for this excursion and all had a good time.

Sunday, April 30, 2006  11:00AM
Forge Mountain

Cancelled

Sunday, May 7, 2006  8:00AM
Elliott Knob

Larry Austin & Maurice Turner (leaders), Maya Bohler and Carl Cornett

The weather for this hike did not look promising according to our fearless forecasters. However, the farther north we drove on I-81, the clearer the skies became. We reached the trailhead around 9:40 and began our ascent to Elliott Knob. The trail was in great shape and we immediately started to spot wildflowers. Looking ahead up the mountain, we could see a whole ridge in bloom with Serviceberry. The trees and vegetation at this elevation were about a month behind areas like the Roanoke Valley. In fact, near the top of the mountain, the trees had not even put out any buds. When we got to the ridge line we could see Elliott Knob in the distance. It was quite striking with the grove of red spruce clearly visible. It sort of reminded one of being out West. Along one side of the mountain when we were getting higher up, we saw a wildflower which none of us had seen before. It was a beautiful golden, quarter-size flower right at ground level with a number of ovate to almost round leaves. It looked like tundra wildflowers I had seen in the Rocky Mountain National Park. When I got home I looked it up in a wildflower book and found it to be named "Green and Gold." We also identified a number of other beautiful flowers including Crested Dwarf Iris, Rue Anemone, Blue Violet, Smooth Yellow Violet, Canada Violet, Wood Vetch, Stone Crop, Wild Geranium, Bird-on-the-Wing, Bleeding Heart, Pinkster and on the way back we saw a number of Pink Lady's Slippers near the bottom which we had missed going up. I guess we were talking too much and overlooked them. We also saw a cluster of budding Yellow Lady's Slippers. Additionally, we spotted a plant that was coming up that was very pale celery color and decided that it must be some sort of albino plant. It was very curious looking. When we reached the summit, we had spectacular views of the mountains and valleys below. The groves of red spruce trees were very enchanting, and we had lunch under one grove on the summit. Indeed, Elliott Knob is a very interesting place to visit. Maya saw a large tree on top mixed in
with red spruces that is called Tamarack or Larch. It looks like an evergreen but in fact loses its needles in the Fall and regrows them in Spring. It is usually found only in the Northeast, Canada and along the Great Lakes. How it got to the summit of Elliott Knob is a mystery. We did get a chill on the summit. The temperature must have been in the upper 30's or low 40's. When we returned to the vehicle, the temperature showed 46 degrees. It did start to rain lightly about 30 minutes or so before we finished but none got wet. The only wildlife we saw was a grouse, a bobwhite, and four brightly dressed mountain bikers. If you get the opportunity again, you should go to Elliott Knob. I don't think you will be disappointed!

**Sunday, May 7, 2006  1:00PM**

**Falls Ridge**

The rain started about 12 noon and no one showed for the hike.

**Sunday, May 14, 2006  8:00AM**

**House Mountains, Big and Little**

Kris Peckman (leader), Gary Bible (assistant), Carl Cornett, Hugh Hall, Mary Harshfield, Fred Meyer

With rain in the forecast, we still had six enthusiastic hikers ready to go. It was raining as we left Daleville, but the weather cleared as we approached Lexington. Fred, having come from West Virginia, met us at the trailhead. The first part of the hike is 3 miles up an old road. Right out of the gate we spotted three pink ladyslippers. We also spotted a little orange salamander on the road.

At the saddle there is a new descriptive sign which, unlike the older one closer to the trailhead, has not been vandalized. There is also a brand-new privy near the shelter.

We took the official trail up Big House Mountain, then the unofficial trail to the westward lookout. The view was stunning, with the rich green woods and fields freshened by the recent rain. We bushwhacked past the balanced rock (which Hugh tried unsuccessfully to unbalance by climbing atop it for one of Carl's many photo-ops), and back to the official trail. A rufous-sided towhee led us part of the way through the woods, seeming not particularly perturbed by our presence. We followed the official trail till it began to descend, then decided that exploration could wait for another day. We had lunch looking across at Little House Mountain, which we climbed after returning to the saddle. The sign claimed that the trail up Little House was only for the stout-hearted, but we took up the challenge. Led by Hugh, we reached the top pretty quickly, as the trail to the top, while plenty steep, is not long. No switchbacks on this trail! The trail along the ridge of Little House is nice and level. We saw more ladyslippers and lots of pink azalea, and one impressive pile of what we thought must be bear scat. The trail terminates in a rock lookout which gives you the feeling of flying over the woods and pastures below. We saw Route 64 to the northeast, and Lexington to the southeast. We returned the way we had come, and on the way down the mountain, a thunderstorm struck, and giving us a good soaking for the remaining 3 miles. But we were a happy lot, having had great weather for most of the day while Roanoke apparently had not fared so well.

**Sunday, May 14, 2006  1:00PM**

**Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth**

**Dragon's Tooth, Thunder & Lightning – No Thanks!**

**Sunday, May 21, 2006  8:00AM**

**Rockfish Gap (I64) to Dripping Rock (BRP)**

Larry Austin & Mike Vaughn (leaders), Carl Cornett, Lois Smith and John Miller

Wow! What a gorgeous day for hiking--crystal clear skies with highs in the upper 60s to low 70s. It took us about 1 hour and 35 minutes to arrive at the trailhead. We left a vehicle at Rockfish Gap and drove about 10 miles south on the Parkway to the Dripping Rock Overlook and started the hike there. The trail was in great shape and we did not have any hard, long climbs on the entire 14.6 miles. We had several overlooks along the way but skipped going to Humpback Rocks as the signs did not indicate exactly how far it was to the rocks. It only signified that the side trail went to the Humpback Rocks parking area. However, after about 7.7 miles when it was lunch time (12:45 p.m.) we ran across a side trail which went to an overlook only about .1 mile. There we had great views of mountains and valleys to the North and East and enjoyed our lunch there. We spotted a number of wildflowers along the way including: Pink Lady Slippers (20 in one colony), Yellow Lady Slipper, Wild Geranium, Chickweed, Spiderwort, Cancer Root, Lousewort, False Solomon's Seal, Wood Vetch, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Comfrey. We also saw a number of squirrels, several deer, grouse including one that got after Carl apparently trying to either protect its nest or young. The only other hikers we saw were day hikers. The area abounds with old rock fences built decades ago by those who lived in the area before the Park Service and/or Forest Service bought them out. We ran across an old cemetery just off the trail which had thin rock headstones. Only one had a name etched on it and was not sure if that was done by family or someone else. That was quite interesting. We also saw an old stacked rock chimney with a fireplace still standing.
where an apparent homestead had once existed. One could sense such history in this area. The Mill Creek area was another very beautiful area along the trail. This is the location of the Paul C. Wolfe Shelter which is a very nice one and was built and is maintained by the Old Dominion AT Club out of Richmond. We concluded the hike around 4:00 p.m., which was quite good considering the distance. Everyone moved right along and seemed to enjoy the outing. This will be a good hike to do again.

Saturday, May 27 & 28, 2006  8:00AM
Mountain Lake Bailey Gap area
Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Bob Foutz, Fred Meyer

We met both days at the War Spur trailhead. As it turned out meeting there on Saturday was a mistake because we decided to do the Stony Creek to Salt Sulphur Turnpike section. Since it would have been an extra shuttle trip to go down hill we decided to go up hill. Since we had four people on Saturday and only three on Sunday, we made the right decision as to which section of trail needed the most work. Our job was to re-blaze, clip and remove blow-downs both days. Fortunately, we had good blazing weather, so it was no problem getting that done. On Saturday, we saw only one thru hiker, but on Sunday we saw eight. We figured because of the shelter locations that most of the Saturday hikers had gone through before we got on the trail. This was verified on Sunday when we met a couple going south. They said they met 26 thru hikers before he was let go again. As we were coming down the trail saw a doe and fawn. We came down the mountain to Trout Creek and then walked out to 621. The weather was sunny and about 75 Degrees.

Sunday, June 4, 2006  1:00PM
Hoop Hole, Lower Loop
Bobbie Stitcher and John Miller (leaders) Carolyn Baratta, Zetta Campbell, Brigette Clark, Pat Cousins, Marianne Demko, Mary Gaminde, Alice Gallagher, Mary and Jim Harshfield, Lynne and Bill Jacoby and Hooper, Sherry Kessel, Skip Russell, Phil and Sandy Sheldon, Mike and Sheil Vaughan

The day was sunny and the temperature was in the upper 80’s when we began the hike from the Rt. 311 Parking Lot. There was a slight breeze and much of the hike is in shade so it was tolerable. We welcomed Robin to her first hike with the club and Alice to her second. It was good to see Mary again who joined us from Alabama. The assistant hike leader couldn’t make it so I asked Carl if he would assist me and he graciously accepted. The views at Beckner Gap were great and we met several through hikers there who had just eaten at the Homeplace. They were much impressed. The group stayed together and stopped several times to enjoy the views in the climb to Devils Seat. We arrived at the Dragon’s Tooth Parking Area around 6:00pm. Everyone seemed to enjoy the hike.

Sunday, May 28, 2006  1:00PM
Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to Dragon’s Tooth Parking 113-Mile Hike # 5
John Miller (leader), Carl Cornett (co-leader), Mary Gilbert, Alice Gallagher, Robin Haldaman

A beautiful Sunday to hike with the temperature comfortable and no humidity. The many stream crossing caused no trouble. We saw a small frog in the water at the edge of one of the stream crossing peeking at us. There were lots of Galax and trailing Partridgeberry in bloom and Indian Pipe was just starting to come from the ground. We passed a beautiful section with Mountain Laurel on each side of the trail. The terrain on this hike with the rock walls and the streams at times below us made for a very nice hike. All 19 hikers seemed to enjoy the hike that goes up and then down returning to the parking lot.
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.

### Saturday, July 1, 2006  8:00AM
**Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew**

0.5 mile, Moderate, $6.00 carpool fee  
60 miles from Roanoke

We will add some new switch-backs and rock work on the trail between Pearisburg and Angel's Rest.  
**Charles Parry**  540-951-1402  
**Dana Helsley**  977-4154

### Sunday, July 2, 2006  8:00AM
**Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew**

0.5 mile, Moderate, $6.00 carpool fee  
60 miles from Roanoke

We will add some new switch-backs and rock work on the trail between Pearisburg and Angel's Rest.  
**Charles Parry**  540-951-1402  
**Kris Peckman**  366-7780

### Sunday, July 2, 2006  1:00PM
**Black Horse Gap (BRP) to Curry Gap (BRP)**  
**113-Mile Hike # 1**

6.9 miles, Moderate, $1.00 carpool fee  
9 miles from Roanoke

The hike starts at Black Horse Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Botetourt County. This is the northern terminus of the 113 mile long section of trail maintained by the RATC. The AT parallels the parkway heading south. It passes the Wilson Creek shelter and then crosses Salt Pond Road at Curry Gap. The hike then follows Salt Pond Road for about a half mile back to the BRP.  
**Bobbie Stitcher**  397-2760  
**Hugh Hall**  725-8874

### Sunday, July 9, 2006  8:00AM
**Black Horse Gap (BRP) to Daleville (Rt. 220)**  
**113-Mile Hikes # 1 & 2**

13.6 miles, Strenuous, $1.50 carpool fee  
17 miles from Roanoke

The hike starts at Black Horse Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Botetourt County. This is the northern terminus of the 113 mile long section of trail maintained by the RATC. The AT parallels the parkway heading south. It passes the Wilson Creek shelter and then crosses Salt Pond Road at Curry Gap. The trail then climbs Fullhardt Knob, where there are limited views. The trail then descends, crosses route 11 and ends on route 220 in Daleville.  
**Kenny Garrett**  537-5347  
**John Miller**  375-3250
Sunday, July 16, 2006  8:00AM
Mt Rogers Headquarters (Rt. 16) to Groseclose (I-81)

11.5 miles, Strenuous, $8.00 carpool fee
87 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Smyth County, near Marion. It is mainly a downhill hike, starting from the Ranger Station on Route 16 to Rt 11 near Atkins. We'll be able to view the exhibits inside the Ranger Station plus check out one of the best shelters on the AT, the Partnership Shelter, 100 yards behind the Ranger Station. On the way to Atkins we'll pass by an old school house that has been turned into a museum.

Don Hoke  563-2902
Carl Cornett  342-3950

Sunday, July 16, 2006  1:00PM
Crabtree Falls

5.8 miles, Moderate, $5.50 carpool fee
68 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Nelson County, and follows Crabtree Creek, with scenic overlooks at the five major cascades, which with a number of smaller ones, have a total fall of 1,200 feet.

Mike Vaughn  992-1350

Saturday, July 22, 2006  8:00AM
Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

0.5 mile, Moderate, $6.00 carpool fee
60 miles from Roanoke

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

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

Sunday, July 23, 2006  8:00AM
Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

0.5 mile, Moderate, $6.00 carpool fee
60 miles from Roanoke

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

Charles Parry  540-951-1402
Mike Vaughn  992-1350

Sunday, July 23, 2006  1:00PM
Petites Gap to Sunset Field

7.3 miles, Moderate, $3.50 carpool fee
33 miles from Roanoke

Parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway a few miles north of the Peaks of Otter with the starting point about an hour and 15 minutes northeast of Roanoke. The hike is mostly wooded and is entirely on the Appalachian Trail. The steepest section is the 1300-foot climb from Petites Gap, while the highlight of the walk is the large grassy area at the summit of Apple Orchard Mountain (4225 feet) which offers excellent views.

Mervin & Blanche Brower  387-9732

Sunday, July 30, 2006  8:00AM
Rock Castle Gorge

11.0 miles, Strenuous, $5.50 carpool fee
57 miles from Roanoke

Located in Patrick County, on Blue Ridge Parkway land. After a steep 2,000-foot ascent, the hike parallels the Parkway – passing alternately through woods and open fields with extraordinary views. On the descent down the other side of the gorge, the hike passes some old cabin sites and a series of interesting rock formations. The last few miles are along Rock Castle Creek – a wild stream with many cataracts.

Gary Bible  977-2954
Maya Bohler  344-6588

Sunday, July 30, 2006  1:00PM
Belfast Trail to Devils Marbleyard

2.9 miles, Moderate, $3.00 carpool fee
35 miles from Roanoke

Located a few miles beyond Natural Bridge Station, this popular hike starts about an hour's drive from Roanoke. The route follows the Belfast Trail in the Jefferson National Forest and heads steeply uphill for a little over two miles. At this point the Devil's Marbleyard appears just to the left of the trail. This is an eight-acre field of quartzite boulders which affords endless scrambling opportunities (watch out for snakes, though) and great views. The return is along the same route.

Ed Wallace  774-0175
Maurice Turner  334-2128
Register for Multiclub meals by August 10th – no refunds after August 20th

Sunday, August 6, 2006  1:00PM
Smart View Loop Trail (BRP)
3.0 miles, Easy, $6.00 carpool fee
67 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.

Bobbie Stitcher  397-2760
Suzanne Barnett  772-4273

Sunday, August 13, 2006  8:00AM
Pine Swamp (Rt. 635) to Johns Creek (Rt. 632) 113-Mile Hike # 10
13.2 miles, Strenuous, $7.00 carpool fee
62 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Giles County. From Stony Creek Valley we will climb 1,100 feet in one mile to the heavily wooded northern slope of Big Mountain. The trail winds through the 11,172-acre Mountain Lake Wilderness between Salt Sulphur Turnpike and the War Spur Shelter. Wind Rock on Potts Mountain provides the best viewpoint of the hike.

John Miller  375-3250
Mike Vaughn  992-1350

Sunday, August 13, 2006  1:00PM
Otter Creek Trail
3.4 miles, Easy, $4.50 carpool fee
44 miles from Roanoke

Located in Amherst County just off the Blue Ridge Parkway and little way from the James River. The trail follows Otter Creek from the Otter Creek campground to the James River.

Kenny Garrett  537-5347
Suzanne Barnett  772-4273

Sunday, August 20, 2006  8:00AM
War Spur to Wind Rock on AT
8.0 miles, Moderate, $7.00 carpool fee
62 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in the Mountain Lake Wilderness area in Giles County. The hike starts on the Chestnut Trail, reaching the War Spur Branch Trail after one mile. The trail follows the stream, passing beneath old-growth hemlocks. It then connects with the A.T., passing several fern-ringed upland bogs. Near the end of the hike, the trail passes Wind Rock, which offers sweeping views across to Fork Mountain and West Virginia.

Gary Bible  977-2954
Carl Cornett  342-3950

Sunday, August 20, 2006  1:00PM
Apple Orchard Falls Cornelius Creek Loop
5.7 miles, Moderate, $2.50 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 Brower  387-9732
Mike Ferguson  344-8525

Sunday, August 27, 2006  8:00AM
Laurel Creek Work Hike
.5 mile, Moderate, $3.00 carpool fee
35 miles from Roanoke

We will install new steps on the trail near Laurel Creek.

Charles Parry  540-951-1402
Brian Kelley  344-7557

Sunday, September 3, 2006  8:00AM
Bobblets Gap, Glenwood Horse Trail, Black Horse Gap Circuit
14.6 miles, Stenuous, $2.50 carpool fee
25 miles from Roanoke

This hike will start at Bobblets Gap Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway, utilizing the Glenwood Horse Trail to the east of the Parkway. It will go past the Day Creek Parking Area and then climb back to the Parkway at Black Horse Gap. We will then head north on the AT back to Bobblets Gap.

Larry Austin  254-2092
Lois Smith  862-7370
Maybe the last
Southern Regional Multi-Club Campout
NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB
Friday Sept 1st thru Monday Sept 4th

Sunday, September 3, 2006  1:00PM
Campbell Shelter via Fire Road
8.4 miles, Moderate, $1.00 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

Located in Roanoke County at the top of Catawba Mountain. It is an out and back hike on the fire road with views of the Catawba Valley. There are lots of different foliage and rock formations along the road. The turnaround point is the Campbell Shelter, a very beautiful area.

Georgia Gallaher 345-8700
Hugh Hall 725-8874

Sunday, September 10, 2006  8:00AM
Mau-Har Trail and Three Ridges Loop
13.5 miles, Strenuous, $7.00 carpool fee
70 miles from Roanoke

Located in Virginia's newest Wilderness Area, the hike takes us on trails built and maintained by the Tidewater AT Club. It's a "balloon hike", starting and ending where the AT crosses Route 56 and the Tye River. After 1.7 miles on the A.T., we branch off onto the Mau-Har Trail, which takes us past a lovely waterfall and along a creek up to the Maupin Fields Shelter. Then we continue climbing on the A.T. to the summit of Three Ridges, with lots of great views, then down past the Harpers Creek shelter, up to the ridge, and back down to the Tye River.

Kris Peckman 366-7780
Kenny Garrett 537-5347

Sunday, September 16, 2006  9:00AM
Curry Gap to Mountain Pass Road on Old AT
6.7 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, $1.00 carpool fee
8 miles from Roanoke

Located along the Blue Ridge Parkway north of Route 460. This hike follows the directions given in the 1934 Trail Guide on hiking the AT between Curry Gap and Mountain Pass Road. There is considerable bushwhacking on this hike.

Dana Helsley 977-4154
Dick Moran 389-3744

Sunday, September 17, 2006  8:00AM
Green Hill Exploratory
7.0 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, $3.50 carpool fee
40 miles from Roanoke

Green Hill is located in Rockbridge County. This is a bushwhacking hike. The top of Green Hill has rock outcroppings that allows for views of Alleghany and Rockbridge counties.

Homer & Therese Witcher 992-3932
Kris Peckman 366-7780

Sunday, September 24, 2006  8:00AM
McAfee Knob Work Hike
0.5 mile, Moderate, $0.50 carpool fee
5 miles from Roanoke

We will work on steps, waterbars, etc. south and north of the knob.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Laurie Adkins 966-2811

Sunday, September 24, 2006  1:00PM
Catawba Valley Trail (Rt. 779) to Stone Coal Gap (SR 748)
5.0 miles, Moderate, $1.50 carpool fee
11 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt and Craig Counties, the hike starts at the parking lot for the Andy Layne Trail. It takes the access trail up North Mountain to the North Mountain Trail. It follows the trail along the ridge of North Mountain with views of Craig Creek Valley. The trail then descends North Mountain at Stone Coal Gap.

Bobbie Stitcher 397-2760
Lois Smith 862-7370
(Editor’s note: Multi-club has been getting weaker and weaker. The last one was cancelled for lack of reservations. The plan is to alternate with the conference and to give it one more try before we give it up entirely.)

2006 AT Southern Regional Multi-Club Campout - Friday Sept 1st thru Monday Sept 4th

Hosted by the NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB
At USFS Appletree Group Campground - Nantahala North Carolina
trailer & tent camping spaces (no hookups),

REGISTRATION AND CAMPSITE FEE $10 per family on arrival
More registration forms available online at maconweb.com/nhc
Mail to: Fred Haller 607 Rabbit Creek Rd Franklin NC 28734 (828)369-8727 eva2391005@mchsi.com
Please register, with or without food, for camping head count

PROPOSED SCHEDULE
Registration: starting Fri at 3:00 pm
Campfire: Saturday 8:00
Meeting: Sunday 8:00
Hikes: lists available at registration
Entertainment: to be announced

Name ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Club Affiliation _____________________________________________________________________________________________________
Names all participants _______________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone # ___________________ email address ____________________________

In consideration of permitting me/us to participate in 2006 AT Multidub activities and fully recognizing the dangers to which I/We may be exposed, I/We hereby release all claims against USFS, NHC and activity leaders, for any personal injury, death or property damage arising out of or in any way connected with such activities, including, without limitation, any acts or omissions caused in part or in whole by their negligence.

Adult Signature (s) _____________________________ Date ______

CATERED MEALS:
Meals: Breakfasts include main course, fruit, juice and beverage Lunches include sandwich, fruit, chips, snack and juice Dinners include entree, salad, veggies, dessert and beverage(vegetarians will find something among the meals)

Make checks payable to Nantahala Hiking Club and send registrations to address below by August 10th. No refunds after August 20th.

Friday Dinner ------- 6:30-9:00 Pasta Buffet................. $10 x ___ =$_______
Saturday Breakfast – 7:15-9:00 ..................................... $ 5 x ___ =$_______
Saturday Lunch .......................................................... $ 5 x ___ =$_______
Dinner_grilled ------ 7:00-8:00 chicken or fish ................. $10 x ___ =$_______
Sunday Breakfast – 7:15-9:00......................................... $ 5 x ___ =$_______
Sunday Lunch ................................................................. $ 5 x ___ =$_______
Dinner_BBQ chick – 7:00-8:00 BBQ pork, beef ............. $10 x ___ =$_______
Monday Breakfast – 6:00-9:00........................................... $ 5 x ___ =$_______
ALL EIGHT MEALS........................................................ $50 x ___ =$_______
Meal Total ...................................................................... $________________
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Roger Holnback
556-2919............................rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org
Vice President, Greg Tinaglia
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Trail Supervisor, Charles Parry
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Counselor, Dick Clark
989-7053..................................jandrclark@cox.net

ANCILLARIES

Social Chairman Please Volunteer!!!!!
(540)

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Mid-week Workhikes, Bill Gордин
774-3016.................................bgordon@cox.net

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540-681-6551................................tmartinez@atconf.org

Southwest & Central VA Regional Director, Laura Belleville
540-961-6551............................lbelleville@appalachiantrail.org

Regional Partnership Committee
Representative, Charles Parry
(540) 951-1402............................parryc@math.vt.edu
Alternate, Roger Holnback
556-2919.................................rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

ATC-LT Coordinator - James River to New River and
Director Western Virginia Land Trust, Roger B. Holnback
556-2919.................................rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

ATC-LT Coord. New River to Damascus, Steve Reisinger
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Roanoke Valley Greenways Liaison, Dick Clark
989-7053..................................jandrclark@cox.net

Sir Speedy Printer
344-8550.................................robbiey@rbnet.com

CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

Corn Boil
Saturday, July 22 – 6:00 PM

Multi-Club Camping Weekend
Friday September 1 to Monday September 4

WORK HIKES

Saturday & Sunday, July 1 & 2 - 8:00 AM
Angels Rest Rehab. – Konnarock

Saturday & Sunday, July 22 & 23 - 8:00 AM
Angels Rest Rehab. – Konnarock

Sunday, August 27 – 8:00 AM
Laurel Creek

Sunday, September 24 - 8:00 AM
McAfee's Knob

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 10, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Laurie & Leonard Adkins

Monday, August 21, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Blanche & Mervin Brower

Monday, October 2, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Mike Vaughn

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