

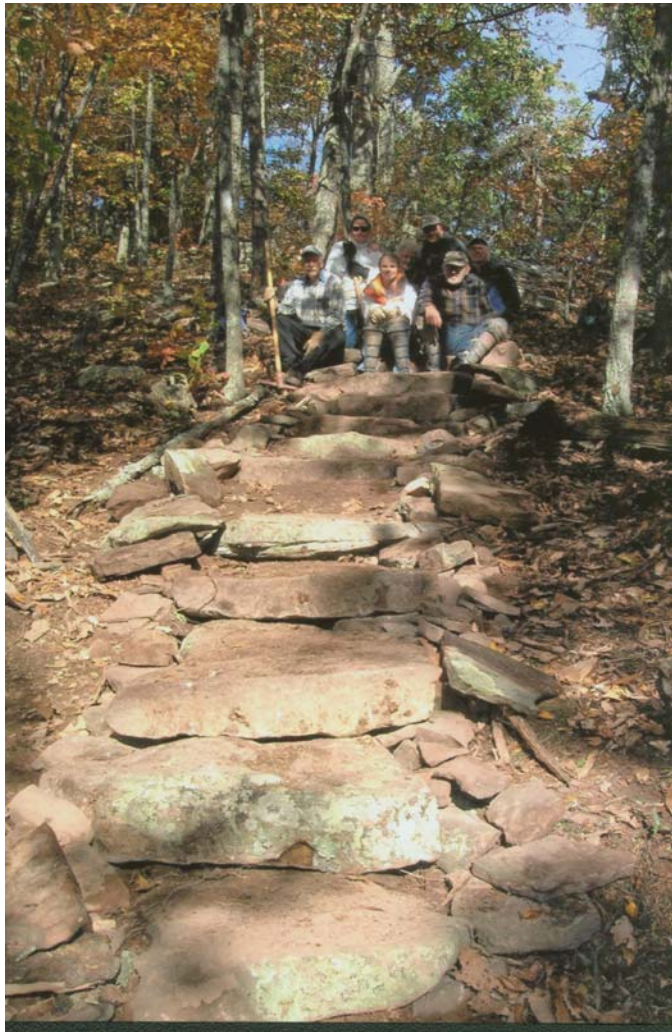
TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB



Spring 2007

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.



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Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Ron Alderman

Dr. Cyrus Bakhit

Greg Bryant

Tom & Jeanie Calhoun

Suzann, Greg, Stephen, & Elizabeth Pape

Zelma Garcia-Tolley

Terry Gentry

Sharon Gilpin

Carie Hopkins

Frank Longaker

Shawn & Peni O'Neil

Loretta G. Rieley

Maria Surat

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

Mervin Brower

Trail Supervisor's Report

We now have the final flag line in for the Angel's Gap relocation and will begin working on it this summer with the Konnarock Crew. Work dates are June 7-11, July 12-16 and Aug 2-6. As some of you know, RATC was founded in 1932, so 2007 is our 75th birthday. What should we do to celebrate? The board has discussed a few items that I will mention and we are open to further suggestions. The Corn Boil will double as the birthday party. We will have an appropriately decorated birthday cake. It will be on August 4 at the Catawba Center. Carol has scheduled the Wright Kids as entertainment. I guess we should ask them to sing "Happy Birthday RATC".

I thought it would be neat if we could get 75 members to work on the Angel's Gap relocation for at least half a day each. Of course a full day is better. This year the project is close

enough and access easy enough to make half-day trips feasible. Accordingly, we will have a half-day trip each Sunday the crew is here. There will be all-day trips every Saturday and Sunday and some of us will be working most of the other days they are here.

At our last board meeting all members present volunteered to give a day's work on the relocation. I hope the absent board members will do the same. We want to use this as a challenge to ask all able members to give a matching donation.

For our other spring activities, we will try to re-blaze some of the trail south of Pearisburg on April 22. In late May we have our usual work weekend scheduled for the Wind Rock-Bailey Gap area. See you on the trail.

Charles Parry

Hikemaster's Report

Spring has arrived and warmer weather is back. This is a great time to get outdoors and hike. If you've never been out on a hike with the club, now would be a good time to try one. Several hikes on the schedule would be very good for hikers with little experience. These include the Apple Orchard Falls hike on April 14 and Hoop Hole trail hike on May 20.

Many types of wild flowers will be blooming along the trails in our area in the coming months. In particular, there should be plenty of wild flowers in bloom on both the Flat Top Mountain hike on April 8 and the Falls Ridge hike on May 27.

Please call me or send me an email if you have any hikes that you would want to see on the summer hike schedule. I will try to get these scheduled.

In a recent edition of the Trail Blazer we discussed several web sites at which trail maps could be purchased. Here are a couple more sources for maps. Trails.com has trail maps available for purchase for thousands of trails all across the country. The National Forest Service has some trail maps and directions to trailheads available for free download at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/gp/maps_and_brochures/index.shtml. There are also national forest maps available there for purchase. These maps are fairly detailed.

At our March banquet several hike leaders will receive hats and club T-shirts for leading multiple hikes over the past year. Hats for leading 4 - 6 hikes went to Carl Cornett, John Miller, Kris Peckman, Dave Sutton, Maurice Turner, Mike Vaughn, Homer Witcher, and Therese Witcher. T-shirts for leading 7 - 8 hikes went to Gary Bible, Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Georgia Gallaher, Sue Scanlin, and Jean Warren. Larry Austin, Kenny Garrett, and Bobbie Sticher received both a hat and a T-shirt for leading nine or more hikes. Thanks to all of the hike leaders for helping the club over the past year.

Mike Vaughn

Another Walk in the Woods

Welcome to a different kind of Appalachian Trail journey. I have walked the pathway's 2,176 miles four times and Laurie has completed the trip three times. Our dog, MacAfee of Knob, will be on his second hike of the pathway.

Although each Georgia to Maine trek has lasted about five months, we have felt that they were too short. Our new outing, which begins March 1, is going to emphasize time over distance.

Since we intend to average no more than 10 miles a day during the more than seven-month trip, we will experience the vagaries of all the seasons. On the highest elevations in the south, we expect to encounter late winter's frigid temperatures, deep snows, and ice storms. Spring's longer daylight hours will bring forth multitudes of wildflowers to study and delight in. Our slower pace will permit us to walk in fresh morning breezes and late into the evening, taking breaks to swim and lounge around during the hottest part of summer days. Changing leaf colors and the return of cooler weather will accompany our autumnal traverse of New England.

With less of an emphasis on making miles, we'll have the luxury to enjoy viewpoints that had been ignored on previous trips, tarry beside cascading waterfalls, and watch the birds, animals, reptiles,

and amphibians go about their daily lives. We can indulge in that wonderful activity that only those who have not a care in the world can participate—watching puffy clouds float slowly overhead and imagine them morphing into the silhouettes of a charging lion, a raging elephant, delicate rows of tulips, or Abraham Lincoln with a long beard and stovepipe hat.

Since we will be starting a month before most Georgia to Maine thru-hikers, we will probably meet the bulk of them as they pass us, getting to know the personalities that will make up this year's trail community. Extended time in towns to resupply will also provide us the opportunity to have long conversations with those who inhabit the small Appalachian Mountain towns from the Deep South to the northern reaches of New England.

In other words, we will finally have the time to discover and appreciate all of the small parts of the Appalachian Trail that come together to make up the whole.

As stated, this is a different kind of Appalachian Trail journey, one that will not be accomplished in typical fashion. Commitments that cannot be changed will force us to jump around on the trail. We'll hike from Georgia to southern Virginia before

leaving the trail for a couple of weeks (Laurie will become a crew member of a square-rigged 180-foot ship sailing from the Caribbean to the U.S.!) before resuming the trek in northern Virginia. We will also miss New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts on the northbound journey.

However, we will hike these areas. It just means that when we stand atop Mount Katahdin with other thru-hikers whose journeys have come to an end, we will still have several hundred more miles and weeks of hiking to look forward to.

Please send mail addressed: (except Kathy Preble)

Hold for AT. Hiker

Leonard or Laurie Adkins

c/o General Delivery

City, State Zip-Code

Hold for AT. Hiker

ADDRESS ARRIVAL DATE: MAIL BY:

Helen, GA 30545	3/10	3/1
Hiawasse, GA 30546	3/14	3/4
Franklin, NC 28734	3/19	3/9
Fontana Dam, NC 28733	3/28	3/18
Hot Springs, NC 28743	4/1	3/21
Erwin, TN 37650	4/10	4/1
Elk Park, TN 28622	4/19	4/9
Damascus, VA 24236	5/8	4/28
Troutdale, VA 24378	5/15	5/5
Boiling Springs, PA 17007	5/26	5/16
Duncannon, PA 17020	5/31	5/21
Port Clinton, PA 19549	6/13	6/3
Palmerton, PA 18071	6/19	6/9
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327	6/25	6/15
Unionville, NJ 10988	7/3	6/23

Will we be able to cover the entire trail within the calendar year? Who knows? Will we have fun days and hard days, good times and bad times? You bet! This new adventure will find us walking northward in just a few days. Wish us happy trails.

Cards and letters of encouragement from family and friends are always welcome on a long journey, and we would enjoy hearing from fellow RATC members. I have included the schedule for the first part of the hike.

Leonard Adkins

ADDRESS ARRIVAL DATE: MAIL BY:

Glenwood, NJ07418	7/4	6/26
Bennington, VT 05201	7/11	7/1
Manchester Center, VT 05255	7/16	7/6
Killington, VT 05751	7/23	7/13
Hanover, NH 03755	7/28	7/18
Glenclyff, NH 03238	8/4	7/26
North Woodstock, NH 03262	8/7	8/28
Gorham, NH 03581	8/19	8/9
Andover, ME 04216	8/27	8/17
Stratton, ME 04982	9/4	8/25
Carratunk, ME 04925	9/10	8/31
Monson, ME 04464	9/13	9/3
(Smith's Jo-Mary Lake CG) c/o Kathy Preble	9/22	9/8
191 Main St., Brownsville, ME 04414 svivor@midmaine.com		
Abol Bridge	9/27	NO MAIL.
MOUNT KATAHDIN	9/29	NO MAIL
FIRST ENDING TRAVEL HOME, THE GATHERING, RETURN TO TRAIL FINISH MISSING SECTIONS		

Predator monitoring on A.T.

In 2000, a small group of scientists, policy makers, and land managers came up with a bold new idea to use the A.T. as a scientific transect for monitoring the environmental health of the eastern United States. The rationale behind the concept is simple, but compelling. The Trail traverses the high elevation ridges of the Eastern United States, extending 2,175 miles across 14 states. The Trail's corridor encompasses 250,000 acres and intersects with 8 national forest, 5 units of the National Park Service, and 287 jurisdictions. The iconic status of the Trail presents a powerful communication tool that scientists and educators can use to reach millions of Americans. In addition, the Trail's cooperative management system with more than 100 government and non-profit partners is tailor made to facilitate a large-scale collaborative monitoring program. By the fall of 2006, The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and its major partners were ready to galvanize support for the idea of the A.T. as a large north-south transect across the eastern United States. ATC hosted an expert symposium, which ensured that the design of the expanded Appalachian Trail Environmental Monitoring Program effectively draws on all of the technical expertise along the Trail and builds and strengthens collaboration between diverse institutions. The charge to participants attending the symposium was to design both the Partnership Charter, which will govern how a large number of institutions will collaborate, and the Technical Framework. Focus of the Technical Framework is on integrating and utilizing existing environmental monitoring activity, and where necessary developing customized initiatives.

The symposium last fall effectively launched one of ATC's new initiatives – the Megatransect, also known as the Maine (ME) to Georgia (GA) Transect. The purpose of this program is fourfold:

- To understand the changes in air and water quality and the health of the plants and animals within the 250,000 acres of public lands associated with the trail.
- To more effectively protect that land's natural resources.
- To foster public appreciation for nature generally and conservation of the Appalachian Trail specifically.
- To better tell the story of the status of the health of the Appalachian Trail's lands to visitors, trail neighbors in 14 heavily populated eastern states, and the general public.

One of the first citizen science based monitoring projects emerging from the Symposium last fall is a cooperative effort between Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, and Smithsonian Institution to develop a protocol for monitoring predator species along the AT. The pilot study will happen April-November 2007 along the AT in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland. The survey will use infra-red trip-cameras to photograph wildlife species at specific points along the trail. It will rely on citizen groups to adopt sections of the trail and agree to move cameras from point to point on a monthly basis. The cooperative will supply the cameras, supplies, and training. The cameras are digital so the pictures will be shared between the volunteers, the organizations, and the scientists.

Over 90 volunteers have signed up for the predator monitoring survey along the A.T., a pilot project for a broader survey. If successful in this section of the A.T., the collaborators hope to expand the study area to the entire A.T. To learn more about the Megatransect Initiative go to www.appalachiantrail.org. Read more about the predator species survey on the A.T. at <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/104284>

Laura Belleville

Hike Reports

Saturday, November 11, 2006 8:00AM Lee Hollow (Rt 621) To Trout Creek (Rt 620) 113-Mile Hike #7

Kenny Garrett & John Miller (co-leaders), Pat Guzik, Fred Meyer, Dick Moran, Mervin Brower, Jim McNeeley, Ron McCorkle, Steve Tomazieski, Mike & Sheila Vaughn, & Liz Belcher

This was an absolutely beautiful day for a Veteran's Day hike. I was very pleased with the turnout for a Saturday hike, especially one during hunting season. The weather was unseasonably warm and sunny. The group was eager to walk and talk and enjoy the wonderful patriotism and friendship. We took a long break at the monument, which had been erected on top of Brush Mountain as a memorial to Audie Murphy. We then took a leisurely stroll through the deep carpet of fallen leaves to the parking area at Trout Creek. The views of the valleys and the farmland were amazing throughout the AT between Craig Creek and Trout Creek. The occasional sound of a hunter's rifle far away in the valley was a nice touch for Veteran's Day.

Sunday, December 3, 2006 1:00PM Trout Creek (Rt. 620) to Pickle Branch Shelter

Kenny Garrett & Hugh Hall (co-leaders), Jesse Garrett, Steve Tomazieski, John Miller, Caryl Connolly, Christine Munns, & Guest; Dylan McCallister

It was a beautiful afternoon for an early winter walk. We had a great group with a wonderful mixture of hikers from varied backgrounds and ages. The sky was fairly clear and the temps were cool but not cold. The views of the north end of Brush Mt. were nice as we rounded the side of the hill. The break was enjoyed at Pickle Branch Shelter, with several hikers strolling down the hill to the creek and climbing back up. We all started back off as a single group hiking back to the trail head at Trout Creek. The group then spread out at different walking speeds and many different

conversations. It was a good time for old friends to catch up and for new friendships to be formed.

Sunday, December 10, 2006 8:00AM Dickerson Gap (Rt. 635) to Symms Gap—AT The Cascades and Barney's Wall

Kris Peckman (leader), Maya Bohler (assistant), Larry Austin, Hugh Hall, Charles Musgrove, Mike and Sheila Vaughn

Maurice Turner was scheduled to lead a hike on Peters Mountain today, but he had to go out of town, and no one else could find the access trails. So Mike suggested the Cascades and Barney's Wall, and I offered to lead, since I had been there two years ago and felt reasonably sure I could find it again. The club hasn't gone to Barney's Wall for several years.

Temperatures last week got down to the teens at night, so even though today was predicted to go up into the 50s, we hoped to see ice on the falls. As we started out, shivering in the shade, there was a dusting of snow on parts of the trail, and the rocks in the creek were surrounded by sheets of ice. Spray from the moving water made interesting ice formations on the nearby rocks. As we approached the falls, there was a whole wall of icicles on the cliff on the opposite site of Little Stony Creek. Sure enough, there was thick snowy ice all around the edges of the falls, and only a small meandering stream of liquid water flowed through the heavy ice on the pool below the falls. More icicles hung from the high cliff opposite the falls.

Climbing up the steps to the left led us to a forest road, where we took a right turn and began climbing again. A patch of icicles just beside the trail inspired Hugh and Maya to a duel. Fortunately, their icicle swords broke before any damage could be done. Then a fork to the right led us downhill to the Upper Falls, which are smaller than the Cascades, but very pretty. Shortly after returning to the forest road, we came to a sign for the Conservancy Trail on the left,

which bears faint yellow blazes and took us up, up and up. When it leveled off at a small clearing, we conferred on how far we had to go. About ten paces later we came to the sign for Barney's Wall. A trail of 0.6 mile led us mostly downhill to the awe-inspiring view from the rocky outcrop known as Barney's Wall (no, we don't know who Barney was). The cliff we stood on drops straight down 900 feet to Little Stony Creek.

After lunch at Barney's Wall, we returned to the Cascades, where four of us took the upper trail back to the parking lot, while three went back along the creek, getting a different perspective on the ice formations now that they were sunlit. We were reunited at the parking lot at 2:30.

**Sunday, December 10, 2006 1:00PM
McAfee Knob**

Bobbie Sticher & Sue Scanlin, (leaders), Curry Fisher and Henry McLain

It was a nice December Sunday afternoon when four of us hiked the A.T. to McAfee Knob. We snacked and enjoyed the views at the Knob. We descended down the trail where the old Johnson farm was originally located. We walked out the forest service road, never retracing any of our steps that day. I like to think of this way to hike McAfee Knob as a figure eight. It was a great day for hiking.

**Sunday, December 17, 2006 8:00AM
Angel's Rest Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan, Bob Peckman, Kris Peckman, Jerry Kyle

We got off to a slow start as Bob and Kris took the scenic route via Dublin. We met at Wades Supermarket where Bob and Kris were given paint and scraper and started blazing up the mountain. The rest of us drove to the upper road crossing and hiked in to begin work where we left off last summer. In particular, there was one rock we were unable to move in July. This time with a come-along, two rock-bars and four men, we managed to get it loose and onto the trail where we made a nice step out of it. Several hikers passed through, as it was a beautiful day. In mid afternoon, one group told us our blazers were on their way up. They passed through shortly and I

told them to quit when they reached the recent relocations. We managed to get only 6 steps in for the day, but 4 of them were monsters. We also got about 2 miles of trail reblazed for the day, so we considered it a real success.

**Monday, January 1, 2007 9:00AM
Catawba Mtn. (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob
and lunch**

Kris Peckman (leader), Larry Austin (substitute assistant), Maya Bohler, Diana Christopulos, Elliot George, Mary Harshfield, Hugh Hall, Mark McClain, Carol McPeak, Fred Meyer, Randy Michael, Bob Peckman, Jennifer Pfister, Kathy and Dan Phlegar and their charming dog Sage, Donna and Pete Roberts, Lois Smith, David and Nick Socky, Denise and Stuart Talbert, Maurice Turner, Sheila and Mike Vaughn



Rain on December 31, 2006 didn't prove a discouraging factor for the first RATC hike of 2007. Twenty-five hikers turned out for the second annual New Year's Day hike/picnic to

McAfee's Knob, and the weather smiled on us. The signup sheets got a bit wet in the Orange Market parking lot, but before we were very far into the hike, the sun was shining and some of us were down to T-shirts. From the Knob, some clouds could be seen in the valleys, but the Peaks of Otter stood out clearly. Since the Devil's Kitchen proper was still too wet, we moved over to the Devil's Kitchen Annex for our picnic lunch featuring homemade soup and bread by (who else?) Larry Austin, as well as various salads, desserts, and snacks including Cuban deviled ham spread on Breton crackers. After our feast, the group dispersed somewhat, with some taking the fire road and others the trail. Everyone got back safe and sound, but with a group this size I thought in retrospect it would be a good idea to leave a "sign-out" sheet on the leader's car, so the leader could be sure everybody got out of the woods.

Several hikers commented on the excellent steps and waterbars that our trail workers have installed in recent years. They are working out very well.

Sunday, January 7, 2007 8:00AM
Cove Mountain & Little Cove Mountain
Circuit

Mike Vaughn & Maya Bohler (leaders), Pat Guzik, Larry Austin, Bob Peckman, Kris Peckman, Sheila Vaughn, Diana Christopulos, Hugh Hall

This hike is located in northern Botetourt County, near Arcadia. The hike starts at the footbridge across Jennings Creek. The first 2.8 miles of the hike is on the Cove Mountain Trail. Rain was forecast for the afternoon so we climbed fairly quickly up the trail, gaining 1,600 feet in elevation. Larry Austin maintains this trail and it was in great shape. After reaching the intersection with the A.T. on top of Cove Mountain we headed north along the ridgeline. There were good views to the left towards the Great Valley of Virginia and to Apple Orchard Mountain looming to the right. We stopped at the Little Cove Mountain shelter for an early lunch. It was cool and breezy there so we didn't stay long. We took a detour during our descent of Little Cove Mountain to a waterfall on Cove Creek. The detour took us on the Glenwood Horse Trail and some little known trails that Larry was familiar

with from his frequent hikes in this area. The waterfall was about 75 feet high and had a high volume of water coming over it due to recent rains. The view from the cliffs overlooking the waterfall was spectacular. Thanks to Larry for guiding us to this little known gem.

Sunday, January 7, 2007 1:00PM
Apple Orchard Falls/Cornelius Creek Loop
Dragon's Tooth

Jean Warren (leader), Carl Cornett, Debbi Carroll & Sue Scanlin

Well, we didn't actually go to Apple Orchard Falls. Instead we ended up going to Dragon's Tooth, up the Boy Scout Trail and returning on the main trail. The weatherman promised heavy afternoon downpours, so we decided to take a hike closer to home. Boy, did we ever time that right! We were almost in the turn-around point in the midst of the rhododendrons (already budding) and mountain laurel, before it started to rain. We still stopped and took the time to notice the beautiful views, even in the haze and clouds. Near the end of the hike, Carl pointed out a tree where a bear had climbed and shredded the bark. We had a great time with laughter and conversation/views of the world events. I'll try another trip to Apple Orchard Falls on April 14.

Sunday, January 14, 2007 8:00AM
Dickerson Gap (Rt. 635) to Symms Gap - AT

Maurice Turner(leader), Kris Peckman(co-leader), Maya Bohler, Pat Guzik, Don Hoke, Fred Meyer, Bob Peckman and Jim Walke.

Five of us drove in one car to meet Pat at the park/ride lot near Christiansburg. Maya rode with Pat and they followed us to Rt. 460/635 to meet Fred and Jim. We left two cars at the Dickerson Trail and started our hike at Rt. 720, leaving one car there. The road walk was two miles before we bushwhacked up Peters Mtn. via a picturesque stream covered in places by rhododendron. There were other upper streams that fed into this stream. We had to maneuver around and over boulder fields. We took one of the upper stream beds to follow a distance before turning to meet an overgrown road to a point intersecting the trail that led to the jeep trail. We noticed the remains of an old radio flyer red wagon near the trail. At the

jeep trail intersection, Jim took a group picture. We hiked this grassy jeep trail for over two miles, taking time out for lunch in a wide open area with remains of timber cuttings piled up to one side. Here we saw a 4x4 with two people drive by, later discovering they were with the Blacksburg Outing Club. They were checking the overgrown field at Symms Gap. After lunch we continued on the jeep trail to the end and passed through a gate to hike the trail that led to Symms Gap, passing the two people we saw earlier during our lunch break. After a rest break at the Gap, we hiked north on the AT for 2.5 miles, passing the Groundhog trail intersection before reaching the Dickerson Gap trail. There were nice views of the West Virginia farm land from the ridgeline along the AT. The Dickerson Gap trail intersection is distinguishable by the forest boundary red marking on a large rock. The Dickerson trail is a 1.4 miles descent to Rt. 635; it is not well maintained, has blow downs and is overgrown in areas, making it somewhat challenging to follow especially during full foliage. The hike started around 9:45 and ended at 4:40; Jim estimated the hike to be over 11 miles. Pat took Jim and Fred back to their cars and the remaining five of us took Rt. 635 to Paint Bank, stopping for dinner at the Swinging Bridge Restaurant, before heading back to Orange Market. Everyone seemed to enjoy the hike, especially the bushwhacking.

**Sunday, January 14, 2007 1:00PM
Troutville (Rt 11) to Fullhardt Knob shelter**

Lois Smith & Bobbie Sticher (leaders), Joyce Fisher, Zetta Campbell, Curry Fisher, Mark & Sybille Nelson & Stacy Saverbrun.

Since Gary Bible could not assist in leading the hike, Bobbie Sticher graciously helped when asked. The weather was unbelievable for January, around 68 degrees. We had three guests that had never hiked with the club but were used to hiking the trail on their own and wanted to try the group experience. At the Shelter we ate a snack, chatted and started the trek back down.

**Sunday, January 21, 2007 8:30AM
Catawba Mountain Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Laurie Adkins, Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan, Steve Burt, Anita Finkle, Jay Finkle, Maya Bohler, Evelio Contreras, Christina O'Connor, Mac (Laurie's dog)

The weather forecast had not been too favorable all week, so I half expected we would cancel. When I got up and saw fresh snow on our deck, I thought we were done. However, when it got daylight there was no precipitation coming down so we went. I had 5 treated 6x6's 8 feet long in the truck for water-bars. I was hoping to get them in the ground so I would not have to unload when I got home. We drove up the fire-road to just below the AT bulletin board. I knew we needed some water-bars there, but was not sure how many or where. A quick look confirmed we could use three, but there was no place to drain the top one, so we put in a check dam step instead. Evelio is a reporter for the Roanoke Times and Christina, a photographer. He took notes while she took pictures. With all our help and a very short carry, the bars went in quite fast. A couple of our workers cleaned off the steps that we put in a few years ago. The weather got worse with snow changing to freezing rain. I decided we would put the last two water-bars in on the hill just to the south of John's Spring Shelter. Again a quick scouting trip showed we could use one on the south side of the hill. As one group was putting that in, some of us went to look at the north slope. We found no good places for water-bars, but several places for check dam steps. We took the closest one and it went in easy, as there was sand on both sides of the trail. As quite a bit of ice had already fallen, we decided to quit even though it was only 11 o'clock. As far as I know everybody made it home safely and I was pleased that I didn't have to unload the timbers. It was a good effort in spite of bad weather conditions.

**Sunday, January 21, 2007 1:00PM
Roanoke Valley Greenway Trail**

Dave Sutton (leader), Hugh Hall (co-leader), Barbara Duerk, and Sherry Kessel.



The hike began with sleet falling and two inches predicted. Although this greenway section officially begins at Huff Lane Micro-village School, we started at the outermost part of the Target parking area to avoid traffic. As club members we are stewards to the trail system, so Barbara provided trash bags for us to clean up the greenway. Within an hour we had filled 4 bags as we walked towards downtown. Within 2 hours we had filled about 12 bags. There is so much vegetation (willow, osage orange, white pine, and cattails) along the greenway it was hard to imagine we were in the middle of the city. We walked through the scenic hills of Washington Park and finished at the Market Building. It was a great walk and we cleaned up the greenway.

Sunday, January 28, 2007 8:00AM
Sinking Creek (Rt 630) to Lee Hollow (Rt 621), 113-Mile Hike #8

Cancelled

Sunday, January 28, 2007 11:00 AM
Cascades

Members: Sue Scanlin (leader), Peggy Bryant, Jeanne Duddy, David Bowers with dog, Catcher
 Guests: Margarita Cubas, Shawn O'Neil, Peni O'Neil, Rod Liebl, Marianne Demkó, Andy Robinson, and Dean Meador

With the temps being around freezing and the wind howling through the Roanoke Valley, we had two cancellations and one opt-out due to the meeting time at 11 AM, not the usual 1 PM. That left eleven hardy souls to do the hike. Of course, the hope was that we'd see the falls frozen but the trail clear of ice. Neither was to be the case.

Not long after starting off from the Cascades parking lot, the ice on the trail was too much to handle for some. It was agreed upon that these four should turn back and take the conservancy road instead.

We saw two fishermen in the creek –brrr! – and several neat looking icicle formations along the way. The closer we got to the falls, the prettier it got but the falls themselves were only frozen around the sides, not all the way across. Two road group members had rejoined the creek trail group by the time we had our lunch/snack break at the falls. It wasn't long, we got chilly and decided to go back down. We thought we'd pick up the other two on the way. No such luck.

At the parking lot, one car left for Roanoke while five of us again split into two groups to return to the trail and conservancy road. About ten minutes later, the two vanished hikers came walking down the road and all could return to Hanging Rock Orange Market. All's well that ends well.

Sunday, February 4, 2007 9:00AM
Bearwallow Gap to Buchanan Horse Trail Parking

Larry Austin & Kris Peckman (leaders), Bob Peckman, Lois Smith, Jen Schaeffer, Dick Moran, Maurice Turner and Jennifer Pfister.



The weather for this hike was cold, partly cloudy and in the low to mid-30's. There was a little wind as well but all in all, it was a fairly nice day for hiking. We commenced the hike at Bearwallow Gap on the AT and followed it to Boblett's Gap where we descended a forest service road for about one mile and then headed north on the Glenwood Horse Trail. The views of the valley below and mountains to the west were quite nice. After about one-half mile on the Horse Trail, we descended down the mountain in a bush-whack to view one of the iron ore mines (Pico Mines) which were in operation in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The mine opening was covered in ice as water was dripping down over the opening. We attempted to break it so we could see inside. Maurice was finally able to get an opening large enough so that we could see. The ice was quite hard and very beautiful. There were several interesting formations from the dripping water. Jen noticed one that appeared to be a vase with an open top and in it was liquid water and you could see drops of water going down in the top of it. Other ice formations contained moss, leaves and interesting designs. The side trip only consumed about 30 minutes. Shortly after we returning to the trail, we decided to have lunch in an area with great views. There were many sites where you could observe the mining operations, and we were able to see several other mine openings on the side of the mountain. I was unable to convince anyone to poke their trekking poles in one of them to see if we could arouse a bear from its slumber. I guess no one was up to a chase! We concluded

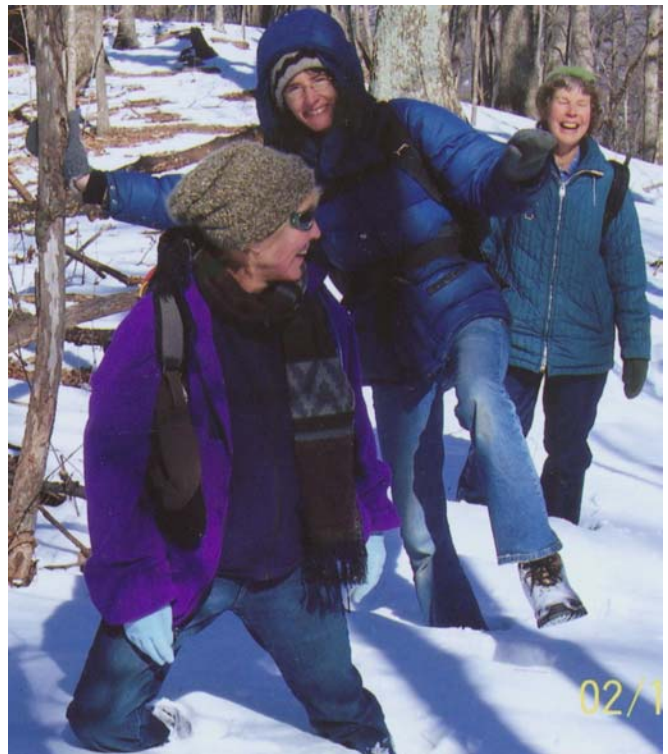
the hike shortly after 2:00 p.m. and enjoyed some hot chocolate, coffee and brownies.

Sunday, February 4, 2007 1:00PM
Jennings Creek (Rt 614) to Bryant Ridge Shelter

Kenny Garrett & Ed Wallace (leaders), Lance Garrett, Peggy Bryant & Carl Cornett

It was a very chilly afternoon for a Super Bowl Sunday. We started the hike at Jennings Creek and climbed up and over Fork Mountain. Lance found the remnants of a deer skull, which he decided to keep, from the top of the mountain. We then descended through a picturesque valley past several downed trees. We made it to the several small creek crossings without finding the infamous pile of buttons supposedly located near the trail. We made it within a half mile of the shelter when we decided that darkness was creeping in quickly on this short winter day. We made it to the parking area just before dark, and also made it home for kick-off. It was a great hike, despite the cold.

Sunday, February 11, 2007 8:00AM
Trout Creek (Rt 620) to Dragon's Tooth
Parking Lot, 113-Mile Hike #6



Kris Peckman (leader), John Miller (assistant), Carl Cornett, Pat Guzik, Mary Harshfield, Kevin Jordan, Bob Peckman, & Andy Robinson

At 7:00 the thermometer read 10 degrees, but at 9:00 it had risen to 21 degrees. At that rate, it should be above freezing by lunchtime, and it was.

We started the hike one hour later than scheduled, in order to be hiking in the warmest part of the day, but we added about a mile to the hike by parking at the 621/620 intersection instead of driving in to the trailhead. Somehow the spectacle of one of our vehicles sliding off an icy wooden bridge into the creek didn't sound too appealing.



Trout Creek, partly iced over, was a pretty sight. We hiked all day in snow that ranged from 0" to about 10", averaging 2 to 3 inches. The ridges sometimes acted like snow-drift fences giving us the 10" deep sections. The snow delineated the contours of the mountains around us and, with the bright sunshine, made for beautiful views. Carl

led the way, making, from Pickle Branch to Dragon's Tooth, the first tracks in virgin snow. For a while we were puzzled by lines of evenly-spaced, round indentations in the snow that seemed to start from nowhere and abruptly stop. Eventually we decided it must have been a small bird that landed and hopped for a few feet before taking off again.

The Tooth itself was busy as usual, and the hike down to Lost Spectacles Gap was slippery. Carl and Kevin followed the original plan and hiked the AT (over more rocks, but not slippery, they reported, since it's not heavily traveled) to the Boy Scout Trail, but the rest of us took the blue-blazed trail back to the cars. It was fun having two relatively new members with us, and we hope to see Kevin and Andy on many future hikes.

**Sunday, February 11, 2007 1:00PM
Chestnut Ridge Trail**

Bobbie Stitcher (leader), Peggy Bryant, Caryl Connolly, Jeanne Duddy, Greg Edwards, Rod Leibl, Sue Scanlin, Beverly Williamson

On Saturday I checked to see if we could get to the parking lot and found the road was closed near the entrance to Mill Mountain due to the recent snow. I chose to start from Yellow Mountain Road on Sunday. We met in the parking lot at the upper level of Towers Mall. It was a quick drive to the starting point. The day was beautiful to hike with snow on the trail and in the woods. We had a snack standing, finding no place to sit. The road to the parking lot was opened as we hiked past! But I think all were pleased to start from a new location. I would like to thank Peggy Bryant for being the sweep. A very enjoyable hike on a Sunday afternoon with patches of snow remaining.

**Sunday, February 18, 2007 8:30AM
Sawtooth Ridge Work Hike**

Charles Parry & Maurice Turner (leaders), Bob Stimson, Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan, John Kraemer, & Mike Kraemer

It was a cold, windy day and the ground was frozen solid. As if putting in rock steps was not hard enough, the frozen conditions added an extra challenge. The last rock that was put in during our previous excursion was set in temporarily and

needed to be moved, but first had to be broken loose. After several tries it popped loose and we were able to set it well. We next scouted for new rocks and had the same problem getting them loose. As they needed to be moved down hill, that was the easy part. The next hard part was digging a hole to set them in. One large rock, in particular, took at least an hour to make a hole for. I thought that we might get below the frost line, but we never did. By lunchtime, we had three new steps set plus the old one and decided to call it quits. On the way down, Maurice and I discussed what to do with the remaining part of the hill on our March workhike. It looks like a switchback is the best option.

**Sunday, February 18, 2007 1:00PM
Daleville (Rt 220) to Hay Rock**

Mervin & Blanche Brower (leaders), Peggy Bryant, & Ron McCorkle

The hike started from Daleville commuter parking lot. The day was in the 25's, cloudy and windy. We left the parking lot at about 1:10 PM and returned at 6:30. There was some snow and ice on the trail going up the mountain. On top the trail was reasonably clear for most of the way. There was a lot of snow and ice around Hay Rock. We had some snow flurries on the top for about half an hour. The air was very clear and we had a good view of the valley toward Daleville.

**Sunday, February 25, 2007 10:00AM
Onion Mountain Exploratory
Tuesday, February 27 9:00AM
New Bryant Ridge Shelter Loop**

Larry Austin (leader), Maurice Turner, Carl Cornett, Kris & Bob Peckman, Carol McPeak, Bobbie Stichter, Maya Bohler, Kevin Jordan, Harry Harman & Beasley.

The Onion Mountain Exploratory Hike was postponed until April 1 due to the Blue Ridge Parkway being closed for cleanup of downed limbs and trees from the ice storm. Then the alternate, a new loop hike to Bryant Ridge Shelter was postponed due to the rain and wintry mix being experienced that day. However, in an effort to get this hike in anyway, this group got together Tuesday under absolutely beautiful skies and a perfect hiking temperature to do the hike to Bryant

Ridge Shelter via a new route. We met at 9:00 a.m. and then proceeded to the Arcadia area. We drove a couple of miles on North Creek Road and parked our vehicles. We followed a gated, grassy forest service road about 3/4 of a mile and then turned into the forest to follow a stream for about 1/2 mile to intersect the AT about 1/4 mile south of the Bryant Ridge Shelter. We spent a little time there, as both Kevin and Harry had never been to the shelter. We then proceeded north on the AT a few hundred yards and took a blue blaze trail (the old AT before it was rerouted) and followed it for about 1.5 miles until it intersected the AT about 1.5 miles south of the shelter. We enjoyed lunch in the warmth of the sun along the AT surrounded by lovely pine trees and running cedar. We continued back to our vehicles on the same route we followed initially. We then drove about 1/2 mile farther up North Creek near the North Creek Campground and parked at the White Tail Trail parking area and hiked this two-mile loop.



Along the way, we could hear some unusual sounds coming from a wildlife pond. It was full of frogs vocalizing. As we approached the pond, the sounds came to a halt but in observing the pond more closely, we could see many frogs apparently in a mating mood. This made for some interesting conversation and laughter as we continued on our journey. We veered off the White Tail Trail before the end of the loop to do a short bush-

whack to go by the Colon Hollow Shelter. This is a Forest Service shelter near the North Creek Campground and appears identical to shelters along the AT. We then followed a path back out to the road and took interest in a chestnut log cabin that had been relocated to the North Creek area by the Forest Service. We finished the hike around 2:30 and all seemed to enjoy a weekday hike. Perhaps a weekday hike every so often would be an added bonus to our quarterly schedule.

**Sunday, February 25, 2007 1:00PM
Bennett Springs Loop Hike #1**

Rained out.

**Sunday, March 4, 2007 8:00AM
Andy Layne Trail (Rt 779) to (Rt 311) on
the North Mountain Trail**

Kris Peckman (leader), Linda King (assistant), Larry Austin, Maya Bohler, Charles (Chase) Davidson, Pat Guzik, John Miller, Jen Schaeffer

The lead role in the story of today's hike went to the wind. Lured into thinking spring had finally arrived, we were not mentally prepared for the wind that whipped us and chilled the air for the entire time we were on the ridgetop (which was most of the hike). We covered the 10.4 miles (distance disputed by the two pedometer-carriers) of the hike in 5 ½ hours, including lunch. Except during a pleasant lunch just off the top of the ridge on the lee side, and as we descended into calmer, warmer territory, nobody even talked much.

We had views of Sinking Creek Mountain and New Castle to our left, and of McAfee's Knob and Tinker Cliffs to our right, as we hiked from 311 northward. The ridgetop is hardly flat, so we got our exercise. On the descent along the Catawba Valley Trail, the recent rains had created a lovely

waterfall in a usually not very remarkable stream. Hoped-for wildflowers had not yet appeared.

Good company made for an enjoyable day.

**Sunday, March 4, 2007 1:00PM
Bottom Creek Gorge**

Sue Scanlin (leader), Hugh Hall (assistant), Caryl Connolly, H.R. Blankenship, Dave Miller, Peggy Bryant, Maurice Turner, Mark Packett

At first it looked like we were going to be a dozen or more but after several cancellations on account of the blustering wind, there were eight of us meeting at Towers and heading up Bent Mountain in two cars. On the way, we saw some snow flurries glistening in the sunshine – really pretty!

Two of the group had never before been to Bottom Creek Gorge. Were they in for a treat: The sun was shining, the air was brisk, and in some places the wind didn't reach us – it couldn't be any better for an afternoon hike. We took the Loop Trail (blue) to the falls overlook where we congregated for lunch, took in the sight of Bent Mountain Falls with our eyes and cameras, and did a bit of socializing.

We returned via the Johnston and Knight trails (red and yellow). Along the way, the barren trees allowed for a good view of Bottom Creek below and the forward group even heard an owl hoot somewhere. No wildlife sightings, though, and it was too early in the year for the beautiful flora that can be enjoyed there. Actually, several entire trees as well as numerous branches had broken off over the winter and blocked the trails. I'm sure that by the time the rhododendron are in bloom all these blockages will have been removed by the Charlottesville Nature Conservancy group with the help of our Wednesday work group. Thanks in advance, guys!

Hike Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, April 1, 2007 9:00AM
Onion Mountain Exploratory

4 - 6 miles, Strenuous, \$2.50 carpool fee
 27 miles from Roanoke

This hike will be nearly all bushwhack. We will start from the parking area of Sunset Field Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway and head east down a gated road to the site of the former Camp Kewanee clearing. From this point we will visit some of the sites of former buildings with their stone foundations. After this, we will head to the summit of Onion Mountain and down the side to a rock formation that provides good views of Bedford Lake and the valley and mountains. From there, we will continue to explore and locate some other rock cliffs. If you are in a hurry this day, do not come on this hike. We want to take our time and simply explore

Larry Austin

254-2092

Lois Smith

540-862-7370

Sunday, April 1, 2007 1:00PM
Fort Lewis Mountain from Bradshaw Road

4.2 miles, Moderate, \$.50 carpool fee
 9 miles from Roanoke

This out and back hike crosses Mason's Creek before ascending Fort Lewis Mountain. There are limited views from the summit.

Ed Wallace

774-0175

Maya Bohler

344-6588

Sunday, April 8, 2007 8:00AM
Flat Top Mountain, Falling Water Cascades

5.3 miles, Moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee
 30 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, this hike will start with an out and back climb up Flat Top Mountain. There should be many trillium along the trail at this time of year. At one point a side trail descends a short distance to an unusual formation known as Cross Rock. At the summit of Flat Top, nice views may be obtained by easy scrambles onto projecting rocks.

Upon descending back to the Parkway, the hike will continue with a short descent to Falling Water Cascades, a scenic creek and waterfall.

Diana Christopulos

387-0930

Hugh Hall

725-8874

**Sunday, April 15, 2007 8:00AM
Fuller Rocks, Big Rocky Row**

8.8 miles, Strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee
39 miles from Roanoke

This hike will start on the A.T. crossing on Hercules Road. The hike will head north on the A.T., reaching Fuller Rocks after a series of 21 switchbacks. There are magnificent views here of the James River and the surrounding mountains. The hike will then ascend Big Rocky Row, with additional great views of the valley below, before descending back to Hercules Road on a side trail at Saddle Gap.

Mike Vaughn 992-1350
Dan Phlegar 389-1783

**Saturday, April 14, 2007 11:00AM
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.

Sue Scanlin 989-0497
Jean Warren 384-6229

**Sunday, April 22, 2007 8:00AM
Angel's Rest Work Hike**

.5 miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee
60 miles from Roanoke

We will be doing clipping, blazing, and blow-down removal on the A.T. up to Angel's Rest on Pearis Mountain in Giles County.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Mike Vaughn 992-1350
Dana Helsley 977-4154

**Sunday, April 22, 2007 1:00PM
Chestnut Ridge Trail**

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

The hike is located 4 miles from Roanoke and 1 mile from the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is a 5.4-mile figure-eight course around the Roanoke Campground behind Mill Mountain. The trail is well graded and surrounded by woods.

Merv and Blanche Brower 387-9732

**Sunday, April 29, 2007 8:00AM
Sinking Creek (Rt 630) to Lee Hollow (Rt 621), 113-Mile Hike #8**

10.4 miles, Strenuous, \$4.00 carpool fee
41 miles from Roanoke

Located in Craig County, the hike climbs up Sinking Creek Mountain, then follows the ridge, where rock piles and old apple trees remain from the days when even the top of the mountains had farms on them. Several slanted rocks offer views of Craig Creek Valley and the mountains beyond.

John Miller 375-3250
Gary Bible 977-2954

**Sunday, April 29, 2007 1:00PM
Belfast Trail to Devil's Marblyard**

3.0 miles, Easy, \$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 Marblyard 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.

Kenny Garrett 892-5786
Mike Vaughn 992-1350

**Sunday, May 6, 2007 8:30AM
Green Hill Exploratory**

8.0 miles, Strenuous, \$3.50 carpool fee
40 miles from Roanoke

This will be a bushwhacking hike from North Mountain in Rockbridge County to Green Hill. The top of Green Hill has rock outcroppings with great views of the surrounding wilderness.

Homer & Therese Witcher 992-3932

**Sunday, May 6, 2007 1:00PM
Thunder Ridge Overlook to Sunset Fields Overlook**

4.2 miles, Easy, \$2.50 carpool fee
23 miles from Roanoke

Located in Bedford County, this hike has wonderful views from Thunder Ridge Overlook and Apple Orchard Mountain, which has a large grassy bald at its summit. This route is also known for the Guillotine, a rock formation, where the trail passes under a suspended rock. There is also a beautiful series of over 100 rock steps installed by the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club along the trail immediately past the Guillotine.

Kenny Garrett 892-5786
Hugh Hall 725-8874

**Sunday, May 13, 2007 1:00PM
Harkening Hill**

4.0 miles, Easy, \$3.00 carpool fee
30 miles from Roanoke

This hike is located along the Blue Ridge Parkway at the Peaks of Otter. This is an out and back hike. There are limited views from the summit of Harkening Hill and an interesting rock formation.

Dave Sutton 774-0648
Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

**Saturday & Sunday, May 19 & 20, 2007 8:00AM
Mountain Lake, Bailey Gap Work Hike**

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee
50 miles from Roanoke

We will be doing clipping, blazing, and blow-down removal in the Mountain Lake area.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Hal Cantrill 387-2347

**Sunday, May 20, 2007 11:00AM
Hoop Hole, Lower Loop**

4.0 miles, Easy, \$2.50 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.

Sue Scanlin 989-0497
Hugh Hall 725-8874

**Sunday, May 27, 2007 8:00AM
Still House Branch to Rice Fields**

11.0 miles, Strenuous, \$5.00 carpool fee
50 miles from Roanoke

This hike is located in Giles County. We will be ascending Peters Mountain along an old jeep road along Still House Branch. We will then walk along the ridge line of Peters Mountain, passing the Rice Fields shelter. We will then take another jeep road back to our starting point.

Maurice Turner 334-2128
Kris Peckman 366-7780

**Sunday, May 27, 2007 1:00 PM
Falls Ridge**

5.0 miles, Moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee
30 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Montgomery County, southeast of Blacksburg in Falls Ridge Preserve. Part of a steep, rugged ridge that rises from the valley of the North Fork of the Roanoke River, Falls Ridge Preserve boasts a spring-fed travertine waterfall approximately 80 feet in height. Salem Fault runs through the preserve, dividing it into two different rock types: Precambrian limestone and shale/sandstone. The corresponding difference in soil types generates a diversity of vegetation, particularly wildflowers and smaller flora.

Bobbie Stitche 397-2760
Charles Musgrove 345-7969

Sunday, June 3, 2007 8:00AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to Andy Layne
Trail (Rt 779) 113-Mile Hike #4

11.5 miles, Strenuous, \$.50 carpool fee
 6 miles from Roanoke

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

John Miller 375-3250
Lois Smith 540-862-7370

Sunday, June 3, 2007 11:00AM
Stiles Falls

4.0 miles, Easy, \$2.00 carpool fee
 22 miles from Roanoke

We'll drive to Camp Alta Mons, leave our cars there and go up a dirt road along the camp to the trail head. The trail crosses a creek several times before arriving at the falls. We will return the same way.

Sue Scanlin 989-0497
Gary Bible 977-2954

June 7 to 10, 2007
Angel's Gap Relocation with Konnarock
Crew

Saturday, June 9, 2007 8:00AM
Angel's Gap Relocation with Konnarock
Crew

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

We will start work on the relocation of an eroded section of the trail near Hay Rock in Botetourt County.

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

Sunday, June 10, 2007 8:00AM
Angel's Gap Relocation with Konnarock
Crew

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

We will start work on the relocation of an eroded section of the trail near Hay Rock in Botetourt County.

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

Sunday, June 10, 2007 1:00PM
Angel's Gap Relocation with Konnarock
Crew

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

We will start work on the relocation of an eroded section of the trail near Hay Rock in Botetourt County.

Merv and Blanche Brower 387-9732

Sunday, June 10, 2007 1:00PM
Hoop Hole, Lower Loop

4.0 miles, Easy, \$2.50 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.

Bobbie Stitche 397-2760
Charles Musgrove 345-7969

Sunday, June 17, 2007 8:00AM
Patterson Mountain

8.2 miles, Moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee
 18 miles from Roanoke

The trail ascends from Patterson Creek Valley to the top of Patterson Mountain. It follows the ridge top for several miles before descending back to the valley floor.

Dave Wickersham 774-0439
Maya Bohler 344-6588

**Sunday, June 17, 2007 1:00PM
Dismal Falls**

4.2 miles, Easy, \$6.00 carpool fee
69 miles from Roanoke

We will hike on the A.T. along Dismal Creek in Giles County, ending at Dismal Falls, a scenic water fall.

Kenny Garrett 892-5786
John Miller 375-3250

**Sunday, June 24, 2007 8:00AM
Crabtree Falls, Priest Loop**

9.0 miles, Strenuous, \$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 have a total fall of 1,200 feet. After reaching the top of the falls, we will take a side trail to connect to the A.T. near the Priest shelter. We will then began a 3,000 foot descent from the summit of the Priest back to Route 56 on the Tye River.

Kris Peckman 366-7780
Linda King 342-2411

**Sunday, June 24, 2007 1:00PM
Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve**

6.0 miles, Moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee
30 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Franklin County, just outside the town of Rocky Mount at the Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve, owned and managed

by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation. This hike will traverse Grassy Hill which is a formation composed of ancient volcanic rocks rich in magnesium. Hikers will get to see a mixture of habitats including areas that support rare plants.

Maurice Turner 334-2128
Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

**June 7 to 10
July 12 to 16, 2007 AND
August 2 to 6, 2007
Angel's Gap Relocation with
Konnarock Crew**

**Saturday
August 4, 2007
Corn Boil &
75th Aniversary**

I apologize to the photographers for not crediting them this time. I will do better! Please include the date with each photo & I will continue to match the photos with the report or with the schedule. The web version of the Blazer is in color. - Bob

**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 \$5.00 _____
 Address _____ Individual yrs _____ x \$10.00 _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____ Family years _____ x \$15.00 _____
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Individual life \$250.00 _____
 Email _____ Family life \$300.00 _____
 Make checks payable to **RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282** Donation \$ _____
 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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344-8550 robbiey@rbnet.com

CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

75th Anniversary Corn Boil
Saturday, August 4

WORK HIKES

Sunday, April 22 - 8:00 AM
Angel's Rest

Saturday & Sunday, May 19 & 20 - 8:00 AM
Mountain Lake – Bailey Gap

June 7 to June 10
July 12 to 16 & August 2 to 6
Angel's Rest with Konnarock Crew

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, April 23, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by *Greg Tinaglia*

Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by *Dick Clark*

Monday, June 25, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by *Charles & Gloria Parry*

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