

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Spring 2011

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.

CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

Saturday, August 6, 6-9PM
Annual Corn-boil
Catawba Community Center

WORK HIKES

Sunday, April 17 - 8:30 AM
Catawba Mountain

Sunday, May 22 - 8:30 AM
Catawba Mountain

Sunday, June 12 - 8:30 AM
Catawba Mountain

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 18, 7:00 p.m. (New Time)
Hosted by *Mike & Sheila Vaughn*

Monday, June 6, 7:00 p.m. (New Time)
Hosted by *Bob & Kris Peckman*

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Biennial Conference John Miller Wants YOU!

Excursion Leaders:

Saturday July 2 - Paint your own pottery -
12:30 to 4:30 pm (no admission for leader)
Wednesday July 6 - Mabry Mill Parkway
Tour - 9 am to 4 pm (no admission charge)

Excursion Desk:

Thursday July 7 - 8 am to noon

Excursion Departure Area:

Tuesday July 5 - 7:15 am to noon
Tuesday July 5 - 4 to 8 pm
Wednesday July 6 - 4 to 6:30 pm
Thursday July 7 - 12:45 to 4:30 pm
Thursday July 7 - 4:30 to 6:30 pm

All vounteers get a free T-shirt.
For Questions or to Volunteer:
john.miller591@comcast.net
or 540-375-3250.

Trail Supervisor's Report

Past Workhikes

As of press time the club had only completed one of our scheduled winter work hikes. December was cancelled due to weather and the January Fulhardt Knob cistern repair work was postponed due to illness. However, February's weather was spring-like and a group did get out to work on the trail going to McAfee's Knob. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this report, we will have completed more work on our March 20th workhike, and the new cistern gutter will be installed.

Future Workhikes

In April, May and June we will continue working on Catawba Mountain. With the high hiker traffic going to McAfee's Knob the trail is being worn to an overly wide path, steps are being bypassed and water diversion structures are no longer functioning. During our workhikes we will take a variety of tools so that we can address these deficiencies.

Additionally we have other work that will be scheduled as ad hoc work trips or substituted in for one of the planned work hikes. On Catawba Mountain the first rock-slab bridge is in bad shape such that it needs to be replaced. Several shelter privies need to be moved, so we will be digging some holes. Our club's tools have a new home at the USFS work center in Blacksburg, but we need to move an equipment shed from Bradshaw Road to the work center. We will need to muscle the shed onto and then off of a trailer—many hands make light work.

(If you are part of a group or you know a group that seeks volunteer opportunities some of these smaller projects are well suited for outside help because they don't take all day)

Annual summary and new goals

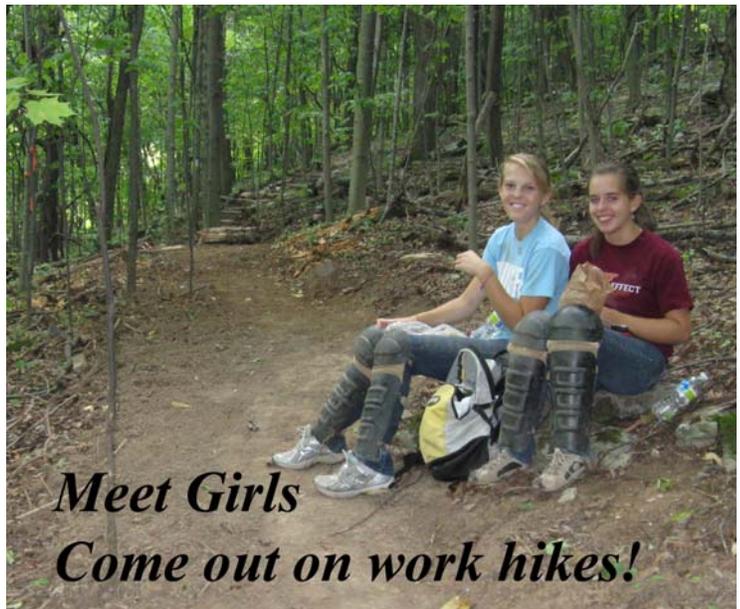
At the annual meeting I gave a recap of the work we did last year (October 1-September 30), and I suggested goals for this year.

Last year we worked 14 days (this includes days club members worked with the Konnarock crew) and had 39 different people participate for a total of 700 hours of service. Good job!

This year I offer the goal of working 800 hours with at least 50 people participating. Since we have already worked 260 hours with 28 individuals, we only need to work 540 more hours and invite 22 new people out for a good day of playing in the dirt.

HAVE A GREAT SPRING AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU OUT ON THE TRAIL!!!

David Jones



*Meet Girls
Come out on work hikes!*

There will be an overseers' meeting on Tuesday, April 26th, location to be determined. Please bring all your RATC keys to that meeting. If you have any locks on your section without keys, please get any information from the lock that you can and bring that to the meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, please send your keys and lock info to someone attending.

Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

<i>Kirk Ballin</i>	<i>Will, Jim & Karen Fabrie</i>	<i>Berndie Lunsford</i>
<i>Chris Bryan</i>	<i>Nancy Friedman</i>	<i>Donna Mitchell</i>
<i>Mary Buchanan</i>	<i>Charlotte Gardiner</i>	<i>George & Donna Repa</i>
<i>Clayton Cabiness</i>	<i>Dale & Sandy Grubbs</i>	<i>Nancy Stafford</i>
<i>Sandra Collins</i>	<i>Jon Hilton</i>	<i>Bill & Juanita Tanger</i>
<i>Murray & Donna Cook</i>	<i>Paula Kirtley</i>	<i>Suzanne Thorniley</i>
<i>Darrell Crick</i>	<i>Jeremy Kleiner</i>	<i>Christopher Vail</i>
<i>Cheryl Crowell</i>	<i>Dawn Lamb</i>	<i>Edward Wilson</i>

And we thank the following for making donations:

<i>Davey & Amanda Arthur</i>	<i>Amit & Laura Hajra</i>	<i>Suzanne Thorniley</i>
<i>Fred Coughlan</i>	<i>Carina & Bill Hughes</i>	<i>Ana Milena</i>
<i>Georgia Gallaher</i>	<i>Siegfried & Ursula</i>	<i>Chuck Walz</i>
<i>Charlotte Gardiner</i>	<i>Kolmstetter</i>	

And for donations in memory of Charles:

<i>Ursula & Siegfried</i>	<i>Stafford Query, Jr.</i>	<i>Dick & Judy Clark</i>
<i>Kolmstetter</i>	<i>Mervin & Blanche Brower</i>	

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

Bob Blankenbaker

Hikemaster's Report

From the beginning, the story of the Appalachian Trail has been a story largely about volunteers. From its earliest days men such as Benton MacKaye, the trail founder, and Myron Avery, the long-time president of the ATC, worked tirelessly to create the trail and keep it going. These were great men. To that list should be added the name of Charles Parry. His 30+ year record of work as our club's Trail Supervisor was truly extraordinary.

Charles largely shaped nearly all of the 120 miles of the A.T. that the club maintains. Over the years he laid out numerous relocations and saw the

projects through to completion. Each month he was out working hard on our section of trail. He knew the trail like the back of his hand.

As many in the club know, Charles loved to work on building steps along the trail. He personally built hundreds of stone steps all along the trail. These masterfully-built steps blend in beautifully with the natural surroundings and serve a very practical purpose (helping to get hikers up steep sections of trail and control erosion). When you are out on our section of the trail and see a set of steps out in the middle of nowhere, you can bet that it was probably built by Charles. These are

lasting monuments to his life's work with the club. Charles truly enriched the life of each and every member who worked with him on the trail. He has left us a wonderful legacy,

On the Spring schedule we have scheduled a number of hikes on our section of trail. Over the next year we hope to have hikes scheduled that will cover our whole section. This will provide club members who wish to earn their 113-mile patch an opportunity to do so.

Jim Walke is the latest member of the "113-Mile Club", completing all 113 miles of the section of the A.T. maintained by our club. Over 500 miles of the A.T. are located in Virginia. If you have completed all 113 miles, please let me know and I will send you a patch commemorating this accomplishment.

We have added several maps to our web site. Please print them out and use them. We have other maps available on our site including maps for day hikes on all of our 113-mile section of the A.T. There are also links on our site to other web sites with hundreds of trail maps available for free downloading.

Another source for maps is the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's web site. You can buy detailed AT trail maps and related guidebooks for the whole trail at the site. Individual maps cost \$4.60 and each map shows about 50 miles of the trail. The RATC's 113-mile section of trail is listed on Virginia maps three through five. You can access the ATC's on-line store by going to their web site at: <http://www.atctrailstore.org/>

The National Geographic web site, <http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/gateway/246/120.html> also has great maps for sale. This site lists topographic hiking and trail maps for nearly every state. These maps cost \$9.95 each. There are three maps available for our area of Virginia: Map 787 (Blacksburg, New River Valley), Map 788 (Covington, Alleghany Highlands) and Map 789 (Lexington, Blue Ridge Mts).

On our recent quarterly hike schedules Diana Christopulos and Mark McClain have offered up a series of hikes every "2nd Saturday" on segments of the Roanoke Valley Greenway system. They are highlighting how the greenway system provides some connectivity between the various parts of our community, in addition to being a fun way to get some moderate exercise and enjoy a bit of camaraderie. New sections of the greenway will be opening up in both Roanoke and Salem in coming months.

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 Blanche Brower, Merv Brower, Linda King, Kris Peckman, Sue Scanlin, Steve Tomaziefski, Dave Sutton, Mike Vaughn, and Fred Walters. A T-shirt for leading 7 hikes went to John Merkwan. Thanks to all of the hike leaders for helping the club over the past year! Contact me if you are interested in becoming a hike leader.

Mike Vaughn

Hike Reports

Saturday, December 11, 2010 10:00AM Lick Run Greenway Valley View to Downtown & return

Mark McClain & Diana Christopulos (leaders); Clayton Cabiness (of Coral Springs FL, a Roanoke native back home visiting relatives); Dawn Lamb (new member); and Georgia Gallaher (who walked out from downtown, met us at 10th St., and stayed through lunch).

This paved greenway path has a lot of variety: a crossover of I-581 followed by a descent to Lick Run which the trail then follows for some distance, a meander through a neighborhood, then through two city parks before rejoining the creek near Orange Ave. It follows city sidewalks to the MLK footbridge then Norfolk Ave. to terminate at the foot of S. Jefferson St. There are several new

interpretive signs on this trail that explain some of the natural and human history of the route. Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea was a welcome stop for a warm beverage and light lunch before retracing our steps back to Valley View, changing our route only to use the pedestrian walkway over to Hotel Roanoke. The warmest day this week was still chilly and overcast (low 30's when we started, inching up into the 40's), but all were prepared and comfortable throughout.

**Sunday, December 19, 2010 8:00AM
Fairystone State Park Trails**

Maurice Turner (leader), Maya Bohler (co-leader), John Lynham (originator and explorer), Larry Austin, H.R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Sarah Cuthbertson, Hugh Hall, John Merkwon, Ivy Lidstone, Bob and Kris Peckman, Mike and Sheila Vaughn.

Maya met most of the hikers at Towers and car pooled to meet four others at Boones Mill where we left for Fairystone. The drive took about an hour and we were at the park office by 9:00; John Lynham drove up from Greensboro to join us. The weather was cold and there was a frozen crust on the trail; some hikers had yak tracks that they put on later to help with traction. The hike took us along the Beach, Lakeshore, Turkey Ridge, and Little Mountain Falls trails; off from the Lakeshore trail, we took time to look at Fairystone Lake Dam that emptied into Philpott Reservoir. The dam was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps back in the 1930's according to the park office. While hiking along the Lakeshore, we noticed beaver activity from a time back; some trees had died while others were still living. On the Little Mtn. Falls trail, we stopped for lunch at a view point of the Cahas Mtn. range. The break was short as the cold kept us going to stay warm; we were able to finish the hike by 1:00. The trail system we were on was called the Little Mountain Trail System; on the other side of the lake is the Stuarts Knob Trail System which has over 3.68 miles of trail. In periods of longer days and milder weather, it would be possible to do both trail systems.

**Sunday, December 19, 2010 1:00PM
Fort Lewis Mountain
Brushy Mtn. Fireroad to Carvins Cove**

Sue Scanlin (leader), Rita Krasnow with Lola (canine), Sally Evans

As the assistant, I took over from Dave who couldn't make it for personal reasons. One glitch was that I don't know the Fort Lewis Mtn. trail. My plan B was to do the loop up Brushy Mtn. on the Gauntlet trail, the fire road along the ridge to the Trough trail and down to the parking lot on Timberview Rd. Well, I was advised to not do that on account of possibly icy conditions after the recent snowfall, partial thaw, and refreeze. So on to Plan C: just walk from the parking lot on Timberview Rd. all the way to Carvins Cove and back.

It turned out to be a lovely hike/walk: The sun was shining, the temperature almost balmy, and the winterscape with the glistening snow was gorgeous. Except for one brief encounter with another lady and her dog going in the opposite direction, we had the entire beautiful surroundings to ourselves although we did see bicycle tracks in the snow. On Carvins Cove itself, we saw a flock of geese in the distance. We stayed at the cove for quite some time, taking pictures and marveling at the scenery before heading back to our cars and Hanging Rock Orange Market. The couple of hours we spent in the woods certainly were more enjoyable than doing Christmas shopping in some mall.

**Saturday, January 1, 2011 9:00AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee
Knob
and Potluck Picnic**

Dan Phlegar (Leader), Mike Vaughn (Co-Leader), Kathy Phlegar and Sage (dog), Sheila Vaughn, Maya Bohler, Kenneth Brooks, Jo Brooks, Ivy Lidstone, Jeanne Duddy, Rod Liebl, Tom Willard, Gary Bible, Bob Peckman, Kris Peckman, Carl Cornett, and Lori Heymann.

Some met at the Orange Market at 9:00 AM while a few went on to the trailhead at the Route 311 parking lot. After everyone gathered at the trailhead we proceeded on the hike around 9:30. We hiked out on the AT to McAfee Knob because

it was free of ice and snow due to southern exposure. Unfortunately we had two hikers to turn back on the hike going out because of some dog disobedience problems. After arriving at McAfee Knob we had a few photographic moments while enjoying the always-spectacular view. Carl Cornett looked for a place to set up for the picnic. After several searches we found a place to set up for the picnic out of the wind and free from snow and ice. Carl heated up soup while everyone set out their food on a big flat rock. The food was great and some recipes should be passed on. All morning there was a concern when the rain would start, and it started just about the time we packed up everything. The light drizzle did not cause any problems going back. We took the upper road back to the parking lot for a change; however, we did encounter several snowdrifts and ice that caused some difficulty in walking. Everyone seemed to enjoy the outing and agreed it was a good way to start the New Year. Kathy Phlegar discovered when she got home that she had hiked all day with two different boots. At least the left and right foot was correct. We will do it again next year



Falls Ridge Waterfall - Carl Cornett

lot behind and lined up for Carl's group picture in the meadow. Around 2 PM, we were on our way. By this time the sun was out for good; later on, the wind seemed to pick up – or was it just the difference in elevation or orientation that made the difference? - but we really couldn't have wished for nicer weather.

The right arm of the creek at the waterfall looked solidly frozen, the left arm still (or again?) was flowing water. Many cameras went into action to capture this very picturesque scene. Before picking up the Chamberlain Trail, we had to maneuver over or around a lengthy stretch of icy patches, the only ones we encountered.

Not far below the peak, there was a long log lying by the side of the trail as an invitation to regroup and have a snack break. Several of us swapped food samples with our Korean guests who had arrived in Blacksburg only one month prior. This was their first hike with the

RATC and I wouldn't be surprised to see them on many more club hikes. They, like everyone else, seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

**Sunday, January 2, 2011 1:00PM
Falls Ridge**

Sue Scanlin (leader), Karen Callahan (assistant), Cheryl Crowell, Sally Evans, Vicky Wells, Jeanne Duddy, Hyun Kyoung Cho, Jungwoo Han, Hugh Hall, Clayton Cabiness, Gene Rose, Carl Cornett, Matt Sutton, David Sutton

Ten of us left Hanging Rock Orange Market's parking lot in three cars around 1:15 PM to meet the other four participants, coming from Blacksburg/Christiansburg, at the trailhead. As soon as possible, we left the very muddy parking

**Saturday, January 8, 2011 11:00AM
Roanoke River Greenway –Eastern End**

Rescheduled.

**Sunday, January 9, 2011 8:00AM
Cove Mtn. and Little Cove Mtn. Circuit**

Dave Wickersham (leader), John Merkwan (assistant), H.R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett and Ivy Lidstone.

It was a beautiful and darn cold day for a hike. We had a small group of RATC's finest. In our haste to get moving and get warm we missed a turn at

the beginning of the hike. That miscue increased the normally 7.7 mile hike to 8.6 miles which we covered in about 4 hours, including an early lunch break at the Cove Mountain Shelter.

**Sunday, January 16, 2011 8:00AM
Tinker Cliffs**

Maya Bohler & Kris Peckman (leaders), H.R. Blankenship, Clayton Cabiness, Karen Callahan, Carl Cornett, Sally Evans, Donna Mitchell, Bob Peckman, Gene Rose, Gyorgyi Voros, Mike & Sheila Vaughn, Jim Walke

The day before the hike, we had a break in the weather with almost spring-like temperatures. This brought a big group of 14 people out on the trail who all seemed to have a touch of spring fever. We were also able to welcome some new members to the Club. It was cloudy when we started the hike, with pleasant temperatures in the 40s. It was a nice day for a winter hike.



Group at Sharp Top - Maurice Turner

Our group moved at a brisk pace. On the ridge, it was a lot colder. We arrived on top of the Cliffs before 11 AM and lingered long enough to have a snack and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, while admiring the somewhat murky view.

Between Scorched Earth Gap and the top were some icy patches partially covered with leaves. This made going downhill a bit treacherous. Some of us strapped on our trusty yak-traks.

We were back at the parking lot shortly after 1PM.

**Sunday, January 16, 2011 1:00PM
Sharp Top Mountain**

Maurice Turner (leader), Blanche Brower (assistant), Mervin Brower, Carol McPeak and Dan Yasenchak.

The parkway was closed except for the section from Rt. 43 to the Peaks of Otter. There was still ice on the trail near the top and snow drifts at the ridge tops but not at the site of the B-25 wreckage. We spent time going over the entire area of several acres where the different parts of the wreckage lay. The following is excerpts from news reports: The night of Feb. 2, 1943 was not a

good one for the Army Air Force as they had to deal with three different aviation accidents within a 300-mile radius. The Sharp Top was the most devastating of the three, with all crew members killed and the plane a total loss. The flight was listed as "Night navigation training" and the flight was to last approximately 3 hours and 10 min., departing from

Columbia Army Air Force field in Columbia, SC, fly over Florence, SC and Raleigh, NC; turn around over Lynchburg, VA and pass over Greensboro, NC before returning to Columbia. It is felt the crew thought they were over Altavista when they passed over Bedford heading toward Lynchburg (which is approximately 20 miles north of Altavista). They were still looking for the lights of Lynchburg to appear on the horizon when they struck the mountain. You can google this wreck and get a lot of hits.

**Sunday, January 23, 2011 1:00PM
Daleville (Rt 220) to Mountain Pass Rd (Rt
652)**

Mervin Brower (leader), Maurice Turner (assistant), Carl Cornett, Carol McPeak, Clayton Cabiness, Bruce Davidson, Sally Evans, Fred Walters, Diane Christensen, Dawn Lamb, Homer and Therese Witcher.

The hike started from Daleville commuter parking lot. The day was bright and sunny but on the cool side 32 degrees, but the temperature did not seem to bother anyone. Carl and Sally took off and ran the whole trail; we met them coming back on the way up to the stile after crossing highway 11. About 3 others joined them to go back and watch the football games. At this point we joined up with the Witchers. Then we walked over to the top of the hill where most of us walked down to 652 while the rest of us stayed and looked at the view. We then walked back to the Daleville parking lot.

**Saturday, January 29, 2011 11:00AM
Bennett Springs Loop**

Jean Warren (leader), Fred Walters (on-the-spot designated assistant leader), Dawn Lamb, Lisa de Vries, Rita Krasnow and canine Lola, Robert and Robin LeBarre, Carina Hughes, Fred Meyer, Herb Whitley, Ken Anselmi, Clayton Cabiness, Vicki Wells, and Bruce Sellars

BINGO! It was the prettiest day we've had in over two months with blue skies, gentle breeze, and 58 degrees! Since everyone else had the same idea of getting out and enjoying the day, the parking area at Orange Market was getting quite full. We carpoled to the Bennett Springs parking lot, dropped off everyone except the drivers, and then drove to Jean's house to park the vehicles. Fred Meyer was a good sport and rode in the back of my truck. [There is a dollar fee for the day, but it would have taken forever to stop at the Bike Shop and have them write everyone a permit.] Every hike creates its own personality, and this one had it all. The group should win the prize of Congeniality. We all had such a WONDERFUL time! With the exception of the one mile ascent, we all stayed together and just enjoyed the surroundings, the long awaited and badly needed exercise, and just talking. Some members of the group came from Christiansburg, Draper, and even

West Virginia! We walked in some snow going up Brushy Mountain, but luckily it was mostly snow free on the fire road and on the way down. It was so clear that we could see the Peaks of Otter in the distance. Some got their boots a little wet on the small stream crossing, but we all got them good and muddy right before we returned to the cars. Thank you all for a GREAT day!!!!!!

**Sunday, January 30, 2011 8:30AM
Black Horse Gap/Curry Creek Lollipop
Hike**

Larry Austin and Lois Smith (leaders), Paul Jones, H. R. Blankenship, Kris & Bob Peckman, Fred Meyer, Jen Schaeffer, Sally Evans, Don Hoke, Gene Rose and Dawn Lamb

For a winter hike, the weather turned out to be beautiful with mostly sunny skies and highs in the mid to upper 50's. Due to the Parkway being closed, the hike had to be altered a little. We started the hike near Camp Bethel and walked up the Old Fincastle Road (a gated Forest Road) to Black Horse Gap where we headed south on the AT. The trail was still mostly covered in snow due to being sheltered from sun. Prior to reaching the Wilson Creek Shelter we veered off the trail onto what the leader thought was the former AT but it turned out to be a hunter's path instead. We walked down the ridge and hit Forest Road 634 which we took for 1/4 mile. We then headed back into the woods at a more familiar area to the leader and were able to connect to the former AT. We went by the site of the Wilson Creek Shelter before it was moved in the mid 1980's. We reconnected with the AT in about 4/10 of a mile, which was about 1.2 miles south of the present shelter, and continued on our journey. We made it almost to the Curry Creek Trail but had to veer off the trail due to ice, and we bushwhacked down a ravine to Curry Creek and the Curry Creek Trail--another short adventure. We took the Curry Creek Trail with its several creek crossings to the intersection with Forest Road 634 and then walked back to our point of origin. It was a fine workout for a good group of hikers on a beautiful day and all seemed to enjoy the varied terrain we encountered.

**Saturday, February 5, 2011 10:00AM
Jennings Creek (Rt 614) to
Bryant Ridge Shelter**

Kenny Garrett & Sue Scanlin (leaders), Carl Cornett, Dawn Lamb, Rita Krasnow, Cathy Lafser, Tom Lafser, Bonnie Wilkinson, K-9 Spot, & K-9 Lola

We met at the Daleville Lot at 10:00 for this Saturday adventure. We then convoyed to the trail head at Jennings Creek to begin our stroll. Both dogs were ready to hit the trail as soon as the doors opened. There was a light drizzle as we began the immediate climb out of the lot up Fork Mountain. The hikers enjoyed the serenity of climbing through the fog as the temperatures stayed in the mid-thirties. We took a breather on the top before descending through the beautiful forest to the creek and eventually to Bryant's Ridge Shelter. Everyone was then treated to hot beverages to include coffee, hot chocolate, and hot apple cider. After a nice long break at this awesome shelter, we began our return trip up and over back to the lot. New friendships were made and a great time was had by all.

**Saturday February 12, 2011 11:00AM
Roanoke River Greenway – Salem
Sections**

Mark McClain & Diana Christopoulos (leaders), Art & Elizabeth Bailie, Maya Bohler, Mervin Brower, Clayton Cabiness, Jim Crawford, Caryl Connolly, Susan & Bob Egbert, Linda Harrison, Mary & Jimbo Harshfield, Pat Huff, Anne Krogenas, Dawn Lamb, Chuck Walz & Ana Milena, Suzanne Osborne, Mary Rhoades, Pat Taylor, George Telfer, Rudy & Karen Vutmeier, Trish Webb

There was a chill of around 40 degrees in the air and west winds gusting over 20 mph, but never mind that - 29 eager walkers signed in to explore and enjoy the Roanoke River Greenway in Salem. Starting from Rotary Park we walked the greenway to Colorado Street. This route includes some of the most natural settings on the Roanoke River Greenway and is popular with walkers, joggers, dogs on leashes, and fishermen. Arriving at Colorado Street, we then walked the route of the connector trail between that section of greenway and Moyer Park. This connector is under construction but walkable at this time - it

will be completed later this year. Continuing on the existing greenway path in Moyer Park, we arrived at the trailhead at Eddy Ave., where we viewed the course for the next section of greenway that will extend upstream from Eddy to Mill Lane. On our return trip we took a detour of about four blocks to El Cubanito Restaurant where we had a great lunch of Cuban sandwiches, beans, salads, rice, and soup. Full stomachs, warmer temperatures, and a tailwind made our return to Rotary Park all the more enjoyable. In all, we walked about five miles.

**Sunday, February 13, 2011 8:00AM
North Mountain Trail**

Kris Peckman (leader), Karen Callahan, Carl Cornett, Anne Hanna, Carina Hughes, Dawn Lamb, Ivy Lidstone, John Merkwon, Mike and Sheila Vaughn

It's that time of year when you just don't know how to dress for a hike. Temperatures in the 20s to start, rising to the 40s but with wind or no wind, depending on the side of the ridge you're on. Brilliant sun through leafless trees calling for sunscreen on winter-pale faces.

We had a congenial group of ten, assembling progressively from the Orange Market to the Dragon's Tooth parking lot to the Andy Layne parking lot. We hiked up the Catawba Valley Trail to the ridge top, made a left on the North Mountain trail and followed it all the way to Route 311. Federal stimulus funds have provided plastic blazes and new signs clearly noting the distance to the next trail intersection. Each sign also bore a black sticker with a white lightning streak through it, stating that the trail was "Most Difficult". This gave us a chuckle, but the stickers may have been for the benefit of the mountain bikers who also use the North Mountain trails.

The trail was well maintained, with only one blowdown near the top of the Catawba Valley Trail. Everyone was impressed by the clear views on both sides: toward Craig Creek valley, New Castle, Sinking Creek, Potts, and Peters Mountains to the west, and toward Catawba Creek valley, Tinker Cliffs, McAfee's Knob, and Peaks of Otter to the east. We had lunch in an area selected by John and Carl, out of the wind and with plenty of rock seats. We finished our ten miles of hiking at 3:00, still with smiles on all our faces.

**Sunday, February 20, 2011 8:30AM
Catawba Mountain Work Hike**

Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Steve Burt, Bill Floyd, Timo Gueneberg, David Jones, Walter Parry

This was our first workhike of the new year. The weather had warmed up so we had a nice day to work. However, it was February, and evidently, the mid-winter blahs limited the number of people willing to venture out.

Three of us met at the 311 parking lot. Anticipating others who were arriving later, we each gathered hand-fulls of tools and set off up the trail. Our plan was to fix whatever we found whenever we found it.

After about a minute and a half of walking, we dropped our tools: we had found our first project. At the first switchback there were a couple of stones that were intended for steps, but the large height of the first step encouraged hikers to bypass the stones, and so the trail was wavering off course and eroding. With the intent to replace one stone and add an additional one for a third step, three of us set to work.

Soon, Bill Floyd arrived with Walter Parry, a friend visiting from Michigan. They asked if we had been here long; our answer was a glance to the parking lot, just a couple of hundred yards behind, and chuckle. Fortunately, Bill also brought along a rock bar and lots of energy and enthusiasm to find rocks. Replace one step and simply add another, my eye! Soon rocks were being scooted and tugged down the AT from the surrounding hillside. Pushing and shoving rocks into place then crushing small rocks to fill in the spaces, the two miscellaneous stepping rocks developed into a fine, fine set of steps.

The tenor of the day was set. We would walk till someone felt a bit of work was needed. Then we redug eroded treadway, cleaned water bars, filled widened trail sections with brush, or built check dams to help slow runoff that was turning the trail into a streambed.

Mervin and Blanche arrived about midday, and we all worked through the afternoon. It was a great day, and as we backtracked to the parking lot we enjoyed the fruits of our day's labor.

**Sunday, February 20, 2011 1:00PM
Read Mountain Trail**

Dave (leader) & Linda Sutton, Jean Warren, Zetta Campbell, Maya Bohler, Rod Liebl, Anne Krogenas, George & Donna Repa, Jan Nash, Beth Sellers, Walt Kearns, Jeanne Duddy, Vicki Wells, Susan Mallory, Everett Setliff.

Sixteen Sunday hikers gathered at the base (1300 ft) where Read Mountain rises above the Roanoke Valley. We hiked to "Buzzard's Roost" as about 800ft of vertical terrain were covered. Over a dozen Cub Scout troopers and their guides made their ascent at the time we did as well. On top, or what is nearly the top, we could see various landmarks such as the airport, Carvin's Cove and I-81. A little precipitation fell as we made it down to the parking area around 5PM. It is a great hike with some great views!

**Sunday, February 27, 2011 11:00AM
Cascades National Scenic Trail**

Sue Scanlin (leader), Maya Bohler, Dawn Lamb, Jeannette Howell, Pat Brown

Sue and Maya were the only ones carpooling from Hanging Rock Orange Market. The other three participants came directly - two carpoled from Christiansburg - to the Cascades parking lot and were waiting for us when we arrived around 12 noon.

Before we started up the trail, who should come down? Dave Bowers, Margarita and her son, all accompanied by Catcher (canine). We had a little chat with them, including getting an update about the trail condition, and then went our separate ways.

There was no ice left along Little Stony Creek but some sections of the trail - especially in the upper third - were very muddy or even had water rushing across them. Parts of the retaining stone wall (?) were missing and are in dire need of repair.

As we gained height, we could see ice hanging on rocks on the opposite side of the creek. The Cascades themselves were not frozen over but there still was an ice arch behind the falling water and stretching down to the pool on both sides of the falls. It was pretty cold up there and we decided to move on to a less windy area for our lunch break. The intersection with the fire road above the falls turned out to be a perfect spot from which we still could see not only the Cascades but two persons coming out of the pool after swimming in it! Brrrr!

We came down the fire road, reaching the parking lot around 3 PM.

P.S. It wasn't until I got back home that I found out that "citizens and permanent residents" 62 years or older can get a lifetime Interagency Senior Pass for \$10 which covers the parking fee for a pass holder and all passengers in the car at the Cascades and Crabtree Falls and allows for a 50% discount of fees for the cardholder in other places. For more info, see <http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rec-fee.shtml>

**Sunday, March 6, 2011 9:00AM
Carvins Cove Trails**

John Merkwan (leader), Carl Cornett & Gene Rose.

Three foo - I mean hardy hikers met at the Orange Market for a very soggy Carvins Cove extravaganza! There was no question on whether to bring rain gear or wear it today. It

rained the entire six hours we were out on the trail. We had the only car in the parking lot when we began and it still was the only car in the lot when we finished. Our 11-mile adventure started with a 1.5-mile climb up Hi-Dee-Ho to the top of Brushy Mountain followed by a level 1.6 miles on the Brushy Mountain fire road to the Hemlock Tunnel, and sure enough we saw Hemlocks. We had to ride a log across a swollen stream to access the seldom used

Araminta trail to reach the shores of Carvins Cove Reservoir. If you looked close enough I think you could see the reservoir level rise due to all the water gushing into it. From there it was Kerncliff with a couple of bushwhacks thrown in to reach our final trail, Four Gorges. Although there was plenty of running water on this 11-mile hike it only altered our route in one location. (Well, maybe 12 miles with the detour and one wrong turn.) Due to the day-long rain we had a little extra excitement on the drive back in that water was flooding the road in two places. All in all we enjoyed our hike in the woods during the rain.



*Jeanette Howell, Dawn Lamb, Karen & Rudy Vietmeier, Clayton Cabiness & Mark McClain
photo by Bill Modica*

**Sunday, March 6, 2011 1:00PM
Trout Creek to Pickle Branch Shelter**

Rained out.

**Saturday, March 12, 2011 11:00AM
Wolf Creek Greenway**

Mark McClain, Diana Christopulos (leaders), Bill Modica, Clayton Cabiness, Dawn Lamb, Rudy & Karen Vietmeier, Zetta Campbell, Jeanette Howell, Pat Cousins

Sunny and warm conditions (though windy) prevailed for our round-trip walk of about 4.5 miles from the Hardy Road trailhead to the Blue Ridge Parkway on the mostly gravel Wolf Creek Greenway. The trail traverses two county parks and runs through attractive neighborhoods and beside a horse farm, all following the course of Wolf Creek, which was running nicely due to recent rains. We

encountered many other users including two very large, friendly dogs who had not been given permission to go walking on the greenway. A call to the phone number on their collar resulted in a quick reunion with their human caretaker who lived nearby. We also

encountered Western Virginia Land Trust president Janet Scheid of Vinton, who was doing seasonal maintenance on the bluebird houses along the trail (yes, we saw bluebirds). We enjoyed lunch at the picnic shelter near the William Byrd playing fields before returning to our starting point. Caveat to those who seek out this greenway: the Hardy Road trailhead is hard to find, being about 100 yards down a narrow gravel road behind the hair salon just west of the Wolf Creek Bridge - consult the map at greenways.org to assure you don't miss it.

**Saturday, March 12, 6:00PM
Potluck Banquet
and Business Meeting**

Carol McPeak (leader) and a cast of thousands.

Great food, a fantastic presentation by Carol McPeak, Carl Cornett & Maya Bohler "25 days trekking the remote Inner Dolpo Region of northwestern Nepal", and wonderful memories of Charles.

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.

You may drive your own car to the trailhead if you wish. However, carpooling is encouraged to save gasoline and because trailhead parking may be

limited. The hike leader is responsible for arranging such carpooling as may be required. While there is no fee to hike with the club, the indicated amount is to defray automobile expenses and should be given to the driver of your carpool.

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

The club is always looking for experienced hikers to help lead club hikes. If you know of someone that you think would be a good hike leader, or wish to nominate yourself, please contact Mike Vaughn at 540-992-1350 or email mikeva999@yahoo.com.

**Sunday, April 3, 2011 8:00AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to Daleville (Rt. 220) 113-Mile Hikes 3 & 4**

19.2 miles, Very Strenuous, \$1.00 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

Starts from the 311 parking lot on Catawba Mountain – only 15 minutes from Roanoke. Certainly one of our most challenging hikes and it is recommended only for those in excellent physical condition. Almost 20 miles of the Appalachian Trail leads over varied terrain with several steep climbs and tricky footing in places. Highlights include McAfee Knob, Tinker Cliffs and Hay Rock. There are also numerous unnamed overlooks providing nice views of both the Catawba Valley and Carvins Cove.

Don Hoke563-2902

Kris Peckman366-7780

**Saturday, April 9, 2011 11:00AM
Roanoke River Greenway — Eastern End**

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

Walk the popular Roanoke River Greenway from its eastern Roanoke City terminus to Rivers Edge Park, with a side trip for lunch at Fork in the Alley, then return to the starting point (parking area near Brownlee & Bennington). We may see the beginning of work to extend the Roanoke River Greenway around the wastewater treatment plant and the Tinker Creek Greenway connector bridge.

Mark McClain355-6526

email mcclainmark@comcast.net

Diana Christopulos387-0930

Sunday, April 10, 2011 8:00AM
Big Horse Gap to New River (Rt 460)
113 Mile Hike #11

12.5 miles, Strenuous, \$6.00 carpool fee
 60 miles from Roanoke

This hike will follow the A.T. north from Big Horse Gap near Dismal Falls in Giles County. It will go along the ridge line of Pearis Mountain, passing Doc's Knob shelter along the way. There will be several view points along the way, including Angel's Rest.

Jim Walke 540-231-3014
Karen Callahan 540-961-0640

Sunday, April 17, 2011 8:30AM
Catawba Mountain Work Hike

1.0 miles, Moderate, \$.50 carpool fee
 6 miles from Roanoke

We will be rehabilitating the trail from Route 311 to McAfee Knob. This entails narrowing wide sections, cleaning and rebuilding water bars, installing new water bars, check dams and rock steps. This section of trail experiences high hiker traffic and we will be hardening the trail to withstand the use.

Dave Jones 540-552-3058
Mike Vaughn 992-1350
Email mikeva999@yahoo.com

Sunday, April 17, 2011 1:00PM
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob

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

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

Chris Bryan 757-202-3331
Email theshoelesswanderer@gmail.com
Sue Scanlin 989-0497
Email scanlin@verizon.net

Sunday, April 24, 2011 8:00AM
Petites Gap/Hunting Creek Trail Loop

10.2 miles, Strenuous, \$4.00 carpool fee
 42 miles from Roanoke

This hike will start at Petites Gap on the AT and head south to its junction with the [Hunting Creek Trail](#). We will follow the Hunting Creek Trail down to Forest Road 45 (doubles as Glenwood Horse Trail)

and walk the road north to where the Glenwood Horse Trail veers off the road. We will continue on the Horse Trail until it reaches Petites Gap. The hike will pass by the Thunder Ridge Overlook with nice views of Arnolds Valley and mountains to the west and north. The Hunting Creek Trail follows the beautiful [Hunting Creek](#) during the later part of that trail and offers some cascading falls along the way. It is anticipated that some early wildflowers will be in bloom on this hike as well.

Larry Austin 254-2092
Lois Smith 862-7370

Sunday, May 1, 2011 8:00AM
Lee Hollow (RT 621) to Dragon's Tooth
Parking, 113 Mile Hikes 6 and 7

15.4 miles, Strenuous, \$2.50 carpool fee
 16 miles from Roanoke

The hike is in Craig and Roanoke County west of Salem. The hike starts with a 1,000-foot ascent of Brush Mountain via a series of switchbacks. At 3.0 miles the top of the mountain is reached and the trail continues along the crest of the mountain. At 3.8 miles, a short blue-blazed trail on the left leads to the Audie Murphy monument. There are good views of the Craig Creek Valley from here. At 5.9 miles the trail starts a steep descent to Trout Creek and Route 620.

After crossing Trout Creek, we will ascend through a fire recovery area, pass by the Pickle Branch shelter, then ascend to the ridge, which we will follow around the crescent-shaped top of Cove Mountain to Dragon's Tooth with its great views and rock-scrambling opportunities. We will descend on the A.T. over Rawie's Rest (more rocks and great views) to the intersection with the blue-blazed Boy Scout Trail which will take us to the Dragon's Tooth parking lot.

Linda King 342-2411
Email jennelleking@aol.com

Sunday, May 1, 2011 1:00PM
Curry Gap (BRP) to Fullhardt Knob

7.3 miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee
 9 miles from Roanoke

The hike starts at Curry Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway. It follows Salt Pond Road to the intersection with the A.T., then goes up the A.T. to Fullhardt Knob. There are limited views along the trail and at the summit of Fullhardt Knob.

Dave Sutton 774-0648

**Saturday, May 7, 2011 11:00AM
Mill Mountain Greenway and Trails**

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

Starting at Piedmont Park, we'll walk up Mill Mountain via the Greenway (800-foot elevation gain on paved walkway), then return via another trail.

BYO picnic lunch to enjoy overlooking the city.

Mark McClain.....355-6526

emailmcclainmark@comcast.net

Diana Christopulos387-0930

**Sunday, May 8, 2011 8:00AM
Carvins Cove Trails**

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

We will be hiking on several trails in the Carvins Cove area. This will be a different set of trails than used on the March 6th hike.

John Merkwon904-2299

**Sunday, May 15, 2011 8:00AM
Daleville (Rt 220) to Hay Rock**

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

Located in Botetourt County, north of Roanoke. Except for a short feeder trail, the route follows the Appalachian Trail to Hay Rock and back again. There are several good overlooks along the way, but the best one is Hay Rock. This overhanging chunk of sandstone provides shelter on one side and great views on the other – for those willing to scramble to the top.

Fred Walters.....977-1430

**Sunday, May 15, 2011 1:00PM
Chestnut Ridge/ Mill Mountain**

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.

Chuck Walz774-3596

**Sunday, May 22, 2011 8:30AM
Catawba Mountain Work Hike**

1.0 miles, Moderate, \$.50 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

We will be rehabilitating the trail from Route 311 to McAfee Knob. This entails narrowing wide sections, cleaning and rebuilding water bars, installing new water bars, check dams and rock steps. This section of trail experiences high hiker traffic and we will be hardening the trail to withstand the use

Dave Jones 540-552-3058

**Sunday, June 5, 2011 8:00AM
Crab Tree 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 begin a 3,000 foot descent from the summit of the Priest back to Route 56 on the Tye River.

Kris Peckman366-7780

Maya Bohler344-6588

Emailmayabohler@cox.net

**Sunday, June 5, 2011 1:00PM
Thunder Ridge Overlook to
Cornelius Creek Shelter**

6.9 miles, Moderate, \$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. This route is also known for the Guillotine, a rock formation, where the trail passes under a suspended rock.

Blanche and Merv Brower387-9732

**Saturday, June 11, 2011 11:00AM
Green Hill Park and Environs**

4 miles, Easy, \$.00 carpool fee
0 miles from Salem

We'll walk various routes in Green Hill Park including the westernmost segment of the Roanoke River Greenway. Leave time in your schedule to gather for West Salem's famous Mamma Maria's Italian buffet following the hike.

Mark McClain355-6526

emailmcclainmark@comcast.net

Diana Christopulos387-0930

**Sunday, June 12, 2011 8:30AM
Catawba Mountain Work Hike**

1.0 miles, Moderate, \$.50 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

We will be rehabilitating the trail from Route 311 to McAfee Knob. This entails narrowing wide sections, cleaning and rebuilding water bars, installing new water bars, check dams and rock steps. This section of trail experiences high hiker traffic and we will be hardening the trail to withstand the use

Dave Jones 540-552-3058
Kris Peckman 366-7780

**Saturday/ Sunday, June 18/19, 2011 8:00AM
Roan Mountain Overnight Backpack**

12.0 miles, Strenuous, \$10.00 carpool fee
162 miles from Roanoke

We will be driving down to Roan Mountain, a 6,000 foot peak on the Tennessee/North Carolina border, southeast of Abingdon. We will follow the Appalachian Trail north along an open mountain bald and camp near Grassy Ridge. Roan Mountain has some of the most extensive stands of rhododendron in the southeast. These should be in full bloom. Hike group will be limited to 10.

Mike Vaughn 992-1350
Email mikeva999@yahoo.com
Dan Phlegar 389-1783

**Sunday, June 19, 2011 1:00PM
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.

Chris Bryan 757-202-3331
Email theshoelesswanderer@gmail.com
Edward Wilson..... 757-202-3331

**Sunday, June 26, 2011 8:00AM
Ribble Trail to Kimberling Creek (Rt. 606) Hike
#13, plus Dismal Falls**

7.8 miles, Strenuous, \$6.00 carpool fee
71 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County, this hike follows Dismal Creek for several miles. Much of the trail is lined with rhododendron. At 3.9 miles, blue-blazed trail on right goes .3 miles to Dismal Falls. We will be hiking down and around Dismal Falls and back up to the A.T. This part of the creek is very scenic. The hike ends at Route 606 and Kimberling Creek. The A.T. goes over the creek on a footbridge.

John Merkwan 904-2299
Kris Peckman 366-7780

**Saturday, August 6, 2011 6:00-9:00PM
Annual Corn-boil
Catawba Community Center.**

**Roanoke Appalachian
Trail Club Application
New & Renewal**

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

Name(s) _____ New Member Packet fee \$5.00 _____

Address _____ Indiv. # of years _____ x \$10.00 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____ Family # of years _____ x \$15.00 _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Individual life membership \$250.00 _____

Email _____ Family life membership \$300.00 _____

Year you joined RATC (make a guess!) _____ Donation \$ _____

Make checks payable to RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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



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Director Western Virginia Land Trust, Roger B. Holnback
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The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of
The Appalachian Trail Conservancy
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