

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Summer 2025

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.

Submitted by Mike Scott
Editor in Training
RATC

Most bear encounters on the Appalachian Trail contribute to a wilderness experience that many hikers seek and enjoy. They are typically brief, startle both the bear and hiker, and result in the bear making a quick escape from human interaction. This was not the case at Bailey Gap Shelter on June 18th when a group of hikers found it difficult to convince a single bear that its company was not desired. They documented the interaction on video. That link to this encounter is at bottom right of the page.

For those who don't have access to the video, it details how the hikers follow all bear encounter protocols to get their unwanted visitor to leave. They banged sticks and shouted, threw rocks, and finally resorted to bear spray to get their point across. The bear just wasn't particularly influenced by any of it. This is what happens when a bear experiences trail food.

Suzanne Neal, the Catawba Mountain Ridge runner for the ATC, spoke with the group during one of her trail hikes and reported these comments:

"It was cool at first; then it got really scary. Once we realized it was a bad situation, we were all scared the rest of the night."

Who wouldn't be?

There have been several other encounters at Bailey Gap that have been documented on the FarOut, a phone app that lets hikers share trail information and trail conditions. Apparently, this particular bear has found enough food from people to risk interaction with them. "Food conditioning" is not good for bears or people.

As a result, Bailey Gap shelter is currently closed for camping and eating until further notice.

ALERT

Bailey Gap Shelter Closed

6/23/25: Food-conditioned bears have been reported around Bailey Gap Shelter. The bears have been aggressive toward hikers in their pursuit of food. The shelter is closed to keep you and the bears safe.



A Troublesome Bear at Bailey Gap



On the Web

[Bear Encounter \(YouTube Short\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/jMqz3HtVTck>

[ATC Shelter Information](#)

Presidents Report
Submitted by
Linda Mulheren
President, RATC

I learned a new word today: grok¹, which means embracing something so fully that you become one with that thing.

I think grok is now my word for the powerful sensation I get when I enter into a landscape of peace and calm. I am more in tune with this sensation since thru hiking, but I believe all of us can find that place. The concept of forest bathing became in vogue a number of years ago and I really get it now.

I believe that with this understanding comes a responsibility to gently help those who don't fully understand or respect the natural environment that we enjoy. This is a terribly recurrent problem on popular locations throughout the Appalachian Trail. We all know the leave no trace principles, but I'm afraid that some users don't get the concept or the value of leaving a place better than they found it. Why else would a hiker leave toilet paper flowers and other litter?

We're going through unprecedented times that are affecting our natural lands. Funding cuts and work force reductions are having terrible impacts on our natural lands. It is amazing to remember that this whole trail began as a purely volunteer effort.



Although a lot of work is still done by volunteers, we partner with agencies of the federal government to ensure this multi-state park is cared

for and maintained into the future. This not only provides some funding, it also adds federal restrictions. This is a legacy that we have to value now or it may not be there in the future. I beg each of you who are in love with the Appalachian Trail and nature as much as I am to please try to help give back.

But how?

We can give back by being educators. That might take the form of reminding somebody who has left trash every time they walk into the woods; or even carrying a doggy bag yourself to pick up trash. If you are a gifted communicator, maybe try to help educate those who don't understand why we hold this place sacred.

We can give back by volunteering. I know that takes a certain level of commitment. But is this experience one you value? I love that my play is also my work. I get a beautiful hike and I get stuff done. Win, win. So many opportunities. You pick. Once a year? Once a month? Once a week? Trail Magic near Cherokee Flats in Giles County done right!

We can give back by lending our voices as we seek to appeal legislatively for our cause. We are so fortunate to have this unbelievable park available 24/7. Do we care to see it into the future? One important function of the people who care for this magnificent park trail is lending our unified voice when seeing to the preservation of the trail.

Recently I added our club's voice to two appeals seeking to maintain federal support for the AT into the future. Those funds and personnel are certainly not secure. Our partners at the National Park Service APPA office and the U.S. Forest Service are both dealing with the profound consequences of reduced funding and major cuts to staffing.



Poncho (class of 2024) cooks for (from left to right) Dutchie, Fidget, Pigpen, Crumpets, and Buzz and Vanish.

Much of what we took for granted is gone, and both services were already straining under lack of funds and staff. We are all free to get involved as little or as much as we wish. We should provide our voices to our legislators, friends, family, etc. Everyone's voice should be heard, not only the loudest. We can give back by continuing our membership, expanding our membership, or making donations, either one-time or legacy.

Why does it cost so much to maintain a park in the woods?

If you're not closely involved in the stewardship of the trail, it is a valid question.

Let me tell you how we spend club funds.

We purchase wood, paint, routers, router bits, machinery and hardware to make and maintain signs. We purchase and deliver gravel and rock to fill in eroded ditches on pathways and trail access facilities. We buy building materials such as stone steps, wood, railings, etc.

We purchase tools and mechanical equipment to create and maintain trail. We buy and maintain chainsaws and hand saws to do the everyday work of keeping the path open. We occasionally do heavy maintenance on roads, allowing volunteers and first responders to access remote areas of trail. We pay for insurance to make sure that our volunteers are protected. We pay for our website and our social media platforms.

We pay for space to hold meetings, since we do not have an office. We pay rental on facilities when we hold social events, and supplies for those social events. We pay rental on storage facilities for our equipment. We pay for printing and mailing of the newsletter, marketing materials, and other correspondence.

Those are just the local club expenses. We look to our ATC and Forest Service partners to help with major expenditures like land, structures, or right of ways. We look to them for funding for large projects and for hiring expertise to ensure reliable structures. We look to our partners to help us train our volunteers.

Finally, on the topic of giving back, we can show succeeding generations what is valuable about the nature experience, and what volunteering does for our soul. We have a strong need to care for one another, and what a great way to make a legacy statement by demonstrating for friends and loved ones the satisfaction that comes from giving back. Find something about the Appalachian Trail you grok and share it with others. Future generations will thank you.

¹From Robert Heinlein's classic sci-fi novel "Stranger in a Strange Land"

A History Quiz!

Submitted By Diana
Christopulos-Archivist

Test your knowledge of the Appalachian Trail on our section.

1. TRUE or FALSE. Dragon's Tooth was on the original AT in this part of Virginia.
2. TRUE or FALSE. The AT ran very close to McAfee Knob in 1933.
3. Who was the first woman to serve as RATC President?
4. What was the first RATC Trail Supervisor?
5. When was the McAfee Knob section closed to AT hikers by local landowners?
 - a. 1941-45
 - b. 1968-77
 - c. 1978-87

(The answers are found on page 13.)

Trail Supervisors Report

By Mike Vaughn

Trail Maintainers

I'd like to welcome the following new maintainers:

Pete Schmitthenner
Eric West
Shane Smith
Charles Hudson
Mark Wilhelm
Bob Patten
Dario Izquierdo
Kailee Sesler
Sarah Allison
Gary Moore
Alex Reis

>Welcome aboard! I look forward to seeing you all out on the trail

I'd like to thank our group of sawyers who have worked diligently this Spring to clear the fallen trees from our section that resulted from the ice storm this past winter.

Of particular note is the work done by John Garris, who led a small group out to the Mountain Lake area to clear blow-downs, including a particularly large one. Because this is wilderness area the work had to be done using a crosscut saw.

Also, I'd like to thank Jim Webb and Greg Still. They, along with ATC Employee Conner McBane, cleared a dangerous hanging root ball on a steep section of trail south of Kimberling Creek in Bland County. Again, thanks to all of our small group of sawyers who worked very hard these past couple of months!

As I mentioned in my Spring report, there are several major projects coming up on our section of trail. Here is an update on those projects:

War Spur Relocation:

This project has been completed!

This is a relocation of a steep and badly eroded section of the AT just south of the intersection with the War Spur trail in the Mountain Lake wilderness. The ATC Konnarock crew worked on this project, along with some RATC members, in May and June, and finished the project. The grand opening of the new mile long section of trail was on June 17.

Catawba Shelter:

Plans are to build 12 tent sites near the Catawba shelter. Work began on the 1/3-mile loop trail in April. A crew hired by the ATC worked there for three weeks and dug several hundred feet of trail and put in a long flight of steps to the water source there. The club has had four work hikes out there and has dug over 500 feet of new trail. The ATC's Konnarock crew will be out there for three weeks in July and August to start building the tent pads.



“Milkman” and “Skank” cross Dismal Creek, returning to their thru-hike after a break at Dismal Falls.

Andy Layne Trail Relocation:

Plans are to install a new bridge upstream from the current bridge crossing. In addition, a new parking lot will be constructed south of the current parking lot. Approximately one and half miles of new trail will have to be built for this relocation. Currently an easement agreement is being worked on between Roanoke Cement Company and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Hopefully the agreement will be signed this summer and work can commence by the club on building the new trail.

Craig Creek Bridge Replacement:

The new bridge is currently in the design phase. Once the bridge design is finalized, contractors will be asked to bid on the project. This process typically takes a month to complete. The contract is then awarded and materials can be ordered and construction can begin. Construction of the bridge is expected to occur next year.



Starry Campion on Peter's Mountain

There is still a need for some additional maintainers. Please contact me at trailsupervisor@ratc.org if you are interested in becoming a trail maintainer. Training and equipment will be provided.

We are also always looking for volunteers to serve as work crew leaders.

Below are the sections that currently need a one :maintainer:

Miles	Section
3.1	Campbell Shelter to Brickey Gap
2.9	Salt Pond Road to Wilson Creek
3.2	North Mountain, Turkey Tr. To CVT

More on the War Spur Trail Relocation

Submitted by Kathryn Herndon-Powell
Regional Director, The Virginia's
Regional Manager, Central Virginia
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

June 17th, 2025

I'm excited to share that after 6 years of construction, the War Spur A.T. relocation in Mountain Lake Wilderness is finally open to the public and is the route of the Appalachian Trail!

The Konnarock Crew painted the blazes and decommissioned the old trail today. I was out there yesterday with Matt Helt of the US Forest Service and the crew was kind enough to indulge us in a slightly-premature ribbon cutting.

Bill Floyd and Eric Leedom represented RATC honorably and we said a few words to celebrate the MANY hands who built this new trail section – all the Konnarock weeks, a SAWS crew, and SO many RATC work hike

Projects and Work Hikes

Submitted by Mike Vaughn
RATC Trail Supervisor

Work Hike - Catawba Mountain
April 28, 2025, 8:30 am

Mike Vaughn, Mike Scott,
Gary Moore, Jim Webb, John
Grant

Today we continued digging the new trail for the new tent pads near the Catawba shelter. The 12 tent pads will be along a 1,500-foot loop trail. Today was the last day for the ACC crew, who have been there for the past week working on the trail. They had gotten quite a bit of new trail dug. We worked on digging new trail near the far end of the loop. The weather was great and we made good progress. By the end of the day we had built about 130 feet of new trail and made the turn at the far end of the loop. We will continue working here for much of the summer and should be able to complete the loop.



Catawba Shelter tent loop construction on April 28th, 2025



Mike Scott and Gary Moore on the Catawba shelter tent loop, May 5th 2025

May 5, 2025, 8:30 am
Work Hike - Catawba Mountain

Mike Vaughn, Mike Scott, Gary
Moore, Jim Webb, Bo Carneal

We continued digging the new trail for the new tent pads near the Catawba shelter. We worked on digging new trail on the lower part of the loop. Jim and Bo worked on splitting logs that will be used for the borders of the tent pads. near the far end of the loop. There was a cool breeze blowing most of the day and the leaves have all come out, providing ample shade. By the end of the day we had built about 120 feet of new trail and had split five of the 12 foot long logs. It was a good days work.



Dismantling the old kiosk

Work Hike - McAfee parking Lot

May 20, 2025, 8:30 am

Mike Vaughn, Mike Scott, Leann Aker, Jim Webb, Rich Coleman, John Hvozdovic,
Nicholas Kyger, Bo Carneal, Kelly Mulheren

We started work on moving the kiosk at the McAfee lot to its new location at the foot of the ramp to the new footbridge. We had a fairly large group, so we were able to split up. One group began digging holes for the new posts for the kiosk. Three of us started dismantling the existing kiosk. Despite several glitches, the work moved along at a good pace. By the end of the day we had three new post cemented in the ground. We also were able to remove the shingles and plywood sheathing from the old kiosk. Another work hike is scheduled for next-week, after the cement dries.



Preparing post holes for the new kiosk location

Many readers of this news-
letter well know the physical
and psychological challeng-
es of hiking the Appalachian
Trail. Day after day hauling
heavy packs up and down
mountains takes its toll on
the body, not to mention the
effects of cold, heat, rain,
snow, thirst and hunger.

Those are just a few of the
tribulations that one experi-
ences daily.

Now imagine yourself in a
remote location with all the
challenges, and you suddenly
experience the onset of mal-
aise which eventually leads
to nausea, vomiting and
diarrhea. You might be one
of the unfortunate hikers
who have been infected with
Norovirus while on the trail.

Norovirus is a highly conta-
gious virus that causes acute
gastroenteritis. The primary
mode of infection is contact
with people who are ill with
the virus. The virus is pres-
ent in humongous quantities
in the infected person's fe-
cal matter and vomit, and is
easily transmitted by direct
contact or through airborne
exposure

It thrives in places where
there is a high density of
people, and especially in
unsanitary conditions. One
might recall disastrous
cruise ship outbreaks, plac-
es which are not particularly
unsanitary, but which do
provide an optimal opportu-
nity for the virus to spread.

Prevent Norovirus on the A.T.

Outbreaks of norovirus (or the stomach bug) have occurred on the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) in recent years. Norovirus is highly contagious and causes severe vomiting and diarrhea. Keep yourself and others safe by following these recommendations.

Treat all water.

Water filters do not filter out viruses. Boil or chemically treat your water with a chlorine or iodine solution.



Wash your hands.

Always wash hands with soap at least 200 feet from water sources. Hand sanitizer is not effective against norovirus.



Don't share food, water, or other personal items.

Norovirus is highly contagious and can be spread on surfaces.



Avoid other hikers.

Avoid others while sick and for 2 - 3 days after symptoms subside. Tent when possible instead of staying in shelters and get single rooms at hostels/hotels.



Properly dispose of waste.

Bury poop at least 8 inches deep and 200 feet from water sources, campsites, and the Trail. Wipe down privy handles, bear boxes, and other touch spots with bleach wipes before using.



Report illness.

Report cases of stomach bug/norovirus to stomachbug@appalachiantrail.org.



Seek medical treatment.

Especially if you become dehydrated or symptoms last for more than a few days.



Learn more.

Scan the QR code to learn more about preventing norovirus while camping and hiking.



While Appalachian Trail shelters have nothing in common with cruise ships, they too provide optimal conditions for spread. That was the case early this spring along the AT, and it was specifically noted in the Roanoke region, often reported by hikers on the FarOut app.

Suzanne Neal, the Ridge Runner for the ATC spoke to, and documented hikers who had experienced symptoms while in the region. At least one hiker was taken off the trail by EMS services.

Consequently, both the ATC and the RATC took steps to remediate the potential for infections. Our local shelter stewards spent a good deal of time disinfecting each shelter and privy.

The ATC did as much as it could to educate hikers about the nature of the infection and proper hygiene to avoid infection. It turns out that the ubiquitous bottles of hand sanitizer are not that effective against the virus, but good ole soap and water are.

It is hard enough to complete the AT journey with its inherent set of challenges. Enduring such an unpleasant illness in place with few creature comforts or support is especially so. Norovirus isn't particularly deadly, but it could make for a memorable experience on the AT for all the wrong reasons



On the Web

[Centers for Disease Control
Norovirus Information](https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/index.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/index.html>



On the Web

Information about the RATC's shelter location and construction history can be found here:

[Shelter Listing](https://www.ratc.org/at-hiking/shelter-listing/#prev)

<https://www.ratc.org/at-hiking/shelter-listing/#prev>



Amanita Species Mushroom

Shelter Adoption

Submitted by Bennett
Wticher
Shelters Supervisor

It's time again to put some of RATC's 16 shelters up for adoption! Often forgotten by dayhikers, our shelters are very important waypoints for backpackers and thru-hikers who need a good campsite or even just a place out of the rain

Adopters are the go-to experts for their shelter, committing to visiting at least twice a year to perform maintenance tasks such as:

- Reporting hazard trees
- Replacing filled registers
- Digging out firepits
- Cleaning out trash
- Reporting privy status
- Reporting shelter damage
- Clearing the blue blaze trails

I'm more than happy to take anyone interested on a practice run or two, so no experience is required. The adjacent section maintainers (many of whom are adopters themselves) are also good resources for sharing blowdown sightings or doing joint maintenance days.

Help would be appreciated most right now at the following shelters:

- Wapiti Shelter
- Pine Swamp Branch Shelter
- Laurel Creek Shelter
- Sarver Hollow Shelter
- Niday Shelter
- Campbell Shelter
- Lambert's Meadow Shelter
- Fullhardt Knob Shelter

If you would like to adopt one of the above or just have more questions about what that entails email me using the address or link given below.



Fullhardt Knob Shelter



Email

sheltersupervisor@ratc.org

RATC TRAIL MAINTAINERS AND SECTIONS

#	Section	Maintaners
1	VA 606 to Ribble Trail (4.3)	Walter Shroyer, Mickey Pellillo
2	VA 608 to VA 606	Matthew Barnett Todd Coake (sawyer)
3	VA 606 to Ribble Trail	Mike & Jennie Reilly,Denise & Bill Hendon Stephanie & Jack Buffet Mike & Jennie Reilly, De-nise & Bill Hendon
4	Ribble Trail to Big Horse Gap	Bill & Leslie Kay Floyd
5	Big Horse Gap to Doc's Knob Shelter	Craig McNally Mark Allamong (sawyer)
6	Doc's Knob Shelter to Power Line	Matt Gentry Tim Ligon (sawyer)
7	Power Line to Wilburn Overlook	Greg Still
8	Wilburn Overlook to Cross Road	Julie Petruska, Lydia Wilkinson,Amber Miller, Blake Adkins ,Sue Terwilliger, Craig McNally
9	Cross Road to US 460(1.7)	Blake Adkins , Lydia Wilkinson
10	Pine Swamp to Bailey Gap	Dave & Lori Jones (sawyer)
11	Bailey Gap to VA 613	Need two maintainers
12	VA 613 to Lone Pine Mountain	Greg Hardwicke, Fred Meyer Lisa Garcia, Kurt Stephenson Ryan Wagoner (sawyer)
12A	War Spur Trail to Johns Creek Road	Need two maintainers
13	War Spur Trail to Johns Creek Road	Kelly and Linda Mulheren Molly and Fred Jones
14	Johns Creek Road to Rocky Gap	Terry Shipley
15	Rocky Gap to field north of route 42	Bill & Leslie Kay Floyd
16	Field northr of oute 42 to Route 630	Shane Smith
17	VA 630 to Sarver Shelter Trail	Chase Davidson ,Nancy Reid Kathryn Herndon-Powell Susan Herndon-Powell (sawyer) Lowell Moore, Paul Goodwin David Anderson, Amanda Yoder
18	Sarver Shelter Trail to N. end of Ridgeline	Chase Davidson (sawyer), Nancy Reid Kathryn Herndon-Powell Susan Herndon-Powell (sawyer) Lowell Moore, Paul Goodwin, Dave Grimm
19	N. end of Ridgeline to VA 621	Eric Hanson, Molly Brunner, Josie Demarce
20	Va 621 to Audie Murphy Monument	Erik Leedom
		Greg Evanylo

This signage was placed at the most southern terminus of RATC maintained section, at State Route 611, and 9.3 miles to the nothern section border at Kimberling creek and State Route 608.

Pictured are the trail maintainers, Walter Shroyer and George Dietrich, along with RATC sign maker Kelly Mulheren.



#	Section	Maintaners
46	Boy Scout Trail	Donna Logan
47	John's Creek Mountain Trail	Hugh Craft Joe Brabant, Jan-Erik Zeller (section sawyer)
48	McAfee Fire Road, Rte 311 to AT crossing	Tom McAvoy, Tom Ewing John Grant, Jan-Erik Zeller (section sawyer)
49	McAfee Fire Road, AT crossing to Campbell shelter	David Poteet Need another maintainer

#	Section	Maintaners
21	Audie Murphy Monu-ment to VA 620	Lee Hipp Will Mackinnon
22	VA 620 to Ridgeline	Hugh Craft Joe Brabant, Jan-Erik Zeller (section sawyer)
23	Ridgeline to Dragons Tooth	Tom McAvoy, Tom Ewing John Grant, Jan-Erik Zeller (section sawyer)
24	Dragons Tooth to VA 624	David Poteet Need another maintainer
25	VA 624 to VA 785 Tree line	Bo Carneal Becky Carneal
26	VA785 Tree line to VA 311	Roger Holnback (sawyer),Brad Clay Bo Carneal, Becky Carneal Matt Gentry Tim Ligon (sawyer)
27	VA 311 to Fire Road	Jim Webb (sawyer), Dee Case, Joey Johnson, Greg Stick
28	Fire Road to Campbell Shelter	Jim Webb (sawyer), Joey Johnson Greg Stick
29	Campbell Shelter to Brickeys Gap	Bill Gunn Need another maintainer
30	Brickeys Gap to Ditch Trail	Kevin Witcher
31	Ditch Trail to Angels Gap	Bryon Lane Mike Phillips
32	Angels Gap to Power Line	Mike Vaughn Jeff Armstrong
33	Power Line to US 220	Ron and Cathy Butler,Nancy and Leonard Galvan Robert & Jeanie Bomber
34	US 220 to VA 652	Homer &Therese Witcher
35	Va 652 to Fullhardt Knob Shelter	Dave Horst (sawyer)36
36	Fullhardt Shelter to Salt Pond Road	John Garris
37	Salt Pond Road To Wilson Creek	Jim Mesler, Max McCrary Need another maintainer
38	Wilson Creek to Black Horse Gap	Theresa McDaniel, Ken Bunning
39	Andy Layne Trail	Daniel Howell, Randy Fuller
40	Dragon's Tooth Trail	Donna Logan, Brad Shearer
41	North Mtn Trail, Route 311 to Grouse Tr.	Jeff Hoepfner Jonathan McGlumphy
42	North Mtn Trail, Grouse Tr. To Deer Trail	Bob Patten Need one maintainer
43	North Mtn Trail, Grouse Tr. To CV Trail	Hugh Craft Joe Brabant
44	Catawba Valley Trail (CVT)	Jonathan Harris, Michelle Cook, Sean Cook
45	Ribble Trail	Bill & Leslie Kay Floyd

Coming Soon: RATC Member Portal

Submitted by John R. Kelly

Starting in July, the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is excited to launch a new Member Portal designed to make your membership experience easier, more accurate, and more connected than ever before.

Why the Change?

Each year, we hear from members who want a more convenient way to:

- * Update their contact information
- * Confirm or correct their membership level
- * Manage their renewal more easily including auto-renew options
- * Better know what and how to get involved

We're thrilled to announce the new portal will give you 24/7 access to your RATC membership profile, and the tools to manage it the way you want to.

What to Expect (and When)

To ensure a smooth rollout, Lifetime Members will receive access first, followed by our Annual Members. Each member will receive two emails:

1. An introductory message from membership@ratc.org letting you know what is coming, how to recognize the portal email, and what steps to take.
2. An invitation from no-reply@ratc.org with your secure link to create a password and access the portal.

What You Do in the Portal

1. Once you click the link you'll be asked to Set your password
2. Then click "Edit Profile" to Review and update your contact details and Indicate your club activity interests (such as trail maintenance, hike participation, etc.) to help us better connect you with opportunities that align with your passions. available.

We are grateful for your continued support and hope the new Member Portal makes staying connected with RATC easier and more rewarding.

Prefer the old way, that's OK too.

We know some members still enjoy the simplicity of a checkbook. If you'd rather mail in your renewal or want us to update your contact info manually, that option is still available. We are grateful for your continued support and hope the new Member Portal makes staying connected with RATC easier and more rewarding.

Keep an eye on your inbox starting in July!



Trail Kiosk with Shelter Closure Notification

New and Annual Members

Submitted by John R. Kelly
Membership Supervisor, RATC

Please welcome our new annual and lifetime members since the last newsletter! We are so happy to have you part of our club and look forward to seeing you on one of our hikes, maintaining the trail or at a social gathering.

Annual Individual

- Chad Coleman
- Tony Corazza
- Charles Hudson
- Dario Izquierdo
- Nicholas Lindsay
- Laura Long
- William McKeown
- James Mesler
- Mary Psiaki
- Alex Reis
- Nancy Stafford
- Kurt Stephenson
- Annual Family
- Larry Davidson
- Josh Paris
- Elizabeth Swanson
- Danielle Vandagriff
- Lifetime Individual
- Christian Smith

Annual Family

- Larry Davidson
- Josh Paris
- Elizabeth Swanson
- Danielle Vandagriff

Lifetime Individual

- Christian Smith

Lifetime Family

- Leslie Kay ; Bill Floyd



On the Web

Membership Links for the RATC

<https://www.ratc.org/join-renew/>

History Quiz Answers!

- 1.FALSE. The Trail moved to Dragon's Tooth in 1952 as part of the major relocation westward, away from the Blue Ridge Parkway.
2. TRUE. RATC members convinced Myron Avery to route the AT away from the Blue Ridge around Roanoke in 1933, including Tinker Mountain, a dirt road near McAfee Knob, Ft. Lewis Mountain and Poor Mountain/Twelve O'Clock Knob.
3. Molly Denton was the first woman to serve as RATC President. She was elected in 1952.
4. David Dick, a certified Virginia surveyor and founding member of RATC in 1932 was the club's first RATC Trail Supervisor. He drew the official maps of the AT from Roanoke almost to Damascus in 1933 and 1941 and worked very closely with Myron Avery in the 1930s and 1940s to plan to the major relocation of the AT away from the Blue Ridge Parkway
5. "c" The McAfee Knob section was closed to AT hikers by local landowners from February 1978 to March 1987. During that time, the National Park Service acquired the narrow corridor from Va 624 (north of Dragon's Tooth) to Va 652 (where the AT re-enters Jefferson National Forest the other side of Daleville).



Invasive Plant Control
Tom McAvoy
RATC Conservation Supervisor

The 2025 Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership annual meeting was held at the Hotel Roanoke this past April. On April 24 approximately 25 volunteers from the meeting came out to Daleville to help with invasive weed control.

Our target was the notorious bush honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii*, tunnel of bush honeysuckle has been growing for many years south of Rt. 220.

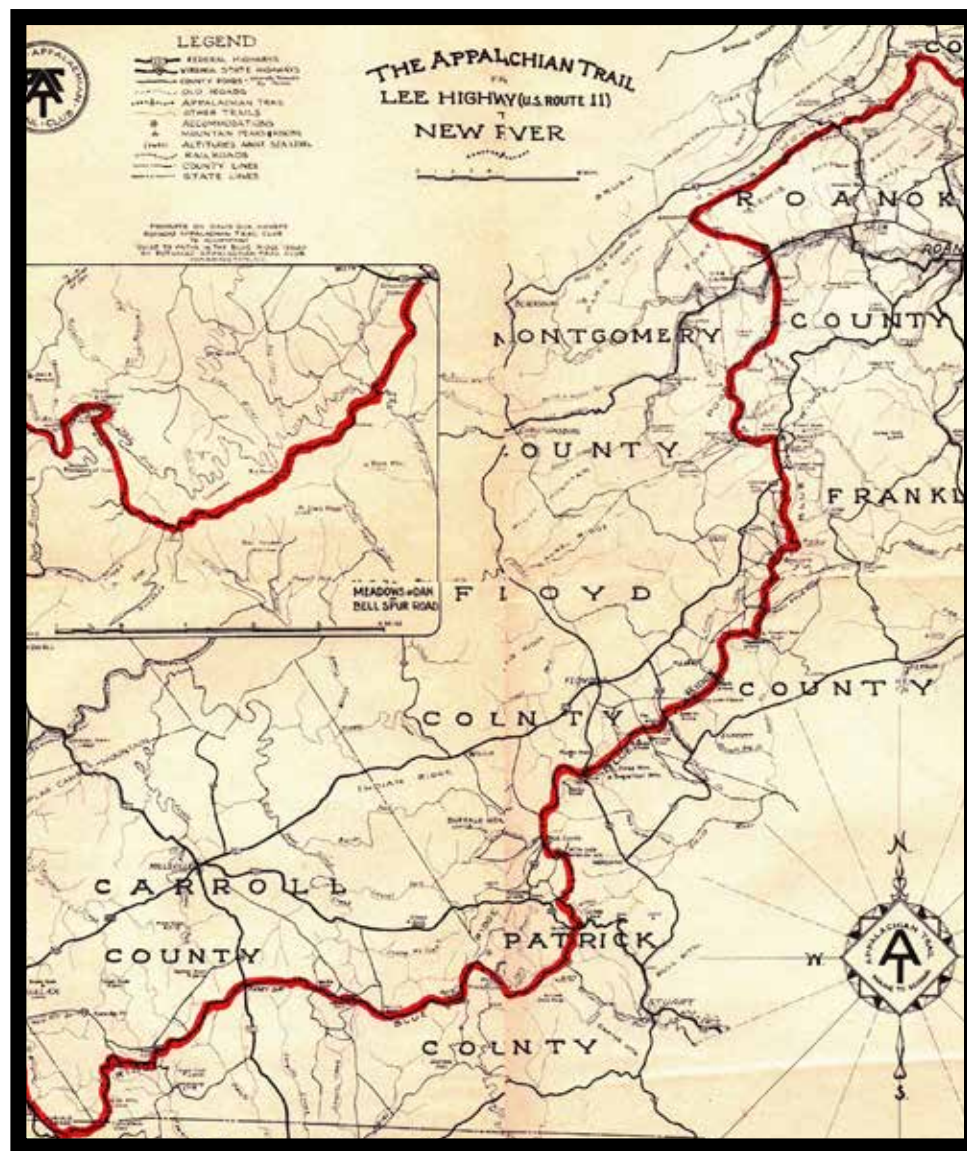
We began at the start of the tunnel, broke up into teams each with a saw or loppers. The stems were cut near ground level and several of us followed behind with herbicide applied with a 'dauber', a small bottle with a foam herbicide applicator. Over 50 bushes were cut down and treated, although many more remain.

We will return!



The notorious ***Lonicera maackii***- Amur Honeysuckle- from Wikimedia Commons





David Dick's Map in 1933

[Transcribed by Diana Christopoulos, March 20, 2020]

Annual Report of the Trail Committee
Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
November 12, 1933

The Trail Committee during the past year has been primarily concerned with the location, the measuring, and obtaining the trail data for our section of the Appalachian Trail. The first problem that confronted us was the general location of the trail. The trail was originally located south of Roanoke - from Villamont along the top of the Blue Ridge, past Mason Knob to Adney Gap on Bent Mountain.

This trail had been measured but not very definitely marked, and it would in a good many instances require a complete relocation. Considering this and also that there are few points of outstanding interest on the southern route, it was suggested and approved by the club to locate the trail along the more interesting route north of Roanoke. This has been done with the help of many of the members not on the committee. A number of hikes were made by various members of the committee and the club to determine the best location for the trail along the northern route.

In locating the trail we considered points of interest, viewpoint, accessibility, grade of the trail, and maintenance necessary to keep the trail definitely marked. At very few places we were able to satisfy all the requirements. Some of the trail will be more difficult to follow until it is more suitably marked and cleared; some of it is steep, other portions offer nothing of interest and in such cases generally follow automobile roads and serve only as connecting links. As the trail is now located there are about 25 miles of automobile roads. Some may be changed so as to cover a more interesting section whenever the other trails are suitably marked and cleared.

Mr. Myron Avery assisted by various members of the committee and the club measured and obtained the trail data for our section of the trail on April 1st, 2nd, 29th and 30th. We also assisted Mr. Avery in measuring, obtaining trail data and marking 33.7 miles of trail from Bent Mountain Post Office to Tuggle Gap in Patrick County. As there is no organization to the care of this section it was routed along existing automobile roads and so requires no maintenance, other than a remarking once a year.

The success of these trips were greatly due to our President who, aside from his other duties, accompanied us on many of the hikes and used his car on most of these occasions. Others whom I believe are due special recognition are Dr. McGinnis who used his car frequently on trips and the Pownalls who accommodated Mr. Avery the two nights he was in Roanoke.

Two short sections of the trail have been marked. 6.80 miles from Black Horse Tavern Site to the county road and 1.2 mile along the road up Tinker Mountain. This is barely a beginning of the trail marking and making in our section. Mr. Avery has made some good suggestions on what should be done on this line. Our entire section should first be marked so that the blazes can be easily followed from end to end. Care should be taken to see that the trail as marked is exactly as described in the trail data. To do this a copy of the trail data should be used in the field while marking, and a member of the measuring party should be present. Where the trail follows roads passable by automobile the route can be marked by using a car. After the trail is entirely marked it can then be improved, where necessary by clipping the underbrush, etc. It will be clearly seen that the initial marking of the trail must not be delayed long lest we have difficulty following the route described.

As a general summary, our section of the trail is 68.29 miles long all of which has been measured and the trail data obtained. 8.0 miles have been marked leaving a balance of 60.29 miles to mark.

David Dick, Chairman



Report on Map

At the request of Mr. Avery I made a map of the section of the trail from Lee Highway [US 11] near Cloverdale to New River, for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's new Guidebook. The Potomac club has had 900 copies printed at a cost of \$30.00 from which they sent us about 300 copies. I have incurred an expense of \$2.50 in making this map which I feel should be borne by our club. Mr. Avery suggested that these copies sold at 25¢ would bring in considerable revenue for paint, markers, etc.

[Note: the RATC archive includes 3 copies of this map in 2 slightly different versions. The archive also includes a February 1939 article from the Roanoke Times, "Mountain Trails Call Score of Roanokers to Open Each Week End," that features the same map and a detailed discussion of RATC and its section of the trail. DC]



On the Web

Diana's Christopoulos's article and even more historical information can be found at our Web site using the link or URL below:

[David Dick's Map](https://www.ratc.org/david-dicks-1933-map-of-the-a-t-from-roanoke-to-new-river/)

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- IF ACCEPTED FOR MEMBERSHIP, I AGREE TO:*
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