

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Summer 2004

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.



The Tunnel - Little House Mountain 3/21/04

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TRAIL BLAZER

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

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Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Neil McKinney

Charles, Deborah, Charlie & Maggee Dorsey

Harry L. Boone, Jr

Martha Cox

Brad Householder

Todd Athey

John C. Everett, Jr

Ellen Flora

Vada Sarsfield

Winfred Noel

Joanne & Gene Derryberry

Wm. Julio & Amanda Stephens

Rebecca Hamlett & Rob Lamar

Janice Davidson

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

Mervin Brower

President's Message

I don't usually read registers, but this was on top of a bunch of register pages from just south of the 311 parking lot:

11/30 - MISSING MY GIRLFRIEND LOTS...

SHE WAS WITH ME LAST TIME HERE

AND I WILL NEVER FORGET IT.

Come away with me in the night

Come away with me and I will sing you a song.

Come away with me on a bus

Come away where they can't tempt us with their lies.

I want to walk with you again on a cloudy day

In fields where the yellow grass grows knee high

So you won't try to come.

Come away with me and we will kiss on the mountain top

Come away with me and I'll never stop loving you.

And I want to wake up with the rain falling on a tin roof while I'm safe there in your arms - SO

ALL I ASK OF YOU IS TO COME AWAY

WITH ME.

Wow! He wrote this standing up at a trail register! Just mixed in with a lot of "Kilroy was here" and "Sponge Bob was passing through". He didn't sign it, so I can't give him credit. But it says more than I have to say this month.

Bob Peckman

Corn Boil Saturday, July 31, 2004, 6-9 PM Whispering Pines Park

Please bring your favorite "AT" photos to display for all to enjoy. The Club will provide BBQ, corn, fixings, beverage and table service. Members will provide a dish to pass. We will be feeding the Konnarock Crew so please bring enough for you plus one. No need to RSVP for this event. Directions: Route 311 north for approx. 3 miles. Turn right on Absalom Smith Road. (Just past Roanoke Moose Lodge.) Park is 1/2 mile on right.

Questions? Call Carolyn McPeak - 890-2855

Stephanie Kent, the current RATC Treasurer, has indicated that she would like to give up the position effective March 31, 2005. In order to ensure a successful transition for a potential volunteer, you are encouraged to contact Stephanie if you are interested in handling the funds of the RATC. She can be reached via phone at 540-966-6475 or via e-mail at skent@rev.net.

Trail Supervisor's Report

The major item on the trail agenda for the summer months will be the McAfee Knob relocation. We will begin work on it with the Konnarock Crew during the week June 17 – 21. We will continue working on the relocation with the Crew during the weeks July 8 – 12 and July 29 – August 2. If the job is not complete, we will continue working on it through the fall and winter. Let's see if we can get at least 30 people to work one or

more days with the crews this summer and at least 15 to earn T-shirts by working 5 or more days. The more people come, the sooner the work will be done.

There were several errors in the list of overseers published in the spring Blazer, including the omission of our most northern section. Therefore a corrected list is being published in this issue.

Charles Parry

Mid-Week Trail Crew Report

Many people have asked, "Just what is it you do out there on Wednesdays?" The answer is that we do pretty much any type of trail-related tasks for pretty much any organization which asks. The following summarizes our activities over the past quarter.

In the spring we completed the first phase of a six-mile trail system at Grassy Hill Natural Preserve in Franklin County. This 1295 acre preserve is under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Under the direction of Mike Leahy, preserve manager for Central Virginia, we designed and built a long ascending traverse on the eastern face of the mountain. This involved lots of side-hill, two stream crossings with small bridges, a bog crossing, a rock stairway and an overlook. Maurice Turner was able to solicit a generous donation for all the lumber from The Ferguson Land and Lumber Company. A much longer section of trail has been contracted out to a professional trail construction company, and when this is complete, our job will be to come back and connect the trails with a ¼ mile switchback, and possibly build a look-out platform on the top.

Working in our role as Greenway volunteers with Liz Belcher, the Greenway Coordinator, and with the City of Roanoke's blessing, we enjoyed an unexpected bonanza enabling us to complete an important link in the Murray Run Greenway in Fishburn Park - between the parking lot and the existing trail. This was made possible by a wonderful offer by Landlord Brothers, a highway construction company, which, because of a couple of days "down-time" offered the use its heavy equipment for any job we would like help with! They did the

grading down through the open park-land, and we did the finishing work and then connected up to the pre-existing woodland trail.

Also, working with the City, and in collaboration with VAST (Valley Area Shared Trails - which includes bikers, equestrians, runners and others) we designed and built a 27ft. all-purpose bridge in the Carvin Cove trail system at Bennett Springs, did a turnpike across a wetland, and worked on drainage problems on the trail.

We moved the privy at Pickle Branch on the AT. For the Nature Conservancy we put in a set of 27 locust steps in the Bottom Creek Gorge, Bent Mountain, and did a day of routine maintenance at the Falls Ridge Preserve at Ironton.

For the past several years we have operated under the auspices of the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission and the Pathfinders for Greenways in a working agreement with the Blue Ridge Parkway. With oversight from Liz Belcher our crew has done extensive work on the old horse trail along the Parkway. During the past quarter we have opened up about a half mile of obscure road bed on Chestnut Mountain Ridge which will eventually provide an important link to the future improved Chestnut Mountain Loop Trail.

I would like to acknowledge the loyal contributions of the following people: Eddie Baldwin, Malcolm Black, Lyn and Peggy Bryant, Eleanore Lachniet, Mac McDaniel, Jim Overholser, Jim Roberson and Maurice Turner.

Interested in joining us? We would love to have you! Join the mid-week crew and see the world.

Bill Gordge



The three musketeers, Maurice Turner, Jim Roberson, Malcolm Black on Bennett Springs bridge



"I think I see it!"



Lynn Bryant on Chestnut Mountain: "Where's the road?"



"Ah! There's the road."



Dedication of John's Spring Shelter

On March 13, Teresa Martinez, several members of the RATC and family and friends of Frank Haranzo dedicated the John's Spring Shelter. Frank was instrumental in getting the shelter built in memory of his son John. It is indeed a welcome addition to the trail and it will serve many hikers in years to come.

Hike Reports

Saturday, March 13, 2004 Doc's Knob Shelter Maintenance Hike

This shelter work hike was scheduled for Docs Knob. Docs Knob is in fine shape (thanks to Dave Hicks, et al.) so we really didn't need to go there. Meanwhile, the signs for the composting privy at Laurel Creek were finished (after 3 months!). So, it was decided that we'd go to Laurel Creek, leave early and try to make it back in time for the dedication of the new John's Spring Shelter.

Brad Householder, Jonathan Reed, Stephanie Kent and I got together at the Orange Market on 419 and 311 at 8:30 (that's early for us). Stephanie and Brad drove ahead to borrow a gate key from Charles Parry. Jonathan and I waited for late arrivals - there were none. We met Stephanie and Brad at the grocery on 460 and 42 in Newport (just north of Blacksburg) and met up with Otis Farmer who lives near Blacksburg.

The trip up the fireroad was long and cold in the back of the pickup, but otherwise uneventful... we only got lost once. A short hike to the shelter and we got right to work. The main task was installing the new outhouse signage. There are three signs entitled: How it Works, What is Duff? and, What you can do. Otis got busy with that project while the rest of us cleaned out the firegrate, collected duff, picked up trash and even fished a pair of sneakers out of the outhouse pit. Seriously - who would do such a thing?!?

By the time that work was done, it was almost 1PM... we missed the dedication! Our apologies to Frank Haranzo and family. With the time pressure off (we already missed it), we decided to hang another sign... a standard Forest Service "Boil or Treat" sign near the water supply.

Otherwise, everything at Laurel Creek is shipshape. We decided that Laurel Creek needs more frequent monitoring of the composting outhouse. Brad volunteered to take over the job of monitoring Fullhardt Knob Shelter (the one with the cistern) so that Jonathan will be free to monitor Laurel Creek.

That means that we have monitors in place for Docs Knob, Laurel Creek, Johns Spring and Fullhardt Knob. We're still looking for monitors for the remaining shelters. The responsibilities are few - agree to visit the shelter about once a month and report any problems to Jonathan. That's all there is to it! It's a great excuse to go for a short hike each month.

Sunday, March 14, 2004 10:00 AM Fort Lewis Mountain

Ed Wallace (leader), Greg Foster (co-leader), Judy Larsen, Diana Christopulos, Mark McClain, James Folger, Don Nulph, Mary Gilbert, & Harry Neumann

The morning started out as a very chilly and cloudy day for a hike. By about 11:30 it had warmed up and was a very pleasant day. No fauna was seen and the only flora we saw in bloom was Colt's Foot. It was a very pleasant hike.

Sunday, March 14, 2004 1:00 PM Mill Mountain Greenway

(Bobbie Sticher was to be the leader), Suzanne Barnett, her dog and Mary Lou Gaminde

I was very disappointed that I got no calls for this walk from downtown Roanoke up to Mill Mountain. I expected to find my answering machine blinking when I got home from church. It was a sunny afternoon and I wanted to go, but not by myself. It is a nice trail to walk, run, or bicycle after work or anytime you want to drive a short distance and just be outside. You can take a short cut coming down. The whole Greenway doesn't take very long to walk. Since then I've found out that Mary Lou called my home, but I did not get the message. I would love to have walked with Mary Lou and Suzanne on this beautiful sunny afternoon.

Sunday, March 21, 2004 8:30 House Mountains, Big and Little

Kris Peckman (leader), Don Hoke (assistant), Carl Bagby (guide), Larry Austin, H.R. Blankenship, Diana Christopoulos, Carl Cornett, Shelley Himel, Jerry Kyle, Bob Peckman, Charlie Scharnberg

Carl Bagby offered his services as guide for our hike up Lexington's Big and Little House Mountains, and an enthusiastic and excellent guide he was!

Big and Little House Mountains stand prominently out among the pastures and woods of Rockbridge County, offering promises of great views from their summits. We were not disappointed.

From the small parking area, a local dog greeted us and led us up the first stretch of the road to the saddle, but when he headed past a gate marked "No Trespassing", we decided to stay on the main road which led to the saddle between the two mountains. We found Jerry, who had come from West Virginia, in another one-vehicle parking spot a little ways up the

road. The saddle is a nice meadow, and in the woods adjoining the meadow is a trail shelter.

From the saddle we started up the old road to the concrete building on top of Big House Mountain. But when the road turned to the right, Carl led us straight ahead, clambering up toward the western end of the summit, where a rock outcropping offered views of Lake Robertson and the Alleghany County North Mountain. Passing by a spectacular balanced rock, we bushwhacked across the summit ridge and down to the road again. A short distance to the left was the concrete building. A little below that, we found a nice set of rock and grass stools for our lunch spot, with an eastward view through the bare trees, including Purgatory Mountain and the Peaks of Otter. We didn't linger, however, because yesterday's spring weather had lulled all of us into slightly underdressing for today's chilly, mostly cloudy weather with snow flurries accompanying us most of the day. We headed back down the road to the saddle, where we took the road to the left (which, Carl told us, ultimately takes one to Route 60 in a rather steep descent) just until we reached the newly blue-blazed trail up Little House Mountain. Not much of a trail by AT standards, it nevertheless guided us to the southwestern end of Little House Mountain and then across the top of that mountain to the northeastern end, which has an overlook offering a magnificent 180-degree view including all of Lexington (you can pick out the horse center by its bright blue roofs) and over toward Goshen. Even Afton Mountain was visible, since the clear, windy weather extended the views way out. The approximately ¾-mile-long trail along the summit of Little House Mountain is a magical environment of rocks, laurel, and small trees. On the eastern side, Carl pointed out the place where the VMI cadets annually climb straight up the steep mountainside from a farm below. He also told us about a spring and a little waterfall that you can bushwhack to if you're feeling adventuresome.

Back down Little House Mountain to the saddle, then back down the road to the cars we hiked. Once we got in the cars, the sun came out. Don led some of the group to a great ice cream shop in Lexington, where most of us had to supplement our ice cream treat with hot coffee or chocolate.

Sunday, March 21, 2004 1:00PM
Wolf Creek Greenway

Jean Warren (leader), Sue Scanlin (assistant leader), Patty Allen, Paul Blaiklock, Lynn Bryant, Pat Cousins, Martha Cox, Ellen Flora, Georgia Gallaher, Sherry Kessel, Neil McKinney, Dot Overstreet, and Andrew Troth

The weather report for the day was 60 degrees and sunny. The reality was scattered snow flurries, mid 40's, and incredibly windy. When we all gathered at the Lynn Haven Baptist parking lot, we were all scrambling into our cars to find whatever extra clothing we could find. Out came extra hats, gloves, and coats. Lynn suggested that we put rocks in our coats to hold us down. We all kept an incredibly fast pace and finished the 3 mile hike within an hour. We then added an additional mile at the end. Lynn was actually our tour guide along the way, telling us stories of how RATC built the bridges we crossed, as well as other entertaining stories. Even though Sue had never been on this trail before, we had her lead. It seems we gave her a workout, since she started to make a few wrong turns but was quickly corrected. It really was a fun day, particularly since many of us had never been on this trail before.

Sunday, March 28, 2004 8:00 AM
Work Hike on Catawba Mountain

Charles Parry, Laurie Adkins, Larry Austin, Jim Lewis, Fred Coughlan, Dana Helsley, Diana Christopulas, Brian Chisom, Matt Piper, Sarah King, Blake Seite, Megan Phaup, Lien-Thank Kratzke, Timothy Van Rheenen, Marcus Morris

The job for the day was to complete and open the minor relocation, south of the Catawba Mountain Shelter. Among other things, we had to put in steps on the switchback corner, complete digging on both ends of the relocation, blaze the new trail and close the old trail. In the morning some of us began installing steps while others began digging the south end. By the time the Roanoke College group arrived, we were ready to open the new section. Consequently, I had the College group drag dead trees into the old trail which I cut with the chainsaw. I also had some of them scrape off the old blazes. In addition, I had a special project for them to do. In the morning I had dropped off a 10 foot long 6x6 which I planned to use for a crib log on the trail south of the relocation. I had them carry the timber down to the trail, install it using rebar and put dirt behind it. Fred and Laurie blazed the relocation around lunch time. In the afternoon, we put on the finishing touches and spent a bit of time preparing for next week's work, as well as smoothing out a few rough spots further south on the trail.

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, July 4, 2004 8:00 AM

**Andy Layne Trail (Rt. 779) to Daleville (Rt 220)
113 Mile Hike # 3**

11 miles, Strenuous, \$.50 carpool fee

The hike is just north of Roanoke, starting in the Catawba Valley and ending in Daleville. There is a stiff hike up the relocated Andy Layne Trail and then a scenic ridge walk overlooking Carvins Cove.

Gary Adams 540-552-0892

Charlie Scharnberg 342-3104

Thursday - Monday, July 8-12, 2004

Work hike on Catawba Mountain with Konnarock

Konnarock crew working on trail relocation on Catawba Mountain.

Saturday, July 10, 2004 8:30 AM

Work hike on Catawba Mountain with Konnarock

Will continue work on trail relocation on Catawba Mountain.

Charles Parry

540-951-1402

Laurie Adkins

966-2811

Sunday, July 11, 2004 8:30 AM

Work hike on Catawba Mountain with Konnarock

Will continue work on trail relocation on Catawba Mountain.

Charles Parry

540-951-1402

Laurie Adkins

966-2811

Sunday, July 11, 2004 1:00 PM

Daleville (Rt. 220) to Troutville (Rt. 11)

3 miles, Easy

We'll meet at Daleville Park and ride, take the old feeder trail to the AT, then hike north to the junction of US 11 and return on the same route. We may explore the trail further if time allows. (Beginner's hike)

David Sutton

774-0648

Maurice Turner

334-2128

Sunday, July 18, 2004 7:00 AM

Reeds Gap (BRP) to Tye River (Rt. 56)

10.5 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$.50 carpool fee
75 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Nelson County.

Laura Montague

725-3682

Kenny Garrett

890-8946

Sunday, July 18, 2004 1:00 PM

Chestnut Ridge Trail

5.4 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee

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

Georgia Gallaher

345-8700

Maurice Turner

334-2128

Sunday, July 25, 2004 7:30 AM
Massie Gap to Elk Garden (Rt. 600)

7.6 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$9.50 carpool fee
 130 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Grayson County and starts in Grayson Highlands State Park where wild ponies are abundant. A side trail off of the AT leads to Mt. Rogers, where there is no view. AT also proceeds through Lewis Fork Wilderness Area.

Jimmy Whitney 344-4117
Charlie Scharnberg 342-3104

Sunday, July 25, 2004 1:00 PM
Petites Gap to Sunset Field

7.3 miles, Moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee
 33 miles from Roanoke

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

Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732
Joyce Fisher 362-1143

Thursday, July 29 - Monday, August 2, 2004
Work hike on Catawba Mountain with Konnarock

Konnarock crew working on trail relocation on Catawba Mountain.

Saturday, July 31, 2004 8:30 AM
Work hike on Catawba Mountain with Konnarock

Will continue work on trail relocation on Catawba Mountain

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Jim Hutchings 427-4536

Sunday, August 1, 2004 8:30 AM
Work hike on Catawba Mountain with Konnarock

Will continue work on trail relocation on Catawba Mountain.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Jim Hutchings 427-4536

Sunday, August 8, 2004 9:00 AM
Spec mines – Hammond Hollow Circuit

8 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$1.50 carpool fee
 15 miles from Roanoke

This hike is located in Botetourt County and offers views from Harvey's Knob Overlook and Montvale Overlook.

Larry Austin 254-2092
Ed Wallace 774-0175

Saturday, August 14, 2004
Shelter workhike, TBA

Jonathan Reed 265-4782

Sunday, August 15, 2004 7:00 AM
Hog Camp Gap to Punchbowl (BRP)

16.5 miles, Strenuous, \$4.50 carpool fee
 52 Miles from Roanoke

Located in Amherst County.

Laura Montague 725-3682
Kenny Garrett 890-8946

Sunday, August 22, 2004 8:00 AM
Rock Castle Gorge

11 miles, Strenuous, \$4.00 carpool fee
 57 miles from Roanoke

Located in Patrick County.

Lois C. Smith 992-3701
Gary J. Hale 268-5283

Sunday, August 22, 2004 1:00 PM
Roanoke Mountain Loop

4 miles, Easy, \$0.50 carpool fee
 3 miles from Roanoke

Located in Roanoke County.

Georgia Gallaher 345-8700
Diana Christopulos 387-0930

Sunday, August 29, 2004 8:30 AM
John's Creek Work hike

Will be piling rocks around the supports of the bridge across Johns Creek to prevent more erosion.

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

Sunday, August 29, 2004 1:00 PM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to Sandstone Ridge
(Rt. 624)

5.9 miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee
 5 miles from Roanoke

The hike is in Roanoke County, west of Salem. It follows Sawtooth Ridge with, as the name implies, lots of ups and downs, then winds through open meadows across Catawba Valley, to a final climb over Sandstone Ridge and down to Route 624.

Maurice Turner 334-2128
Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

September 3-6, 2004
Multiclub 2004

Hosted by Smoky mountains Hiking Club

Location: Camp Wesley Woods in Walland, Tennessee
 For more information contact Dianne Gruber/Pete James 865-977-0807 or grub9832@bellsouth.net

Sunday, September 5, 2004 9:30 AM
Cove Mountain and Little Cove Mountain Circuit

7.5 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee
 24 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, this hike offers creek side walking along a branch of Cove Creek, a stop at Little Cove Mountain Shelter and a view from a rock formation just a few hundred feet north of shelter. An alteration, avoiding the normal road walk, will bring the hike by waterfalls.

Larry Austin 254-2092
Charlie Scharnberg 342-3104

Saturday, September 11, 2004
Shelter workhike, TBA

Jonathan Reed 265-4782

Sunday, September 12, 2004 7:00 AM
Garden Mountain (Rt. 623) to Rich Valley (Rt. 42)

17.3 miles, Strenuous, \$7.50 carpool fee
 97 miles from Roanoke

Located in Bland County, this hike offers spectacular views of Burke's Garden.

Kris Peckman 366-7780
Carl Bagby 540-461-3336

Sunday, September 12, 2004 1:00 PM
Carvins Cove Boat Launch to Cemetery

4 miles, no carpool fee

Located at the City of Roanoke's reservoir. There is a fee of \$1.00 for Roanoke City residents and \$2.00 for everyone else.

Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

Sunday, September 19, 2004 8:30 AM
Catawba Mountain Work Hike

Will continue work on trail relocation on Catawba Mountain.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Jim Hutchings 427-4536

Sunday, September 19, 2004 1:00 PM
New River (Rt. 460) to Angels Rest

5 miles, Moderate, \$4.50 carpool fee
 62 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County.

Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732
Kenny Garrett 890-8946

Sunday, September 26, 2004 8:00 AM
Saint Mary's Wilderness, Upper Loop

10.6 miles, Strenuous, \$4.50 carpool fee
 66 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Augusta County, and combines 4 trails in the Saint Mary's Wilderness (Mine Bank Trail, Saint Mary's Trail, Jeep Trail and Bald Mountain Trail).

Larry Austin 254-2092
Lois C. Smith 992-3701

Sunday, September 26, 2004 1:00 PM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to McAfee Knob

7 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.

Dick Clark 989-7053
Mary J. Gilbert 774-0330

RATC Overseer Assignments

VA 611 to VA 606:
 To Dismal Creek:
 To Ribble Trail (north end):
 To powerline:
 To US 460 Bridge:
 Pine Swamp Shelter to Bailey Gap Shelter:
 To War Spur Trail:
 To Rocky Gap:
 To Sinking Creek:
 To Niday Trail:
 To VA 621:
 To VA 620:
 To VA 624:
 To VA 311:
 To Campbell Shelter:
 To Brickey's Gap:
 To Ditch Trail:
 To Angel's Gap
 To US 220:
 To VA 652:
 To Salt Pond Road:
 To Blackhorse Gap:
 Andy Layne Trail:

Spring 2004

Kenny Garrett, Dorothy Hoskins
 Mike and Virginia Reilly
 Bill Floyd & Leslie Kay
 David Hicks & Greg Still
 Charles & Gloria Parry
 Mike Ferguson
 Hal Cantrill, Bob Foutz
 Clyde Perdue
 Joe, Brian & Leigh Anne Kelly
 Chase Davidson
 Red Crone
 Mervin and Blanche Brower
 Bob & Kris Peckman
 Ed Bessel, Ralph Hart, Don Nulph & Maurice Turner
 Laurie & Leonard Adkins
 Ron McCorkle
 Bill Gordge
 Zetta Campbell & Dick Clark
 John Lynham
 Homer & Therese Witcher
 Jim & Linda Hutchings
 Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan
 RATC

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Application New & Renewal

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

Names(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Family Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> New 1 year \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> New 2 year \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew 1 year \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew 2 year \$30
Individual Member	<input type="checkbox"/> New 1 year \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> New 2 year \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew 1 year \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew 2 year \$20
Make checks payable to RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282				<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500

Hike Reports (Continued)

Sunday, March 28, 2004 1:00 PM Woods Creek Trail

Patricia Mankin (leader), Mary Lou Gaminde, Bobbie Stitcher, Neil McKinney, Mary Gilbert, Paul Blaiklock & Patricia Allen

The charm of Lexington and the Wood's Creek that surrounds it is undeniable. This hike gives you an entire insight into the area. The creek runs behind Washington & Lee University and VMI. You then end the hike by going thru VMI and the lovely Washington & Lee campus that are joined. The interest of this hike is you see a little of everything that makes the area so special.

Sunday, April 4, 2004 8:30 AM Work Hike on Catawba Mountain

Charles Parry, Fred Coughlan, Bob Foutz, Dana Helsley

The goal of today's trip was to put a new rock-bridge on the Catawba Mountain section of trail a bit south of the recently opened minor relocation. There were two pieces of threaded rod in the rock which had been placed there 20 years ago this summer. The trail had slid down the mountain about 20 feet from its original location. We used the rods to anchor the bridge to the rock. Most of the lumber for the bridge had been pre-cut and drilled, so it went together fast. I thought that the Roanoke College group might show up, so we left lumber in the truck for them to carry down. When they did not show up, Bob ended up with most of the carrying. By early afternoon, we were ready to work on the steps. It soon became apparent that we would need more lumber. We finished one set and started the second before running out. I had also brought in another crib that we installed a bit south of the bridge. Before leaving, we figured out how much more lumber would be needed for the steps.

Sunday, April 4, 2004 1:00 PM Belfast Trail to Devil's Marbleyard

Kenny Garrett (co-leader), Linda Akers (co-leader), Jesse Garrett, Carl Cornett, Mary Gilbert

The day was partly cloudy and extremely windy. I'm not the type to let a little adverse weather curb my fun though. Four others felt the same. We made the afternoon drive past Natural Bridge Station through beautiful green fields and early spring flora. We were the only ones on this trail when we arrived, but several others showed up later in the day. The evidence of the wildfire was still visible along the trail, but did not take away the beauty of the creeks and a few yellow violets

and other plants that Linda identified. All of us ventured out on the rocks despite the wind. The three boys decided to scramble all the way to the top of the boulder field and back. We agreed that climbing to the top was easier than descending. This appears to be a giant playground that God made for us to explore and play. After our scrambling, we all enjoyed a nice stroll back to the parking area. I highly recommend this hike for spring and fall. For all that have the adventure of the inner child wanting to get out and play.

Sunday, April 11, 2004 8:30 AM Glenwood Horse Trail to Bearwallow Gap

Larry Austin (leader), Maurice Turner (co-leader), Shelley Himel and Charlie Scharnberg

On this Easter Sunday, the small gathering met at Daleville and drove to the Glenwood Horse Trailhead parking lot located just off Route 43 near Buchanan after leaving one vehicle at Bearwallow Gap. The day was overcast in the upper 40's with a weather forecast of a good chance of rain. However, no rain appeared until the very end of the hike, and it was quite light allowing us to get back into the vehicle without getting wet. It was very nice hiking weather and all seemed to enjoy the hike. To those of you not familiar with the Glenwood Horse Trail, it is a multi-purpose trail used by hikers, bikers and equestrians. It is maintained generally by volunteers. It provides the opportunity for good circuit hikes when combined with the AT and other forest service trails. On this 9 mile hike, combining the Glenwood Horse Trail and AT, we were able to see some mining sites used in the early 1900's by the Pulaski Mine Company. We had good views of the valley below and mountains to the north and west. During the hike we startled several grouse and one turkey (or was it the other way around?). We also were able to observe several wildflowers including: Trailing Arbutus, two varieties of Violets, Heartleaf, Bluets, Rue Anemone and Toothwort. The mountainsides were also ablaze with Sourwood trees.

Sunday, April 11, 2004 1:00 PM Stewarts Knob

Lynn G. Bryant (leader), Sue Scanlin (assistant leader), Peggy Bryant, Carl Cornett, Bobbie Stitcher, Georgia Gallaher & Marianne Demkó

Stewarts Knob is a new greenway trail and this is the first RATC hike on this multiuse trail. The trail was constructed by Dr Bill Gordge's midweek work hike group, also known as Retired Association of Trail Constructors (RATC). Hike started about 1:10 PM and so did the rain. Drizzle at first, steadily increasing as we proceeded to Stewarts Knob overlook. The

temperature was about 45°F. The view of Roanoke Valley was hazed out. We have a trail angel named Bob (?) who removed some rather large oak tree blowdowns assisted by Peggy Bryant (Thanks!). A number of plants and trees were in bloom: Redbud, Dogwood, Cherry, Lemon Bush (A plant from Hell with thorns 2" to 3" long), Easter Lilies that had already bloomed, Yucca plants standing tall but not yet blooming, wild Strawberries, Dollar Plants and of course, Dandelions. We saw no wildlife today (bear, deer and turkey have been seen on mountain), although the horses are doing a good job of fertilizing the trail. Seven people came to enjoy a pleasant hike that parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Sunday, April 18, 2004 8:00 AM
Terrapin Mountain

Don Hoke (leader), Kris Peckman (co-leader), Bob Peckman, Charlie Scharnberg, Shelley Himel, Larry Austin, Harry Neumann, and Jim & Sandra Elder.

Weather-Sunny and hot.

After a pretty drive thru Bedford we meet Jim and Sandra Elder at the trailhead around 9:00AM. Jim and Sandra are with the NBATC and are also the maintainers for this section. We were grateful for having them to join us for their knowledge and history of this trail and area,

Before we got started we met a family walking to their mailbox. With them was their large black dog, Shadow, who decided to hike with us for the rest of the day instead of going back home. It seems Shadow has a bad habit of eating Cardinals so he came equipped with a small cowbell.

The first 3 miles was all climbing. Along the way we stopped at George's Rock which gave outstanding views of Apple Orchard Mountain, Thunder Ridge and the valley in between which includes the Glenwood Horse Trail. Then a little farther we came to a side trail that takes you to a rock offering views on the other side of the mountain that included Big Island and a little stretch of the James River. After 2000 feet of elevation we reached the Terrapin Rock, which it resembles when viewed from the side. We stopped here for a break and to enjoy the views that included Sharp and Flat Top Mountains (The Peaks of Otter). Then it was down the mountain to Cowpen Gap where we picked up a dirt road and followed that down to Reeds Creek where we stopped for lunch. Afterwards we all found different ways to cross the creek and then followed it along the road for a good ways till we had to cross it again. There are many good swimming holes along this cascading creek. After crossing we hiked the final leg back to the car crossing 5 or 6 smaller creeks along the way. One of these included a nice waterfall. We arrived back at the trailhead around 4:00PM. Shadow

still didn't want to go home so Jim and Sandra decided to escort him personally. After a stop for ice cream and drinks we headed home.

Along the hike we saw two grouse, two black vultures on Terrapin Rock, one black snake, lots of butterflies, different birds and wild flowers (Bloodroot, Violets, & Trilliums to name a few).

Sunday, April 18, 2004 1:00 PM
Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth

Mervin Brower & Blanche Brower (leaders), Mike Ferguson (assistant leader), Aaron Eanes, JoJo Gin, Lillian Lann, Carl Cornett, Liz Wicks, Emory Richardson, Mary Gilbert, Billy and Natalie Ferguson, Vada Sarsfield, Mary Lou Gaminde, Paul Blaiklock & Gary Adams.

The hike started from Orange Market at Hanging Rock parking lot. The weather was around 80 degrees and sunny, perfect for hiking. The air was clear so the views were great from the top. The Service berry trees were out in full bloom. Every one made it to the top.

Sunday, April 25, 2004 8:00 AM
Sinking Creek (Rt 630) to Lee Hollow (Rt 621)
113-mile hike #8

Don Hoke (Leader), Mike Vaughn, Mark Packett & Shelley Himel

Otis Farmer signed up but unfortunately we missed each other at the Rt 630 trailhead. We left one car at Rt 621 and proceeded to Rt 630. The day started out cloudy with the threat of rain, but the clouds lifted somewhat and the sun came out a little at the end. It was windy on top of the mountain.

The first 1 1/2 miles were up hill, somewhat steep in a few places. We passed the Keffer Oak and were awed by its great size. On top we passed by lots of rock piles the homesteaders piled up when they cleared the land and then we hiked down to Sarver Shelter on the new trail. We sure were glad that we didn't have to use the old trail. The Shelter looked great, nice and clean, no trash. Shelley and I went to check out the old homestead. What a place this must have been many years ago. We decided there was no way we would spend a night in the livestock pen although some have.

After a fabulous almost level walk across the mountain, though some of it was on 45-degree slabs of rock, we headed down to the Niday shelter where we stopped again and talked for a while to a thru hiker.

There were lots of different flowers and trees blooming. A purple orchid seemed to be in abundance. Some Mountain Laurel was blooming as well. Mike and Mark spotted about 6 deer, Shelley saw 2, I didn't see any deer but I did find a black snake.

We all agreed this was one of the flattest sections that we have hiked.

**Sunday, April 25, 2004 1:00 PM
Flat Top Mountain, Trillium**

Dave Sutton (leader), Ed Wallace (co-leader), N. Bhullar, Larry Austin, Mary Lou Gaminde

The Parkway was covered in fog as we drove to the Peaks of Otter area. Upon arriving, we met up with Larry who had walked along the road from the picnic area to the northern most parking area at Flat Top. Along the hike, we must have seen over 1,000 Trillium in bloom. Although the predominate flower was Dutchman's breeches, we also identified common violet (blue), Jack-in-the-pulpit, Chickweed, Spiderwort, Wild Ginger, Louse, and Henbit. It was a spectacular colorful sight even though the fog was shrouding us in. Upon reaching the summit we snacked to regain some energy. About halfway down the mountain the fog lifted as we headed toward the picnic area. We walked past the Polly Ordinary (1830's Inn), around the lake and towards the visitor's center. Despite the fog, it was a really pretty hike.

**Sunday, May 2, 2004 8:00 AM
Montebello Fish Hatchery to Tye River**

Laura Montague (co-leader) and Kenny Garrett (co-leader), Kris Peckman, Bob Peckman, Carl Bagby, Carl Cornett, Lois Smith, Larry Austin & Jerry Kyle

The weather prediction was not good but we forged ahead. Jerry Kyle traveled from West Virginia to hike with us. The walk up Fish Hatchery Road to the A.T. was great. The Dutchman's Breeches were in bloom on the mountainside. Due to the fog there were no views from Spy Rock. Numerous wild flowers were seen and we were fortunate to have Larry along to identify them for us. There was some rain during the hike but it just depended on what part of the trail you were on as to whether or not you got wet. A separation of just 10 minutes could mean rain gear versus sunscreen. Fortunately the sky cleared when we were on top of the Priest and we had fantastic views all the way down the mountain. At the end of the hike everyone went ahead and crossed the road so we could walk across the swinging bridge over the Tye River. On the way home we decided to stop for dinner at The Pink Cadillac. It was a great day with great hikers.

**Sunday, May 2, 2004 1:00 PM
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to
Sandstone Ridge (Rt 624)**

Bobbie Sticher (leader), Linda Akers (leader), Gene Downs, Mike Ferguson, Billy Ferguson, Frank Smoot & Maurice Turner

Under a cloudy sky and the weather forecast calling for rain seven hikers met to hike Sawtooth and Sandstone Ridge. We saw many wildflowers including Fire Pink, Lady's Slipper, Wild Azalea, Mayapple, Columbine, Wild Geranium, Golden Ragwort, Squawroot, Dwarf Iris, Bluets and Birdfoot Violet. The Columbine was especially striking growing near the rocks in many places. Billy was the lead hiker and he seemed to have a great time playing in the creek on Sandstone Ridge. We had a breeze during the whole hike. It was a perfect day to hike in warm weather. The rain began just as we finished the hike. Five of us ate at the Homeplace. We enjoyed having Frank hiking with us for the first time and hope he will continue to hike with us.

**Sunday, May 2, 2004
Catawba Mountain Workhike**

Charles Parry, Bob Foutz, Dana Helsley

The purpose of today's trip was to finish the rock-bridge and to connect the trail to it on both ends. As the step material had been pre-cut, that part went quickly. On the north end of the bridge the trail needed to descend quickly to the trail. Consequently, we had to put in about 10 rock steps. This took us until early afternoon. We then looked over options on the south end and decided to keep the trail at about constant elevation and connect it to the trail a couple of hundred feet south of the bridge. It proved not to be too difficult to grade in a trail. It had been threatening to rain all day, and we watched a shower on Fort Lewis Mountain. However, we never did get any rain. My paint never got put in the truck on Saturday so we were unable to blaze it in. Only one or two would have been needed anyway. We were pleased to get this job done.

**Tuesday, May 4, 2004
Shelter workhike -Lambert's Meadow Privy**

Wow! What a beautiful day! Jim Roberson, Jim Lewis, Jim O'Neal, Sue Norwood and I took the last of the building materials up to Lambert's Meadow today... well, almost the last of the materials. We met at the Daleville commuter lot at 11 AM and were at Marvin Harris' place by 11:15. The day was filled with jokes about how many "Jims" we had in our group.

I had guessed that we needed three more trips to carry all the material, but Jim's (no, the OTHER Jim) 6-wheel Polaris ATV took the whole lot in one load (albeit a big load). Thanks Jim!

We widened the trail by a couple of feet in one place... about 10 feet of trail. That made it possible to carry the material all the way to the shelter on the

ATV. It was hard work, but worthwhile. Not only did we get the materials all the way to the shelter, but the trail is bit better now too.

With so much of our plan done by 1:00 we decided to start building the outhouse. We leveled the site and collected square rocks to act as a foundation for the compost bins.

We built the cribbing for the two compost bins and attached the flooring to the rails that will allow the outhouse to slide back and forth so that it is positioned above one of the two compost bins. The battery on the drill died at about the same time we ran out of steam.

All that's left is to put up the walls, put the roof together and attach it... and cut up the old outhouse and fill in the old pit. The one piece of material that did not get carried up there is the riser (aka 'the throne')... hopefully, it will arrive this week.

We finished up at about 6 PM. Honestly, it was so beautiful out there today that it felt like we were quitting too early.

Saturday, May 8, 2004

Shelter workhike – Lambert's Meadow Privy

The weather was so nice that Jonathan Reed, Stephanie Kent and I decided to camp at Lambert's Meadow on Friday night. Jim Lewis joined us at about 8:00 AM on Saturday.

The first order of business was to carry the new 'throne' up to the shelter... no small task. Fortunately, for us, two thru-hikers volunteered to help. Jim, Stephanie and the thru-hikers went back down to Marvin's place. Apparently, the thru-hikers were in pretty good shape because Jim reported that they grabbed the throne and some other materials and took off up the mountain - they waited for Jim at the top.

Jonathan, Jim and I worked steadily until about 3:30, when Jim needed to leave. We got the floor and walls raised, along with attaching the throne and signage. Wanting to get the roof attached, Jonathan and I stayed. With the help of 4 more thru-hikers we got the roof attached just as it started to get dark. We hiked back to Marvin's in the dark (eek!) and got home at about 9:30 PM.

So the composting outhouse at Lambert's Meadow is open for "business." But there's still more to be done: the old outhouse needs to be torn down, the second set of steps needs to be built, a new trail needs to be blazed, and the roof needs to be repositioned (it's OK as it is, but it really should be repositioned to give more protection in front of the outhouse than in the back), finally, a drainage ditch needs to be dug to ensure that rain drains away from the composting bins. Jim Lewis has volunteered to coordinate those projects. Definitely drop him a line if you would like to help out (slohiker@aol.com, 540-977-2356).

Thanks to all those who helped on this project. If you missed out, don't feel too bad, Jonathan has numerous other projects lined up that your help will be most welcome on. Stay tuned for more info on those.

Sunday, May 9, 2004 8:00 AM

Cornelius Creek Trail to Jennings Creek

Larry Austin (co-leader), Kris Peckman (co-leader), Bob Peckman, H. R. Blankenship, Shelley Himel, Charlie Scharnberg, & Carl Cornett

On this beautiful sunny day, we commenced the hike at the Cornelius Creek Trailhead at the parking area of upper North Creek around 8:55 a.m. We ascended the Cornelius Creek Trail for three miles to the AT. The creek was quite beautiful with its many pools of water, falling water and large boulders. We headed south on the AT with a side trip to Black Rock Overlook just off the AT which is about one mile north of the Cornelius Creek Shelter. It offered a fabulous view of the mountains to the west, north and south. We later passed by the Cornelius Creek Shelter around 11:00 a.m. and enjoyed lunch along the trail between 12 and 12:30 depending on which group of hikers you were with at the time. Shortly after lunch we reached the Bryant Ridge Shelter where we encountered a thru hiker taking a break before heading on to the Cornelius Creek Shelter to spend the night. We also met several hikers from Pennsylvania who were doing a hike from the Cornelius Creek Shelter (starting at Floyd Field on the Blue Ridge Parkway) to Jennings Creek, the same finish point as our hike. Along the way we spotted numerous wild flowers both on the Cornelius Creek Trail and the AT including: Wild Geranium, Wild Ginger, Fire Pink, Canada Violet (some were a foot tall), Smooth Yellow Violet, Birdfoot violet, Giant Trillium, Wood Vetch, Pink Lady's Slipper, Yellow Lady's Slipper, Pinkster (wild azalea), Rue Anemone, Great Chickweed, Rattlesnake Weed, Cancer Root, Bellwort, Spiderwort, Lousewort, May-apple, Wild Lily of the Valley, Solomon's Seal, Speckled Wood Lily, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Robin's Plantain, Showy Orchis and Wild Confrey. Some of the hikers also saw a deer, a turkey, a big red-headed woodpecker, two land turtles (terrapins), and there were numerous songbirds singing their hearts out for us along the way. We had cold refreshments waiting for us at the end of the hike which seemed to restore some of our vigor. It was really a beautiful day for a hike and all appeared to enjoy it.

Sunday, May 9, 2004 1:00 PM

Rock Castle Creek, Fire Pink

Mervin & Blanche Brower (Leaders), Sue Scanlin

Georgia Gallaher, Marianne Demkó, Neil McKinney, Nancy Utz, Emory Richardson and Mary Lou Gaminde.

The hike started from parking lot across from the new Krogers that is being built at the corner of 419 and 221. The day was sunny and temp of 75°F, which made for a nice walk. The start of the hike was sunny but it clouded up after about ½ an hour. We had a thunderstorm and shower. We were just walking past the house with the big veranda and we took shelter on the porch during the shower which lasted half an hour but we stayed dry. The flowers were out and we saw Fire Pinks, Mayapples, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and orchids. We got back about 6 o'clock.

**Sunday, May 16, 2004 1:00 PM
Spec Mines Trail**

Dave Sutton (leader), Georgia Gallaher (co-leader) Nancy Utz, Mary Gilbert, Marianne Demkó, & Aaron Eanes.

The clouds had a threatening look about them as we drove along the Parkway. Just when we started to get out of our cars at the Montvale overlook (where the trailhead begins) it started to rain. Regardless, we put our raingear on and began our hike down the trail. We hiked about three quarters of the way to the end and it started to rain heavy, then hail, thunder and lightning. Trying to wait out the storm seemed to be the only solution, so we waited for about 15 minutes. However, it kept raining so we agreed to turn around. It was a fun but wet hike! As we were driving back to Roanoke along the Parkway, a wild turkey crossed the road in front of us.

**Saturday & Sunday, May 22-23, 2004
White Rocks Camp Out & Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Mary Gilbert, Mike Ferguson, & Kris Peckman

Hal and I decided to do two day trips instead of camping. On Saturday, we had only three of us, so we decided to work our way through the upper part of the Mountain Lake Wilderness area. Hal carried his cross cut saw and we had several blowdowns to clear out, but the clipping was not too bad. We did a little work on the War Spur Trail on the hike out. I got home in time to mow my lawn.

On Sunday, we met at the Mountain Lake turnoff of US 460. As we had 4 people we decided to split into two groups. At the Wind Rock parking lot, Kris and I headed south on the trail with chainsaw and loppers. Hal and Mike took both vehicles leaving one on the road crossing just south of Bailey Gap Shelter

and taking the other to the Pine Swamp parking area. They headed north with cross-cut saw and loppers. We had plenty of blowdowns to remove and some clipping to do. On both days, we met lots of thru hikers and had to pose for pictures a few times. We met Hal and Mike just north of Bailey Gap Shelter. They saved us one blowdown to remove on the way out. We felt that we had accomplished what we needed to do this weekend.

**Sunday, May 30, 2004 8:30 AM
Petites Gap, Hunting Creek, Glenwood Horse Trail
Loop**

Larry Austin (leader), Shelley Himel, Charlie Scharnberg & Maurice Turner

Another overcast Sunday with the threat of afternoon showers and temperatures in the mid-60's saw three hikers and the leader gather at Daleville Park and Ride to travel to Petites Gap to begin this hike. Co-leader Don Hoke was unable to make it due to another commitment. The ascent to Thunder Ridge Overlook went well. We passed several thru hikers enroute. We were disappointed in the Rhododendron as only a sparse few had any blooms. It was foggy at the overlook so we were not able to see that much. We could only imagine the view. The forest was nice though providing us with a number of wildflowers and songbirds. At about one-half mile from Thunder Ridge Overlook we arrived at the Hunting Creek Trail. Hunting Creek Trail which offers a canopy of Rhododendrons as you descend the mountain, most of which lacked any blooms or buds. We did spot some blooming which were quite beautiful. This trail was in fairly good shape despite its little use. It offers several good circuit hikes utilizing the AT and Glenwood Horse Trail. Hunting Creek which you reach after about ¾ miles is very attractive and graciously allowed us to sit beside it for our lunch where we overlooked several small cascading waterfalls and pools of water surrounded by moss-covered boulders. Farther down, we reluctantly ran into an area of stinging nettles but managed to get through it without too much damage. We reached the Glenwood Horse Trail (Forest Service Road 45) after 1.5 miles on the Hunting Creek Trail. After traversing the Forest Service Road for about another 1.5 miles, we directed ourselves back into the actual trail for about 3 miles up Battery Creek back to our starting point at Petites Gap. Again, at the end of this hike we ran into an area of stinging nettles. We kept focused however because we knew at the end of it all, waiting at our vehicle in an ice chest was a fresh homemade strawberry trifle and cold soft drinks. We enjoyed the hike avoiding only but a sprinkle of rain. Our fellowship at the end of the hike capped a great hiking day.

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CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES**Corn Boil****Saturday, July 31 – 6-9 PM****WORK HIKES****Thursday- Monday, July 8-12 - 8:30 AM
Catawba Mountain with Konnarock****Thurs., July 29-Mon., August 2 - 8:30 AM
Catawba Mountain with Konnarock****Sunday, August 29 - 8:30 AM
John's Creek Work Hike****Sunday, September 19 - 8:30 AM
Catawba Mountain****Hike Scheduling****Contact Don Nulph
774-8618 – Nulph-d@cox.net****BOARD MEETINGS****(All members are always welcome.
Please let the host know you plan to attend.)****Monday, August 2, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Leonard Adkins****Monday, September 13, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Pat Mankin****The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of
The Appalachian Trail Conference
and a member of The Nature Conservancy**