

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Spring 2006

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.



February 12, Buchanan-AT-Horse Tr. Loop

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TRAIL BLAZER

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Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Dr. Cyrus Bakhit
Jen Schaeffer

Joe Ciezkowski
Madeleine Taylor

Kevin Jordan
Rick & Sue Terrell

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

Mervin Brower

President's Message

The Tier 1 phase of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been issued for the improvements of I-81. The Board of RATC has taken the position that the study of all options should include a modern rail option. VDOT included an antique rail option that could never be competitive. While we do not consider ourselves rail experts; none of us are roadway experts either. But we do want VDOT to study rail and develop some expertise before making a decision that will have such an impact on

views from the AT, including impairments from air pollution. The ATC and RATC are not really environmental organizations. We have the very narrow focus of defending the Appalachian Trail, and do not address other environmental issues so that we do not dilute our focus on our one issue. But on this huge project, the environmental degradation of a totally roadway solution will degrade the entire RATC section, and the entire Virginia segment of the AT.

Bob Peckman

Thanks to Peggy Squires of Hampton Bays, NY for her contribution honoring a significant birthday of Irma S. Graf, AT guidebook editor.

And congratulations Irma.

This is a good way to honor someone and also to help do our mission of maintaining the Appalachian Trail. - Bob

Trail Supervisor's Report

This spring we hope to finish the north end of the Angel's Gap relocation (a small and separate piece of the entire project) in April. In May, we will spend two days working in the Stony Creek-Bailey Gap-Mountain Lake area. Much of the trail there needs re-blazing, so we are hoping for good weather. In June and July the Konnarock crews will make three visits. The first will be June 8-12 on the Pearis Mountain relocation, which we

hope to finish and open. The next two will be in the Angel's Rest area and scheduled for June 29-July 3 and July 20-24. Here we will put in another switchback or two and do some rehab work on the existing trail. As for my annual predictions, let's be optimistic and have 30 people work with the crews and 15 earn T-shirts. As always your presence on work-hikes is welcome.

Charles Parry

Hike Reports

Sunday, December 11, 2005 8:30AM Sawtooth Ridge Work Hike

Charles Parry (leader), Laurie Adkins (assistant leader), Roger Holnback, Anne Howard, Bob Stimson, Jerry Kyle, Bill Gordge, Maurice Turner, Fred Coughlan, Dana Helsley, Mike Vaughn, Kerry Wood, Teresa Martinez, Roanoke College La Crosse Team Members: Mike Treon, James Elkin, Jason Remmel, Joey Shoemaker, Chris Keating, Brock Carders, Dr. Saunders, Rob Clement, Jake Manewiter, Jack Ryan, Dick Diggler, Dave May, Mike Jones, Chad Magreutar, Jim Long, Mike Smith, Joe Smith, Andy Teeling, Nick Bennveligk, Roger Peterson, Preston Garrett, Henry Albert

How long does it take 35 people to dig 500 feet of new trail? Answer: about 3 hours. The La Crosse Team got caught having a beer party and smashing bottles on the trail in October. For discipline, they had to spend a day working on the trail. When this hike was originally scheduled for McAfee's Knob, I anticipated about half a dozen workers, which would have been plenty for the work in that area. When I learned that we would have over 20 members of the La Crosse Team, I realized that we needed to change sites. The easiest way to keep a large group of inexperienced trail workers busy for a few hours is with side hill digging. We have plenty of that in the Pearisburg area, but I thought it best to stay closer to Roanoke. Anyway, Teresa and I decided to relocate the trail around one of the small knobs that the trail went over on Sawtooth Ridge. We went out Thanksgiving time and flagged it. It turned out to be an ideal project for the group. After the team left, the club members worked a couple of extra hours taking out rocks, closing the old trail and doing some fine tuning. It was a bit cold for blazing that day, so Fred came back a few days later and blazed. He also found a Pulaski that had been left behind.

Sunday, December 11, 2005 1:00PM Lee Hollow (Rt. 621) to Niday Shelter

Georgia Gallaher & Jean Warren (co-leaders), Maya Bohler, Carl Cornett, Zetta Campbell.

It was decided due to the ice and snow that still lingered on the roads and trails, even in the lower areas, that we would cancel the hike. Jean came up with a great idea to still meet at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock, but instead to hike on the Hanging

Rock Greenway. We still had to watch our footing because the trail was a mixture of clear areas, slush and sheets of ice. Four of us hiked to the parking lot at the other end, and there was Zetta, all bundled up starting from there. She thought she had missed us at the Orange Market end. She joined us on the way back. Even though it was very cold and some sleet was coming down we all had very fun time.

Sunday, December 18, 2005 10:00AM Jennings Creek (Rt. 614) to Bryant Ridge Shelter

Kenny Garrett (leader), Carl Cornett, Carl Bagby, Ethan Tabor, Maya Bohler, Larry Austin & Gary Disbrow

The idea for this hike came about while taking a break at Bryant Ridge Shelter on an earlier hike this year. We decided that the hike was too long for an afternoon hike with the short winter days, but too short for an all day hike. So the solution was to meet at 10:00 in the morning to begin the brave winter expedition for seven wanderers.

Upon arriving at the trail head, we immediately encountered snow and ice on the trail. We observed the footprints of a man and his dog in the snow for the first half mile or so. We also saw the prints in the snow of deer, rabbit, bear, turkey, and unknown other winter animals along the trail. We enjoyed a peaceful walk alongside the creeks through virgin snow. The snow was frozen solid on the north side of the ridge, which made for humorous hiking and sliding. Upon arrival to Bryant Ridge Shelter, we all settled in for an hour-long break. There was 4+ inches of snow around the shelter. We heated water on the single burner stove, and all enjoyed hot cider, hot chocolate, or coffee (along with numerous snacks). There was much laughter and story telling as the explorers reveled in tales of their many conquests. After the long rest, we loaded our trash back into our packs and made the return trip over the icy Fork Mountain. The sky was crystal clear and we enjoyed views of the Peaks, Harkening Hill, Apple Orchard Mountain, and other beautiful mountains around. Upon completing our trek at the snow-covered parking lot, we agreed this would be a great winter hike to keep on the schedule.

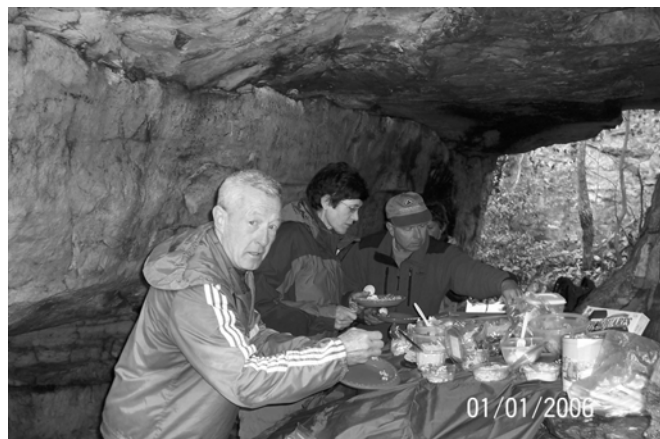
**Sunday, January 1, 2006 9:00AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to McAfee Knob
and Lunch**

Kris Peckman (leader), Maya Bohler (assistant), Larry Austin, Diana Christopulos, Carl Cornett, Linda King, Karl Kunkel, Mark McClain, Fred Meyer, Maurice Turner

What a lucky hike leader I am! Not only was the weather perfect, the participants jolly, and the scenery fabulous, but one of the participants even offered to write the hike report. This was Karl Kunkel's first time hiking to McAfee's Knob, so he was inspired to write about it. Following are excerpts from Karl's report (edited only to save paper and ink):

I can't think of a better way to begin a new year than to spend the day getting fresh air, exercise and good food with a group of friends -- and to do it at one of the most famous and photographed sites along the Appalachian Trail.

That's what I did on New Year's Day. Ten of us participated in a seven-mile hike (total, out and back) from the trailhead at VA 311 to McAfee's Knob.



Now you know why it is called the Devil's Kitchen

To ring in the New Year, the hike leaders decided to have a potluck lunch at the Knob. The event was intriguing enough for me to drive over two hours from High Point, NC, to it and for Fred to drive even further, from Charleston, WV. Each individual prepared or bought something beforehand, stuck it in his/her pack, and hiked up the mountain with it.

Two of the hikers, Carl and Larry, hiked considerably faster than most of us and had two stoves going and an impressive buffet arrangement set up by the time we got to the top. They found a

nice cloistered area surrounded by giant granite boulders at Devil's Kitchen, a massive rock formation and natural maze near McAfee's Knob. In keeping with the location, many of the dishes had a "devilish" theme (*e.g.*, deviled dates, devil nuts, satanic hummus). Carl, who was planning to spend the night at one of the shelters, provided the stoves which we used to heat soup and water for cocoa and tea. After a two-hour hike in 40-degree weather, a bowl of that soup really hit the spot. In the ten years that I've been associated with the A.T., I have to say I've never had a tastier meal in such a unique and scenic setting. I really do hope this was a "first annual" event. I was very impressed with the ability of some of our fellow hikers to take cuisine skills to the next level, under some pretty taxing circumstances. Larry, for example, made pear "tartlettes" out of pie dough he had made himself, filling the shells with pear filling he had made himself and packing it up to Devil's Kitchen. When lunch was served, he meticulously added a dollop of whipped cream (that he, of course, made himself) and sprinkled slivers of toasted almonds atop each tartlette. If your usual hiker lunch is anything like my peanut-butter-and-honey sandwich and an apple with a few swigs of Gatorade, you can imagine how pleasantly surprised I was to get to McAfee's Knob and walk into a granite-walled five-star restaurant like this. Pretty amazing!

Following this excellent meal, Kris led us on an exploration of the labyrinthine Devil's Kitchen, with its many twists and turns that ultimately led us to the underside of the McAfee's Knob ledge.

Kris and Maya did a great job of putting this event together, and I hope the RATC members think about doing similar next New Year's Day!

**Sunday, January 1, 2006 1:00PM
Mill Mountain Star Trail**

Sue Scanlin (leader), John R. Miller (assistant leader), Georgia Gallaher, Linda Sutton, Marianne Demkó & Dana Helsley

Soon after four of us had started up the trail, we were joined by Dana. It was an overcast day at the beginning but before we got to the Star, the sun had come out and it stayed out the rest of the afternoon. That, the congenial group, and the exceptionally clear view from the overlook made for a perfect hike to start out the new year. We followed Dana's suggestion to return to the parking lot via Prospect

Road and the "Car Trail". The work that had been done on the Car Trail was admired by all. Even the old car was propped up against a tree to allow for a better look at it from the trail. Isn't it funny how some discarded – albeit not in an environmentally friendly manner – or abandoned large piece of litter can eventually turn into sort of a landmark that continues to provoke thoughts about what could have happened to make it end up there? Does anyone out there know the real story?

Sunday, January 8, 2006 9:00AM
Bobblets Gap-Hammond Hollow Loop

Larry Austin (leader), H. R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Dick Moran, John Miller, Shelley Himel, Charlie Scharnberg, Maya Bohler, Maurice Turner, Kris Peckman, Bob Peckman

Mike Ferguson was unable to co-lead due to being under the weather. The Blue Ridge Parkway had just reopened the latter part of the week before the hike, so we were able to commence the hike at the Bobblets Gap Overlook. We descended the mountain via Chair Rock Road and then headed south on the Glenwood Horse Trail to its junction with the Hammond Hollow Trail. The Hammond Hollow Trail provided a good work-out since we were climbing back up to the AT. We stopped for lunch at a rock outcropping on the Hammond Hollow Trail. The day was quite beautiful for January with temperatures in the low 50's. After reaching the AT, we only had a 3/4 mile walk back to Bobblets Gap. Since this was only a 5.8 mile hike we were able to complete it around 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 8, 2006 1:00PM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to McAfee Knob

Ed Wallace (leader), Bobbie Stichter (assistant leader), Georgia Shaurette, Jena Siohu, Rebecca Reiff & Argo (k9)

I guess not a bad turnout considering the club scheduled the same hike last week. No flora. No fauna. Temperature was a bit on the chilly side.

Sunday, January 15, 2006 1:00PM
Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth

Sue Scanlin (leader), Jean Warren (assistant leader), Carol Crosby, Maya Bohler, Mike Leahy, Dick Moran, Josh Graham, Suzanne Barnett, Zetta Campbell, Bob Peckman, Kris Peckman, Margarita Cubas, David Bowers and Catcher

As nine of us were pulling out from the meeting place at Hanging Rock OM, Bob and Kris showed up and took Sue as a passenger to Dragon's Tooth parking lot. There David and Margarita with their canine companion Catcher joined us. While there still were some ice patches left on the trail, it was a nice day for a hike with the sun shining and the wind blowing (not as forcefully as the previous day).

During the ascent, our baker's dozen soon spread out. By the time the tail end of the group reached the AT, the fast group had left a note that they had proceeded towards the top. Carol already had backtracked to the parking lot earlier, while Jean, Zetta and Suzanne decided at this point to go north on the AT and then back to the parking lot via the Boy Scout Trail. Sue tried to catch up with the fast group. Just before reaching the top, she met David and Margarita on their way back down. The view from the top was as clear as can be; after the previous day's rain and strong winds, that was no wonder but wonderful. The remaining seven reached the parking lot around 4:45pm.

Sunday, January 15, 2006 9:00AM
Johns Creek (Rt. 632) to Johns Creek Mountain Trail (Rt. 658)

Hike was cancelled.

Sunday, January 22, 2006 8:30AM
Tinker Ridge Work Hike

Charles Parry (leader), Mike Vaughn (assistant leader), Bob Peckman, Mary Harshfield, Kris Peckman, Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan, Mervin Brower & Homer Witcher

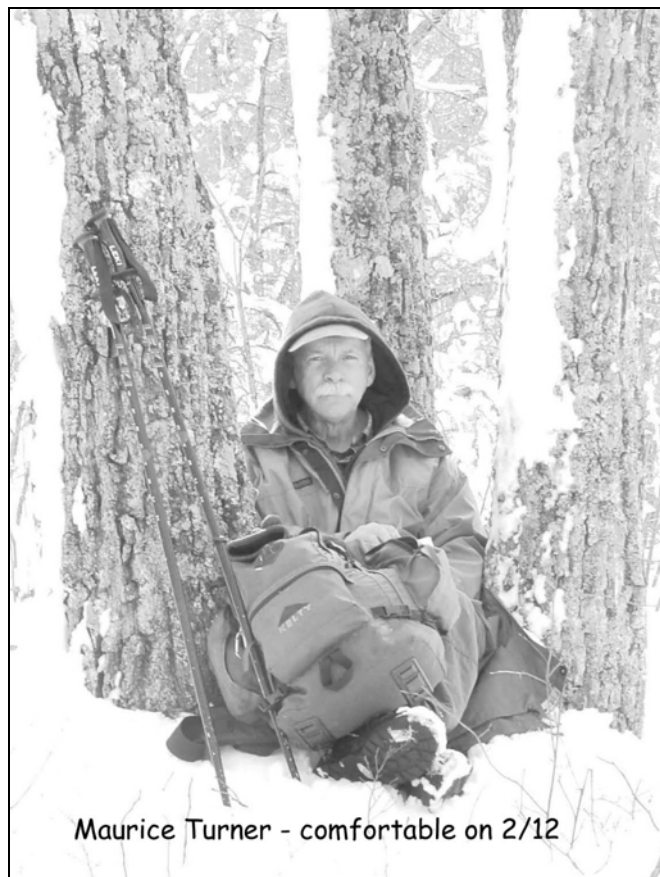
It was cloudy and cool, but dry when we met at Tinker Creek. The steep hike up the gas line was a good wake up call. Fortunately, it is not too long. We planned to work on the north end of the Angel's Gap today. Most of the planned relocation is south of the gap, but the small part we were working on is on the north side of the gap. When we got up there, the new route still had to be flagged. I had walked it once, but that was well over a year ago and my memory was less than perfect. After a couple of false starts and a bit of exploration, we figured out where the trail needed to go. We then got it flagged in short order. The start of the trail was quite rocky and several of us worked the rest of the day in that area. We started the day with only two picks, but sent Merv back for two more in the early afternoon. We realized that rock bars would have been helpful, but I

did not bring any. The others cleared brush, raked the new trail and did some side hill digging. By afternoon it became apparent that we would not finish the project that day and would need to come back. Therefore, I plan to schedule an April work hike out there to finish job. About 3:30 it started to rain a rather cold rain, so we decided to call it quits for the day.

Sunday, January 22, 2006 1:00PM
Carvin's Cove Boat Launch to Cemetery

Georgia Gallaher (leader), Carl Cornett (co-leader), Don Hoke, Sherry Kessel, Dave Sutton & Linda Sutton

At first Carl and I worried that no one would show up for this hike due to a forecast of colder temperatures and rain for the day, then right at 1PM four hikers drove into the parking lot. Some of us did add a few more layers of clothes before we started. The weather stayed good through most of our hike, and we had a very enjoyable time. Carl took pictures and Don showed us one of the tunnels that runs through the Carvin's Cove land. The hiking distance was closer to 5 miles. During the last half mile we heard a loud continuous rumbling noise which I later determined was indeed thunder. A light rain started



Maurice Turner - comfortable on 2/12

to fall, but luckily did not get torrential until we were leaving the parking lot.

Sunday, January 29, 2006 9:00AM
Lee Hollow (Rt. 621) to Trout Creek (Rt. 620)
113-Mile Hike # 7

Maurice Turner (leader), Carl Cornett, John Miller & Larry Austin

It was raining when we drove to Rt. 620 at Rt. 621 leaving one car and beginning our hike at Lee Hollow. It was a light rain on and off most of the morning; you could see that most of the rain was hitting the Sinking Creek side to the NW and to the SW it appeared clear. Carl and Larry found a lunch spot somewhat out of the wind and occasional light rain. When we began our descent to Trout Creek, the skies cleared with sunshine in the early afternoon. John pointed out a rainbow toward where we left our vehicle and Sinking Creek Mountain. We walked the road from the AT crossing back to the car, stopping on the way to share some of our goodies with the two horses in the nearby pasture; they seemed to like the treats with one horse smiling showing us his nice brown colored teeth. We finished the hike by 1:15 with most of the afternoon to do other things. It was a wonderful hike.

1ST ANNUAL Taste of the Trail

Saturday, June 24th, 2006
Noon to 5:00 pm
Davis Valley Winery, Groseclose, Va.

Discover local hiking opportunities on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Learn about the Appalachian Trail (A.T.), the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, our volunteer Trail clubs, and opportunities to volunteer on the A.T. Tour the Davis Valley Winery, relax in the summer sun, enjoy wines from the Davis Valley Winery and listen to fine acoustic music. Spend the day with us and learn how you can be part of the Appalachian Trail community.

Event is free, open to the public. Wine tasting at the Winery is \$3.00.

Directions: I-81 to exit 56, Groseclose, Va. Turn right onto Va. 683, and follow for 1 mile to the Davis Valley Winery on your left.

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Hike Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, April 2, 2006 8:30AM

Apple Orchard Mountain Loop

10.8 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee
33 miles from Roanoke

Hike begins at the Sunset Field Overlook on Blue Ridge Parkway and uses the AT over Apple Orchard Mountain passing the Guillotine, crosses the BRPW and descends an old gated road down to the Glenwood Horse Trail. We'll head south on the Horse Trail to the old site of Camp Kewanee and back up to BRPW at Sunset Field. Good views on the Horse Trail and on Apple Orchard Mountain.

Larry Austin

254-2092

Michael J. Vaughn

992-1350

Sunday, April 2, 2006 1:00PM

Andy Layne Trail (Rt. 779) to Tinker Cliffs

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

Located in Botetourt County, the trailhead for this hike is on Route 779 roughly halfway between Catawba and Daleville. In 2001, this trail was dedicated to Andy Layne – a prominent member of RATC who passed away in 1991. The hike crosses meadows and Catawba Creek and then starts the ascent to Scorched Earth Gap where it continues on the AT to Tinker Cliffs. Many spots along the cliffs offer excellent views of McAfee Knob and the Catawba Valley.

Sue Scanlin

989-0497

Jean Warren

384-6229

Sunday, April 9, 2006 8:00AM

Angel's Gap on Tinker Ridge

Some miles, Moderate, \$0.00 carpool fee
0 miles from Roanoke

Finish a short relocation.

Charles Parry

540-951-1402

Michael J. Vaughn

992-1350

Sunday, April 9, 2006 1:00PM

Jennings Creek (Rt. 614) to Bryant Ridge Shelter

5.9 miles, Moderate, \$2.00 carpool fee
23 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County not far from Arcadia and Buchanan.

Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732

Mike Ferguson 344-8525

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

9.5 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$6.50 carpool fee
69 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Augusta County.

Dick Clark 989-7053

Maurice Turner 334-2128

**Sunday, April 16, 2006 1:00PM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to Sandstone
Ridge (Rt. 624)**

5.9 miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee
6 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.

Bobbie Sticher 397-2760

Jean Warren 384-6229

**Sunday, April 23, 2006 11:00AM
Sinking Creek(RT 630) to Johns Creek(RT
632) 113-Mile Hike # 9**

8.2 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$5.00 carpool fee
41 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Craig County.

Kenny Garrett 537-5347

John R. Miller 375-3250

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

8.0 miles, Moderate, \$0.00 carpool fee
0 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County north of Roanoke. Except for a short feeder trail (old A.T.), 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 at 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.

Gary Bible 977-2954

Maya Bohler 344-6588

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

6.0 miles, Strenuous, \$5.50 carpool fee
56 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Rockbridge County. The trailhead is in the Goshen Pass area near Lexington. There is a high scenic ridge with cliffs and very unusual rock formations. An old trail description, borrowing words from Dante's Inferno, warns "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here". This is something of an exaggeration. However parts of the trail are very steep and there are stream crossings if a loop hike is attempted.

Charles Musgrove 540-345-7969

Dick Moran 389-3744

**Sunday, April 30, 2006 1:00PM
Chestnut Ridge Trail**

5.4 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$0.00 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.

Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

Dave Sutton 774-0648

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

10.0 miles, Strenuous, \$8.00 carpool fee
88 miles from Roanoke

This hike is in Augusta County west of Staunton near Buffalo Gap. It is the site of an old radio tower and will be an up and back hike. Elliott's Knob is at an elevation of 4,458 feet. Although there are good views all along the trail, the summit provides stunning views, and there are two old growth groves of red spruce trees which is not common in our area.

Larry Austin 254-2092

Maurice Turner 334-2128

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

5.0 miles, Moderate, \$2.00 carpool fee
20 miles from Roanoke

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

Bobbie Sticher 397-2760
Kenny Garrett 537-5347

**Sunday, May 14, 2006 8:00AM
House Mountains, Big and Little**

9.1 miles, Strenuous, \$4.50 carpool fee
48 miles from Roanoke

Located in Rockbridge County west of Lexington. Purchased for preservation by the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council (RACC) in 1989, the 800+ acres including the tops of Big House and Little House Mountain, and the saddle between them, contain numerous species of plants and provide views of the Rockbridge County countryside. We will follow the 2-mile woods road to the saddle, hike another mile to the cliffs of Big House Mountain, then return to the saddle and take the Little House Mountain trail which involves a climb followed by a lovely ridge walk.

Kris Peckman 366-7780
Gary Bible 977-2954

**Sunday, May 14, 2006 1:00PM
Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth**

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

Located on Cove Mountain near the Craig and Roanoke County line, the hike to Dragon's Tooth ascends steep, rugged outcrops of quartzite which form the spine of Cove Mountain. A difficult hike, Dragon's Tooth summit offers magnificent views of nearby and distant peaks year-round.

Michael J. Vaughn 992-1350
Sue Scanlin 989-0497

**Sunday, May 21, 2006 8:00AM
Rockfish Gap (I64) to Dripping Rock (BRP)**

14.6 miles, Strenuous, \$8.00 carpool fee
79 miles from Roanoke

Hike provides views of Rockfish Valley and southern summits of Shenandoah National Park. Hike will pass by Humpback Rocks with a side trail of 800 feet to the rocks. Will have a car shuttle of approximately 10 miles.

Larry Austin 254-2092
Michael J. Vaughn 992-1350

**Sunday, May 21, 2006 1:00PM
Crabtree Falls**

5.8 miles, Moderate, \$6.50 carpool fee
68 miles from Roanoke

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

Jean Warren 384-6229
Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

**Saturday, May 27, 2006 8:00AM
Mountain Lake Bailey Gap area**

Some miles, Moderate, \$4.00 carpool fee
50 miles from Roanoke

Clipping, blazing, and blow-down removal.

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

**Sunday, May 28, 2006 8:00 AM
Mountain Lake Bailey Gap area**

Some miles, Moderate, \$4.00 carpool fee
50 miles from Roanoke

Clipping, blazing, and blow-down removal.

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

**Sunday, May 28, 2006 1:00PM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to Dragon's
Tooth Parking Lot, 113-Mile Hike # 5**

8.9 miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

The hike begins at the 311 parking lot – just 15 minutes from Roanoke. The Appalachian Trail is followed south over the many humps of Catawba Mountain before dropping down to the open fields of Beckner's Gap. Between Routes 785 and 624,

the trail crosses Sandstone Ridge. Beyond 624 the trail heads uphill past the Boy Scout Trail and continues to Lost Spectacles Gap where a blue-blazed trail leads down to the Dragon's Tooth parking lot.

John R. Miller 375-3250
Joyce Fisher 362-1143

Sunday, June 4, 2006 8:00AM
Trout Creek (RT 620) to Lee Hollow (RT 621)
113-Mile Hike #7

7.6 miles, Moderate, \$2.00 carpool fee
 15 miles from Roanoke

Located in Craig and a little bit of Roanoke County, the hike on Brush Mt. includes the Audie Murphy Monument, a tribute to the most decorated soldier of WWII, who died in a plane crash on this very mountain

Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732
Gary Bible 977-2954

Sunday, June 4, 2006 1:00PM
Hoop Hole, Lower Loop

4.0 miles, Easy, \$2.50 carpool fee
 28 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, the hike makes a loop by following two delightfully wild streams: Hipes Branch and Stony Run. Both of these pass through high canyons and have plenty of cascades and deep pools. While there is little change in elevation, there are many stream crossings – some of which may be tricky if the water is high.

Bobbie Sticher 397-2760
John R. Miller 375-3250

Saturday, June 10, 2006 8:00AM
Pearis Mountain Relocation with Konnarock

Some miles, Moderate, \$6.00 carpool fee
 63 miles from Roanoke

We will relocate about 1/2 mile of trail near the powerline crossing south of Pearisburg.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Fred Coughlan 387-2331

Sunday, June 11, 2006 8:00AM
Pearis Mountain Relocation with Konnarock

Some miles, Moderate, \$6.00 carpool fee
 63 miles from Roanoke

We will relocate about 1/2 mile of trail near the powerline crossing south of Pearisburg.

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

Sunday, June 11, 2006 1:00PM
Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve

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

The hike is located in Franklin County, just outside the town of Rocky Mount at the Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve, owned and managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation. This hike will traverse Grassy Hill which is a formation composed of ancient volcanic rocks rich in magnesium. Hikers will get to see a mixture of habitats including areas that support rare plants.

Maurice Turner 334-2128
Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

Sunday, June 18, 2006 1:00PM
Price Mountain, Sulphur Ridge Loop

4.9 miles, Moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee
 15 miles from Roanoke

Located along the border of Craig and Botetourt County, about 15 miles north of Roanoke, this loop hike offers a great sense of isolation for being so close to Roanoke. The trailhead begins on VA 606 and descends for one mile into a quiet valley. After a creek crossing, the route climbs to the top of Price Mountain on the Sulphur Ridge Trail. At the crest of the mountain, the route turns right onto the Price Mountain Trail. The trail then descends along the ridgeline, with views into the Craig Creek valley, to return to the trailhead.

Michael J. Vaughn 992-1350
Sue Scanlin 989-0497

Sunday, June 25, 2006 8:00AM
Pine Swamp (Rt. 635) to New River (Rt. 460)

19.5 miles, Strenuous, \$6.50 carpool fee
 58 miles from Roanoke

Locted in Giles County Virginia and Monroe County West Virginia, this is a lengthy hike on the Appalachian Trail, which traverses a portion of the long ridge of Peters Mountain. Along the ridge top, which roughly forms the Virginia-West

Virginia border, there is little change in elevation. Both the ascent and the descent, however, are rather steep. Two open areas along the ridge – Symms Gap and, especially, Rice Field – offer views and excellent spots for breaks or lunch.

Kenny Garrett 537-5347

Linda R. King 342-2411

Sunday, June 25, 2006 1:00PM

Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to McAfee Knob

7.4 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.

Carl Bagby 540-461-9933

Joyce Fisher 362-1143

Saturday, July 1, 2006 8:00AM

Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee

60 miles from Roanoke

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

Charles Parry 540-951-1402

Dana Helsley 977-4154

Sunday, July 2, 2006 8:00AM

Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee

60 miles from Roanoke

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

Charles Parry 540-951-1402

Kris Peckman 366-7780

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Annual Summer Cornboil

At Green Hill Park, Salem, Va.

Saturday, July 22, 2006

Music and Food 6-9 PM

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

Hike Reports (Continued)

Sunday, January 29, 2006 1:00PM Lipes Branch Trail

Dave Wickersham (leader), that's all!

Life is filled with difficult questions like: "What came first, the chicken or the egg?" Or more to the point: "If the leader hikes solo, is it an official RATC outing?"

Seriously, you missed a dandy hike folks, although I understand why you stayed home. The weather report called for rain, and rain it did. I drove through the last of it though on the way there and by the time I arrived at the trailhead it was a gloriously sunny and balmy 60-degree day.

The trail is located in the Barbours Creek Wilderness. It climbs 1745 feet to the top of Potts Mountain and is one of the longest sustained climbs on any trail in the Roanoke vicinity – a great aerobic workout. The hike to the top took 75 minutes. After a 10 minute break, the return to the trailhead took 60 minutes.

And a good time was had by all!

Sunday, February 5, 2006 8:00AM Jenny Knob (Rt.611) to Kimberling Creek (Rt. 606)

Gary Bible (leader), Carl Cornett (assistant), Larry Austin, Maya Bohler, Hugh Hull

It was a rather cool breezy morning but just right for a steady hiking clip with Carl and Larry pulling the group. We finally stopped for lunch in an area with a little protection from the wind. This was Hugh's first hike with the club. He must have thought this was a work hike as he removed fallen branches along the entire route! Charles needs to draft this fella for his regular maintenance crew. This was a delightful trip and enjoyed by all.

Sunday, February 5, 2006 1:00PM Cascades

Bobbie Sticher (leader), Linda Akers, Ethan and Jaquelin Tabor, Madeleine Taylor and Lucy, Jean Warren and Beverly Williamson

On the drive to the Cascades on U.S. 460 we went through many snow showers. We met Ethan,

Jacquelin and Linda in the parking lot of the falls. The trail was barely covered by the snow showers but quite lovely to walk on. We reached the falls flowing with lots of water and there we had a snack. As we returned on the shorter trail we could see the top of the falls, which looked like a gentle pool of water before flowing over the rocks and into the water below. We returned on Va. 42 to New Castle and Va. 311 to the Orange Market. It was a beautiful drive back to Roanoke and a great hike on a cold winter day.

Sunday, February 12, 2006 9:00AM Buchanan Trail-AT-Horse Trail loop

Larry Austin (leader), Bob Peckman, Kris Peckman and Maurice Turner

There are rare occasions when you have a beautiful snowfall on Saturday with the opportunity to hike in it on Sunday. This was one of those occasions. The roads were just fine and walking in a winter wonderland was certainly not an obstacle for the four of us. The temperature remained in the mid-30's throughout the hike but we all were plenty warm. You have to dress for it. It's too bad more did not take advantage of this incredible adventure into the magical forest where every tree, branch, twig, rock, blade of grass and everything else exposed to the storm were delightfully painted in snowflakes. The evergreen trees graciously cascaded to the ground in cone-like shapes elaborately decorated in a white splendor. All the hardwood trees' branches and limbs took on unusual forms and shapes as the new snow clung to them for support. We endeavored to capture the beauty in photographs but nothing is quite like experiencing it in person. We ran into some areas where the snow was 7 to 8 inches deep and other areas where it was not more than 3 to 4 inches. It gave us a great workout. We spotted a number of critter footprints in the snow, including deer, bobcat (we think), fox, turkey, squirrel, various songbirds and we smelled a skunk in one area but did not actually see it. We had fabulous views of the mountains to the west, north and east, including Flat Top, Sharp Top, Harkening Hill, Purgatory, and Apple Orchard. In one area of the Glenwood Horse Trail (which once was the AT), we spotted a large green thing hanging in a large oak tree. When we got to it and

looked up, it was mistletoe. Something you don't see a lot of anymore. We hiked along a couple of beautiful streams, one on the Buchanan Trail where we were engulfed in beauty all around. We completed the hike along Cove Creek with lovely cascading waterfalls near the end. Exiting the trail on a footbridge over Jennings Creek, we were once again rewarded with a great view of flowing water with snow covering rocks and trees along its banks. Hot chocolate and brownies awaited us as we returned to the vehicle.



You missed an unforgettable event.

Sunday, February 12, 2006 1:00PM
Price Mountain, Sulphur Ridge Loop

Snowed out

Sunday, February 19, 2006 8:30AM
Sawtooth Work Hike

Charles Parry (leader), Maurice Turner (assitant), Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan, Mike Vaughn, Larry Austin

The day was cold, but sunny with very little wind, so not a bad day to work. We worked on the south of the ridge just north of the first peak, putting in more rock steps. In the morning we split into two groups of three people each, working on two sets of steps about 15 feet apart. Our group kept running into bedrock close to the surface and had to work around it. By mid-afternoon, we had completed work in this area with about 20 new steps installed. We moved to a new location a short distance south and started running into large boulders that would barely wiggle. After much digging and prying, we finally got them out using the come-along. By then it was close to quitting time and we had the trail all dug up. We put the

rocks into a temporary location to make a reasonable working surface that would last until our next work-hike.

Sunday, February 19, 2006 1:00PM
Daleville (Rt. 220) to Mtn. Pass Road (Rt. 652)

Mervin & Blanche Brower (leaders), Carl Cornett, Kathy Brown, Les Brown and Lyn Jacoby

The hike started from Daleville commuter parking lot. The day was bright and sunny but on the cool side which made it great for hiking. Our group was well matched; we stayed together, as we hiked over to Rt. 652 and back in 2 hours. We were all surprised by our speed.

Sunday, February 26, 2006 8:00AM
Lee Hollow (Rt. 621) to Sarver Hollow

Kenny Garrett and Charlie Scharnberg (leaders), Jen Schaeffer, H.R. Blankenship, Shelley Himel, Carl Cornett, Gary Bible

The day started off a little cool, but we warmed up as the climb up Sinking Creek Mountain began. A quick stop at Niday Shelter, then the climb to the ridge had everyone in the target heart range. The total climb was approximately 2,000 feet in the first four miles of our stroll. A few passing clouds dotted the otherwise clear blue sky. The views of Craig Creek Valley to the south and Sinking Creek Valley to the north were amazing. The greenbriers were beginning to sprout towards the late winter sun. The trail was in great shape. We observed a few patches of snow trying to hang on the north side of the ridgeline. We all enjoyed the open and sloping rocks we walked across on the south side of the ridgeline. The wind was gusting from the north, but not enough to dampen the spirits of the seven adventurous wanderers on this late winter trek. We all turned down the blue-blazed trail to Sarver Cabin Shelter. After a short break, we then explored the grounds around the Sarver farm before the steep descent on the yellow-blazed access trail. Many laughs were shared along the way and we finished the hike fairly early in the afternoon.

Sunday, February 26, 2006 1:00PM
Bennett Springs Loop Hike # 2

Jean Warren (leader), Bobbie Stichter (substitute assistant), Sue & Rick Terrell, Ellie McFalls, Lynne & Bill Jacoby, Hooper the dog, Hugh Hall, Charles Musgrove, Carole Crosby, Maurice Turner, Mary Gilbert, Mary Harshfield, Vera Hurst, Zetta Campbell, Jeanne Duddy, Rod Liebl

Who in the world would have thought that "seventeen" people would show up for a 6-mile hike on a cold 35° F windy day? It was the beautiful clear blue sky and sunshine that brought 'em out. Most of the hikers had never been on this trail and it became a little more adventurous when the leader only made 1/2 mile (feeling under the weather). Everyone made it out OK and a few received a ride the last mile on the road. Even though Zetta was the last one out, she chose to walk the last mile instead of taking a ride. What a tough lady! This is a pretty loop trail, overlooking Carvin's Cove reservoir from a distance and untouched mountain ranges remaining void of man's "progress". A special mention goes to the two men at "Just the Right Gear" bike shop who were patient enough to write out entry passes for everyone. Thank you all for coming. What a fun group!

Sunday, March 5, 2006 8:00AM
Catawba Valley Trail-Stone Coal Gap-Lick Branch Trail

Homer and Therese Witcher (leaders), Kris Peckman (assistant), Carl Cornett, John Lynham, John Miller, Maurice Turner

There aren't many hikes where the leaders spend several days in advance of the hike preparing the trail! We began to notice freshly-cut blowdowns right away, on the Catawba Valley Trail, but were astonished to find that was only the beginning. The leaders had cut blowdowns on all 11 miles of the trails we used, and had even put new steps in one steep section!

So when one of the leaders asked me, the assistant who up till then had done nothing, to write the hike report, how could I refuse?

The day was spectacular from start to finish. We had bright sunshine and perfect intense turquoise

sky. The Catawba Valley trail is such a pleasant trail, and so well designed, that even going up to the top of North Mountain was enjoyable. Heading north on the North Mountain Trail, we had views on both sides: New Castle to our left, and the Peaks of Otter to our right. We could see smoke from the forest fire burning on the far side of the Blue Ridge Parkway between Route 43 and the Peaks.

After crossing the road at Stone Coal Gap, we started up Broad Mountain, stopping for lunch in a sunny spot about halfway up. At the top of Broad Mountain, we turned left and soon were heading down the opposite side of Broad Mountain to Lick Branch. Lick Branch was so low that at times it disappeared altogether. Even so, it has some beautiful pools and falls. At the intersection of the Lick Branch and Ferrier trails, we had been lounging in the sun for a long time before suddenly noticing that we were sitting right in the midst of a large colony of trout lilies (a.k.a. dogtooth violet, even though it's not a violet). The first wildflowers of this spring!

The hike ended at the end of the Lick Branch trail, where we all piled into the van that Homer and Therese had left there the day before.

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

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

In spite of this having been a beautiful day to hike, only five of us accepted Mother Nature's invitation. We had two meeting places, one at Towers at 12:30 and one at the Daleville commuter parking lot at 1:00 pm. That seems to work out fine.

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

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

Sunday, March 12, 2006 8:00AM
Trout Creek (RT 620) to Dragon's Tooth
Parking Lot, 113 Mile Hike # 6

Kris Peckman (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Maya Bohler, Diana Christopulos, Jore Cooper, Carl Cornett, Ruth Johnson

What a weird March day! The temperature went up to the 80s. Kris's bike-riding friends, Jore and Ruth, having decided to do some hiking during the winter months, ended up joining us on a day that was more like summer.

We started from Trout Creek, and most everyone liked going in that direction, since the gentler trail going up more than compensated for the overall elevation gain. Carl and H.R. spotted six deer running "60 miles an hour" on the trail going up to the ridge. We were impressed by the long rock wall and huge rock pile on the way up, as well.

Views were somewhat hazy but still good. Despite the warm weather, there were no wildflowers out yet. We ate lunch at the overlook just before the intersection with the Dragon's Tooth blue-blaze, then the guys went on down the trail while the ladies climbed up on the Tooth, a

couple of them for the first time.

On the way down we met several families with young children on their way up. We took the A.T. down to the Boy Scout Trail, then back to the parking lot, where the guys were waiting, having already run the car shuttle.

Sunday, March 12, 2006 1:00PM
Montebello Fish Hatchery to Spy Rock

Mike Vaughn (leader), David Sutton (assistant leader), Carole Crosby, Hugh Hall, Linda Sutton, Sheila Vaughn, Marsha Logwood, Mark Logwood, Emily Logwood, Marianne Demkó

It was unusually warm for mid-March, 78 degrees and partly cloudy when we started out. The weather report called for a good chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. After a steady climb of a mile and a half up the access trail we reached the A.T. Since it was so early in the year there was very little new vegetation out. We headed north on the A.T. for another half mile to reach Spy Rock. Spy Rock is a large granite dome with a 360-degree view. To get access to the top takes some hand over feet rock climbing. Emily, who is 10 years old, did the best job on the rock scrambling. We were rewarded with spectacular views all around. After we had been on the rock for about a half hour, we could see storm clouds coming in from the west, so we headed back down. We got sprinkled on a little on the way down to the cars, but everyone enjoyed the outing. .

Roanoke Appalachian
Trail Club Application
New & Renewal

If accepted for membership, I agree to:

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

Names(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Family Membership ☐ New 1 year \$20 ☐ New 2 year \$35 ☐ Renew 1 year \$15 ☐ Renew 2 year \$30
 Individual Member ☐ New 1 year \$15 ☐ New 2 year \$25 ☐ Renew 1 year \$10 ☐ Renew 2 year \$20
 Make checks payable to **RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282** ☐ Life \$500

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CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

Corn Boil
July 22

WORK HIKES

Sunday, April 9 - 8:00 AM
Tinker Ridge

Saturday & Sunday, May 27 & 28 - 8:00 AM
Mountain Lake Bailey Gap Area

Saturday & Sunday, June 10 & 11- 8:00 AM
Pearis Mtn. Relocation - Konnarock

Saturday & Sunday, July 1 & 2- 8:00 AM
Angel's Rest Relocation - Konnarock

Hike Scheduling

Contact Mike Vaughn
992-1350 – Michael.Vaughn@usdoj.gov

BOARD MEETINGS

(All members are always welcome.
Please let the host know you plan to attend.)

Monday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Dick & Judy Clark

Monday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Charles & Gloria Parry

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