

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Fall 2013

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is a recreational hiking association of volunteers who preserve and improve the Appalachian Trail as the nation's premier, continuous, long-distance footpath.

CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

Holiday Potluck – December 7
Maya Bohler
Switzerland - Cities & Mountains

WORK HIKES

Sunday, October 6 - 8:30 AM
Catawba Mountain

Saturday, November 2 - 8:00 AM
Trail rehab near Jenny Knob Shelter

Sunday, December 8 - 8:00AM
Bluff City Relocation

Hike Scheduling

Contact Chris Wilson
757-202-3331 – TheShoelessWanderer@gmail.com

BOARD MEETINGS

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

Monday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.
Hosted by *Therese & Homer Witcher*

Monday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.
Hosted by *Rhonda Prillaman*

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Sunday, October 6, 2013 8:00 AM to
Thursday, October 10, 2013, 6:00 PM
PATC's Highacre House in Harper's Ferry

Day hiking on the AT and trails through Harper's Ferry, cycling on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal bike path, and visiting the ATC home office and Harper's Ferry. There is still space but don't wait.

Cynthia Munley..... cmunley1@comcast.net
.....540-389-8915

I recently visited your section of the trail to hike where Annie Dillard wrote Pilgrim at Tinker Creek. I have written two posts in my wandering blog about the hike. The first post is about finding the neighborhood where Annie Dillard lived when she wrote the book. And the second post is about hiking the AT in the area she wrote about. If you're interested you can check them out at www.gentleartofwandering.com. They might make an interesting addition to your newsletter.

I loved the trail and want to thank RATC for taking care of the AT.
David Ryan

Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Gloria Clifft

Erin Contour

Cathie & Randy Cummins

Rich Daileader

Gloria Elliott

Brian Foy

Matthew Grice

Jim Harris

Ed & Carey Martin

Mary Ann Maxey

Terri McLellan

Andrew Nesbit

Nancy Stafford

Nancy Smith

Ron Wilson

And the following donors:

Head 2 Head, Inc

Home Instead

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

Edward Wilson

President's Report

I was able to attend the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's biennial conference at Western Carolina University in July. The sponsoring clubs in the southern region did a great job putting on the conference. Quite a few RATC members made it to the conference. I attended several informative workshops on a variety of subjects, such as invasive species, boundary monitoring, and club management. I also went on a couple of hikes on the A.T. The next ATC Biennial will be held in Winchester, Virginia in July 2015.

The ATC Central and Southwest Virginia Regional Office (VARO) in Blacksburg is now fully staffed. As mentioned in our summer newsletter, Andrew Downs came on board as the VARO Regional Director in May. Josh Kloehn is the new Field Technician for our area, helping support a variety of programs such as the Konnarock Trail Crew work and invasive species monitoring. Kathryn Herndon is the newest addition, joining the team as Education and Outreach Coordinator. She will coordinate the A.T. Community and A.T. Ambassador programs.

I'm pleased to announce that our club has made a \$500 donation to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to help support the great work they do.

Our club's Meetup site has been a great success. Over 300 people have signed up on it. This actually exceeds the 290 dues-paying members (including 30 lifetime members) we have. Most of the people that have signed up on our Meetup site are new hikers with our club. Many have signed up to become club members also. You can sign up for our hikes, find out information about hikes, and see who else is going on each hike at our Meetup site. You can access the site via a link on our web site, www.ratc.org.

As you may know we have started an Adopt-A-Shelter program. So far seven of our 16 shelters have been adopted. The shelter adopter goes out to the shelter at least four times per year and cleans up any trash that has accumulated, pulls weeds around the shelter, and inspects for any damage to the shelter and surrounding areas and reports back to club Shelter Supervisors Therese and Homer Witcher. If you are interested in adopting a shelter please contact Homer and Therese at witchers4@juno.com.

Our club has received two grants totaling \$4000 from LL Bean Inc. The grants are for a kiosk in Troutville and for rebuilding the A.T. bridge over Craig Creek. Each year LL Bean generously donates \$25,000 to A.T. clubs to support the work they do in maintaining the trail.

Mike Vaughn

Trail Supervisor's Report

Since we were going to have the ATC's Konnarock trail crew for two weeks, with both of the Konnarock crews for the second week, in the last edition of the Trail Blazer I boasted that we would finish the Bluff City relocation. Well, returning to this project after several years away, what we found is that Pearis Mountain is hard; we did not finish this relocation.

There were two distinct parts to the remaining section of trail that needed to be built. One is 500 feet of typical side hill trail digging. And the other is a very technical section of rock work, rock manipulation, rock busting to establish 85 feet of trail along a rock outcrop and another 250 feet of trail on a very steep slope.

Instead of finishing this year, we will be back working on this project again, and again and again....Before the first Konnarock week began no one had any idea as to how successful we would be in contouring the bluff rock outcrop. Now, after two weeks of work on this bluff, I feel that it can be concluded that the trail will go along here, eventually. The process is for workers and tools to be tied into safety ropes, and then the workers break bedrock with sledge hammers all day long. Guess what, this is time consuming hard work. The rough estimate for completing this work with Konnarock crews is for four to six more weeks of work. This photo is by Blanche:



At least we had the side hill section that was to be straightforward trail digging. And one leg of this project was just that, straightforward digging. After the first week, we did indeed make good progress, reaching a drainage where the route reversed direction heading toward the bluff. And that is where the character of the mountain changed. Though the sidehill slope is moderate and there is a mature forest growing here, what we found was that the soil was

shallow and that the bedrock (aka the bluff, several hundred feet further along our proposed route) was poking through here and there. This creates problems when trying to establish a walking tread. You start to dig into the hillside and quickly hit rock, so it is not possible to excavate into the earth to establish the tread. This is similar to what we have on Catawba Mountain where the rock slab bridges were installed in the mid 1980s.

We are not going to install any more rock slab bridges, but we do have to establish a base for the trail tread on this side. With the moderate mountain slope we can do so with Big Friendly Rocks (BFRs). So, all along this 500-foot section, crib walls are being built to hold the trail. This is slow, slow, slow work (but much faster than chiseling a treadway out of solid bedrock). Once this work is completed, it will be a beautiful trail, but we have at least one to two more weeks of work here.



Bill Gordge by **Blanche**

So goes Konnarock.....oops, not so fast. Actually, at the far end of this relocation, where work was started over five years ago, there was a short section of trail that needed to be built so the AT would enter a pasture straight across from where it will intersect the existing AT. Bill Gordge and part of the Mid-week crew came

to work on Friday and the RATC group worked on Saturday to build this 300-foot section of new trail. Now that is trail building—Thank you Bill and the crew. You are an inspiration to all trail workers!

So, what lies ahead? Well, during the rains of July the Andy Layne Trail bridge over Catawba Creek washed out. But since this bridge had washed out several times before, the last time Charles Parry used a cable to attach the bridge to an adjacent tree. This cable kept the bridge from washing downstream, but we do have to get in there and put it back to its original position. Stay tuned for news of this repair and requests for assistance.

On to more mundane things: our fall work hikes are fairly typical. In September we had our first work hike on the Andy Layne trail in many years. There are significant eroded sections all along this trail so we will have several trail rehabilitation work hikes here. In October we will

make our quarterly visit to Catawba Mountain to harden the trail to McAfee Knob. In November we will visit the far southern section of our trail to redig the tread just north of Jenny Knob shelter. Finally, in December we will return to the Bluff City relocation and work on the side hill trail building (not the bluff rock work).



The RATC needs your help in our volunteer maintenance of our section of the Appalachian Trail. From moving BFRs and fallen bridges to painting blazes and visiting shelters, we have a wide range of tasks so that just about everyone should be able to find something to do to contribute their time to our club's mission.

Thanks for visiting the trail maintenance corner and reading through these ruminations. Now, let's get back outside and enjoy fall in the mountains.

See you on the trail,

David Jones

CLUB MEMBERS ARE AWARD RECIPIENTS

A few of our members have received awards in the past few months.

Bill Gordge receives Cox Conserves Heroes Award

Club member, and former club president, Bill Gordge received the Cox Conserves Heroes Award in July. This award is presented by Cox Cable Corporation to someone in Virginia each year. It recognizes local environmental volunteers and makes donations to local nonprofits on their behalf. Over the past two decades Bill has been the prime mover in the volunteer efforts to build and maintain trails in the Roanoke Valley. Bill has selected the Pathfinders for Greenways organization to receive the \$10,000 grant that comes with the award.

Bill has been a member of our club since 1968 and received a 25-year service award from the National Park Service in 2001 for his work in conserving the A.T.

Lynn and Peggy Bryant win Salute to Seniors Award

Long-time club members Lyndell and Peggy Bryant have won the Virginia Salute to Seniors award. This award recognizes seniors for the impact they make in their communities by volunteering their time and talents and is given out each year by Home Instead Inc. They were recognized for their work on the Roanoke Valley Greenways and the Appalachian Trail. Both Lynn and Peggy are over 80 and regularly work with the mid-week crew. They are also the primary volunteers who maintain the Wolf Creek Trail in Vinton. Lynn and Peggy have chosen our club to receive \$375 of the grant money that comes with the award.

Homer and Therese Witcher Receive Volunteer of Year Award from Central Virginia ATC

I'm pleased to announce that Homer and Therese Witcher have received the volunteers of the year award for the southern and central regions of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Homer and Therese are our shelter supervisors and have put in many hours keeping our 16 shelters maintained. They also maintain approximately ten miles of the A.T.,

Hike Reports

**Saturday June 1, 2013 8:00 AM
Sunday June 2, 2013 8:00 AM
Konnarock Work Weekend
Bluff City Relocation**

Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Steve Burt, Bill Gordge, David Jones (2), Jerry Kyle, John Miller, Kris Peckman, Maurice Turner, Jim Webb (2)

With much anticipation of the technical work required to complete the Bluff City relocation, on Saturday we had eight club members come out to work. The Konnarock crew was divided into two groups, one working on digging side hill and the other busting rock on the steep bluff where we are attempting to chisel a trail into a rock face. So, the RATC group also divided into two groups.

Those working on digging side hill made great progress. Those using sledge hammers to bust solid limestone, well they made a lot of comments about how unusual this type of trail building was.

The work on the bluff really was atypical. Because of the steepness of the terrain all the workers and all of the tools were tied into safety ropes to keep from losing anyone or anything down the mountain. And, because there was a home at the bottom of the bluff, stone that was busted from the cliff face could not be dropped. The protocol was to pound the bedrock till it started to fracture. Then using a pick in one hand, the other hand secured the loosened fragments till they were free. The newly liberated stones were then piled into a canvas rugsack which was attached to a highline cable. When the rugsack was load someone on the other end pulled the sack along the line and dumped the rocks in a less steep location. Atypical trail building.

Shortly after lunch the day darkened and in short order thunder rumbled and the skies dumped rain down upon us. The Bluff crew walked back to the side hill crew and all agreed our work today was completed.

On Sunday we had a smaller turnout. And again we split our efforts between the sidehill crew and the bluff busting. And like Saturday, around lunchtime the skies darkened and rain fell. With wet rock, the bluff work was too dangerous to continue. However when the bluff crew went back to join the sidehill crew, the Konnarock crew was continuing to muck around in the mud. After a bit of observing this work the RATC folks decided that unlike the Konnarock crew we had homes to go home to and other pursuits that could occupy our time for the remainder of the afternoon, so just as on Saturday we bade the Konnarock crew a wet good bye and made a short day of our work.

**Tuesday June 11, 2013 9:00 AM
Lee Hollow (RT 621) to Trout Creek (RT 620)
113-Mile Hike #7**

Ed Burgess (leader), David Horst, Madeleine Taylor, Rick Eisenring, Carmen Salmon, Joanne Derryberry, Anne Hanna, Katherine Deal, Cynthia Munley, Fred Meyer

Today's hike began much different than expected, because it was only a matter of minutes before nearly everyone in the group had soggy shoes and socks from walking through much of Craig Creek. No, the bridges were not out, but it seems that plenty of the water had gotten out of its banks and was covering the trail in many places. We all slogged our way through or looked for the best way to attempt getting over the water with the least amount of it in our shoes. I think the only person in the group that had dry feet was Cynthia, since she took the time to build herself a bridge of logs to cross over the widest and deepest stream. At any rate, after maneuvering around, building bridges over, or just sloshing through, we all finally made it to the ascent up Brush Mountain. I had been up this trail back during the winter, but today it seemed much longer for some reason. It was a long climb and steep in several places, but we eventually all made it to the old road that led to the Audie Murphy Monument.

Once we arrived at the monument it was decided that we would take a break and have lunch. Everyone ate lunch or a snack and took several photos of the monument and discussed topics concerning Audie Murphy. After lunch and a brief rest, several members of the group ventured down the side trail to the overlook, which had a fantastic view of the valley below. After about a 30-minute lunch break it was time to get back on the trail and finish the hike.

The trail follows along the old road until it finally cuts away and goes into the woods. Once in the woods it goes up and down along the ridge as it makes its way toward Trout Creek. Eventually, we started the descent and traveled through an area that had at one time been the victim of a forest fire. A lot of half burnt logs and even some standing trees still showed the evidence of a fire. As we continued our descent Anne and Joanne decided to let everyone go ahead so they could do a little bird watching on the way down the mountain. After what seemed like a very long descent we all finally arrived at the parking area where we had left a shuttle vehicle and as luck would have it, just as we arrived, Joanne and Anne were right behind.

It was a wonderful hike even though most of us had wet feet the entire time. It was a wonderful group of people that came on this hike and it was my pleasure to meet several of them for the first time. I look forward to meeting and hiking with them again on future RATC hikes.

**Sunday June 16, 2013 8:00 AM
Crabtree Falls & The Priest**

Kris Peckman (leader), Anne Hanna, Val Dymond, Cynthia Munley, Bob Peckman, Bryan Turner, Mike and Sheila Vaughn, Jim Webb

Eight of us drove up from Roanoke and picked up Bryan at Route 56 when we ran the car shuttle. Bryan is from Danville, new to the club and an enthusiastic and energetic hiker. Thanks to all that recent rain, Crabtree Falls was spectacular. We paused at the top of the Falls and again at Crabtree Meadows before beginning the long pull up to the top of the Priest. There we enjoyed the views across toward Pinnacle Ridge and Three Ridges while eating lunch. We observed a very calm deer in the woods just back from the overlook. Bryan stalked it for a while and said it wasn't afraid, just seemed to stay a bit away from him as he took several pictures of it. Back at Crabtree Meadows we had watched a cat walking along the road with an almost full-grown rabbit in its jaws.

On the way up, I was beginning to think this would be a hike without wildflowers, with a few mountain laurel, pink rhododendron, and some cow parsnip about all I saw on the way up. But the 3000' descent from the top of the Priest to the Tye River and Route 56 was a wildflower garden walk, and thanks to Anne, we were able to identify some of them: more mountain laurel, fly poison, bowman's root, foxglove beardtongue, sundrops, columbine, stonecrop, whorled loosestrife, Virginia waterleaf, Indian pipes, squawroot, rattlesnake-weed, and lots of something that might have been bedstraw but I think was narrow-leaved or long-leaved bluets (*Houstonia longifolia* or *tenuifolia*). There were also some tiny bright-orange mushrooms.

At the end of the hike, most of us crossed Route 56 to look at the Tye River from the big suspension bridge that carries the AT across the Tye.

**Tuesday June 25, 2013 9:00 AM
Sinking Creek to Lee Hollow
113-Mile Hike #8**

Ed Burgess (leader), Madeleine Taylor, Rick Eisenring, Cynthia Munley, Kelly Stevens, Jim Webb, David Horst

After doing the shuttle and arranging vehicles, it was nearly 11 AM before we actually started the hike. The sun was shining brightly and the temperature was getting very warm already since it was a later start to this hike. However, it did nothing to slow down the enthusiasm of everyone as we began our 1200-foot ascent up Sinking Creek Mountain. We had hiked about ½ mile when we came to the famous Keffer Oak tree, which is said to be the second largest tree on the Appalachian Trail. It is a magnificent and very large tree, with its huge branches spreading out over the trail. After taking some photos and admiring the huge specimen it was back to the task at hand which was to hike to the summit of the mountain. As the trail left the Keffer Oak, it followed along a recently mowed pasture, with huge rolls of hay that had been left for later use. Once we passed through the

fields it was a fairly steep climb up to the ridge of Sinking Creek Mountain. It was nearly noon by the time we arrived and instead of having a lunch break there it was decided we would hike along the ridge until we found a more scenic area. About 1:00 PM we came to the first of many slanted rock crossings and we chose to eat lunch here since it was a very scenic view down into the valley far below. After lunch it was nearly a continuous walk on huge slanted rocks with many more great views. When we eventually left the rocks behind it was a simple matter of following the ridge until we eventually descended the mountain to Niday Shelter. Since some hikers were already at the shelter and it seemed to be a bit crowded, everyone continued on down the mountain to where the vehicle was parked at Route 621.

Even though the temperature was very warm and not conducive to good hiking conditions, it was still a wonderful hike.

**Sunday June 30, 2013 1:00 PM
Cascades Trail**

Guy Brooks (leader), Gina S., Phil C., Rochelle Long, Chet Fischer, Nancy Smith

We had a small but great group of hikers to show up for this classic hike. Three of us left the Orange Market. We met Rochelle and Chet at the Park and Ride in Christiansburg. Then off we went to meet Nancy at the Cascades parking lot. A ranger was on hand writing out parking tickets. After paying our parking fee, up the trail we trekked. At the first bridge Gina broke from our group and hiked the harder route. She beat us to the waterfall. Rochelle said the water felt fine so she was the only one to get wet. The Cascades were splendid as much water was coming over the top. There were many photo ops. After enjoying the people and the view and a small snack, we hiked back to our car. The weather was nice as the rain held off until we were on our way home. We all had lots of fun.

**Thursday, July 4, 2013 8:00 AM
Carvin's Cove Lower Loop**

Carina Hughes (leader), Tammy Eisenring, Anna Delgado, Lori Wimbush, Gwen, Claire and Laurie Spangler

On this Independence Day, the Roanoke Valley woke up to high water levels in the Roanoke River and its tributaries due to incessant rain. Our original hike was to cover a 6-mile loop starting at Bennett Springs. We had a feeling it would be very wet up there and we should avoid those trails, particularly the Hotel trail. We later found out that the parking area was flooded. As an alternative, we accessed the park at the end of Timberview Road and decided to hike the lower loop in reverse, starting with the Horsepen trail as we figured it would be the most affected by the high water levels. Our thought process was if we felt we couldn't get through, we could always take a U turn and walk the trails which were dryer starting with the Trough. On the other hand, if we could get through Horsepen, we figured the Gauntlet, Brushy Mountain and the Trough would be dry. It was the best option and one we enjoyed as the conditions on

Horsepen made it more of an adventure as we tried to figure out the best route around and over the creeks.

We were amazed with our group's resilience and sense of adventure. Laurie Spangler invited her sister-in-law Gwen and her daughter Claire who is a rising 4th grader at G.W. Carver Elementary in Salem. The Spangler ladies were tough as nails and ready for any challenge. This was Tammy's second trip with the RATC and she was ready with whatever came her way. Carina's guests, Lori and Anna, proved to be fun hikers and were very helpful.

Along the way we saw a young fawn running gracefully in the forest, a beautiful box turtle and a red lizard. We got in our cars about noon, just in time before it started raining buckets! We had been so fortunate; the rain had subsided long enough for us to enjoy our hike in great weather!

Friday, July 5, 2013 — 5:00 PM
Tuesday, July 23, 2013 5:00 PM
Tinker Cliffs McAfee's Knob (Sunset Hike)

Chris & Edward Wilson (co-leaders), Mark Milberger, David Horst and Bonnie Dennis

Unfortunately July 5th's forecast was covered in nasty thunderstorms, which is not conducive to a good sunset hike, so this hike was moved to July 23rd. This hike was further plagued by the bridge on the Andy Layne trail being washed out, so as a backup plan we hiked McAfee's Knob instead. Although we didn't start until almost 5:30, the day's temperatures still had not dropped by much. Even with lots of shade it still made for a very sweaty hike to the top. The hike up was rather quiet for this usually busy trail. The only person sighted was a thru-hiker staying in the first shelter who had sprained his wrist. After a little first aid he felt okay, and ready to continue his hike. At the top of the Knob the cloud cover swooped in just in time for sunset, to the disappointment of hikers. Fortunately it was still a pleasant evening with great company. As we headed back to the cars we passed a group of 5-6 hikers heading up to watch the full moon.

Sunday, July 7, 2013 8:30 AM
Catawba Mountain/McAfee Trail Rehab

Steve Burt, Carina Hughes, David Jones, Glen Mitchell, Hannah Mitchell, Susanna Mitchell, Tammy Orndoff, Phillip Strokus, Susan Terwilliger, Jim Webb

Dedication: This work hike fell on an uncomfortably hot, humid day, and we still had ten people show up!

Today's work was to reinforce some sidehill trail that was slowly migrating down the mountain. In that there was not a lot of rock here to use as support for the trail tread, and because we had a couple of long sections of trail that were sliding, we opted to use log cribbing as reinforcement.

This work is fairly basic and goes quickly once logs are cut. We measured the sections we needed and then secured the needed logs. The logs were pulled down the mountain to the

trail. Then a platform for the log was dug and it was put in place. Stakes secured the log from moving and then soil was dug from above to reestablish the trail tread.

Fortunately this work was not too demanding because the high temperature and humidity made our group's work a bit slow. Nevertheless we were able to restore another section of the heavily used trail to McAfee Knob.

On to the next section of heavily used trail to McAfee Knob.

Thursday, July 11, 2013 — 8:00 AM
Saturday, July 20, 2013 8:00 AM
Black Horse Gap (BRP) to Curry Gap (BRP)
113-Mile-Hike

Chris Wilson (Hike Leader), LaDona Stossel, Nancy Smith, Carmen Salmon, Joshua Salmon, Tony Cappello and Randy Jones

Another postponed summer hike due to severe thunderstorms, but on the postponed date we could not have asked for a prettier day. Though hot and humid, it was a gorgeous day for hiking with beautiful blue skies. A dry trail (a rarity this summer) greeted hikers on this trip, as well as a quiet trail; we only passed one hiker on the entire trip. Overall it was a quiet, uneventful trip with easy terrain, a great way to spend a day and get to know your fellow hikers. Hikers enjoyed discovering many new mushrooms and several commented that we wished we had a mycologist with us on this hike. After the hike, while shuttling back to the cars we met a group of travelers who were lost and in need of directions. They were some 40 miles off track, but fortunately one of our hikers lives just 5 minutes from where they were headed and they were just able to follow him to their destination.

Friday, July 12, 2013 — 8:00 AM
Carvin's Cove
Saturday, July 13, 2013 8:00 am
McAfee Knob

Carina Hughes (leader), Mary Beth Horst, Dave Horst, Fred Meyer, Lori Wimbush and Anna Delgado

Can you believe this rain? On Wednesday of this week when it was raining cats and dogs (AGAIN!) and some major flooding was going on in the Roanoke Valley, we were concerned about the possible flooding of the Bennett Springs parking lot (at Carvin's Cove) and the Four Gorges Trail being in poor condition. Because we needed to make a decision at least 24 hours ahead of time on Meetup, we played it safe, pushed back the hike by one day and went to higher ground to McAfee Knob.

Saturday morning turned out to be cool, the weather perfectly suited for an uphill climb. We had a fun group of people who told us wonderful stories. It was our first time hiking with Dave and Mary Beth. They love to travel and Dave has a wealth of hiking experience. It is wonderful to have them in the RATC. Fred was just a few days from leaving on his trip to Alaska so we were asking him

questions about his upcoming adventure. Lori and Anna were wonderful company and are in tip top shape. Our only downer for the day was that the Knob was fogged in and there were no views. Along the way we saw some mushrooms, different wildflowers and checked on the recent rehabilitation to the trail between bridges one and two. As always, there were plenty of visitors on this popular part of the trail.

Saturday, July 13, 2013 8:00 AM
Roanoke River Greenway (Salem)

Mark McClain, Diana Christopoulos (leaders), Doug Fowley, Tammy Eisenring, and the McNarons (Doug, Kristen, Riley & Declan)

Despite forecasts to the contrary in this rainiest of all Julys, we had a dry day for this greenway walk in Salem. We started at the Mill Lane parking lot and walked a block or so along a possible greenway expansion route to the present "end of the trail" at Salem's Riverside Park. From here we proceeded downstream (east) along the Roanoke River Greenway's newest section. We noted the repairs from an earlier flood had fared well in the most recent high water event, while other areas showed signs of erosion that will need to be repaired. The new route runs alongside West Riverside Drive for the better part of a mile then ducks down into the woods along the Roanoke River for another half-mile before emerging onto Eddy Ave. Crossing that street, we continued along the oldest section of the Roanoke River Greenway in Salem's Moyer Sports Complex and Park. Arriving at the midpoint of our hike on Colorado Street, we detoured a few blocks to Chip & Jo's Restaurant where we had a very satisfying home-style breakfast, then retraced our steps to the starting point, completing our walk of about six miles. This walk includes two engineering marvels, the high bridge at 12 O'Clock Knob which traverses a steep cliff high above the river, and the "bridge under the bridge" at Colorado Street, which survived its second flood with no sign of distress.

Sunday, July 14, 2013 8:00 AM
Peaks of Otter

Fred Meyer (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Dan Dennison, Anne Hanna, Carina Hughes, LaDona Stossel, Nancy Smith, Mary Ann Maxey, Chris Lofaro, & Brendle Wolfe

Wonderful turnout and a great group of hikers. We hiked about 11 miles! We started the hike in the fog by going up Sharp Top. This is a popular hike and we even met several groups with youngsters aged 5 to 8 years old hiking this trail! At the end of Sharp Top we enjoyed visiting the Campstore at the trailhead and then headed for Abbot Lake. By this time most of the fog had cleared and we enjoyed a relaxing lunch in the picnic area. We had several nice views while hiking Flat Top. After finishing Flat Top we enjoyed Falling Water Cascades trail. Because of the recent rain there was a gush of water in the cascades and there were chances to cool off by putting our heads in the stream. The

Peaks of Otter Lodge had just reopened and we noticed many others enjoying the outdoors that day.

Thursday, July 18, 2013 8:00 AM
Curry Gap (BRP) to Daleville (RT 220)
113-Mile Hike # 2

Jeff Monroe (leader), Joanne Derryberry, Mark Milberger, LaDona Stossel, Mary Anne Maxey, Nancy Smith, Mary Beth and David Horst

With temperatures expected to reach the mid-90's and a heat index over 100, a surprisingly large group of 8 hikers tackled the Appalachian Trail from Curry Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway to U.S. 220 in Daleville. This group of Thursday hikers proved very flexible as hike leader Chris had to cancel last minute and Jeff was the first to volunteer as her replacement. After originally collecting at the Daleville Park-and-Ride, 6 members of the group carpooled up to the BRP and met David and Mary Beth Horst, who had driven east from Smith Mountain Lake. The hike started around 8:30, first winding towards the A.T. on Salt Pond Road, then heading south over a portion of the A.T. illegally assaulted by a mountain bike in recent days. Equally disturbing was the amount of trash we found at the group's lunch stop at the Fullhardt Knob Shelter - more than we could carry back. But the condition of the trail itself was very good, with only a few small washouts indicating all the rain the region had received over the previous month. And when we did find an issue - a tree had fallen over the trail a little after we had crossed under Interstate 81 - who comes along not 2 minutes later but Homer Witcher, saw in hand, to attack the offending obstruction. Amazing! And the hike itself was cooler than expected, with nice breezes and cool shade helping us along for the first 2/3 of the route. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and it was great to have such a large and diverse group of hikers available for a weekday hike. We completed the hike by 1:15 with some hikers then shuttling back to the original trailhead to retrieve their cars.

Thursday, August 1, 2013 8:00 AM
Daleville (Rt 220) to Andy Layne Trail (Rt 779) 113-Mile Hike #3

Chris Wilson (leader), Mike Vaughn, Mary Beth & David Horst, LaDona Stossel, Maria, Mark Milberger, Jim Webb, HR Blankenship, Carmen Salmon

With temperatures forecasted at a high of 75 we were all thrilled to be hitting the trail. Unfortunately the high that day hit over 85, but everyone was prepared with plenty of water and yummy snacks. Thanks to all the early arrivals we were able to start this hike a few minutes early, a rarity in the hiking world. Mike Vaughn was overly prepared for this hike and brought paint along to cover up bright, neon green graffiti that had been painted on Hay Rock. Unfortunately it was much bigger than expected, so not enough paint was brought, but still he did a marvelous job covering up the majority of it. Not only did he bring paint but also new signs for the Lambert Meadows camping area and shelter. Unfortunately the sign for the shelter was unable to be posted as the trail to the shelter was obstructed by a large

rattlesnake. We all agreed it was best left alone. A large, interesting group was involved in this hike so everyone was able to hike their own pace and still have plenty of enjoyable company. A gorgeous section of the trail rounded out the day and made it the perfect day trip.

Saturday, August 3, 2013 8:00 AM
Sunday, August 4, 2013 8:00 AM
Konnarock Work

Liz Belcher, Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Steve Burt, Bill Gordge, Roger Holnback, David Jones (2), Phillip Strokus, Maurice Turner, Mike Vaughn, Jim Webb (3)

We were hosting two Konnarock crews this week to try and finish this relocation. In June we had worked with the Konnarock crew in two different locations of the Bluff City relocation, digging side hill trail and chiseling a trail into a rock bluff. For this work hike, with two crews working, it seemed that things might be a bit crowded, so the club opted to work at a third location: a small part of the relocation at the bottom of the mountain.

On Friday a group went to Pearisburg and started work. Bill Gordge flagged a nice route and the group started digging. On Saturday we continued this work and finished about mid afternoon. Since this was also the day of the Corn Boil, folks were anxious to get on the road back to Roanoke. But, several people had not seen the work on the bluff, so completing the section of trail early we all drove up to Morris Road to see the rock work.

It was nice to see that quite a bit of progress had been made on the bluff. There were small sections that were beginning to look like a rock shelf, or ahhh... a trail. When this section is done it will be unlike any other part of our trail. Although progress had been made since we last saw the work in June, it was obvious that this relocation would not be done this year. In talking to the crew leader with a bit of coaxing he offered a vague estimate that the bluff would require about four more weeks of work.

On Sunday only two people opted to make the drive to Pearisburg. Since we were a small group we worked with the Konnarock crew digging side hill. However, digging side hill is a bit of a misstatement because the soil was thin with bedrock close to the surface of the land. This meant that we could not really dig soil and create a treadway bench. Instead we had to scour the mountain side fetching rocks, then build crib walls, then form the trail tread—SLOW PROCESS. We will be a couple of more Konnarock weeks building this section too.

So goes big projects. We did not get as much done as we wished, but we did do some interesting work, we did get trail built and we had a good time working together with the Konnarock crew.

Thursday, August 8, 2013 5:00 PM
McAfee Parking to McAfee's Knob
(Sunset Hike)

Cancelled due to severe thunderstorms.

Thursday, August 8, 2013 8:00 AM
McAfee Parking to Dragon's Tooth Parking
113-Mile Hike # 5

Chris Wilson (leader), Fred Meyer, Sally Evans, Elizabeth Smith, LaDonna Stossel, Nancy Smith, Gloria Clifft, Jeff & Will Monroe, Joanne Derryberry, David & Mary Beth Horst, Hugh Hall

Another hot, humid day! We had several first time hikers with us, along with one all the way from Florida! Several RATC members joined on this hike who are working on their 113-miler patch. Looks like we're going to have quite a few of those to award at this year's banquet! A gorgeous, though tough section of trail. We only saw one other person on the trail when we left the parking lot, until reaching the trail descending to the Dragon's Tooth Parking lot where we were greeted by several other day hikers climbing uphill to the Tooth. A great group of people with even better conversations.

Saturday, August 10, 2013 8:00 AM
Lick Run Greenway

Mark McClain & Diana Christopulos (leaders), Tammy Eisenring, Hugh Hall, Sharon Probst, Laurie Spangler, Doug Fowley, Conrad & Marietta Grundlehner

The cool August weather was a pleasant change from Augusts past for this walk from Valley View Boulevard to downtown Roanoke via the Lick Run Greenway. The handful of hikers who backed out because of a threat of rain missed a good time that featured nary a drop of precipitation. We noted the absence of a footbridge connecting the trail to a nearby neighborhood - it had been washed downstream in a recent flood and is now awaiting rescue and re-installation. Otherwise, the trail showed little sign of damage. A late breakfast at Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea was delightful, and we took time to wander around the Roanoke Farmers' Market to pick up a few items for supper before returning to our starting point.

Sunday, August 11, 2013 8:00 AM
Carvin's Cove (upper loop)

Carina Hughes (leader), Brendle Wolfe, Karen Callahan, Doug Fowley, Anna Delgado and Lori Wimbush

We started our Sunday morning stroll through the woods at Bennett Springs parking lot accompanied by some very light rain. We saw a white-tailed deer before getting off the Four Gorges trail and encountered several mountain bikers enjoying the challenging paths. We got a good workout ascending the Brushy Mountain fire road and realized how warm and humid this August morning was. To complete our 6-mile loop, we took Hi Dee Ho and enjoyed the few views as we took a few peeks through the trees. We commented on how lush and green the trees and plants are this summer with

all the rain that has fallen. As usual, we were blessed with a very pleasant group of hikers and enjoyed some refreshments before we went our separate ways to enjoy the rest of the day with other activities.

Thursday, August 15, 2013 8:00 AM
McAfee Parking to Andy Layne Trail (Rt. 779) 113-Mile Hike # 4

Mark Milberger, David Horst, and LaDona Strossel (leaders), Nancy Smith, Doug Knighton, Carmen Salmon, Cynthia Munley, & Patty Moxley

Unfortunately the hike leader (and backup hike leaders) were ill and unable to attend today's hike. Special thanks to LaDona for acting as sweep so no one was left behind as well as Mark & David for stepping up to lead this hike. Hike #4 was a beautiful hike and they had uncommonly cool, clear summer weather. The views of Carvins Cove were spectacular and the first time many had seen it from that perspective. You could see the entire ridge along which Hike #3 goes from Scorched Earth Gap to Tinker Mountain. We took group pics at Scorched Earth Gap and that was the last we were together. Our group of eight didn't stay together very well because of three of us who dallied, took pictures and took our time. Nevertheless, the hike was enjoyed by all. (Thanks Cynthia for the report!)

Friday, August 16-Sunday August 18, 2013
Backpacking Northern Shenandoah National Park

Guy Brooks (leader), Sarah Cuthbertson & Matthew Burnett

Matthew and I left the Orange Market and headed north towards SNP. We arrived at Thornton Gap where we obtained our backcountry permit. We continued north on the Skyline Drive where a small black bear was spotted. We soon arrived at Elkwallow Wayside where we met Sarah. After a short meet and greet and some trail talk we began our hike heading south on the AT. We began by climbing up to the ridge. After several uphill and downhill we connected with the Neighbor Mountain Trail. We reached the summit after hiking 2 miles. There were no views. However on our descent to Jeremy's Run trail we had many views to the mountains toward the south and west. After passing through a burned area we jumped on the Jeremy's Run trail which we crossed to reach our campsite. We set up camp and had time to explore our surroundings. We sat stream side for a while and observed Brook Trout feeding in the cool waters below. Hikers' midnight soon arrived and we retired for some much needed rest. It began to rain sometime during the night. However our spirits were not deterred. We broke camp early next morning and were once again hiking along Jeremy's run. All told we crossed Jeremy's run 14 times, soon arriving at the AT. After a short climb we reached the parking area where we started. After a quick change into dry clothing and saying our goodbyes to Sarah we were on our way back home.

Sunday, August 18, 2013 8:00 AM
Patterson Creek Area Trails

John Merkwan (leader), Maya Bohler

This was a 100% rain forecast hike which peeled off quite a few hikers. However, Maya figured cool temps trumped the rain so off we went. We donned our rain apparel but after the first mile the rain was so light we ditched our rain gear and never did get the drenching that had been forecast. It was a zero wind day so the forest was very quiet. We noticed on Price Mountain what appeared to be Appalachian Mountain Pixies moving through the air. They were hard to get a good look at and appeared to be all legs and no body or wings as they floated near the forest floor. It was impossible to get a photo of them but we did come across a box turtle on Patterson Mountain which did not move nearly as fast. It turned out to be decent day to hike after all.



Maya & friend

Merkwan

Thursday, August 22, 2013 8:00 AM
Trout Creek (RT 620) to Dragon's Tooth Parking, 113 Mile Hike #6

Chris Wilson (leader), Sally Evans, Larry Austin, and Dan Dennison

Unfortunately, thanks to issues on I-81 all 4 hikers missed each other at the trail head. This meant four different unique hikes were had. Some just did parts of Dragon's Tooth while two others finished the whole thing, and fortunately crossed paths with one another to orchestrate a key swap. A warm day with a pleasant breeze made for a great hike, no matter which route was taken.

Saturday, August 24, 2013 8:00 AM
Ribble Trail to Kimberling Creek (Rt. 606) 113 Mile Hike #13, plus Dismal Falls

Chris Wilson (leader), Joanne Derryberry, Sally Evans, Mary Ann Maxey, Nancy Smith, Brian Foy, Brian McGlothlin

What a beautiful day for a hike! Mild temperatures and even terrain made for a leisurely stroll. Several newcomers to the

group were welcomed and good conversations were had by all. The trail was relatively quiet as we only encountered one family on the trail. The mild temperatures meant no one swam in the waterfall but the view was enjoyed by all as we stopped for lunch there. Thanks to the two Brians for introducing me to a new GPS app. Who knows, we may have some new GPS data on our RATC website soon!

**Saturday, August 24, 2013 9:00 AM
Roaring Run**

Ed and Carey Martin(leaders)

8 people attended this hike: Erin Contour and her husband Mike who may retrace their steps for macro photography; Nancy Stafford who as a teacher provided perspectives to everyone and was especially interesting to new RATC member Alex Wilhelm who is in the eighth grade; John Baranowski and John M., both seasoned hikers and Ed and Carey Martin. The group was most informative and congenial and all agree the "water hikes" series is a good idea. We look at everything, from "toads to toadstools". A picnic in the future sounds good to us too!



Alex Wilhelm

Martin

Fun hike with congenial enthusiastic people. Experience level was expert to novice for a new young member, Alex Wilhelm. Everyone added to the conversations, perspectives and enjoyment. This is a group I would like to hike with again. This hike is an easy hike by design and one of a series of "water hikes" exploring the flora and fauna of three

different hikes. Next hike in this series is Lower Loop of Hoop Hole Trail on October 21 beginning at 11AM.

Erin Contour

ABSOLUTELY delightful... mushrooms, insects, plants, water features plus a touch of history and geology - we just had a blast. Thanks so much to Ed and Carey for hosting. We enjoyed meeting everyone.

John Baranowski

Very nice view of the waterfalls, and the trail was easy to walk. It would be a great place to have a picnic. An antique British car club were meeting there for a car cruise and had about 30 old cars to look at.

Nancy Stafford

Great fun, perfect weather, wonderful hiking companions.

**Sunday, August 25, 2013 9:00 AM
St Mary's River**

Mike Vaughn (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Karen Callahan, Val Dymond, Brendle Wolfe, Sarah Wilson, Cynthia Munley

It was surprisingly cool for late August when we started out on the trail at 10:00 a.m. The forecast called for a high of 75 degrees. The trail was rough along the river. There were a couple of washouts that weren't there the last time we did this hike. It was slow going. After about a mile and half we turned right off of the St. Mary's River Trail and started up a trail along a scenic creek. We soon reached the site of an old iron ore mine. Very little of it is left in the wilderness area. After a couple more miles of hiking we turned back and continued on up the St. Mary's River Trail to the swimming holes and falls. The water was crystal clear. A few of us went swimming in the cool water. The river was running great due to the wet summer season. We then headed back to Roanoke.

**Tuesday, August 27, 2013 8:00 AM
Ribble Trail, A. T. Loop
113 Mile Hike #12**

Chris Wilson (leader), Dave Horst, Sally Evans, Joanne Derryberry, Nancy Smith

A warm day with a long hike that reminded us of the importance of staying together as a group so no one ends up getting lost by missing their turnoffs (or turning off when they shouldn't).

**Thursday, August 29, 2013 8:00 AM
Lee Hollow (Rt. 621) to Trout Creek (Rt. 620)
113-Mile Hike # 7**

Cancelled due to lack of participants. Thanks Dan Dennison for offering to fill in as hike leader.

Saturday, Aug. 31-Monday, Sept. 2 8:00 AM
Camping: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Guy Brooks (leader), Sador Black & Ricky Black

This hike was listed as a car camping day hiking trip. However there wasn't any interest in it until I received a phone call from Sador. She had been on the RATC.ORG web site where she saw it listed. She suggested that we make it a backpacking trip. I agreed and confirmed our reservations at Cosby Campground. The trip was on.

Day one: I left my house early on Saturday morning and drove to Dublin to meet Sador and Ricky. We reviewed the details of the trip over a quick breakfast and then pointed the car south toward GSMNP, only stopping for restroom breaks and fuel. We arrived at Cosby Campground where I parked in the hikers parking lot. Our starting point was five miles away. We needed to catch a ride there. We unloaded our gear and checked it before we attempted to hitch hike to the trailhead. We started walking toward the main road when some locals in a pickup truck offered us a ride. We told them we were running behind schedule and would accept their offer. Trail magic! I thought to myself this is going to be a good day. We loaded our packs in the back and jumped aboard. Leaving the campground the driver spun the rear wheels leaving a black mark on the pavement as if he were leaving pit road at the Daytona International Speedway. This was a white-knuckle ride for sure. We arrived at the trailhead in breakneck fashion setting new land speed records. We rolled out the back except for Ricky, he tripped over his boot laces and did a face plant on the gravel road as the driver said FAST ENOUGH FOR YA?. Off in a cloud of dust he went! After some first aid treatment on Ricky's face and hands we finally set foot on the Maddron Bald Trail. We hiked along an old road and creek among Eastern Hemlocks. Most of the trails here were built in the 1930s by the CCC. We explored a cabin built out of American Chestnut. We took a quick break before heading to Albright Grove. We continued to climb still among Eastern Hemlocks, crossing creeks and scrambling over roots and rocks. We took the Albright Grove loop trail that led us through a virgin forest consisting of Eastern Hemlocks, Tulip trees, and Fraser Magnolias. I had forgotten what it was like to sit among these giants. Back on the Maddron Bald trail we hiked another 2.5 miles to reach our campsite for the night at 4560 ft.

Day two: Up early we continued on the Maddron Bald trail passing through an open area with great views. We connected with the Snake Den Ridge trail. Here we began our descent off the mountain. This steep and rocky trail led us to Inadu Creek where we sat and enjoyed the quietness of the surrounding forest as we snacked on trail food. After resting for a spell we continued our descent passing Bradley Cemetery then reaching Cosby Campground where we spent our second night. After paying for hot showers at another campground we went into nearby Gatlinburg for dinner. Having our bellies full we decided not to go sightseeing here. Arriving back at Cosby campground, we retired to our hammocks.

Day three: We slept late, if 7:30am is late. We broke camp and headed back into Gatlinburg where we hiked 3.5 miles to Grotto Falls. This is a beautiful place to just sit back and relax. The trail actually goes behind the falls as it continues on to the top of Mt. LeConte. We decided to just sit here and enjoy the view while listening to the sound of the rushing water. Some other visitors decided to stand under the cascading water on this hot day. We backtracked the 3.5 miles to the parking lot. After enjoying a refreshing soda and changing out of our hiking boots we climbed back into the car and I thought to myself, this was a good day. We jumped on the interstate and headed north, stopping for fuel and a quick bite to eat. I left Sador and Ricky safely in Dublin with smiles on their faces and fond memories on their minds. I arrived home just after dark tired but feeling refreshed from this trip to the GSMNP.

Thursday, September 5, 2013 8:00 AM
Sinking Creek to Lee Hollow
113 Mile Hike #8

Ed Burgess (leader) & Sally Evans



Sally Evans

Burgess

Due to some unfortunate circumstances of notices about the meeting, Sally Evans was the only person that showed up for the hike. Since we had never met, I was not sure if she would be comfortable hiking with me but she said it was not a problem at all. Because it was only the two of us, we each had to drive so as to have a vehicle at each end of the hike. After the drive to the trailheads it was about 10 AM before we actually began the hike up Sinking Creek Mountain. The huge Keffer Oak was still standing with its magnificent branches hanging out over the trail. After a couple of photos Sally and I continued through the fields and began the climb up the mountain. We eventually made it to the summit and

walked along the ridge where the remnants of old farms could still be distinguished with the rocks piled high and many apple trees that had now grown into many shapes and sizes. We continued along the summit until we came to where slanted rocks offered a great view of Craig Creek Valley below. The rocks also offered a nice place to sit, so we decided to have our lunch here.

After lunch Sally and I continued along the slanted rocks for quite some time before the trail finally climbed back on to the ridge where it stayed until we started our descent down the mountain toward Niday Shelter. At the shelter we took a break so we could snack and cool off. We noticed a backpack was sitting on the floor of the shelter but did not see anyone. After about 15 minutes another hiker did show up; she had been down to the water source getting water when we arrived. After talking with her for a few minutes, Sally and I decided we should get back on the trail and finish the hike. We arrived at the Lee Hollow parking lot about 3:30 then had to drive over to Sinking Creek to get the other vehicle.

**Saturday, September 7, 2013 8:30 AM
Andy Layne Trail**

Liz Belcher, Guy Brooks, Jim Brown, David Jones, Glen Mitchell, Susanna Mitchell, James Narramore, Jas Strokus, Phillip Strokus, Jim Webb

On a beautiful end of summer Saturday, we headed out to the Andy Layne trail to start some past due trail maintenance. In that this trail climbs steeply in a narrow corridor, it has erosion problems due to water catching in the trail tread and forming rivulets. Though the trail was relocated for a better layout with less steep sections and more switchbacks, it will always have maintenance issues.

But, it is a great trail.....and so the club will do its best to diminish the accompanying defects.

This work hike was the first in many years. There are projects to work on from the parking lot all the way up to the AT intersection at Scorched Earth Gap, so our group decided to start working at one end, the lower end.

Although the Andy Layne Trail is considered a steep hike up, the first portion is a somewhat steep hike down to Catawba Creek. On some of the steeper sections there is significant rutting occurring. We identified three areas that we were going to work on. In that there was not much rock here, we opted to use logs for creating water bars.

Soil type plays a big role in the durability of a trail's tread. Most of the Andy Layne trail is clayey soil—slippery muck in wet spring and hard as a rock in dry summer. So, today the more difficult tasks were excavating trenches to hold the water bars, and then trying to get the hard chunks of clay to fill-in around the new log water bars.

But all of this is just nit picking. We had ten folks come out and it was a beautiful day. With many return maintainers,

our group set to work with experienced workers helping the newcomers. Like clockwork, water bars fell into place. At the end of the day everyone agreed that it appeared that our work would make a significant difference in keeping water from flowing down this section of trail.

However, have you ever heard of missing the elephant sitting in the room? Well, today we did good work to rehabilitate a section of this trail, but at the end of the day we put down our tools, walked to Catawba Creek and looked at the “elephant in the room.” In July the bridge over Catawba Creek washed out. So while we did an admirable job putting in water bars, the big issue is to reinstall this bridge.

We looked at the situation and the group conclusion is that repairing this bridge is going to take some work.....Stay tuned! And when the call goes out, come help put this bridge back in place.

**Sunday, September 8, 2013 8:00 AM
Whetstone Ridge**

Dan Dennison (leader), Carina Hughes (assistant), H.R. Blankenship and Sheila Vaughn, all from Roanoke, Val Dymond and Karen Callahan, from the Blacksburg area, and Jeff Monroe of the Potomac ATC joined us from Charlottesville.



Val
Jeff
Carina, HR, Sheila & Karen
Dennison

I replaced Kris Peckman who was recovering from a hip replacement. Seven hikers enjoyed a trek, albeit a long one, across the majority of Whetstone Ridge in the George Washington National Forest. Beginning at mile marker 29 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, this trail starts gently, but then transitions into a seemingly never ending sequence of humps up hill, followed by a few steep downhill. Maps and guidebooks put the distance from the BRP to the (new) Irish Creek trailhead at 11.3 miles. One of our group's hikers, using a handheld GPS, calculated the actual walking distance at closer to 12 miles plus.

Since most of this hike is on a forested ridge top and because temperatures were only in the mid-70s for most of the day, the weather was close to perfect. It is possible to add

another 2-5 miles to this hike by continuing past the Whetstone Ridge sign that takes you off the ridge and back to the trailhead, at approx. Mile 9.5. This addition appears to follow the "old" trail and while it still has the diamond-shaped yellow plastic blazes this portion is more overgrown and used less often. It brings you to a more obvious parking area (than the one for the "new" trail), farther up the Irish Creek Road. Jeff Monroe, who joined us from Charlottesville, did a little research and believes the Charlottesville Mountain Bike Club maintains the new trail, as long portions of it are rideable by expert cyclists.

The only negative about this hike is the constant presence of spider webs across the trail, which probably indicates it doesn't get used often. The guide scouted portions of it twice in the week preceding this trip and was constantly running face-first into sticky, pesky webs. On this hike, swinging a walking stick in front of you took care of most of the webs. It's amazing how quickly our little spider friends can spin a new one.

Saturday, September 14, 2013 10:00 AM
Roanoke Loop Urban Hike
6.0 miles, Easy

Mark McClain & Diana Christopulos (leaders), Tammy Eisenring, Jim Constantin, Nancy Stafford, Erin & Michael Contour, Cary Farber, Gloria Clifft, Conrad & Marietta Grundlehner, Paul Blaiklock, Cici McLay, Anne Krogenas, Clarke Grasty, Doug Fowley, Christine Young, Jimbo & Mary Harshfield

This was a loop walk along parts of Roanoke River Greenway, Mill Mountain Greenway, Lick Run Greenway, and through downtown Roanoke, Old Southwest, and Mountain View neighborhoods. We had perfect weather and a great lunch at Wasena City Taproom near the end of the hike.

"Great walk! . . . for folks that have only been here two months now it was great to see the Greenway and all the neighborhood projects on such a lovely day. . . . just wonderful." – Erin

" . . . a delightful path meandering through Roanoke! Great conversations, scenery, people watching, houses, the market..." - Cici.

Sunday, September 15, 2013 8:00 AM
Sunset Field to Petites Gap

Maya Bohler (leader), Jim and Jill Beeson, H.R. Blankenship, Carol McPeak, A.J. McPeak, Ineke Salo, Mike Vaughn

The day was sunny, clear and cool. It was a relief to feel a touch of fall in the air after weeks of muggy, humid weather. We enjoyed the drive along the Parkway in the early morning. At Sunset Field we admired the beautiful view before we started the hike on the A.T. The valley bottom was covered with a blanket of fog, a pretty sight, with the green mountaintops sticking out. By the time we arrived at Apple Orchard Mountain, the fog had dissipated. We took lots of pictures at the Guillotine, but nobody wanted to linger under the suspended rock longer than it took to snap a photo. As we hiked along the trail, we admired the lushness of the undergrowth, a result of the wet summer. There were still lots of flowers: Goldenrod, Sunflowers, Asters, Snakeroot.

We had lunch at the Thunder Ridge Overlook, again enjoying the beautiful view.

The hike was unhurried and pleasant, and we made it back to the cars by 2:30PM.

Hike Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The club is always looking for experienced hikers to help lead club hikes. If you know of someone that you think would be a good hike leader, or wish to nominate yourself, please contact Chris Wilson at 757-202-3331 or theshoelesswanderer@gmail.com.

Tuesday, October 1, 2013 9:00 AM
Black Horse Gap (BRP) to Curry Gap (BRP)
113-Mike Hike #1

6.9 miles, Moderate
 \$1.50 carpool fee, 16 miles from Roanoke

This hike is located in Botetourt County. From Black Horse Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway, elevation 2,400 feet, the trail heads south. There are limited views on this section of trail. In 2.4 miles a blue blaze trail on right leads to the Wilson Creek Shelter. After crossing Wilson Creek, the trail ascends steeply. It then descends steadily and crosses Curry Creek. From there it ascends steeply on switchbacks to the Salt Pond Road crossing. Go left on Salt Pond Road for .9 miles back to BRP. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess H: 540-565-0016
C: 330-523-9788..... eb1574@gmail.com

Sunday, October 6, 2013 8:30 AM
Work Hike, Catawba Mountain

\$0.50 carpool fee, 6 miles from Roanoke

We will make our quarterly visit to the trail up to McAfee's Knob to rehabilitate the trail tread and make any necessary trail improvements.

Dave Jones 552-3058
..... dhjones@together.net

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 9:00 AM
Curry Gap (BRP) to Daleville (RT 220)
113-Mile Hike #2

9.4 miles, Strenuous
 \$1.00 carpool fee, 9 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Botetourt County. From Curry Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway, the trail ascends on Salt Pond Road for .9 miles to the A.T. crossing. Turn left on the A.T. (south). The trail follows the ridge line, with limited views to the valley below. At 3.7 miles the blue-blazed trail on left leads to Fullhardt Knob Shelter and the wooded summit of Fullhardt Knob. The trail then descends from Fullhardt Knob. At 6.7 miles the trail crosses Mountain Pass Road (Route 652). It then ascends an open knoll, with good views of McAfee's Knob and Tinker Mountain, before descending and crossing Va. Route 11. The trail continues through mainly old orchards to Route 220. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess H: 540-565-0016
C: 330-523-9788..... eb1574@gmail.com

Sat-Sun, Oct 12-13 8:00 AM
Backpacking Tar Jacket Ridge

14 miles, Moderate
 \$6.00 carpool fee, 60 miles from Roanoke

Half of the hike is out and back; the other half is a loop using the Livingston Trail. This is a good trip for experienced or beginner backpackers. Stay in a shelter, hang in a hammock or pitch a tent.

Guy Brooks 540-581-2023
..... guybrooks@hotmail.com

Saturday, October 12, 2013 8:00 AM
Apple Orchard Falls & Mountain, Cornelius Creek,
and The Guillotine

10 miles, Strenuous
 \$2.50 carpool fee, 23 miles from Roanoke

Start at mile-post 78.4 Sunset Fields and hike the Apple Orchard Falls and Cornelius Creek trails. Begin at an elevation of 3500 and descend to Apple Orchard Falls returning via Cornelius Creek and AT. Continue to Apple Orchard Mountain with an FAA air traffic radar dome and excellent view. Pass through The Guillotine, a large boulder suspended over the trail. Return to Sunset Fields via the AT.

Fred Meyer 304-546-5572
304-744-9219..... wfmeyer@suddenlink.net
Matthew Grice 860-575-9304
..... grice.matt@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 9:00 AM
Daleville (Rt 220) to Andy Layne Trail (Rt 779)
113-Mile Hike #3

11.0 miles, Strenuous
 \$1.00 carpool fee, 8 miles from Roanoke

The hike is just north of Roanoke, starting in Daleville. It begins with an 800-foot climb up Tinker Mountain and then goes along a scenic ridge overlooking Carvins Cove. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess H: 540-565-0016
C: 330-523-9788 eb1574@gmail.com

Saturday, October 19, 2013 11:00 AM
Wolf Creek Greenway
(Vinton & Roanoke County)

4.5 miles, Easy
 No carpool fee

An up and back walk on this lovely trail that runs between Hardy Road and the Blue Ridge Parkway, stopping for lunch at a popular Vinton eatery near the end of the hike.

Mark McClain..... 540-355-6526
..... mcclain.salem@gmail.com
Diana Christopulos 540-387-0930

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 9:00 AM
McAfee Parking to Andy Layne Parking
113-Mile Hike #4

12.8 miles, Strenuous
 \$1.00 carpool fee, 12 miles from Roanoke

This hike offers the opportunity to see two of the prime vistas on the Appalachian Trail, McAfee's Knob and Tinker Cliffs, in one day. The hike starts across from the large gravel McAfee's Knob parking lot on Route 311. Be extremely careful crossing route 311: visibility for cars is limited and they are moving very fast. The trail climbs gradually to McAfee's Knob, passing John's Spring Shelter at 1.0 mile and Catawba Mountain shelter at 3.0 miles. At 3.7 miles reach short blue-blazed trail on left to McAfee's Knob. The cliffs there offer magnificent views of the Catawba Valley and the

city of Roanoke. The trail then follows the ridge line to Tinker Cliffs at 8.6 miles, with views of McAfee's Knob and North Mountain. Continue north on the A.T. for another half mile to Scorched Earth Gap. Go left on the Andy Layne Trail for descent to Rt. 779. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess **H: 540-565-0016**
C: 330-523-9788..... **eb1574@gmail.com**

Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:00 AM
Fenwick Mines

2 miles, Easy
 \$2.50 carpool fee, 25 miles from Roanoke

A unique and easy hike located in Craig County in a historic mining area. This hike features interesting areas that are not commonly found in Virginia, like mountaintop wetlands.

Edward & Carey Martin..... **434-760-2513 (c)**
540-366-7061 (H)**edwardnmartin@gmail.com**

Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:00 AM
Salt Log Gap & Mount Pleasant Lollypop Loop

11.0 miles, Strenuous
 \$5.50 carpool fee, 57 miles from Roanoke

This hike is located in the Mount Pleasant scenic area near route 60 in Amherst County. The trailhead is on the Appalachian Trail at Salt Log Gap roughly 8 miles from route 60 on a gravel road. Following the A.T. south, the route climbs to Tar Jacket Ridge, then descends to Cow Camp Gap. We will then do a loop hike to the summit of Mount Pleasant via the Henry Lanum and Pompey Trails. There are sweeping views to the east and west from two rock outcrops at the summit. Both Tar Jacket Ridge and Mt. Pleasant offer extraordinary views.

Mike Vaughn **992-1350**
 **mikeva999@yahoo.com**
Brendle Wolfe..... **968-2750**
 **blwolfe@mail.roanoke.edu**

Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:00 PM
Buffalo Mountain

4.3 miles, Moderate
 \$4.00 carpool fee, 42 miles from Christiansburg

Located in Floyd County in the vicinity of Mabry Mill, the hike goes to the summit of Buffalo Mountain with extraordinary views in all directions. The distinctive shape of Pilot Mountain in North Carolina is visible in the distance on a clear day. A network of unofficial trails lead to various points on the edge of the mountain's massive rock face. Note: Carpool will be from Christiansburg

Chris & Edward Wilson **757-202-3331**
 **theshoelesswanderer@gmail.com**

Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:00 AM
McAfee's Parking to Dragon's Tooth Parking
113-Mile Hike #5

8.9 miles, Strenuous
 \$1.00 carpool fee, 10 miles from Roanoke

The hike begins at the McAfee's parking lot on 311, 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. It then reaches Rawie's Rest, a knife-like rocky outcrop, with good views. Continue on to Lost Spectacles Gap, where a blue-blazed trail on right leads down to the Dragon's Tooth parking lot. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess **H: 540-565-0016**
C: 330-523-9788 **eb1574@gmail.com**

Saturday, November 2, 2013 8:00 AM
Work Hike

\$7.00 carpool fee, 70 miles from Roanoke

Redig sidehill trail near Jenny Knob Shelter

Dave Jones **552-3058**
 **dhjones@together.net**

Sunday, November 3, 2013 8:00 AM
Apple Orchard Falls, Cornelius Creek Loop

5.7 miles, Moderate
 \$2.50 carpool fee, 26 miles from Roanoke

This is a popular hike located in the North Creek camping area, near Arcadia. A blue-blazed trail, steep in places, leads uphill to Apple Orchard Falls. The falls are impressive and the trail has been greatly improved in recent years. Beyond the falls, a crossover path leads to the Cornelius Creek Trail which follows the creek downhill, back to the parking lot

Mervin Bower..... **540-387-9732**
 **mervin.brower@verizon.net**
Blanche Bower **540-387-9732**
 **blanche.brower@verizon.net**

Tuesday, November 5, 2013 9:00 AM
Trout Creek (RT 620) to Dragon's Tooth Parking
113 Mile Hike #6

7.2 miles, Strenuous
 \$1.50 carpool fee, 11 miles from Roanoke + shuttle

The hike is in Craig and Roanoke County west of Salem. After crossing Trout Creek, we will ascend through a fire recovery area, pass by the Pickle Branch shelter, then ascend to the ridge, which we will follow around the crescent-shaped top of Cove Mountain to Dragon's Tooth with its great views and rock-scrambling opportunities. We will descend on the A.T. to the Dragon's Tooth trail to the Dragon's Tooth parking lot. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess **H: 540-565-0016**
C: 330-523-9788 **eb1574@gmail.com**

**Saturday, November 9, 2013 11:00 AM
Roanoke River Greenway (East Roanoke)**

7 miles, Easy
No carpool

Starting at the Bennington trailhead, we'll walk to the Crystal Spring area, stopping for lunch before returning to our starting place.

Mark McClain.....540-355-6526
.....mcclain.salem@gmail.com
Diana Christopulos540-387-0930

**Sunday, November 10, 2013 8:00 AM
Broad Run Mountain Loop**

10.3 miles, Strenuous
\$1.25 carpool fee, 12 miles from Roanoke

This hike is part ridge walk/bushwhack (4.7 miles) along the top of Broad Run Mountain and part abandoned forest service road (4 miles) plus a few other odds and ends making a 10.3-mile loop. Elevation challenges are moderate and no rock scrambling required but nearly half of this hike is off-trail so some brush will be encountered and trail optimization skills will be required.

John Merkwán.....540-904-2299

**Tuesday, November 12, 2013 9:00 AM
Lee Hollow (Rt. 621) to Trout Creek (Rt. 620)
113-Mile Hike #7**

9.2 miles, Strenuous
\$1.50 carpool fee, 14 miles from Roanoke

AT hike 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 the mountain in 1971. This hike has a mile of road walk added because the bridge may be out on Rt. 620. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess H: 540-565-0016
C: 330-523-9788..... eb1574@gmail.com

**Saturday, November 16, 2013 10:00 AM
Fallingwater Cascades**

2.1 miles, Easy
\$2.50 carpool fee, 27 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, this loop hike goes down a short, scenic trail to Fallingwater Cascades. This is a scenic stream just off of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The trail will follow the stream for a short distance before ascending back to the trail head.

Edward & Carey Martin..... 434-760-2513 (c)
540-366-7061 (H)edwardnmartin@gmail.com

**Sunday, November 17, 2013 8:30 AM
North Creek Loop**

9 miles, Strenuous
\$2.50 carpool fee, 26 miles from Roanoke

This hike will begin at the trailhead for Apple Orchard Falls Trail but we will head back down the forest service road for about 1/2 mile where we will veer off onto an old logging road. We will walk this logging road which eventually ends up on an unofficial blue blaze path (I hesitate to call it a trail) that connects to the AT at the foot of Floyd Mountain. We will then follow the AT north to the intersection with the Apple Orchard Falls Trail. From there we will descend the Apple Orchard Falls Trail to our starting point.

Larry Austin.....540-254-2092
..... laustin4hike@aol.com
Brendle Wolfe.....968-2750
..... blwolfe@mail.roanoke.edu

**Tuesday, November 19, 2013 9:00 AM
Sinking Creek to Lee Hollow
113-Mile Hike #8**

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

Located in Craig County, the hike climbs up Sinking Creek Mountain, then follows the ridge where rock piles and old apple trees remain from the days when even the top of the mountain was farms. Several slanted rocks offer views of Craig Creek Valley and the mountains beyond. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward BurgessH: 540-565-0016
C: 330-523-9788eb1574@gmail.com

**Saturday, November 23, 2013 10:00 AM
Pinnacle Rock State Park**

6.5 miles, Moderate
\$7.50 carpool fee, 73 miles from Christiansburg

Towering above the rugged mountains of southeastern West Virginia, Pinnacle Rock is an unusual sandstone formation reaching 3,100 feet above sea level. The park contains approximately 6.5 miles of trail, which we will explore throughout the day. Please note carpool is from Christiansburg.

Chris & Edward Wilson..... 757-202-3332
..... theshoelesswanderer@gmail.com

**Sunday, November 24, 2013 7:00 AM
Rich Hole Wilderness North**

13.8 miles - Very Strenuous.
\$4.50 carpool fee, 45 miles from Roanoke

This hike is in the Rich Hole Wilderness Area which burned in April, 2012. The fire burned away the brush but left the canopy intact. Part of the hike includes 3.5 miles of a ridge bushwhack which will require some rock scrambling and brush busting. The return leg is along North Branch Simpson Creek so we have varied terrain on this lollipop-shaped hike. This is a tough hike but I did hear some favorable comments so I'll try it again. Distance: A hard and long 13.8 Miles taking 8 3/4 hours. Group size is limited to 15 people.

John Merkwán 540-904-2299

Tuesday, November 26, 2013 9:00 AM
Johns Creek (Rt. 632) to Sinking Creek (Rt. 630)
113-Mile Hike #9

8.3 miles, Strenuous
 \$3.00 carpool fee, 30 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Craig and Giles counties. From Johns Creek Valley, the trail climbs steeply. At 2.0 miles it crosses route 601 at Rocky Gap. At 3.8 miles a blue blazed trail on right leads to White Rock, with great views of the New River Valley. The trail then descends, passing Laurel Creek Shelter at 5.1 miles. At 7.5 miles the trail crosses Route 42 in Sinking Creek Valley. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess H: 540-565-0016
C: 330-523-9788..... eb1574@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 8:00 AM
Pine Swamp (Rt.635) to Johns Creek (Rt. 632)
113-Mile Hike #10

13.2 miles, Strenuous
 \$7.00 carpool fee, 62 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Giles County. From Stony Creek Valley we will climb 1,100 feet in one mile to the heavily wooded northern slope of Big Mountain. The trail winds through the 11,172-acre Mountain Lake Wilderness between Salt Sulphur Turnpike and the War Spur Shelter. Wind Rock on Potts Mountain provides the best viewpoint of the hike. Please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess H: 540-565-0016
C: 330-523-9788..... eb1574@gmail.com

Saturday, December 7, 2012 6:00 PM
Holiday Potluck Dinner
Maya Bohler
Switzerland – Cities & Mountains

Christ Lutheran Church on the corner of Brandon Ave. and Grandin Rd.

The club will provide beverages and table service. Club members are asked to provide a dish to share.

We will have a box at the door if you wish to bring a nonperishable food item to be donated to RAM house.

Sunday, December 8, 2013 8:00 AM
Work Hike, Bluff City Relocation

\$6.00 carpool fee, 66 miles from Roanoke

As a change of pace from installing water bars and redigging trail tread we will go build trail on the Bluff City relocation near Pearisburg, VA.

Dave Jones 552-3058
..... dhjones@together.net

Tuesday, December 10, 2013 8:00 AM
Big Horse Gap to New River (Rt 460)
113-Mile Hike #11

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

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

Edward Burgess H: 540-565-0016
C: 330-523-9788 eb1574@gmail.com

Thursday, December 12, 2013 8:30 AM
Sprouts Run/Wilson Mountain Loop

Moderate; 8 Miles
 \$2.00 carpool fee, 23 miles from Roanoke

This hike will follow the beautiful Sprouts Run with its many pools of water and falling water cascades. The hike will connect with the Wilson Mountain Trail via a forest service road .9 mile long. The Wilson Mountain Trail offers many views of mountains, the Solitude Valley and the James River.

Larry Austin..... 540-254-2092
..... laustin4hike@aol.com

Saturday, December 14, 2013 10:00 AM
Mill Mountain Greenway & Trails

5 miles, Moderate
 No carpool fee

We'll use natural trails and the paved Mill Mountain Greenway for this hike up and down Mill Mountain (800 ft. ascent). Optional lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant.

Mark McClain..... 540-355-6526
..... mcclain.salem@gmail.com
Diana Christopulos 540-387-0930

Sunday, December 15, 2013 8:00 AM
Cascades to Butt Mountain

10.8 miles, Strenuous
 \$5.00 carpool fee, 54 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County near Pembroke, the hike will first go along Little Stony Creek to the Cascades - an impressive waterfall. Hopefully it will be bitter cold and windy so that the falls will be good and frozen. It will then go up the Nature Conservancy Trail to Barney's Wall, a cliff that features a 700-foot drop. There is a great view of the New River Valley from Barney's Wall. From there it will continue on along the ridgetop of Butt Mountain to the location of an old fire lookout tower. The Forest Service charges a nominal fee (\$3.00) to park at the trailhead.

Mike Vaughn.....992-1350
..... mikeva999@yahoo.com

Tuesday, December 17, 2013 8:00 AM
Big Horse Gap to Kimberling Creek (Rt 606)
113-Mile Hikes #12 & #13

13 miles, Strenuous
 \$7.00 carpool fee, 70 miles from Roanoke

This hike follows the AT from Big Horse Gap to Kimberling Creek, combining Hikes #12 and #13 by excluding the Ribble Trail. The first part of the hike follows the ridge line for several miles, offering views of the Wilburn and New River Valleys. After descending Sugar Run Mountain, the trail follows Dismal Creek, much of it through a rhododendron tunnel. Please RSVP 24 hours in advance.

Edward Burgess H: 540-565-0016
 C: 330-523-9788..... eb1574@gmail.com

Thursday, December 19, 2013 8:00 AM
Kimberling Creek (Rt 606) - Jenny Knob (Rt 611)
113-Mile Hike #14

9.8 miles, Strenuous
 \$7.00 carpool fee, 70 miles from Roanoke

This hike is located in Bland County. It starts by crossing Kimberling Creek on a suspension footbridge. This is one of the longest footbridges on the A.T. The trail then ascends steeply to the wooded summit of Brushy Mountain, before descending to Licksillet Hollow. It then crosses Route 608 and again ascends Brushy Mountain. It passes Jenny Knob Shelter before reaching Route 611, the southern terminus of the section of the A.T. maintained by the RATC.

Edward Burgess H: 540-565-0016
 C: 330-523-9788..... eb1574@gmail.com

Sunday, December 22, 2013 10:00 AM
Cascades National Scenic Trail

4.0 miles, Easy
 \$3.70 carpool fee, 37 miles from Christiansburg

Located in Giles County near Pembroke, the hike uses trails which run along both sides of Little Stony Creek, which ends near the Cascades - an impressive waterfall. Usually the hike will go up one side of the creek and come back on the other. The Forest Service charges a nominal fee (\$3.00) to park at the trailhead. The carpool will be from Christiansburg.

Chris & Edward Wilson..... 757-202-3333
 theshoelesswanderer@gmail.com

Saturday, December 28, 2013 10:00 AM
Bottom Creek Gorge Nature Preserve

5.3 miles, Moderate
 \$2.00 carpool fee, 17 miles from Christiansburg

Hidden away at the corner of Montgomery, Roanoke, and Floyd counties is the Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve on top of Bent Mountain. The Nature Conservancy has developed a network of trails that pass ponds, streams and meadows and follow tunnels of rhododendron that lead you around and down to the Bottom Creek George, then up to a vantage point to see Bent Mountain Falls flow from a mountain side. Dogs are not permitted on this hike, in compliance with Nature Conservancy policy. Please note carpool is from Christiansburg.

Chris & Edward Wilson..... 757-202-3334
 theshoelesswanderer@gmail.com

Roanoke Appalachian
Trail Club Application
New & Renewal

If accepted for membership, I agree to:

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

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

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

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

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

Email _____ Family life membership \$300.00 _____

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

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

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



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The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of
The Appalachian Trail Conservancy
and a member of The Nature Conservancy and the Western Virginia Land Trust