

# TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Fall 2012

*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**  
**Saturday, December 1 - 6:00 PM**  
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## WORK HIKES

**Sunday, October 21 - 8:00 AM**  
Fullhardt Knob

-  
**Saturday, November 10 - 8:00 AM**  
Stony Creek/ Bailey Gap

-  
**Sunday, December 9- 8:00AM**  
Brushy Mountain

## Hike Scheduling

Contact Adam Wood  
302-528-9680 – [adampaulwood@yahoo.com](mailto:adampaulwood@yahoo.com)

## BOARD MEETINGS

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

**Monday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.**  
Hosted by *Fred Walters*

**Monday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.**  
Hosted by *Bob Blankenbaker*

## What's Inside...

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**Saturday, December 1, 2012 6:00 PM**  
**Holiday Potluck Dinner**

**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.**

**Program: Details to follow.**

## Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

*Todd Mental*

*Thomas Grimm*

*Kathryn Norris*

*Larry Metayer*

*Holly and Jason Clary*

*Conrad and Bee Grundlehner*

*Jeannie LaRose*

*Karen Wright*

*Brook Dickson*

*Kurt Navratil*

*James Dillon and Family*

*Sarah Smidl*

*Amar and Mangala Kumar*

*Neal Jones*

*Dianne Ford*

*David Feron*

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

*Bob Blankenbaker*

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## President's Report

The summer has flown by! It is hard to believe that we are already getting ready to start the Fall hiking season. It was a busy summer for the club, with the wind storm cleanup and the Konnarock crew here for two weeks. The crew did a great job of building steps and improving the trail up to Dragon's Tooth and north of McAfee Knob. Thanks to Bruce Davidson and Roger Holnback for coordinating the work this year, as well as all of the club members who went out and worked with Konnarock. The Konnarock crew was also able to attend our annual picnic in August and had a great time. As always, our Social Committee Chairperson, Carolyn McPeak, did a superb job putting on the Corn Boil.

Speaking of work being done for the trail and the club, I wanted to let you know about the great job that the three newest members of the RATC Board have been doing. They are Adam Wood, our Hike Supervisor and Homer and Therese Witcher, our Shelter Supervisors. All three started in their positions in March of this year.

Adam, who has been with the club a relatively short period, has been doing an excellent job of coordinating the hikes for the club. He is very knowledgeable about the trails in the area and has put that knowledge to good use in coming up with great hike schedules so far this year.

Homer and Therese have been with the club for many years and have been long-time trail maintainers for the club. In addition to their new shelter supervisor duties, they currently maintain two trail sections, which total about seven miles. They have been a real whirlwind of

activity since taking over as Shelter Supervisors.

Within one month of taking over the position, they had visited all 16 of the shelters that our club maintains.

While at each shelter they did an inventory of major work needed, cleaned each shelter and the surrounding area and did some urgent repairs. Since then they have replaced the roofs on several shelters and moved several privies and rebuilt the privy at Fullhardt Knob shelter. In addition, they have replaced the picnic benches at three of the shelters, including the one at Johns Spring, which was destroyed by the June wind storm. All of these tasks were hard, grueling work, particularly in the summer time. They were assisted by their son as well as several friends. Our shelters now are in better shape than they have been in years. We all should be grateful to have such dedicated hard-working people in our club.

Over the past three months I am pleased to say that the club has gained over 40 new members. I encourage our new members to take advantage of all our club has to offer, including our recreational and work hikes, as well as our social activities.

Our club will again have a booth at the Roanoke Go Outside Festival (GO Fest, formerly known as the Roanoke Outdoor Circus). GO Fest will take place from October 19 – 21 at the Rivers Edge Sports Complex in Roanoke. There will be food, exhibitors, equipment demonstrations, and children's activities. Please contact me at mikeva999@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping staff our booth for this event. We currently have about \$30,000 in our club bank account. The money in our bank account has been

steadily increasing over the years. Please let me know if you can think of any worthwhile projects that would benefit the trail or trail users. I will bring your suggestions up with the RATC board.

I hope to see everyone at our Holiday potluck dinner in December!

*Mike Vaughn*

## Shelter Supervisor's Report



Adam Day, Taylor Keller & Bennett Witcher

Since taking on the position in March, we have managed to make much needed improvements to numerous shelters, picnic tables and privies. All these improvements wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of a core group of teenagers. We have been privileged to work with these young people that are hard working and willing to do any task asked of them. This includes digging outhouse holes, moving outhouses, carrying treated lumber up to 4 miles to build picnic tables, putting on 2 new shelter roofs, removing blow downs, staining shelters and privies, and carrying in whatever tools are need for work projects. They are a terrific bunch of well-mannered young people and are a lot of fun to be around. Working with them has been the greatest reward we could receive as shelter supervisors. A special thanks to our most consistant volunteers, Adam Day, Taylor Keller and Bennett Witcher.

*Homer & Therese Witcher*

## Hike Reports

### **Saturday, March 31, 2012 8:00AM Salt Pond Rd to US 220 Hike # 2**

Barbara Duerk (leader), Joanne Derryberry and Emilee Hall

Today is Roanoke Valley Clean Valley day. The group met at the Daleville park and ride lot. Three large garbage bags of trash and a car tire were conspicuously placed for pickup before we shuttled to Salt Pond Road via the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Joanne knows bird calls. The beautiful day was punctuated by identifying birds, sharing water with thru hikers headed north and checking out the cistern at Fullhardt Knob. The early winter allowed AT hikers starting at Springer in February to complete 1/3 of trail by the end of March. We cleaned up extra food dumped

behind the privy and carried out metal cans left in the fire circle. Memories allowed us to share some Girl Scout hiking songs. A fun day!

### **Saturday/Sunday, April 28/29, 2012 10:00AM Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to Daleville ( Rt. 220 ) 113-Mile Hikes 3 & 4**

Girl Scout cookies and water are distributed to thru hikers. The overnight was cancelled because thru hikers were using the shelter sites. Several day hikes were made on this section of trail in April. Groups using the shelters over spring break need to practice Leave No Trace Principles.

**Saturday, June 2, 2012 10:00AM  
Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to Dragon's Tooth  
Parking 113-Mile Hike # 5**

The Great Girl Scout Hike and the RATC celebrated National Trail Days at Troutville Park instead of hiking #5.

**Sunday, June 3, 2012 8:00AM  
Mount Pleasant**

Chris Wilson (leader), Edward Wilson (co-leader), Mangala Kumar, Cynthia Munley, Frank Munley, Amar Kumar, Mike and Shelia Vaughn, Cheryl Penn, plus one

An absolutely beautiful day for a hike! The weather was perfect leading up to the top of Mount Pleasant where we enjoyed views at two different overlooks. The trails were lined with blooming mountain laurel and we met several other hikers along the trail on the way. Unfortunately our lunch stop at the overlooks was cut a little short due to a search and rescue drill to look for a hiker who became disoriented when she stepped off the trail away from the group. Fortunately she was quickly found and we headed back down to our cars. About half the group also enjoyed a quick hike up the back side of Cold Mountain to gain another gorgeous view. Two awesome hikes for the price of one! After making it back to the cars, the sky opened up and the rains came pouring down. No one seemed to mind since we were lucky enough to be enjoying it from our nice dry seats in the cars on the way back to Roanoke.

**Thursday - Monday, June 7-11, 2012  
Konnarock: McAfee Knob rehabilitation**

Hot days, flowers in full bloom, North-bound thru-hikers passed, and young wild life all over the place. It is this time of the year again... correct Konnarock season on the RATC section. For the first half of this year's Konnarock season we stuck to the old motto "Never change a winning team!"; same crew leaders (Joshua and Kathryn), same RATC coordinator (Bruce Davidson), same location (McAfee Knob), and same good spirit to work as every season.

A slight change was in the worksite itself. This year's rehabilitation efforts focused on a 350 ft. section of trail north of McAfee Knob, around Devil's Kitchen. The crew arrived as usual Thursday and hiked from the VA311 to the campsite at the Vail farm. Due to the efforts of Bruce the fire road for the equipment truck was clear and the crew was able to setup base camp fast. The crew, with several members working together for years and from all over the country (Florida, Texas, Wisconsin,...) did their first trip on Thursday afternoon to shuttle the first set of tools to the work site. Friday morning, several club members and the Mid-week crew

met at the VA 311 to shuttle to the worksite and support the crew. During the day some members of the mid-week crew installed water bars south of the knob, whereas other members joined the Konnarock crew around Devil's Kitchen. The section around Devil's Kitchen, though very scenic, showed erosion and several spots in need of attention. In previous trips several spots were identified and the crew split up in groups of 2 – 5 members to tackle the issues, ranging from complex rock steps to water bars or easier to install log steps and check dams. During the work days the crew took their well-earned breaks at McAfee Knob and enjoyed the nice view.

After three days of hard work, the following were accomplished: 290 feet total rehabilitation, 34 log steps, 13 rock steps, 11 rock check-steps, 5 waterbars (1 log, 4 rock), 54 ft<sup>3</sup> junk cribbing, 45 ft<sup>3</sup> crush and fill, and 10 rock water bars (trail South of the knob).

The following club members supported the Konnarock crew during the rehabilitation at McAfee Knob: Bruce Davidson (3 days), Timo Grueneberg (3 days), Blanche Brower (2 days), Mervin Brower (2 days), Liz Belcher (2 days), Maurice Turner (2 days), Bill Gordge (2 days), as well as members of the Mid-week crew (Friday).

**Saturday/Sunday, June 9/10, 2012 9:00AM  
Mount Rogers Backpack Trip**

Mike Vaughn (leader), Katrina Cometa, Anne Hanna, Mangala Kumar, Amar Kumar, Ivy Lidstone, Lori Mier, Vince Mier, Cynthia Munley, Fred Meyer

We started out on the hike from Grayson Highlands State Park. After a short hike we made it up to Massie Gap, which offers sweeping views of the Mt. Rogers high country. From there we started up Wilburn Ridge. The trail here is very rocky so we went slowly. It was a very clear day and the views all along the ridge were spectacular. About three miles into the hike we got our first views of the wooded summit of Mt. Rogers. Shortly after passing Rhododendron Gap we set up camp and then headed out on the last 1.5 miles on the trail to the summit of Mt. Rogers. At over 5,700 feet, it is the highest point in Virginia. There are no views from the summit, but the moss and evergreen trees are interesting to look at and are more like the forest in Maine than Virginia. After dinner we all went up to Wilburn Ridge to watch the setting sun. The next morning we set out on the Pine Mountain trail. This soon connected to the AT and we headed south towards Scales, a place where cattle used to be brought in to be weighed. Soon after leaving Scales we encountered a herd of wild ponies. We stopped and took pictures. We reached the parking lot around 2:00, completing our loop of the high country.

**Sunday, June 17, 2012 8:00AM  
Bearwallow Gap Loop**

Fred Meyer (leader), John Miller (assistant), Carina Hughes, Don Hoke, John Merkwon, Dan Phlegar, Mike Vaughn, Sheila Vaughn and Michael Traver

It was a nice cool sunny day and we started at Harvey's Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway. We met some thru hikers when we stopped for a snack at Boblet's Gap Shelter. We took a forest road to the Glen Horse trail and had lunch along a stream. We came back via Hammond Hollow Trail and the AT ending at Harvey's Knob. It was a wonderful day.

**Sunday, June 24  
Work hike: Big Stony Creek to Pine Swamp**

David Jones (leader), Steve Burt, Matt Gentry, Timo Grueneberg, James Narramore, Marlyse Whitaker

It is almost a truth that at any given time, any section of the RATC's trail could use a bit of TLC, and the purpose of this work hike was to address some of the minor issues that fall under the category of Tender Loving Care. Our group started at the Big Stony Creek bridge and worked our way south on the AT.

During the day we took care of several projects that had been languishing. We put in some rock stepping stones for a seasonal wet area. Further along was a big root ball of a wind-thrown tree. This root ball had created a crater in the trail, and today we took the time to recover some soil from the root ball to restore the trail tread to a level walkway.

Near the crossing of Dismal Branch an unnamed tributary had "jumped" from its drainage to relocate on the AT. So, the latter half of the day was spent correcting this situation. One group reestablished the drainage bed, and the other group put in water bars to deter the erosion that had resulted from the spring runoff use of the AT as a creek bed.

At the end of the day no big project was done, but many small miscellaneous tasks could be crossed off of the "to do" list. At the vehicles, cold drinks were enjoyed before making the drive back to our homes.

**Sunday, July 1, 2012 8:00AM  
House Mountains, Big and Little**

Adam Wood (leader), John Merkwon, Mike Riele

With the hike occurring in the middle of an intense heat wave and only two days after one of the worst windstorms to ever hit the Roanoke area, one can understand why attendance was below average. Only two RATC members braved the adverse weather conditions to join. We started shortly after 9 AM amidst

90 degree temperatures and were soon met by some intense storm damage. Friday night's Derecho had decimated the trees along the fire road up to the House Mountain saddle. The damage was considerable, as the party had to climb through or around close to 10 downed trees blocking the trail. It took just over an hour to reach the saddle, where it was agreed we would first summit Big House Mountain. After a moderately steep climb, we took a break at the summit and snapped a few photos by the abandoned radio tower. Views were somewhat limited and very hazy due to the outrageous heat of the previous week. After descending to the saddle, we climbed the much steeper Little House Mountain and walked the ridgeline to the Little House Mountain overlook on the northern edge of the peak. There were outstanding views of Interstate 64 as it ascends the mountains toward Clifton Forge, and we could also see Lexington in the distance to the SE. After taking a nice lunch, a final descent was made to the saddle, and then the group descended the fire road through the storm damage back to the car. We finished at 2:40 PM, completing the hike in just over 5 1/2 hours.

**Saturday, July 7, 2012 8:00AM  
Smith Mountain Lake State Park Trails**

Fred Meyer (leader) and Joanna Derryberry

Even though it was a hot day we still hiked about 11 miles. We started at Walton Creek and did many other trails. The Highlight was Turtle Island which juts out into the lake.

**Sunday, July 8, 2012 8:00AM  
Peaks of Otter Trails**

No one showed up today so Fred hiked by himself on Flat Top and Sharp Top.

**Wednesday, July 11, 2012 5:30PM  
Cascades National Scenic Trail**

Chris Wilson (leader), Edward Wilson (co-leader), John Stanley

A cool evening with the threat of rain, fortunately only a few small sprinkles in the parking lot and we were off. A rare treat to hike this usually busy trail with only a couple of other people around, this made it the perfect evening for exploring the local flora and fauna, plus taking extra time to photograph this beautiful area. We spent about an hour having dinner, exploring the waterfall and the recent rock slide. A large boulder, about the size of two king sized beds, had fallen into the creek just before reaching the cascades. Fortunately it is not on the trail so hiking is not affected. It was humbling to see in person the magnificent power Mother Nature

possesses. After an easy hike back downhill to the parking lot, we pulled out just a little before sunset.

**Saturday, July 14, 2012 8:00AM  
Tinker Creek & Roanoke River Greenways**

Mark McClain (leader), Diana Christopulos (leader), Larry Metayer, Georgia Gallaher, Paul Blaiklock, Laurie Spangler

Starting at 8:00 AM at the Bennington trailhead parking lot on the Roanoke River Greenway, we followed the designated walk/bike route to connect to Tinker Creek Greenway for about 0.6 mi. along city streets (Carlisle, 16th, and Underhill). Going up Underhill is a short, but very steep ascent, cursed by walkers and bikers alike. Reaching the crest of this hill, we turned left onto the continuation of Roanoke River Greenway, just opened this past May, which provides an excellent view of the city and mountains to the north and west. We then descended the dramatic terraced set of switchbacks, culminating at the Roanoke River where a 600' trail bridge spans the stream in three segments. This led us over to the Tinker Creek Greenway which runs placidly along the creek and through dense woods to Fallon Park. We crossed over the creek on an ancient footbridge into Vinton where we enjoyed a great breakfast at Bob's Restaurant, a popular neighborhood bar & grill, before returning to our starting point.

**Saturday, July 14, 2012 8:00AM  
Derecho clean up - Section 8: Bailey Gap Shelter to War Spur Trail (Salt Pond Mt.)**

Timo Grueneberg (leader), Roger Holnback, Ron Sloan, Joe Kelly, Bob Stimson, Fred Meyers, Duncan Hollar (overseer section 8)

Mid of July we were still working to clear blow downs and signs of Derecho. Several reports reached us, that Duncan's section had been hit hard by the storm. After a scout trip to evaluate the damage, we decided to add a second work hike for July. The crew met at Pandapas Pond in Blacksburg and shuttled to the Wind Rock parking area at Mt. Lake. There we met Duncan (who came straight from WV) and split up the crew. Since the most damage was reported at the Northern end of the section two chain sawyers and three "swamper's" went in from that side; whereas two chain sawyers went to the Southern end of the section at Bailey Gap and started working towards the other crew. After 3 hours and the clearing of about 40, partly major, blow downs the crews met at the Salt Pond Mt. ridge and hiked back to the Wind Rock parking area. On another hot day we cleared another part of our section, but unfortunately for the

crew, the leader left the traditional cold drinks in the car at the other end of the section. So everyone had to leave without a well-deserved refreshment.

**Sunday, July 15, 2012 8:00AM  
High Meadows / Seneca Creek**

Chris Wilson (leader), Edward Wilson (co-leader), Mia Copeland, John Stanley, Fred Gorrell

After an early morning carpool we completed the nearly 5 hour drive without incident. This put us on the trail at noon, just as other hikers were leaving which made for a quiet time on the trail. Mother Nature decided to rain on us several times, but the cool rain was nice in the hot summer temperatures especially on top of the grassy balds. Unfortunately the rain did make trail conditions rough, with several spots being extremely muddy and hard to establish traction, especially when the trail was surrounded, in those parts, by lots of very prickly plants. Even with the obstacles, there were several upsides (and uphill) as well. Our hike was accented with ripe raspberries and gorgeous views. At the waterfall we took time for a quick bite to eat and a cold swim for several hikers. The cold water felt good after completing the first 12 miles. The next mile went very quickly, unfortunately the last mile was completed in a downpour, but hiker attitudes were no worse for the wear.

**Saturday, July 21, 2012 8:00AM  
Bluff City to Rice Field**

John Miller (leader), Cynthia Munley, Mangala Kumar, and Paula Willis

Originally planned as an in and back hike from Bluff City we decided, as a result of the effects of the derecho winds three weeks earlier, to bypass the first 1.5 miles and start at Rt. 641. This resulted in a 10 mile hike rather than 13 miles originally planned. The section we hiked had all blow downs cleared and was otherwise well maintained. The temperatures were in the 70's all day and despite the humidity made for pleasant hiking. The main attraction of the day was the profusion of mushrooms. It seemed every turn of the trail revealed a new color or size. At the shelter we visited with one northbound through hiker who was just leaving and as we were preparing to leave another through hiker arrived. We talked to him for awhile and he made our way back down the mountain. Overall this was a good challenging hike and the views from the top of the mountain were worth the effort.

**Sunday, July 22, 2012 8:00AM  
Carvins Cove Trails**

John Merkwán (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Dawn Lamb, Karen Callahan, Ivy Lidstone, Mike and Sheila Vaughn

This 10.2 mile hike included the new Four Gorge Extension trail and a short off-trail excursion. The majority of the hike was a repeat of the March 2011 hike without the daylong rain. In fact, our stream crossing on this hike was completely dry as opposed to last year's log-hugging adventure when crossing the stream at the head of the Araminta trail. The Brushy Mountain trail was enveloped by a low hanging cloud (some may say fog) but by the time we reached the lower levels the fog disappeared but a welcome cloud cover remained throughout the hike. We enjoyed an early lunch at a secluded mini-headland on the reservoir. No critters, flowers or berries to note but hikers were appreciative of the iced watermelon served up at the end of the hike.



Carvins Cove Hikers Pose at Sight of Araminta Stream Crossing (Ivy Lidstone, Mike Vaughn, Karen Callahan, H.R. Blankenship, Dawn Lamb and Sheila Vaughn).

**Wednesday, July 25, 2012 5:00PM  
Fort Lewis Mountain**

Adam Wood (leader), John Merkwán, Gene Rose, and Carina Hughes

It was a typical July evening in Virginia as we began the intense climb of Fort Lewis Mountain. As all three participants were making their maiden climbs of the mountain, I tried not to let anyone get too content with the only gradual climbing at the start of the hike. I knew that the climb could eventually turn to torture for those not in shape. The crew proceeded on like a band of warriors despite the sweltering humidity and arduous climb, among the steepest in the Roanoke metro region.

We reached the summit within about 1 ½ hours and tried to find the slightest view of the Mason's Cove area. However, the ever-present tree canopy prevented us from seeing much of the valley below. Satisfied after the epic climb, we descended in about 1 hour and were happy to take refuge in an air-conditioned vehicle.

**Saturday, July 28, 2012 10:00AM  
113 Mile Hike #6 - Trout Creek (RT 620) to  
Dragon's Tooth Parking**

Barbara Duerk (leader), Kim Ferguson Smith

The shuttle to Trout Creek was via 311 to 621. Trout creek was fordable. The trail was in excellent condition considering the Derecho damage June 30th. RATC fantastic volunteers had cleared the trail. Kim and Barbara took the detour to Pickle Branch Shelter and carried out 6 beer bottles, one propane canister and other metals from the fire circle. Water is available down steps. I would recommend getting water from Trout creek near the car parking spaces if water is an option.

Barbara helped put on the trail Jack Frank, a young man from San Francisco who was outfitted in Roanoke to hike the AT. The group passed Jack headed South. Pictures from Dragon's tooth were phenomenal. At lost spectacle gap we almost missed the trail to the parking lot. There were lots of groups hiking to Dragon's tooth.

**Saturday, July 28, 2012  
Work hike: Derrecho cleanup Kimberling Creek  
Area**

David Jones (leader), Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Steve Burt, Bill Floyd, Jonathan McGlumphy, Gene Rose, Sarah Smidl

Just about a month to the day after the Derrcho hit our area this workhike was essentially our last formal club outing to clear the wind damage. In that we were working in the far southern sections of the RATC's trail, the logistics were a bit convoluted. We had people meeting in Roanoke, Blacksburg and at the trail head at Kimberling Creek. There were a few miscues, but everyone made it to their assigned starting points. Because of the good turnout of volunteers we were able to put three different crews onto the trail, with the goal of clearing our first two sections of trail, Route 611 to Lick Skillet Hollow and Lick Skillet Hollow to the Kimberling creek.

It is always a bit nerve wracking to have the work group split up and work in different locations. On this outing we had three teams. One would go to the far southern end and work north and the other two would work from either end of Brushy Mountain. For the later two groups they would work toward each other, meet in the middle

and return to Lick Skillet Hollow, to reconnect with the last group.

After lunch, as it always seems to be the case, the assumed meeting time came and went and there was no sign of the other group. And, as it always seems to happen, in due time up ahead on the trail there was the sound of people, and soon the two groups were greeting each other and sharing what they had encountered during their work. Everyone turned south and made the walk out to the road.

At the vehicles, the group from the far south end had not yet come out of the woods. And, "as it always seems to be the case, the assumed meeting time came and went..." The Roanoke folks had a long drive to home so cold drinks were served and they were encouraged to start their drive home. The remaining folks started hiking south on the AT to meet the last group. "And as always seems to happen..." In less than three minutes on the trail, the last group was met as they were finishing up their work.

And so, more cold drinks were shared and everyone departed feeling good about clearing two sections of RATC's trail.

**Sunday, July 29, 2012 8:00AM  
Rock Castle Gorge**

Cancelled: Lack of Participants

**Friday - Sunday, August 3-5, 2012 8:30AM  
Konnarock Work Hike near Dragon's Tooth**

Even hotter days, a big storm between, a different location (Dragon's Tooth), and a new club coordinator (Roger Holnback) are the basic information for the second half of Konnarock this year. This week's efforts focused on the rehabilitation just below Dragon's Tooth. Badly eroded sections on bad rock, the steep slope, and the presence of many hikers made this work action necessary. The Konnarock crew brought a lot of technical equipment (generator, rock drill, etc.) to the work location and with combined efforts several problems were tackled. Several rock steps, dry wall and cribbing, as well as waterbars and log steps were installed. Due to the long hike to the work location the crews worked longer days to compensate for the lost time. Saturday night's fruits of labor was the RATC corn boil, for the Konnarock crew and the club members who came out to help. Due to the technical difficulties of the projects, major efforts from all maintainers were required and a lot of creativity was necessary to solve the problems. Sunday afternoon, after three days of hard work, the tools were shuttled to the parking lot, the work site cleared, and several trail problems solved.

After three days of hard work the following achievements were accomplished: no details available due to lack of information from the regional office, but

let me assure you: We have been busy and got a lot done!

The following club members supported the Konnarock crew during the rehabilitation at Dragon's Tooth: Roger Holnback (3 days), Timo Grueneberg (3 days), Blanche Brower (2 days), Mervin Brower (2 days), Liz Belcher (2 days), and Maurice Turner (2 days).

**Sunday, August 5, 2012 8:00AM  
Ribble Trail to Kimberling Creek (Rt 606)  
Plus Dismal Falls**

Cancelled: Lack of Participants

**Wednesday, August 8, 2012 5:00PM  
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee's  
Knob (Sunset Hike)**

Chris Wilson (leader), Edward Wilson (co-leader), Sarah Young, Cary Simms, Lynne Edwards, Mike Cutlip, Emily Morris, Mike Vaughn, Shelia Vaughn, James Wall, Andrew Kratzer, John Stanley, Robert Northington, Mark Taylor (Roanoke Times Reporter), Sam Dean (Roanoke Times Photographer)

What a beautiful evening for a hike! Fifteen of us left McAfee's Knob parking lot about 5:30, to begin the long ascent up to the knob. A few of our hikers stopped to assist another hiker who was coming down from his hike who had heat exhaustion and a mild case of dehydration. Fortunately medics arrived within about 20 minutes allowing enough time for the hikers to reach the rest of the group and get to enjoy the knob's sunset as well. What an amazing sunset it was! We were lucky enough to be joined by Mark Taylor and Sam Dean, a reporter and photographer from the Roanoke Times. An article appeared about the hike on the front of the outdoor section in the August 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the paper. Sam Dean took some amazing photos of the hikers on top of the knob, several of which can be found online. The professionals weren't the only ones to take photos; cameras were busy clicking for about an hour while we enjoyed the view from the knob. We made an uneventful night hike back to the car with the sound of coyotes and crickets serenading us.

**Saturday, August 11, 2012 8:00AM  
Wolf Creek Greenway**

Mark McClain (leader), Diana Christopulos (leader), Larry Metayer, Lynne Edwards, Hugh Hall, Paul Blaiklock, Jackie Moore, Cynthia Hutchison, Sherry Kessel, Pat Cousins, Judy Kniskern, Conrad & Bee Grundlehner, Linda Harrison

We had a great turnout of 14 people to walk the beautiful and popular Wolf Creek Greenway in Vinton and



Roanoke County. A brief shower as we started didn't dampen our spirits, and partly cloudy and mild weather prevailed the rest of the morning. We walked from Hardy Road to the Blue Ridge Parkway, then on our return trip stopped at Jerry's Family Restaurant for a hearty breakfast (it's practically right on the Greenway!). New signs along Wolf Creek Greenway make it easier to find your way, if you're not familiar with the route (there are some confusing side trails).

**Saturday, August 11, 2012 10:00AM**  
**Lee Hollow (RT 621) - Trout Creek (RT 620)**  
**113 Mile Hike #7**

Harper's Ferry celebrated their 75th Anniversary. Speakers, workshops and a parade were part of the festivities! Girl Scouts hiked in the parade and provided cookies for the AT Visitor's center.

**Sunday, August 12, 2012 1:00PM**  
**Read Mountain**

Mervin & Blanche Brower (leaders), Karen Coon, Lynne Edwards, Cynthia Hutchison and Hugh Hall

The hike started from parking lot behind KFC on route 460. We car pooled over to the Read Mountain park which is a short distance. The parking lot was full when we got there so parked on the grass.

We walked up the trail till we reached the new trail the Wednesday Crew had just put in. We took this trail until we reached the look out over the south view from Read mountain, then hiked up stairway to heaven which took up to join the old trail. From there we went to Buzzard's Roost where we had a good view of the Roanoke airport to Tinker Mountain. It was a clear day, good for looking out from the mountain. After a short stay enjoying the view we walked back down on the old trail. Every one enjoyed the hike in the moderate weather.

**Wednesday, August 15, 2012 5:00PM**  
**Chestnut Ridge Trail**

Adam Wood (leader), Lynne Edwards, Bob Blankenbaker, Ray Lawson, Hugh Hall, Lynn Wilkes, Debbie Freeman

This August evening, while still filled with the expected toasty weather, was anything but warm compared to hiking in July. The group seemed to

enjoy everyone's company, as multiple conversations were initiated that lasted most of the hike. We saw a few runners, but overall the trail was rather quiet on this weekday evening. About an hour before sunset we completed the hike. All in all it was a very pleasant 2 ½ hour walk on a very pleasant evening with a very pleasant group of folks.

**Saturday & Sunday, August 18&19, 7:00AM**  
**Backpacking at Cumberland Gap**  
**National Historical Park**

Cancelled: Lack of Participants

**Saturday, August 25, 2012 10:00AM**  
**Sinking Creek (RT630) to Lee Hollow**  
**(RT621) 113 Mile Hike #8**

Barbara Duerk (leader), Carina Hughes (leader), Katrina Bateman (1st time with the RATC), Joanne Derryberry, Gary Duerk

The group met at 8:00am at the Orange Market parking lot on 311 and drove via interstate and RT 460 to RT 42 AT crossing. The group offered water and more water plus Girl Scout cookies to a southbounder. Friends picked up the car and dropped it off at Lee Hollow parking lot. The Keffer Oak is very impressive up close and from the open field after climbing the hill. We climbed 4/5 stiles. Two stiles were lying on their sides. We stepped over fence wire. Several downed trees could be stepped over or walked around. A drizzle occurred three times but the forest canopy prevented hikers from getting wet. Two shelters are on this section of trail. We visited neither. We carried out trash from some fire circles and found a sock and liner sock that must have been dropped by a hiker. Near the end of the hike we passed a man from England who was hiking the AT in three sections. This year he had begun in Harper's Ferry. Springer was his planned destination. There was a lot of poison ivy on the trail. Gary enjoyed hiking with the gals.

**Sunday, August 26, 2012 8:00AM**  
**St. Mary's River**

Hike cancelled.

**Saturday-Monday, Sept. 1- 3, 2012 7:00AM**  
**Backpacking at Mt. Mitchell**

Cancelled: Lack of Participants

**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 Adam Wood at 302-528-9680 or email [adampaulwood@yahoo.com](mailto:adampaulwood@yahoo.com).**

**Saturday, October 6, 2012 8:00 AM  
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to McAfee Knob**

7.8 Miles, Moderate  
\$0.50 carpool fee, 6 Miles from Roanoke

This hike is part of the 7 Summits program, so it will be open to both the RATC and the public. There will be a nominal fee to participate in the program. 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. Group size is limited to 15 people.

**Dan Dennison.....540-251-1465  
.....danmountain15@yahoo.com**

**Saturday, October 6, 2012 10:00 AM  
113 Mile Hike #5 - Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311 )  
to Dragon's Tooth Parking**

8.9 Miles, Strenuous  
\$1.00 carpool fee, 9 miles from Roanoke

This is a joint hike with the girl scouts. The hike begins at the 311 A.T. 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. 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.

**Barbara Duerk..... 540-343-1616  
..... barbgary@cox.net  
Chris & Edward Wilson..... 757-202-3331**

**Sunday, October 7, 2012 1:30PM  
Family Day Hike at Beagle Ridge Herb  
Farm**

3 Miles, Moderately Easy  
\$9.00 carpool fee, 90 Miles from Roanoke

A moderate climb up to Raven's Roost affords a gorgeous view and spot for a late lunch. For those not up to the climb a shorter easier alternative hike can be had. After the hike we'll spend time with Ellen Reynolds, Virginia Master Naturalist and owner of Beagle Ridge. She has a wide array of plants and knowledge of the local ecosystem and natural areas of Southwestern Virginia. A fun trip for the whole family!

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

**Saturday, October 13, 2012 8:00 AM  
Cascades to Butt Mt.**

10.8 Miles, Strenuous  
\$4.00 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. 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 ridge top 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. Group size is limited to 10 people.

**Dan Dennison.....540-251-1465  
.....danmountain15@yahoo.com**

**Saturday, October 13, 2012 8:00 AM  
Dragon’s Tooth Parking to Dragon’s Tooth**

5.2 Miles, Moderate  
\$1.50 carpool fee, 9 Miles from Roanoke

This hike is part of the 7 Summits program, so it will be open to both the RATC and the public. There will be a nominal fee to participate in the program. 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. Group size is limited to 15 people.

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

**Saturday, October 13, 2012 10:40 AM  
Roanoke River & Tinker Creek Greenways**

9 + Miles, Moderate  
\$1.50 (Bus Fare), 0 miles from Roanoke

This will be a one-way hike of the entire length of the Roanoke River and Tinker Creek Greenways in Roanoke. We will meet at Fallon Park and catch the Valley Metro bus to Bridge Street, then walk the greenway trails back to Fallon Park. En route, we'll stop for lunch, an afternoon ice cream snack, and a cold beverage near the end of the trail. Rated moderate due to distance, this is mostly on level paved trail with one hill to climb and descend near the end.

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

**Sunday, October 14, 2012 1:00 PM  
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob**

7.8 Miles, Moderate  
\$0.50 carpool fee, 6 miles from Roanoke

This hike is part of the 7 Summits program, so it will be open to both the RATC and the public. There will be a nominal fee to participate in the program. 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. Group size is limited to 15 people.

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

**Sunday, October 14, 2012 1:00 PM  
Bottom Creek Gorge**

5.3 Miles, Moderate  
\$2.00 carpool fee, 17 miles from Roanoke

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.

**Sue Scanlin.....540-989-0497  
.....scanlin@verizon.net**

**Saturday, October 20, 2012 9:00 AM  
Read Mountain**

4.5 Miles, Moderate  
\$1.00 carpool fee, 7 miles from Roanoke

This hike is part of the Go-Fest weekend celebration, so it will be open to both the RATC and the public. Join us for a hike up the trail to the summit of Read Mountain. The trail was built by the mid-week work crew and is relatively new. There are good views of McAfee Knob from the summit of the mountain.

**John Miller.....540-375-3250  
..... john.miller591@comcast.net**

**Sunday, October 21, 2012 8:00 AM  
Fullhardt Knob Work Hike**

0 miles, Moderate  
\$0.50 carpool fee, 5 miles from Roanoke

Repair and replace water bars and steps on Fulhardt Knob

**David Jones.....540-552-3058**  
.....**dhjones@together.net**  
**Fred Walters.....540-977-1430**

**Sunday, October 21, 2012 9:00 AM  
Tinker Cliffs**

6 Miles, Moderate  
\$1.25 carpool fee, 12 miles from Roanoke

This hike is part of the Go-Fest weekend celebration, so it will be open to both the RATC and the public. Located in Botetourt County, the trailhead for this hike is on Route 779 roughly halfway between Catawba and Daleville. 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. Several spots along the cliffs offer excellent views of McAfee Knob and the Catawba Valley.

**Mike Vaughn.....540-992-1350**  
.....**mikeva999@yahoo.com**

**Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:00 AM  
Buffalo Mountain/Fairy Stone State Park**

4 Miles/12 Miles, Moderate/Strenuous  
\$6.00/\$7.00 carpool fee + \$3.00 Parking Fee at State Park, 59 Miles/68 Miles from Roanoke

In a unique fashion, this outing presents hikers with multiple options. The beauty of this is that participants will have the option to choose if they just hike to Buffalo Mountain or if they also want to continue to Fairy Stone State Park. Carpools will be coordinated per the wishes of hikers who will attend. Thus, less experienced hikers or those wishing to not commit a full day to the trails can treat this as a half day outing. Those looking for a more strenuous workout can continue on to Fairy Stone State Park, where we will hike about 8 miles of trails in the park and can hopefully explore both sections of the park. The trip might possibly include a stop for dinner on the return to Roanoke. Buffalo Mountain is located in Floyd County in the vicinity of Mabry Mill, and 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.

**Adam Wood.....302-528-9680**  
.....**adampaulwood@yahoo.com**

**Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:00 AM  
Daleville (Rt 220) to Tinker Cliffs to Andy Layne Trail (Rt 779) 113-Mile Hike #3**

12 Miles, Strenuous  
\$1.00 carpool fee, 12 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. After walking the ridgeline of Tinker Mountain, there is a short climb up to Tinker Cliffs. The hike will then return to the saddle at the Andy Layne Trail intersection and will begin a steep descent to the parking area on VA Rt 779.

**Kris Peckman.....540-366-7780**  
.....**kris@peckmanjazz.com**

**Saturday, November 3, 2012 8:00 AM  
Allegheny Trail to Pine Swamp**

12 Miles, Strenuous  
\$5.00 carpool fee, 62 miles from Roanoke

The hike will start in Monroe County, WV. It begins on WV CR15 at the parking lot for Hanging Rock Raptor Migration Observatory, and follows the Allegheny Trail south along the crest of Peters Mountain mostly on old logging and forest service roads. At 10 miles this hike joins the AT and we'll hike that down the mountain to Rt 635.

**Don Hoke.....540-563-2902**  
.....**hokey-pokey@cox.net**

**Sunday, November 4, 2012 10:00 AM  
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob**

7.8 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.

**Sue Scanlin.....540-989-0497**  
.....**scanlin@verizon.net**

**Sunday, November 4, 2012 8:00 AM  
Fuller Rocks / Big Rocky Row**

8.8 Miles, Strenuous  
\$3.00 carpool fee, 39 miles from Roanoke

This hike will start on the A.T. crossing on Hercules Road. The hike goes through an old slate mine and follows an old roadway that offers very good views. The trail connects with the AT and then we would hike south back toward the James River. The trail will cross Rocky Row and Fullers Rocks, both of which have magnificent views of the James River and the surrounding mountains. The trail will descend back to Hercules Road passing an A.T. shelter along the way.

**Mike Vaughn.....540-992-1350**  
.....**mikeva999@yahoo.com**

**Saturday, November 10, 2012 8:00 AM  
Stony Creek / Bailey Gap Work Hike**

0 miles, Moderate  
\$7.00 carpool fee, 62 miles from Roanoke

Treadway repair and water bar installation between Stony Creek and Bailey Gap.

**David Jones.....540-552-3058**  
.....**dhjones@together.net**  
**Mervin & Blanche Brower.....540-387-9732**

**Sunday, November 11, 2012 8:00 AM  
Little & Big Devil Stairs**

11.0 Miles, Strenuous  
\$17.50 carpool fee, 175 miles from Roanoke

Join us for free admission day at Shenandoah National Park. We'll take full advantage by hiking two of the best trails in the park, including gorgeous overlooks, several waterfalls and numerous gorges. Several spots involve long uphill hikes with a few spots that involve hand over hand climbing. \*Please note: If skyline drive is closed we will do an alternative hike in the same area.

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

**Saturday, November 17, 2012 11:00 AM  
Lick Run Greenway**

6 Miles, Easy  
\$0.00 carpool fee, 0 miles from Roanoke

Starting on Valley View Boulevard near Target we'll walk to downtown on the Lick Run Greenway, taking time for lunch at Roanoke City Market Building and a stroll through the farmer's market before returning to our starting place.

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

**Sunday, November 18, 2012 8:00 AM  
Elliott Knob**

10 Miles, Strenuous  
\$6.00 carpool fee, 77 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.

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

**Saturday, November 24, 2012 10:00 AM  
Daleville (Rt 220) to Hay Rock**

8 Miles, Moderate  
\$0.00 carpool fee, 0 miles from Roanoke

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

**Mervin & Blanche Brower.....540-387-9732**  
.....**mervinbrower@verizon.net**

**Sunday, November 25, 2012 8:00 AM  
Rich Hole Wilderness North**

13.5 Miles, Strenuous  
\$4.50 carpool fee, 45 miles from Roanoke

This hike is in the Rich Hole Wilderness Area which burned in April of this year. The fire burned away the brush but left the canopy intact. Part of the hike includes 3.5 miles of a ridge bushwhack which is relatively easy due to the game trails along the ridge. The return leg is along North Branch Simpson Creek so we have varied terrain on this lollipop-shaped hike. Group size is limited to 15 people.

**John Merkwan.....540-904-2299  
.....merkwanjk@cox.net**

**Saturday, December 1, 2012 8:00 AM  
Falls Ridge Nature Preserve**

5.0 Miles, Moderate  
\$3.00 carpool fee, 30 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Montgomery County, southeast of Blacksburg in Falls Ridge Preserve. Part of a steep, rugged ridge that rises from the valley of the North Fork of the Roanoke River, Falls Ridge Preserve boasts a spring-fed travertine waterfall approximately 80 feet in height. Salem Fault runs through the preserve, dividing it into two different rock types: Precambrian limestone and shale/sandstone. The corresponding difference in soil types generates a diversity of vegetation, particularly wildflowers and smaller flora. Dogs are not permitted on this hike, in compliance with Nature Conservancy policy.

**Adam Wood.....302-528-9680  
.....adampaulwood@yahoo.com**

**Sunday, December 2, 2012 8:00 AM  
Patterson and Price Mountains**

8-10 Miles, Strenuous  
\$2.00 carpool fee, 20 miles from Roanoke

This hike will have a short shuttle (6 miles one-way). We will start on Patterson Mountain and than cross the valley to ascend Price Mountain and a ridge walk to the finish. We should have numerous valley views on this leaf-off hike.

**John Merkwan.....540-904-2299  
.....merkwanjk@cox.net**

**Sunday, December 9, 2012 8:00 AM  
Brushy Mountain Work Hike**

0 miles, Moderate  
\$6.50 carpool fee, 65 miles from Roanoke

Treadway and step repair on Brushy Mountain (Bland County).

**David Jones.....540-552-3058  
.....dhjones@together.net**

**Sunday, December 9, 2012 10:00 AM  
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.

**Sue Scanlin.....540-989-0497  
.....scanlin@verizon.net**

**Sunday, December 16, 2012 11:00 AM  
Roanoke River Greenway**

7 Miles, Easy  
\$0.00 carpool fee, 0 miles from Roanoke

This walk will cover all of the Roanoke River Greenway in Salem - we expect a new section of trail to be mostly if not entirely complete by this date. Will include a lunch stop at one of several possible options - starting place and exact distance and route to be determined based on status of the new trail construction.

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

**Saturday, December 22, 2012 8:00 AM  
Ribble Trail to Kimberling Creek (Rt. 606) Hike  
#13, plus Dismal Falls**

7.8 Miles, Strenuous  
\$4.00 carpool fee, 43 miles from Christiansburg

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

**\*Please note the carpool will be from Christiansburg, and not Roanoke.**

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

**Sunday, December 23, 2012 1:00 PM  
Flat Top Mountain**

4.3 Miles, Moderate  
\$2.50 carpool fee, 27 miles from Roanoke

Located at the very scenic Peaks of Otter along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Botetourt County. At one point a side trail descends a short distance to an unusual formation known as Cross Rock. At the summit of Flat Top nice views may be obtained by easy scrambles onto projecting rocks.

**Don Sutton.....540-774-0648  
.....dsutton24018@yahoo.com**

**Sunday, December 30, 2012 10:00 AM  
Mill Mountain Loop**

5.5 Miles, Moderate  
\$0.00 carpool fee, 0 miles from Roanoke

We will use a series of trails to do a loop hike on Mill Mountain. We will hike the Star Trail to the Roanoke star, then take the Watchtower trail to the Mill Mountain Greenway. From there we will take the Monument trail to the Star Trail back to trail head on Riverland Road.

**Sue Scanlin.....540-989-0497  
.....scanlin@verizon.net**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Family life membership \$300.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



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Counselor, Vacant  
.....

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The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of  
The Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
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