

# TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Summer 2018

*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

**Cornboil Potluck Picnic**  
Celebrate with the Konnarock Crew  
July 21, 6:00 PM, Catawba Center

**First Saturday Work Hikes**  
Bruce Agnew  
540-846-6180 - csc236inf@gmail.com

### Workhikes

**Monday, July 9 - 8:30 AM**  
**Monday, July 16 - 8:30 AM**  
**Monday, July 30 - 8:30 AM**  
**Monday, August 6 - 8:30 AM**  
**Monday, August 20 - 8:30 AM**  
**Monday, August 27 - 8:30 AM**  
**Monday, September 10 - 8:30 AM**

### Konnarock

**June 30 - July 4**  
**July 11 - 15**  
**July 19 - 23**

**Trail Supervisor - Jim Webb**  
540-266-8537 – TrailSupervisor@ratc.org

## BOARD MEETINGS

**Glenvar Public Library**  
**3917 Daugherty Rd, Salem 24153**  
(All members are always welcome.)

**Monday, August 6, 7:00 PM**  
**Wednesday, September 5, 7:00 PM**

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Having just completed a multiple year relocation with NBATC at Highcock Knob, the Konnarock Trail Crew turns its sights to another multiple year relocation on RATC's section on the north slope of Sinking Creek Mountain. The Sinking Creek relocation is rerouting the A.T. from a very steep, eroded, and not very enjoyable alignment to a more sustainable grade that switchbacks its way around the worst of the current section. Due to a narrow USFS corridor the new alignment is a little steeper than preferred, which calls for more rockwork – rock checksteps, cribbing, and steps galore!

With three more Konnarock crew weeks coming up this season (June 30-July 4, July 11-15, and July 19-23), the crew and RATC could use your help on this relocation! If you're looking to refresh or learn about rockwork, this is your chance! Come out, get dirty, learn new trailbuilding skills, meet some awesome fellow volunteers, and have a hand in completing a major A.T. relocation!

If you're interested, check out RATC's Meetup group – all of the Konnarock work days are posted. RSVP and join us! Contact Jim Webb or Josh Kloehn for more info.

## President's Report

RATC President's Report – June 2018

I am honored and privileged to serve as President of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club (RATC), which was founded by Myron Avery in 1932. Many talented and dedicated individuals have preceded me in RATC leadership roles; they developed and maintained a strong vibrant organization, which I hope to build upon. I look forward to working with our current RATC board, which is a nice blend of experienced and emerging leaders, with the common thread being a deep love and respect for the Appalachian Trail (AT).

A little history about how I got here. My employer relocated my wife and me to Roanoke in 2009. I was not an active hiker, but soon became aware of the AT and began to explore. This led me to join RATC in 2011 and take advantage of hiking and trail maintenance opportunities. It also sparked the desire to thru hike the AT upon retirement as a "bucket list" item. Well as they say "the rest is history". I retired in August 2015 and began serious preparation and training for an AT thru hike. I began my thru hike on March 9, 2016 and completed it August 23, 2016 with my wife Jill and daughters, Whitney and Aubrey summiting Mt. Katahdin with me. It was the journey of a lifetime! As such I had an opportunity to experience the AT first hand from Georgia to Maine and I can say the RATC section was some of the best maintained on the AT! This is a tribute to the countless RATC volunteers who devote an incredible number of volunteer hours each year (5000 hours in 2017), with a special "call out" to Trail Supervisor, Jim Webb and Shelter Supervisors, Homer and Therese Witcher. The primary mission of ATC Trail Clubs is to maintain and protect the AT and I want to build upon our tradition and emphasize trail maintenance and stewardship. If you have ideas/thoughts on how we can build and emphasize trail maintenance going forward please feel free to reach out to me.

As we enter prime hiking season I want to recognize and thank everyone who participates on the McAfee Knob Task Force, led by Brian Boggs. In 2017 this group, working closely with ATC Staff Ridgerunner and RATC member Dave Youmans, maintained a regular presence on Dragon's Tooth and McAfee Knob providing 1,440 hours on 210 patrols, removing 580 gallons of trash and 45 illegal fire rings. **What an accomplishment!** During the recent Catawba fire this group was able to quickly assist Roanoke County Emergency. This included Bill Neilan who was on his way home after a McAfee Knob patrol and turned around and returned to McAfee Knob to evacuate hikers, Bruce Davidson, whose home was in the fire zone but quickly responded, and Brian Boggs who coordinated efforts. Other members of the McAfee Knob Task Force assisted during the next several days as the AT from VA 311 to Daleville was closed. **Another great example of RATC volunteers at their best!**

I am in the process of learning how RATC works with and relies upon many partners to accomplish our mission. These partners include, but are not limited to; Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, SAWS, VDOT, Roanoke Emergency Services and Botetourt Emergency Services. In order to meet the key individuals and better understand how each partner operates I attended the ATC Southern Region Partnership Meeting and hosted the RATC Partnership meeting. Both provided an opportunity to put faces with names and develop important working relationships, which will prove beneficial going forward.

Several actions items have been completed since our March meeting. These include;

- Obtained liability insurance for RATC hike leaders and RATC officers, special thank you to Susan Herndon-Powell for her diligence to see this project to completion

- Refreshing RATC Store with Press Press Merch handling all printing of T-shirts/hats, along with maintenance of inventory and collection of proceeds
- Continued growth in views of our social media presence, i.e., RATC website and RATC Facebook page. Highlighted by over 30,000 views with information regarding Catawba Fire., special thank you to Diana Christopulos and Jonathan Eagle.
- Rejuvenation of National Park Service AT Recognition Program, which recognizes AT volunteers, special thank you to Diana Christopulos.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve. I welcome your comments and suggestions in an effort to be sure RATC fulfills our mission to be stewards of the AT. I hope to see you on the AT hiking or performing trail maintenance.

***Jim Beeson***

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### Member News

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

***Rick Miller***

***Christina Urbaniak***

***Nick & Whitney Tiemeyer***

***Mackenzie Areuntz &***

***Patrick Lyster***

***Mike O'Gara***

***Fred Wagner***

***Philip Casteel***

***Robert & Jeanie Bomber***

***Laura Legere***

***John Brown and***

***Julie Hubert***

***Georgia Shaurette***

***Whitney Jennings***

***Rachel Ruhlen***

113-Mile Patch:

***Jerry Anderson***

***Sloan Ronald***

***Smith Michael "Tabasco"***

***Sellars Bruce***

***Lynch Christopher***

***Stewart Al***

***Sabo Stephan***

***Beal Madeleine***

***Mushlitz Walter***

Contributions:

***Christopher Lynch***

***Bruce Sellars***

***Ronald Sloan***

***Al Stewart***

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### Hikemaster Report

With the weather nice and warm and many wildflowers still blooming, now is the perfect time to take a hike. It's also the time when ticks are out in full force. Consider wearing long, light-colored clothing and gaiters while hiking so it's easy to spot ticks crawling around. Treating your clothes and gear with permethrin before you go is also a way to prevent tick bites, as well as using an EPA-registered insect repellent. When you get home, make sure you do a thorough tick check and ask a friend or family member to check areas that might be hard to see. For more information on

preventing and dealing with tick bites, visit [www.cdc.gov/ticks](http://www.cdc.gov/ticks).

I want to thank David Wickersham and Bill Neilan for attending the new Hike Leader Training on Sunday, April 8. We completed our training along the AT heading south out of Daleville. We are always looking for more hike leaders, so please email [hikemaster@ratc.org](mailto:hikemaster@ratc.org) for more information. Have a great summer everyone!

***Susan Herndon-Powell***

## Ridgerunner Update

Kathryn Herndon-Powell, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for Central and Southwest Virginia Regional Office in Roanoke, led a Ridgerunner training on March 3, 2018, for Catherine Boush, Dan Johnson and Susan Webb. Assisting with the class were seasonal Ridgerunner Dave Youmans, Brian Boggs, Scott Karns and Bill Neilan.

A Leave No Trace Awareness and 2018 Ridgerunner Kickoff was held on the rooftop of the ATC office in Roanoke, Friday, April 13, 2018. Thirteen or fourteen people attended. Jose DeMarce, Kathryn Herndon-Powell, Susan Herndon-Powell, Scott Karns and Bill Neilan led the group in teaching the basic seven Leave no Trace principles.

Kathryn Herndon-Powell, head of the ATC office in Roanoke, led the second 2018 Ridgerunner training on May 5, 2018, for Jeanine and Robert Bomber, Jim Casey, Phillip Casteel, Jr. (PJ), Mark Farrell, Al Henry and Steve Urbaniak. Assisting with the class were seasonal Ridgerunner Dave Youmans and Brian Boggs.

Ridgerunner Bill Neilan has led a number of orientation hikes to McAfee Knob for the new Ridgerunners. The orientation hikes are always open to new Ridgerunners, those wanting to experience a different perspective and existing Ridgerunners who may feel a bit rusty after being off the trail for a while.

*Brian Boggs*

## Hike Reports

**Monday, April 2, 2018 8:00 AM  
Workhike, Rocky Gap**

Bill Neilan, Mark Farrell, Jim Beeson, Mike Vaughn, Jill Pennington, Bob Egbert & Jim Webb

I had saved this part of the trail for a contingent of students from Radford University. It was an easy segment of side hill that needed digging and they would not need a lot of instruction to do it. But the weather didn't cooperate with their schedule earlier in the week so the duty was left to us.

I had only planned on finishing a part of the side hill but this crew almost always exceeds my expectations. At the end of the day we had finished almost all of the side hill, and put in a rock step and three log steps.



**Wednesday, April 4, 2018  
The House Mountains**

David Horst (leader), Madeleine Taylor, Jim Beeson, Wilma Vargas, Nancy Wallace, Nancy Kern, Julie Petruska, Jerry Anderson.

On a cold and windy day with gusts up to 40 mph at the top, 8 brave souls toyed with canceling but trekked on anyway. And again these two peaks did not disappoint. We tackled Big House first in case the weather turned even uglier. We spent just a few minutes at the outcroppings of Big House as the wind nearly blew us off the mountain. We made our way along the ridgeline to Table Rock, got a few pics and continued along the ridge out to the cliffs where the peregrine falcons would be nesting later in the spring. Fortunately we were protected from the wind here. Taking the old roadbed back down to the shelter in the saddle, we stopped for a break and to regroup.

Starting up to Little House, a cold, northwest wind really kicked up, blowing through the saddle. That was enough for Nancy Kern, who called it quits and headed back home to C'ville. The rest continued up to the ridgeline, where we were protected from the elements. Out at the outcropping at the end of Little House, the sun came out, the wind died down and the birds were singing...making it a perfect setting for lunch.

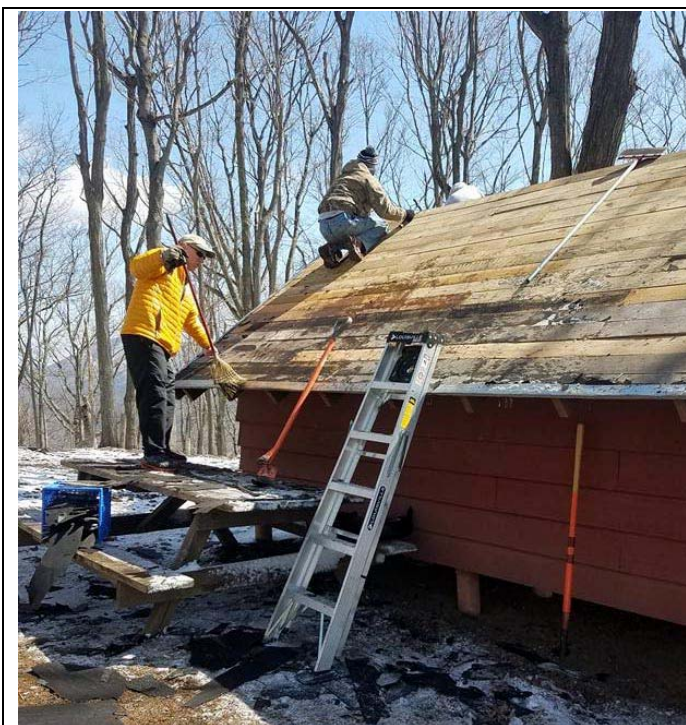
The hike down and back to the cars was uneventful. All who persevered were happy they did as we were rewarded with a stop at DB for a quick beer.

**Sunday, April 8, 2018 8:30 AM  
Campbell Shelter re-roof  
And Water Trail rehab**

Therese & Homer Witcher and Jim Webb (leaders), Adam Day, Dave Horst, Sandie Meyers, Jeff Monroe, Will Monroe, Bob & Kris Peckman, John Hvozdovic, Taylor & Nathan Peterson, Corinne & Kevin Guimont, Kevin & Darin Witcher

We had 4 pick-up trucks and a side by side to take everyone up the fire road to Campbell shelter. We started seeing snow on the way up and when we got to the site, the ground was covered. This made for a cold, wet job removing the snow and the asphalt shingles from the roof. We had several people removing shingles and others picking up the shingles and carrying them to the truck. Dave, Nathan & Kevin quickly got the new tin roof

attached and by lunchtime, only the cap remained to be done.



Nathan & Jeff-----Taylor



Meanwhile, Jim led a crew working on the water trail. They installed 14 steps on the water trail and

more remains to be done. Special thanks to Sandie for hauling off the shingles.



Sandie & Darin-----Taylor



Jim, Kevin, Adam, Bennett & Darin -----Taylor



A drone's-eye view-----Nathan

**Wednesday April 11, 2018 8:30 AM  
Mt Pleasant/Cole Mt Figure Eight Loop**

Josiah Leonard (leader), Jim "El Presidente" Beeson, David Horst, Julie Petruska, Madeleine Taylor, Wilma Vargas, Nancy Wallace

This hike is so nice that even the drive to the trailhead is scenic! Special thanks to Jim and Julie for being our drivers to Hog Camp Gap.

We met Dave at the trailhead where there were still patches of snow and got the hike underway with a warm-up to the Mt. Pleasant parking. We had a nice, easy jaunt through the woods, then climbed steadily to the dual-peak summit of Mt. Pleasant. Along the way, we met aspiring through-hiker Kyle, who informally joined us for the rest of our hike. The views from the rocky outcrops were spectacular and 360-degrees between the peaks. We completed the loop of the Henry Lanum Trail with an easy stroll back to the Mt. Pleasant parking lot.

We had planned to hike the Old Hotel Trail to continue the hike, but decided to return to Hog Camp Gap and the A.T. so that Dave could have some views and get underway to Richmond. After the modest ascent, we had our "Sound of Music" moment on the open ridge, had lunch, and came across the "Hiking Hens." When we arrived at the last major viewpoint, we decided to return along the same path to get a second run through the extraordinary views. We parted with Kyle, sending him off with our best wishes, met a through-hiker on his journey, and then decided to add a little extra by hiking up to the views along Tar Jacket Ridge. Our version of the hike came in at about 10.6 miles.

This is truly a marquee hiking destination in our region, and I would exhort every club member to visit at least once.

**Monday, April 16, 2018 8:00 AM  
Trail South of Rocky Gap**

Bill Neilan, Mark Farrell, Bob Egbert, Mike Vaughn & Jim Webb



The weather forecast was for a 20% chance of rain so imagine our surprise as we arrived at the worksite to see snowflakes in the air. After hiking down the trail to the worksite, we split into 2 groups to work. After about 3-4 hours of going uphill and selecting some large flat step rocks and dragging them down to the trail, we dug them into the trail. After finishing the section of trail with 13 rock steps we went further down the trail and finished the day by widening some very eroded sections.

**Sunday April 22, 2018 8:30 AM  
Garlic Mustard Pull**

Conner McBane (leader), Vanessa Hylton, Fred Meyer, Jim Webb & Chase Davidson (gleaned from Meetup)

**Sunday, April 22, 2018 10:00 AM  
Carvin's Cove hike & Trash Dash**

Chris Means (leader), Chasity Graham, Georgia Shaurette, Susan Terwilliger, Laura Legere, Caralee Eicher, George Self, Robert Gladwell, Ricky Hayter, Robert & Jeanine Bomber, Emily Duncan, Carol Rowlett



Trash-dashers ----- Means

This event was a Trash Dash held on Earth Day at Carvin's Cove. Thx to all 14 of the peeps that came out and helped the RATC and ROAG clean up the Cove a tad. As a group I would guesstimate we removed about 40lbs of trash from the area. We spent 2 hours cleaning trash, then had some drinks & snacks, and ended the day with a venturous 5 mile beginners hike across the front side of the Cove. - Get Your Outside On !!!



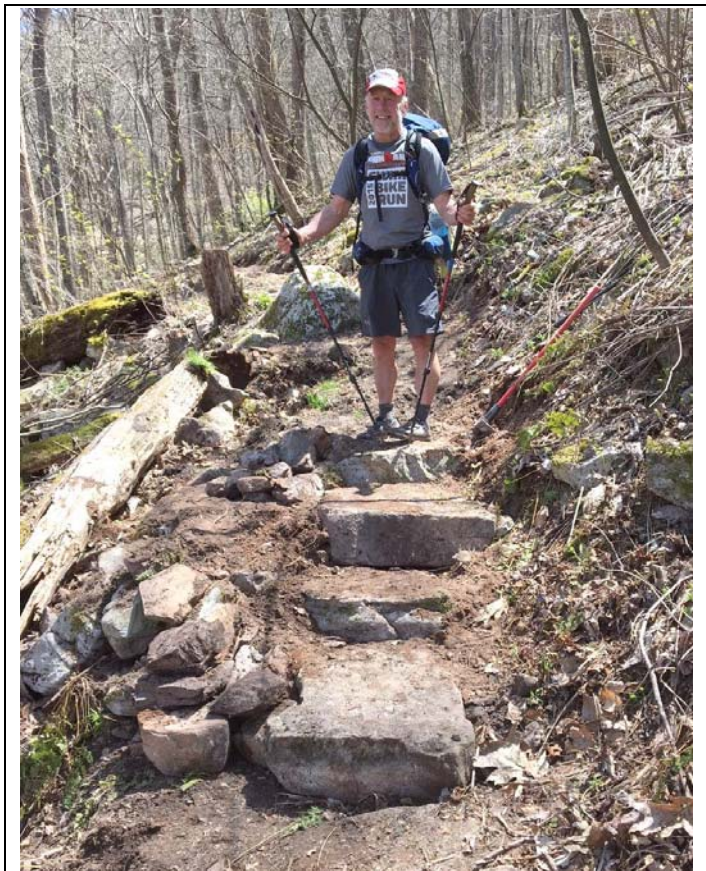
Widening a Narrow Trail-----Webb

**Monday, April 30, 2018 8:30 AM  
Workhike - Rocky Gap**

Mark Farrell, Susan Terwilliger, Bob Egbert, Dave Horst & Jim Webb

A cool morning but near perfect weather to be out in the woods, even if we did have a job to do. As we work south on the trail from Rocky Gap, we have to cross the part of the trail that we have already improved. The hike down to the next work place is getting pretty long.

After starting out with digging side hill in several small sections, we came to a small steep hill that begged to have steps put in. Since this is called Rocky Gap, finding the correct size and shape of rocks for steps takes only a few minutes. At the end of the day we had put in 6 rock steps and improved over 200 yards of trail.



Thruhiker "Lou" tries the new steps ----- Webb



**Saturday, May 5, 2018 8:00 AM  
Continue Sinking Creek Relo**

Brian Kelley, Fred Meyer, Haley Grunwald & Jim Webb

It's been a cool and rainy spring and this work hike was promising to be more of the same. The rain held off long enough for us to climb up to the work site and unwrap the tools we have left up there. The job is so big and there is so much to do that it can be overwhelming. We have to concentrate on just one area and leave the rest for another time. We selected a narrow passage around a tree that is going to require some rock cribbing to achieve the required width, and started in. First is digging down to mineral soil for the first course of large rocks. Then it is simply building other large rocks on top, leaning them into the hillside as you go. We didn't get to finish the cribbing as it started to sprinkle and distant thunder foretold of what was to come.

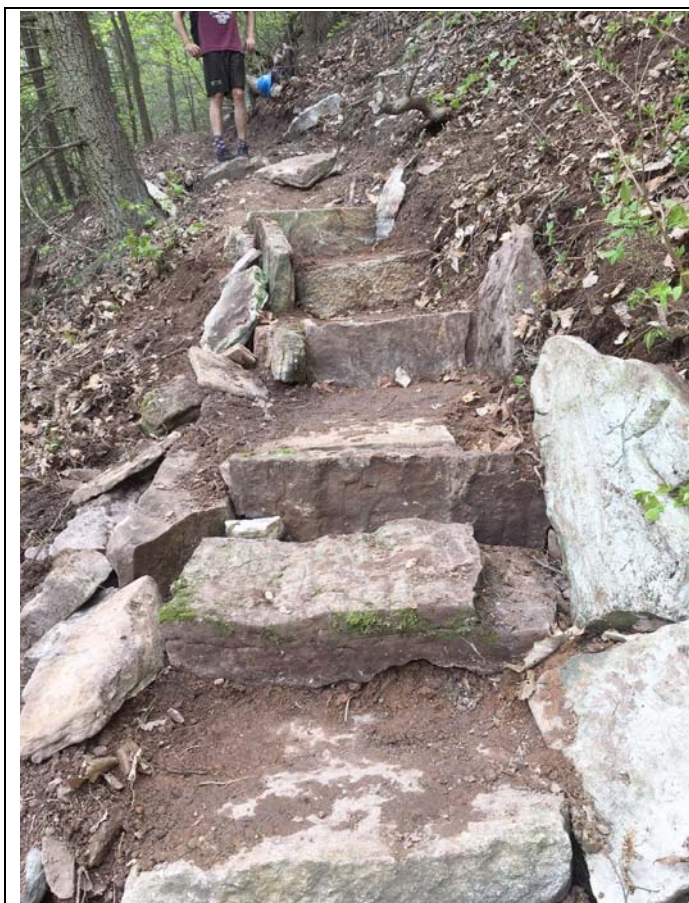


Konnarock Flipping a Step ----- Webb

**Sunday, May 6, 2018 8:30 AM  
Bearwallow to Blackhorse**

Fred Meyer (leader), Dee Case, Maya Bohler, Ann Long, Chase Davidson & Nancy Reid (gleaned from Meetup)

We met Chase at Bearwallow Gap and took two cars to Blackhorse Gap where we started. It was a wonderful sunny and cool day. Along the way we met several hikers, some with dogs. There were many wonderful flowers and the highlight was seeing four pink Lady Slippers. It rained in the afternoon for about a half hour, but this did not spoil our trip. We ended at Bearwallow Gap and Chase put us in his van and transported us back to our cars.



RATC-built Steps ----- Webb

**Thursday, May 10 to Monday, May 14 8:00 AM  
Konnarock Sinking Creek Relocation**

Attending:

5/10 - Colin Owen & Jim Webb

5/11 - Colin Owen, Steve Marshall, Kathryn Herndon Powell & Jim Webb

5/12 & 5/13 - just Jim Webb

5/14 - Bill Neilan, Bob Egbert, Dave Horst, Julie Petruska & Jim Webb

Again this year the University of Central Missouri veterans group spent a week of volunteering on the Appalachian Trail. The 13 individuals along with the crew leader, Gerry Kyle and assistant leader, Julia Smith, set up camp at Joe's Trees on Route 42 and then hiked their tools up to the worksite on May 10th.

With such a large group, the leaders were able to concentrate their efforts on the two remaining rockslides and still help the RATC volunteers place several rock steps on the upper leg of the relocation. Putting a trail across one of these rockslides involves removing all of the large loose rocks and getting down to bedrock, which is very time consuming work.

At the end of their week, rockslides 1 & 2 were 60% and 90% clear respectively and almost ready to start building a trail.

**Friday, May 11, 2018 9:00**  
**Hoop Hole: Lower and Upper Loops**

Josiah Leonard (leader), Jim "El Presidente" Beeson, Dave Horst, Ken Myers, Julie Petruska, Wilma Vargas, and Nancy Wallace

We had a great group of regulars / frequent hikers on this trip to the wilds of northwest Botetourt County. It was a fairly hot day, especially for mid-May, but the spectacular creeks of Hoop Hole helped cool us down. It was also prime time for wild flowers and lush forest growth, making for a pleasant day. Thanks to Dave and Nancy for being our drivers.

We did the hike in a figure-eight to allow for the most gradual climbing of both loops. Every hiker on this trip was quite experienced, so it was interesting to note how some hikers preferred to minimize the risk of falling by hiking straight through the creek, while others went to great lengths to avoid getting their feet wet to varying degrees of success. Either way, we made easy progress along Hipes Branch through the gorge chocked full of heaths. The climbing leg of the Upper Loop proved to be a challenge as the trail deceptively climbs more than 1,400 feet. We had lunch near our high point for the day, and no one wanted to add an out-and-back to Montgomery Knob.

After recovering from the climb and gaining energy from Julie's five-star trail mix, we had a nice descent through deep hollows back to the Lower Loop. Wilma noticed something I had never seen before - a nest of wild turkey eggs on a rock outcrop just off of the trail. The last leg along Stony Run with its waterfalls and rock ledges made for a great end to a pleasant hike. An even better end, though, was our visit to Ballast Point during the drive home. Thanks to everyone for a great hike, and I have promised Jim that I will be wearing my hiking shorts again in the future as a result of all of the admiring comments.

**Sunday, May 13, 2018 8:00 AM**  
**Chessie Nature Trail**

Kris and Bob Peckman (leaders), Rita Krasnow, Laura Legere, Ken Myers, Georgia Shaurette, Madeleine Taylor, Nancy Wallace

I have always led this hike in April, when the spring wildflowers are everywhere in bloom. On a May Sunday during a spell of exceptionally hot weather, we had one flower in abundance, Dame's Rocket. It looked like fireweed but came in both magenta and white flowers. For the others, we had to look up close, but no one remembered to bring a wildflower book. We did notice some columbine hanging from the cliffs, though.

The river was beautiful as always, though somewhat more hidden by the trees than in April. The cliffs were spectacular, and a breeze kept the high temperatures and humidity bearable, even pleasant.

An old railroad bridge has been out for several years, necessitating a detour. We were drawn to the other side of the road by a farm field full of poppies and a big planting of asparagus. But in a muddy puddle were many, many butterflies, including tiger and zebra swallowtails.

Cows in the river, cows along the trail. There are lots of signs telling the cows to close the gates behind them.

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018 8:30 AM  
Reeds Creek - Hunting Creek**

David Horst (leader), Bob Peckman, Mike Vaughn, Nancy Wallace, Julie Petruska & Alessandro Ceci

On a warm late spring day, our numbers dwindled from 15 to 6 hikers. The recent rains made the creeks high, rushing and spectacular. We started at the base of Reeds Creek near Terrapin Mt in Bedford County, along a 4WD forestry road. Hiking steadily upward along the creek and passing over it several times made for some wet feet....soothing in the relentless climb for the first 4 miles. We did encounter some stinging nettles as we went off trail up to the AT near Thunder Hill. Finally at the top, we recharged with a quick snack and hiked along the AT to the Hunting Creek trail head. Down Hunting Creek, the Rhododendrons became more spectacular the lower we went, as did the creek as it cascaded down in full glory. Walls of decade old rhodies were what this hike was about. We encountered a trail maintenance crew from the Natural Bridge club and had a quick conversation before continuing on. We stopped at our next intersection for a nice lunch along Hunting Creek. Bob decided not to do the last climb and hiked along the creek where we would later pick him up. The rest climbed up the forestry road and back down Reeds Creek.

This hike was a treat for those who came. Perfect time of year and the recent rains made it even better!

**Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:00 AM  
Workhike - Rocky Gap**

Mark Farrell, Mike Vaughn, Julie Petruska & Jim Webb

Another workhike with the threat of rain in the air. I think we are getting used to that. With all the rain we have had this section seems to drain very well. No real muddy spots.

We started the workhikes on this section pretty much right next to the road and working our way south. After all these trips working here, the workhikes are now a ten minute hike down the trail and a fifteen minute hike up to the cars.

Mike and Mark went up the trail to cut a tree that had fallen across the trail. Julie set about to cut all the stinging nettles that had sprung up along the trail. I hiked down to the worksite only to find that

my saw would not start in the humid conditions. We had to wait for Mike to bring his saw down to cut logs for the steps that we intended to put on the trail. Once the logs were finally cut we carried them down to the worksite.



More Beautiful Steps ----- Webb



Mark digs a spot for another log step.-----Webb

Mark and Jim installed the nine log steps as Mike and Julie placed four rock steps in another steep area. Not a bad day's work.

**Sunday, June 3, 2018 8:00 AM  
Mt Rogers/Wilbur Ridge loop**

Josiah Leonard (leader), Cara Grueg, Matthew Burnett, Terri McClure, Julie Petruska, Nancy Wallace and Lin Yang

We had a great group of hikers -- including some first-timers for our club -- for our trip to "Virginia's Roof-top." Special thanks to Julie and Nancy for serving as our drivers, and Lin won the "farthest drive" award as she joined us all the way from the Harrisonburg area. It was also an honor to have Cara, an extremely dedicated hike leader from Arizona (most of the year), along on the trip.

We had beautiful weather greeting us at Massie's Gap, along with a few ponies nearly in the parking lot. The superb views continued all the way over Wilburn Ridge, and it was great fun "crag-hopping" as we followed the blue-blazed trails over the rocky summits. With all of the rain in the weeks prior to the hike, the vegetation was vibrant green, making it feel like walking in a filtered photograph. We stopped near Thomas Knob Shelter for lunch, then made a quick ascent of Mt. Rogers, Virginia's highest point (5,729 ft.).

We re-traced our steps to Rhododendron Gap, but diverted onto the Pine Mountain Trail to a large rock monolith similar to Dragon's Tooth. Cara, Lin, Nancy, and I tempted fate and gravity by scaling up the rock. We then switched to the Crest Trail en route to the Scales, enjoying the wide-open views as we went. The rain seemed to have caused the heath bloom to be delayed, but we did see a few rhododendrons on full display. One of these years, we'll hit it at the height.

At the Scales, we noticed storm clouds billowing to our west and felt a few sprinkles, but we held hopes that the storm might miss us. We nearly lucked out - at least until reaching just about the last mile of our long hike. The skies opened up with a heavy storm, including torrential rain, strong winds, and lightning. Luckily, the worst of the lightning seemed to pass as we were in the hollows along Wilson Creek, although it was still frightening as we reached the open ridge blocking us from the parking lot. We all made it, though, and had a dazzling trip despite the rainy final mile.

**Monday, June 4, 2018 8:00 AM  
Workhike - Dragon's Tooth Trail**

Bob Egbert, Craig Rightmire, Mark Farrell, Bill Neilan, Mike Vaughn & Jim Webb

At last! Near perfect weather for a workhike. Low humidity, cool temperatures and a new location. Even though the Rocky Gap location needs another day's work, we needed a change of venue. And the Dragon's Tooth trail certainly needs the help.

The hike up to the worksite is longer than that which we have been used to, but the weather gives us energy. We find the first place that needs work and break into two groups. The first group works on that area while the second group goes on up to find the next problem area. Since the trail in this area is mostly on rock, then rock is the building material of choice.



We don't make steps for the pleasure of hikers, we make them to preserve the trails. ----- Webb

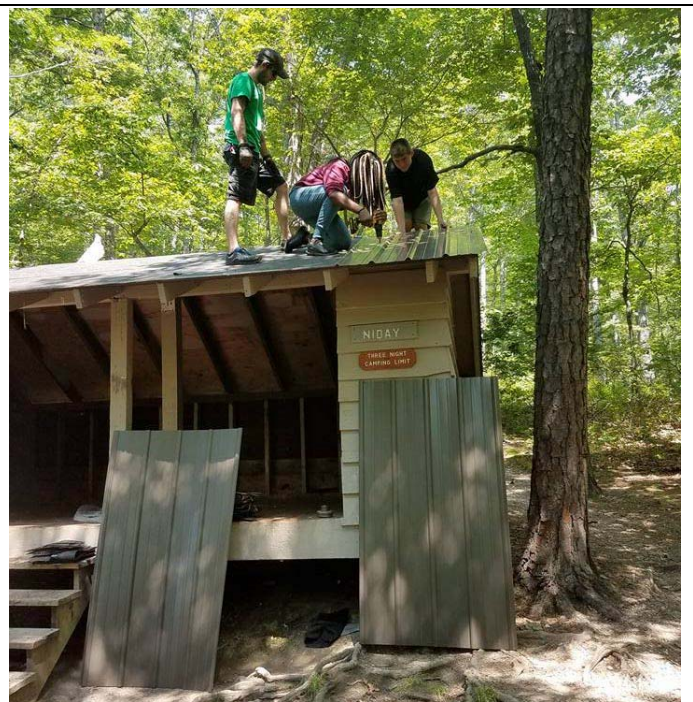
Working in two teams means no one is standing around and we can cover more problem areas. The trail is busy on such a beautiful day and we have many interruptions. Day hikers to the tooth going

up and thru hikers headed north and coming down. At the end of the day between the two teams, we have added fifteen new rock steps to the trail.

**Sunday, June 10, 2018 8:30 AM  
Niday Re-roof**

Therese & Homer Witcher (leaders), Jennifer Morgan, Susan Terwilliger, Jim Webb, William Neilan, Lisa Walkiewicz, Kevin Witcher, Joe Berney, Michael Lee, Edwin Runner, Bennett Witcher, Matt Gentry, Anna Quam, Joey Johnson, Taylor & Nathan Peterson, Dee Hobbs

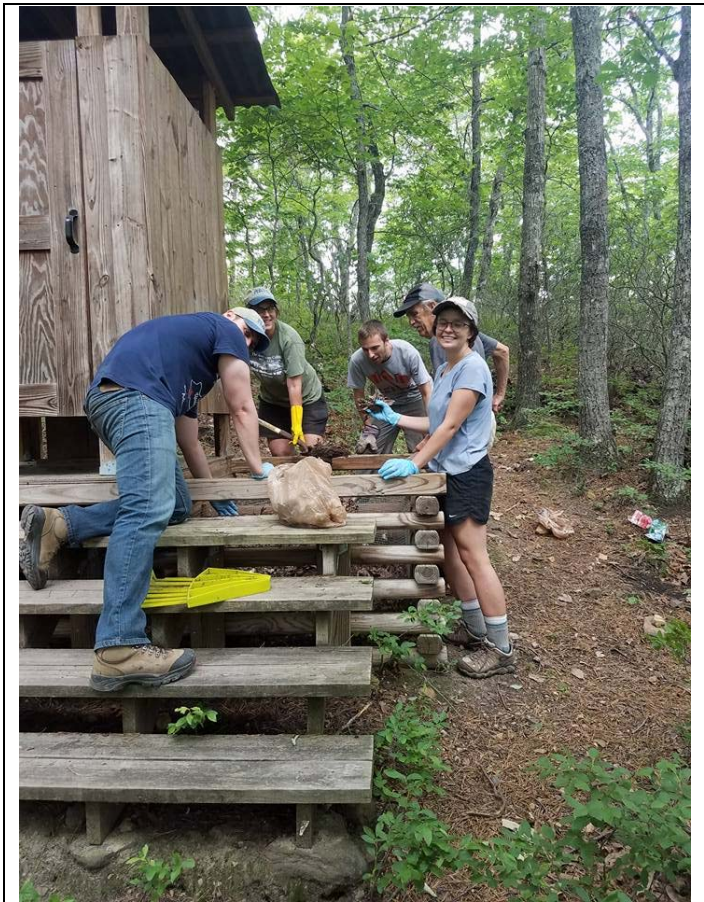
We had 4 first timers on the project, Jennifer, Susan, Dee and Anna, and they all 4 jumped right in as if they had been doing this all of their lives. Thanks to everyone for their hard work.



Nathan, Dee & Michael -----Taylor.



Joe, Bill, Michael & Nate-----Taylor



Edwin, Therese, Bennett, Homer & Anna --- Taylor

Some days everything goes better than planned, June 10<sup>th</sup> proved to be one of those days. The 18 member crew worked together like clockwork. We managed to not only put a new tin roof on Niday shelter and carry out all of the old shingles, but we also put in a new fire grate and moved the moldering privy to the other side. By 1 PM, we were heading out from the shelter.



The whole shelter re-roof crew----- Taylor



Konnarock began on Sinking Creek relocation in 2016 and will continue through the 2018 season.

**Hiking Guidelines**  
<http://www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Appalachian-Trail-Club/#calendar>

Both hikers and leaders, please go to <https://www.ratc.org/regional-hiking-resources/> and click on Bob Peckman's Regional Hike List to consult the hike descriptions at <http://peckmanjazz.com/HIKERATC.HTM> Tell me how to make the descriptions better. Try to use the name and description when posting a hike on Meetup, or maybe suggest changes or new hikes.

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. Make requests if we don't fill your needs.

Hikes are rated by length and terrain so hikers can evaluate them based on their individual strengths.  
 Easy terrain – Greenways or old roads  
 Moderate terrain – Typical AT  
 Strenuous terrain – long climbs and rough trails  
 Challenging – neglected trails and bushwhacking

Shuttle lengths are included to calculate carpool fees of \$0.10/one-way mile. We carpool to save gasoline and because trailhead parking may be limited. The hike leader is responsible for arranging the carpool. While there is no fee to hike with the club, the carpool fee is for the driving expenses.

**If you are new to hiking or unfamiliar with the hike, contact the leader who will be glad to help you evaluate whether the hike is appropriate for you and also if you are properly equipped. Hike leaders should recommend that you don't come if you are not prepared with equipment or condition.**

**The club is always looking for experienced hikers to help lead club hikes. RATC needs you! Get on Meetup and lead a hike or contact the leader on a hike and offer to assist. Come out for the next hike-leader training. Contact Susan Herndon-Powell, [hikemaster@ratc.org](mailto:hikemaster@ratc.org).**

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**Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Application New and 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 the instructions of the leader on group hikes and trips.

Name(s) _____	New Member Packet Fee	\$5.00 _____
Address _____	Indiv. # of years _____	x \$15.00 _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____ - _____	Family # of years _____	x \$20.00 _____
Home Phone _____ Second Phone _____	Individual Life membership	\$250.00 _____
Email _____	Family life membership	\$300.00 _____
Dues are payable in January of each year. Make checks payable to RATC. Please send dues and any questions about money or membership to Treasurer, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, VA 24024, or email <a href="mailto:treasurer@ratc.org">treasurer@ratc.org</a> (540)387-9732. You can also use PayPal at <a href="http://www.ratc.org">ratc.org</a> .	Donation	\$ _____
	Amount Enclsed	\$ _____

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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 Blue Ridge Land Conservancy