



FRIENDS OF

ROAN MOUNTAIN

Volume 16 No. 2

Fall 2012

## The Fall Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

(Adapted from an article, "The Fall Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary" appearing in the *Tennessee Conservationist*, September/October 2012)

*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.  
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees.  
The winds will blow their own freshness into you,  
and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.*

--John Muir

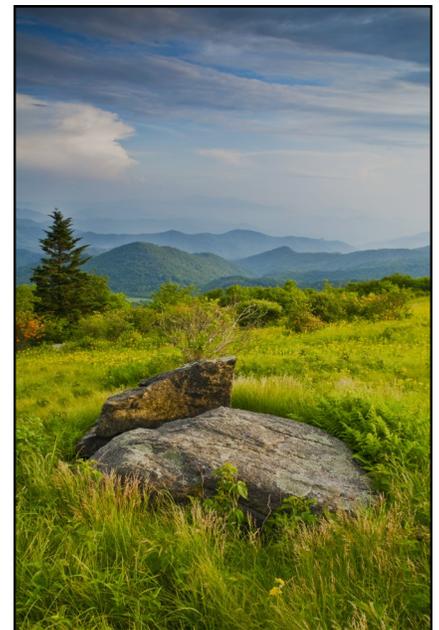
For many years and for many people, including John Muir, Roan Mountain has been the source of good tidings. In a letter penned to his wife and daughters from the Cloudland Hotel atop Roan Mountain in 1898, Muir marveled at its beauty. Asa Gray, who visited the mountain in 1841 called the highlands "without doubt the most beautiful east of the Rockies." (For a complete discussion of Muir's and Gray's visits, see "Muir, Michaux, and Gray on the Roan", *The Tennessee Conservationist*, September-October, 1998, by Bob Fulcher.) The Roan still today offers us all the beauty, freshness, energy and peace of which John Muir and Asa Gray spoke - a tonic for the body, mind and soul.

Fifty-four years ago the vision of one German immigrant who was drawn to the magic of Roan Mountain, Fred Behrend, started a tradition which has grown stronger every year, the Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rallies. Freddie established The First Annual Carter County Wildflower Tour and Bird Walks (later renamed the Spring Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally) in 1954. After seeing the spring event become so successful, in 1963 he organized a fall event, the Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally (now the Fall Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally). Hundreds of amateur and professional naturalists and nature lovers have

come to the mountain rallies for over fifty years. Scores of volunteers have devoted countless hours to make the rallies successful. Friends of Roan Mountain now sponsors four rallies each year to enjoy, as one newspaper reporter recently stated, "...the science, information, entertainment, and fellowship of a celebration of living things in the natural laboratory of Roan Mountain."

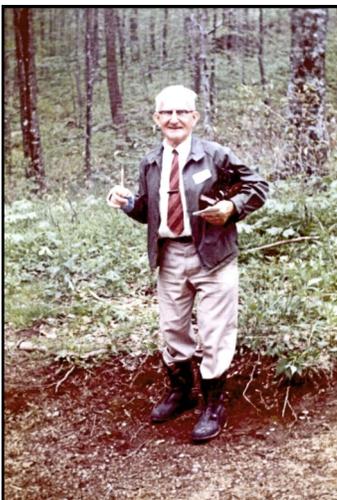
The 50th Fall Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally on September 7, 8, & 9, promises to be a fine tribute to its founder, Fred Behrend with two evening programs about the Roan! On Friday evening, Jennifer Bauer, one of the founders of the FORM and Co-director of the Spring Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally, will present a program on the history of Roan Mountain. Jennifer, now the park manager of Sycamore Shoals State Park, worked for 21 years as park interpretive specialist at Roan Mountain State Park. She is the author of an excellent book on the Roan, *Roan Mountain, History of an Appalachian Treasure*.

The Saturday evening program, *Stories in Botany*, will be provided by Dave Danley, botanist for the Pisgah National Forest. Dave has worked for the Forest Service for 27 years, 18 of which have been conducting conservation projects in the Pisgah National Forest, including Roan Mountain.



Summer vista along Engine Gap, Roan Highlands

Photo credit: [Jerry Greer Photography](#)



Fred Behrend, rally founder

Photo credit Carolyn Martin

During the day on both Saturday and Sunday of the rally, dedicated professional and amateur naturalists will lead trips and conduct workshops on the Roan itself and in Roan Mountain State Park. Trips or workshops at the fall rally will include birds, trees, wildflowers, ferns, mushrooms, nature hike for kids, medicinal & edible plants, fossil casting, reptiles, history of the Roan, geology, rare plants, nature photography, butterflies and other insects, animal tracks and signs, wildflower pollinators, stream ecology, fish and a handicapped accessible nature walk.

These annual treks have become a tradition for many - a chance not only to visit flora and fauna but to reunite with friends as well. Whether you have training in natural history or you are new to nature study, Roan Mountain and the naturalists' rallies offer something for everyone and never fail to delight! Come to the 50th Fall Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally on September 7, 8, 9 at Roan Mountain State Park and experience the magic of Roan that John Muir and Fred Behrend experienced. Details regarding the rally and the FORM are available at [www.friendsofroanmountain.org](http://www.friendsofroanmountain.org).

Gary Barrigar is President of the Friends of Roan Mountain and has been Director of the Fall Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally for nineteen years.



## 2012 Roan Mountain Butterfly Count



compiler, Johnson City, TN

—Don Holt,

While the weather was generally good, the top of the mountain was cloudy with occasional drizzle, and no Aphrodite Fritillaries were found there (nor any other butterflies). Great Spangled Fritillaries were scarce, which seems to be true generally in the area this year. Hampton Creek Cove produced an above average showing of Viceroy's, as well as three Harvesters. Large numbers of Pipevine Swallowtails were mostly found nectaring on Common Milkweed at many locations, but especially at Dave Miller Homestead. It was also a good day for Meadow Fritillaries at many locations. The Little Yellow was the lone result of an intentional search of Partridge Pea patches in native grass plantings in Roan Mtn. State Park.

**The date for next year's (2013) Roan Mtn. Butterfly Count will be July 20.**

**1. Roan Mountain, TN.** Yr. 20, 36.1067°, -82.1105°, center at Carvers Gap, Carter Co., TN, and Mitchell Co., NC, at the crossing of TN Hwy. 143 / NC Hwy. 261 over TN/NC state line. See 1993 report for habitats. **21 July 2012;** 0930-1830 hrs; sun AM 10%, PM 51-75%; 65-79°F; wind 0-10 mi/hr. 8 observers in 1 party. **Total party-hours 8; total party-miles on foot 3. Observers:** D. Draper, Don Holt (910 Smalling Rd., Johnson City, TN, 37601; [dnldhlt@aol.com](mailto:dnldhlt@aol.com)), F. Lamberts, A. Mattes, J. McGuinness, B. Potter, J. Potter, K. Stroud.

Pipevine Swallowtail 510, E. Tiger Sw. 32, Spicebush Sw. 1, Cabbage White 13, Clouded Sulphur 6, Orange Su. 8, Cloudless Su. 2, Little Yellow 1, Harvester 3, Gray Hairstreak 3, E. Tailed-Blue 40, 'Summer' Spring Azure 4, Variegated Fritillary 13, Gr. Spangled Fr. 5, Meadow Fr. 105, Pearl Crescent 39, E. Comma 1, Red Admiral 2, Com. Buckeye 1, Viceroy 10, Com. Wood-Nymph 8, Monarch 12, Silver-spotted Skipper 76, Clouded Sk. 2, Least Sk. 28, N. Broken-Dash 1, Little Glasswing 1, Sagem 14, Dun Sk. 7. **Unidentified:** Sulphur sp. 4. **Total 29 species, 952 individuals.**

### ***Friends of Roan Mountain Supports the Baa-tany Goat Project with Rosalie's Russo's Book***

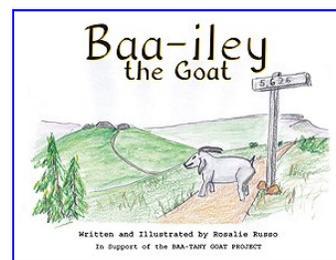
***This children's book features the beautiful illustrations and wonderful story of Baa-iley the Goat by Rosalie Russo. A volunteer for the Baa-tany Goat Project, she was inspired to tell the story about Baa-iley's unfortunate experience on Roan Mountain.***

***The proceeds from the sale of this book support the Baa-tany Goat Project.***

***To learn more about the Baa-tany Goat Project or to buy the book, visit***

***[www.friendsofroanmtn.org](http://www.friendsofroanmtn.org)***

***Also available at Roan Mtn. State Park Office or at a FORM rally.***

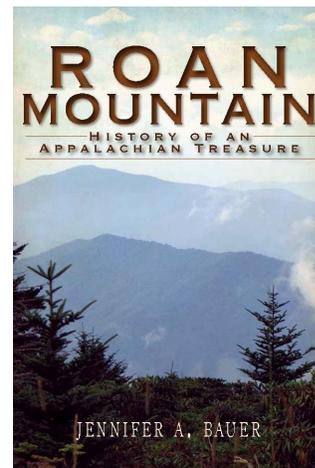


# Finding the Roan

~~Jennifer Bauer

Yes, it really does “seem like yesterday” - those days when I was a student at East Tennessee State University and really had never heard of Roan Mountain. That in itself is hard to imagine, but at that time, I certainly became deeply attached to other areas in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, hiking and backpacking my way into a myriad of new places.

A very special instructor, friend, and my major professor, John Warden, was the first person to introduce me to “the Roan.” John, who eagerly took his botany classes on journeys throughout many unique environments in upper east Tennessee, was particularly fond of the Roan himself. And it was easy to see. I’ll never forget our first field trip up to Carver’s Gap. I thought we had driven to the end of time, but when we arrived, John’s enthusiasm and love of the place immediately spread amongst the open minds of his students, making the length of travel irrelevant.

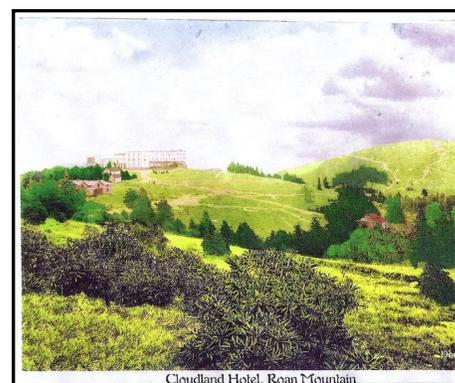


For me, that trip began a lifelong dedication to the Roan which really blossomed when John related the importance of Dr. D. M. Brown’s research on Roan Mountain in the 1930’s and 40’s. Dr. Brown, an ETSU botany professor, built a cabin near Carver’s Gap and spent several years studying and documenting the vegetation of the mountain at a time when the Champion Paper Company was aggressively logging. His photographs provided wonderful documentation of the ecology, species, and tree lines around the perimeter of the balds. Mr. Warden hoped that one day he would have a graduate student who would work with him to follow up Brown’s research.

At that point, I was hooked – and fascinated by the possibilities. John’s son Charlie, an awesome photographer, had the same style box camera that Dalton Brown used, which is an interesting story unto itself! So John, Charlie and I began our excursions to the Roan with Dr. Brown’s old black and white photos in hand and Charlie’s camera (complete with a black cloth to throw over the photographers head!) Our goal – to try and find the places that Brown took his images and photograph the same spots some fifty years later. It was quite the adventure and in the end, we successfully found and photographed most of the locations.

Not long after, I interviewed for a summer job with Tennessee State Parks which ultimately provided many opportunities to meet folks and learn more and more about Roan Mountain. Now, thirty years later, I frequently think about all of the great people I have met, the places my research has taken me, the special stories, and just how truly blessed I have been throughout my life.

When I finished writing Roan Mountain: History of an Appalachian Treasure in August of 2011, I was pleased – and relieved! For on its pages, over thirty years of research came together documenting the story of a mountain loved by so many.



Within this book, it is my hope that my words will help to instill in its readers a love and appreciation of the Roan; a love that will create a desire to protect and preserve this marvelous place for generations to come.

Jennifer Bauer will present *Roan Mountain, History of an Appalachian Treasure* at the Fall Rally’s Friday evening program, Sept. 7th at 7:30. Jennifer is the manager of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area in Elizabethton, TN. She is a founding member of Friends of Roan Mountain and serves as Co-Director of the Spring Naturalists' Rally.



# Xtreme Roan Adventures 2012 Review

— Ken Turner

## "I had a great time"

The fourth annual Xtreme Roan Adventures got off to a great start Friday evening with a Moth Party and Owl Prowl at the amphitheatre at Roan Mountain State Park. Many of the forty people who attended were from the campground and were delighted to have an Adventure added to their evening.

Larry McDaniel hosted the Moth Party which was also part of the National Moth Week. Data records of the moths that attended were sent to the National Moth database.

Mark Hopy of the Southern Appalachian Raptor Research lead the Owl Prowl. His challenge was keeping a large crowd of excited kids quiet so they could hear the cooperative screech owl answer back to his call.



Mark followed up Saturday morning with the Bird Banding Adventure. He successfully netted a juvenile Cardinal and a song sparrow. The Adventurers got to participate in a real life banding. They did the actual recording of the bird's statistics. Two of the kids got to release the birds. I wish you could have heard how excited they were to tell me about releasing the birds out of their hands.

The Bird Banding was just one of the more than sixteen Adventures on Saturday. It was great watching all the kids excitedly rushing from one Adventure to another. So many Adventures to choose from, so many Adventures going on

all around, it was a great.

For lots more great pictures and information of the Xtreme Roan Adventures go to: [www.XtremeRoanAdventures.org](http://www.XtremeRoanAdventures.org)

And mark your calendar for the next Xtreme Roan Adventures: July 26 - 27, 2013.



## Door Prize Donations Welcome!

We are gladly accepting items to be given away as door prizes at our Rally events on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ideas: nature-related books, photos or art; outdoor gear; plants; homemade goodies . . .



**50th Anniversary  
Roan Mountain  
Fall Naturalists' Rally  
Commemorative T-Shirts**  
will be on sale at the rally.  
**\$10 each**

# Searching for Golden-wings

— Chris Coxen, SAHC Field Ecologist

Composed of state, federal, and private partners, the Southern Appalachian Golden-winged Warbler Working Group organized a coordinated “blitz” this spring to survey for Golden-winged Warblers around the Roan. Folks from agencies like the US Forest Service, NC Audubon, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and the TN Wildlife Resources Agency all scammed around land in both North Carolina and Tennessee, searching for previously undocumented Golden-winged Warblers. Until this year, resources had never been devoted to search this extensively for the bird, which has recently been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act due to steady population declines across its range.

Golden-wings nest in shrubby, overgrown fields similar to what you see when old farming fields lay fallow for several years. Called “early successional” habitat, these scrubby environments are increasingly being replaced by development or forest succession- growing into closed canopy forests. Populations of species like Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock are in decline along with a number of other species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians that call this habitat type home. Given the amount of early successional wildlife habitat found in the working farms and grassy balds around the Roan, one would assume that associated species like Golden-wings would have good populations in the region. However, it is only through organized, strategic searches that biologists start to



Hampton Creek Valley

get a better idea where the birds are actually located and how many there are across the landscape.

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy helped this effort by surveying private lands around the Roan. I had the privilege of speaking with landowners in the high-elevation valleys on the Tennessee side of the Roan, obtaining permission to walk their fields and pastures. Everyone was friendly and inviting, though I did get some sideways glances. Admittedly, such a response is unsurprising when a skinny 5’10” man wearing a floppy sun hat, large binoculars, and a faded field vest walks up to a house in a hollow in eastern Tennessee and asks to look for birds on their property.

I found over 30 singing Golden-winged Warbler males around the valleys, which further underlines the significance of the Roan to the population of Southern Appalachian Golden-wings. As expected,

most of the territories are located in pasture grazed by either horses or cattle, near the forested edge of the pasture. Just like in Hampton Creek Cove, these areas show how working farms, when properly managed, can also support a suite of early successional wildlife species. The data gathered this spring should continue to build the case that the Roan deserves continued protection efforts given the abundance of rare plant and animal species found across the massif.

## ***Friends of Roan Mountain Lends a Helping Hand***

In 2012, the Board of Directors of Friends of Roan Mountain approved three grants for worthwhile projects:

- \$1000 was donated to the Baa-tany Goat Project
- \$1000 was donated to Roan Mountain State Park’s Junior Ranger Program
- \$500 was donated to the Golden-winged Warbler Monitoring in High Elevation Balds Communities on Roan Mountain Massif Project

These grants are funded by the donations received at our Door Prize Table at the Naturalists’ Rallies.



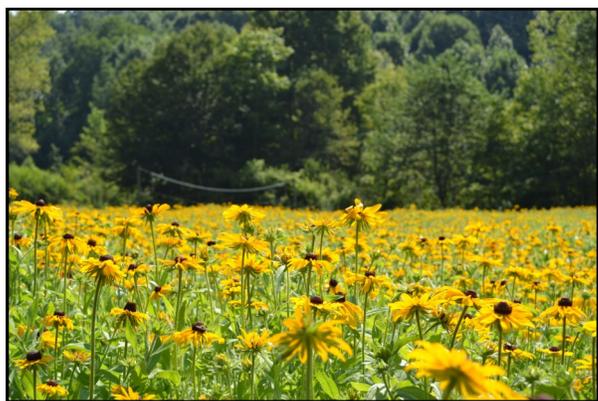
## What's New in the Park?

### Thanks to F.O.R.M. for Support of Junior Ranger Camp 2012

Roan Mountain State Park's Junior Ranger Camp 2012 was a wildly popular and successful event this year, with several of the campers commenting that it was "the best yet!" A lot of hard work and financial support was necessary to develop this camp for children ages 8-12. During the week of July 16-20, 2012, the young Junior Rangers learned life-saving first aid skills that they then put into practice during a mock rescue and litter carry of a "dummy patient." The campers carried the (200 lb!) dummy along the trail out to a waiting ambulance, where they toured the vehicle and talked to a local EMS provider. The Junior Rangers also got to experience a Nature Hike led by TN State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath, meet and greet some reptiles and raptors-- including a Bald Eagle visiting all the way from Reelfoot Lake State Park, and discover many of the interesting aquatic life forms found in the Doe River as they learned about stream ecology. Perhaps the highlight of the camp was the "Junior Ranger Challenge Course," an obstacle course built by park maintenance staff on-site that included balance beams, pipe crawl, scaling wall, slack line, and the grand finale zip line. The whirlwind week of activities concluded with a family dinner at the Conference Center, where the campers received their badges and certificates and became official RMSP Junior Rangers. Thanks to the Friends of Roan Mountain for their generous donation of \$1000 to our park's Junior Ranger Program. Your support is greatly appreciated, and helped Roan Mountain State Park to offer this important event that has had a positive impact on so many young lives.



### Wildflowers and Native Grasses Are Appearing!



Our ongoing conservation project of establishing native warm season grasses and wildflowers on approximately 10 acres of parkland has reached a new stage... the flowers and grasses are up! The conservation plots scattered throughout the park had once appeared blackened and barren due to clearing and burning during the preparatory stages of the project. Now, they are beginning to fill in with native plants such as Partridge Pea, Rumsey Indian Grass, Little Bluestem, and some beautiful blooming Black-eyed Susan. (Be sure to check out the gorgeous display of these yellow blooms in the plot just north of Picnic Shelter 1.) Currently, the fields are being weeded of undesirable species and will be re-seeded to fill in bare spots. During the next phases of the project, the fields will be fenced

with decorative wooden fencing and project signs will be posted. Brochures describing this project are available at Park Headquarters or the Visitors' Center.

## **New Mountain Biking Trail in Progress**

Roan Mountain State Park will soon be amending its trail maps to include the latest addition to our trail system! The route for a new mountain biking trail has been chosen along the east bank of the Doe River, and work is underway to clear the path. The route begins by branching off from the Turkey Trot Trail's southern entrance, with parking available behind the old restaurant area. From there, the mountain biking trail will mostly parallel the river as it winds its way through the forest. A trail junction exists where the new bike trail crosses the Forest Road Trail at Cates' Hole, then the path continues on toward the park boundary near Heaton Creek Road. The proposed route for the new trail will have it concluding at the river access pull-off just south of the Visitors' Center, with plans to eventually cross the river and extend the trail to terminate just behind the Visitors' Center. This trail will provide park visitors an alternative means of travel between the Park Headquarters and the Visitors' Center, encouraging exploration of our park's beauty "off-road." Stay posted... maybe YOU can be amongst the first to ride RMSP's newest trail!

## **Summer Winds Down, but Special Events Continue**

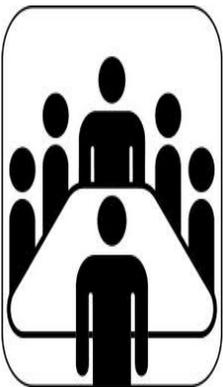
Summer 2012 has been a great season at Roan Mountain State Park, as campers, cabin guests, and day-use visitors came from all over the world to relax and beat the heat amidst the beauty of the Southern Appalachian Highlands. A full schedule of daily interpretive and recreational programs has been offered throughout the summertime to provide quality experiences for our park guests. Although our weekly scheduled programs and events come to an end Labor Day weekend, there is no shortage of special activities planned throughout the remainder of the year. Some events to look forward to include: The Chili Cook-Off on October 6, Autumn Harvest on October 13, the ever-popular Halloween in the Campground on October 27, and Old Time Yule at the Farmstead on November 10. For more information on these and other upcoming events, please call or stop by the Park Headquarters (423) 772-0190. Thanks to Gary Barrigar and the Friends of Roan Mountain for the recent contribution of a new sound system for use at these park programs and events.

## **Ongoing Removal of Exotic Invasive Plants**

In collaboration with East Tennessee State University and a grant provided through the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, non-native invasive plant species such as Japanese Knotweed, Garlic Mustard, and Yellow Flag Iris are being removed from the park by park staff, volunteers, and ETSU students. If you would like to volunteer your time to contribute to the ongoing effort to control these pesky plant invaders, please call Seasonal Interpretive Ranger Meg Guy at Park Headquarters, (423) 772-0190 ext 110.

For more information about Roan Mountain State Park, visit the website at <http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/RoanMtn/>

## **Annual Meeting of Friends of Roan Mountain**



Our annual meeting of the Friends of Roan Mountain will be held during the Fall Naturalists' Rally on Saturday, September 8th at 5:45 p.m. prior to the evening meal. At the meeting you will receive information regarding the activities, projects and finances of the organization. The election of board members will also take place.

The following slate of names has been nominated by the board for this year's election: Aubrie Abernethy, Nancy Barrigar, Jennifer Bauer, David Hall, Guy Mauldin, Larry McDaniel, and Bob Whittemore. Nominations from the floor may be made at the meeting.

Board meetings are scheduled as needed, generally a few weeks prior to the rallies. Any member of FORM is welcome to attend a board meeting or submit an item for the board's consideration by contacting the Friends of Roan Mountain president, Gary Barrigar, 423-543-7576.

The annual meeting also provides an opportunity for the membership to give their input concerning the policies and activities of FORM. Any member wishing to submit an item for the agenda of the annual meeting may do so by contacting Gary Barrigar.

# Between Friends

**Deadline for Rally Meal Reservations** – All dinner and lunch meals must be prepaid. If you plan to eat the catered dinner or purchase a bag lunch at the rally, you must send your check in advance. The deadline is **Tuesday, Sept. 4th**. The reservation form can be found in the brochure or on our website. Mail your check and reservation form to Nancy Barrigar, 708 Allen Avenue, Elizabethton, TN 37643. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in helping us plan accurately!

**Parking at the Rally** – The parking location for all field trips will be in the field below the cabins. Look for our banner.

**Don't keep it quiet** – Invite a friend to the rally!

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR!**



**FRIENDS OF ROAN  
MOUNTAIN  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Ken Turner, Vice President  
Guy Mauldin, Secretary  
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Aubrie Abernethy

Pam Baldwin  
Jennifer Bauer  
Jerry Greer  
David Hall  
Larry McDaniel  
Bob Whittlemore

Spring	First Friday - Sunday in May	May, 2013
Youth	Last Saturday in July	July 28, 2013
Fall	Friday - Sunday in September after Labor Day	Sept. 7- 9, 2012
Winter	Saturday in February nearest Valentine's Day	Feb. 16, 2013



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[nbarrigar@friendsofroanmtn.org](mailto:nbarrigar@friendsofroanmtn.org)



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