



Carolina Mountain Club

*Hike - Save trails -
Make friends*

February 25, 2011

CMC Calendar



Check us out on Facebook.

Upcoming Hikes | Hike Reports | Maintenance Schedule

What's Happening Now	CMC Members to speak on hiking the Smokies
Other Important News	Great Outdoor Initiative Report is Out
Letters	Race is not sanctioned
Conservation	The Wilderness Society
Interview	Meet Dave Wetmore
Heard on the Ground	MST and A.T. sections open for adoption
Heard on the Trail	A proposal to close State Parks two days a week
The Small Print	Deadlines, change of addresses and other details

From Your Editor

From your Editor:

As your eNews editor, I plan to get the eNews out every month on the last Friday of each month.

But for the past couple of years, I've been hiking the [Mountains-to-Sea Trail](#). It's a difficult trail to walk alone, all the way from Clingmans Dome to Jockeys Ridge State Park: <http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/jori/main.php> on the Outer Banks. So whenever I can get others to help me, I plan everything else around it.

The next eNews will come out March 18, a week early - and then I'm off again.

[Danny](#)

What's Happening Now

Five Best Hikes of the Smokies -
Wednesday
March 9 at REI
Asheville

Five CMC members will discuss the pleasures and challenges of walking all the trails in the [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#).



But there's no need to walk **all** the trails to enjoy the Smokies. Find out why the trails in the Smokies are so comfortable and fascinating to hike. (And where can you see this car?)

This program is sponsored by <http://friendsofthesmokies.org/> and the <http://smokiestrailsforever.org/>

Please join us at REI Asheville

DATE: Wednesday March 9

TIME: 7:00pm

PLACE: REI Asheville, 31 Schenck Parkway Asheville - (828) 687-0918

REI Asheville prefers that you register for the program at the [site](#). We'll see you there.

Building the Mountains-to-Sea Trail - Saturday
March 19

Let's continue to build the MST - Saturday March 19

We'll meet at 8:30 A.M. at the Home Depot at the Enka-Candler Exit 44 located off of I-40. As in the past, we will be back in Asheville by 3:00. Please



Enka-Candler Exit 44 located off of I-40. As in the past, we will be back in Asheville by 3:00. Please spread the word and make every effort to attend.

Get all your able-bodied friends and neighbors to come help too. It is for a great cause and everyone will feel so good after putting in a days work constructing new trail! Please spread the word. [Les Love](#).

ATC Partnership Hike

As part of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)'s Southern Partnership Meeting involving clubs from Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia, a hike is planned on a section of the A.T. maintained by CMC.

Meeting Point: Sams Gap

Meeting Time: 11:30, Friday, March 18

Route: Sams Gap to Street Gap and return (4.6 miles, 1,100 ft. elevation gain)

All CMCers are welcome. It's a chance to meet your fellow hikers from other ATC Clubs and our agency partners, and to discuss some of the issues affecting at A.T.

[Lenny Bernstein](#)

CMC Map Reading Course - April 2 - Note the correction to the date

Ever wondered what all those squiggly lines on topo maps are good for?

You can find out at our biennial map-reading course. The course will be held on Saturday, May 2. The class leaders will be Becky Smucker and Dave Wetmore. As usual, it will be an all-day affair with class in the morning and a practical exercise in the afternoon. The emphasis will be on map skills for walking (and finding) trails. New this year will be a discussion of how a GPS unit can supplement a paper map.

The class size will be limited to 12 people. For more information or to register for the class, contact Dave Wetmore at dwetmore@comporium.net



Conservancy Biennial Conference

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, July 1 to Friday July 8 2011

One last time!

Sign up for the 38th ATC Biennial Conference. All the details are at www.virginia2011.org

Note that online registration opens on **March 1**. There is a nice discount for those who register early and register online. See the [registration site](#)

Spring Weekend in the Smokies - April 15, 16, 17

Come on a CMC weekend at a group campsite with pavilion in Cades Cove Campground in the Smokies from noon on Friday to noon on Sunday.

A moderate wildflower hike and an alternate strenuous hike to the A.T. will be led on Saturday.

Another wildflower hike on a different trail will be led on Sunday.



Campground is for tents only with a limit of 30 campers. The cost is \$4.50 per person, payable at the campground.

Campers need to bring their own food, beverages, tents, and personal gear. There are flush toilets and sinks with cold water but no showers.

To reserve your spot for an early spring weekend with other outdoor enthusiasts, call or email Janet Martin, jaykaymartin@msn.com or call 502 494 9309.

Great Outdoor Initiative Report is Out, Finally

Last July, several CMC members attended a Great Outdoor Initiative Listening Session at A-B Tech in Asheville. Now the report is out. Here is what Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior had to say:

The report is the outcome of the national conversation about conserving our lands. Together with other senior Administration officials, we held 51 public listening sessions across the country—21 specifically with youth. Some 10,000 Americans joined these sessions in person, and we heard from more than 100,000 people through written comments. The report reflects the American people's ideas about how the Federal Government can better support the many communities, farmers and ranchers, businesses, conservationists, youth, and others who are working to protect

the places that matter most to them.

The report can be found at <http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/>

Volunteer to work at Clingmans Dome in the Smokies

Want to become a volunteer in the Smokies, wear a uniform and help visitors figure out where they are?

Great Smoky Mountains National Park: <http://www.nps.gov/grsm> is recruiting volunteers to help staff the visitor contact station at Clingmans Dome when it opens on Friday, April 1.



Volunteers are needed to assist in educating visitors about the Park and providing recreational and trip planning information and directions to other destinations. You get to walk up to the Dome Tower as part of your shift.

Volunteers will be working alongside GSMA employees and each volunteer is asked to work at least one 4-hour shift per week at the information desk and roving the trail to the Dome Tower. The hours will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April – November. If you're interested, you need to attend one of two 5-hour orientation and training sessions which will be given: March 10 at the Sugarlands Training Room near Gatlinburg, Tenn.; and **March 19** at the Waynesville Library, in Waynesville, N.C.

To register for the training or for more information, contact the Oconaluftee Visitor Center at 828/497-1904

CMC Spring Social on Saturday April 23

The sixth annual Spring Barbeque will be held in the beautiful <http://www.ncarboretum.org/> on Saturday, April 23, from 2:30 until 8:30.

This year, our own member, Dwight McCarter, retired Great Smoky Mountains National Park ranger and author of *Lost!*, will be our after dinner speaker.

See all the details [and sign up](#).

Letters

Race needs a permit

I note you have commented on the proposed Curtis Fibrosis Foundation's "Extreme

Hike for the Cure” in the CMC newsletter. Their organization has been advertising this hike on the A.T. despite repeated warnings from the USFS that they must not advertise use of USFS trails until a permit is approved. A second organization promoting fund raising for pediatric cancer research has applied for a similar hike the following month, also in the Roan Highlands.

Specifically, the USFS, ATC, Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club and NPS A.T. Park Office have opposed use of the A.T. for these two fund raising efforts, defined by the USFS as a commercial venture owing to the fund raising.

The Forest Plans for the Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests do not allow for such a use on the A.T., nor does the A.T. Comprehensive Plan. The USFS has not precluded use of national forest land for this purpose on trails other than the A.T. and has been working with the two foundations to find other suitable locations, though the foundations remain intent on using the A.T., which they did last year without a special use permit. It is also useful to point out that neither the ATC nor A.T. maintaining clubs use the physical A.T. for fundraising.

[Morgan Sommerville](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/), Regional Director, <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/>

Interview



Meet Dave Wetmore by Danny Bernstein

Dave Wetmore, 75 years old, is a Nebraskan through and through.

He was born in Stella, NE (pop, 200 at the 2000 census), about 100 miles from Omaha. He met his wife Ruthie in Nebraska and he plans on being buried in Nebraska.

“I have deep roots in Nebraska. I’m related to a lot of people in Nebraska, including the present governor.”

Dave was always an outdoor person. As a child, he would collect cardboard boxes and make them into forts and sleep in them in their backyard.

After getting a PhD in Chemistry at Texas A&M, he went to work for Sun Oil in the suburbs of Philadelphia. “Coming from a small town, I felt I needed to be in a megapolis for a couple of years. That was part of my education.”

Read about this quintessential hiker who has done the SB6K, the Smokies 900M and the Pisgah 400.

Read the whole interview:

<http://www.carolinamountainclub.org/index.cfm/do/assets.download/AID/702e2857-201d-4044-8eac-ee3d3417e948>

Conservation News

Meet the Wilderness Society by the CMC Conservation Committee

The Wilderness Society's mission is to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Since its founding in 1935, The Wilderness Society has led the effort to permanently protect nearly 110 million acres in 44 states as designated Wilderness.

The Wilderness Society's southern Appalachian office works in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee to protect National Forest lands. TWS has recently published *North Carolina's Mountain Treasures*, which focuses on seven conservation areas totaling over 300,000 acres. The Wilderness Society wants these conservation areas protected at high levels when the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest Management Plan is revised. The Carolina Mountain Club has endorsed the publication, along with over 40 other North Carolina organizations. The publication will be used as a citizen's guide during the management plan revision process.

TWS is also working to launch the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS), which assists trail clubs with trail maintenance in designated Wilderness. SAWS will be hosting a two week Wilderness Trails Summit in May, where attendees will become certified in crosscut saw use, wilderness first aid, and Leave No Trace. There will be four crews working for five weeks doing trail work following the completion of the workshop.

The southern Appalachian office has two full time staff, Brent Martin and Jill Gottesman, in Sylva, NC, and one full time contract employee, Bill Hodge. Brent is the Southern Appalachian Program Director and a hike leader with CMC. Jill is Outreach Coordinator, and works on a variety of community and forest programs. Bill works full time for SAWS in Coker Creek, TN. They are currently working on the first Wilderness bill in NC since 1984. The bill will protect the Craggy Mountains and Overflow Creek Wilderness Study Areas. CMC has endorsed upgrading the Craggy Mountain Wilderness Study Area to designated Wilderness.

The Wilderness Society website is <http://www.wilderness.org/> and Brent, Jill, and Bill can be reached at: brent_martin@tw.s.org, jill_gottesman@tw.s.org, billhodge10@gmail.com.

Heard on the Ground

MST sections for adoption

1. Doubletop to Old Bald access - Length is 1.1 miles
2. Richland Gap Access to Richland Balsam Access (Three trees) - 1.2 miles

3. Bear Pen Gap Access to Haywood Gap - 2 miles

If you're interested, contact Larry Sobil at lsobil@bellsouth.net

A.T. sections for adoption

2150 Garenflo Gap to Deer Mountain Shelter (3.4 miles)

If you're interested, contact Tim Carrigan, 828-398-4211 before 6:00 PM or email ATSupervisor@carolinamountainclub.org.

Heard on the Trail

A Proposal to close North Carolina State Parks two days a week.

Under the budget [Governor Perdue](#) presented this week, most state parks in North Carolina would close on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. In our area, that would affect Gorges SP, Lake James SP, Grandfather Mountain SP. South Mountain SP.

For contractual reason, Chimney Rock and Mt. Mitchell are not affected. [Danny](#)

The Small Print

The eNews comes out on the last Friday of the month - except for this coming month.

*So ... The next issue will come out on **Friday, March 18**. Wednesday hike reports for the hike just before the eNews comes out will be published in the next eNews.*

Hiker leaders, please send all your eNews hike reports and photos to Dave Wetmore at dwetmore@citcom.net

Please see [How to write a hike report](#).

*So send me your news and maintenance reports by Tuesday evening at 9 P.M. before the newsletter comes out, that is, by **Tuesday evening March 15** to Danny Bernstein at danny@hikertohiker.com. Include your email address at the end of your story. Thank you.*

The CMC Calendar is meant to answer the perennial question "When is this happening again?" It is also meant to prevent conflicts between competing CMC events. Please check it often.

Westgate parking - Park in the **northernmost part of the lot** - past EarthFare, in the last row of parking spaces.

How to join the Carolina Mountain Club

1. Go to www.carolinamountainclub.org

2. Click on “How to Join” (upper-left on web page)
3. Print out the “CMC Application Form”
4. Fill it Out, write a check for your dues and ...5. Mail to CMC, PO Box 68, Asheville NC 28802

For CMC members only - Send all address and email changes to Gale O'Neal at gogalemail@gmail.com. Do not resubscribe yourself to the eNews. That will be done automatically.

If you are a non-member subscriber, you need to go back to the CMC home page > News >Subscribe and change it there yourself.