



Carolina Mountain Club

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The Ageless Adventurer -- Again

By Chris Slater

Carroll's done it again - the ageless adventurer will share his travels and travails on Via Tolosana/Le Chemin d'Arles, the main southern pilgrimage route in France which was part of the medieval connection between Santiago and Rome. Carroll will take us from Arles to Oloron-Saint-Marie, then Chris Slater will continue the story across the Pyrenees at Somport and onward on the Camino aragonés.

Date: Monday, February 1, 2016

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: Asheville REI at 31 Schenck Parkway 828-687-0918



Celebrate the National Park Service Centennial and "Hike 100"

Great Smoky Mountains News Release

In celebration of the National Park Service Centennial, Superintendent Cassius Cash has committed to hike 100 miles in Great Smoky Mountains National Park during 2016 and is challenging the public to do the same. The 100-mile goal is part of the "Smokies Centennial Challenge-Hike 100" program. This program aims to inspire all potential hikers-young and old, new and skilled-to experience and gain a new appreciation and stewardship for their national park.



Mountain Farm Museum



Cowpens National Battlefield, SC

Trail of Tears and Overmountain Victory National Historic Trails Take pictures for our slide show at the Spring Social By Danny Bernstein

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail commemorates the forced removal of the Cherokee people from the Southeast to what is now Oklahoma. The current historic trail stretches over five thousand miles, across nine states, along three major land routes and a water route.

You can walk it, but it's not a hiking trail. Rather, it's a series of certified sites such as museums, state parks, conservation associations, and even private homes. In our general area, we can find Trail of Tears sites at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian (<http://www.cherokeemuseum.org/>) in Cherokee, the Mountain Farm Museum in the Smokies and the Junaluska Memorial and Museum in Robbinsville. The Museum of the Cherokee Indian focuses much of its space on Cherokee removal. See www.nps.gov/trte.

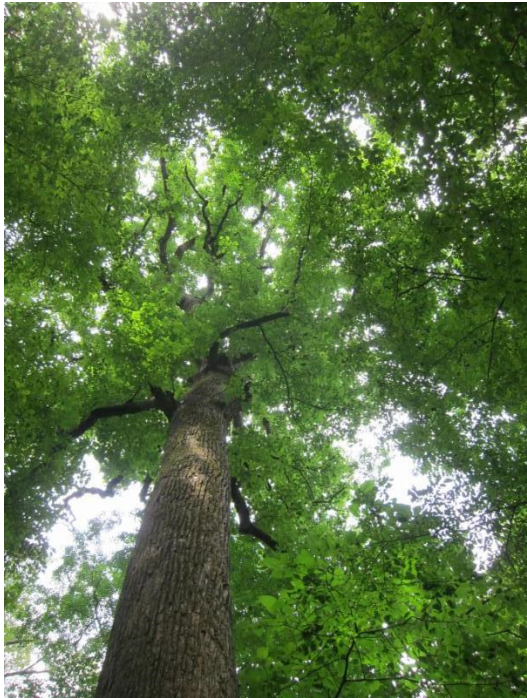
The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVVI) traces the route used by patriot militia during the Kings Mountain campaign of 1780, ending in a Revolutionary War victory at Kings Mountain National Military Park (www.nps.gov/kimo). The trail stretches for 330 miles through Virginia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina. CMC hikers are most likely to have walked a small section of OVVI at Yellow Mountain Gap in Avery County or stayed at the Overmountain Shelter on the A.T., affectionately known as The Barn. East of Bald Knob on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, you'll also find a small piece of marked OVVI trail.

If you want to follow the end of the story, walk 1.5 miles on the Green River Rd. to Cowpens National Battlefield (www.nps.gov/cowp), SC, less than an hour-and-a-half from Asheville and a little further to Kings Mountain (www.nps.gov/kimo) where you can walk the battlefield. See www.nps.gov/ovvi.

(Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of articles featuring the six National Park units that will be celebrated at our Spring Social in April.

Early development of the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, CMC Minutes, October 3, 1935

By Rocko Smucker



CMC History Briefs:

Dr. (Gaillard) Tennent told of talking with a friend about four or five years ago about a tract of timber of the water of Santeetlah Lake in Graham County which is the finest piece of virgin hardwood timber in America, which tract he wishes to see preserved. About two years ago he talked with Mr. Silcox about this tract, suggesting that they buy this forest land. The Regional Forester called on Dr. Tennent to get permission for crewsers (sic) to inspect this tract. It was their opinion that it was the finest tract of virgin timber in America. The government has agreed to buy 13,000 acres of this tract which will be preserved without roads or trails, except for one small trail to provide access to the tract. Two letters were then read from Mr. Joseph C. Kircher, Regional Forester, in which he told of plans to buy this land.

For this month's History Feature:
Carolina Appalachian Trail Club Hikes, 1931 ,

go to: <http://rockocmchistory.blogspot.com/>



**Hiking Guides for Blue Ridge Hiking
Company (Asheville)**

Blue Ridge Hiking Company (www.blueridgehikingco.com) is looking for enthusiastic, outgoing trail lovers to serve as contract guides for our 2016 season. Trips take place on the Mountains to Sea Trail, the Appalachian Trail, the Art Loeb Trail, and other trails in Pisgah National Forest, which surrounds Asheville.



Heading to Minnies Lake



Cabin on Floyd's Island SC

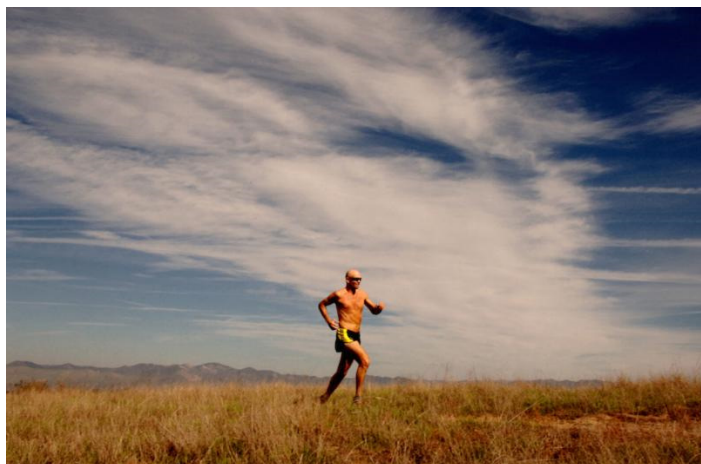
Canoeing in the Okefenokee Swamp

By Kathy Kyle

Eight CMC hikers recently took up paddles and canoes and toured 21 miles of swamp in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. There was no elevation gain that we noticed, but the black water was alive with wildlife. The swamp is one of the biggest in North America and is an oasis in southern Georgia.

The swamp showed us its finest during our paddle. Alligators stared at us from logs. Otters flip flopped in the water. Ibis flew overhead and barred owls called during the night.

Daisy Teng Karasek, Paul Benson, Kathleen Hannigan, Tish Desjardins, Eloise Kaeck, Bob Hysko, Michael Cornn and I went on the trip. The first night we slept in an old hunting cabin built by one of the sons of a founder of a lumber company. Its memories were documented on the wall. Florida boy scouts had made several trips to rebuild the chimney. A bobcat was honored with a picture and written sentiments. Even a white "swamp" terrier was remembered fondly. Its picture hung on the wall. ! The trails were a mixture of wide river, smaller marsh areas and narrow serpentine trails where we had to paddle single file. Some of us had never canoe camped and were landlubbers. Others were more experienced - the sea dogs of the trip. We all followed the rules of staying dry and not flipping our canoes. ! There was a privy along the way for use. We had to share one platform with a privy at Minnies Lake with about 35 boy scouts. We had been warned there may be many boy scouts. The only other people we saw were young families touring parts of the swamp in small motor boats. Motor boats were not allowed on all trails. During the night, it was so dark because of the cloud cover I experienced swamp blindness. ! The second day we paddled 10.2 miles to Mixons Hammock where we camped amidst Saw Palmetto. The night was clear but cold and we were able to do some stargazing. Both nights we built a fire. In the morning we saw a red shouldered hawk before we loaded up and pushed off shore and paddled back to Stephen C. Foster State Park where we had started. ! The drive back was the most dismal. The land surrounding the refuge is marked by what looks like slash-and-burn operations more reminiscent of a third-world country. ! The cost to stay in the canoe campsites is \$15 per night per person. Canoes cost \$50 per day. The drive took about 8 hours from Hendersonville to Stephen C. Foster State Park where we camped and then started our trip the next day.



"RUN FREE: THE TRUE STORY OF CABALLO BLANCO" TO PREMIERE IN ASHEVILLE

This feature-length documentary about ultra-running legend Micah True, will screen at Carolina Cinemas in Asheville on Monday, February 29 at 7:30 p.m. The one-night-only event is sponsored by the Asheville Track Club.

Tickets are available online at www.imathlete.com/events/runfree for \$12 and they will be \$15 at the door the night of the show.

Correction to the November eNews article titled "Be Part of the Entertainment at the Spring Social."
By Bobbi Powers

Besides the guidelines for the slide show, I wrote about Carl Sandburg National Historic Site. During the Nov. 15 hike at that site, the hike leader told us there were 3 mature chestnut trees near the house. He later told me he had been misinformed. The huge trees are elms.



Send eNews articles to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org

The newsletter will go out the last Friday of every month. The deadline to submit news is the Friday before it goes out.

The next issue will come out on Friday, February 26, so send your news by Friday, February 19, to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Include your email address at the end of your story. Thank you.

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

To join Carolina Mountain Club go to: www.carolinamountainclub.org. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side. Follow the instructions. 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 eNews and make the change yourself.

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