

From: Carolina Mountain Club <enews@carolinamountainclub.org>

Subject: January 2017 eNews

Preheader: Plan Now for Spring Camporee & MST Celebration

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Carolina Mountain Club

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January 2017

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SPRING MOUNTAIN TREASURES CAMPOREE

by Kathy Kyle

Register now for the spring Mountain Treasures Camporee. The camporee will be held Friday, May 5, to Sunday, May 7, at Standing Indian near Franklin, NC. A variety of hikes will be offered Saturday and Sunday. Dinner will be shared Saturday night.



The cost for a campsite is \$10 per person for two nights. Barbecue will be offered at a minimal cost on Saturday. Please bring a side dish, dessert or appetizer. Send \$10 to Bev Macdowell to reserve a space. Her address is 166 Mt. Royal Drive, Arden NC 28704.

When you send in your reservation, indicate if you want barbecue and what you plan to bring Saturday night. Include your name and email address.

The CMC camporees are held to recognize the importance of North Carolina's Mountain Treasures. The North Carolina's Mountain Treasures are 41 areas within our Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests that stand out with special conservation, recreation, scenic, and cultural values. The United States Forest Service is now revising the management plan for our public forests in Western North Carolina. The current evaluation of Potential Wilderness Areas (PWAs) is our opportunity to gain better protection for these valuable places



Price of Senior Pass Going to \$80. Buy it Now for \$10.

by Bruce Bente

If you don't have your Senior Pass yet, get it NOW!! Price currently \$10, increasing to \$80. Carl Sandburg sells them.

America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Senior Pass - \$10

This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder +3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas. Children under 16 are admitted free. The pass can only be obtained in person at the park.

Park Requests Public Input on Draft Corridor Management Plan for Newfound Gap Road

GSMNP News Release

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is seeking the public's input on a draft corridor management plan for Newfound Gap Road. The development of the plan is required for park officials to seek designation for the road as a National Scenic Byway which opens up opportunities to the park and gateway communities to compete for special grants that enhance the travel corridor.



The draft Newfound Gap Road Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan has been posted on the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website for public review and comment at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/grsm> Comments received during the 30-day review period, ending February 24, 2017, will be considered in the development of the final plan.



Friends of the MST Activities

By Danny Bernstein

The Mountains-to-Sea Trail turns forty years old in 2017. And [Friends of the MST](#) (Friends) is celebrating in several ways. Since CMC maintains 150 miles of the MST, we should

celebrate as well.

Friday, March 24 to Sunday, March 26, 2017

Friends of the MST is planning a weekend of hikes, excursions, talks, and discussions in Elkin. This is a chance for CMC members to meet folks from all over the state and beyond, celebrate CMC's MST-related accomplishments, and plan for the future. Jennifer Pharr Davis, a CMC member and the A.T. speed record holder, will be the keynote speaker. We're also going to hike in an area new to most CMC members.



Elkin is only two hours from Asheville, the closest that the Friends of the MST annual meeting has ever been held for most CMC members. Elkin is the quintessential small town with big plans, dreams, and energy. The [Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail](#) (OVVI) starts its eastern spur in town. Elkin has worked hard to bring the MST through their town.



Park Sets Visitation Record in 2016

GSMNP News Release

Great Smoky Mountains National Park welcomed over eleven million visitors in 2016. Throughout the year, the park encouraged people to experience the park in honor of the National Park Service Centennial. In 2016, a record 11,312,785 people visited the national park, a 5.6% increase over 2015. In addition, over 2,200 people joined Superintendent Cassius Cash by completing the Smokies Centennial Hike 100 challenge by exploring 100 miles of park trails.

"I continue to be inspired by the number of people enjoying the park, but more importantly, I am moved by their unwavering support and care for this special place," said Superintendent Cash. "This support is more critical than ever since we have entered into our second century of service and recovery following the Chimney Tops fire. The response of the Smoky Mountains community, both near and far, has been remarkable and we thank you."

In 2016, over 2,230 park volunteers donated over 117,000 hours of service. These volunteers provided much needed help across the park including trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, and providing visitor information along trails, at visitor centers, and in campgrounds. Front country camping at the park's developed campgrounds increased to 327,033 campers, up 3.1% over 2015. In addition, backcountry camping also increased with over 109,344 campers spending a night at one of the park's backcountry campsites or shelters, up 12% over 2015.



Send eNews articles to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org

The newsletter usually goes out the last Friday of every month.

The next issue will come out on Friday, February 24, but send your news by Friday, February 17, 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 Dennis Bass at dbass3607@gmail.com. Do not resubscribe yourself to the eNews. That will be done automatically.

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