

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

**Subject:** December 2016 eNews

**Preheader:** Get Ready for 2017!

**Reply:** enews@carolinamountainclub.org



**Carolina Mountain Club**

*Since 1923*

**eNews** | Hike . Save Trails . Make Friends

December 2016

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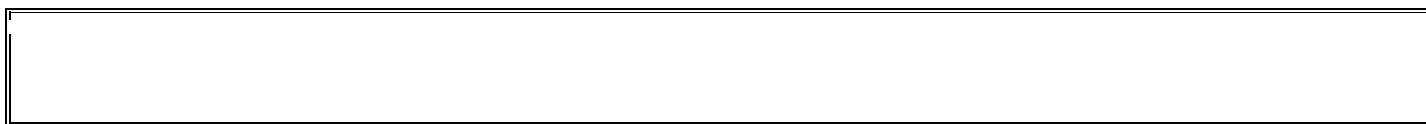
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## *Love Pisgah?*

**HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE**

FOR US TO START OFFERING LICENSE PLATES SUPPORTING PISGAH WE NEED 500 PEOPLE TO REGISTER FOR THEM AT NO UP-FRONT COST TO YOU!

WHEN YOUR PLATE IS RENEWED EITHER KEEP IT FOR A \$30 ANNUAL FEE (\$30 OF WHICH GOES TO THE PISGAH CONSERVANCY) OR CANCEL IT.

PISGAH

*Pride*

*Please help us get started!*



Preserving the natural resources and scenic beauty of Pisgah and extending the recreational experience of all its visitors. [PisgahConservancy.org](http://PisgahConservancy.org)

## **PISGAH CONSERVANCY LICENSE PLATE**

by **Barbara Morgan**

John Cottingham, Executive Director of The Pisgah Conservancy (TCP), is seeking to get TPC qualified to offer a NEW Pisgah Conservancy specialty license plate. He's aware that many of you already have specialty plates and doesn't want to detract from that. To help get the required number of applications (500) for the state to start offering the plate, he's made a significant offer. For each CMC member who completes an application before February 1, 2017, TCP (through TCP donors) will pay the initial \$30 annual fee and will donate \$10 to the club! TPC will get \$20 from each plate sold in the future, and as we're working cooperatively with them on projects in Pisgah, what helps them helps us as well. For more information, read the FAQs sheet and see the graphic, which are attached. To apply, print the attached application and instruction sheet, fill it in completely, sign and date it, and mail it to the address in the instructions. Also, be sure to write "CMC" on the back of the envelope, so we can get credit for the club. You can also download the application from [www.pisgahconservancy.org](http://www.pisgahconservancy.org)



## **FOREST TRAILS BILL BECOMES LAW**

**(from the American Hiking Society)**

In a big win for hikers, President Obama signed the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act into law at the end of November. This is wonderful news for America's hikers and hiking trails and is the result of significant effort by American Hiking Society and our partners.

In 2013, a study of U.S. Forest Service trails revealed a \$314 million backlog in trail maintenance, and that only one fourth of all Forest Service trails met the agency's standards for trail maintenance. Having more miles of trails (158,000) than any other federal agency, the U.S. Forest Service trail maintenance backlog has been a significant concern to American Hiking Society and our members. This new law will help address the backlog, restore trails that are either closed or on the cusp of closing, and connect more Americans with their public lands.

### **FOREST TRAILS BILL BECOMES LAW**

Chief among the measures included in the law is the requirement that the U.S. Forest Service develop a strategy that would increase the role of partners and volunteers in trail maintenance. Such a strategy would build on the already successful volunteer efforts that are on-going in National Forests and would likely increase Americans' connection to these spectacular natural resources. While the Forest Service does currently use volunteers to help maintain their trails, such a program as envisioned in the law would involve a more strategic and methodical approach to increasing and enhancing this valued resource.

Additionally, the law requires the U.S. Forest Service to identify 9-15 priority landscapes for increased trail maintenance using volunteers where appropriate. This effort would ensure that those areas most in need would receive additional attention to address those needs.

## Significant Changes Planned For Pisgah Forest Entrance

(Article from The Transylvania Times, Dec. 8, 2016)

Though still several years away, big changes for the highway entrance to Pisgah National Forest are in the works.

Three applications for funding approval have been submitted, and N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) officials expect to get answers this coming spring.

The first project is the construction of two south-bound lanes on U.S. 276 from Avery Creek Road to the intersection of N.C. 280 and U.S. 64 in Pisgah Forest.

The riding stables are located on Avery Creek Road.



## 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.

!

Highlights of the MST Gathering of Friends include:

- \* The keynote by Jennifer. She will also hike and publicize the MST in 2017.
- \* Hiking in Stone Mountain State Park, Devils Garden and other MST places new to most CMCers
- \* Paddling on the Yadkin Valley
- \* Mountain Biking Clinic. REI will supply the bikes
- \*

#### Hiking Boot Gala

on Friday evening with dinner, music and fellowship

- \* Winery and Brewery Tours, and ...

The activity I'm most anticipating,

An encampment and portrayal of the NC sixth regiment who participated in the Overmountain Victory during the Revolutionary War. They will also lead a short hike on the OVVI.

!

If you're not a member of Friends of the MST, join here

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You'll be notified when registration opens up. Lodging includes motel, cabins, and camping.

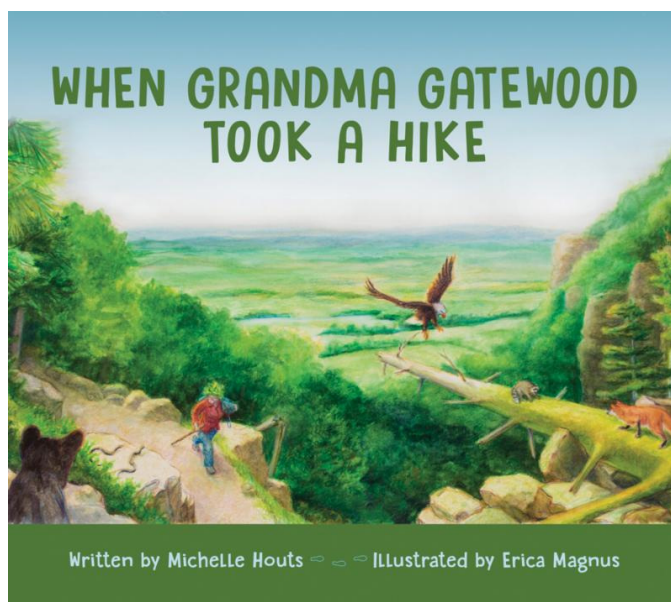
Saturday September 9, 2017

On that day, hundreds of trail enthusiasts will each walk or paddle a portion of the trail so that, through our collective efforts, 100% of the trail will be covered in a single day.

CMC is participating in a big way, covering the MST from Waterrock Knob to Black Mountain Campground. Whether you're a half-day hiker (4 to 6 miles), three-quarter day hiker (6 to 8 miles) or all-day hiker (8 miles to whatever), you need to join in this huge undertaking.

!

Marcia Bromberg is coordinating this effort. Commit yourself to hiking that day and watch the eNews for more information.



**Reviewed By Danny Bernstein**

Emma (Grandma) Gatewood was not the first woman to thru-hike the A.T. but she was the first woman to do it by herself. She's now a legend, though Appalachian Trail hikers knew about her for decades.

What made Gatewood an influential figure is that she did it first when she was 67 years old in 1955. Less than two years later, she did it again.

So for all the folks who say that they are too old, you need to envision a woman with no hiking experience, little money for good equipment and, most importantly, no A.T. community. She had to figure out the logistics all by herself. Look up the listings of 2000-milers on the [Appalachian Trail Conservancy website for the 1950s](#). It's fascinating.

She was also the first thru-hiker to attract a great deal of national publicity. She inspired the next generation of A.T. hikers, including me. Gatewood didn't come from the high peaks of Colorado or New Hampshire. Instead, she was from a farm in Southeast Ohio.

When Grandma Gatewood Took a Hike  
reviewed by Danny Bernstein

!  
!

Now comes a sweet children's book,  
When Grandma Gatewood Took a Hike  
, by Michelle  
Houts and illustrated by Erica Magnus, published by  
Ohio University Press  
. The book is  
aimed at the four- to eight-year-  
old market.

!

I loved the writing. Yes, it's simple as a child's book should be but it doesn't mince words. Gatewood had difficulties. She dealt with black flies. She got lost and, what is the most fearful to me, she broke her glasses. Her first attempt was a failure but she persevered – the most important part of hiking any long-distance trail.

!

The pictures also didn't pretty up Gatewood. She was a farm woman in her sixties and the drawings show her as dumpy with gray hair. Yeah! That didn't stop her from hiking and enjoying the fame she gathered on her walks.

!

For some reason, the book is much cheaper on the publisher's website than on the large online retailer. Get a copy or three for the children (boy or girl) on your list. Enjoy!



Send eNews articles to [eNews@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:eNews@carolinamountainclub.org)

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

The next issue will come out on Friday, January 27, but send your news by Friday, January 20, to [eNews@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:dbass3607@gmail.com). Do not resubscribe yourself to the eNews. That will be done automatically.

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