

## Meet Paul Curtin, CMC's New AT Maintenance Supervisor

One of the key positions for CMC's trail maintenance program is the supervisor of all 32 sections of the Appalachian Trail that CMC is responsible for maintaining. Recently, after a decade of volunteering in this capacity, Tim Carrigan has retired. Fortunately for CMC, Paul Curtin has agreed to serve.

Here is an interview with Paul and Ann Hendrickson:

*Paul, welcome to WNC, CMC, and the CMC Trail Crew! As a newcomer to the area and CMC, I am sure that people are curious as to what brought you to our mountains and to CMC. Can you give us some insight?* "I discovered this area when I came through as part of my thru hike of the AT in 2015. My old friend Tom Weaver showed us around and we were really impressed. Nothing in Ohio looks like this!"

*I have experienced first-hand what an excellent addition you are to the Asheville Friday Crew. I know you have accepted an assignment as a Section Maintainer for both the MST and the AT. Why, first of all do you feel you are qualified to take on the role as the AT Maintenance Supervisor, and why would you take on such a big role for the club?* "Thanks, I am learning from the best! I can bring some recent perspective from the whole trail and understand well what hikers need physically and emotionally from the AT. I always knew I wanted to give back in a big way to the AT and I was thrilled to be asked to take on a role where I could make a significant contribution. It's an honor and a privilege to be able to serve in this way."

*The role of the AT Supervisor is integral to the club. As a club, our priority is to maintain 93 miles of the trail (the AT is our first maintenance priority), including several shelters. Can you outline your role, what your priorities are, and how "we" members can help you? What can AT Section Maintainers do to improve?* "The first priority is to make sure we have qualified and motivated maintainers for each of our 32 sections of trail, and to quickly assign replacements when needed. I also have to make sure our maintainers know what they need to do, when to do it, are trained to do the work and have the right tools and resources. The role is an advocate for getting work done on the AT by our trail crews, and I set short, medium, and long term goals for improvements required to keep the trail to the standards set by the ATC. My main priorities for 2018 are to assess our 93 miles to determine where the most attention is needed and to spread the influence of some of our more experienced and dedicated maintainers. We are going to use them to monitor 10 to 12 mile sections of trail and work closely with our maintainers, especially when new maintainers come on board. Getting that structure in place will take our AT maintenance to a new level. I would like to work with each maintainer to understand how they see their section and what their needs and ideas are. One priority section we know for sure we want to make a big impact on in 2018 is Max Patch, to restore it to what it should be. Every CMC member can help by writing trail issue reports when they hike the AT or any CMC trail. It helps



to have more eyes out there. We will also be organizing some overnight/weekend maintenance crews to address some of the more remote sections this summer; anyone can help out with that.”

Anyone interested in becoming an AT Section Maintainer (or for more information) should contact Paul at: [atsupervisor@carolinamountianclub.org](mailto:atsupervisor@carolinamountianclub.org). We are eager to commence an exciting year on the AT maintenance schedule. Watch for opportunities to participate!