



# Carolina Mountain Club

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## Carolina Mountain Club voted Number 1.

by Danny Bernstein



CMC was voted the number one (yes, no. 1) Hiking Club or Group in this year's Mountain Xpress "Best of WNC". Look at pg. 36 of Part Two of the Best of WNC 2020 X Awards.

With over 200 scheduled hikes every year, nine trail maintenance crews, and a diverse Youth Challenge program, is it any wonder that we're the number 1 hiking club?

The more surprising thing is that there were no other clubs mentioned - no number 2 or 3. Are we unbeatable? With so many other informal hiking groups popping up, I'm sure we'll have more competition. So let's keep voting CMC number 1.

By the way, if you're curious, the following trails were voted the best:

For Day hike:

1. Black Balsam Knob
2. Max Patch
3. Graveyard Fields

And for Backpacking overnight hike:

1. Art Loeb Trail
2. A.T. from Hot Springs to Max Patch

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## HOLD THE DATE

## Carolina Mountain Club's annual meeting goes virtual November 6 @ 6:00 PM

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, we have chosen to hold our annual meeting on the Zoom video platform. After looking at our options, club leadership determined this was our best option.

The meeting will be held on Friday, November 6th at 6:00 PM. More information will be sent as the date comes closer. You will receive logon information for the meeting when you register.

Note: Danny Bernstein is offering her new book, *DuPont Forest: A History*, as a raffle prize.

Tom Weaver

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### DuPont Forest, A History by Danny Bernstein

Book Review by Steve Pierce, CMC Member

If you are a CMC hiker, you undoubtedly know Danny Bernstein and her passion for hiking. You may be familiar with books she has authored detailing hikes on trails in Western North Carolina and statewide. Her newest book is a departure from her previous books. At heart, *DuPont Forest, A History* is just that, the history of the place we now call the DuPont State Recreational Forest. Danny tells the story of the land and the people who have shaped it. In a sense it is a memoir of the land of waterfalls and forests shaped by people over time. It is the story of how a large corporation built an industrial site in a pristine mountain setting and made it available to employees and their families for recreation, and how that site came to be the forest we know today.

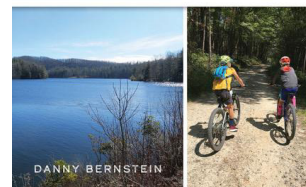
There is a personal connection in this story for me. I grew up in Wilmington, Delaware and my father worked for the DuPont Corporation. It was the largest employer and there were multiple industrial sites and R&D facilities in the greater Wilmington area. I associated DuPont with sprawling industrial facilities with copious amounts of industrial waste; quite a contrast to the DuPont plant near Brevard in a rural setting. That was one of many lessons I learned from Danny's book. The book traces the history of the land, the indigenous people and early settlers, early settlements and farms, and the establishment of lodges such as the Buck Forest Lodge and camps popular in the area. Much of this history is told in the words of people Danny interviewed, from people who visited Buck Forest Lodge and summer camps, to the workers and their family members recalling the days when the DuPont facility was operating. It is through their words that the story comes alive. Today, one can hike in the forest and not really know that at its center was a factory that was established in the 1950s until its ultimate closure by Agfa in 2002. What is evident and is told so well in the book is the relationship between the DuPont Corporation and the land surrounding the factory. DuPont took an active role from the beginning in preserving the natural state of the land they controlled. This is especially evident in the words of former employees and family members interviewed to tell this story. What many of us do remember is how this tract we call the DuPont forest almost fell into private hands. The book covers this controversial time well with first-hand interviews with the key players in seeing that the land become property of the State of North Carolina under the control of the NC Forest Service. Had many people not stepped up at that time, there would be little public access to the forest and waterfalls we have come to love.

And Stuart English writes:

Danny Bernstein has written several books about hiking in Western North Carolina, hiking the Mountains to Sea Trail, and some National Parks. But this, I think, is her most ambitious work and maybe her best.



### DuPont Forest *A History*



I am a native to WNC and have lived here all my life. But Danny knows the area much better than me or any other native I know. This is simply because she has made it her business to do so.

The DuPont book tells the complicated story of how a former industrial site was saved from development to become DuPont State Recreational forest. It is obvious the tremendous amount of research and active interviewing and leg work that went into this. If you live in WNC and have ever visited DuPont, you need to read this book. If you do not live here and have not visited the park; well you still do. Trust me.



The eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month. Send your news to [eNews@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:eNews@carolinamountainclub.org). Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words. You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments.

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). Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.

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