



Carolina Mountain Club

Since 1923

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November 2022

CMC Search and Rescue Crew

The CMC Search and Rescue Crew will be welcoming new recruits with an all-day training and information event on Saturday, November 5, 2022. If you are interested in joining the SAR Crew this will be the last opportunity until next summer to begin that process. Contact the SAR crew directors via email at (SAR@carolinamountainclub.org) for more information.



CAUTION HIKERS! IT'S BEAR HUNTING SEASON

The 2022-2023 bear hunting season is underway in Western North Carolina, and with it comes the need for hikers to stay safe. The season lasts from Oct. 17 to Nov. 19 and then picks back up again from Dec. 12 to Jan. 2

STAY SAFE - wear an article of blaze orange clothing or tie it to your pack.

CMC Annual Meeting 2022 – A Few Highlights

by Danny Bernstein

On Friday October 28, 2022, Carolina Mountain Club held its annual meeting – the first since 2019. We celebrated our legacy as we are now in our hundredth year. Over 120 members and guests signed up to eat, meet, greet and socialize at the Hilton Inn Biltmore Park. An impressive list of guests introduced by Les Love, CMC's Vice-President, included:

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation CEO, Carolyn Ward and husband
Pisgah District Ranger, Dave Casey and wife
Appalachian District Ranger, Jen Barnhart and husband
Friends of the MST Director, Brent Lorenz
NC State Parks Director, Dwayne Patterson
ATC Southern Regional Director, Drew Ball and wife
ATC Regional Manager, Rachel Cheatham and husband
Friends of the Smokies Development Director, Marielle DeJong

And Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Cassius Cash and his wife Vonda. Cash was our speaker for the evening.

Chris Koebelin, chair of the Challenge Committee, presented the Challenge awards in almost all the categories. Not surprisingly, the SB6K had the most completers this year – 22 people. Then Steve Pierce gave the challenge for the *100 Favorite Hikes of the Smokies and NC Blue Ridge* to six members – the first six to receive this award.

A delicious buffet dinner followed while a slideshow of historic photographs ran on the overhead screens. Donna Bange had put together an exciting set of slides displaying our history from the beginning.

Then a wonderful surprise. A video interview featuring Lew Blodgett had been shot on a trail. Lew will also turn 100 years old next year, actually a little before CMC's centennial. Roy Davis interviewed Lew on his start in CMC in 1977, his love for trail maintenance and the outdoors.

But we can't forget that this occasion was also our Annual Business Meeting, led by our president, Tom Weaver. It included the Treasurer's report by George Bauernfeind. George said that "CMC is in excellent financial shape. It is ahead in contributions and membership growth. This year, CMC established an endowment fund with the [Community Foundation of WNC](#). This is a way to have professional financial management for CMC's future. CMC initiated an endowment fund with \$30,000. This will ensure CMC's legacy for the next hundred years."



Left to right: Tom Weaver, Jan Onan, Rachel Muir, Jeff Wilcox (back), George Bauernfeind, Karen Lachow, David Huff (back), Joe Bange, Les Love (back), Adrianne Chang, Jim Magura, Brenda Worley

We elected a group of Council members:

Secretary - Karen Lachow
Treasurer - George Bauernfeind
Councilor for Communications - David Huff
Councilor for Conservation - Rachel Muir
Councilor for Trail Maintenance - Joe Bange
Councilor-at-Large - Adrianne Chang

And said goodbye and thank you to others who left the council:

Michael Fisher– Conservation
Todd Eveland – Trails
Sarah Broughton - Councilor at Large
Stuart English – Communications
Debbie Jones – Past President

Jeff Wilcox led a team which chose our annual award winners.

The **Award of Appreciation** went to two members. Paul Curtin led the Max Patch restoration work following the much-publicized overuse during the quarantine summer of 2020. Donna Bange mines data from trail assessment and section surveys to deploy work crews where they're needed most and manages the high-visibility shirts proudly worn by our trail maintenance crews. She is particularly recognized for always documenting CMC events with photographs, and for developing professional slideshows that can be shared with our partners.

The **Distinguished Service Award** was awarded to Tim Carrigan for his continued creative and technical work on the CMC website.

The **Honorary Lifetime Membership** went to Carrol Koeppinger. Carroll has been a hiker, hike leader, hike committee member, and CMC treasurer. Since 2000, when he joined the club, he has been an inspiration to all members.

Presentation by Superintendent Cash



I had the honor of introducing Superintendent Cash as our guest speaker. I have known Cash since he came to the Smokies in 2015 as the 16th superintendent of the most visited park in the country. Cash was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. He first became interested in the natural world by watching *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* on TV and of course, the Boy Scouts. He started his career with the US Forest Service, first as a wildlife biologist, and rose through the ranks in many national forests. Then he moved to the National Park Service. He is the former superintendent of Boston National Historical Park and Boston African American National Historic Site. Cash has received many awards for his leadership in the Smokies. Here's a summary of his remarks:

The Smokies is the most researched park in the National Park Service. Over a thousand new species have been discovered including the [Cherokee black bellied salamander](#).

The social unrest after the murder of George Floyd inspired Cash to want to do something positive. He thought that *Whenever I hike, I feel better when I come out of the woods that when I went in.*

Cash created the *Smokies Hikes for Healing*. He led four hikes on each side of the park with ten people each. The hikes created a safe space to talk about Diversity and Inclusion. For this program, the National Parks Conservation Association awarded Cash the 2021 Stephen Tyng Mather Award. This award recognizes annually a federal employee who has risked his/her career for the principles and practices of good stewardship of the national parks during the previous calendar year. See <https://www.npca.org/articles/3307-great-smokies-superintendent-receives-award-for-hikes-for-healing-program>.

The Smokies is the most visited national park in the country; it's an honor but also a daunting task. The Smokies does not charge an entry fee but it will start charging for parking starting March 1, 2023. The program is called "Park it Forward." Visitors will be able to buy a parking pass for a day, a week, and most relevant to CMC members, for a year at \$40. Plenty of details will come out on how and where to buy this pass. Fees for backcountry and front country camping will also increase. Cash sees using the money for park maintenance and law enforcement as well as habitat restoration.

Cash returned to the program that he was inspired to start in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many Black Americans in 2020. That was his call to action. He left the audience with "What is your call to action for your next hundred years?"

The Transformation of Snowball Trail

by Bobbi Powers

Snowball Trail has come a long way since Oct. 3, 2010, when I led a half-day hike there. At the time, it was a sloping, degraded, narrow and overgrown path where a false step could send a hiker careening down the mountain. Even though the payoff at Hawkbill Rock is breathtaking, and some of the trees beyond the rock are ginormous, I vowed never again to risk hikers on that trail.

However, I've learned to never say never. Les Love decided to adopt Snowball about a dozen years ago and began working on it as a personal mission with occasional, much-appreciated help from his buddies Rich Evans and Steve Patch. He has been up there many dozens of times, including two weed-eating and two water-bar cleanouts annually, and he began chipping away at the problems and improving the trail. Then three years ago, he got the Friday Crew involved and the improvements have surged. That narrow path is in the process of becoming an engineering marvel.

I led a hike there July 3 of this year, and the change was obvious. Rock steps have been levered into many places. The trail, which mostly goes up and down and up and down, actually has some wide level spots where lots of hazel hoes have reversed trail creep. It was a vast improvement.

Les recently told me that the Friday crew is making a big push to further improve the trail, so on September 30 I trekked up during a work session to see what was going on. Several crew members were heaving rock steps into place while another group was working at putting in a series of locust log steps.



As most of you know, locust wood is extremely hard and long-lasting and is sought after for trail building. Acquiring those locust logs is where CMC teamwork went into action. Last spring a neighbor of Friday Crew members Joe and Donna Bange had five locust trees he wanted taken down in his yard, and he asked Joe if he had a use for them. Joe and Donna rounded up eight other CMC members who harvested, split, and cut those logs into 8-foot lengths before wrestling them onto a trailer. (photo by Donna).

They were hauled to the Parkway's Oteen storage shed, an old Ranger house, where a group of 20+ CMCers showed up to strip the bark off those logs. From there they were hauled to and up Snowball Trail to strategic areas so the Friday Crew could work on step installation.

The day I visited, the crew had installed five steps before the lunch break. (photo includes Joe Bange) Each step takes about 30 minutes to get leveled and properly placed.

The crew anticipates maybe two more years of work on Snowball, but I encourage hikers who want a good aerobic workout to check out the trail this fall before the Parkway closes. You will be impressed!

That brings up a question you are likely asking yourself. How did 100+ logs get hauled up the very steep Snowball Trail? Hmm. Sounds like the basis for another story!



Boy Scouts + Greenies = Locust Log “Lift-off”

by Bobbi Powers

Remember all those heavy locust logs that needed to be toted up Snowball Trail? Logs weighing from 30 pounds to 60 pounds, depending on length and thickness? A couple of CMC trail maintainers reached out into the community for some young muscles to help get 100+ logs from Point A to Point B without sending a bunch of trail maintainers to a hospital ER.

The first of two forays was in spring 2021. Les Love called on a friend who called another friend, Scott Varn. All had been involved in Boy Scouts as leaders over the years. Scott was able to enlist his BS troop to tote some stored locust logs. (See photo) About a week before the Big Haul, the Friday Crew hauled 50+ logs from the Oteen shed up to Bee Tree Gap and to the staging area on a flat area near the start of Snowball Trail. Under Les and Scott’s direction, eleven Boy Scouts hauled those logs from the staging area up Snowball for about ½ mile (the operative word is UP!), depositing them at already-designated placement points. Thank you, Boy Scouts!

However, this is not the end of the story. Scott Varn is an artist, a writer, a conservationist, and the 2010 founder of non-profit Preserving a Picturesque America (PAPA). Possibly as a result of his interaction with Les and the troop’s log hauling, Scott joined CMC in 2021. Not only that, PAPA holds art shows periodically and donates a portion of its proceeds to conservation-based non-profits. Scott made a significant donation to CMC after one of PAPA’s exhibitions. Thank you, Scott and PAPA!



The second part of the story happened on August 7, 2022, when two buses carrying 50+ football players from Christ School “tackled” 85 logs from the five recently-cut locust trees. They loaded them up at the Oteen shed onto a flatbed trailer and two pickup trucks, and then everyone headed to Bee Tree Gap where the young men hauled the logs to the flat staging area where Tim

Carrigan was grilling 150 hotdogs to fortify them for their Big Haul up Snowball. (photo by Ron Navik)



CMC trail maintainers were on hand to guide the teens, but the football players organized themselves into hauling teams, and in about three hours, the logs were in their designated areas ready for the Friday Crew. Crew member Chris Werbylo had reached out to Chad Walker, head coach of the Christ School Greenies who agreed to lend a hand. Coach Walker knew it would be a good team-building experience as well as a good physical workout for his players. Thank you, Greenies and Coach Walker!

Kudos to Chris and Les who reached out to community members and to those who answered the call. Sometimes it does take a village.

CMC Rolls Out New “Code of Conduct”

by Bill Sanderson

As introduced and highlighted at the 2022 Annual Meeting, encouragement from the ATC (Appalachian Trail Council) has led CMC, along with all other clubs involved with volunteerism along the A.T., to create a “Code of Conduct” to be followed by all CMC volunteers. Our Code will be comprehensive and in force during all club activities - hikes, maintenance, search/rescue, meetings, etc. - and not just along the A.T. corridor.

The complete Code will be available for your review on our website.

CMC History 1920s

by Danny Bernstein

Carolina Mountain Club is turning 100 on July 16, 2023!

In the lead up to CMC’s big centennial anniversary, the eNews will publish edited excerpts from the book, *Carolina Mountain Club: One Hundred Years*, to be published by CMC in Spring 2023. We plan on one article for each decade.

The story of Carolina Mountain Club, the first hiking club in the South, starts in the North. The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), formed in 1876 in Boston, spearheaded the outdoor recreation movement in the Eastern United States. It took its inspiration from the European alpine clubs and is probably the oldest outdoor club in the country; the Sierra Club was founded in 1892.

To quote a little of AMC history, “the club was comprised nearly to a person of professors, engineers, naturalists, and scientists, many from Ivy League Universities, many of whom enjoyed surveying as a hobby or their profession.” It appears that women were accepted on the same basis as men, an important factor for the future CMC.

In the years after World War I, AMC was a thriving hiking club looking to expand beyond the Northeast. Phillip P. Ayres, the president of AMC, and other club dignitaries came down to Asheville to encourage a Southern Chapter of AMC. According to the Asheville Citizen, June 4, 1919, “As the capital of the southern highlands, Asheville has a special interest in that for which the Appalachian Mountain Club stands.”

In the article, Ayres acknowledges that the Southern Highlands has “many mountains higher than Mt. Washington” – something that even present day northern hikers have trouble accepting. Devil’s Courthouse and Mt. Guyot were apparently known beyond the Appalachian South but didn’t have reasonable trails. “...people would be led to make themselves familiar with the wonders of nature which now for practical purposes are as remote as the North Pole.”

The goal of the Southern chapter of AMC would be to create trails, build cabins and encourage forest conservation. AMC in Boston thought that anyone living south of Pennsylvania and the Ohio River would be considered members of the southern chapter.

On June 11, 1920, after AMC’s visit, organized mountaineering began in North Carolina when a meeting was held in Asheville. A tentative Southern Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club of Boston was formed. J. S. Holmes, State Forester of North Carolina at that time, was quite active in organizing this first Southern Chapter; Holmes State Forest bears his name. An executive committee included Dr. Chase P. Ambler as chairman, Dr. Gaillard S. Tennent secretary, Verne Rhoades, and S.P. Ravenel. Ambler may be remembered best as the owner of Rattlesnake Lodge.

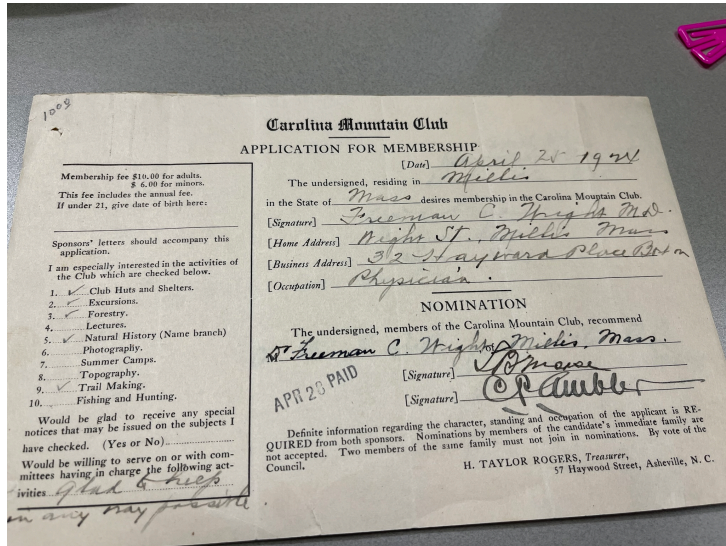


1 Rattlesnake Lodge by Danny Bernstein

When the Southern Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was officially recognized on May 11, 1921, in the Asheville office of the Board of Trade, the leaders had changed. Verne Rhoades was elected as chairman of the club. The constant presence in CMC’s long history was Dr. G.S Tennent.

Verne Rhoades (1881-1969) graduated in the class of 1906 from the Schenck Biltmore Forest School. Rhoades, a native of Missouri, came to Western North Carolina to study at the Biltmore Forest School under Dr. Carl Schenck. At the

time, Schenck was responsible for forestry operations at the Biltmore Estate. After his graduation from the forest school and working for Schenck's consulting company for several years, Rhoades became the first supervisor of the newly created Pisgah National Forest and worked for the US Forest from 1915 to 1925.



2 1924 application to join CMC, by Danny Bernstein

Over forty people, both men and women, joined the club. The Northerners saw this as the beginning of a Hut and Trail system, similar to the ones being built in New Hampshire. But the southern chapter didn't last long. The eight-dollar dues (now worth over \$138) were mostly slated to go back north to boost the income and hut development of AMC. That didn't sit well with the

Asheville group and they separated from the mothership in Boston under amicable terms.

On July 16, 1923, CMC formed in Asheville, and the Southern Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club ceased to exist. The purpose of CMC was to create and stimulate interest in the outdoors - camping, walking, mountain climbing, fishing, hunting and winter sports. At the time it seemed that CMC was going to do it all. G.S. Tennent became president.

The AMC "extended its congratulations and good wishes and offers any assistance in our power." When the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) held its conference in New Hampshire in 2003, this bit of history was recalled. Don Walton, CMC president at the time, said with a laugh "I don't know why they started a chapter way down here in the first place."

Exciting new developments in the 1930s...

Carolina Mountain Club eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Send your news to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month. 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. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side. Follow the instructions. For all address and email changes, log in, select "Modify Profile", make

changes and click on "Update Member" or email Dennis Bass at dbass3607@gmail.com. Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.

Carolina Mountain Club - P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802
www.carolinamountainclub.org