

# Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

## Carolina Mountain Club eNews



**February 2024**

### **A Trail(work) Tale**

by Amber Gibbs

The first time I ever did any kind of Trail Maintenance, any kind of volunteer work really, it was with the Carolina Mountain Club. I had already begun looking for a way to turn my passion for the outdoors into something more beneficial to others, so it was only natural that I started looking for an organization that could help me on my journey. The trails had given me so much, I wanted to give something in return. I found the Carolina Mountain Club, and decided on a whim to join and sign on to participate in my first quarterly workday.

I wasn't really sure what to expect when I arrived at the trailhead but nothing I imagined could have prepared me for what was waiting for me there. I was astounded by how many people turned out to participate in this single event on a little mountain called Sam Knob. Every person there had tools in hand ready to clear brush, crush rock and, quite literally, move mountains.

At the center of it all was a group of experienced leaders that knew the trails and the repairs or improvements needed like the back of their hands. As team leaders they organized all of us, the inexperienced and experienced, into the most driven, effective, and joyful teams I could possibly have imagined. Even when the work was hard, no one was ever unhappy and each new task was met with laughter and determination. Afterwards, more than coming out of that first workday with a deep sense of accomplishment, it was the welcoming and passionate nature of the group that left the biggest impact, that left me wanting more.

I participated in every quarterly workday in 2023. After that first one, I was hooked on the camaraderie, the drive. Hooked on the impact that I could see in the trails and the



hikers that passed us by as we worked to not only maintain the trail but improve it for years to come. This group gave me more than just a volunteer outlet, more than just a way to make a positive impact within the outdoor community. It gave me a community of my own, one that I didn't know I needed, and one where I belonged. I have continued to make friends and find other ways to give back to, and through, this incredible organization, and I am excited for another year of quarterly workdays and the new faces they will bring.

If you are interested in trying your hand at trail work, or just want a place to make new friends in the outdoors, please join us. The next Quarterly Workday is April 20th, 2024 in the John Rock area of Pisgah Forest (Brevard, NC). All are welcome, membership is not required, and tools are provided.

Email Les Love for more information: [lesrlove55@gmail.com](mailto:lesrlove55@gmail.com).

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## **SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 FOR HIKE LEADERS' DINNER**

by Daisy Karasek

All members who have led or co-led a hike in 2023 and those who will be leading or co-leading a hike in the first quarter of 2024 will be invited to the Annual Hike Leaders' Dinner to be held on March 1, 2024. Council members as well as special guests will also be receiving an invitation to the event. Please mark your calendars for this not-to-be-missed gathering.

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## **Seeking Q2 Leisure Hike leaders**

Leisure hikes are a new CMC initiative designed for beginners, youth, or anyone else looking for a shorter, more leisurely club hike. If you are interested in leading a future Leisure Hike, please email Education and Outreach Councilor Jeff Wilcox at [jwilcox@unca.edu](mailto:jwilcox@unca.edu).

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## **Extra Mile Trail Crew**

by David Huff

John Haffner and Christine Martens recently created new trail crew called the "Extra Mile Crew," which meets roughly once every two months on a weekend day. This crew targets folks who can move faster on trails and can go the "extra mile" to get to trail sections that are difficult to reach and are suffering from lack of maintenance. At the

moment the crew is focusing on the Art Loeb Trail, particularly through Shinning Rock Wilderness. Currently the crew is comprised mostly of trail runners, many of who are new to trail maintenance, but are eager to learn.

Our next crew meets on February 4<sup>th</sup>, and is sponsored by the local backpacking gear and clothing company, Lighthearted Gear who will be providing donuts and coffee ahead of a big climb up Cold Mountain and the Art Loeb to do some heavy brushing. Email John Haffner for more information: [john.e.haffner@gmail.com](mailto:john.e.haffner@gmail.com).



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## Educational Hike with Hemlock Restoration Initiative March 18th

by Jeff Wilcox

Please consider joining an educational hike with staff from the Hemlock Restoration Initiative (HRI) on Monday, March 18th, at 1pm. We will head to the Green River Gamelands and take the ~2-mile, 280', roundtrip trail to Little Bradley Falls. This hike has a couple of technical sections and shallow stream crossings. Along the way, HRI leaders will discuss the ecological importance of hemlocks, how to ID them, what is threatening them, and what is being done about it. Jeff Wilcox, a geology professor at UNC Asheville, will talk about the importance of trees and vegetation on streams and flooding. Upon returning to the trailhead, those with time and energy will have the opportunity to add a ~2-mile, 300' roundtrip hike to the Big Bradley Falls overlook. If you opt for the hike to Big Bradley Falls, note that there will be another creek crossing.

We will be limiting the hike to 15 CMC members and, due to limited parking at the trailhead, will be organizing carpools from both the Asheville Outlets in Asheville (12:15pm) and the Blue Ridge Mall in Hendersonville (12:30pm). Please email Education and Outreach Councilor Jeff Wilcox at [jwilcox@unca.edu](mailto:jwilcox@unca.edu) to reserve your spot. To assist with carpool planning, please indicate in your RSVP 1) whether you would prefer to carpool from Asheville or Hendersonville, and 2) whether you plan to hike only to Little Bradley Falls or to both Little Bradley and Big Bradley.

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# ***Safe and Found* Premieres at Haywood Community College**

by Danny Bernstein

There were no ballgowns or tuxedos to be seen. Yet, the premiere of the movie *Safe and Found* at Haywood Community College (HCC) was an important social event for the outdoor community, complete with a red carpet.



1 Austin and Julie on the red carpet

Over 350 people gathered in the HCC Auditorium in Clyde on a particularly cold and icy day. They were there to meet new people, greet old outdoor friends, and watch a movie on the logistics of rescuing people in Pisgah National Forest and the North Carolina side of the Smokies. Bill Sanderson, CMC's councilor-at-large and a member of the Haywood County Search and Rescue (SAR) team, points out that this constitutes a very large area.

The movie was created by Julie Gayheart, an educator, and Austin Wallace, a public safety officer, under the company name Jester Wallace Productions based in Charlotte. This is their second documentary after filming "I am the MST".

*Safe and Found* tells the story of three different hiking incidents that needed the help of the Haywood County Search and Rescue team. CMC members also train and

participate in these searches. As Nancy East, one of the Haywood County SAR members and the author of *Chasing the Smokies Moon* explains, three elements can create a need for a rescue: BAD preparation, BAD choices, and BAD luck. The film illustrates one example of each. Nancy also emphasizes the importance of taking the ten essentials with you when going into the woods. See the bottom of this article and the [CMC page on the subject](#). The [National Park Service](#) has more information and details.

Unfortunately, not all searches end with a successful rescue. And the movie is courageous enough to show us that side of searching.

Julie and Austin created a 46-minute film out of 25 hours of footage. They did everything. "We did the interviewing, filming, and editing. We spent a heck of time in Haywood County," Julie said.

Jester Wallace Production had a couple of brand partners who had a table set up outside of the auditorium. Hiker Medals, [www.hikermedals.com](http://www.hikermedals.com), a company headed by Win Schalken, creates high quality medals commemorating various hiking achievements. They have medals for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and the Smokies among others.

Heidi Nisbett <https://www.sketchingsummits.com/> is an amazing artist. She provided the art in the documentary that could not be filmed. For example, she sketched the area in Pisgah Forest where two hikers were lost and then found.



2 David Huff and the CMC table

CMC had a table at the reception, staffed by our Councilor for Communications, David Huff.

To raise funds for the Haywood County SAR team, the WNC Wilderness Safety Fund was created.

<https://wncwildernesssafety.org/>

“One hope I had for the whole [premiere] event ... is that people come away with a greater appreciation for the time and the effort, energy, dedication, the cost that goes into rescuing people, and that that is being done by volunteers who are taking their own

time, equipping themselves,” said WNC Wilderness Safety Fund board member Kevin FitzGerald, retired Deputy Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in an interview with the Smoky Mountain News.

“Standard emergency services will go to the trailhead,” Fitzgerald continues. “That’s where it ends, though, The SAR volunteers are the ones qualified to brave the trails.”

## Watching the movie

If you missed the movie or want to watch it again, it’s on YouTube. Go directly to:

<https://www.youtube.com/@JesterWallisProductions>

where you will find the link to the Safe and Found documentary as well as other works by the same company.

“If we save one life, we’ve done our job.” Julie Gayheart says.

## Ten Essentials to take on the trail

Adapted from a handout created by the WNC Wilderness Safety Fund

1. Navigation method such as map and compass, GPS or phone app
2. Water
3. Extra food
4. Extra clothing including rain gear
5. Headlamp
6. Knife
7. Fire starter such as lighter, fireproof matches
8. Emergency Shelter such as a space blanket
9. Whistle
10. First Aid kit

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## Brown Bag Lunches at Bent Creek Experimental Forest

by David Huff

The Forest Service is hosting a series of lunchtime talks at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest Training Center by local foresters, botanists, wildlife resource managers and other experts. These talks are free, open to the public, and occur once a month. Space is limited to 50 people, and registration is required to attend. Bring your lunch (no lunch provided), and learn more about our local forests.



The Forest Service Presents:  
**Brown Bag Lunches at Bent Creek Experimental Forest!**  
Bring your lunch and listen to talks about the forests in your backyard!

You're invited to a series of in-person talks at the Southern Research Station's Bent Creek Training Center.

We will be holding lunchtime talks roughly once a month on subjects related to forests of the Southeast.

For more information or to register, visit:  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/srs/news/events/BCF-brownbag>



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## Are You a Map Freak III?

by Michael Knies

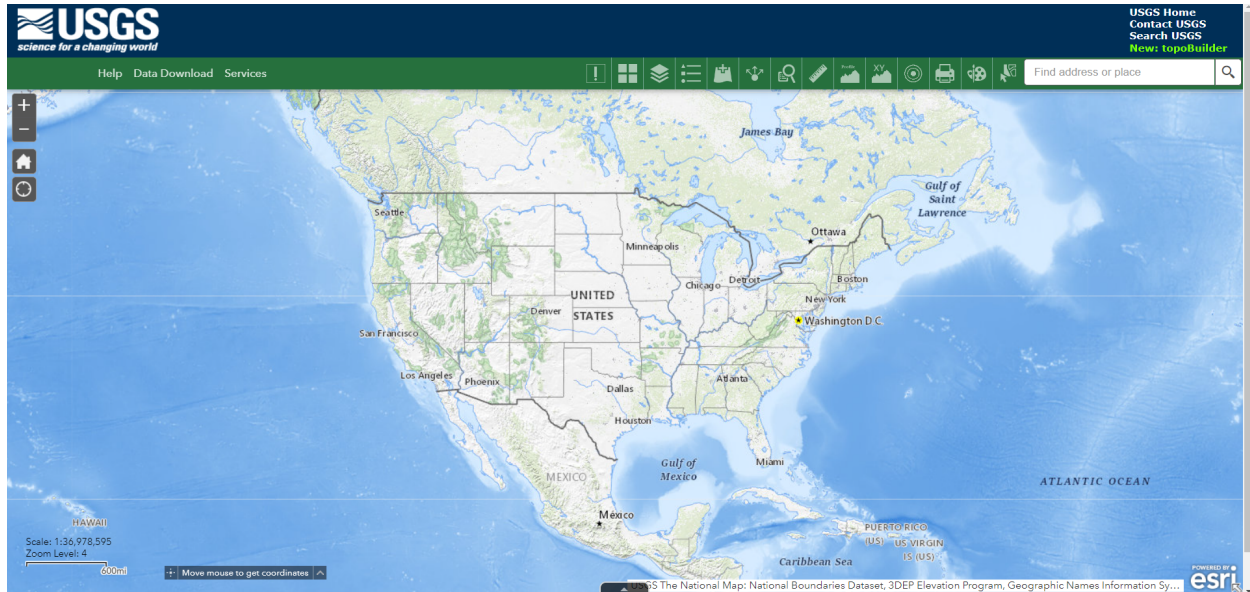
I recently wrote an article in eNews about the upgraded site on the net for accessing most of the maps that the U.S. Geological Survey has ever produced. They have now produced an additional version of maps that includes LIDAR imaging technology. Lidar — Light Detection and Ranging — is a remote sensing method used to examine the surface of the Earth. Lidar strips away all the vegetation and presents the actual lay of the land. That feature has been used by archeologists exploring the Mayan sites in Central America to penetrate the dense layers of plant life.

National Geographic and others have presented television programs including LIDAR explorations. In many areas in the Yucatan the LIDAR has indicated extensive

settlements way beyond what the surveyors had anticipated around the major temple complexes.

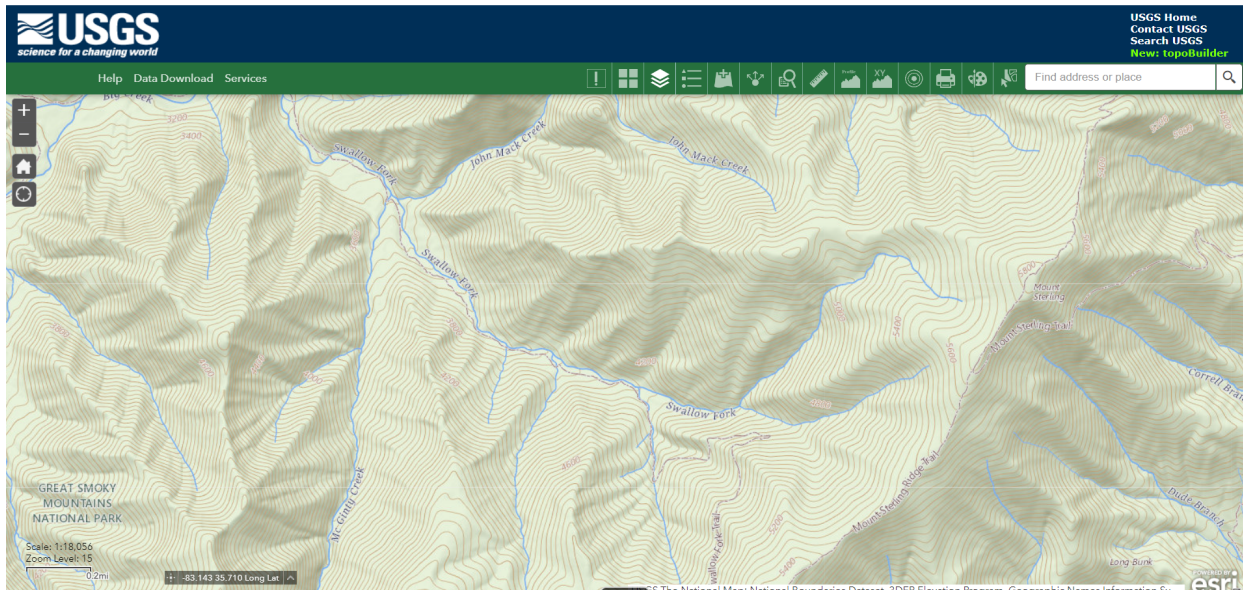
The USGS has now provided that technology for the United States at <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer/>. It is called Hillshade. Maps on this site now will reveal almost any detail in the topography including former trails, logging roads, building sites, stone walls and the like.

The initial site looks like the following:

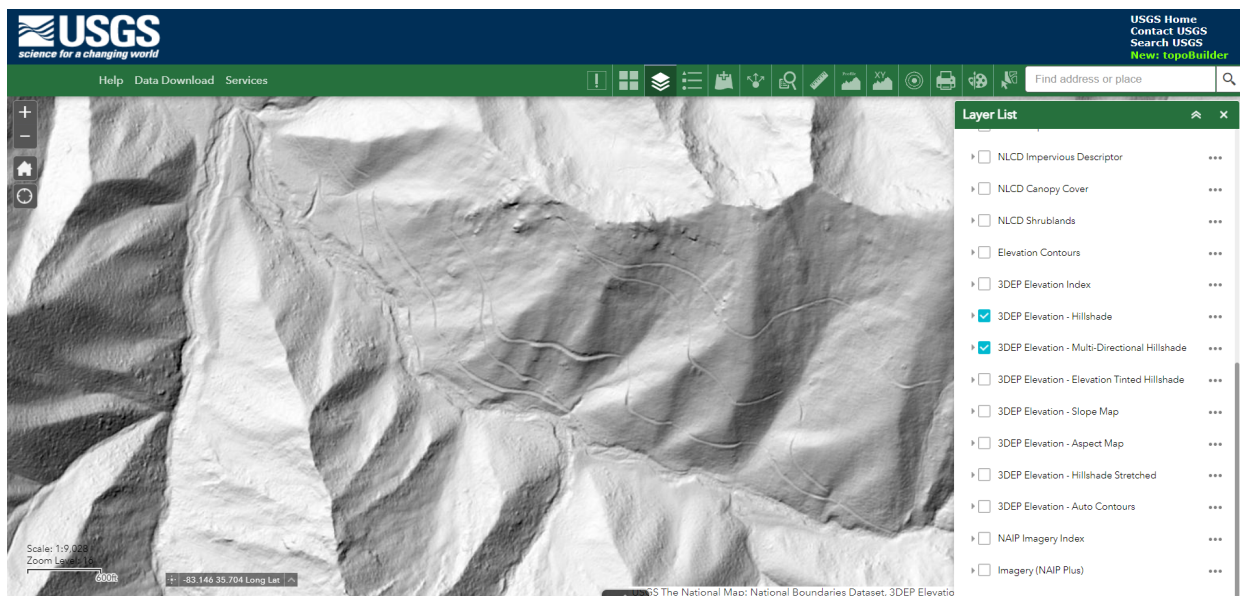


Scroll and magnify the map to the location of your interest. I have pinpointed Swallow Fork a tributary of Big Creek in the Smokies because there was much logging activity thereon.

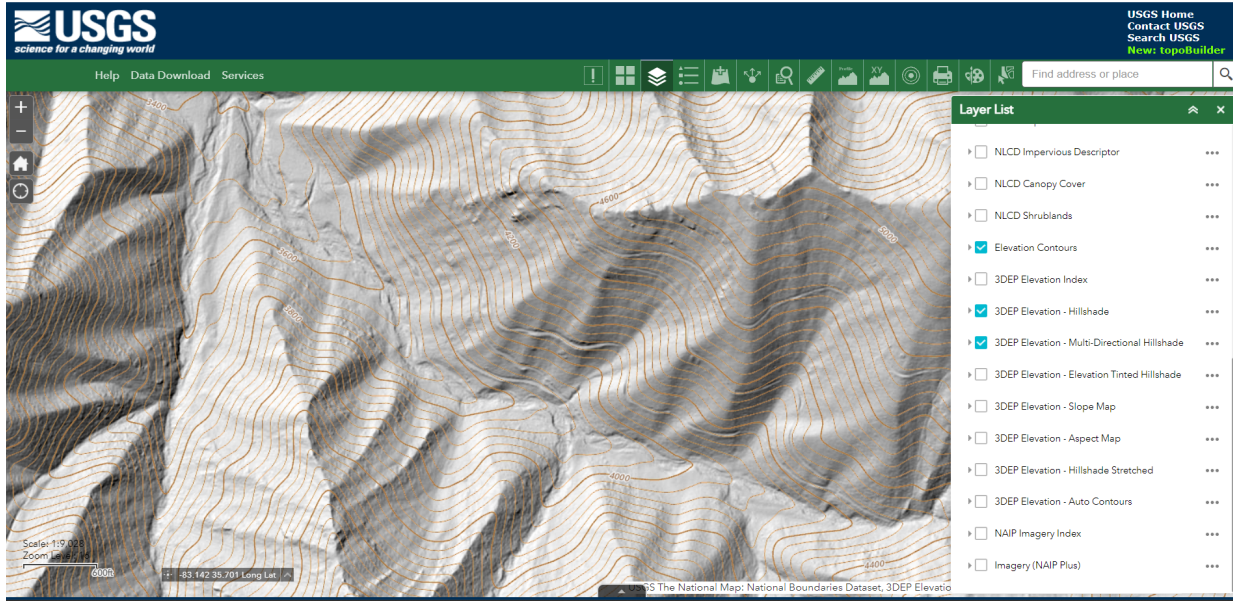
Click on the stacked paper in the list of icons at the top of the page.



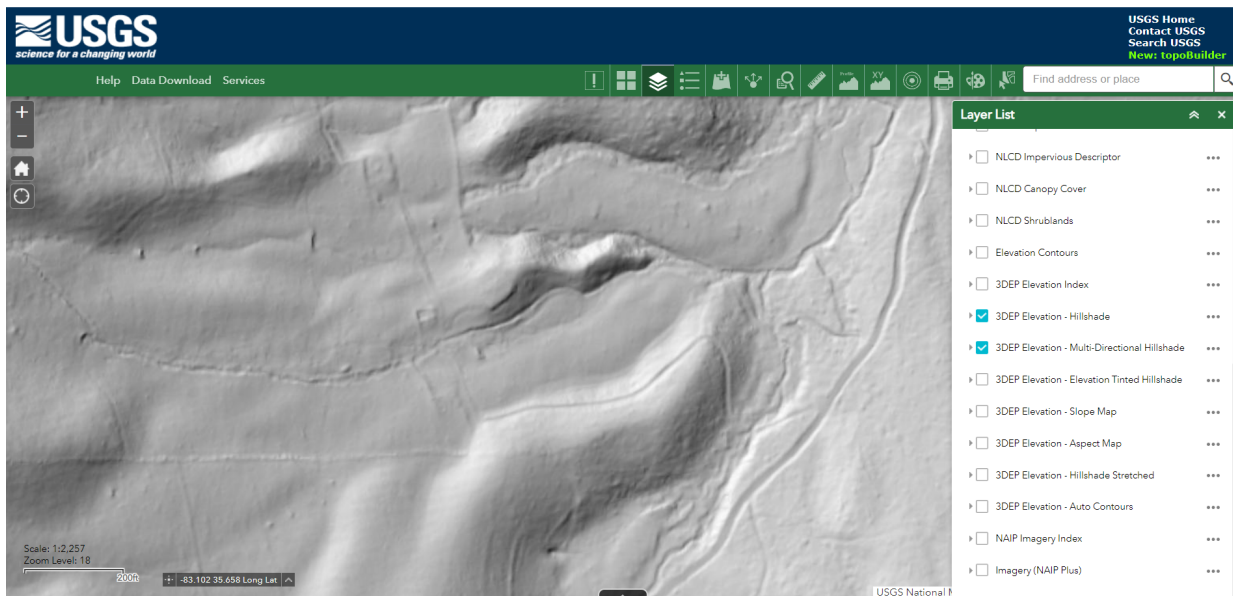
A menu of options appears on the righthand side. Click on either or both of the first two Hillshade entries and magically details of former logging railroads appear.



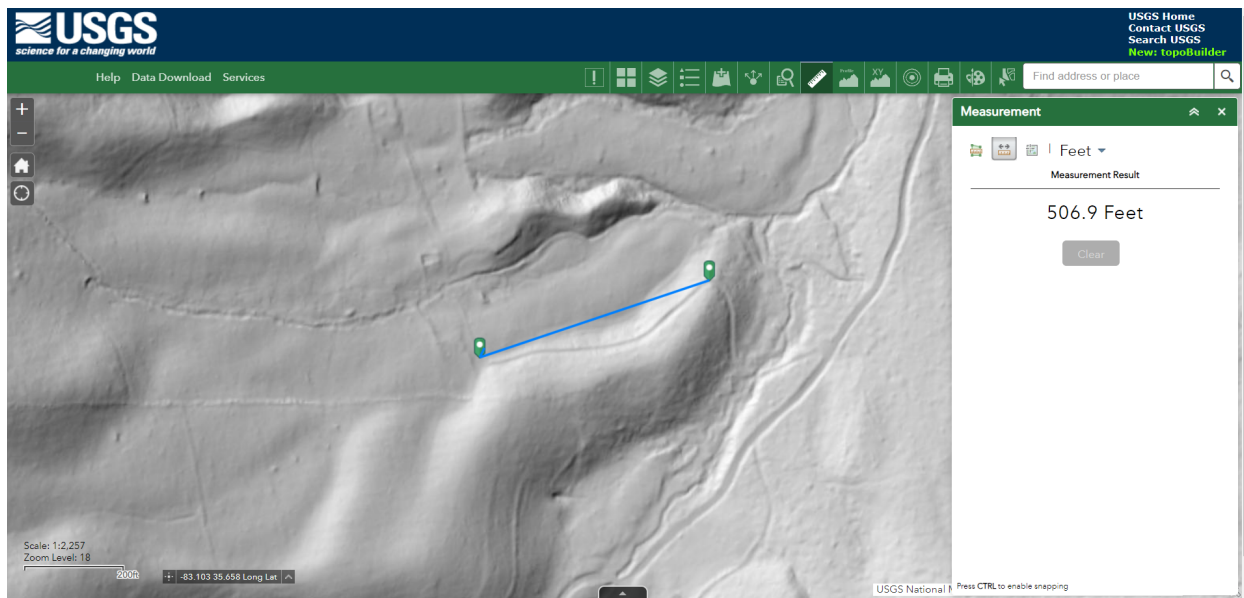
Click on the elevation contours icon to get relevant heights.



To provide a different perspective I have included a Hillshade map of the area just north of the Hall Cabin in Little Cataloochee. The divot at the center bottom of the print is the spring for the Hall Cabin. Looking closely, the Little Cataloochee Trail is on the far right. The small line of the bottom right is the end of the old Dug Road from Big Cataloochee. However not visible on any other map is the curved driveway to homesites of the former Bennett family which is just above. The straight lines are stone walls. The rectangular ones are the bases of former buildings. The squiggly ones are streams.



Using the map features takes a bit of getting used to. Frankly I haven't a clue about what 80% of those drop down features are about. However, besides Hillshade, clicking on the ruler icon provides a useful gauging feature.



The topographical features on this map site offer an amazing resource to those interested in exploring beyond the current systems of maintained trails.

## Monday Crew Helps Install Bear Boxes on the MST Near Mt. Mitchell

By Mike Williams

After assisting A.T. Supervisor Paul Curtin installing bear boxes at the Flint Mountain and Big Bald shelters on the club's signature trail, Monday Crew did one better by joining with Burnsville's NC High Peaks Trail Association to install two more boxes at the Commissary Ridge campsite near Mt. Mitchell.



The site is the only designated campsite, other than Deep Gap, on the Mt. Mitchell massif, and is extremely popular with weekend backpackers and thru-hikers on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. On summer weekends, you might easily see a dozen or more tents tucked away in the spruce and fir trees.

But so many campers often creates a problem. As on the A.T., campers not careful with their food prompted keen interest on the part of the local black bear population.

“It got so bad that the US Forest Service closed the area to camping,” said longtime Monday Crew Leader and former High Peaks President John Whitehouse, who spearheaded the initiative. “Hopefully these boxes will be a long-term solution that will keep the campers safe and the bears far away in the woods.”

High Peaks used its own funds - around \$3,500 - to purchase and donate the boxes to solve the problem. KUDOS, High Peaks! CMC got a \$20,000 grant from a generous, hike-loving individual to purchase the boxes it is providing on the A.T.

The roughly 3-foot-square, 330-pound boxes have bear-proof door latches that should enable campers to safely store food and other bear-attractive personal items.



The boxes should also cut down on the number of calls and complaints received at Mt. Mitchell State Park. Although the Commissary Ridge camping area is on USFS land just outside the park boundary, Park staff are the nearest rangers and have to respond when frightened campers call for help.

High Peaks is the Friends of Mt. Mitchell State Park organization. Park staff assisted in the installation by hauling the boxes out to the site on all-terrain vehicles.

Then High Peaks and CMC Monday Crew members drilled holes through an old masonry step-wall at the site and bolted the boxes to the structure, mindful that even though it takes four humans to lift and move the boxes, a large, hungry bear could likely tip them over if they were left unattached to an anchor.

Since the installation of the boxes, the Forest Service has re-opened the area to camping.

Like CMC, High Peaks is a Friends of the Mountain-to-Sea Trail task force group, maintaining a section of that trail near the Black Mountain Campground at the base of Mt. Mitchell.

“Our trails and backcountry camping areas get more and more popular each year,” Whitehouse said. “With that comes the chance of more unwanted interactions between bears and campers. Hopefully these boxes will keep the campers safe.”

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# UPDATES FROM THE CHALLENGE COMMITTEE

by Brenda Worley

Several changes have recently occurred in the Challenge Committee. Chris Koebelin has been the club's Challenge Chairman for several years. In this role, he received all the completion logs from each challenge manager, reviewed the logs, checked to see if the completer is a club member and mailed out the certificate with the patch or presented it to the individual at the annual dinner. Chris asked me to take over these duties for him and I agreed to give it a shot with his help.

After doing six of the challenges, I found that I traveled north, south, east and west in search of the trails, waterfalls or fire towers required in the particular challenge I was doing. It opened my eyes to new areas within the surrounding countrysides. The Centennial Challenge gets you out of your comfort zone in having to hike 50 miles and work 50 hours doing trail maintenance. That is the beauty of the challenges.

Below is a list of the current challenge managers; some have recently changed. Contact any of these managers or myself for help as you embark on your challenge.

Waterfall Challenge (WC100): Judy Magura, recently taken over from Jack Fitzgerald. Judy realized that much has changed since Jack first originated this challenge in 2009. Some of the trails to some of the waterfalls have changed drastically for the worst, so she plans to add 10 to 20 more waterfalls so the person completing the challenge can pick 100 out of the 110 or 120 waterfalls. She hopes this change will make the waterfall challenge accessible to more club members.

South Beyond 6000 (SB6K) – Peter Barr

Lookout Tower Challenge (LTC) – Peter Barr

Pisgah 400 Challenge (P400) – Brenda Worley

Appalachian Trail-Mountain to Sea Challenge (A.T.-MST) – Chris Koebelin

100 Favorite Trails (FH100) – Marie Chamberlin

Centennial Challenge – Tom Weaver

Smoky 900 Miler – Steve Pierce

Youth Partner Challenge (YPC) – Jan Onan

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## Meet George Bauernfeind, Treasurer



Growing up in northern New Jersey I was fortunate that my father took his needed breaks from the daily commute into the city by taking his family hiking on weekends in the New York mountains. I didn't know then, but at age 10 I was already hiking the A.T. in Bear Mountain State Park, the first section of the A.T. built. Those early years set in me a love of hiking and camping in the mountains, which is why my wife Sally and I headed to Asheville when I retired in 2014.

I met Sally in college, and after graduating in 1969 with an accounting degree we moved to Washington, D.C. After a year of working with an accounting firm and passing the CPA exam, I realized I had more of an interest in taxes rather than auditing someone else's numbers, so I started night law school at Georgetown. Six years later I had my Master of Laws in Taxation degree, and began to spend more time at home helping raise our family while working with several different accounting firms as their tax specialist. In 1989 I took the job of VP of Taxes for Humana in Louisville, KY, where I worked for 25 years until my retirement.

I was widowed last year after more than a half-century with the most amazing, caring, and hard-working person you would ever want to know, but the legacy Sally left is as amazing as she was: six children all in long, stable marriages, thirteen healthy grandchildren two of whom are already married, and two great-grandchildren on the way this summer!

I enjoy working with everyone at CMC in my Treasurer role. The communication and support I get is wonderful, and is essential in keeping track of all of our activities. As the Club has grown, the job has gotten quite a bit more complicated because of the separate accounting required for grants and funds. Currently our financial statement shows ten different grants and six different funds in addition to our General Fund, each of which essentially represents a separate financial statement that we have to keep.

Interesting fact: Besides Bear Mountain, I have hiked Springer Mountain as well as Katahdin, although only bits and pieces of the A.T. in between. My middle son thru-hiked the A.T. in 2003, and allowed me the privilege of joining him when he summited these two peaks.

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## Get to know Karen Lachow, Secretary

After graduating from SUNY at Buffalo, I took my undergraduate degree in Psychology back to my hometown of Queens, NY and promptly got a job in the unrelated field of international commercial lending. A transfer to Wilmington, DE in the mid 1980's coincided with the introduction of personal computers. I was enthralled with this new technology, began learning everything I could and became the office tech guru.

As reliance on PCs grew, this became my primary responsibility, and my transition to a 30+ year career in Information Technology. It was also during this time I was bit by the travel bug. One year, I saved all my vacation days and with a friend embarked on a 28-day trip to Europe. I was hooked and have continued my travel adventures both abroad and, in the U.S.A.



My next job resulted in a second relocation and I landed in Ashburn, Virginia outside of D.C. It was here I reconnected with my love for making pottery - taking classes, workshops and selling my work. In 2011, I earned a Masters Certificate in Ceramics from Hood College that I studied for part time.

Another job change led me to a small company as an Information Systems Analyst. The company eventually merged with Asurion, the leading provider of handheld device insurance and support. My job became focused on IT Security Compliance and I got my Certified Information Systems Auditor certification. Most of my team was in Tennessee, and following years of online meetings, I questioned the need to be physically working "in the office". I lobbied my management who agreed to let me work remotely full time (before it became popular during the pandemic).

Asheville was where I wanted to live when I retired and I moved here in October 2015. I had been hiking regularly in Virginia and quickly discovered CMC. I joined the annual New Year's Day 2016 hike and became a member. I've been hiking with CMC ever since and have met my best friends here. I began leading hikes in 2017, joined the Hiking Committee and started helping with the hike scheduling in 2019. Upon retiring in April 2021, I took over the all-day hike scheduling from Bruce Bente and now try to lead 3 hikes each quarter. I've also joined the Quarterly and Section Rovers trail crews and adopted a 1-mile section of the MST.

I was nominated to be CMC's Secretary beginning in 2020. The responsibility for this position is to record and document all of the Council meetings and Annual meeting. I'm now in my second term and this is my last year. It has been an eye-opening experience and privilege to be part of the Council, seeing all the work that goes into running this club and what we've accomplished. The wealth of knowledge is exceptional, the expertise world-class, and even more impressive being an all-volunteer organization.

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## Carolina Mountain Club Planning Meeting

By: Les Love, President

Twelve members of CMC Council Leadership and four guests joined together on January 16, 2024, for the annual CMC Planning Meeting. This meeting gave the new CMC Council a chance to meet, get to know each other and share information and ideas to enhance each area of CMC, ultimately building strong 2024 programming for CMC members.

While each Councilor will introduce their vision and goals for 2024 in future eNews publications, a few highlights of what to expect for 2024 are included below.

### CMC 2024 Overview of Goals

- Thank you calls to new members and donors.
- Increase awareness of CMC accomplishments through social media, sponsorships, events and merchandise.
- Develop an online merchandise store.
  - Identify a volunteer to mail merchandise, which will eventually lead to hiring a fulfillment company.
- Reward hike leaders in a similar style as trail maintainers, using hikes led, versus hours worked as a measure.
- More crossover opportunities of hikers and maintainers.
- Create excitement for younger members through maintenance events like the Extra Mile Crew.
- Consider advertising hikes using Meetup format.
- Upgrade website to be mobile phone compatible and easier to navigate.
- Create more outlying crews or charters like Hot Springs.
- Secure more grants through the work of the grants committee.
- Contract professional trail crews with grants to do what we can't do by hand.
- Cultivate outside relationships with outdoor organizations like SORBA.
- Set up more CMC table displays at more events.
- Sell more swag. Sell more 100 Year History and Profile books in 2024.

### Jan Onan, Membership; [Membership@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:Membership@carolinamountainclub.org)

- *Goals for the year include:*
  - Contact non-renewing members, encouraging them to renew their membership, or find out why they chose not to renew.
  - Create orientation packet/program for new members. Will allow us to plug people into the organization where it fits for them and gives us a way to engage and follow-up with new members. This will also help us nurture relationships with any folks that have come through D&I channels.

### **Jan Onan, Diversity & Inclusion**

- *Goals for the year include:*
  - Continue working with UNCA to build a strong student membership program.
    - Include an orientation and mentoring program to keep students engaged with the club.
  - Identify McCullough Fellow Felipe Ahumada's research recommendations that we can implement.
  - Continue relationship with Latinos Adventuros. Schedule two joint group hikes with them.
  - Look at more ways to include diverse groups on leisure hikes.

### **Jeff Wilcox, Education and Community Outreach;**

Education@carolinamountainclub.org

- Leisure Hikes are getting great traction.
  - Will be focusing on this hiking category, adding one leisure hike (3-5 miles) per month.
  - Education opportunities - Hemlock restoration walk scheduled for February.
  - More education opportunities to be identified.

### **Daisy Teng Karasek, Hiking Committee;** Hiking@carolinamountainclub.org

- *Goals for the year include:*
  - Hiking committee is planning Hike Leader's dinner for March 1.
  - Recruit additional hike leaders, especially critical is the need for half-day hike leaders.
  - Update hiking information on the website for hikers and hike leader guidelines.
  - Work with Jeff Wilcox on Leisure Hikes, adding these into the Let's Go Hike Schedule.

### **Joe Bange, Trail Maintenance;** TrailsMaintenance@carolinamountainclub.org

- *Goals for the year include:*
  - Complete formalized training instruction, which is required by the forest service.
  - Quarterly crew places and times have been identified in Pisgah, Cat Gap and Hot Springs.
  - AT Shelters – Walnut Mountain shelters are being moved and bear boxes installed.
  - Safety continues to be a big priority this year.
  - Hot Springs trail crew was established in 2023.
    - This crew needs support to get tools and storage in 2024. Use of trailer is donated.

**Paul Curtin for Paul Wulfin, Volunteer and Engagement Committee**

- We saw a significant increase in trail maintenance volunteers in 2023. We had almost 300 people coming out twice during the year.
  - Committee has a representative from all trail crews.
  - Calls are made to new contacts to line them up with the right crew.
    - We will be reviewing how to make this process easier using an online request process.

**Steve Law, Conservation;** Conservation@carolinamountainclub.org

- *Goals for the year include:*
  - Focus on conservation issues.
  - Form new and deeper partnerships with land conservancies and other conservation organizations.
  - Seek opportunities for education internally and externally.
  - Assist with land and wildlife initiatives. Has meeting scheduled with District Rangers for Pisgah and Nantahala to see what we can do.
  - Expand outreach to potential members in similar organizations that have a focus on conservation areas.

**David Huff, Communications;** Communications@carolinamountainclub.org

- Goals for the year include follow-up on work accomplished at a CMC Branding Retreat conducted in January.

***Questions asked at the retreat were divided into four areas:***

Hiking, Trail Maintenance, Education and Outreach

- Why do we belong to CMC?
  - Quality of hiking and trail maintenance.
  - Collective skills and knowledge, mentorship.
- What is our Brand?
  - Intergenerational, professional, impactful, organized, safe, craft, quality and welcoming.
- How do we currently communicate our Brand?
  - Website, social media, newsletters, books, organic conversations, business cards/handouts, swag, banners, tents, partnership events, local media partners.
- What can we do differently to better communicate our Brand?
  - Professional Branding & Technology solutions will be identified and implemented in 2024.

**Jim Magura, Technology;** [Technology@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:Technology@carolinamountainclub.org)

- Continue to identify ways to improve the current website.
- Added the subscribe feature to get eNews and Let's Go without being a member.

**Bill Sanderson, At Large Councilors;** [CounciloratLarge@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:CounciloratLarge@carolinamountainclub.org)

- Code of Conduct was implemented in 2023.
- Create local management plan for the AT.

**Peter Eisemann, Grant Sub-committee**

- Grant Committee Focus Areas
  - Continue cataloging grant activities.
  - Improve identification of grant opportunities.
  - Finalize charter.

**Les Love, Fund Raising Committee (To be created)**

- Create a Fund-Raising Committee with the purpose of showing appreciation to people who donate to CMC.

This is an aggressive body of work that we plan to accomplish in 2024.

Is there an area you see you would like to support? Please reach out to the Councilor connected to the committee accountable for that work. If you are unsure who to contact, please reach out to VP, Karen Schultz [vp@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:vp@carolinamountainclub.org) and she will get you connected.

If you're interested in volunteering for the following position, reach out to me directly. [president@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:president@carolinamountainclub.org)

- Develop an online merchandise store.
  - Identify a volunteer to mail merchandise, which will eventually lead to hiring a fulfillment company.

I continue to be amazed that all our incredible work is accomplished through 100% volunteer efforts!

We can only accomplish these goals with the help of you, our CMC members.

Thank You all!

Les

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# Carolina Mountain Club Annual Meeting and Dinner Survey – 2023

by Karen Schultz, Vice President

## Summary

A survey was sent to CMC membership via the December 2023 eNews. Questions were asked of those that attended the meeting/dinner and those that did not attend.

### **26 Respondents to the survey**

of the 26 respondents:

- 69.2% attended dinner
- 30.8% did not attend dinner

All but 2 responding to this question (why they did not attend the dinner) had scheduling conflicts. 2 respondents did not want to drive at night.

### **88% of respondents thought the price of the dinner was fair;**

Comments to this question included the following:

*Yes, but you might consider a discounted price for those in need.*

### **90% of respondents attended the social hour**

### **73.7% said they had time to catch up with people during the social hour**

## **Trivia Questions**

Most respondents had a positive view of using the trivia questions to call tables to the buffet line. Negative responses were primarily focused on the process being a bit disorganized and long. I think we can fine tune this and keep the practice next year.

## **Food**

Mostly very positive comments about the food served. A few comments about certain items running low or out.

## **Flow of the Meeting**

There were a variety of comments on the flow of the meeting and award presentations. Bottom line, many people thought the meeting was too long and were disappointed so many people left early and missed the keynote speaker.

### **Noteworthy comments include:**

#### **For the Challenge Awards:**

*Quite lengthy, but everyone should be recognized and thanked.*

#### **Nancy's Presentation:**

*Nancy's presentation was excellent, and she is a wonderful speaker.*

Karen Schultz will form an annual meeting committee to review suggestions received during the survey and plan the 2024 CMC Annual Meeting. Please contact her if you would like to help in this work. [vp@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:vp@carolinamountainclub.org)

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