



Carolina Mountain Club

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April 2021

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## **New Learning Crew for Secondary Trails Section Maintainers** by Jan Onan

*“The purpose of the Section Rovers is to have section maintainers who may or may not be affiliated with a CMC crew to come out and get additional training in trail maintenance. We shall meet no more than once a week either on a Tuesday or Saturday.” Rich Evans*

CMC maintains over 400 miles of primary and secondary hiking trails in our area. Our website is set up to accept trail issue reports from any CMC member hiking the trails, however, more was needed.

In 2019, Les Love came up with a Secondary Trails list in hopes that CMC members would formally get involved helping identify trail issues. Many members wanting to give back chose and were assigned a secondary trail. Maintainers could do light trail work or just observe and report. Rich Evans became the supervisor for the secondary trails and began to provide each new maintainer with a few CMC tools.

Kevin and I were assigned Cat Gap Loop. We have lots of hiking experience, so appreciate well-maintained trails, yet we knew little about trail maintaining. As Kevin and I worked our trail, we realized there was a lot more we could do if we knew how. We wanted to know how best to use the issued tools; Rich Evans was willing to teach.

I invited Rich to walk our 4.5 mile trail with us to point out areas we could work on. Instead of walking the entire trail, we walked a quarter mile in and found a huge erosion issue that caused the trail to be very unsafe. Stopping, we worked as he taught us how to repair the trail. Kevin and I were hooked and wanted to know more, so we joined Rich on his section of the MST along with other section maintainers to learn what to do with a multitude of roots on the trail. The following week, we joined Mel Skiles on his section of the MST and learned to solve some major water problems. Next onto Cat Gap where nine people showed up to problem-solve, have fun and work! We were thrilled to have so much work done in one day.



**Richard Evans**  
I am asked, "why am I out working on trails?" I think the answer is, "I'm out here making the trail better for people that I may never meet because people I never met made the trails better for me."

Since the group is a mix of experienced crew members and new section maintainers, Rich thought we could make this an official learning crew. Mel dubbed this new crew the "**Section Rovers.**"

Rich wrote, "The purpose of the Section Rovers is to have section maintainers who may or may not be affiliated with a CMC crew to come out and get additional training in trail maintenance. We shall meet no more than once a week either on a Tuesday or Saturday."

Coming out every week is not necessary, but twice a month is encouraged. Section Rovers will meet section maintainers on their section to address trail issues. We will rotate our trails so all who want to have work done can get a good start while getting a truly hands-on learning experience.

Kevin and I are so excited to be working with experienced and non-experienced maintainers who are more than willing to share their knowledge, talents and on-the-spot problem solving. There is something for everyone to learn, no matter physical abilities. The group makes it fun. As Rich says, "We are here to be safe, have fun, and if we have time, get some work done!"

If you would like to learn more about how to address issues on your secondary trail or if you are an experienced maintainer and would like to mentor a beginner, contact Rich Evans or Jan Onan.

I would like to add that if it weren't for Rich's expertise, sense of humor, and willingness let us experience the process of trail work, we would not have had the positive experience which brought us back for more. I learned that Rich is involved in maintaining almost daily, touching the lives of other maintainers through his years as a volunteer. Currently, his has over 8000 hours of work for and on our trails, which may be a record for any one maintainer.

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You will get a chance to learn more about Rich in Bobbi Powers' interview with Rich in next month's eNews. Here is a glimpse of what those whom he works with say about him:

*"For over two years, I have known Rich as a trail maintenance colleague on the Thursday Crew. He's been one of the highlights of my experience. Rich is a leader, workhorse, teacher, visionary, engineer, and entertainer all rolled together in a uniquely special person. He has a remarkable devotion to trail work and there is no accounting for the positive influence he has had on the trails where he has worked and the people he has worked with. Rich is a trail maintenance Olympian!"* Kit Ogburn March 2021

*"Rich is never one to call attention to his accomplishments. It is a little known fact that Rich spent some Army time in Europe. I will refer you to the history books to confirm the following fact. During Rich's time in Europe the Russians stayed on their side of the line. Rich will claim no credit; the history books say all that is necessary."*

Roy Davis

*"CMC's Secondary Trail Adoption Program would not have gotten off the ground had it not been for Rich taking on the responsibility of meeting each volunteer on their section, issuing them tools, getting them to sign the agreements (which he designed), and then showing them what tasks they needed to accomplish. He then made himself available to all of these people to answer questions and go with them later to work on their trails if they asked him. Thank you, Rich!"*

Les Love

*"Awesome is Rich putting in over 8,000 hours member of CMC crew every day of week M-F, member Saturday Quarterly Crew, and section maintainer. More awesome is Rich's quality of input on these crews including hard manual labor, vast trail maintenance knowledge, passion for mentoring to us, and, yes, his humor. Most awesome is Rich as my friend."*

Mel Skiles

*"Some sayings that are said most every trail day: 'Imagine roots on a trail.' 'We are old people with tools!' Rich leads by example, always if there's a negative, he follows with a positive. 8,000 plus hours, you'd think he was trying to set a record or something. Rich just seems to make the most of each day. I'm inspired."*

Rene Roberge

*"At the end of the day we LEAF it alone!" -Rich Evans*

Chris Werbylo

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## **Sunday hunting approved on Pisgah, other NC game lands**

Excerpts from an article by Karen Chávez in Asheville Citizen-Times on March 16, 2021:

For the first time in more than 150 years, Sunday hunting will be allowed in Pisgah and Nantahala national forests and other public game lands in North Carolina, to the delight of some and apprehension of others who had become accustomed to recreating on Sundays without encountering folks in the woods with guns.

To accommodate all users, some game lands will not be open to Sunday hunting. In order to balance these competing interests, Sunday hunting will be allowed on the larger and more rural/remote game lands, and still prohibit Sunday hunting on the smaller game lands and those that are located closer to urban areas, and thus get more use by the non-hunting public.

Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties was not proposed for Sunday hunting and will remain on a three-day-per week hunting schedule.

Sunday hunting was not proposed for the Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, nor Headwaters State Forest in Transylvania County. Hunting in those areas will remain at six days per week.

There are some restrictions to Sunday hunting on the newly opened public lands: No hunting between 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sunday.

To read the whole article,

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2021/03/16/sunday-hunting-2021-22-approved-pisgah-other-game-lands-nc-wildlife-resource-commission/4700010001/>

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## **A.T. Vista Inauguration 2021 - Hikes in 14 States – Be a Part of the History!**

The planning for the 2021 and 2022 A.T. Vista program has begun.

### **For 2021 – The Virtual Program, A.T. Vista – Celebrating 100 Years:**

As we want to continue to honor the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Benton MacKaye's 1921 article, "*An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning*," the 2021 A.T. Vista program will be conducted as a virtual program with dispersed local hiking opportunities all along the Appalachian Trail (and perhaps even elsewhere!).

We are seeking to promote and have hikes conducted in all 14 States and need your club or organization to identify hikes that you would like to conduct on Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8, 2021. Our goal is to have at least 100 hikes for participants to join during the two-day period. We are also seeking someone from each state to lead the coordination of getting groups to organize hikes in their state.

The 2021 virtual program will be a 2-day event. A general itinerary is below (details are still in process):

**1. Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8 from 8AM to 5PM:** Local hikes to be conducted along the Appalachian Trail in all states (and other trails in your area) and based on workshop input will determine how to add recorded sessions for access.

**2. Sunday, August 8 Evening(timeTBD):** Pictures and videos from these hikes to be uploaded from the Social Media sites and made into a recording and shared for viewers to experience the weekend hikes and outdoor experiences.

If you have members of your organization that would be interested in making this a memorable and ongoing future event, email us at [atvistainfo@gmail.com](mailto:atvistainfo@gmail.com) with the details below for your hike or enter the information online at [www.atvista2021.org](http://www.atvista2021.org) by **May 1, 2021** as we would like to begin promoting the hikes in June. We hope that with the promotion of hikes for this event that it will also increase the awareness of your organization and support to your membership.

Provide the requested information below and if you have other ideas, feel free to send those too. Since we do not know the state of the COVID-19 vaccines by the time of this program, consider that the current social distancing practices may still be in place, so that may require limitation to the number of participants for any hikes.

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**Hike Submission:**

1. Leader Name and Contact info (email, phone)
2. Co-Leader Name and Contact info
3. Organization hosting the hike
4. Location of the hike
5. Trail Name/Section
6. Description to be used
7. Number of Miles
8. Level (easy, moderate, strenuous)
9. Roundtrip or one-way hike?
10. Website link for participants to sign-up for the hike.

We are also seeking workshop proposals for topics that have been pre-recorded. Based on the number of workshops submitted we will determine how to integrate it with the virtual program.

**Workshop Submission:**

1. Workshop Name
2. Workshop description
3. Workshop Leader Name and Contact info (email, phone)
4. Length of session (average is expected to be no more than one-hour)
5. Link to the recorded session.
6. Would you also like to conduct this workshop online or in-person for the 2022 program?

A Monthly A.T. Vista Newsletter will also be used as a promotion to keep those that want to know up to date on the 2021 and eventual 2022 program as the plans develop. A newsletter sign-up link will soon be available but for now names and emails can also be submitted directly to [atvistainfo@gmail.com](mailto:atvistainfo@gmail.com)

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## **Walking with Spring** written by Earl Shaffer

With Spring upon us, we all want to get out there on the trails to hike. But on rainy days when that's impossible, you might want to sit back and read about Earl Shaffer, the first thru-hiker of the Appalachian Trail.

*Walking with Spring*, by Earl Shaffer is his account of the first-ever thru-hike of the A.T.

“In 1948, the Appalachian Trail had been a continuous, 2,000-mile footpath for 11 years, but no one had walked its length alone in a continuous journey – until Earl Shaffer, a quiet Pennsylvanian, became a hiking legend and the first of what is now more than 5,500 A.T. "thru-hikers," walking from Georgia to Maine as spring arrived to each area. In 1998, he hiked again as a 50th-anniversary celebration, to far greater publicity. This is the lyrical account of his fabled 1948 walk, with his own photographs.”



The paperback version, published by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, can be ordered from the ATC website:

<https://www.atctrailstore.org/atc-published-guides-maps/walking-with-spring/>

Earl Shaffer Foundation, Inc., a non-profit promoting his values and legacy, ([earlshaffer.org](http://earlshaffer.org)) has posted a serialization of the book on Facebook, with Episode 7 recounting his hiking through North Carolina.

<https://www.facebook.com/earlshafferfoundation>

A New York Times article pays tribute to Shaffer:

“Earl **Shaffer**, who put one foot in front of another about five million times to become the **first** person to **hike** the Appalachian Trail in one trek, and then was **first** to do it in the opposite direction, north to south, died on May 5 at a hospital in Lebanon, Pa. He was 83.” May 12, 2002

<https://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/12/us/earl-shaffer-first-hike-length-appalachian-trail-both-directions-dies-83.html#:~:text=Earl%20Shaffer%2C%20who%20put%20one,He%20was%2083.>

For more information on Shaffer, visit:

<https://www.adventure-journal.com/2020/01/earl-shaffer-the-first-thru-hiker-of-the-at-embodied-that-trails-soul/>

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Carolina Mountain Club eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Send your news to [eNews@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:dbass3607@gmail.com). Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.

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