



# Carolina Mountain Club

Since 1923

eNews | Hike . Save Trails . Make Friends

March 2019

---

## In This Issue

[A.T. News and Notes](#)

[Spring Social April 20th](#)

[Want to Help Maintain Trails Without Swinging A Hazel Hoe?](#)

[Meet Mike Fisher](#)

[Map Navigation Class](#)

[Be part of CMC's BOOTH GROUP](#)

[New Speaker Series with Jennifer Pharr Davis](#)

---

## A.T. News and Notes

By Paul Curtin

Next outing for the Remote Overnight Crew is April 27/28th in the area of Springer Mountain shelter. We hope to build on our very successful first outing with an even bigger effort this time! It's a great chance to combine some backpacking and camping with trail work. We have plenty of experienced maintainers to show first timers the ropes. Sign up through the CMC web site.

A group from Wake Forest University is coming to the A.T. at Spivey Gap to do a service project. They expect to bring about 30 people. We will need some experienced maintainers to help with directing their work and keeping them safe. Please contact me at [pmcurtin@hotmail.com](mailto:pmcurtin@hotmail.com) if you can help. We have had several incidents reported in the last few months of mountain bikes or motorized bikes on the Appalachian Trail. These are violations which degrade our trails, diminish the hiking experience, and are punishable by fines. These incidents have been reported to the Forest Service for inclusion in their database. It helps to have the reports so the Forest Service can see where most of the incidents are occurring and focus their efforts. If you see evidence of an incident please forward the info to the Forest Service and myself. If you see an active incident taking place, call the Forest Service directly if possible in the chance they can apprehend the violators. You will need to know if you are in NC for Pisgah NF or in TN for Cherokee NF. If not sure call Pisgah. Keep these numbers in your cell phone in case you see something. This also applies to the MST. Pisgah Appalachian Ranger District 828 689 9694 Cherokee Unaka Ranger District 423 638 4109 Keep June 1st, National Trails Day on your radar. We will follow last year's outstanding event with a return to Max Patch. A signup will appear in the next month or so on the web site. Since last year we have completed the installation of a three-panel kiosk, 250 ft of split rail fence behind it, and improvements to the A.T. and blue blaze access trails. We will need many volunteers to make this year's event another success. We can always use more maintainers on the A.T. Please contact me if interested in taking on or sharing a section. It is possible to just be added onto an existing section to aid the current



maintainers. Contact me if you want to be part of the A.T. experience!

---

## Spring Social April 20th

by Bobbi Powers

The 14th annual **Spring Social** will be held at the NC Arboretum on Saturday, April 20. We can look forward to the same tried and true format.

The fun will begin with a choice of hikes - a 2:30pm moderate hike around Lake Powatan or a 3:00pm wildflower hike.

A 5:00pm non-alcoholic social hour with a new photo sharing slide show will precede Bubba's BBQ buffet and the program. Note: The Arboretum is changing its alcohol regulations and this will be a "dry" event.



The theme of the photo sharing is **Fascinating F-words: Ferns, Flowers, Fungi**. (If a frog or a fairy or a friend is part of your photo, that's even better!) Please submit up to five photos to [CarolinaMtnClubPhotos@gmail.com](mailto:CarolinaMtnClubPhotos@gmail.com) Your thank-you for adding to the pre-dinner entertainment will be your name on each photo. Please start sending in your photos NOW!

The program is going to be special. Brew Davis, husband of Jennifer Pharr Davis who presented the program at last year's Annual Dinner, is just as talented as his wife, though in a quite different way. Brew is a talented song writer, singer, musician, and wit. Get ready for **An Evening with Brew!**

The cost for the dinner is \$23/person. CMC members, their friends and family are welcome to attend. Watch for an eNews-Blast in mid-March which will have the payment form/options.

---

## Want to Help Maintain Trails Without Swinging A Hazel Hoe?

By Randy Fluharty

One of the most important things we do as a club is maintain over 450 miles of trails. However, for some of you, swinging a hazel hoe or working with heavy rocks is not your thing. But if you love plants and want to help maintain our trails, here is an opportunity.

The Council would like to establish a Natural Resources team. This team would work on eliminating invasive species and identifying rare plants near trails. It would require working with a team, pulling, bagging, and removing invasive plants, walking trails, and identifying and marking the location of rare plants. Making the location of these rare plants known will help the trail maintenance crews avoid damaging them. Training would be provided by Matt Drury from the ATC.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, and especially if you have an interest in and are familiar with plants, please email me at [rfluharty54@gmail.com](mailto:rfluharty54@gmail.com)

---

## Meet Mike Fisher, CMC Conservation Chair

By Danny Bernstein

Mike Fisher is a serious man - and a serious outdoors person.

Mike spent his professional life as an economist, specializing in environmental and energy policy. He worked for a think tank in Cambridge, MA which advises on public policy. The best definition of a think tank is a group of people who are paid to read, discuss, think, and write, usually to address and redress a matter of vital importance to humanity.



He joined CMC in 2015. Barbara Morgan and Becky Smucker encouraged him to join the CMC Conservation committee. They felt that with his background and training, Mike would contribute a great deal. Mike became Chair of the committee this year.

One example. Appalachian Voices commissioned his company to look at a proposed coal fired power plant in SW Virginia. They found that it would be more economically beneficial to Virginia for the power company to meet its electricity needs by investing in energy efficiency, while also cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution. The company could actually save money and be more earth friendly. Mike worked on projects all over the world, commissioned by governments and public policy organizations. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Yale. CMC Life He joined CMC in 2015. Barbara Morgan and Becky Smucker encouraged him to join the CMC Conservation committee. They felt that with his background and training, Mike would contribute a great deal. Mike became Chair of the committee this year. The Conservation Committee has been active in the Pisgah Nantahala Forest management plan, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/home/?cid=stelprdb5397660> from its inception, at least since 2013. Such a long lead time might be very upsetting to some, maybe even convince them that they don't want to get involved in this project. But not Mike.

"I'm not bothered. I'm used to long-term projects." Some of his work projects were on the books for 10 to 15 years. After years of collecting comments and holding meetings, the US Forest Service will release its draft management plan this year. The day that it comes out, the public (that's us) has 90 days to comment. This is where we, the CMC membership, need to pay attention and comment. The final Management Plan will dictate the Forest Service guidelines on how to manage Pisgah and Nantahala Forests for at least twenty years, making it a very important document for CMC hikers and maintainers. The committee will help CMC members, by having Comment Writing Workshops and focusing on a small number of issues. We need to write as individuals. CMC will also have a club response which will be approved by the CMC Council. Mike finally retired from his professional life in 2017. But he is as serious about the Conservation Committee work as he was in his prior professional paid work – digging in, going to meetings, meeting deadlines, writing reports... He knows how to prioritize his work. Because he and his wife live part-time in Wilmington, NC, he also volunteered with the Cape Fear River Watch, an environmental non-profit which advocates for the health of the river. But when he realized how much work and involvement the Forest Plan would involve, he dialed back on his Cape Fear activities. Sorry, Wilmington, but Western North Carolina is glad to have him. Mike's Full Life Mike was also a serious skier and climber and, in his late sixties, still is. But now, Mike spends a lot of time exploring our area. He likes to hike Graybeard with friends and is exploring Pisgah Forest. Mike has been a hiker, climber and skier since he joined the Yale Mountaineering Club in college. He joined the Appalachian Mountain Club, [www.outdoors.org], the oldest outdoor club in the United States. With them and with friends, he's climbed and skied all throughout much of North America, including New England, western U.S. and the Canadian Rockies. But he is also a musician, specializing in Rock and

Blues. He plays a guitar he received from his uncle in Madison County, when he was twelve years old. Mike's mountain roots run deep.

The Last Question If you could take an out-of-town guest, who hikes as well as you do, on one hike to show off the area, where would you go? "The Black Mountain Crest Trail, starting at Mt. Mitchell," Mike said without hesitation. Though Mike didn't explicitly say how far he would go on the trail – it's a tough one – you know it would be all the way. That's how Mike Fisher does things. \*\*Watch for details on the Forest plan in the eNews and the specifics on the Comment Writing Workshops

---

## **Map Navigation Class offered April 26 & 28, 2019**

Come learn or refresh your map reading skills

Limit of 12 participants

Hike leaders will be considered first, and others will be placed on a wait list.

Contact Jan Onan at [janonan59@gmail.com](mailto:janonan59@gmail.com)

### Part 1 - Indoors

Where REI at Biltmore Park

When Friday April 26, 2019

6:30-8:30pm

### Part 2 - Outdoors

Where: TBA

When Sunday April 28, 2019

9:30 - 3:00pm

### What to bring both days:

A base-plate compass for map work

(You can buy this at REI before the evening class)

A notebook

### Sunday bring:

A pocket-sized notebook for hands free learning and your compass

Hiking gear including lunch, water, & snack

Description: Class will include an introduction to the UTM coordinate system, topographic map reading, how to use a compass alone and in conjunction with a map to orient and navigate, as well as how to plan and execute an off trail route.



---

**We Need YOU!**  
**Be part of CMC's BOOTH GROUP**

We are being asked again to showcase what we do:

Blue Ghost Brewing Company is hosting "Spring Up! Paddles, Trails & Ales Festival," on Saturday, April 13, 2019, from 1-6PM in Firefly Field (directly adjacent to the brewery). We are located at 125 Underwood Road, Fletcher, NC, 28732, and are seeking out businesses, non-profits, and individuals from WNC to participate in this event -- with a focus on those connected with the outdoors in WNC in some form or fashion.

CMC is contacted regularly, especially during the warm months, to set up information tables at events. Opportunities like these could be great PR, connects CMC with our community and can be great fun as these are often in a casual festive type atmosphere.

If interested, contact Jan Onan at  
[Education@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:Education@carolinamountainclub.org)



## New Speaker Series with Jennifer Pharr Davis

By Jan Onan and Kate Fisher  
CMC Education Committee

Many of you know Jennifer Pharr Davis as an avid hiker and advocate for organizations that support hiking and trails. Recently, Jen approached CMC and asked us to collaborate with her and her business, Blue Ridge Hiking Company on a new Speaker Series. The plan is to invite individuals throughout the year to present their stories of outdoor adventure. Astral Designs, an Asheville-based producer of life jackets and footwear has agreed to host the series at their Riverside Drive location.



In Jen fashion, she hit the trail running by inviting her friend, Heather "Anish" Anderson, to start the series on Tuesday, February 12th. They planned for 50 people and were delighted when even more people showed up. Jen invited the overflow crowd to sit "campfire style" on the floor up front.

Heather shared a bit about her upbringing in Michigan and how she went from being an overweight girl with no success in sports to a long-distance hiker and runner. She talked about her record breaking hike on the Pacific Crest Trail and read from her new book, Thirst - 2600 Miles to Home, which tells about the hardships and growth that came from her journey. She was engaging, funny and after sharing stories, she left us with this thought: The trail is there and will provide whatever experience you need to get in touch with and heal yourself.

Last November, Heather also hiked all 3 long trails in the US (The Pacific Crest Trail, The Appalachian Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail) earning her Triple Crown in only 8 months.

Jen is a huge advocate of women on the trail and now that she has a family, she would like to open up more opportunities for busy family members to get involved in the support of trails even if they don't have the time to hike themselves. This Series is one way. Thank you, Jen!



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.

Carolina Mountain Club | P.O. Box 68  
Asheville, NC 28802



[CMC Calendar](#)   [Hike Reports](#)   [Future Hikes](#)

Carolina Mountain Club, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802