



Carolina Mountain Club

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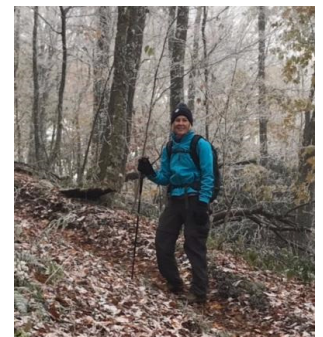
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Welcome CMC's New Vice President, Debby Jones

by Becky Smucker

"I began hiking with CMC before the moving boxes were unpacked," says Debby Jones, CMC's newly elected Vice President. She and her husband David moved into their second home in Black Mountain four years ago on a Saturday, and she was out with CMC on Sunday. She found us on the internet, and Jim Reel was leading that day's hike. "He was very kind and welcoming", she reports appreciatively.



Debby had been a little worried that the CMC hikers would all be very young and fast, and that she wouldn't be able to keep up. However, the main topic of the day was colonoscopies. Katherine Love was scheduled for the procedure the next day and couldn't eat, and was the gracious target of ribbing. "It was awesome, perfect," Debby says.

Don't take this as an indication that Debby is a slow hiker; she's not. She prefers the club's longer and more challenging hikes, and hikes with others outside CMC who also like the distance.

Debby was born and raised in Atlanta, and she and David continue to have a home there. About 20 years ago Debby and family started going to the Smokies to car camp and backpack. Also, they sometimes came to Asheville for her husband's business, and got hooked on the town. They now have a log cabin in High Rock Acres south of Black Mountain where she spends a lot of time. They will move to a house in Asheville full time when he retires in about five years.

Three years ago Debby retired from a 35-year career as a teacher, Athletic Director, and administrator in Georgia's largest school system. She continues to work part time for them on a contract basis as a "Hearing Officer," working every other week in hearings with and for kids who have been expelled. She loves her work, and feels that many of the strengths that she contributed and learned working in schools will transfer to her participation on CMC's Council. These abilities include a good work ethic, ability to tackle tough problems, awareness of community needs and issues, the ability to maintain a sense of humor and a positive outlook, understanding of organizations and what it takes to keep them running, and knowing how to look for the strengths in each individual.

While Debby did some trail maintenance on the A.T. in Georgia with GATC (Georgia Appalachian Trail Club), she has not yet participated in trail work with CMC. She plans to start by going out with Les Love's Saturday group, and later check out the other trail crews. She hopes that the crews will welcome her and be patient while she improves her skills and learns about the very extensive and complex trail work program CMC has.

Her strong background in public schools will no doubt lead Debby to a significant focus on education and outreach. She will have a big picture view of the importance of sharing what we know about valuing the outdoors. "I believe I am at a perfect time in my life's journey to commit to this position. It is important to preserve what we have for future generations and I would like to be an integral part of CMC in promoting this philosophy. I vow to participate actively, respectfully and constructively. I know I can bring a great deal 'to the picnic', and look forward to learning from others."

Debby has three children and three grandchildren. Besides her work and hiking, she likes to cook and travel, and is a volunteer with the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Thank you, Debby, for stepping up in service to CMC and our mission.

Tweets!

CMC is now on Twitter! Follow **@CMChiking** for the latest news on our parks, forests and trails. Right now, CMChiking is following The Smokies, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the MST and more. To find, CMChiking, you must be signed up on Twitter.



Go to www.twitter.com and sign up.

George Oldham: A wonderful life by Stuart English

When Ashok Kudva and his wife moved to Carolina Village in Hendersonville, he had not expected to meet one of CMC's last living presidents. George Oldham had never been interviewed! So, I

hurriedly put together some questions and met George and Ashok for lunch at this excellent retirement facility. It turned out that I didn't really need the questions since it soon became apparent that George, a 95-year-old WW2 veteran, was telling me the story of his life as it came to him. What a life it was!

George retired from his job as Superintendent of Schools in Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey and moved to Hendersonville in 1975. His wife had Parkinson's disease and George retired early at 53 to take care of her. George had a common bond immediately with Ashok since he had been stationed in India during World War II. He had been a bombardier on B-24s, "the Liberator," and was stationed at a base near Calcutta. They flew bombing missions over Burma against the Japanese and flew supplies over the Himalayas for troops in China. George went into education after the war.



Upon arriving in Western North Carolina, George discovered hiking. Before joining CMC, he hiked with a group called the Welcome Wagon Club. In those days CMC Wednesday hikes were primarily Hendersonville people. George also participated in trail maintenance and was the section maintainer for 6 miles on the A. T. at the North Carolina and Tennessee border where the trail crosses I-40.

George was elected President of CMC in 1982 and served through 1983. He was preceded by Ray Ertzberger and followed by Sarah Davis. During this time, the A. T. was rerouted over Max Patch and the Shut-In Trail was officially made part of the MST. George presided over a celebration of this event and the club was given an award for their work on these two trails.

To George, camaraderie was the most important part of hiking. As we talked, he remembered many people he had hiked with during his 20 years in the club. There was a small group from Austria fondly called the Austrian Mafia. One of them, Augie Kuhn knew the trails really well. Ernie Kadel used to entertain people with the mouth organ. From the Austrians, George developed a taste for peanut butter and bologna sandwiches on hikes.

George completed the SB6K Challenge with three friends: Bruce Leach, Hillys Berry, and Paul Hanlon. In order not to have to get up so early, they stayed with a friend who lived in Celo to hike the Blacks. Another friend, Perry Rudnik (who contributed greatly to the Kellogg Center) did Trail Maintenance with Dwight Allen.

This interview confirms what we all probably know. The individual hikes tend to fade away in our memory. But the people we hike with and the experiences we share last a lifetime

George Oldham Becomes Honorary Lifetime Member of CMC



On Wednesday, November 14, former CMC president George Oldham was presented with CMC's highest award, an Honorary Lifetime Membership. Attending were current CMC president Barbara Morgan, who presented the award and Randy Fluharty, the CMC president-elect. Also in attendance were fellow nonagenarians, Sherman Stambaugh and Lew Blodgett. Morgan Summerville, A. T. executive for North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia, said a few words remembering that George was the CMC president when he

stepped into that position.

Also during that time, the A. T. was rerouted over Max Patch and became the most visited section of the trail. George is 95 years old and lives in the Independent Living Section of Carolina Village where this event took place. Many thanks to Ashok Kudva, another resident of Carolina Village, for arranging this presentation.



HIKE LEADERS NEEDED!

"Please, y'all!"

...begs southern belle Gail Lamb. "During the 5 years I have been hike scheduler for half-day Sunday hikes, we have lost 11 leaders due to age and injury and have gained only 5. We need a bigger pool of leaders since every leader may not be able to lead every quarter. Help!"

There are 850 members in CMC, and 12 - 15 of them volunteer to lead half-day hikes. These hikes are not only the gate-way for many new hikers, they are also preferred by members who do not want to (or cannot) give up an entire day to be away.

These hikes are an important alternative to all-day hikes and an important part of our hike schedule. If you can and will help, please contact Gail: glamb46@gmail.com or call her at home at 828-338-0443.

SUZANNE DIXON NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Suzanne Dixon, former senior director of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), has been selected as the [Appalachian Trail Conservancy's](#) (ATC) new president and CEO. Beginning on December 11, Dixon will lead the organization in its mission to maintain, protect and celebrate the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.).

"Suzanne has the extraordinary talent and drive that is necessary to be the leading voice for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy," said Sandra Marra, chair of the board of directors for the ATC. "Her success in protecting the values of the National Parks, along with her expertise in fundraising, advocacy and programmatic growth, will be a great asset for the ATC and the greater Appalachian Trail community."

For nearly twenty years, Dixon served key roles in NPCA advocating for the broader protection of the National Park System. She most recently served as senior director of regional operations with accomplishments including the designation of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park as a World Heritage Site. She also played a critical role in the designation of the Waco Mammoth National Monument and the protection of Fort Davis National Historic Site. Dixon currently serves on the board of directors for the Waco Mammoth Foundation.

"The Appalachian Trail is an American treasure, and I'm privileged to lead this team as we celebrate the recreational, economic and cultural significance of the Trail," said Dixon. "I'm excited to be an ambassador and collaborator with communities up and down the A.T. as we move

forward in protecting the Trail and its surrounding landscapes. By working directly with the public, we will strengthen our ability for families to enjoy this precious resource for generations to come."

The ATC currently has over 42,000 members, a network of over 6,500 volunteers and an operating budget of \$9.36 million. As a volunteer-based organization whose mission is to preserve and manage the Trail, the ATC is the only organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the world's most famous hiking trail. The ATC provides outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for an estimated 3 million A.T. visitors each year.



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. Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words. You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments.

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