



Carolina Mountain Club

Since 1923

eNews | Hike . Save Trails . Make Friends

June 2015

In This Issue

[Bridge Completed](#)

[MacDowell Hikes For A Cause](#)

[DNA Indicates Wrong Bear Euthanized](#)

[Federal Government Update](#)

[Stepping Back In CMC History](#)

[L.L. Bean Helps Fund Training](#)

[Wilderness Skills Institute](#)

[Keeping The Trails Clear](#)

[Barr Bags Peaks](#)

[Missing Hiker Found](#)

[Fitzgerald Shares Passion](#)

[Photo Contest](#)



Clubs Complete 27-Foot Long Footbridge On MST

By Mike Williams

More than a dozen volunteers from two Western North Carolina hiking clubs recently completed construction of a rustic, sturdy 27-foot long footbridge where the Mountains-to-Sea Trail crosses Neal's Creek near the Black Mountain Campground.

"We're thrilled that so many volunteers contributed their time and effort to a project that turned out so fantastic,"

said Jake Blood, president of the N.C. High Peaks Trail Association, which sponsored the job in cooperation with the Monday Trail Crew of the Carolina Mountain Club. "CMC Monday Crew Leader John Whitehouse helped lead the way on this and should be proud because the bridge is truly a work of art."

The effort put the finishing touches on a 1.5-mile relocation project. With many of its members also belonging to CMC and working regularly on its Monday crew, the Yancey County club constructed a new section of trail through the woods in order to take the Mountains-to-Sea Trail off the gravel road that runs from the campground entrance to Neal's Creek.

CMC Trails Facilities Manager Tom Weaver designed the bridge, which was approved by the U.S. Forest Services. Crew members started the job by constructing a three-foot tall pier of recycled pressure-treated lumber on each side of the creek. With Ranger approval, they then located and felled three large locust trees and peeled all the bark from the logs to discourage rot. Next they loaded the logs onto a trailer, drove them a half-mile up Neal's Creek Road and snaked them through the woods to the bridge site using a rented Bobcat. Using an elaborate system of overhead cables and pulleys designed by Whitehouse, a retired nuclear engineer, volunteers then lifted and safely moved the logs – which weighed an estimated 1,200 pounds each – into position on the piers. The logs were bolted together and pinned to the piers using iron re-bar, the tread was flattened and roughened for traction with a chainsaw, and finally handrails and steps were added.

Altogether, 17 volunteers contributed 514 hours of work on this project. This bridge should provide years of service to hikers enjoying one of our state's premier trails. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard to build it!

MacDowell Answers Call To Hike For A Cause- Make A Wish

By Bev MacDowell

Is it just me, or do other people on occasion feel that they receive 'signs' that are pointing them in a certain direction? This is how this long day's walk happened for me, a gal who likes her 5-7 miles with an occasional 10-15.

First there was the marketing brilliance of the billboards around town. There are three on Sweeten Creek alone. Well, the CMC has trained me to take on a Challenge. Nothing but good has come from participating in our club challenges. I've completed SB6K and LTC, hiking to fabulous destinations in order to earn my badges. I've become closer friends with CMC hikers and more fit in direct correlation to CMC challenges.



Secondly, I felt a heart 'tug' as I was aware that there was a 'Wish Kid' right in my kindergarten class at Carolina Day School. This young fellow is doing fine now, by the way. I mentioned to my student's mother that I was noodling with the idea of hiking. Well, she planned on doing the walk. "Come On!" she encouraged me.

I remembered that we had two CMC members do this hike last year. Donna Lanning and Maggie Marshall, they seemed like 'normal' sorts. Maybe one need not be an Amazon woman to manage this hike. (Donna hiked again with my group.) Let me leap ahead and say it's one of the best gifts I've ever given myself. It is empowering to manage such a feat as a woman in her 50s...yahoo! But so much better than that is the gift of being of service to kids with life threatening illnesses. Kids that are facing rounds of chemo, etc. that are no fun and gut wrenching for their families. I, through my fundraising and walk, helped give some measure of joy to these kids. Make A Wish gave me a chance to do something really honorable. Our group of 80 something hikers raised enough money for 67 wishes for kids in Western NC. (Approx. \$6000 per wish). My last comment about the hike is that it is gorgeous...running for miles along the Chattooga River. It is well run, you are supported by food and aid at 4 stations along the way. Weekend hotel and meals are also provided. All one needs to do iswalk. I hope some of you are feeling the 'sign' to participate in a Make A Wish Hike!



DNA Indicates Euthanized Bear Not The One That Attacked Camper In Park

GSMP release

Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials received DNA results from the bear attack occurring at backcountry campsite 84 where a 16-year old male from Ohio was seriously injured by a bear on June 6. Immediately following the report of the attack, rangers and wildlife biologists implemented an action plan that included clearing the Hazel Creek backcountry area of hikers and searching for bears using cameras, traps, and conducting foot patrols. Wildlife biologists and rangers also conducted a thorough investigation of the scene of the attack and collected forensic evidence, including bear hair and saliva from the victim's equipment, to be used for DNA analysis.

On the evening of June 7, wildlife biologists encountered and shot at a bear near campsite 84, but the bear ran off after the shots were fired and biologists were unable to confirm whether the bear had been struck. Efforts to track the bear were unsuccessful due to darkness and a severe thunderstorm with heavy rainfall that fell immediately following the shooting. On the morning of June 8, a bear was caught in a culvert trap set at campsite 84. Biologists euthanized the bear and collected a sample for DNA analysis.

Federal Government Considering 2016 Conservation Funding

American Hiking Society Press Release

Senate appropriators passed the Interior bill through full committee on a party line vote yesterday after much back-and-forth over funding levels and riders. The bill will move to the floor of the Senate at an unspecified later date.

The FY2016 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill provides a total of \$31.06 billion, including \$30.01 billion in discretionary funding and \$1.05 billion in emergency firefighting funds.

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) took a hit compared to last year's enacted funding level, the committee appropriators funding it at \$292 million which is \$14 million less than FY2015. Considering that the senate majority switched in the last election, however, it still reflects that there is much support for this program that is vital to completing so many trails. It also continues the trend, regardless of who is the majority party, of the Senate recommending much higher investment in LWCF than the House.



1009

Carolina Mountain Club

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

[Date] April 20 1924

The undersigned, residing in Millis
in the State of Mass desires membership in the Carolina Mountain Club.

[Signature] Freeman C. Wright M.D.
[Home Address] Wight St. Millis Mass
[Business Address] 32 Hayward Place Boston
[Occupation] Physician

NOMINATION

The undersigned, members of the Carolina Mountain Club, recommend
Freeman C. Wright, Millis, Mass.

[Signature] J. Morse
[Signature] C. Auble

APR 20 PAID

Definite information regarding the character, standing and occupation of the applicant is REQUIRED from both sponsors. Nominations by members of the candidate's immediate family are not accepted. Two members of the same family must not join in nominations. By vote of the Council.

H. TAYLOR ROGERS, Treasurer,
57 Haywood Street, Asheville, N. C.

Membership fee \$10.00 for adults.
\$ 6.00 for minors.
This fee includes the annual fee.
If under 21, give date of birth here:

Sponsors' letters should accompany this application.

I am especially interested in the activities of the Club which are checked below.

1. Club Huts and Shelters.
2. Excursions.
3. Forestry.
4. Lectures.
5. Natural History (Name branch)
6. Photography.
7. Summer Camps.
8. Topography.
9. Trail Making.
10. Fishing and Hunting.

Would be glad to receive any special notices that may be issued on the subjects I have checked. (Yes or No).....

Would be willing to serve on or with committees having in charge the following activities glad to help in any way possible

Stepping Back In CMC History- 1924

By Rocko Smucker

CMC Archivist

Box 15, Folder 17 Carolina Mountain Club Applications for Membership, 1924

This folder contained 15 applications for CMC membership. They included a dentist, The Manor's assistant manager, a banker from Biltmore Forest, a person from Clearwater, FL, three physicians (one above

from Massachusetts), a civil engineer, the president of a hotel, two lawyers, a landscape architect, the executive secretary of the Women's City Club, a farmer, and one no occupation. CMC in 1924 was more of a social club. The \$10.00 dues for adults and the \$6.00 dues for minors would equal \$136.00 and \$82.00 in 2015 dollars. It was the beginning of the Roaring Twenties. The Jackson Building in downtown Asheville was completed with an observation tower topped with a 400X telescope and an 18 million candle searchlight to attract tourists. McCormick Field and the Battery Park Hotel opened in 1924

George H. W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, James Baldwin, Shirley Chisholm, and Marlon Brando were born in 1924. It was the time of Jazz Age, Prohibition, the Lost Generation of Hemingway and Gertrude Stein, speakeasies, flappers, and Art Deco. A Ford Model T cost \$260, or \$3,530 today. Calvin Coolidge was President.



The picture to the left is the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club premier hike to Mt. Leconte on October 18-19, 1924. This hike is when these individuals from Knoxville decided to create the SMHC. Several gentlemen are wearing ties so I wonder about the extent of the hike. I've notice in some early pictures, men hiked in ties. (picture courtesy of Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Knoxville, TN)

L.L. Bean Helps Fund Maintenance Training

By Ann Hendrickson

A year ago, several CMC trail crew volunteers attended the Introduction to Stonework 2-day workshop, conducted by the Jolly Rovers of New York, at the Wilderness Skills Institute. The volunteers came back to their crews and raved about the invaluable skills that were learned and the applicability the skills are to working on trails in much of our terrain.



The groundwork was quickly laid to find the means to provide this type of training for more of crew members. In order to minimize travel costs, the workshop date was picked to piggy-back when the Jolly Rovers were back in WNC. A grant was submitted and approved by L.L. Bean Inc., the CMC Council approved to fund the rest of the training expense, and crew members were invited to give up their weekend for an intense "rock work" training session.

On the weekend of May 23-24, the following crew members (representing all of the CMC Maintenance Crews) participated in this educational experience: Jerry Aldridge, Cynthia Blood, Jake Blood, John Busse, Tim Carrigan, Dan Dearybury, Jeff Dektor, Bill Falender, Hugh Hensleigh, Les Love, Steve Patch, Michael Ramos, Skip Sheldon, Wayne Steinmetz, Tom Weaver, Jim West, and John Whitehouse. (Special Thanks to Tom Weaver for

coordinating the event, and to Pete Peterson for housing the 3 Jolly Rover crew members.) The fairly intense two days of training involved hands on training in proper tool use and safety; stone splitting and shaping, and the proper methodology for installation of stone steps. The consideration for this type of extensive manual labor is to build (or improve or replace) trails or staircases that are in rocky locations that receive heavy use from a large variety of users. The approach trail to Skinny Dip Falls was used for the training ground. (Check out the new staircase as a result of this workshop!) The consensus of participants was that the professional workshop provided news skill sets that can readily be applied in various aspects of their trail maintenance duties. The

workshop also provided an opportunity for trail crew members to meet and work with other crew members. Discussion is already underway to provide more continuing education opportunities to CMC members who are active trail crew members.

Trail Structure Training - Wilderness Skills Institute

By Ann Hendrickson

Four of CMC's trail crew members, Skip Sheldon, Tom Weaver, Bill Otto and Ann Hendrickson, were accepted to participate in the Wilderness Skills' Institutes Advanced Trail Structure Training Program. Once again, the Jolly Rover's out of New York were invited back to provide technical and hands on instruction in the craft of stonework. For the first time, an advanced skills weeklong course was offered for volunteers with a solid background in stonework. There was a long waiting list for the 12 educational slots for this course. We felt very fortunate to have been selected. (Even heaving sledge hammers in a down pour!)



A day long indoor classroom of instruction launched our training. The instructions were given on a highly technical basis. We discussed the difference in determining the grade and slope of a trail; what is acceptable (10%) for front country trails and back country (15%), how to “amour” tread, the need to build a turnpike and rock boxes for wet areas. Check steps, rises, runs, knives, base steps, gargoyles, and deadmen, are now familiar stone concepts that we can translate in our trail building repertoire when working with a major trail repair or trail build in a rocky area. Perhaps one of the most useful learning experiences was being taught and then applying the concept of batter ratios to build a sustainable crib wall. Initially, the technical aspects were a lot to digest. However, the Jolly Rovers have a unique ability to easily translate these concepts to hands on learning experience. A lot of discussion was also held on what is “standard” or acceptable trail structures for frontcountry and backcountry trails, what to focus on for multi-use trails, and for creating or improving heavy use trails.

After the classwork session we headed to Pilot Rock Trail for 3 days of a highly focused field



The Big One that DIDN't get away.

CMC Pisgah Friday crew members Jerry Aldridge and Jim Spicer cleared this four foot diameter tree from obstructing the Mountains to the Sea trail recently. Hikers had tried climbing over it, but found bushwhacking around it much more successful.





Peter Barr Bags Tallest Peaks In NC

By Nathaniel Axtell
Times-News Correspondent

Some people collect stamps or coins; others, beer cans or commemorative plates. Peter Barr collects peaks.

The 31-year-old "peakbagger," who works as the trails and outreach coordinator for the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, has spent more than a decade climbing the highest mountains and

hills he could find with friends and family.

Missing Hiker Found Dead In National Park

GMSNP Press Release

Great Smoky Mountains National Park rangers believe to have discovered the body of reported missing hiker, Jenny Bennett, 62, of Sylva, NC in the Lester Prong area of Greenbrier above campsite 31 on Monday, June 8. It was reported to park officials on Sunday, June 7 that Bennett was missing and possibly in the park. Her vehicle was located at the Porters Flat Trailhead later that evening. An area wide search operation of trained man trackers was underway when she was found by rangers.



Bennett was an avid hiker in the Smoky Mountains and maintained a blog about her trips. She was a member of the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club and often liked to hike off trail in the park.



Jack Fitzgerald Shares Passion For Life, Trails and Waterfalls

By Gina Malone
Times-News Correspondent

Jack Fitzgerald, 82, figures he averages about 500 miles a year of hiking. At that rate, he jokes, "I'm halfway through my hip replacement," which his doctors told him would last for 20 years or 20,000 miles, whichever came first.

With Fitzgerald, it's likely to be the miles.

He and his wife, Susan, moved to Hendersonville from Raleigh when they retired in 1993. The terrain was the draw. A boyhood in Nebraska where it was as "flat as a pancake," Fitzgerald said, led him to seek higher ground. Estes Park in Colorado was a few hours away and, as a young man, he hiked trails all over the Rocky Mountain National Park.

Prizes By Diamond Brand Outdoors Carolina Mountain Club Photo Contest

By Ann Hendrickson

Attention all shutterbugs! Get out your cameras, GoPros or cellphones with cameras. The CMC wants your best shots from the trail! Winning photographs of the new photo contest will be featured on the website and the photographers (and their photos) will be recognized at the Annual Meeting. Categories for the contest include:



1) Landscape, 2) People on the Trail, and 3) Plants, and/or animals. Entries will be accepted until Sept 30, 2015.



Send eNews articles to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org

The newsletter will go out the last Friday of every month except for the months the editor is taking a vacation which will happen in July and September in 2015. The deadline to submit news is the Friday before it goes out.

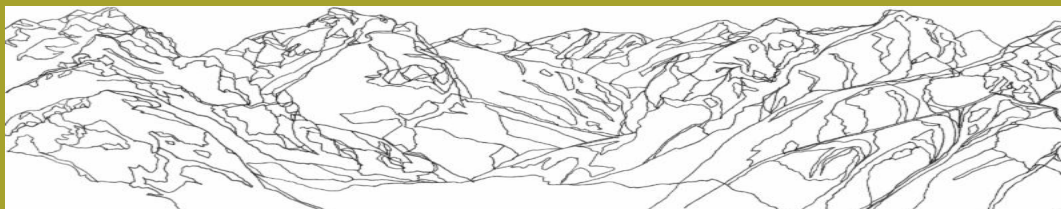
The next issue will come out on Friday, August 28, so send your news by Friday evening at 9 P.M. before the newsletter comes out, that is, by Friday evening, August 21, to Kathy Kyle at eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Include your email address at the end of your story. Thank you.

Westgate parking - Park in the northernmost part of the lot - past EarthFare, in the last row of parking spaces.

To join Carolina Mountain Club go to: www.carolinamountainclub.org. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side. Follow the instructions. Send all address and email changes to Gale O'Neal at gogalemail@gmail.com. Do not resubscribe yourself to the eNews. That will be done automatically. If you are a non-member subscriber, you need to go back to the eNews and make the change yourself.

Kathy Kyle

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



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