



From The Editor

It finally arrived July 19 and ends today July 26 after years of preparation by CMC members. The event was the 2013 ATC Conference. We have two articles on the conference in this issue. To read more check out Danny Bernstein's blog by clicking [here](#).

There will not be an August eNews. I'm taking the month off. Please send in your travel stories and accompanying pictures for us all to enjoy in the fall and winter months.

If anyone has any articles for the newsletter, send them to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. The intention is to include all articles in the eNews, but sometimes that is not possible.

The newsletter will go out the last Friday of every month. The deadline to submit news is the Friday before it goes out.

Sincerely,
Kathy Kyle
Carolina Mountain Club



Training Offered

WNCA Starts Forest Keepers Program

The Western North Carolina Alliance is inviting volunteers to join us in our new Forest Keepers program. We need you to help become the eyes, ears and helping hands of North Carolina's forests.

To become a WNCA Forest Keeper you will:

- Participate in a series of free classes and seminars taught by knowledgeable instructors from the staff of WNCA and other local experts.
- Take part in fieldwork to gain hands-on experience in water quality monitoring, trail maintenance, non-native species control, forestry, and more.
- Adopt locations that are special to you and keep an eye on the streams and forests you love by

Hike
Save Trails
Make Friends



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making regular visits and learn how and where to report environmental issues.

· Broaden your knowledge of forest ecology, deepen your appreciation for the natural world, and connect with other like minded Forest Keepers.

Does this sound like a program you would like to be involved with? If so call or email to have your name added to a list of interested volunteers so we can notify you when the first organizational meeting is scheduled in late August.

If you have any questions, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Cynthia Camilleri at Cynthia@wnca.org or by calling (828) 258-8737, ext. 207; or Public Lands Fields Biologist Josh Kelly at Josh@wnca.org or (828) 258-8737, ext. 210.

WNCA is the only grassroots environmental advocacy group focused solely on conserving Western North Carolina's natural heritage. WNCA advocates for the protection and restoration of public lands and constantly works with the Forest Service to protect environmental quality, scenic beauty, and recreation resources like trails and back country areas.

WNCA was founded in 1982 by citizens in Macon County who organized to protect their local national forests from oil and gas leasing. WNCA went on to help defeat proposed nuclear waste dump in Buncombe County (1984), launch a campaign to stop clear-cutting in the natural forests, help develop successful rural recycling programs in Macon, Madison, Jackson, and Yancey counties (1989), and lead a four-year campaign to stop the City of Asheville from clear cutting in the Asheville Watershed and the City later placed a conservation easement over 17,356 acres of the watershed.

In 1994, WNCA claimed victory in its nine-year campaign to stop clear-cutting in the national forests when the Forest Service released a new Management Plan for the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests that all but eliminated clear-cutting as a management tool and reduces overall logging levels by 60%. For more information about WNCA, visit wnca.org

Michael Cornn

Vantage Points Change, But Love Of Hiking Remains The Same

By Kathy Kyle

One of CMC's most active hikers and hike leaders began the sport at an early age. As a Los Angeles pre-teen, Michael Cornn would hike in the Hollywood Hills with his two cousins Shareen and Greg. At the age of six he started making the first of what would be an annual summer migration to Henderson County. He walked with his grandfather Tilford on the family's property- land in the family since the 1700s. His grandfather had turned it into an apple farm, and a place to raise honeybees and vegetables

As a hiker he has always liked high vantage points . In the Hollywood Hills he would climb to the top and see Los Angeles spread out below him. "

One time I was there and there was an earthquake. The whole hill shook. I could hear the car alarms going off. It was a different feeling than being in a building. You didn't have to worry about something falling on you."

In Henderson County he would wade with other cousins in the streams on the land. The eastern continental divide goes through it. His grandparents also took him to Sliding Rock and have Kentucky Fried Chicken picnics at the Mt. Pisgah picnic area.

Eventually, the beauty of the appalachian mountains lured him here permanently. He moved to the family farm in 1996. The trails in Los Angeles were more like firebreaks, and life in Western North Carolina was more attractive than southern California.

Caring for his ailing father and then his grandmother took most of his time, but eventually he was able to hike on his own in Pisgah Forest. He went on his first CMC hike after a teller at Bank of America told him about the club in 2004. It was a half-day hike to Runion near Hot Springs. He was hooked.



"The club hikes on new trails. They do shuttles and key swaps."

He still likes hikes with vantage points, and he enjoys the social aspects of the club. "There is a combination of people you know and meeting new people."

"I met my wife in the club. We met on the News Year's Day hike and the next New Years Day we were on our honeymoon." Of course, she enjoys hiking too. Now he and his wife (Kathy Kyle) hike most weekends.

When Michael is not hiking he enjoys reading about American History. He also enjoys traveling. He began traveling after finishing college at UCLA. He got a one-month Eurail pass, and toured throughout Europe. He went back several years later with his cousin to see Eastern Europe. He has also traveled in the Mid-east, Asia and Central America.

He and his wife are planning a self-guided hut to hut trek in Switzerland this summer where there will be many high vantage points, and who knows they may meet another CMC hiker on the trail.

CMC's Formal Position Outlined For Forest Management Plan Revision

By Tish Desjardins

In 2013 and 2014, the U.S. Forest Service is conducting a series of public meetings to gather public input to revise the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest Management Plan. The Management Plan will form the basis for important decisions in the management of our forests for the next fifteen years.



The decisions that will be based on the Management Plan include where and how many miles of trails will be built or decommissioned, how trails will be maintained, how multiple uses of trails will be managed, where roads will be built, and what areas of the forest will be preserved for recreation, for logging, and for ecological protection.

At the same time, collaborative meetings, consisting of forest recreation, conservation, and environmental groups are also being held for the purpose of providing a more unified approach of ideas and recommendations to the U.S. Forest Service for the Management Plan Revision. Kristen Bail, Director of the U.S. Forest Service in North Carolina, attended the most recent collaborative meeting and stressed that individuals speaking for organizations needed the organization's backing. Members of CMC's Conservation Committee are attending U.S. Forest Service meetings and collaborative meetings, and will present CMC's formal position.

CMC Position on Pisgah / Nantahala National Forest Management Plan Revision July 5, 2013

The Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the collaboration of Pisgah

and Nantahala National Forest stakeholders. We would like the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest Management Plan Revision to:

- Preserve the natural appeal and solitude that hikers enjoy on the forest trails while enjoying the area's

majestic views, beautiful flowers, plants, trees, waterfalls, waterways, geology, birds, and other wildlife.

- Provide a logical system of hiking trails that includes loop hikes and long-distance hikes, as well as, access to points of interest and a wide variety of scenery and habitats.

- Accommodate the growing demand for recreation in Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests due to

population growth in the western North Carolina area, the growing number of visitors to the area, and increasing interest in outdoor recreation.

- Protect viewsheds from the negative effects of timbering and, also, protect the trails' natural environment from timbering, erosion, and other disturbances.

- Actively support "Leave No Trace" principles.

- Manage trail use in order to protect trail tread.

- Manage trail use in order to protect the safety of all users.

- Actively ensure appropriate trail use.

- Protect trail tread from damage by machines, water, and erosion during Forest Service projects.

- Build trails in more remote areas that are less developed.
- Protect natural resources in trail environments, especially, in sensitive ecological areas, such as rare plants and streams.
- Take into consideration that, in addition to being a hiking club, CMC's volunteer members contribute a huge amount of time constructing and maintaining a vast territory of western North Carolina's hiking trails, including the Appalachian Trail and the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.



CMC member Daisy Teng, right, helps register ATC attendees.

CMC Members Shine At ATC 2013 Cullowhee Conference

By Kathy Kyle

CMC members were a common sight at the 2013 Appalachian Trail Conservancy Conference in Cullowhee. Members organized and led hikes, excursions and workshops. They put up signs, took up tickets, registered campers and attendees and more. It was a busy, but enjoyable week (July 19-26) for the nearly 1,000 attendees.

CMC member Lenny Bernstein chaired the steering committee for the conference, and welcomed attendees on Saturday during the 39th meeting of the ATC. He, Danny Bernstein and Lewis Blodgett were the CMC members recognized for 25 years of active volunteer service on the Appalachian Trail.



The ATC board announced that Ronald J. Tipton will be the new executive director and CEO of the conservancy.

Harpers Ferry, WV (July 16, 2013) – The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) board of directors has appointed Ronald J. Tipton as the new executive director/CEO who will lead the organization beginning in late August.

Tipton has spent most of the past 30+ years as an advocate for public land preservation and national park protection. A graduate of George Washington University with an undergraduate degree in American Studies and a law degree from GW's National Law Center, Tipton first worked as a program officer at the National Academy of Sciences and on the oversight/investigative staff of the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

Since 1978 he has been a part of the advocacy and/or management team of four non-profit national conservation organizations: The Wilderness Society, National Audubon Society, World Wildlife Fund, and National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA).

Tipton was the senior vice president for programs for NPCA from 2000-2008, when he became the senior vice president for policy. Currently, he is focused on expanding the number of national park units to increase the natural and cultural diversity of the park system as the country approaches the 2016 Centennial celebration of the National Park Service.

Bob Almand, chair of the board of directors for the ATC, stated, "Ron has the passion, management experience, and advocacy skills that the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is looking for, plus a strong connection to the Appalachian Trail and the Trail community. His high standards and experience will help move the organization forward to serve the next generation of Trail users."

Tipton is the recent past President of Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, an organization founded and supported by Episcopal parishes in the DC metropolitan area that provides counseling to individuals in need that want to improve their lives. He has been a member of the board or governing council of numerous recreation and trails organizations, including the ATC, , Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association.

Tipton has been married for 34 years to Rita Molyneaux and has a son who is a firefighter. In 1978 he walked the entire length of the Trail.

"I feel incredibly privileged and honored to be asked to be Appalachian Trail Conservancy's executive director/CEO. Since I hiked the Trail I have served as a volunteer for more than 25 years with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and helped found the Appalachian Long Distance Hiker's Association", stated Tipton. "I am especially proud of working with people like Ed Garvey and former ATC executive director David Startzell to secure permanent protection through public ownership of the Appalachian Trail corridor from Georgia to Maine."

Tipton enters the ATC at a time of growth and an expanding agenda for preserving the rich natural and cultural resources along the Trail corridor. The ATC currently has over 43,000 members, a vast network of over 6,000 volunteers, and an operating budget of \$7.3 million.

As a volunteer-based organization whose mission is "to preserve and manage the Trail – ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come". The ATC is the only organization dedicated solely to protecting and promoting the world's most famous long-distance hiking Trail, providing outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for Trail visitors.

Founded in 1925, the ATC is a 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and has regional offices in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina. The ATC is both a confederation of 31 local Trail-maintaining clubs, with assignments to maintain the Trail, and a membership organization with support from all 50 states and more than 15 foreign countries. Under agreements that date back to the 1930s, buttressed by federal legislation, the ATC leads a cooperative management system for the Trail in close cooperation with federal, state and local agencies and Trail-maintaining clubs.

Given the Trail's historic legacy of volunteerism, many of the ATC's programs are focused on supporting and encouraging volunteers. Some of the key activities and initiatives include Trail management and support, conservation, advocacy, and environmental monitoring and research. Some of the ATC's new initiatives include the Trail to Every Classroom and the Appalachian Trail Community™ program.

The Appalachian Trail (A.T.) is a unit of the National Park System, stretching from Georgia to Maine, at approximately 2,180 miles in length. Volunteers typically donate more than 220,000 hours of their time doing trail-related work each year, and about 2 to 3 million visitors walk a portion of the A.T. each year.

Heard At The ATC Conference

By Kathy Kyle

Part of the enjoyment of attending an ATC conference is meeting hikers from different clubs and hearing about their experiences and what their clubs do. Here is some of what was heard on the trail at the conference:

What we call trail breaks on CMC hikes have other names by



other clubs. A hiker from Bronx, New York said they call their trail breaks "separation." A hiker from Maryland said they call it "find a tree."

One hiker from Washington, DC said their club charters a bus for its hikes. There are usually two pickups made.

Another hiker from South Carolina told about a friend who was on a first date with a male friend. The man died on the trail. She turned, he was on the ground with his small dog curled up on his chest.

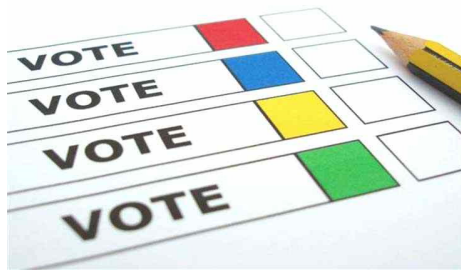
One CMC leader had to have a couple of hikers escorted back to the starting place because they weren't able to finish. CMC hike leader Ashok Kudva had a 94 year-old hiker who finished his 4-mile hike with no problem.

Another CMC leader had to regroup for her Charlie's Bunion hike when the carpool encountered a road closure on 441 because of a land slide. The road was re-opened that day, but the group hiked another trail.

Friday night a large tree limb broke in the camping area, but no one was hurt. It did sound like fireworks though.

There was some grumbling about cold coffee and hash browns in the cafeteria one morning.

The next ATC conference will be held July 17-24, 2015 at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. To volunteer contact volunteers2015@PATC.net



Vote In Poll: Should CMC Expand The Recognition Of Volunteer Hours?

The Small Print

The next issue will come out on Friday, September 27. Wednesday hike reports for the hike just before the eNews comes out will be published in the next eNews.

Hiker leaders, please send all your eNews hike reports and photos to hikereports@carolinamountainclub.org

So send your news by Friday evening at 9 P.M. before the newsletter comes out, that is, by Friday evening September 20 to Kathy Kyle at eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Include your email address at the end of your story. Thank you.

The CMC Calendar is meant to answer the perennial question "When is this happening again?" It is also meant to prevent conflicts between competing CMC events. Please check it often.

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

How to join the Carolina Mountain Club

1. Go to www.carolinamountainclub.org
2. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side and follow the instructions

For CMC members only - 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.