

Pisgah Mountain down to the Big Ridge Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Car shuttle.

HALF-DAY No. H0602-043 **June 11**
Frying Pan Tower **1:30 PM**
Hike 4, Drive 25, Rated C-C
Barry and Heather Fletcher, 828-299-4776,
hmflfet@aol.com

P400 This is an easy in-and-out hike through a spectacular display of wildflowers to a great view from the tower location. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Inn at 2:00 PM.**

HALF-DAY No. H0602-453 **June 18**
Max Patch Ramble **1:30 PM**
Hike 4, Drive 104, Rated C-C
Gail Lamb, 828-350-0450,
galmb46@aol.com
Awesome panoramic views from the summit of Max Patch make this a favorite hike. Part of the way will be on the AT.

HALF-DAY No. H0602-347 **June 25**
Twin Falls **12:40 PM***
Hike 6, Drive 80, 1000 ft ascent, Rated B-B
Stuart English, 828-883-2447,
stuengo@citcom.net

P400 *Note early start time. This is a moderate hike in the Pisgah National Forest, starting on the Buckhorn Gap Trail, taking the Twin Falls Bypass to view two nice waterfalls and completing a loop on

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

Return Service Requested

a Forest Service Road and the Clawhammer Cove Trail. *Meet at Westgate at 12:40 PM to form carpools, and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station at 1:15 PM.

HALF-DAY No. H0602-064 **July 2**
Fletcher Creek via
Spencer Branch Trail **1:00 PM***
Hike 6, Drive 6, Rated B-C
Greg Goodman, 828-684-9703

P400 *Note early start time. From the Trace Ridge Trailhead, we will hike in a moderate loop along the Big Creek Trail, past the Hendersonville Reservoir, and along the Spencer Branch, Middle Fork and Fletcher Creek Trails. There will be a few stream crossings. *Meet at Westgate at 1:00 PM to form carpools, and meet leader at pull-out just before Mills River Recreation Area at 1:30 PM.

Further information is available at www.carolinamtclub.org about regulations

Club hikes are expected to join the Carolina Mountain Club. All members are encouraged to participate in one of the Club's many trail maintenance efforts. Contact a Club officer for details.

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB OFFICERS

Lenny Bernstein-236-0192 President
Becky Smucker-298-5013 Vice President
Dave Wetmore-884-7296 Secretary
Carroll Koeplinger-667-0723 Treasurer
Gerry McNabb-274-0057 Immediate Past President
Council Members: Chip Miller-654-9331, Barth Brooker-299-0298,
Ruth Hartzler-251-0886, Piet Bodenhorst-298-8371, Linda Beja-293-3049,
Bruce Bente-692-0116, Marlene Santa Maria-299-9095.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL: The Carolina Mountain Club is a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25245. Telephone (304) 535-6331.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY: Each CMC member, guest or non-member hiker agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her safety and the safety of minors accompanying such persons. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant on hikes. In participating in Club hikes, each such person agrees to hold harmless and free from blame the hike leaders, and the CMC, its officers and members, for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participating in hikes or other Club activities.

Editor: Stuart English-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net
Deadline next issue: May 15

MOUNTAINEERING INFORMATION: Consult the trip leader for additional information regarding a particular hike. Hikes may be cancelled due to adverse weather or dangerous road and trail conditions. Please call hike leader if weather conditions are questionable.

Visitors are cordially welcome but should select trips within their endurance. When reservations are required as listed in the hike schedule, the leader must be called to reserve a space. Hikers will carpool from the meeting places to trailheads and back. Passengers are expected to contribute 10 cents per mile towards the driver's operating expenses.

CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT, ETC.: Footwear comes first. Never start a mountain trip in brand new footwear. Hiking boots are recommended. Clothing of any substantial type will do. Carry a sweater, even in summer, and some kind of rain wear.

Equipment for all-day trips should be a lunch, plenty of water, first aid kit, cell phone if available and personal medication including allergy medication.

CLUB TRIP REGULATIONS: Both members and visitors are expected to abide absolutely by club regulations and by instructions of the leader. Visitors should make themselves known to the leader on arrival at assembly place announced for the trip. No one is to start ahead of the leader without definite permission, or lag unreasonably far behind the group.

MEMBERSHIP: Everyone is eligible for Club membership by completing a Membership Application Form and paying dues. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families, and should be sent to the Carolina Mountain Club, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802. Frequent non-member participants in



SECOND QUARTER 2006
Quarterly News Bulletin
and Hike Schedule



P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802 • www.carolinamtclub.org • e-mail: cmcinfo@carolinamtclub.org

CMC members speak out against North Shore Road

In 1943, when the North Shore Road project was first proposed, probably no one imagined that 63 years later there would still be so much controversy surrounding it. The road was promised to replace a previously existing road that had been flooded by the construction

of Fontana Dam. The National Park Service has released a long awaited DEIS regarding the construction of this road in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Five alternatives are under consideration. The first is no action. The second is a monetary settlement of \$52 million to Swain County. The third is to build a picnic area at the end of the existing road. The fourth is to partially build the road. The fifth is to build

the complete 34.3 mile road through the park. The Carolina Mountain Club supports the monetary settlement alternative. Five hearings were scheduled and represented the last opportunity for public input in this matter

Five CMC members attended the

hearing in Swain County on February 2. At this hearing, the majority of the speakers were in favor of the settlement. Although the National Park Service's Environmental Impact Statement ultimately concludes that the road would not create major impairment to the park, many feel that the geology is too fragile and unstable for the road. Also many found the \$590 million projected price of the road to be prohibitive. Various newspapers have called the

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CMC members at the Feb. 2 North Shore Road hearing include (clockwise from upper left) Ruth Hartzler and Stuart English, Ted Snyder, Danny Bernstein and Lenny Bernstein.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's a great honor and pleasure to be CMC's new President. I look forward to the challenge of leading the Club for the next two years, but can't do it alone.

CMC leads 200 hikes per year and maintains 400 miles of trail, but it takes a lot more than having hike leaders and trail maintainers. We can maintain those 400 miles of trail because Club members negotiate permission from the Forest Service and other landowners, and apply for grants to fund the more expensive projects. We can lead those 200 hikes because hike schedulers find leaders and develop the hike schedule. Members know about the hikes because we put out four issues of Let's Go each year.

We will have a Spring Picnic this year because two Club members took the initiative to organize it. We took a large role in the recent hearings on the proposed North Shore Road because our Conservation Committee educated Club members on the issue and encouraged them to participate.

I want to thank all of you who already contribute to CMC as hike leaders and trail maintainers. Our Club depends on your efforts. But I also want to encourage everyone to get involved in the Club's other activities, by becoming members of our committees or doing some of the organizational work necessary to keep the Club running. Phone (828-236-0192) or email me (Lsberns@worldnet.att.net) for more detail.

Lenny Bernstein

Spring Social April 22 at Arboretum

A CMC Spring Barbeque will be held at the beautiful NC Arboretum on Saturday April 22 from 2:00 until 8:30 for CMC members and their families and friends.

We will have 2 scheduled hikes. The first starts at 2:00. We will meet at the main building and go around Lake Powhatan and the Arboretum, about 5 miles.

The second hike will be at 3:00 and will be the interior Arboretum loop including the CMC Trail, about 3 miles. Both hikes will finish with time for self guided tours of the core gardens and bonsai exhibit. For those who do not wish to hike, maps are available at check-in for the self guided tours from 2:00 till 6:00.

The Social will begin at 3:00 at the auditorium with *Bubba Q* feeding us at 6:00: barbecue pork and chicken, sides, and tea (no alcohol allowed).

The cost is \$13 per person which includes gate entry. Please send checks--made out to CMC--by April 15 (no exceptions) to Les Love, 25 Scenic View Dr., Weaverville 28787. Questions? Call Les at 658-1489.

Trail Maintainers clear trails at Sandburg Home

A major ice storm in mid December blew trees down over much of upstate South Carolina and Western North Carolina and left thousands without power. Among the casualties were five miles of hiking trails at the Carl Sandburg Home in Flat Rock near Hendersonville. Known as Connemara, the Sandburg home is a National Historic Site and the trails are regularly enjoyed by our club members.

On December 28th and 30th of 2005, Bill Newton's Trail Maintainers and other volunteers worked extensively to clear these trails and open the park once again for the public. Five chainsaw crews cut and stacked many downed limbs and trees and chipped five and a half dump truck loads of wood chips to be hauled away from Connemara. A few days later, according to Bill Newton, wind storms closed all the trails again, but with much less damage. On January 17th, 18th, and 24th, several small crews returned to remove downed trees and open the trails once again. Several rangers at Connemara have retired and without volunteer help it would be much more



difficult for them to maintain the trails.

In the National Park Service Report of January 20, 2006, the Carolina Mountain Club was lauded for these efforts. Once again our Trail Maintainers have made us proud.

National Forests for sale?

A new threat has arisen for the conservation of our region. The FY 2007 Federal Budget proposes to fund rural school and road maintenance with the sale of over 300,000 acres of United States Forest Service land. 6,615 acres of this proposed sale will come from the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests.

At the February 27 Council meeting, the following decision was made:

The Carolina Mountain Club opposes the block sale of United States Forest Service land to fund the extension of the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act for the following reasons:

- The large-scale sale of increasingly scarce real estate for the purpose of offsetting short-term financial deficits is unwise and self-defeating in the long run.
- Sale or other transfer of public land should not be linked arbitrarily to a specific, immediate operational need such as the Rural Schools program. Disposition of land should be considered on its own merits.
- If certain National Forest parcels are deemed truly unproductive and not likely to meet the needs of the public as Forest Service lands now or in the future, they should first be offered to other governmental entities or non-profits, such as states or land trusts, to protect the lands for future public benefit, or else exchanged for more important land.

Public comments are being accepted. Two informational contacts are Cindy Carpenter, Public Relations Person for Pisgah National Forest, 828-877-3265, and Bob Gale with Western North Carolina Alliance, bob@wnca.org.

North Shore Road

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project "Boondoggle Boulevard" and "Fontana Folly."

At the Feb. 7 hearing in Asheville, 20 CMC members were in attendance. Pro-road supporters were in much greater strength at this hearing. Several people spoke who were raised in the Proctor and Hazel Creek areas. Points were well made that older people and individuals with disabilities would never be able to visit the cemetery or their ancestral homes without a road. A common theme of the pro-road people was that the government should keep its word.

People in favor of a settlement were again well represented. It was noted that the road would involve 141 stream crossings that would devastate fish and streams. One individual doubted the possibility of building the road since President Bush's budget for NPS construction for 2007 was only \$229 million, less than half the cost of the road.

The deadline for public comments in this matter is March 20, 2006. The final decision, (the Agency Preferred Alternative), will be made at a later date.

Whatever the outcome of all this, it is evident that the Carolina Mountain Club has once again emerged as a force for conserving the natural beauty of our region.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As evidenced by the photo on the left, there are a lot of new faces on the trail. These are our new members as of February 20, 2006:

Chris and Bonnie Allen, Frank Aria, Lee Entrekim and Nina August, Namie Bacile, Steve Agom and Michelle Bedard, Peter and Wendy Billingsly, Joyce Borders, Steve Bowers, Nolichucky District, Boy Scouts of America, Ken Branham, Wayne Breedlove, Julian and Kathleen Brinson, Heath, Rebecca, Sebastian, and Oliver Bruner, Joseph Carnay, Chan Chandler, Bob Dalton, Jeffrey Dektor, Judy Dunn, Douglas and Gail Edmunds, Wilma and David Eichler, Tom Fanslow, Charles Ferguson, Rusty Frank, Kathie Garbie, Jean Gard, Al Graves, Bill Grow, Bud Haas, Kathleen Hannigan, Paul and Trish Howey, Kiel Johanson, Jim Johnston, Arthur Keller, Bob Kimsey, Rhonda Leonard, Glenn McLeroy, Michael and Doreen McCall, June Kelly McManus, Ken Metzner, Mark Monroe, Karl Munn, Sue Noe, Brad and Deenie Owen, Pete Peterson, Bob Poe, Bob and Lucy Prim, Stephen Rathburn, Jim Reel, Dave Roberts, Baldwin Sanders, Jeanelle Selhost, Gary and B. A. Schenk, Sharon Schuster, Les Share, Joe and Mary Standaert, Sally Jones and Matt Stollenwerk, Helen and Walter Struve, Carla and Bob Taylor, Leann Ticknor, John Thompson, Judy Thurman, Ann Tucker, George Varn, John and Sandy Whitehouse, Rita Zollinger.



Over 30 CMC members on a January hike in Montreat.

Don Walton attends trail coalition meeting

Don Walton is a former CMC president, current Webmaster, past E-News editor, MST Trail Maintenance coordinator, and one of our busiest members. On December 9-11, 2005, Don attended the strategic planning meeting of the Southeastern Foothills Trail Coalition at Cohutta Lodge in Chatsworth, Ga. The coalition is working to build a network of trails spanning nine southeastern states. In a recent conversation, Don explained

that the coalition included representatives from trail and hiking organizations all over the Southeast. Their ultimate goal is to tie together 5000 miles of trail from Florida to Virginia. One of the results of that objective would be closing the gap in the Mountains to the Sea trail in the middle of North Carolina.

This is an unprecedented undertaking and new ground is being broken. Don was placed on the Interim Executive Committee, a group that would work to insure the sustainability of the project.

LET'S GO PRODUCTION CHANGES

Beginning in this quarter's edition, the editorial and production responsibilities for our newsletter have changed hands. Stuart English will take over the editorial duties. Jean Reese will produce the newsletter. Stuart is a relatively new club member and an enthusiastic hiker. He is a native of the area and currently lives in Brevard. He has a BA in English from East Carolina University and an Associate's in Social Services from AB Tech. Stuart volunteers weekly at the VA hospital.

Jean Reese publishes a bed and breakfast directory for Unitarian Universalists with CMC member Paula Robbins. She is an active volunteer at Evergreen Community Charter School where her son, Jonathan, 6, is a kindergarten student, and is married to musician Vance Reese (organist at Temple Beth Ha-Taphila, principal bass with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra). The family lives at Westwood cohousing community in West Asheville.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHERMAN!

Some hikes are more special than others. On December 7, 2005, Ken and Carol Deal led the club's annual cookie hike in the Bent Creek Arboretum area. Each hiker was instructed to bring some homemade goodies to share. This cookie hike had the added importance of being close to the birthday of one of our most beloved members.

Sherman Stanbaugh, the oldest active member of the club, would soon be 85 years young. Ken and Carol gave Sherman a big cookie on a stick. Sherman routinely walks three miles a day in his neighborhood in order to continue hiking with the club. In an interview for this article, Sherman said that he had completed an eight mile hike the day before

with the club in the Turkey Pen area. Sherman is living proof of what we could have to look forward to in our later years.



at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leaders at the Bi-Lo parking lot in Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM. Topo: Pisgah Forest; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

BACKPACK NO. A0602-220 June 17-18
Gregory Bald Backpack
 Hike 15.7, Drive 250, 3500 ft. ascent, Rated AA-AA+
 Linda Beja, 828-293-3849, lrbeja@earthlink.net
900M This overnight backpack is timed to see the world-renowned flame azaleas at the peak of bloom [See www.tjhsst.edu/~dhyatt/azaleas/new/gregoryhybrids.html for more info and photos]. From the Twentymile trailhead, this loop hike ascends on the Wolf Ridge trail to Parson Bald, then Sheep Pen Campsite (6.8 mls.). After over-nighting at Sheep Pen, we'll hike to Gregory Bald to see the flame azaleas and breath-taking views of Cades Cove, Thunderhead and other Smokies peaks. We'll return on the Long Hungry Ridge and Twentymile trails (8.9 mls.), passing by beautiful Twentymile Creek cascade. Teva's or water shoes are suggested for the six water crossings on Wolf Ridge trail. **Meeting place and time: Phone the leader to reserve your place and for meeting place and time.** Topos: Fontana Dam, Cades Cove; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

ALL DAY NO. A0602-459 June 18
NC 128 to Greybeard overlook 8:00 AM
 Hike 8.9, Drive 80, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
 Marlene Santa Maria, 828-299-9095, marlena98@hotmail.com
 We head up into old growth Balsam and Spruce forests just south of Mt. Mitchell. This is a scenic hike with dramatic views and several rocky climbs. Hikers wishing a shorter trek can stop after 6.4 miles at Glassmine Falls o/l, if desired. Car shuttle. **Second meeting place: Craven Gap on BRP at 8:15 AM.** Topo: Mt. Mitchell, Montreat; also MST Profiles, pg. 66-69

ALL DAY NO. W0602-137 June 25
Roans above 6000' 8:00 AM
 Hike 9, Drive 150, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
 Tom Sanders, 828-252-6327, tomary2@charter.net
SB6K A beautiful AT hike with some of WNC's finest views. Expect rhododendrons and flame azaleas to be in bloom, with perhaps an early Gray's lily. From Carver's Gap we'll go north to Grassy Ridge (6160 ft.), then double back south to Roan High Knob (6285 ft.) and the vista from Roan High Bluff (6287 ft.). Topo: Carvers Gap; also Nat'l. Geo. South Holston & Watauga Lakes map

ALL DAY NO. A0603-475 July 2
Hump Mountain 8:30 AM*
from Yellow Mtn. Gap
 Hike 9, Drive 130, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
 Amy Treverton, 828-298-1882,



athikerbabe@yahoo.com
***Note later start time.** We will hike from Roaring Creek Road to Yellow Mountain Gap at which point we join the AT, along an open ridge to Little Hump Mtn. and on to Hump Mtn., where will have lunch on a grassy bald at 5587 ft. We return to Yellow Mt. Gap and take the Overmountain Victory Loop back to the cars. The fabulous vistas and meadows full of flowers make the drive and moderately strenuous hike very much worthwhile. Topos: Carver's Gap, White Rocks Mtn.

HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES

Half-day hikes submitted by Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253, paularww@bellsouth.net. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at Westgate Shopping Center (Exit 3B off I-240) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in hike listings.

HALF-DAY NO. H0602-101 April 9
Laurel River Wildflower Stroll 1:00 PM*
 Hike 6, Drive 60, 200-ft ascent, Rated B-C
 Jean Gard, 828-777-1814, jeangard@charter.net
***Note early start time.** Leisurely paced in-and-out hike along Lower Big Laurel Creek to the site of Runion, an early 1900s logging and mining settlement. Over 250 plants have been identified along this trail, including five that are endangered. Long pants suggested (poison ivy sprouts early).

HALF-DAY NO. H0602-345 April 16
Seven Gaps and Seven Knobs 1:00 PM*
 Hike 6.5, Drive 25, Rated B-C
 Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253, paularww@bellsouth.net
P400 *Note early start time. We should see many wildflowers on this up-and-down hike that begins at the intersection of the Bent Creek Gap Road and the BRP, follows a portion of the MST and then goes along the ridge and down the Laurel Branch Road. Short car shuttle. **Second meeting place: Ingles across from Biltmore Square Mall at 1:15 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0602-009 April 23
Ox Creek Road to Rattlesnake Lodge and return 1:30 PM
 Hike 4.4, Drive 15, Rated C-C
 Jane and Lew Blodgett, 828-274-7863
 This popular hike to an historical site fea-

tures fine switchbacks and many spring wild-flowers. **Second meeting place, Folk Art Center lower parking lot, 1:50 PM.**

HALF DAY No. H0602-403 May 7
Dupont Forest:
Fawn Lake P.L. #5 12 Noon*
 Hike 6, Drive 90, Rated B-B
 Becky Elston, 828-749-1886, belston@cytechusa.com
***Note early start time.** A moderate loop hike covering portions of six different trails and featuring Reasonover Creek. A new bridge over the creek eliminates the former "boots-off crossing." ***Meet at Westgate at 12 Noon to form carpools, and meet leader at Hooker Falls Parking Area at 12:45 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0602-511 May 14
Florence Nature Preserve 1:30 PM
 Hike 5, Drive 40, 600 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
 Don Walton, 828-654-9904, donwalton@bellsouth.net
 Tour the new 600+-acre Florence Nature Preserve in the Lake Lure area. This is an easy loop hike.

HALF-DAY NO. H0602-464 May 21
Greybeard Overlook to Balsam Gap 1:00 PM*
 Hike 3.9, Drive 44, 700 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
 Ruth Hartzler, 828-251-0886, ruthmtn@charter.net
***Note early start time, and only meeting place is Folk Art Center lower parking lot.** Although the distance on this portion of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail is not long, this hike provides a good workout, with 700 ft. ascending and 900 ft. descending, and great views midway. Short car shuttle.

HALF-DAY NO. H0602-153 May 28
Caney Bottom-Cove Creek Loop 1:00 PM
 Hike 4.6, Drive 40, 1280-foot ascent, Rated C-B
 Renate Ridders, 828-298-9988, reridders@aol.com
P400 *Note early start time. This is a pleasant loop hike off FS 225. **Second meeting place: Fish Hatchery on FS 475 at 1:35 PM.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0602-512 June 4
Pisgah Inn to Big Ridge Overlook 1:00 PM*
 Hike 5.7, Drive 40, 800-ft. ascent, Rated C-C
 Ken and Carol Deal, 828-281-4530, KMCDeal@aol.com
P400 *Note early start time. Hike on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail from the Pisgah Inn, with a brief stop to view the Buck Spring Lodge site. We will continue over Little

HIKE SCHEDULE Second Quarter 2006

Hike Ratings

First Letter Distance	Second Letter Elevation Gain
AA: Over 12 miles	AA: Over 2,000 ft.
A: 9-12 miles	A: 1,500-2,000 ft.
B: 6-9 miles	B: 1,000-1,500 ft.
C: Under 6 miles	C: Under 1,000 ft.

Also in the hike descriptions, the terms easy, moderate or strenuous reflect the overall trail conditions, the physical challenge and other factors influencing hike difficulty. If you have questions, or if the weather for the day of the hike is questionable, CONTACT THE LEADER.

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS:

SB6K For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000'. For information, contact Linda Beja, lrbeja@earthlink.net
P400 For hiking every trail in Pisgah Ranger District. For information, contact Linda Beja, lrbeja@earthlink.net
900M For hiking every trail in GSMNP. For information, contact John Gallemore, kelarco@aol.com

WEDNESDAY HIKES

All-day hikes submitted by Ann Gleason, 828-859-9387, gleason.ann@gmail.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. Hikes will assemble at Westgate Shopping Center near I-240, exit 3B UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in the hike listing. Please phone the hike leader if you are not sure of the meeting location.

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-I Apr. 5
Leader's Choice 8:00 AM
 Hike about 8; Drive not far, Rated B-B
 Kathie Giddings, 828-696-9808, kmgiddings@highstream.net
 The leader promises to find an interesting moderate hike in the nearby area. Come out to enjoy the early spring weather and blooms. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at the Bi-Lo parking lot in Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM.**

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-518 Apr. 12
Five Waterfalls in SC 8:00 AM*
 Hike 6, Drive 200, 500 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
 Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897, suejackfitz@bellsouth.net
 Visit five great waterfalls in South Carolina:

Spoonauger, King Creek, Yellow Branch, Issaqueena, Station Cove. All in and out hikes with 1-2 miles round trip for each. Long drive and long day but well worth it with waterfalls and spring flowers and maybe a visit to "Bob's Place." ***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Cracker Barrel, exit 53 on I-26 at 8:30 AM.**

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-519 Apr. 19
Raven Cliff Falls, The Cathedral Rock, Dismal Trail Loop 8:00 AM*
 Hike 9, Drive 95, 2300 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
 Ann Gleason, 828-859-9387, gleason.ann@gmail.com
 Hike to 412 ft Raven Cliff falls in Caesar's Head State Park where we cross the suspension bridge, and descend 120 ft down "the cathedral." We then cross Matthews Creek on a cable crossing with a steep ascent up the Dismal Trail to a large rock outcropping with great view of the falls, then return to parking lot. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Bi-Lo parking lot in Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM. Additional meeting place: Raven Cliff Parking lot on US 276 at 9:00 AM. NOTE: \$2 fee per person for park entry.** Topo: Table Rock; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-520 Apr. 26
Clawhammer via Pressley Cove 8:30 AM
 Hike 7-8, Drive 70, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
 Ruth Hartzler, 828-251-0886, ruthmtn@charter.net
P400 Note later start time. This new hike for CMC will start with a steep climb on the Pressley Cove Trail, then finish the climb on the Black Mtn. Trail. Great views at lunch from the Clawhammer overlook. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Ranger Station at 9:05 AM.** Topo: Pisgah Forest; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-444 May 3
Avery Creek Loop 8:00 AM*
 Hike 10, Drive 75, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
 Susanna Whitaker, 828-684-5948, susannwhit@earthlink.net
P400 A lovely spring hike featuring waterfalls, beaver dams, violets, bluets, jack-in-the-pulpit, plus some of the largest wake-robin trilliums found anywhere. We'll first climb to Buckhorn Gap via Twin Falls, then follow the Black Mtn. Trail to Club Gap, with our return downhill on the Avery Creek Trail. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station on US 276 at 8:35 AM.**

Topos: Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-060 May 10
Pilot Mtn. Photo/Flower hike 8:00 AM
 Hike 6.5, Drive 80, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
 Gerry McNabb, 828-274-0057, gerrymcnabb@charter.net
P400 This hike is designed for photography and is timed for the peak of bloom for the rare pink-shell azaleas. Expect to see many other flowers in bloom on this slow-paced hike with many stops for pictures and sight-seeing. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Ranger Station at 8:35 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-445 May 10
Pilot Mtn., Farlow Gap, Daniel Ridge Trails 8:00 AM
 Hike 11, Drive 80, 2500 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
 Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@cytechusa.com
P400 This will be the longer version of the photography hike listed above. We will also climb Pilot Mtn. to see the pink-shell azaleas, but will continue on the Farlow Gap and one leg of the Daniel Ridge Loop Trail. Possible wet creek crossing at end of hike. Short car shuttle. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Ranger Station at 8:35 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-517 May 17
South Mills River Ramble 8:00 AM*
 Hike 11.5, Drive 70, 2500 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
 Tom Bindrim and Joan Lemire, 828-273-3880
P400 A nice ramble at a moderate pace, including Funneltop, Cantrell Creek and the Rigby Cutoff. Some off-trail hiking. Bring extra food in case we get back later than expected. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leaders at the Bi-Lo parking lot in Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Pisgah Forest; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-163 May 24
Linville Gorge, Sandy Flats to Pine Gap 8:00 AM
 Hike 7, Drive 130, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
 Don Walton, 828-654-9904, donwalton@bellsouth.net
 Strenuous hike! We'll first descend 1300 ft. in less than a mile from Sandy Flats trail-head, then hike upstream along the Linville Gorge in the depths of the gorge. One of the great streams of WNC. Then out of the gorge via the Pine Gap Trail. Short car shuttle.

Second meeting place: Parking lot adjacent to McDonald's off I-40 at exit 64 at 8:20 AM. Topos: Ashford, Linville Falls; also Linville Gorge Wilderness map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-521 **May 31 MST: Mt. Pisgah**

to Bent Creek Gap 8:30 AM
Hike 9.4, Drive 45, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A

Becky Smucker, 828-298-5013, bsmucker@charter.net

P400 Note later start time. We will start with a round trip up and down Mt. Pisgah, stopping to enjoy the view, and will then follow a beautiful section of the MST north-bound to Bent Creek Gap. Expect good views along the route. **Second meeting place: BRP French Broad overlook at 8:40 AM.** Topos: Cruso, Dunsmore Mtn.; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map & MST Profiles, pg. 53-55

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-063 **June 7 Big East Fork, Art Loeb Trail, Shining Creek Loop 8:00 AM**

Hike 13, Drive 70, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated A-A

Tom Sanders, 252-252-6327, tomary2@charter.net

P400 A beautiful but strenuous hike (the leader's favorite) with three of WNC's most beautiful streams. Up Big East Fork, then Grassy Cove Ridge, and the Art Loeb Trail to Shining Rock Gap, with great views, and then down Shining Creek. Two stream crossings that may have to be waded. Wilderness area, limit 10, so reserve by calling or emailing leader. **Second meeting place: Big East Parking area on US 276, 3 miles north of BRP at 8:45 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-008 **June 14 Bee Tree Gap to Tanbark Tunnel 8:30 AM**

Hike 6.5, Drive 30, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated B-B

Elisabeth Feil, 828-669-4616, hofeil@brinet.com

Note later start time. A moderate hike over Lane Pinnacle with excellent views, interesting rock formations and many wildflowers. There are several steep but short ups and downs and a long, well-graded descent. Car shuttle. **Second meeting place: Folk Art Center lower parking lot at 8:45 AM.** Topo: Craggy Pinnacle

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-165 **June 21 Mt. Le Conte via Boulevard, Alum Cave Trails 8:00 AM**

Hike 13, Drive 150, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated AA-AA

Ted Connors, 828-697-7166,

tconnors@mchsi.com

SB6K, 900M This great hike features the 6593 ft. Mt. Le Conte and good views from the AT, Boulevard Trail, our lunch spot at Cliff Top overlook, and the Alum Cave Trail. Topos: Clingman's Dome, Mt. Le Conte; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0602-II **June 28 Leader's Choice 8:00 AM**

Hike?, Drive ?, Rated ?

Stuart Tauber, 828-254-0824, sdtauber@charter.net

The leader will select a hike. Description of this hike will be posted in the E-News when available.

ALL DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY HIKES

All-day hikes submitted by Bruce Bente 828-692-0116, bbente@cytechusa.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All Saturday and Sunday hikes assemble at Westgate Shopping Center near I-240, exit 3B UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

ALL DAY NO. A0601-507 **April 2 Little Paint Creek 8:00 AM* (strenuous)**

Hike 8-9, Drive 78, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A Stuart Tauber, 828-254-0824, sdtauber@charter.net

***Note time change to DST. Hikers must call leader before attempting this hike.** From Allen Gap, we will climb south on the AT to Deep Gap to connect with Little Paint Creek Trail (#11). We will proceed along, through and across the creek under Buzzard Roost Ridge several times to reach FS 31B and then Paint Creek Trail (#10), fording the creek several times, to finally reach Little Paint Creek campground. The creek crossings are challenging as is the trail. 10-mile car shuttle. Topo: Hot Springs; also Nat'l. Geo. French Broad & Nolichucky Rivers map

ALL DAY NO. A0601-209 **April 2 Buckwheat Knob-Coontree Loop 9:00 AM* (moderate)**

Hike 8, Drive 67, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A Les Love, 828-658-1489, leslove@charter.net **P400 *Note later start time and time change to DST.** From the trailhead at Coontree Picnic area, we'll climb along beautiful Coontree Creek through open forest up to Bennett Gap and on to Buckwheat Knob for lunch, then return via the other segment of the Coontree loop. A moderate woodland hike with exceptional views from the ridgeline. **Second meeting place: Coontree Picnic area at 9:40 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0602-208 **April 9 Buck Spr. Gap-Li'l Pisgah Loop 8:30 AM***

Hike 7, Drive 40, 2200 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA John Pawcio, 828-299-8126,

jpawcio@tycovalves.com

P400 *Note later start time. From Buck Spring Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway we will descend the Little Pisgah Ridge Trail to Big Creek, and then ascend to Laurel Mtn. Expect good early spring views. **Second Meeting Place: French Broad Overlook on BRP at 8:45 AM.** Topo: Dunsmore Mtn.; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0602-355 **April 16 AT: Devils Fork Gap to Carmen 8:00 AM**

Hike 11, Drive 95, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-A Mike Ellis, 828-301-4117,

michael.f.ellis@gmail.com

This trip goes along nine of the most scenic miles on the AT. It features two shelters, including Jerry's Cabin, a historic gravesite and beautiful views from atop Big Butt. We then go down Fork Ridge trail to Carmen. Car shuttle. Topos: Flag Pond, Greystone; also Nat'l. Geo. French Broad & Nolichucky Rivers map

ALL DAY NO. A0602-089 **April 23 AT: Max Patch to Lemon Gap and Return 8:00 AM**

Hike 11, Drive 100, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated A-A Becky Smucker, 828-298-5013,

bsmucker@charter.net

This hike is legendary for the Trilliums in bloom. We'll have a chance to see the new AT shelter just built by the CMC, along a beautiful section of the AT, beginning and ending at Max Patch with one of WNC's most stunning views. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop at exit 24 off I-40 at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Lemon Gap

ALL DAY NO. A0602-164 **April 30 Hawkbill Creek - Snowball Circuit 8:00 AM**

Carroll Koepflinger, 828-667-0723, carrollkoepf@bellsouth.net

Hike 8-9, drive 50, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA This exciting spring trip will bushwhack up Hawkbill Creek, then up to Hawkbill Rock and Little Snowball Mtn., the site of an old fire tower, and then down to the starting point. The wildflowers and ramps have been spectacular every time CMC has taken this hike. The hike will also feature panoramic views from Hawkbill Rock and little Snowball and enjoyable open-woods, off-trail hiking. A strenuous climb, but the pace will be moderate. Topo: Craggy Pinnacle

ALL DAY NO. A0602-124 **May 7 Clingman's Dome and Mt. Collins 8:00 AM (strenuous)**

Hike 11.7, Drive 150, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-A

Lenny Bernstein, 828-236-0192,

lsberns@worldnet.att.net

SB6K, 900M Here's a chance to knock off two

of the SB6K peaks in the Smokies. We will hike the AT from the Fork Ridge access, over Mt. Collins (6188 ft.) and Clingman's Dome (6643 ft.), enjoy the views and then return 8 miles to Newfound Gap. Those wishing a shorter hike can return to the original trailhead, for an 8-mile hike. **Second meeting place: Quality Inn in Maggie Valley (US 19 side) at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Clingman's Dome

ALL DAY NO. A0602-456 **May 7 AT: Stecoah Gap to Yellow Creek Gap (moderate) 8:10 AM**

Hike 7.6, Drive 170, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated B-A Chip Miller, 828-654-9331,

backpacker54nc@bellsouth.net

A moderate hike on a southern portion of the AT, between Stecoah Gap and Yellow Creek Gap. Guaranteed to see lots of wildflowers, including rare yellow trilliums and yellow lady slippers. There will be a car key swap. **Second meeting place: Rest stop beyond Waynesville on US 23/74 at 8:40 AM.** Topos: Hewitt, Fontana Dam

ALL DAY NO. A0602-218 **May 14 Cataloochee Divide 8:00 AM**

Hike 12, Drive 85, EB: 1800 ft. ascent, Rated AA-A, or WB: 2800 ft. ascent, rated AA-AA

Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@cytechusa.com and Marianne Newnman, 828-454-1036, marianneln@msn.com

900M If it is clear, we will experience some of the most spectacular views in WNC as we hike over Hemphill Bald and the Swag. Wildflowers should be wonderfully abundant. Key swap hike, with half the group starting from each end. **Second meeting place: back parking lot of Quality Inn in Maggie Valley at 8:30 AM, but call leader beforehand.** Topos: Cove Creek Gap, Dellwood, Bunches Bald; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

SATURDAY NO. A0602-513 **May 20 Tree Identification hike (Craven Gap to Tanbark Tunnel) 9:00 AM***

Hike 4.6, Drive 6, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C Dan Lazar, 828-280-5556, danlazar@bellsouth.net

***Note later start time.** This will be a theme hike dedicated to tree identification. We will hike the MST from Craven Gap to Rattlesnake Lodge and down to Tanbark Tunnel, on a slow-paced hike dedicated to field identification of trees along the route. We'll stop occasionally to learn the natural history of the forest we're hiking through. Short car shuttle. ***Only meeting place will be at Craven Gap.** Topo: Craggy Pinnacle; also MST Profiles book, pg. 62-63

ALL DAY NO. A0602-329 **May 21 Blackrock Mtn. via Fisher Creek Trail 8:00 AM**

Hike 7.4 or 10.8, Drive 96, 2900 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA or A-AA

Dave Wetmore, 828-884-7296, dwetmore@citcom.net

SB6K? This hike starts at the end of Fisher Creek Rd. east of Sylva and climbs to the summit of Blackrock Mtn. The trail, mostly old logging roads, is steep and rocky in places, but the views from Blackrock Mtn. are superb. Depending on the weather, we may go on to Yellowface (3.4 additional miles on ridgeline) and make this a SB6K hike. Optionally, we may climb to the Pinnacle instead, with the same trailhead but only 2100 feet of elevation gain. **Second meeting place: Rest area on US 23/74 near Waynesville at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Sylva North

BACKPACK NO. A0602-514 **May 26 - 29 Backpack in the Smokies, Eagle Creek to Hazel Creek the Long Way**

Hike 28, Drive 185, 4200 ft. ascent, Rated AA+ AA+ AA+

Linda Beja, 828-293-3849, lrbeja@earthlink.net and Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, danny@hikertohiker.org

900M This is a challenging three-day backpack. Day 1: We will take the boat from Fontana Marina to the Eagle Creek landing and hike up Eagle Creek Trail (8.7 mls, 3000 ft. ascent and 15 water crossings, some very challenging) to Spence Field shelter; Day 2: Hike the AT and down-and-up Jenkins Ridge Trail (a knee buster) to campsite 83 (10.3 mls); Day 3: Round-trip hike on Bone Valley trail and walk out on the Hazel Creek Trail (8.9 mls.) and take the boat back to the Marina. **Meeting place and time: Refer to www.hikertohiker.org/cmcbp06. Space is limited to eight hikers so please verify that you can attend before reserving a spot.** Topos: Fontana Dam, Cades Cove, Thunderhead Mtn., Tuskegee; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

ALL DAY NO. A0602-336 **May 28 Mt. Cammerer from Big Creek 8:00 AM**

Hike 11.8, Drive 110, 3300 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA+

Janet Martin, 812-738-8154, jaykaymartin@msn.com

900M This great hike from Big Creek to the historic fire lookout atop Mt. Cammerer goes up Chestnut Branch Trail and AT. Strenuous, but the payoffs are first class: a good workout and superb views. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop at exit 24 off I-40 at 8:30 AM.** Topos: Waterville and Hartford; also Nat'l. Geographic GSMNP Map

SATURDAY WORK DAY

Here is a great chance to learn what is involved in trail maintenance. We will meet on May 20 at the Cracker Barrel at the Enka-Candler exit at 8:00AM for breakfast. We will return to Asheville around 4:00PM. Call Les Love at 828-658-1489 (leslove@charter.net) to verify date.

MEMORIAL DAY JOINT HIKE WITH SMOKY MTNS. HIKING CLUB

ALL DAY NO. A0602-515 **May 29 AT: Brown Gap to I-40 8:00 AM***

Hike 10.6, Drive 100, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated A-A

Joe Cirvello, 828-627-1797, cirvello25@bellsouth.net (CMC contact)

Our annual joint hike with the Smoky Mtns. Hiking Club will follow the AT from Brown Gap to I-40, with a great view from Snowbird Mtn. and a long descent into the Pigeon River Gorge. Car shuttle. ***Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at 8:30 AM at Pilot Truck Stop at exit 24 off I-40.** Topo: Waterville; also Nat'l. Geo. French Broad & Nolichucky Rivers map

SATURDAY (NATIONAL TRAILS DAY) NO. A0602-516 **June 3 Lakeshore Loop 8:30 AM***

Hike 8, Drive 145, 800 ft. ascent, Rated B-C

Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, danny@hikertohiker.org

900M *Note later start time. Starting at the Lakeshore tunnel, we'll do an easy loop, consisting of the Lakeshore, White Oak Branch and Forney Creek Trails. We'll lunch at the Fontana Lake shoreline, and then return on the Lakeshore trail and back through the tunnel. We'll be on the eastern end of the proposed North Shore Road where we'll hike easy trails to see house sites, a creek and cemeteries. This is CMC's contribution to National Trails Day. Experience your outdoors. **Second meeting place: Rest area beyond Waynesville on US 23/74 at 9:00 AM** Topo: Noland Creek; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

ALL DAY NO. A0602-163 **June 4 Linville Gorge, Sandy Flats to Pine Gap 8:00 AM**

Hike 7, Drive 130, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-A

Don Walton, 828-654-9904, donwalton@bellsouth.net

Strenuous hike! We'll first descend 1300 ft. in less than a mile from Sandy Flats trailhead, then hike upstream along the Linville Gorge in the depths of the gorge. One of the great streams of WNC. Then out of the gorge via the Pine Gap Trail. Short car shuttle. **Second meeting place: Parking lot adjacent to McDonald's off I-40 at exit 64 at 8:20 AM.** Topos: Ashford, Linville Falls; also Linville Gorge Wilderness map

ALL DAY NO. A0602-517 **June 11 South Mills River Ramble 8:00 AM***

Hike 11.5, Drive 70, 2500 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA

Tom Bindrim and Joan Lemire, 828-273-3880

P400 A nice ramble at a moderate pace, including Funneltop, Cantrell Creek and the Rigby Cutoff. Some off-trail hiking. Bring extra food in case we get back later than expected. ***Meet**