

Carolina Mountain Club - *Since 1923*

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July 2014



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NOMINATE NOW!

Nominations Sought For Annual CMC Awards

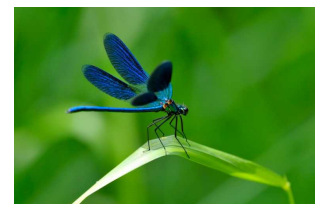
In the year 2000, the Carolina Mountain Club established two awards which may be made annually. The Distinguished Service Award is made to a member who, during his/her membership, has made consistent and cumulatively extraordinary contributions to the operation of CMC, and to the achievement of its goals. The Award of Appreciation may be made to any member who, during the calendar year prior to the Annual Meeting, has rendered such exceptional service to the operation of the Carolina Mountain Club that its goals were significantly advanced. In addition, the Council may occasionally choose to grant an honorary life membership to some member.

Carolina Critters

Mother Nature's Drones

By **Becky LedBetter**

There was a humming sound as it lifted straight up into the air. Within seconds it was 700 feet above my little house in the woods. I could see myself as its eyes recorded my miniature image far below standing on the stairs that go up to my deck. As it rose higher and higher above the little mountain I live on there was a panoramic view of the larger south Asheville community. I felt like a speck and yet was awed by the beauty of my little place in the world.



The DJI quad-copter drone was owned by my daughter's boyfriend. He had given me a visual experience with his camera embossed drone that set me to wondering about dragonflies...Mother Nature's Drones. A couple of days later I found a pair of transparent wings beside the birdbath. Obvious evidence of a predator-prey encounter. So I decided that dragonflies, a prevalent resident during the summer, would be my subject for Carolina Critters this month.

Dragonflies are members of the Odonata order of insects with about 5,900 species! Dragonflies are distinguished from their close cousin the Damselfly by the way they hold their wings. While at rest, dragonflies hold their wings perpendicular to their body. Damselflies hold their wings together above their torso when perching or at rest. Dragonflies tend to be larger than damselflies.

There are four specific types of dragonflies; skimmers, darners, petaltails and clubtails. Skimmers, also known as perchers, are the most diverse group of dragonflies. They are found all over North America except for Alaska and Canada where the climate is too cold for them. Darners are the largest type of dragonfly. They measure from 2.5-5 inches. They have very large compound eyes that cover most of the head. The abdomen is long and slender in either shades of blue, green or yellow. These dragonflies have a nervous system developed enough to be able to control their body temperature to some extent. They are often found swarming in the late summer months. Petaltails are the oldest flying insect. It has been recorded that they have been around for about 300 million years! These are similar to darners except their eyes are separated and have long narrow stigmas. Clubtails are smaller dragonflies. They measure from 1.5 to 3 inches long with a wider abdomen. They usually have green or blue eyes. The thorax and abdomen usually shows a yellow, gray or green pattern.

Dragonflies are among the fastest and most versatile flying insects in the world. They are able to fly backwards, forwards, up and down, side to side and hover. The Giant Darner has been clocked at 60 mph but usual cruising speeds for most dragonflies is 10 mph. Dragonflies can be found in lakes, ponds, streams, marshes and wetlands. These insects are fierce predators of flies, mosquitoes, bees, ants and wasps. They are found near water habitats as their life begins in the larval stage as an aquatic nymph.

The lifecycle of a dragonfly begins as an egg which has been laid by a female in or near water on a reed or plant. The eggs hatch into naiads. Most of a dragonfly's life is spent as a naiad feeding on aquatic invertebrates. This stage can last from 2 months to 3 years for the smaller species and up to 5 years for the larger dragonflies. Believe it or not...get ready for it...dragonflies are known as "butt breathers". They breathe through gills located in their rectum and can propel themselves by expelling water through their anus. (Yes, isn't that quite an interesting fact that might come in handy while watching Jeopardy!) When it is time for a naiad to become an adult. It climbs up an emergent plant to begin the process of metamorphosis. Once the naiad is exposed to the air it begins breathing. There is a weak spot in the skin behind the head that begins to split and the mature dragonfly crawls out, pumps up its wings and flies off to feed.

Dragonflies have a history of imagery throughout the world. In Europe the dragonfly represents an almost sinister presence. There is a Romanian folktale that states that the dragonfly was once a horse that was possessed by the devil. According to Swedish folklore the devil uses dragonflies to weigh people's souls. In Portugal the dragonfly is known as the "eye snatcher". And in the Southern U. S. the term "snake doctor" refers to a belief that dragonflies follow snakes around and stitch their wounds whenever they get injured. The Japanese as well as Native Americans give a more positive meaning to the dragonfly. Dragonflies are symbols of courage, strength and happiness in Japanese culture and are often the subject in Haiku poetry. For the Native Americans the dragonfly often represents swiftness as well as transformation and wisdom. Dragonflies are a common motif found in Zuni pottery, Hopi Rock Art and Pueblo necklaces. According to Native American author Ted Andrews in his book "Animal Speaks" should dragonfly show up in your life it is time to reflect on the need for change in perspective.

To watch for dragonflies you need a really good pair of close focus binoculars. Dragonflies are very sensitive to movement and are easily startled. However, they do not see well from behind so approach quietly from the rear and you may get a good sighting.

My 84-year-old mother has been an avid bird watcher and became interested in dragonflies over the past few years. I asked her to reflect on these magical insects so I am closing with her words.

Dragonflies are bejeweled creatures. They don't like cloudy days. They wait to come out when the sun shines them into the emeralds, sapphires, and rubies that turn ponds, streams and even mud puddles into dragon and damselfly kingdoms. Gwenda LedBetter

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ29mr7_6Rs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGd9t50AOp0>

Forest Plan Revision

By Ruth Hartzler

The morning session was on Wildlife Habitat. The formal presentation, which will be available online, included definitions, 2012 Rule requirements, and the process that was followed. The FS estimates that about 2500 acres of Early Successional Habitat need to be restored per year to reach long term goals, based on many assumptions and several large databases. The same process can be used for other wildlife habitats. Attendees then placed arrows on maps, with coordinated sticky notes, identifying habitat opportunities.



The afternoon session was on Ecosystem Integrity and Ecosystem Diversity. Most of the formal presentation was devoted to the process used to model the "Natural Range of Variation" of certain forest attributes - canopy cover, gaps, age. Compared to the current status, the Natural Range of Variation estimates more young trees and a lot more old growth overall. Then examples were shown comparing the current status of a few watersheds with the modeled Natural Range of Variation. Attendees were invited to present suggestions for management actions to restore areas. This will be available online.

There was also a poster station on Wild and Scenic Rivers. The hand-outs described classification criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas, a list of eligible rivers, designated rivers, and other rivers in WNC. This meeting was well-attended by many Forest Service personnel and the usual forest stakeholders, and Pete Peterson from CMC and Morgan Sommerville from ATC. Ruth Berner, the plan revision manager, announced her retirement in a few months, with Heather Luczak replacing her. I happened to sit next to Margaret Carton, from the Friends of Panthertown, and learned that the FS is planning prescribed burns in Panthertown on the Little Green, Black Rock and Big Green hiking trails. The Friends' biologist says the prescribed burns are not necessary to prevent uncontrolled fires.

A Book Review

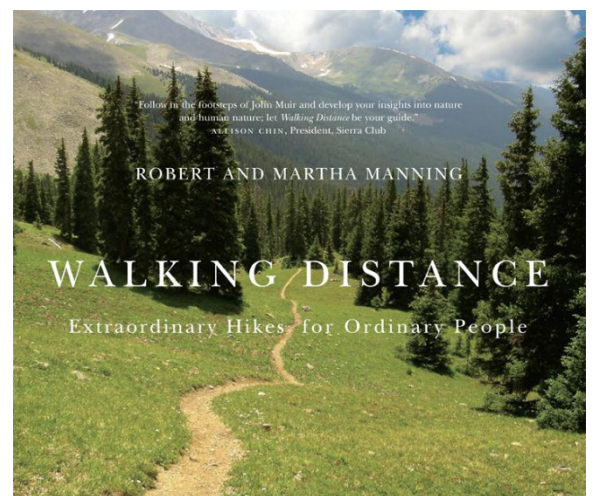
Walking Distance

By Danny Bernstein

Walking Distance: Extraordinary hikes for ordinary people is my dream book. Written by Robert Manning, a professor at the University of Vermont, and Martha Manning, a working artist, the book offers 30 long distance walks that anyone can do.

I first turned to the Cotswold Way, a 100 miles through southern England. As the Mannings describe, the trail is quintessential England - thatched roof cottages, prosperous villages, historic churches, and pastoral valleys. They walked from Bath, a major historic town, and headed north while I walked from Chipping Campden. This way, I could spend a couple of days exploring Bath after the hike. You stay in bed and breakfasts or small hotels, never needing to camp. Beyond your dayhiking gear, you just bring your toothbrush and couple of changes of underwear.

The book is meant to whet your appetite. There's enough detail so you can figure out if you must backpack, stay in huts or in town. It's not a guidebook. How could you write a guidebook for 30 long distance hikes? Each long distance hike includes a map to orient you and a box on further reading. The authors did the O



verland Track, in Tasmania, Australia, differently than we did. They went with a group that planned on staying in huts. We went independently and carried a tent since there was no guarantee that we would find a place in a hut. But we all experienced the same Cradle Mountain and glacier lakes. Wombats greeted us at every hut. Yellow-tailed black cockatoos and honeyeaters were distinctively Australians, as Australian as most of the hikers we met. I next looked at Cinque Terre on the West coast of Italy. Lenny and I are planning to go next year but I had yet to do any research. I learned that the main trail linking the five towns is a dayhike of 11 miles. There's a network of trails that wander up and down with good bus service to trailheads. You can even take a bus uphill and walk downhill, which really got Lenny's attention. It's amazing how many of these hikes I've done. But *Walking Distance* is a dream book, so I flipped to my dream hikes. Superior Hiking Trail in the North Woods of Minnesota has always intrigued me. Just because the trail borders Lake Superior doesn't mean it's flat; most of the trail in the Sawtooth Mountains overlooking the lake. There are a few reputations for biting insects but sounds great. One quibble. The book should have said when the authors did the hikes. Forget the Sears catalog. *Walking Distance* (University of Oregon Press, \$35) is the real dream book.



Hiking Conference Set For September

Hikers from across the Southeast are invited to the Eighth Biennial Conference of the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) in Blairsville, Georgia and neighboring Vogel State Park September 18-21, 2014. Registration for this event has begun and may be accomplished by going to the website: <http://www.southeasternfoottrails.org> Highlighting this conference will be presentations by Ron Tipton, Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Janet Zeller, National Accessibility Program

Manager, U.S. Forest Service. Numerous other presenters will lead workshops on Friday the 19th and Sunday morning, the 21st. The Friday plenary session and most workshops, as well as registration sign-in, will be at the new Union County Community Center in Blairsville.

Thursday afternoon, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon will feature hikes in the mountains of northern Georgia, southeastern Tennessee, and southwestern North Carolina. The hikes will be of various lengths and descriptions from easy to strenuous, mostly on the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye trails, with experienced leaders. Most will feature scenic vistas and/or waterfalls. Registrants may purchase tickets with their registration for two special meals: Friday dinner at the large indoor lakeside pavilion at Vogel State Park with that park's naturalist Jessica Mou as speaker, and Saturday's evening meal at Brackett Center in Blairsville with ATC's Ron Tipton speaking. Housing for the conference includes the three Blairsville motels, cottages at Vogel State Park and elsewhere, and Vogel's pioneer campsite for those wishing to camp.

The registration fee for all SEFTC Conference events, workshops and hikes, but excluding the two evening meal events, is \$30 through August 31. The fee increases for late registration to \$40 on September 1 and for walk-ins at the conference dates. Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition is composed of 36 foot trail clubs and organizations from across the Southeast that range in size from dozens of members to two with over 5,000 members. The coalition was established 15 years ago.



Walking In Asheville Is Risky

By Kathy Kyle

Asheville is known as a hiking destination, but its track record for pedestrian safety makes walking in the city a risky venture. The Land of Sky is designated as the most deadly city in the state for walkers. A July death of a pedestrian on a sidewalk in a neighborhood resulted in misdemeanor charges reckless driving and death by vehicle. The speed limit where the fatality occurred was 20 miles per hour and the driver was driving without insurance.

Lothar Dohse, a UNC Asheville professor who is a member of a recently established city study panel called the Multimodal Transportation Commission attributes it to tourism and the winding, hilly, roads. A larger city with winding hilly roads and tourists, however, has the distinction of being one of the most safe cities in the nation for

walkers and bikers - Seattle.

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2014/05/29/asheville-tops-nc-per-capita-pedestrian-accidents/9743053/>

<http://blogs.seattletimes.com/fyi-guy/2014/04/18/seattle-ranks-no-2-for-cyclist-and-pedestrian-safety/>

Fracturing and Plan Revision

By Stevin Westcott

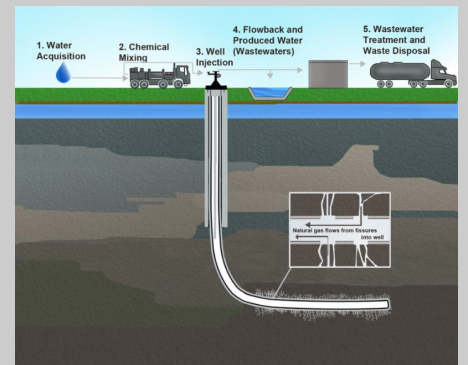
Some stakeholders have raised concerns about hydraulic fracturing and how it fits into revision of the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests management plan.

It's important for concerned citizens to know that revision of the management plan focuses on management practices, not on specific budgets or allocations of budgets.

The potential for oil and gas exploration will be identified in the plan revision process in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management.

As described in the Notice of Intent To Revise The Land And Resource Management Plan (NOI)...

"No decision regarding oil and gas leasing availability will be made in the revised Forest Plan, though standards will be brought forward or developed that would serve as mitigations should an availability decision be necessary in the future."



CMC Member George Gunewald Dies



George Emerich "Boomer" Grunewald, 74, of Brevard died Monday, July 7. He was born on Jan. 8, 1940, in Chicago, served in the Marines, and lived for 40 years in California before moving to Asheville for 12 years and quite recently to Brevard.

George was an avid outdoorsman - paddler, fly fisherman, hiker - and a great story teller. He was a member of and volunteered with RiverLink and Trout Unlimited and was a member of Carolina Mountain Club. He is survived by a brother Frank Gruenewald in Oklahoma, a cousin Herb Gruenewald in CA, and 6 nephews. He will be sorely missed by his many friends.

There will be no calling hours. A celebration of George's life will be held at a later date.

In George's honor, you may make a donation to The Nature Conservancy, 46 Haywood St, Ste. 222, Asheville 28801



Send eNews articles to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org

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

There will be no August eNews. The next issue will come out on Friday, September 26, so send your news

by Friday evening at 9 P.M. before the newsletter comes out, that is, by Friday evening September 19 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

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

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