



Carolina Mountain Club

Since 1923

eNews | Hike . Save Trails . Make Friends

May 2020

In This Issue

[In Memoriam - Sherman Stambaugh](#)

[Trail Maintainer Program](#)

[Seeking Old Photos](#)

[GPX hike tracking presentation](#)

[CMC Hikers during the Great Pandemic of 2020](#)

[Great Day Hikes on North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail](#)

[Park Closes to Support Regional Coronavirus](#)

In Memoriam - Sherman Stambaugh

Sherman L. Stambaugh, 99, of Asheville, North Carolina died peacefully on April 26, 2020 after five days at hospice. Sherman grew up in Spring Grove, PA. He was the son of Allen and Clara Stambaugh and is survived by a brother in Pennsylvania.

Sherman was an Eagle Scout and served in the US Navy Hospital Corps during World War II. While stationed in Washington DC, he met Dorothy, a Navy nurse, and they were married for 57 years. They are survived by five daughters and a son, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



While Sherman's professional life was in automotive sales and office management, his passion was the outdoors and hiking in the the Appalachians and beyond. His best days were in the mountains, leading hikes and doing trail maintenance with his many friends made through the Carolina Mountain Club.

Sherman moved to Asheville in 1956 and joined the CMC in 1973. Over the years he hiked many miles of the AT and worked on enhancing the Mountains to the Sea Trail. Some of his favorite trails and destinations were Linville Falls, Ferrins Knob, the "Road to Nowhere" in Bryson City, Grayson Highlands and the Shut-In Trail. Sherman worked with Les Love and others on building and maintaining trails. He and Les came up with the idea of the spring social at the Arboretum and Sherman actively planned programs and speakers for it. Sherman was honored over the years with recognitions such as the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Silver Service Award in 2003 and the Roosevelt-Ashe Society Outstanding Volunteer in Conservation award in 2009. He was also given CMC's highest honor by being named an Honorary Life Member. But the greatest reward Sherman received from the Club was the friendships he made over the years. One of his first and dearest hiking buddies was the late Alan Barton. As Sherman's vision failed and his walks were closer to home, many of his friends maintained social contact at picnics and his December birthday party. The late Jay Bretz made sure Sherman got his spring ramps when he couldn't hike to gather them himself. Paula Massey and Marcia

Bromberg prepared and delivered wonderful dinners at his home to keep him up on CMC news and members. Sherman was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville. He joined because of the many like-minded folks he met through the CMC who were members there, especially Ken and Carol Deal. A family memorial will be held at a future date. Sherman's daughter, Diane, is an active CMC hiker and keeps his outdoor spirit alive.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Sherman's name can be made to MANNA FoodBank of Asheville or The Botanical Gardens at Asheville.

Trail Maintainer Program

by Rich Evans

Many thanks goes out to all secondary trail maintainers and members of the Art Loeb crew who worked in the Pisgah Ranger District (PRD) in 2019.

The secondary trail maintainer program was launched at the beginning of 2019. I would like to share with you what we collectively have accomplished in our first year:

- * 48 new volunteers stepped up to adopt a trail section. Most were individuals but some were families.
- * Of the 100.9 miles of hiking trails in the PRD we have adopted over 92%.
- * We have recorded 1596 volunteer hours in the PRD in 2019.
- * Some of you have arranged for several of our weekly crews to participate on your trail sections with you.
- * With section maintainer and crew hours combined, we recorded 5485 volunteer hours in the PRD. That's more than double the hours recorded in any previous year.
- * Many hikers have reported that our trails are in better shape than ever.
- * Some of you have joined one of our weekly crews while others have come out with the Saturday Quarterly crew.

In April of 2019 we also launched the Art Loeb crew. I would also like to share with you this crew's success.

- * In just over 8 months in 2019 this crew recorded 1933 crew hours.
- * The crew averaged over 7 crew members per outing.
- * This crew had 41 individuals participate at least once in 2019.
- * Many serious trail issues were addressed.
- * The Art Loeb crew also sponsored the very popular "rock class" which meets once a month.

You have all stepped up to make the secondary trail program and Art Loeb crew successful. Many thanks to all of you.

We will get past the Covid-19 situation and the PRD will once again be open to volunteers. At that time I look forward to seeing you all back on the trails.

All the best to you and your families in 2020. Stay safe and thanks again for a successful 2019.

Rich Evans

North Carolina Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) Seeking Old Photos of Former WNC Fire Towers

by Peter Barr

CMC member and director of the FFLA's North Carolina chapter, Peter Barr, is researching several former fire lookout towers in WNC--many of which were destinations on CMC hikes for decades. He is seeking photos you may be willing to share of long-ago removed fire towers in our region, specifically:



- High Top (Pisgah NF, above Camp Daniel Boone & Lake Logan, off of the Fork Mountain Trail)
- Ferrin Knob (off of the Blue Ridge Parkway between Mt. Pisgah and Asheville)
- Spivey Mountain (just outside of downtown Asheville)
- Lickstone Ridge (near Blue Ridge Parkway/Heintooga Ridge Road junction; location is in current "Mile High Campground")
- Mt. Jefferson (Ashe County, now converted to a cell phone tower)
- Horse Gap Lookout (Pisgah NF, off Blue Ridge Parkway near crossing of NC 80/Buck Creek Gap)
- Pilot Mountain (Pisgah NF on the Art Loeb Trail, ground house lookout)
- Devils Nest (ground house lookout in Mitchell County)
- Carter Top (between Cherokee/Sylva/Maggie Valley)
- Round Mountain (Nantahala NF, south of Cashiers & Silver Run Falls)
- Sand Mountain (Pisgah NF, Grandfather District, south of Boone)
- High Windy (Blue Ridge YMCA Assembly, Swannanoa Mtns. near Black Mountain)
- Rocky Knob (Pisgah NF, Grandfather District, south of Boone)
- Woods Mountain (Pisgah NF, on MST near Marion)

Digital versions are preferred but he will gladly accept images by mail to carefully digitize and safely return them, if necessary. Please contact him directly at nclookouts@gmail.com. Thank you for the help in preserving historic fire tower heritage in western NC!

Photo is from CMC Archives of Duckett Top lookout tower on a 1940s CMC hike

Please mark you calendar with something to look forward to should the social ban be lifted by July



CMC Member Event - GPX Tracking Skill

CMC Members are cordially invited to a GPX hike tracking presentation at REI in Biltmore Park on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The program will be led by CMC hike leader Bob Levy. He'll cover four topics on the use of the AllTrails phone app: (1) using the app real-time, as you hike; (2) importing and exporting GPS tracks to and from the app; (3) using AllTrails on your PC or Mac to modify old hikes or create new hikes; and (if time permits) (4) adding and accessing your personal hikes to and from the CMC website. Afterward, we'll have time for Q&A.

We hope you can join us. There is no charge for the event. RSVP required. Please email Jan Onan at janonan59@gmail.com

Please note that the Motion X app will not be taught as it is no longer supported.

CMC Hikers during the Great Pandemic of 2020

by Danny Bernstein

Every week, I've been asking CMC hike leaders a question on how they're dealing with the Great Pandemic of 2020.

One week, I asked: What is one new thing that you're doing now that you have more time at home? It does not have to be hiking, though it could be finding a new trail. Cooking a new dish, a new craft, planting something, learning a new skill...

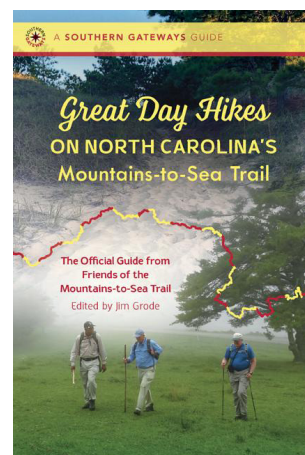
Great Day Hikes on North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail

edited by Jim Grode

Reviewed by Danny Bernstein

The Mountains-to-Sea Trail requires no introduction to CMC. The 1,175-mile trail is our hiking staple at any time and our lifeline right now. CMC maintains a long section from the Oconaluftee River to Black Mountain Campground. Several CMC members are MST completers, i.e. have done the whole trail.

But for those who want to sample the MST throughout the state, there's a new book, *Great Day Hikes on North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail* edited by Jim Grode, the trail resource manager for Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and published by UNC-Press.



The book features 40 hikes carefully chosen to appeal to hikers of all experience levels – and I mean all experiences. You can walk a strenuous 8.4 miles in Linville Gorge or stroll 0.7 miles on the Oconaluftee River Trail. Once you get out of the mountains, all hikes are easy for those of us used to dealing with steep ascents. “This trail guide is the first truly accessible book for all who wish to experience the diversity and beauty of the MST. The selected hikes range from easy to hard, local to far-flung. There is something for every walker, no matter their speed or stamina.” says Betsy Brown, Outreach Manager of Friends of the MST. The book showcases what is beyond Black Mountain Campground. It features historic and natural features which will interest those who love WNC but have never explored beyond Mt. Mitchell. Where is Pilot Mountain, Tory’s Den, the Eno River and Falls Lake Dam spillway? To help hikers, there are turn-by-turn guidance, full-color maps and photographs Marcia Bromberg, a former CMC president and now treasurer of FMST, explains that “the new MST Day Hike Guidebook offers something special for those of us who are unlikely to undertake the grand adventure of hiking the whole trail. It gives us ideas for shorter hikes close to home – where to go and what to expect in our MST adventures. It helps those of us less familiar with the trail outside of our mountain home find ways to enjoy the trail in other parts of the state, pointing out highlights that we might not otherwise have been able to locate and appreciate. I plan to keep the book in my car so I can take advantage of new hikes as I travel the state.”

When there’s an enumerated list, there are going to be hikers interested in

In the first 15 years of the 20th century, the United States had only 12 national parks ? Yellowstone, Sequoia, Yosemite, Mount Rainier, Crater Lake, Wind Cave, Mesa Verde, Glacier, Rocky Mountains, Haleakala, Hawaii Volcanoes, and Lassen Volcanic. Each had formed because a handful of radical people started a small, local movement to protect land that had won their heart, and they couldn't stand to see it go unprotected. There was no park system to guide them, no leadership in place to standardize their structures, regulate their staffing, or inform their decisions. With the formation of the NPS, now for the first time there was one governing body responsible for helping parks make good decisions. At its helm was Stephen Mather. "The national parks are an American idea, the one thing we have not imported," wrote Mather. "They came about because earnest men and women became violently excited at the possibility of these great assets passing from public control." Mather was a man of strong conservation values. He was also a person who knew how to market parks in order to get people to start traveling to visit them. He embodied the two contradictory notions ? enjoyment and protection ? that form the paradox on which the NPS was built. The early days of the NPS were fraught with difficult decisions for how each park should best meet the challenge of the paradox. The people attracted by Mather's promotional genius began to enjoy parks by bringing their motor vehicles into pristine lands and parking and camping willynilly all over them. They brought food and waste, which attracted animals and compromised their wild nature. In order for park lands to be enjoyed, visitor centers, parking areas and bathrooms had to be built ? and maintained. Once again, it took a few visionary radicals to look into the future and see what would be sustainable for parks. Advocates like George Melendez Wright had to voice the needs of wildlife to remain wild, not fed like spoiled pets. The Antiquities Act had to be invoked so that cultural and archaeological sites on public lands would be protected in the face of development. When in 1934 more than 500,000 acres spanning Western North Carolina and East Tennessee were set aside as a park, it was once again thanks to a handful of radical thinkers ? men and women who were passionate about the land and refused to see it destroyed. Great Smoky Mountains became the first park in close proximity to many major population centers and one of the largest protected areas in the eastern United States. Fast forward 85 years to 2019. Last year,

the Smokies welcomed more than 12.5 million visitors! Mather would have been proud. But with the spring equinox having just passed, as we enter what would normally be our busiest season of the busiest year in history, the park is empty. Why? Only weeks ago, as the pandemic was ramping up, parks were being heralded as the best places to be during this time of social distancing. It seemed logical that the enjoyment of the American people could be fulfilled by parks, even in the face of a global health crisis. People could be out of doors, on trails, alone or with close family, enjoying their social distancing while being rejuvenated by the healing connection to nature. But Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the nation's most visited park. Along with a backlog of maintenance and a legacy of public accessibility with no entrance fee, the Smokies' biggest issue is overcrowding of popular places like Cades Cove, Laurel Falls and Alum Cave. The stress on these spots requires many staff in tight quarters to manage. Staff also struggle to maintain visitor centers, parking areas and bathrooms March through October. This overcrowding issue was top of the list to be addressed by park management before the COVID-19 outbreak. Now, just as it did a century ago, the NPS is facing difficult new challenges and adapting to unprecedented definitions of normal. As in the days before a National Park System, each park has had to evaluate its own unique circumstances and decide the best way forward within that iconic paradox epitomized by Mather and described by Olmsted. Today, however surreal and strange, park leaders have had to recognize that keeping parks open actually poses a threat to the very people charged with protecting them. And that threat presently extends both to families in local communities and to the families of those who work in the parks ? those whose service is called upon to protect the Smokies and all our national parks, not just for today, but also for tomorrow. To make hard choices and face inevitable criticism, today's leaders have had to be radical. Thankfully, excellent role models for them to emulate from national park history are not in short supply. One of those who advocated for the protection of the earliest parks said, "We are not

building this country of ours for a day. It is to last through the ages." That radical was Theodore Roosevelt. Frances Figart is the Creative Director for Great Smoky Mountains Association, an educational nonprofit partner of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the

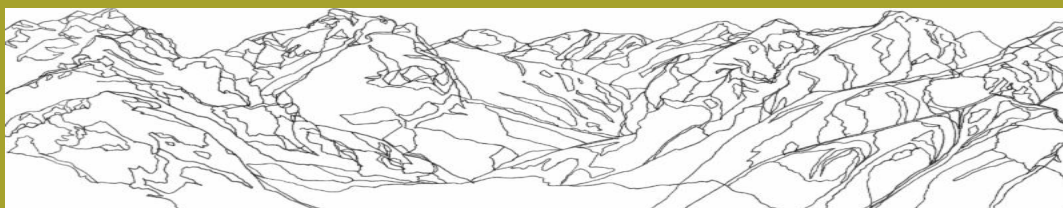
editor of Smokies Life, a biannual journal created for GSMA's 34,000+ members and available at smokiesinformation.org. She can be reached at frances@gsmassoc.org.



The eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month. Send your news to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words. You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments.

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 Dennis Bass at dbass3607@gmail.com. Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.

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



[Let's Go!](#)

[CMC Calendar](#)

[Hike Reports](#)

[Future Hikes](#)