



Carolina Mountain Club

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July 2018

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## National Trails Day - June 2, 2018 - Max Patch Rehabilitation

By - Ann Hendrickson



The 50th anniversary of the National Trails Systems Act was celebrated by working and hiking on Max Patch, one of the crown jewels of the Appalachian Trail. CMC partnered with The Appalachian Ranger District and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to conduct a trail stewardship event and a youth hike to celebrate the day, provide stewardship education, and perform much needed restoration to our beloved bald.

Over 100 individuals participated in the event which was sponsored by REI, Farm to Feet, and Big Top High Wire. Registered individuals from Tennessee, Virginia, and several cities in WNC, participated as well as locals from the

“neighborhood.” Representatives from the National Park Conservancy Association, The Appalachian Trails Conservancy, the US Forest Service, REI, The American Hiking Society, Conserving Carolina, the American Conservation Experience, and CMC members were also active participants in the event. Twelve work stations were set up, with groups of volunteers working with veteran CMC/ATC trail maintainers, working on pruning/lopping, mitigating erosion, replacing steps, putting in new steps, widening the trail, addressing side-hill slough, and removing rocks and roots from the tread. Special thanks to Linda Blue, Jeff Dektor, Peter Litvinchyk, Les Love, Bill Otto, Chris Werbylo, Skip Sheldon, Piet Bodenhorst, Ben Barry, Dave Roberts, Tom Weaver, Mary Swain and Rich Evens for leading crews, and Ron Navik and Dave Galentine for driving our vans!

The Youth Partnership Challenge hike was led by Jan Onan, and Kay Shurtleff hiked with the youngsters and

their families around the bald, stopping at each work station to learn about the work, the tools being used, and obtaining an understanding about how and why trail maintenance is so important. Themes of the day were to have fun, meet new people, stay safe, and leave no trace. Despite a soggy start to the day, Mission accomplished! An after-party was held at Big Top to celebrate and socialize after a very productive day.

The NTD event is one component of a long-term restoration/ management project of Max Patch that CMC is working on in collaboration with the USFS and the ATC. So far in 2018, over 3,000 volunteer work-hours have been logged working on restoring Max Patch. Work will be ongoing, including building a new kiosk, installing a split rail fence behind the kiosk, as well as more trail renovation. Max Patch has also been recently designated as a Golden-Winged Warbler habitat (a highly threatened species) so more work will be done to enhance the habitat for these and similar birds. Please watch for more work events in the future to help preserve our iconic bald. Many thanks for all who participated and worked hard to make the 50th anniversary such a huge success! Be sure to visit to check out the restoration that has been done!

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## National Trails Day 50th Anniversary June 2, 2018

### Youth Partner Challenge participants get a new experience

By Jan Onan



Ann Hendrickson, a very active CMC member, orchestrated the partnership between CMC, REI, ATC, USFS, NPS and local businesses to create the first-ever restoration event on Max Patch that included outside volunteers to work with CMC trail crew to get a feel for what CMC trail crew members do weekly.

Ann's vision included family hikers with their kids and grandkids walking along the A.T. encountering the many crews working at different stages of trail construction at different sites. Families would be able to observe, listen, learn and get some hands-on experience to see what it is like to work on a trail. Ann's vision became a reality. When Ann contacted me to help with gathering families with youth and leading them on this hike while the crews worked, I was all over it. Bringing this engaging opportunity to the Youth Partner Challenge was such a sweet fit.

.. A large number of people expressed interest and many signed up. Unfortunately the weather kept a few volunteers and hikers away, but the day could not have turned out better. During the van ride up it mostly poured, and when our driver, Dave stopped at the parking lot, we had to wait for the rain to stop. And it DID! Geared with hard hats and ready to go, YPC participants learned why it is so important to stay on the trail as they made their way to the many crews. Crews demonstrated clearing the trail of grass and debris, covering old trails to save habitat for birds and stop erosion, explained how box steps were made using local locust, let kids stomp on the gravel used for the check steps and more. The youth even held and used shovels and hazel hoes to widen the trail. Ann gave an amazing demonstration of how to use a huge drill and rebar to secure a locust log on the northbound uphill steps to Max Patch. At the top, we were able to get a view of the mountains to the east while breaking for lunch. After hiking back to the parking lot, we all piled into the van and were driven by Dave back to our cars at Harmon Den. Thank you Ann Hendrickson for coordinating it all for us! We certainly will miss you

## A Legend Retires from Asheville Friday Crew

By Ann Hendrickson

Minnesota lays claim to two folk legends. One is the fictitious Paul Bunion, and the other is the real "larger than life" Arnold "Skip" Sheldon who has graced the helm of the CMC Asheville Friday crew for the last 15 years. Paul Bunion had a faithful Blue Ox to assist in his endeavors; Skip has had a faithful crew following him for a decade and a half. (I secretly wanted him to have his own water buffalo to carry his tools and ware, but Skip managed quite nicely all on his own.)



Recently Skip has stepped down as Crew Leader for the Asheville Friday Crew. At 75, he has decided that he has one or two other things (Phyllis his bride, Tommy his dog, kids, grand kids, grouse hunting, and fly fishing to name a few) to take precedence in his life from now on. While Skip will continue to participate in the vital work of the crew, the decision making and leadership has been turned over to others.

While leading the Asheville Friday crew, Skip took on a leadership role in blazing new trails: Bear Wallow Mountain, Trombatore Trail, the completion of portions of Florence Nature Preserve, the very difficult "completion" of the MST at Water Rock Knob, several A.T. relocations, several A.T. shelter rehabs, privy builds, Bull Gap renovation, and the list goes on and on. With over 9,000 hours of volunteer service, Skip has seen and done it all, quietly, without fanfare or remuneration for his expenses.

I have had the pleasure of working with Skip for over 8 years. I consider it a true pleasure and honor to serve under such a remarkable dedicated individual. Skip has never asked a volunteer to do anything that he wouldn't do himself. A true leader by example, all of us are better people to have served under his leadership. His honesty, integrity, love of the trail and the crew are unrivaled. The passion, dedication, and commitment to a volunteer position that Skip has demonstrated are unequaled. There has never been a trail, a trail issue, or a trail volunteer that Skip has not embraced whole heartedly. While a plethora of opinions arise on a crew decision, the most heated comment out of Skip was "dang – gum-it"! An Eagle Scout at heart, no scrutiny of Skip's wisdom was ever required.

Accolades and praise are not enough. Skip has left WNC and CMC a legacy from which we continue to reap the benefits as we strive to fill those larger-than-life shoes. Thank you, Skip, a million times over.

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## New Hike Leaders Needed! Training Sessions Offered!

Did you know CMC offers over 125 hikes annually? That means 125 leaders have boots on the ground! To further enhance our hike offerings, new hike leaders are needed and you can help. Whether it's half-day or full day hikes, scheduled or MeetUp hikes, there is a place for you. CMC now offers a training session for hike leaders. Unsure of where to start? Contact Gregory Bechtel at [gabechtel@gmail.com](mailto:gabechtel@gmail.com) for more information. It's a great group and the Hike Leaders' Dinner each February is always a wonderful "thank you" that CMC sponsors.

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## New Mobile CMC Web Site

By Judy Magura

Check out the new mobile CMC web site which has been in the works for some time:

[Carolinamountainclub.org](http://Carolinamountainclub.org)

This major software release and site update provide the user with the ability to view the CMC public site

on mobile devices such as the iPad and iPhone.

Some known software bugs were also addressed with this release and several changes have also been made to improve the user experience. The last known major issue which pertains to the missing SB6K challenge peak details is in the works, and within a few weeks this will also be addressed.

Last but not least, if you have an interest in working on a new mapping committee for CMC hikes, please email [hikingtech@gmail.com](mailto:hikingtech@gmail.com). The goal of this committee which is being organized will be to establish map / gpx standards and make appropriate updates for all official CMC hikes.

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Take a hike around the new website! Though created to be more accessible on mobile devices, it's still a great resource on your desktop or laptop. An abundance of information is just a click or two away. Don't be afraid to explore new areas -- it's packed with useful content.  
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## Save The Date!



The CMC annual dinner will be held Saturday, November 3rd, at the Doubletree Hilton at Biltmore. Our guest speaker will be Jennifer Pharr Davis.

Jennifer Pharr Davis is an American long-distance hiker, author, speaker, National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, and Ambassador for the American Hiking Society. She is also on the Board of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

More details will follow.

## Hike Leaders + Photo Sharing = Annual Dinner Entertainment

We are asking hike leaders to take one or more group/casual photos during the hike they lead 3rd quarter and into the 4th quarter and submit them for the slideshow at the annual dinner. If you hike regularly, you will see yourself and your friends multiple times on the big screen and add to the enjoyment of the social hour.

Hike leaders will receive a detailed reminder email about a week before the hike they lead. Thanks in advance, hike leaders!

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# DuPont Forest Festival - Volunteers needed

By Danny Bernstein

Do you know where this picture was taken?

On National Public Lands Day, Saturday September 22, 2018, Friends of DuPont Forest [www.dupontforest.com](http://www.dupontforest.com) is planning its first DuPont Forest Festival to celebrate the adventure, wildness, and beauty of DuPont State Recreational Forest. A full day of guided tours is planned: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, educational lectures, and hands-on demonstrations. One activity that intrigued me was "Optimizing Avenza Map App", a map program on your mobile phone. For those who want real maps, there will be map and compass demonstrations. "I think of it as an outdoor conference that shows off DuPont Forest and teaches our communities about the importance of our public lands and their role in protecting them," says Sara Landry, Executive Director of Friends of DuPont Forest. The Friends group is looking for volunteers to help with logistics, since they expect many visitors from all over the area and beyond. They're also looking for business sponsors.



For questions about volunteering at the Forest Festival or about sponsorship opportunities, please contact: Sara Landry at 828-713-2368 or [saralandry@dupontforest.com](mailto:saralandry@dupontforest.com) You might even find out where that photo was taken!

## Join a MeetUp!

Interested in hiking on days CMC does not offer scheduled hikes? Consider signing up for the CMC MeetUp where a variety of hikes are offered. Advantages of CMC MeetUp hikes include (1) you know who will be on the hike and (2) photographs can be shared on the website. Plus, the hike leaders follow the same CMC Hike Leader guidelines. Enroll one time (no-cost) and receive an e-mail invitation when a CMC hike is offered. If you're not interested, delete the e-mail. If you are, read the description and then simply click the box you want to attend. Easy!

Just go to [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com) and sign up! For additional information or if you need assistance, please contact Gregory Bechtel at [gabechtel@gmail.com](mailto:gabechtel@gmail.com)



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To join Carolina Mountain Club go to: [www.carolinamountainclub.org](http://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](mailto:dbass3607@gmail.com). Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.

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