



From The Editor

This issue features Kathleen Hannigan, who always brings a smile and treats on hikes. Thank you Kathleen. Also featured is an account of a trek by Ann Hendrickson in a Himalayan adventure. Becky Smucker has her first column in "Plants On The Trail" just in time for the early flower blooms.

Don't miss the Spring Social in April at the Arboretum with Ted Snyder talking about the CMC camporees and the reason behind having them. Thank you Les and Catherine Love for providing this annual tradition. Details are in this issue.

Mike Knies has an early April Fool's pun in this issue. Enjoy.

If anyone has any articles for the newsletter, send them to me at eNews@carolinamountainclub.org

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

90th Anniversary Of CMC Party

By Marcia Bromberg

We will celebrate the Club's 90th year and member Lew Blodgett's 90th birthday Saturday, June 8th, at Lake Julian Park. Mark your calendars to join us at Shelter #2 from noon to 3pm. Bring a dish to share and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) of your choice. We'll supply the cake and a few surprises!



Wine, Cheese, Swim Hikes and More

Kathleen Hannigan Has Been A Faithful CMC Leader, Member Since 1986

Hike
Save Trails
Make
Friends



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Interview By Kathy Kyle

Kathleen Hannigan adds color to every hike. Her favorite color is purple so in honor of that I put her answers in purple, which is how she submitted them.

When and how did you find out about the Carolina Mountain Club?

I read about it in the Asheville Citizen-Times. I didn't know anyone in the club and had never heard about it before, but the ad said to meet at the south end of the Federal Building (now the Grove Arcade). There was plenty of parking because downtown wasn't the popular place it is today. So I went there, climbed into a car with 3 elderly strangers and took off to hike. That was in 1986. Wait a minute, I said elderly strangers - those people were only my age!!!!



What inspired you to come back to CMC after so many years after raising your daughter?

I got to hike in the Eighties until 1989 when my daughter was born.

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What inspired you to come back to CMC after so many years after raising your daughter?

I got to hike in the Eighties until 1989 when my daughter was born.

And I didn't let hiking go easily even then. I remember them lifting me down the back side of Blue Ridge Pinnacle when I was 7 months pregnant and pretty big. And I even took Jessica on a few hikes when she was tiny in a baby backpack. However, the responsibilities of new motherhood eventually took over and I traded hiking for sewing baby dresses. But I never forgot how much I loved to wander the trails of our beautiful area and I knew someday I would be back.

What do you like about CMC?

I, of course, love the outdoors and being able to explore remote places safely with a group. But I really love the laughter and conversation that my hiking friends and I share while we are enjoying something we all love to do.

What is your ideal hike?

8-10 miles long, 1500' - 2000' or so gain in elevation, including both a stroll beside a beautiful stream, and at some point incredible views, and done during rhododendron season. One hike I can think of that would mostly fit this bill is Grassy Ridge up in the Black Balsam area.

How long has your family been in this area? How has it changed since you were growing up?

Well, I know for sure that my mother's mother (who is 102) was born in Fairview and moved with her parents and siblings to Swannanoa in a horse and wagon to work at the new plant that opened in 1929 - Beacon. My father's mother was born in 1900 in Greenlee in the Old Fort area. I have lots of cousins all over the area.

You were growing up here before the completion of Interstate 40. What are your memories of that road project?

Well my first memory is kind of unpleasant. My father had built a house overlooking the Swannanoa valley and then it was condemned for the interstate to come through. We had to move but found a really pretty place about 1 mile from there up in Patton Cove. But my father always regretted giving up the sunset view. A better memory is riding our bicycles from Swannanoa to Black Mountain when the highway was mostly completed but not open yet.

What are some of the more memorable CMC hikes?

I, of course, remember the first one with Les and Katherine when I came back to the club after my daughter got her driver's license. It was at Huntfish Falls. And I remember one with Jim Reel that I think was on the stretch of trail he maintains at Garenflo Gap - it rained SO MUCH! But it was still fun. My swim hike to Horsepasture is always a blast, and I also remember the one at Tanawha when we lost Carroll (not forever).

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How did you decide to host the wine and cheese hike? When is it this year?

It will be on Saturday, June 1 this year. I love to garden so I enjoy sharing what I have done at my house with others, I love to hike, and I love to drink wine, so this was a way to combine all these things I enjoy so much! I live very close to the Folk Art Center / MST which makes the logistics easy. Well, they are usually easy. There was that year I lost Bob for a while.

You bring the best hiking treats on hikes. What is the favorite treat you make? What is the recipe?

I think my current favorite is Blueberry Almond Bars but past faves have been Mocha Cappuccino Bars, Apple Pie Bars and Pumpkin Bread. Just email me at kathannigan@gmail.com and I will be happy to send you the recipe for whichever treat you prefer.

The swim hike in Gorges State Park, how did you discover this hike? When did you first lead the hike?

It was so long ago but I think my husband took me there when we were first married. He learned of it from a friend. And then a bunch of us at the church I attended would rent Kuykendall campsite (where Ted's first Camporee will be in May) and we would drive over to Horsepasture to swim. Gorges State Park was not there at that time so the path into the place was much different.

When you are not hiking what are you doing?

Working, gardening, singing, sewing, reading, knitting, crocheting, and of course, drinking wine.

How has CMC changed since you started hiking?

I don't know that it has changed as much as is just always doing something new and different - the Camporees, the challenges, meet-up. I was also not aware when I first started hiking of how maintenance and conservation are such an important part of the club. My friends and I balk when the club is called "venerable" (why not sexy?) but it is really because of the enormous respect the club is due. It is certainly not hard to understand how an organization like this has stood the test of time.



Himalayan Adventure

Trekking Annapurna

By Ann Hendrickson

Namaste! Namaste! These were the first words we heard emerging from through the gauntlet of the customs shuffle. Like Dorothy, we definitely had not arrived in Kansas, but instead a very Oz-like place, Kathmandu! Our guide, Basu, was eagerly waving garlands of marigolds behind a placard with our name on it. I sized him up: Five feet tall, maybe 100 pounds, grinning ear to ear, eyes that belied a kind, gentle soul, and an unflappable spirit. Trust and friendship were instant. Bill, my husband, and I were whisked away through traffic-jammed alleyways for our trek briefing at HGT headquarters. Our Himalayan adventure had begun!

I was prepared to not like Kathmandu. I assumed it would be a typical third-world polluted, over-crowded, noisy, crime riddled city with a few UNESCO World Heritage sites to explore. My assumption was mostly right, but one quickly becomes intoxicated with sensory overload in this incredible city. Three days was barely enough to scratch the surface of this endlessly fascinating cultural maze of a place. Already I long to return to Bodhnath on a pilgrimage to once again feel

the prayer wheels spin under my fingers, light a butter lamp, and circumnavigate the dome on the prayer flag-decked street.

We departed Kathmandu and after a 6 hour Hail Mary bus ride, a night in picturesque Pokhara, rendezvousing with Gopal, our shy porter, we finally arrived in Naya Pul, the starting point of our Annapurna trek! Here, throngs of trekkers, guides, and porters were hurriedly packing and double-checking gear. A short hike (just a week prior, it had been only a path; now, civilization was encroaching with a gravel road bed) and we were in Birethanti, "Check Point Charley" if you will. All people trekking within the Annapurna Conservation Area Project have to purchase a TIMS card (Trekking Information Management System) and register at the various check points.

There are multiple routes and treks one can choose in the Annapurna Circuit region. Routes and treks are based on budget, time available, and fitness level. We chose the Annapurna Sanctuary route to Annapurna Base Camp (ABC) as we wanted to explore the ethnic culture of the communities along the way, enjoy the flora and fauna of the sub tropical forests and alpine regions, while maintaining a constant panoramic view. Bill and I also decided that we wanted to trek by ourselves, and not join a larger group. Many people arrive in Kathmandu and trek alone, or arrange for a guide and/or porter once they arrive. Our choice was easy. Himalayan Glacier Trekking a highly rated outfitter has a US representative: Tony Monaco, a CMC member in Charlotte. Our itinerary was established according to our trekking ideas and our pre- and post-trek plans. One couldn't ask for a better-executed trip. People ask how to "train" for trekking in the Himalayas. In reflection, one should hop on a treadmill set at the highest tension for a couple of hours, then hike from Mount Mitchell to Deep Gap and back, double the altitude, and repeat daily for a few weeks. If one doesn't follow this regimen, then pack some extra strength Tylenol. We were not prepared for the miles and miles of "steps"; it's a trail building marvel, but a hiker's pain in the quads and hamstrings.

Other treks/hikes that we have done around the globe were either wilderness camping or staying in a lodge of some sort. While trekking the Annapurnas we chose to stay in tea houses that were available in the a few villages scattered along the route. The operative word is "available." Every day, there is a mad scramble in the afternoon to secure lodging. Lodging can only be booked "the day of"...and there may only be 3 lodges with 8 or so rooms in a given community. There may be 2, 3, or 4 hours of "extra" hiking if a room is not secured early in the day. Or, sleeping arrangements can get rather creative! Rooms are typically spartan with twin cots and a lock for the door. Toilets are Asian style and unisex. Showers, if available, are for a fee. Hot water, if available, is solar heated. The water in Nepal is highly polluted. The Modi Khola River (originating at the Annapurna Glacier) provides 95% of Nepal's drinking water. The water supply to villages is medieval ... a 1 ¼ inch PVC pipe runs from village to village, splicing home to home, and running (or not) non-stop. We observed the pipe strung through the jungle, tree to tree, lashed in place with bamboo "thread". After several days, hygiene and water purification become tedious but necessary.

Before you dismiss considering a trek of this nature, I haven't discussed one of the most intriguing elements: the people one meets along the way! There is of course ample opportunity to meet folks along the trail, stopping for tea, lunch, a break, or stopping to eat/sleep for the day. (People often commented on our CMC hats or AT volunteer patches on our packs.) Once your trekking is done for the day, people gather in the communal dining room. One's personal space dissolves. We gravitated like magnets to anyone who looked remotely 60-ish. The higher the elevation, the sparser the crowd, the more likely we would meet up with people we met earlier on the trail. Rooms are very inexpensive (\$3.50 a night), but require buying meals at the lodge. The dining room tables typically had a wool blanket tacked along the sides; there was also a propane heater under the table which was lit at night. Everyone (gladly) paid 100 rupees (\$1.25) to pull their boots off and stick their feet under the table, and pull the blanket over their lap. What warmth! We sat there for hours, chatting about the day's trek, or writing in journals, eating, drinking, and playing cards.

We identified people by their given name, or code names (Not AT trail names, but our personal way of identifying people). For example, "the Poles" were a hearty group that kept us honest. On our second day, Bill and I sat at the dining room table quite smug in the fact that we had trekked 14 hours in 2 days and were on our "track" time-wise. The Poles pulled in that night after trekking the same distance in ONE 12 hour day! They proceeded to each order a pint of rum, just as a "warm up" before their "real" drinking began. We were reminded of our time years ago hiking in the Bieszczady Mountains tracking Red deer with a Polish guide. We cursed him soundly under

our breath, as we saw him in the distance rolling a cigarette, casually smoking, waiting for us, then striding off and leaving us again to trot to catch up to him. What a hearty lot, the Poles - we were gladdened every time we met up with them. At the same time, a young Spanish graduate student arrived. She was about to collapse, crying, gasping for breath. All the guides quickly came to her "rescue" as if they were the resident EMTs. What histrionics! We giggled at her demonstrativeness. We were not surprised that "La Princesa" never reached ABC summit. Another group, "the Taiwanese", strode up and down the mountains; in one hand they held an iPad, in the other a bottle of water. Enough said. "California" and "Minnesota" were more or less our age. Minnesota made the summit, California did not. Mrs. California took a nasty spill at a creek crossing, ripping her knee. Meeting them at an afternoon rest stop, we decided to stay put, and they pushed on despite the weather that was quickly disintegrating. Drizzle turned to sleet with a fierce wind. (CA was sick in bed for 2 days and turned back.) Another couple we met, a bubbly Irish pair, had already made it to Everest Base Camp and now they were trekking to Annapurna Base Camp! "The Irish" were simply so thrilled to have sunshine that they would have kept trekking around the globe. A young Finnish couple smoked marijuana joints as fast as they could roll them. "The Finns" didn't talk, just smiled. One quickly obtains the idea of "life" on the Circuit.

A guide is not requisite to trek in Annapurna. However, we found that having one enriched our experience immensely. Basu was: a walking GPS, concierge service by phoning ahead for a nightly room, our gastronomical advisor who deciphered our menus, a constant natural history/cultural educator, a musician playing his bamboo flute, our "medic", and most importantly, a friend. It is our opinion that the Nepalese government needs to continue to strive to provide for the wellbeing of the guides and porters who make these Himalayan treks possible. The trekking season is brief, maybe a total of 3-4 months of every year; finding other employment for the rest of the year is difficult.

The trail led us through the Modi Khola valley, filled with rice paddies, fields of quinoa, turmeric, corn, squash, and cabbages. We shared the path with trains of mules transporting goods between villages, water buffalo, goats, sheep, porters, and fellow trekkers. Passing through dense bamboo and hardwood forests, we arrived at Ghorepani. Our \$3.00 a night room had a 5-Star view of Machhapuchhre, Dhaulagiri, Nilgiri, and the Annapurnas! At 4:30 in the morning, wearing our headlamps and woolies, we climbed another 2,000 feet to Poon Hill for one of the most spectacular sunrise viewpoints in all of the Himalayan Range.

A steep descent, a steep ascent, and we arrived in beautiful Chhomrong, located on the lap of the Annapurna massif. We laid in bed that night with the moon shining on Machhapuchhre. We cracked open the window and breathed the frosty air. I declared that it just might be as close to heaven as we will ever get. The stars were floating just a fingertip away. Little did I know that Chhomrong was a turning point, literally and figuratively, for trekkers. This was the last village that supplies and any sort of luxury items (like toilet paper) could be purchased. The rest of the journey would pass by a few tea houses only - no more villages with inhabitants, livestock, mule trains etc. The trail was too steep and treacherous; conditions are too harsh to travel/ live at the higher elevations. 2/3 of trekkers exited this section of the trail to loop to the lower elevations. In two weeks we viewed more waterfalls than the year spent hiking to the 100 on the CMC Waterfall Challenge. The Nepalese don't bother to name any of them as there are so many. Most of the peaks aren't named either; if they aren't snow covered year round they are not "worthy" of a name. It was difficult for our guide to believe that Bill and I lived in the oldest mountain range in the world with such "low" peaks, and yet here we were in the youngest mountain range, and it contained 8 of the globe's highest peaks.

As the vegetation disappeared, our solitude in the wilderness became more obvious. We passed makeshift shrines built to honor individuals who perished in avalanches. Twice, helicopters churned through the canyon to attempt a rescue at ABC. Our attention remained riveted on the views of majestic Machhapuchhre. It is the one virginal mountain in the Himalayan range; the Nepalese government refuses to allow climbing on it.

At 13,000 feet elevation, sleeping soundly became difficult. Besides the thinner air, it was cold. I tucked my batteries in my sleeping bag at night. I would have traded Bill for a pair of yak wool slippers. Our laundered clothes wouldn't dry. The thought of taking our clothes off, much less having a cold shower, kept us in the same apparel.

We decided against stopping at Machhapuchhre Base Camp (MBC) for the night and trekked another 2 ½ hours to ABC. The trail between MBC and ABC is a strenuous path that leads right

into the frozen heart of the Annapurna range. This is an unparalleled mountain experience with unparalleled views. We arrived at Base Camp just before the fog rolled in shrouding anything more than a foot in front of us. As luck would have it, the Poles arrived at our lodge within a half hour. We spent the evening eating bowls of garlic soup (supposedly good for altitude sickness; we didn't experience any, so perhaps the soup works!) and eating some of the best pizza we have ever eaten.

Before dawn we trundled out for a position to watch as dawn seared the tips of the frozen peaks. I accidentally dropped my headlamp. There was a chorus of gasps as we listened to it clatter hundreds of feet down the mountain. I took a step back from edge, and firmly planted my feet. Red and gold commenced to etch across the amphitheater of rock and ice. The staggering scale of the mountains was all but overwhelming. Lost in our thoughts, we silently hung a prayer flag, and then slowly, savoring the moment, turned toward lower elevation.

Plants On The Trail

Spring Flowers Come And Go



Trout Lily



Squirrel Corn

By Becky Smucker

What does this group of flowers have in common: Trout Lily, Squirrel Corn, Spring Beauty, Rue Anemone, and Cut-leaved Toothwort? If you said these are all spring flowers, you'd be correct. If you said that they all make us excited as we hike among these early blooms, you'd have been right about that, too. But they have another trait in common which may not be so quickly evident. As a hint, here is a second group of spring flowers that do not belong to the first category: most violets, Giant Chickweed, Buttercups, Blue Cohosh, and Jack-in-the-pulpit.



Spring Beauty

The first flowers I named all belong to a group of plants known as "Spring Ephemerals". "Ephemeral", as you probably know, means "coming and going quickly", or "transitory". Spring ephemerals have all evolved to fill a niche that takes advantage of the increasing

level of light in early spring, before the leaves come out on the trees, to quickly send up leaves and flowers (not necessarily in that order), get pollinated, set and disperse seed, and then fade out before shade takes over. They generally go dormant in the summer, then use energy from starches stored in their underground structures to begin growing out of sight in the late fall and winter, getting ready for that big rush of spring. They are perennials, and their seeds usually disperse close to home.

Spring Ephemerals belong to a wide variety of plant families, so they are not related in most ways. They have simply all adopted a similar life cycle strategy as it relates to the seasons. But since they are not related, their life cycles vary a lot in the details. Trout lilies are a classic ephemeral, coming and going quickly in all above-ground stages before the shade arrives. Ramps send up their leaves, make food to store underground, and wither early (if we don't eat them first). After the leaves have faded, their flower stalks come up, and they get pollinated and set seed. Trilliums, a showy group of early spring flowers that we all love, are sometimes considered spring ephemerals, but many have leaves that last for a good while in the shade as fruits slowly ripen.

So check it out this year as you hike. Which of your favorite early spring flowering plants disappear, leaves and all, in the late spring, which last into the summer, and which are still visible into early fall? Which habitats do spring ephemerals prefer, and where do you never find them? How will they be affected by the death of hemlocks? Sunlight is the key.

Crew Builds Trail In Memory Of Turnberg

By Ashok Kudva

The CMC Friday Pisgah Crew has completed a trail for the [Sixth Avenue Clubhouse](#), a non-profit psycho-social rehabilitation program in Hendersonville. It will be used by the clients/patients for their spiritual and mental benefit.



The trail has been named in honor of Ralph Turnberg, a sawyer and a long time member of the CMC Friday crew. He died on the trail last December. To read more click [here](#). He was a key contributor with his wife Nay Ann Brevard, the only woman on the crew. Some of the projects they have helped with include the Barnett Branch Boardwalk and the John and Irene Bryant Memorial Foot Bridge. The Bryants were a couple killed in the forest in October of 2007. A dedication is being planned for the Ralph Turnberg Exercise Trail.

Only \$50 Per Zip

Zip Line Over US 441

To Help Pay For Repairs In Park

Great Smoky Mountains News Release

Release Date: Immediate

Contact: Mike Knies, CMC jokester at: knies06@att.net

Phone number: 828-926-1159

Date: March 29, 2013

Update on the US Highway 441 Slide Remediation: Smokies Officials Announce New Ways to Generate Revenue and Increase Park Attendance



Mike Knies leads CMC hike- zip line style.

Officials at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are today announcing that a zip line will be installed over the site of the slide reconstruction of US Highway 441 above Cherokee, North Carolina. They said that there has been tremendous interest in viewing the activity at the site. Beginning Monday April 1 the current road blocks at Smokemont on the North Carolina side and

Newfound Gap on the Tennessee - North Carolina border will be moved to the Kephart Prong trailhead and Webb overlook areas respectively. Shuttle buses will take tourists to the site. Cables have been constructed running approximately 600 feet across the slide area.

The overall project is expected to be completed by May 15 and will involve moving an estimated 4000 truck loads of fill material from a quarry in the Linville Gorge area where the material was certified by the EPA to be consistent with the slide area and free of invasive elements. Bonuses have been offered the contracting team to facilitate earlier completion. Crews are currently working double shifts seven days a week.

Participants will be able to ride or slide over and back from either side. The cost will be \$50 per round trip. For those less adventurous individuals viewing stands to watch the work in progress have been constructed about 50 feet up the slope on each side with admission of \$25. The stands will be in a bleacher style and concessionaires will move amongst the rows selling food and drink in addition to commemorative packages of authentic dirt and rubble from the actual slide. Snowballs containing a tiny replica of the site will also be available. When shaken a portion of the road slides out creating a murky atmosphere that slowly clears as the debris settles back into place. Prices had not been determined at this point. For the present no sales of rubber tomahawks or ceramic bears are anticipated.

Park officials said further that while Park management had anticipated a great deal of interest in the construction site beyond just when the project would be complete, the level of interest shown had exceeded all expectations. They attributed some of the enthusiasm to the ability of individuals to view the site on their computers via a webcam.

Depending on the success of the "canopy tour" similar activities may be offered in other areas of the Park. They said the most likely additional site under consideration would be a line running from Cliff Top on Mt. LeConte to the Chimneys. They noted further that these types of attractions were a significant departure from what has been typically offered by the Park in the past and may be unpopular with certain groups. However it is necessary to be much more flexible in providing recreational experiences in the future in order to compete with other area attractions such as Dollywood, Nantahala Outdoor Center, and the Smoky Mountain Railroad and additional revenue was needed in light of budget cutbacks due to the sequester.

At the news conference officials were asked about rumors that slot machines would be installed close to the viewing stands by Harrah's to help make up for revenue lost due to the slide. They responded that many permutations were under consideration and no additional comments could be made with regard to specific future plans.

Harley Believable Management Assistant/Public Affairs

Danny and Lenny To Be Recognized For 25 Years Of Maintaining A.T.



Danny and Lenny Bernstein will be recognized for serving 25 years as A.T. maintainers at this year's ATC conference. They are pictured here working on the CMC A.T. challenge. Congratulations!
(picture by Sawako)

ATC Registration Opens April 15

By Lenny Bernstein

Forget about income tax if you can, April 15th is important this year because it marks the opening of registration for Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 2013 Biennial Meeting, which will be held at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee on July 19-26. We expect nearly a thousand people to participate for at least part of the week, and hope that you will be one of them. To read more click [here](#).



Bruce Bente clears a branch from a trail.

CMC Maintainers Need Help Cleaning Winter Messes On The A.T.

By Kayah Gaydish

Carolina Mountain Club is responsible for maintaining just over 90 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Every Spring, each maintenance crew hikes out on the miles of trail that they are responsible for with chainsaws and loppers in tow. This is what we call the Spring Sweep. It is not uncommon for one sawyer to clear 5 -10 trees that have fallen over the trail in one day. It is about the time of year that A.T. through hikers start passing through this area, sometimes as many as 25 a day! We all know how difficult it can be to get over a huge tree trunk or even worse, a tree top that is crossing the trail. It's even harder with a large pack on your back.

The Wilderness crew already has had a very productive day on their section. They cleared 22 down trees, cleared water bars, dismantled fire rings, cut back brush that was growing over the trail, and hauled out trash that was left by others. Nice work crew! All CMC members are welcome to join a crew for a day, or many more. Anyone who is hiking the club's A.T. section for the 90th anniversary of the club, can count their miles hiking and working with a maintenance crew. If you are not familiar with our maintenance crews, check out the Trail Maintenance link on the website to learn more by clicking [here](#). And to all the maintenance crews, we appreciate your time and effort stewarding the trails!

Send In Reservation And Money Now Spring Social Set For April 27 At The Arboretum

By Les Love

The eighth annual Spring Barbeque will be held in the beautiful NC Arboretum on Saturday, April 27, from 2:30 until 8:30. This year our own, well-renowned member, Ted Snyder, will be our after dinner speaker, along with others, concerning the new Forest Service Roadless Areas and the Camporees Ted has led to show these.



Catherine and Les Love in New Zealand

CMC Spring Tradition Started As A Birthday Celebration

By Stuart English

Our Spring Social will be held again at the NC Arboretum on April 27. Les and Catherine Love and Sherman Stanbaugh have been the mainstays of this program since its inception. Actually it was started with a party at the Loves' house when they both turned 50. Sherman suggested the Arboretum the next year and it has been held there every year since. Sherman's daughter Diane Stickney is now part of the team. Bubba Q will once again cater the meal. The program this year will be different. Ted Snyder, our camporee master, is heading a four-part program about the Roadless Rule Inventory created by the Forest Service during the Clinton presidency. The "Mountain Treasures" that are the destination for Ted's camporees and subsequent hikes are founded in these "Roadless" areas that have been set aside, free from the threat of any future logging.

The program will explore:

1. Why the Roadless Inventory is a big deal?
2. What is the legal status of the Roadless Rule?
3. What is the relation of the Roadless Rule to the Forest Plan Revision?
4. What can CMC and its members do and how do the camporees fit into the program?

Brent Martin from The Wilderness Society and D. J. Gerken from SELC are the guest speakers that have committed so far.

"Walk Off The War"

Eight Veterans Hiking The A.T.

By Lenny Bernstein

In 1948, Earl Schaffer was the first person to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail. He did it to "walk off the war," to work out the sights, sounds, and losses of World War II. Today our veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan also need to work out their combat experiences. To help them, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is supporting the Warrior Hike "Walk Off the War" Project (<http://warriorhike.com>). Eight veterans started their hike on Saturday, March 16. Their schedule has them at VFW Post 5202 in Waynesville on April 16, which means they will be on CMC's section of the A.T. in mid-April. Look for them and wish them well. We have not been asked to provide any specific help for this project, but if the opportunity arises, we'll spread the word via the CMC website and Facebook.



Earl Schaffer

Budget Would Slash Parks, Natural Heritage and Clean Water Funds

By Tish Desjardins

Governor McCrory released his proposed budget recently. Within the budget, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) will get a projected 44% cut. The Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF) will be cut back by 58%. Also, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund is reduced by 37%. The budget also removes the dedicated source of funding for PARTF and NHTF over the state's next budget cycle and leaves the state with no reliable way to conserve treasured lands in the future. The next step in the budget process is for the State Senate to begin writing its version of the budget on 3/27/13. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.



If you would like to provide your input with regard to these funding cuts that will affect our Hiking Trails, Natural Heritage Areas, and Clean Water Management, here is the website link at Conservation Trust for North Carolina (ctnc.org) where you may quickly SIGN THE PETITION: http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50661/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=9586.



Park Announces Openings For The 2013 Season

The following link is a March 12 detailed announcement by the GSMNP Public Affairs Office. Included in the announcement are opening dates for roads, campgrounds, picnic areas, horse camps, and stables. Visitor Center hours and backcountry office hours are listed. Also included is information on LeConte Lodge.

<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/parknews/spring-opening-2013.htm>

Gaydish Starts New Maintenance Crew

By Pete Peterson

Kayah Gaydish is heading up CMC's newest maintenance crew called the Draft Crew: Kayah and the rest of her crew are younger than the rest of our crews. The crew has done two wilderness trips (Linville Falls and Joyce Kilmer Wilderness'). She has volunteered to head up the volunteers that are working the Rumbling Bald Trails in Chimney Rock (She is also a rock climber).

The crew will be staying out on the trail overnight occasionally so that they can save commuting time.

Kayah and some members of her crew will be attending the Wilderness Skills Institute in May



The Draft Crew

ECO Asks CMC Members To Help Monitor Green River Game Lands

The Environmental and Conservation Organization (ECO) and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission jointly manage the Green River Game Lands. Currently they are managing an Oak tree regeneration project that was initiated through grant funding with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. This project entails selective timbering in the game lands that has been ongoing this year with completion expected around the April, 2013 timeframe.



ECO is a non-profit membership organization (www.eco-wnc.org) dedicated to conserving and preserving the natural heritage of the mountain region. Carolina Mountain Club, among other volunteer organizations, have assisted with trail maintenance and monitoring in these game lands. CMC volunteer, Tom Lucha, has been hiking in the game lands for the purpose of monitoring the timbering activities to be sure our trails are not affected, but, more help is needed. ECO is asking for your help by volunteering to hike in the game lands for the purpose of monitoring the trails to make sure no damage is being done during this project. Primarily the Hungry Ridge Trail and the Turkey Gut Trail are the prime areas for monitoring help. You may volunteer by contacting ECO at 828-692-0385. The Green River Game Lands trail map may be picked up at the Henderson County Travel and Tourism visitor center in Hendersonville.

Classifieds, etc.

Hiking Companion Sought For Smokies Thru Hike

Hi Carolina Mountain Club. Apologies for the unsolicited email but I'm hoping you can help or advise me. I'm coming to Tennessee from England and am keen to thru hike for 5 or 6 days in the Smoky Mountains, ideally starting from a trail head near Knoxville and camping/staying in shelters every night. I will be alone so am hoping to find a guide to accompany me or a group I can join. Do you know of any organisations that offer this service please? Im looking to hike between 29 April and 8 May and would be keen to walk on the A.T. or other surrounding trails to form a route. I realise you are based in Carolina and not Tennessee but hoped you could possibly advise me. Any advice/feedback gratefully received! Thank you Best regards Hannah
hannahcork@hotmail.com

Sixty Five Percent Of Streams In Southern Appalachians In Poor Condition

EPA Release

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the results of the first comprehensive survey looking at the health of thousands of stream and river miles across the country, finding that more than half - 55 percent - are in poor condition for aquatic life.

Biological Condition — Macroinvertebrate MMI

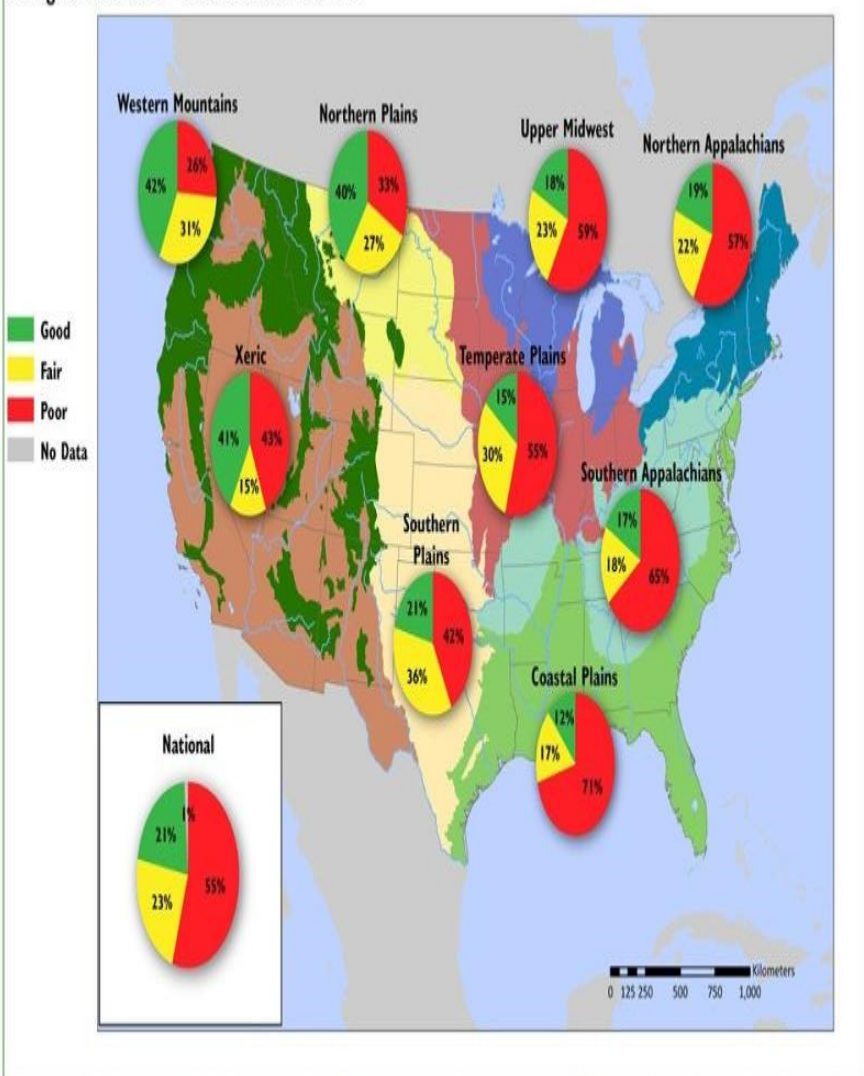


Figure 31. Biological condition in rivers and streams based on the Macroinvertebrate Multimetric Index across the nine ecoregions (EPA/NRSA). Percents may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The Small Print

The next issue will come out on Friday, April 26. 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 April 19 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.

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