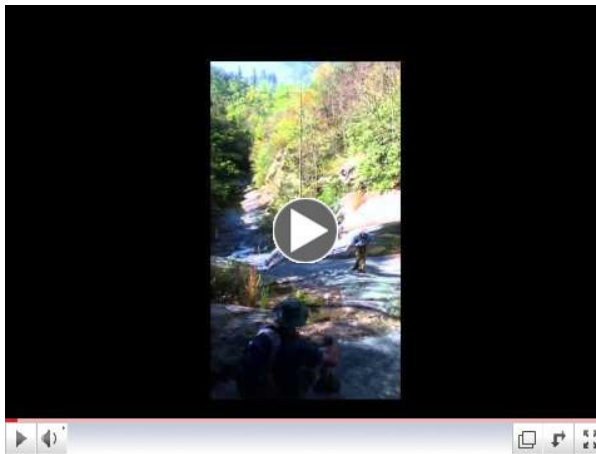




From The Editor

This issue features Ted Snyder, the quiet man who hikes in pressed khakis and leads the CMC camporees. He keeps the barbecue and sides coming. Like the native plants we see on our hikes, he fits naturally in the woods and is rooted in this area in the best of ways. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Spring Social (Arboretum Jamboree) for 2013 on April 27 with Ted Snyder conducting our program on the camporees and why they are held. Ted is a mountain treasure. He received the CMC Distinguish Service Award. This award is for performing exceptional service during 2012. To see a short video of Ted leading a hike on the spring 2012 camporee click on the picture below. Ted is the one in the khakis. Also see the camporee schedule for 2013 in this issue.



Mountain Treasures With Ted Snyder

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

Hike
Save Trails
Make Friends



In This Issue

- [Ted Snyder](#)
- [CMC Awards](#)
- [Grand Canyon!](#)
- [Blaze Orange](#)
- [MST Trail Building](#)
- [CMC Stand On MST](#)
- [New State Park](#)
- [Camporees 2013](#)
- [ATC](#)
- [Volunteers Needed](#)
- [Sawing Opportunity](#)
- [Donate To CMC](#)
- [New CMC Council](#)
- [Stars At Annual Dinner](#)
- [CMLC Challenge](#)

Quick Links

[Enews calendar](#)



Photo by Sawako Baiko

Ted Snyder - Patient, Determined Conservationist

Interview by Kathy Kyle

Ted Snyder received the CMC Distinguish Service Award at the 2012 annual meeting as lead organizer of the camporees that have taken CMC members to areas designated as mountain treasures. He has done much more. He is the man who has been instrumental in preserving some of the most beautiful land in this part of the world. Born in Cedar Mountain, he left the mountains for his undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago and then received his law degree from Duke University. He went on to serve as a judge advocate for the General Corps of the U.S. Army, had a law practice and is now a full time conservationist.

You were born and grew up in this area, how has the area, land changed?

The human population has increased dramatically. With that very large areas of farm land and forest have been converted to residential uses and shopping centers.

Once common public transportation has been reduced to almost nothing.

When did your family first come to this area?

My mother's paternal ancestor moved from Scotland to Plymouth, N.C. in 1770. My father's paternal ancestor moved from Pennsylvania to Greenville County, S.C. shortly after the Revolution. Records of when he arrived in this country or from what European county have not been found. The maternal lines have not been established with certainty.

Where did your strong devotion to conservation come from?

As a child I walked, trailed after my father on hunts on his farm near Cedar Mountain, N.C. and later regularly hunted and fished when living at Walhalla, S.C. When growing up, my brothers and I often explored as far as we could walk in a day into the mountains back of our home. My epiphany came when my brother, John, and I made a safari to East Africa in 1966. We had engaged a "white hunter" who was an expert on birds and wildlife. We kept to no strict itinerary, but designed the safari day-to-day to take in things we had not yet viewed. We took many long walks and stalked on foot, not from the safety of vehicles. Upon our return, I joined the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society, primarily

[Future Hikes](#)

[Hike Reports](#)



to take advantage of hiking trips in Western United States Wilderness. I joined the Carolina Mountain Club about the same time.

Who were your role models? Why? Ernie Dickerman. Ernie showed me how to organize and lead a campaign to establish protection for wild lands. Later, when he was employed by The Wilderness Society, he taught me how to lobby on Capitol Hill. Together we wrote drafts of Wilderness bills, and organized wilderness conferences. My uncle, Ed Hart, was for many years Chairman of the Board of the Shriner's Hospital at Greenville, S.C. From him I learned care and compassion for others, and the importance, indeed, necessity, to give back more than one gets. He also planted in me the seeds of love of books, and of fine art. What were some or one of the most rewarding conservation decisions you have been a part of? Why do they or it stand out? My first campaign was to designate the Chattooga River as a Wild and Scenic River. I was chairman of a small committee that coordinated the efforts of conservationists in North and South Carolina. I got my first experience of testifying before Congress on this project. Then I acted as chairman of the campaign to designate the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Creek as Wilderness. This was harder, and took longer. For the first time I learned to rely on experts for vital information. I was appointed by the Sierra Club Board to a committee of myself, Allen Smith and Roger Marshall to lead its campaign to secure enactment of the Eastern Areas Wilderness Bill. This was the beginning of a string of victories to designate Wilderness in the eastern states. Starting about 1968 I led the campaign to prevent the construction of a destructive road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. I helped conceive the idea of a monetary settlement in lieu of the road, which became crucial to our efforts. I coordinated the efforts of the conservation community until our success in 2010 with the signing of an agreement to make a cash settlement to Swain County. We stuck to the message for over 40 years, proving the meaning of determination. Tell about the 500 acres you conserve. How did this develop? As age slowed my father in managing the farm, he started planting pine plantations in old fields. After his death I took over management of the place, and completed planting all the old fields. By then I had learned a lot about responsible forestry from such close friends as Carl Holcomb, Professor of Forestry at VPI, Leon Minckler, Professor of Forestry at Syracuse, and Gordon Robinson, Forestry advisor to the Sierra Club and former Chief Forester of Southern Pacific Railroad. I instituted a management plan of thinning, using individual tree selection cutting, and always removing the worst and leaving the best. We were fortunate to engage as our consulting forester a retired Professor of Forestry at Clemson. With his help we were able to groom our forest until today it is reputed to be the best managed commercial forest in the Upstate of South Carolina. Environmentally responsible forestry is an extremely long-term process. Our oldest plantations are over 60 years old, and still have a long way to go to maturity.

What was the most unusual military court case you were a part of as a military attorney? I was an observer at one of the trials of former Korean war prisoners. That was an education in the meaning of brain-washing. How did you get involved with CMC? I Joined CMC to go on its hikes. How did you decide to lead Bernard's Favorite Hikes? Bernard and I had been friends for many years. Our mutual interest was in conservation. Bernard was a leading conservationist in Western North Carolina, and we had worked together on several conservation campaigns. We also hiked together regularly. When Bernard's list of thirteen Favorite Hikes was published in Let's Go! I immediately saw that re-leading them would be a fitting tribute to Bernard for his long

years of conservation and hiking leadership. So, I volunteered at once to make a project of re-leading them. How did the idea of the camporees come about? About thirty years ago the Forest Service came out with its list of Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Areas (SPNMs). For the Sierra Club I got the idea of leading a hike into each of them. There were so many it was going to take years to work through the list. In order to be more efficient, I dreamed up a way of using car-camping weekends to send a blast of hikes into clusters of nearby SPNM areas. At that time we started, no one we knew had hiked into a majority of the areas. I started the early ones with descriptions of trails based on map study. Then at the campground, leaders would volunteer and would take a group out into territory then unexplored by any of them. We didn't lose anybody. Today, we do have leaders who have hiked in all of the Mountain Treasures areas, and have scouted the trips, so there is less adrenalin spread around. Where do you see national conservation going in the future? How has it changed? There has been an evolution in conservation leadership. When I first came to the movement, conservations campaigns were organized and led by individual volunteer leaders. That has evolved until today conservation organizations are led by professional staffs and employ or have access to expert advisors. During that same time the pro-bono environmental law firm has come into being. One academic observer has said that this evolutionary change has led to the "higher-educated and privileged people doing things for their fellow citizens, rather than with them." Today the role of the conservation activist has almost disappeared. Members of conservation organizations enjoy a social relationship, and support the professional staff by writing letters on call and donating funds. What are some other things CMC could do to help with conservation? The Mountain Treasures Camporees and hikes are going to form a cadre of citizens who have visited each of North Carolina's Mountain Treasures identified by The Wilderness Society. When the preparation of the revised Forest Management Plan for the Nantahala/Pisgah National Forest gets underway, we will have knowledgeable hikers who can provide informed analyses of each area. It is important for a hiking club to be actively engaged in protecting the wild places that provide such high value destinations. Many of the trails where CMC hikes were never constructed to environmentally responsible standards. In many cases they are just taken over from cattle and hunter trails, that came into being without any standards being considered. As these trails get heavier use, they are eroding badly and causing grievous environmental damage. As a matter of principle the Club should insist that all such trail segments be re-built to environmentally sustainable standards, and that no new trails be designated or incorporated into the National Forest or National Park trail systems unless or until they have been built or are re-built to the highest standards. While the CMC is now active in trail maintenance, the need for that activity is going to increase by a large factor. The Federal land agencies do not have enough funds to carry out proper trail maintenance, and increases in funding are unlikely. The burden of maintaining the trails we use will more and more fall on the users. What has been the most unusual and beautiful place you have traveled? There are too many such places to even begin to put one ahead of many others. On my list would be such places as the East Africa plains; the Roraima Sandstone tepuis of Venezuela and Guyana; the Redwood forests; the Great Barrier Reef; the beaches of the Cape York Peninsula; the Grand Canyon. What is your idea of a perfect hike? In mountains with big trees, lakes, cascading streams, waterfalls, flowers. A place where the rocks, plants, animals, and streams are

there for their own sake, nor for your sake or for my sake. Being alone, so I can talk to them without embarrassing them.



Sheldon, Snyder and Petersen Honored By CMC At Annual Meeting

By Barth Brooker

Skip Sheldon received the CMC Distinguish service award for many years working and leading the Friday trail crew. He has an excellent insight on what has to be done on the trails. He is very skilled in the use of all the tools used on the trail, both powered and hand tools. He knows how to tackle the large jobs as well as the small jobs. He must manage a crew that can approach 30 people in size. This means finding appropriate work for all members and helping them to develop the skill to maintain the trails.

Ted Snyder and Pete (Alan) Petersen received the CMC Distinguish Service Awards.

This award is for performing exceptional service during 2012.

Ted Snyder took it on himself to organize camporees, furnished barbecue for them, planned the hikes, scouted and lead hikes, and assured everything worked well. The camporees were very well received.

Pete Petersen had a very busy year coordinating all the trail maintenance functions. This included interfacing with the Forest Service, Blue Ridge Parkway, AT Conservancy, and other groups concerning issues such as arranging sawyer certifications, and keeping up with government requirements for working in the forests.

He introduced new awards to be handed out to the trail maintainers. Pete made sure that he had frequent meetings for the trail crew leaders. Many of the functions are done by all councilors for maintenance but this year was by far the most difficult we have had with many new regulations being issued, disagreements on the path of the MST, an overhaul of the awards, and a new computer data base for trail maintenance.



Roaring Springs Canyon

Grand Canyon

Four-Day Rim To Rim Backpack

By Don Gardner

The intrepid hikers of Lenoir, Don Gardner, Casey Gardner, Chris Washburn, Lane Bailey and Martyn Easton, have completed a four day backpack in the Grand Canyon. Two years in the making, after completing the Carolina Mountain Club challenge of scaling forty peaks above 6,000 ft in Western North Carolina and Tennessee, the group set their sights on the classic traverse of the Grand Canyon in Arizona from the South Rim to the North Rim. The first logistical challenge was what to do upon reaching the North Rim? Rather than try to arrange a 5 1/2 hour van shuttle around the 277 miles of the Colorado River flowing through the Canyon, the group decided to hike back again - a Rim to Rim to Rim challenge of some 47 miles. The next challenge was arranging a backcountry permit to camp in the Canyon. Due to high demand, permits are issued by lottery by the National Park Service. Our application in 2011 was unsuccessful, but a retry for October 2012 was granted.

Much planning and anticipation culminated at the arrival of our group on the South Rim just in time to see the sun set. The majesty and splendor of the Canyon was only matched only by the depths into which we must descend and then climb back out!

The trek started in earnest at first light the next morning. A spectacular sunrise became muted by increasing clouds keeping the weather cool and comfortable for hiking, and after five hours on the South Kaibab trail we finally emerged at the Black suspension bridge crossing the powerful and cold Colorado River nearly a mile below the Rim. Proceeding north, following the Bright Angel Canyon, we arrived at the Cottonwood Campground after a long day on the trail. Tents pitched, we enjoyed the early evening until several flashes of lightning illuminated the fading light. A crash of thunder echoing around the Canyon followed by heavy drops of rain in a strong gust of wind sent us scurrying for our tents. The storm was short-lived and we slept well. In the early gloom of the following morning we noticed two yellow eyes watching over us from high up on the North Rim - it could only be lights from the North Rim lodge, our destination for the day, but so far off and so high up! The climb from Cottonwood was only 7 miles and started

with a gradual grade. But like the Grinch returning to his mountain-top lair, it became steeper and steeper. And just like the steepness of climbing into the seemingly impenetrable walls of the Roaring Springs Canyon, the clouds appeared to get stuck and intensified as well. Light rain started half way up and become persistent. The temperature cooled and soon we were seeing flecks of sleet. About a mile from the North Rim, the first snow was evident sticking on the ground, and soon we were hiking in a good snow shower. We emerged with relief at the North Rim trailhead of the North Kaibab trail at 8,200 feet elevation and took some pictures in a near blizzard! Then a 1.7 mile trek across the top to the lodge where we warmed up with Canyon Coffee and hot soup and learned that snow in October is almost unheard of. After a hearty dinner in the lodge we thankfully retired to cozy, heated cabins for the night. Day three started early again back at the North Kaibab trailhead. While the sky had cleared, great swirls of fog were blowing up out of the Canyon, remnants of the previous day's storm. We retraced our climb back down to Cottonwood admiring the fantastic canyon paths hugging vertical rock walls. The fog quickly dispersed to fabulous blue skies. Just past Cottonwood we made the short detour to Ribbon Falls, a veritable oasis in the desert with water plunging down from nowhere over a verdant cliff of green mosses. The temperature had warmed considerably, but the natural air conditioning from the falls made for the perfect lunch stop. Our afternoon continued south along the trail through the granite "box" with temperatures in the sun pushing 90 F before emerging back at Phantom Ranch and the Bright Angel campground. Phantom Ranch is another oasis in the desert what with a busy staff preparing a most hearty hiker's stew for dinner, and cold beers sold out of the refrigerator! Given the clear weather we opted to skip tents and sleep out under the stars - the multitude of stars. There was no moon and it seemed almost as if the number of stars were crushing! Indeed, we had a splendid view of the Milky Way. Day four started with another meal from the Phantom Ranch kitchens. After unsuccessfully trying to sell or give away any unnecessary gear, we cinched up our packs, garbage and all, and craned our necks up to our final destination on the South Rim, 4,400 feet above us. The weather was picture perfect again, so we topped off with sunscreen and set off on the Bright Angel trail. This time we crossed the Colorado on the Silver bridge and were soon winding up the Devil's Corkscrew. Indian Garden at the half way point was a welcomed break among the shading cottonwood trees. And then the final 4.5 miles with never ending switch backs climbing up through the millennia of rock strata. When the Kolb Brothers photo studio came into view perched on the rim we knew we were almost home. High fives, team photos, and a tasty beer at the South Rim lodge sealed our achievement as we gazed back down with amazement into the abyss from which we had emerged!



Time To Wear Blaze Orange

Get out the blaze orange, or stay out of the woods during deer rifle season. It starts November 19 and lasts until December 8. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays. The bullets of some rifles can travel over a mile yet the vision of humans does not have that strength. If you don't think you can be mistaken for a deer, watch this video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfT-8C8HIT4>.



MST Trail Building Dates Set For 2013

By Les Love

Our MST trail building dates for 2013 are tentatively planned for

March 16

April 20

June 1

August 17

October 19

Please mark your calendars for these dates and help the Wilderness Crew on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, as we have scheduled these dates to not conflict with the important work that they do. You can contact Becky at bjsmucker@gmail.com to receive their work day details.

Keep It Close To The Original Route CMC Takes Stand On MST Changes

By Marcia Bromberg, CMC President

Dear Commission Members,

The Carolina Mountain Club (CMC), a hiking and trail maintaining club founded in 1923, began formal work on a designated section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) in 1983. Since then we have constructed and now maintain just under 140 miles of this state trail. We understand that as part of the Regional Trails Plan currently underway suggestions have been made to alter the route of the MST in Western North Carolina. One or more of these suggested changes could mean that 30+ miles of CMC-built Trail would be by-passed by a revised route.

It is the position of the Carolina Mountain Club that the route of the MST remain as close to the original route as possible with the expectation that the trail will eventually be completed as planned. In fact members of the CMC have identified a way to connect a missing section of the trail west of the Club's section using an existing gravel road between Wolf Laurel Gap and Big Witch Gap.

The MST, beginning at the North Carolina/Tennessee state line and ending at the Atlantic Ocean, offers those individuals interested in long-distance hiking an unparalleled opportunity to

experience the natural beauty of North Carolina. Through a variety of access points it also offers day hikers a chance to sample every type of trail experience--from high meadows and rock faces with breathtaking views to cascading streams and waterfalls, from challenging uphill climbs to beautiful spring wildflowers. Indeed, an asset of the trail is that it allows NC residents and visitors access to a wilderness experience. The route originally chosen for the MST is the one that best provides this experience. The members of the CMC support and applaud new trail proposals, especially those that can be used as access trails for the MST. We think that some of these new trails may eventually comprise shorter, multi-day hikes that take advantage of the MST for a portion of their route. However, we do not think that it is necessary to change the route of the MST as new trail routes are considered. The Club remains committed to completing and maintaining its assigned portion of the MST and does so with the understanding that our work will not be abandoned in future plans for the trail. Sincerely, Marcia W. Bromberg President, Carolina Mountain Club



Photo of Rocky Fork area

New State Park Added To Area

By Becky Smucker

We are excited to have another beautiful state park being established in our hiking area. The 2,000 acre section of the 10,000 acre recently protected Rocky Fork tract is just over the state line near Flag Pond in Unicoi Co., and will become Tennessee's newest state park.

The larger parcel borders the Appalachian Trail for several miles between Devils Fork Gap and Big Butt. Our Asheville Friday crew has already been helping the A.T.'s Konnarock Crew get started on a relocation into the top of the parcel which will allow other users access to the ridge and provide a better route for the A.T. The parcel is bounded by the Pisgah National Forest, the Cherokee National Forest, and Sampson Mountain Wilderness, so was a large, strategically located piece providing continuity of protected forest land.

This recent announcement by Gov. Haslam and U.S. Sen. Alexander of TN is the culmination of about 3 decades of effort, so was heartily cheered by many.



Michael Cornn on Camporee hike
Spring 2012

Photo by Kathy Kyle Cornn

Mountain Treasures

Camporee Schedule Set For 2013

By Ted Snyder

CMC has scheduled two Camporees for 2013. The dates and information about them are listed below. Details on the hikes to be offered, driving directions and other data will be posted on the CMC web site as they become available.

First 2013 Camporee: 3 May 2013 through 5 May 2013. Kuykendall Group Campground. The campground limit is 60 persons. The entire campground has been reserved for the camporee. There will be a Bar-B-Que supper Saturday night. The gate to Kuykendall is 4.8 miles south of Brevard, NC. Our hikes will be in the Pisgah District. More details on the hikes will be posted soon.

Second 2013 Camporee: 4 October 2013 through 6 October 2013. Rattler Ford Group Campground, Site 1. Our reserved campsite is limited to 25 persons. Rattler Ford is near the entrance to Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, in Graham County, NC. There will be a Bar-B-Que supper on Saturday night. More details will be posted later.

Questions or comments should be sent to Ted Snyder (tedsnnyderjr@bellsouth.net) or Jim Reel (jimr57@yahoo.com).



Volunteers Needed For ATC Cullowhee 2013

By Lenny Bernstein

On July 19-26, 2013, CMC and the four other A.T.-maintaining Clubs in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia will host the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 39th Biennial Meeting at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. More detail on what will be on offer at the meeting is presented in attached Fact Sheet. CMC is taking a leadership role in planning this conference. Many CMC members have already volunteered to lead hikes and excursions, to present workshops, and to staff registration and information desks, but we need more help. If you can volunteer, please go to the biennial webpage and click on Volunteer Opportunities. Please put the biennial on your calendar and plan to attend. It will be many years before ATC returns to our neighborhood.

ATC Fact Sheet

What: The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 2013 Biennial Meeting

When: Friday, July 19 - Friday, July 26, 2013

Where: Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina

What's on offer:



Opportunity For CMC Sawyers At Daniel Boone Boy Scout Camp

By Skip Sheldon

The Boy Scout camp near Canton, NC had an incident this past summer where a dead tree fell on a Scout, so, following an inspection by the Forest Service, they need to have a large number of trees cut down for safety reasons. They have offered to let our sawyers come there and help with this work, which gives us a chance to practice felling trees and helps them solve this problem.

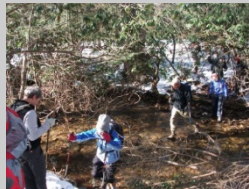
The date for the outing will be Saturday, Dec. 8, (this is the week before the up-coming sawyer recertification class). Any sawyer who would like to get some practice felling trees is welcome to come out for the day and have some fun (the Scout camp is private property, so you can come and cut, even if your current saw certification has expired). **WE ALSO MUST HAVE AT LEAST 1 SWAMPER FOR EACH SAWYER, SO NON SAW CERTIFIED FOLKS ARE ALSO NEEDED.**

The meeting place is Home Depot at exit 44 of I-40 at 8 a.m. The camp folks will provide lunch for us and we will leave camp for home no later than 2 p.m. Please bring your saw, safety gear, wedges, and extra fuel. There are many, many trees that need to be cut, so we can spread out the saws and not have to worry about cutting too close to someone else. If you are only certified for bucking and lambing, you are welcome to join us and cut up some of the down trees, or (if we have some experienced teachers) learn how to fell a tree. Please let me know if you are interested in coming out to help the camp and have some fun felling trees.

Folks from all the crews are welcome to join us. Crew leaders of the other CMC crews, please forward this note to your folks, and have them reply to Skip Sheldon at shelhalla@bellsouth.net or otherwise let Les Love know at lesrlove55@gmail.com how many plan to come, so we can get the lunch numbers right.

Please Donate To Carolina Mountain Club

As you plan your end-of-year giving, please include Carolina Mountain Club in your list of donations. Sometimes members genuinely want to know why we need donations.



As the premier hiking club in Western North Carolina, CMC maintains over 400 miles of trail with volunteer labor. However, we do need tools. Sawyers on trail maintenance crews and other CMC members require certification in CPR and First Aid. These courses are not free.

CMC is an Appalachian Trail Maintaining club and we care for 92 miles of the A.T. As a Mountains-to-Sea Trail Maintaining club, we care for over 140 miles of the MST. We take these responsibilities seriously.

CMC leads four to five hikes a week, year round. You get to go on a hike with a dedicated, enthusiastic volunteer leader who knows the area, understands how to lead a group through the woods, and has scouted the hike. We welcome guests.

CMC sends you a newsletter four times a year, an electronic newsletter once a month and has a website that keeps you abreast of timely outdoor news.

We have no administrative costs. Everyone is a volunteer from the editor of Let's Go to the hike scheduler and leaders to the section maintainers who checks out their trail at least four times a year. We keep our membership dues as low as possible in order to make the club affordable. And your donations ensure that we continue to do so.

As they say, "no contribution is too small" or "of course, too big." But we urge you to think of all you get from CMC.

CMC is a non-profit and your contribution is tax deductible. You can donate online at

www.carolinamountainclub.org/enrollments/makeDonation.cfm.

Or you can write a check made out to Carolina Mountain Club and send it to:

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

Thank you for valuing Carolina Mountain Club by making a donation.



New CMC Council -

From left to right are: Sawako Jager - Councilor-at-large
Danny Bernstein - Councilor for Communications
Tish Desjardins - Councilor for Conservation
Jim Reel - Councilor for Hiking (in back of Tish)
Barbara Morgan - Councilor for Membership
Lee Silver - Councilor-at-large
Jim Spicer - Councilor for Education
Marcia Bromberg - President
Don Gardner - Vice-President (in back of Marcia)
Stuart English - Secretary
Barth Brooker - Immediate past President (in back of Stuart)
Pete A. Petersen - Former Councilor for Maintenance
Pete R. Petersen - New Councilor for Maintenance

Not shown - Jim Ariail, Treasurer

Thank you for serving.



CMC Annual Dinner Stars Of The Outdoor World

By Danny Bernstein

Hollywood is not the only place where you'll see stars. At the Carolina Mountain Club annual meeting and dinner, the stars of the outdoor world all gathered at Pack's Tavern. They were there to meet CMC members and each other. Although there wasn't a red carpet (or should it be a green carpet), the Oscars have nothing over this meeting. So who was there?

From left to right, in the photo:

Don Walton, past president of CMC, is on the board of Friends of the Mountain-to-Sea Trail.

Kevin Fitzgerald, Deputy Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, drove from Gatlinburg, TN to attend our function. Kevin, second in command in the most visited park in the country, has hiked with CMC several times.

Marcia Bromberg, President of CMC, greeted everyone and ran the annual meeting.

Mark Wenger, Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, was our guest speaker for the evening. Mark drove from Harpers Ferry, WV to meet CMCers and thank us for our service to ATC and the Appalachian Trail.

Kristin Bail, Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in North Carolina was accompanied by her husband. Kristin is new to North Carolina Forests but she's already attended a CMC Council meeting.

Holly Demuth is North Carolina Director of Friends of the Smokies. The organization raises funds for Great Smoky Mountains National Park and manages the Smokies license plate program.

Carolyn Ward, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, raises money for the Parkway and manages the Parkway license plate.

Not shown in the picture are other important representative of the outdoor world. Morgan Sommerville and Julie Judkins both work in the Asheville office of ATC. Three ATC board members were there and a Great Smoky Mountains Association board member--me. Jennifer Davis, the fastest hiker on the A.T. was missing. She and her husband Brew were expecting their first child any moment. Also missing from

the stars line-up was Gary Eblen, the face of Diamond Brand. And the winners are: Another group of stars includes the hikers who finished various hiking challenges in the area. These challenges require organization, perseverance and the willingness to be surprised. Congratulations to you all. Pisgah 400 - The 400 miles in the Pisgah District of Pisgah National Forest Beth Ann Cushman, Yuri Eliashevsky, Ed Hauschild, Sawako Jager, John Park, Bill Ramer, Charles Tisdale SB6K - South Beyond 6000. The 40 peaks over 6,000 feet in the Southeast Jon Bellows, Glara Burge, Ann Hendrickson, Sharon McCarthy, Bill Otto, Richard Robillard, Rick Shortt, LTC - Lookout Towers. Hiking to 24 lookout towers Ann Hendrickson, Bill Otto Waterfall Challenges - Hiking to 100 waterfalls and cascades Ann Hendrickson, Bill Otto Smokies 900M - Hiking all the trails in Great Smoky Mountains National Park Bob Hysko



CMLC Challenge

By Peter Barr

Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC) is challenging outdoor enthusiasts to support land conservation simply by hiking. The CMLC Hiking Challenge encourages hikers to discover the breathtaking scenery of CMLC's conserved lands, up close and personal.

By completing just eight hikes among CMLC's most spectacular conserved lands, will earn a badge of honor: CMLC's now regionally-famous white squirrel embroidered hiking patch. The white squirrel represents the local wildlife oddity unique to Henderson and Transylvania counties, CMLC's primary protection areas.

Those who complete the Challenge will also earn a \$10 gift certificate for free hiking gear at the Hendersonville location of the Mast General Store.

The Challenge hikes include scenic locations such as the 360-degree view from the summit of Bearwallow Mountain and the old growth forests of CMLC's 600-acre Florence Nature Preserve. Participants also have the opportunity to hike to Worlds Edge-a nearly 1,600-acre tract protected by CMLC in 2006. The tract was instrumental component in the ultimate creation of Chimney Rock State Park. Version 2.0 is CMLC's second release of the program. Last year's challenge had 80 completers and more than 900 hikes taken on conserved lands. This year's version 2.0 of the Challenge features a new lineup of eight hikes on more lands protected by CMLC. Since 1994, CMLC has protected more than 23,000 acres in Henderson,

Transylvania, Rutherford, and Buncombe counties including lands in the Hickory Nut Gorge, Blue Ridge Escarpment, and French Broad River watershed. Read more about CMLC's White Squirrel Hiking Challenge Version 2.0, visit www.carolinamountain.org/hikingchallenge2

The Small Print

The next issue will come out on Friday, December 28. Wednesday hike reports for the hike just before the eNews comes out will be published in the next eNews.

Hiker leaders, post your photos and hike reports on the website as directed, or send your eNews hike reports and photos to hikereports@carolinamountainclub.org

So send your news by Friday evening at 9 P.M. the week before the newsletter comes out, that is, by Friday evening December 21 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.