Paul Dickens and the Wilderness Crew

Becky Smucker and Bill Newton formed a new maintenance crew in the spring of 2008. Since then it has evolved a great deal, and Paul Dickens has become Becky’s back-up team leader and important cog in the machinery. We thought the best way to update the progress of this innovative crew was to talk with Paul Dickens.

**How did you get involved in trail maintenance and the CMC?**

In summer of 2007, my wife and I hiked the Big Butt Trail near Mt Mitchell. Parts of that trail were terribly overgrown with blackberries, almost impassible. I found the CMC website and made a trail problem report. Shortly afterwards, I received an e-mail from the Asheville Friday Trail Crew asking if I would like to help them clear the blackberry mess. I took a day off from work, went out and helped clear the Big Butt Trail and really enjoyed it. That led to joining the CMC and then signing up as a section maintainer on the MST in the Middle Prong Wilderness.

**How did you get involved in the CMC Wilderness Crew?**

It was a confluence of opportunity and need. After I became the section maintainer of part of the MST through the Middle Prong Wilderness in 2007, I hiked other trails in the Middle Prong that were becoming overgrown and almost impassible from years of maintenance neglect. Something had to be done. I started by recruiting family members to help brush out the Green Mountain trail that connected to my section of the MST. At about the same time, Becky Smucker started the Saturday Wilderness Crew to meet two needs – to provide an opportunity for CMC members who work weekdays to do trail maintenance on Saturday and to address the serious need for trail reclamation in the Middle Prong and Shining Rock Wilderness areas.

I met Becky and the Wilderness Crew in the fall of 2008 on a trip to brush out the Haywood Gap trail in the Middle Prong. I was hooked and have participated in the Wilderness Crew since then. Wilderness means hand tools only – no weed eaters or chain saws. We use hedge shears, swing blades, loppers, axes and cross cut saws.

It seems like a very long time ago when our club decided that we needed a new website and we set out on that course. After some growing pains, we feel that our website is becoming the functional, user friendly, colorful wealth of information that we hoped it would.

I just paid for the annual dinner online and renewed my membership there as well. I was immediately sent two email receipts for those transactions. The new system should help our hike schedulers avoid some of the tedious, repetitive and error-prone aspects of the job and focus more on finding good hikes and matching them up with hike leaders. It’s going to be very easy for hike leaders to turn in hike reports. They will appear immediately online, as do the hours and issues reported by trail maintainers.

We have received excellent tech support from Nathan and Lynn Ebanks from Stratos Digital. But the biggest reason for the success of our website is the same reason we have been a successful hiking club since 1923. We have a great base of dedicated, hardworking volunteers that have made it happen. Sometimes a hike is too long and tough to be done alone. A group of people working together can make that hike seem easy. Individually we seem to be a group of many disparate personalities. But we can work together and accomplish great things. We’ve been doing it almost 90 years.
Club historian Pete Steurer keeps our records

Pete Steurer is one of our most important members that perhaps not many people know. Becky Smucker arranged an evening event several years ago that involved visiting the CMC history collection at the UNCA library. We need to retain our awareness of this. We recently got in touch with Pete and he had these words for us:

Harry Truman once said, “The only thing new in the world is the history you do not know.” You may get to know some new things by discovering our Club’s rich and diverse history.

CMC was organized in 1923. In these nearly 90 years, our Club has been a significant part of our local heritage and has also been a national influence in promoting and protecting the mountains of North Carolina. Four of our members were so prominent that they have mountains over 6,000 feet named in their honor. Others have major trails named for them. Some have done so many things over many years and have carried us on their shoulders for the next generation. We are currently a thriving Club of more than 1,000 members.

But we have also struggled. One time the Club shut down for almost three years. Two times our Club was so small that the entire membership could have sat in someone’s living room. Several times we had declining membership due to national issues, changing club goals, and “family” feuds.

The large majority of our Club’s history is preserved in the Special Collections room at the D. Hiden Ramsey Library at UNCA. If you have access to the internet, you can search their systems to discover what is available and even look at scanned documents and photographs from years past. Or you can arrange to visit UNCA and look at the actual documents. A smaller portion of our history can be found on the shelves of the North Carolina Reference section of Pack Library and in their Special Collections archive.

This year marks my 30th year as a member of CMC. I became the unofficial club historian in 1992, when on my second duty as a CMC councilor, I was asked to research and write a history of the Club to celebrate our 70th anniversary. I became the official historian in 2002 when long-time member Bernard Elias had the foresight to arrange for the safe preservation of our collection at UNCA. Check out our history at: http://toto.lib.unca.edu/findin-gaids/mss/CMC/default_carolina_mountain_club.htm Maybe your future will be changed by what you learn there from the past.

Archival Let’s Go hike report

An excerpt from the 1st Quarter Let’s Go from 1977…

“Heartbreak Ridge Lives Up to its Name”

This was a half-day hike in December near Andrews Geyser in McDowell County. Five hikers were ahead of the rest and went beyond the regular stopping point at the top of the ridge. It seemed safe enough and the trail was well defined. The rest…returned to their cars at 5:30 and eight remained after the other cars left. Five members were still unaccountable for: Ray Ertzberger, Jim Roddy, Dottie Burton, Don Harrison, and Dana Smith. Only Smith had an adequate coat. Ed Dunn and Gerry McNabb walked in the dark partway back up the trail at 7 PM to do some shouting when the others were not back by then. The decision was made to call the Rescue Squad. They made their headquarters in Brookside Church. By 10:45 all 23 members of the squad were on hand ... McNabb and Dunn were ready to lead a group of rescuers up the ridge where the five had last been seen. As soon as they started they were called back … it was 11:20. The lost five had gotten off the return trail and had dropped off the opposite side of the ridge which took them 7-10 miles further than they had planned. Although they had no matches or flashlights, there was a full moon, there was no wind, the temperature was only 30, and they had plenty of snacks. The incident can serve to remind us how dangerous our mountains can be…

From the Skinny Dip Falls hike earlier this summer, this is a view from Graveyard Ridge. Always respect your environment out here, never take it for granted.
TRAIL MAINTENANCE

All members are encouraged to participate in trail maintenance activities. Non-members are invited to try it a few times before deciding if they want to join the Club and be a regular part of a crew. We train and provide tools.

Below is a general schedule of work days. Exact plans often are not made until the last minute, so contact crew leaders for details. Crews marked with an * are currently seeking new members. MST and AT section maintainers work on their own schedule.

Monday
Barth Brooker, barthb@bellsouth.net

Monday Burnsville Crew
John Whitehouse, johnwhitehouse@frontier.com

Wednesday Waynesville West
Larry Sobil, lsobil@bellsouth.net

Thursday Asheville Crew
Bill Falender, billfalender@hotmail.com

Friday Asheville*
Skip Sheldon, shelhall@bellsouth.net

Friday Pisgah
Pete (R) Petersen, rop@ao.com

Wilderness Crew (Saturday bimonthly)*
Becky Smucker, bsmsmucker@gmail.com

Saturday quarterly*
Les Love, leslove55@gmail.com

MST sections
Barth Brooker, barthb@bellsouth.net
Les Love, leslove55@gmail.com
Pete (A) Petersen, arptersen11@morrisbb.net
Larry Sobil, lsobil@bellsouth.net

AT sections
Tim Carrigan, tim@newprisim.com

HIKE SCHEDULE

Fourth Quarter 2012

Hike Ratings

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All hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted.

Hike cancellations are announced on the CMC website in the “Breaking News Box.” Hike Leaders will announce a cancellation or significant change at least a few hours before the hike meeting time. Hikers that do not have internet access or live hours away from the meeting place: call the hike leader to ensure that you are informed about hike changes.

If it’s not possible for a hiker to go on the regularly scheduled hike, it may be possible to accompany the leader when the hike is scouted. Call or email the hike leader.

See the Hike Schedule on the CMC website for more complete and timely information, including scout reports, at www.carolinamountainclub.org.

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS

SB6K For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000'. Contact Peter Barr, pjbarr@gmail.com

P400 For hiking every trail in Pisgah Ranger District. Contact Dave Wetmore, dwetmore@cit.com.net

900M For hiking every trail in GSMNP. Contact Dave Wetmore, dwetmore@cit.com.net

LTC For hiking all 24 lookout towers in WNC. Contact Peter Barr, pjbarr@gmail.com

WC100 For hiking to the 100 best waterfalls in the mountains of WNC, SC and the Smokies. Contact Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897, suejackfitz@bellsouth.net

WEDNESDAY HIKES

Wednesday hikes submitted by Ann Gleason, 828-859-9387, gleason.am@gmail.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in the schedule, and start times may vary. Times listed are departure times – arrive early.

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-383 Oct. 3
DuPont State Forest - Fawn Lake *8:30 AM
Hike 7, Drive 25, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Sawako Jager, 828-687-2547, Baiko70@aol.com
*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet hike leader at Pisgah Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. Have you hiked the Reasonover Creek Trail recently? The trail is improved and no more wet creek-crossing is necessary. Here is an opportunity to hike to two lakes, Lake Julia and Fawn Lake and a side trip to Bridal Veil Falls. An ideal hike destination to see the autumn colors! Bring your camera with you. Topo: Standingstone Mountain

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-779 Oct. 10
Devil’s Courthouse – Mt Hardy – Buckeye Gap *9:00 AM
Hike 7, Drive 90, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Ashe Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374, ashek.kudva@att.net
*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet hike leader at Pisgah Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. Have you hiked the Reasonover Creek Trail recently? The trail is improved and no more wet creek-crossing is necessary. Here is an opportunity to hike to two lakes, Lake Julia and Fawn Lake and a side trip to Bridal Veil Falls. An ideal hike destination to see the autumn colors! Bring your camera with you. Topo: Standingstone Mountain

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-437 Oct. 17
Slate Rock Creek - Pilot Cove *8:30 AM
Hike 5, Drive 40, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897, suejackfitz@bellsouth.net
*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet hike leader at Pisgah Ranger Station at 9:05 AM. A moderate hike up the beautiful Slate Rock Creek trail, then to overlook on Pilot Cove Loop Trail for lunch. Lots of fall colors. Short car shuttle. Topo: Shining Rock

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-089 Oct. 24
AT: Max Patch to Lemon Gap and Return
8:00 AM
Hike 11, Drive 100, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656, clworley@bellsouth.net
We’ll see the new AT shelter built by the CMC, along a beautiful section of the AT, beginning and ending at Max Patch with one of WNC’s most stunning views. Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop at exit 24 off I-40 at 9:00 AM. Topo: Lemon Gap

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-142 Oct. 31
Jerry Miller Trail to AT to Fork Ridge Trail *8:30 AM
Hike 10, Drive 92, 3300 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA+ Tish Desjardins, cell: 828-380-1452, desraylet@aol.com
*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet hike leader at US 25/NC 208 intersection at 9:15 AM. We’ll hike the Jerry Miller Trail to Bearwallow Gap and right on the AT to Andrew Johnson Mtn., then right on the Fork Ridge Trail down to FS 111 and a short walk to the cars. Topo: Greystone; also NatGeo map #782

WEDNESDAY NO. W1204-308 Nov. 7
Ox Creek Road to Rich Knob 9:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 75, 1850 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Laura Frisbie, 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@gmail.com
A pleasant gradual climb in the peaceful woods. We’ll hike the MST from Ox Creek Road and climb to Rich Knob via Rattlesnake Lodge. Second meeting place: Craven Gap at 9:20 AM. Topo: Craggy Pinnacle

SATURDAY WORK DAY

For the Saturday MST Trail Building Work Days in 2012 meet at 8:30 at the Home Depot at the Enka-Candler Exit 44 off of I-40. The last workday of the year is October 27. As in the past, we will be back in Asheville by 3:00. Call Les Love at 828-658-1489 (leslove55@gmail.com) to verify date.
This new one-way CMC Trail to the Lake Powhatan picnic area for lunch. Using a variety of short sections of the Lake Powhatan Connector and hike to the picnic area to meet the other group for lunch and to share cookies. After lunch we will return to the cars.

Hike 7, Drive 10, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B

Bent Creek Ramble 8:30 AM
Hike 4, Drive 10, Rated C-C
Diane Stickney, 828-254-9054

*Only meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 9:20 AM. Topo: Montreat

The third in the series of car camping weekends will feature eight hikes into a cluster of nearby Mountain Treasures. Four Inventoried Roadless Areas will be explored. We will camp at the Curtis Creek Campground, just east of Old Fort, N.C. There will be a group Bar-B-Que supper Saturday night, for which reservations are required. The campground cannot be reserved, but we request you let Ted know if you plan to camp. For details go to the CMC website and look under “Hiking” for “Camporees.” The website gives driving directions, hike descriptions, and plans for the Bar-B-Que. Any questions should be put to Ted or Jim.

SUNDAY NO. A1204-871 Oct. 21
Shinbone Trail 8:00 AM
Hike 9, Drive 11, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Jeff McGurk, cell: 864-921-6469, jbsbestfan@hotmail.com
Near Erwin, Tennessee, we will drive about nine miles up a gravel road to the trailhead near Indian Grave Gap. This hike follows old logging roads in various forms of repair and disrepair and is a loop with the first 1.5 miles repeated on the way back. This trail will lead us to a rock outcropping known as Eagles Nest, where we will have first class views of the Nolichucky River and Gorge from 900 feet above the river. The view should be
spectacular with the fall foliage. Topo: Huntdale; also NatGeo map #783

SATURDAY NO. A1204-372 Oct. 27
Big Fork Ridge – Rough Fork Loop 8:30 AM
Hike 9.3, Drive 95, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Holly Demuth (NC Director of Friends of the Smokies) and Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, danny@hikertogetherik.com
900M Cataloochee was one of the most successful communities in the Smokies. From the end of the Cataloochee Valley, we’ll hike up Big Fork Ridge Trail, then turn right onto Caldwell Fork Trail. We’ll pass by record-size tulip poplar trees, then go downhill on Rough Fork Trail. About a mile from the end of the hike, we’ll stop at the Woody House, a well-appointed framed house. On the way out of the valley, we’ll stop at the Palmer Chapel Cemetery. Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop, Exit 24 off I-40 at 9:00 AM, but contact leader first. Topo: Dellwood; also NatGeo map #317

SUNDAY NO. A1204-782 Oct. 28
Thomas Divide – Mingus Mill 8:00 AM
Hike 11.5, Drive 125, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Mike Kries, 828-628-6712, kries06@att.net
900M A scenic fall hike on the Thomas Divide, Newton Bald and Mingus Creek trails. Should be good leaf color along the way. Note: 4000 ft. descent. Second meeting place: Maggie Valley P.O. at 8:30 AM, but contact leader first. Topo: Clingmans Dome, Smokemont; also NatGeo map #317

SUNDAY NO. A1204-204 Nov. 3
Max Patch Ramble 9:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 100, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Lenny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, lsbern@att.net
We will do a scenic hike around Max Patch, following the AT north to visit the Roaring Fork shelter recently built by CMC, then returning on the Buckeye Ridge Trail and AT over Max Patch and back to our cars. Expect spectacular views from the summit of Max Patch. Mark Wenger, the Executive Director of the ATC, will join us on this hike. Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop at Exit 24 off I-40 at 9:30 AM, but contact leader first. Topo: Lemon Gap

SUNDAY NO. A1204-427 Nov. 4
Soapstone Ridge 8:30 AM
Hike 10, 1200 ft. ascent, Drive 90, Rated A-B
Les and Catherine Love, 828-658-1489, leslove55@gmail.com
P400 *NOTE: This is the first day of EST. We will begin at the gauging station and follow a mild bushwhack up Soapstone Ridge to the Black Mountain Trail, which we’ll follow to our lunch spot at Buckhorn Gap Shelter. We’ll then take the Buckhorn Gap trail down to the S. Mills River trail and back to our cars. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:05 AM. Topos: Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also NatGeo. map #780

SATURDAY NO. A1204-295 Nov. 10
Pump Gap Loop and AT 9:30 AM
Hike 7, Drive 80, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Bev MacDowell, cell: 828-777-5806, bevmacdowell@charter.net
From Silvermine parking area, we’ll follow the Pump Gap loop to the second AT crossing, then follow the AT past Lovers Leap down to and along the French Broad River back to our cars. Second meeting place: trailhead at 10:15 AM. Topo: Hot Springs

SUNDAY NO. A1204-214 Nov. 11
Kimsey Creek Trail – Standing Indian Circuit 8:00 AM
Hike 11, Drive 170, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Janet Martin, cell: 502-494-9309, jaykaymartin@msn.com
This great hike in the Nantahala National Forest is known for its beautiful forest, rushing streams and excellent vistas. We’ll hike up the Kimsey Creek Trail to the AT at Deep Gap, and then along the AT to our lunch spot, Standing Indian. At 5498 ft., it is the highest mountain on the AT south of the Great Smoky Mountains, with outstanding views. From the summit, the hike will be down Lower Trail and Ridge Trail to loop back to the Standing Indian Campground. Second meeting place: rest stop beyond Waynesville on US 23/74 at 8:30 AM. Topo: Rainbow Springs; also NatGeo map #784

SUNDAY NO. A1204-326 Nov. 18
Pump Gap (non-AT) Loop 8:00 AM
Hike 9.3, Drive 66, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Tish Desjardins, 828-380-1452, desraylet@aol.com
*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at parking lot on US 25 at intersection with NC 208 at 8:45 AM. After the hike there will be a potluck supper in the nearby Bear River Community Lodge. Hikers are requested to contribute food for the supper. Food will be taken to a refrigerator before the hike.

SUNDAY NO. A1204-399 Nov. 25
Loop around John Rock and Cedar Rock Mtn. 8:30 AM
Hike 9, Drive 70, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Charlie Ferguson, 828-625-2677 cell: 828-424-0464, ccf108@gmail.com
P400 *Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. Follow the Horse Cove Trail around John Rock to Cat Gap, then the Art Loeb Trail through Sandy Gap. Climb to Cedar Rock Mtn., then down to Butter Gap, and return to the Fish Hatchery via Grogan Rock and Picklesimer Fields. Topo: Shining Rock; also NatGeo map # 780

SUNDAY NO. A1204-778 Dec. 2
Bracken Mtn. – Brushy Creek Trails *9:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 70, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Stu English, 828-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net
*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:30 AM. One of CMC’s first hikes in the new Bracken Mountain Recreation Area near Brevard. This hike will include the Bracken Mtn. and Brushy Creek Trails. Topos: Rosman, Shining Rock

SUNDAY NO. A1204-783 Dec. 9
Lickstone Bald *8:00 AM
(Particle Treasures hike #24)
Hike 11, Drive 90, 3000 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA+ Brent Martin, 828-587-9453, brent martin@twc.org
*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Jukebox Junction on US 276 at NC 215 at 8:30 AM. Beginning at FS 97 and NC 215 (Sunburst), we will follow a series of logging roads before bushwhacking to the summit of Lickstone Bald. Topos: Sam Knob, Waynesville

SUNDAY NO. A1204-751 Dec. 15
Bent Creek Loop #13 (sunny side) 10:00 AM
Hike 6.5, Drive 15, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mbromberg@yahoo.com
P400 This moderate hike on the sunny side of Bent Creek will combine Ledford Branch, Sidehill, Ingles Field Gap, Boundary, Green’s Lick and Laurel Branch roads and trails. Expect a steep downhill on parts of Green’s Lick. Short car shuttle. Topo: Dunsmore Mtn.

SUNDAY NO. A1204-271 Dec. 16
Chestnutwood Mountain *8:00 AM
Hike 9, Drive 70, 2700 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Jim Reel, 828-738-0751, cell: 828-443-2532, jimr57@yahoo.com
*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at McDonald’s parking lot at Exit 73 of I-40 at 8:30 AM. We will do our major climbing before lunch on this pleasant hike past streams, two nice cascades, a glimpse of the Black Mtns., and a 25-yr-old timber harvest in the Grandfather District. Some bushwhacking and hiking on overgrown trails. Short car shuttle. Topo: Old Fort

SUNDAY NO. A1204-361 Dec. 23
Bent Creek Loop #8 – Stradley Mtn. 9:00 AM
Hike 9.8, Drive 15, 2100 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Martyn Easton, cell: 828-228-0136, mlteaston@me.com
Starting at the Wolf Creek parking area, we will do a loop with a couple of variations from the #361 map, following the Wolf Creek and Ledford trails to the N. Boundary Rd.; then descending via the Side Hill Trail, Lower Side Hill and
HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES

Newcomers are welcome, but non-members MUST call the leader before the hike to determine the requirements. Half-day hikes submitted by Bonnie Allen, 828-645-0357, bonnie@allencats.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in the schedule, and start times may vary. Times listed are departure times – arrive early.

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-717 Oct. 7
Sunburst to Waterfalls *12:00 PM
Hike 6.2, Drive 70, 600 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Bobbi Powers, 828-667-5419, bobbipowers@live.com
*Form carpool at Westgate, and meet leader at Dollar General Store on US 19/23, off Exit 37 of I-40 at 12:20 PM. We will experience a burst of fall color as we walk along beautiful FS 97, with side trips to two waterfalls. Topos: Sam Knob, Waynesville

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-325 Oct. 14
Rich Mountain Fire Tower *12:30 PM
Hike 5.2, Drive 52, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Russ and Heather Cooper, 828-484-9562, cooper.hs@charter.net
*Form carpool at Westgate, take Patton Highway) to Trust, and meet leader at Turkey Pen Trailhead at 11:30 AM. Please bring maps and compass. Topos: Turkey Pen, Pounding Mill, Mullinax Loop.

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-453 Oct. 21
Max Patch Loop *12:30 PM
Hike 5.4, Drive 104, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Gail Lamb, 828-275-4500, glamb46@gmail.com
Awesome 360 degree panoramic views of fall color from summit of Max Patch make this a favorite hike. Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop I-40 off Exit 24 at 1:00 PM, but call leader first. Topo: Lemon Gap

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-784 Oct. 28
Big Ivy Ramble *12:30 PM
Hike 5.2, Drive 55, 670 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mwbrromberg@yahoo.com
Except for the first 1.2 miles where all of the elevation gain occurs, this is a lovely fall stroll on an old forest service road. We should see lots of color and have long views. Short car shuttle. Due to relatively steep rocky ascent at the beginning of the hike this is not one for beginners. Topos: Mt. Mitchell, Montreat

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-054 Nov. 4
John Rock 12:30 PM
Hike 4, Drive 72, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Jim Ariail, 828-505-0443, cell: 828-778-8355, jima@jimairail@yahoo.com
P400 This hike goes up Old Horse Cove Trail to the top of John Rock. At the top there is a great view of Looking Glass Rock and the Fish Hatchery. Second meeting place: Fish Hatchery Parking lot off FS 475 at 1:10 PM. Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-102 Nov. 11
Coontree Loop *12:30 PM
Hike 3.7, Drive 65, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374, ashok.kudva@att.net
P400 *Form carpool at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Fish Hatchery Bi-Lo at 1:00 PM. This moderate loop hike going along Coontree Creek and over Coontree Mtn. is steep in places. An optional extension to Saddle Gap with a panoramic mountain vista of John Rock, Looking Glass Rock and Cedar Rock would make this hike 5.2 miles and 1400 ft ascent (Rated C-B). Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-785 Nov. 18
Duckett Fire Tower *12:45 PM
Hike 4.5, Drive 70, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Jack Dalton, 828-622-3704, jckdalton9@gmail.com
LTC *Form carpool at Westgate, take Patton Ave. West, then right on NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) to Trust, and meet leader at Trust Store at junction of NC 63 & NC 209 at 1:45 PM. This in-and-out hike is a joint hike with the Hot Springs Mountain Club. An uphill hike to Duckett Fire Tower. With 360-degree views of surrounding mountains, including Max Patch, Turkey Mtn. and Spring Creek Mtn. Bring maps and compass. Topos: Spring Creek, Sandy Mush

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-035 Dec. 2
Looking Glass Rock 11:00 AM
Hike 5.8, Drive 70, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated C-A
Jane Laping, 828-277-7342, janelaping@sbcglobal.net
P400 A moderately difficult, well-graded trail leads to the top of this mountain with beautiful views along the way. In-and-out hike. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 11:30 AM. Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-153 Dec. 9
Cove Creek / Caney Bottom *11:20 AM
Hike 5 Drive 75, 300 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Tom Joyce, 828-885-2152, tominbrevard@webtv.net
P400 *Form carpool at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 10:00 AM. This is a pleasant walk in the valley below Looking Glass Rock. The trail follows a moderate grade as it wanders through the woods along a number of streams and cascades, and includes Cove Creek Falls as its feature attraction. Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-534 Dec. 16
Turkey Pen, Pounding Mill, Mullinax Loop *11:00 AM
Hike 6.5, Drive 55, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Charlie Ferguson, 828-625-2677, cef108@gmail.com
P400 *Form carpool at Westgate and meet leader at Turkey Pen Trailhead at 11:30 AM. This is a nice late-fall hike, with low elevation and close to Asheville. We’ll cross the Mills River footbridge, then do a loop on the scenic Pounding Mill and Mullinax trails. Topo: Pisgah Forest

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-786 Dec. 23
Bracken Mtn. – Brusky Creek *12:00 PM
Hike 5.5, Drive 70, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Stuart English, 828-883-2447, cell: 828-384-1759, stueng@citicom.net
*Form carpool at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 12:30 PM. One of CMC’s first hikes into the new Bracken Mtn. Preserve near Brevard. Great winter views and several stream crossings over bridges. Should be spectacular views without leaves on the trees. Topo: Pisgah Forest

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-170 Dec. 30
Butter Gap Trail to Picklesheimer Fields 12:30 PM
Hike 7, Drive 40, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Laura Frisbie, 828-337-5845, laurarfrisbie@gmail.com
P400 From the Fish Hatchery parking lot, we will follow the Cat Gap Trail to its junction with the Butter Gap Trail for this in-and-out hike along Grogan Creek. Second meeting place: Fish Hatchery at 1:10 PM. Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1204-160 Jan. 1
Looking Glass Rock *12:00 PM
Hike 6.5, Drive 55, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Tom Joyce, 828-885-2152, tominbrevard@webtv.net
P400 *Form carpool at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 10:00 AM. This is a pleasant walk in the valley below Looking Glass Rock. The trail follows a moderate grade as it wanders through the woods along a number of streams and cascades, and includes Cove Creek Falls as its feature attraction. Topo: Shining Rock
Annual Dinner
November 2nd
at Pack's Tavern

Our annual dinner and meeting will be held again this year in the Century Room at Pack's Tavern, 20 Spruce Street in Asheville, on Nov. 2nd. The Social Hour will start at 5:30, followed by the dinner at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30.

Mark Wenger, Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, will be our guest speaker.

Our website has been updated to allow members to pay for the dinner and membership renewal with a credit card. Just log in on our home page and you will see an “Annual Dinner” tab. Click on the tab and it will take you to a screen that will allow you to pay for yourself and guests. On the same page you will see a tab to renew membership.

Award nominations are now open

Inserted in your newsletter this quarter are two documents. One is the renewal of membership and annual dinner reservation form; the other is the Nominations Form for CMC members who have made a difference in the club. The CMC Distinguished Service Award is for someone who over their membership has made consistent and cumulatively extraordinary contributions to the operation of the Club. The other is the award of appreciation. This award is made to any member who, during the calendar year prior to the annual meeting, has rendered such exceptional service to the operation of the club that its goals were significantly advanced. Please enter your nominations and send them to the Awards Committee at Carolina Mountain Club PO Pox 68 Asheville, NC 28802

Wilderness Crew learns special skills to do work

Continued from page 1

Paul Dickens

In the fall of 2009, a group of four Wilderness Crew members including me participated in a two-day Forest Service crosscut saw certification class. I was certified as a B crosscut sawyer and set out to learn how to restore and maintain the technology of these old saws that are used for Wilderness trail work. I have gotten to meet and work with other more experienced sawyers and have learned a lot of practical details to safely use these traditional tools for trail maintenance. In May 2012, I attended the Wilderness Skills Institute at the Pisgah Cradle of Forestry and achieved C certification as a crosscut saw trainer. CMC sponsored my participation in the C sawyer class.

What do you enjoy about the CMC Wilderness Crew?

The Wilderness Crew is great exercise and stress relief for both mind and body. There are technical aspects to trail work, especially around safe use of tools and conforming to Forest Service standards. There is sharing, learning and teaching with others. There can be long hikes in and out carrying tools to clear a downed tree or other problem. What I really like is seeing immediate results. Unlike my day job, on Wilderness Crew I can do a hard day’s work and have the satisfaction of seeing a job done and a trail problem fixed. And there is a sense of stewardship – helping maintain sustainable trails in the important public resource of Wilderness.
Hiking as a Gateway Drug

By Stuart English

If you don’t want to activate your body, wake up your mind, stimulate your senses – make sure you don’t hike. If you don’t want to meet people from all walks of life, all occupations, all nationalities, all economic backgrounds, and probably have some of these people become your friends – just don’t hike. If you don’t want to learn the physical geography of your area, the names of all the mountains as well as what they look like on top, where the streams and rivers go and what the water in them feels like on your feet – you’d better not hike. If you don’t want to learn about all the trees, flowers, plants, mosses, lichens, mushrooms, insects, and animals – then hiking is probably not for you. If you don’t want to learn all the back roads that go through places like Cruso, Springdale, Loafers Glory, Beuladean, Micaville, Walnut, Trust, Luck, Elk Park, Cranberry, and Pensacola – don’t hike. If you don’t want to get involved, start leading hikes, start maintaining trails, and accept all the personal satisfaction that involves – don’t start hiking. If you don’t want to one day meet all the challenges, climb all the towers – don’t go on that first hike. If you don’t want to leave all your troubles and worries at home behind the door and let your world open up to become the splendid, spectacular place that it really is – then it’s up to you. Don’t take that first step.