



Carolina Mountain Club

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September 2020

In This Issue

[Paul Curtain Acknowledged by ATC](#)

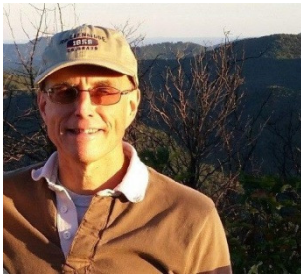
[.Bridge Installation Woodfin Cascade to Orchard Overlook](#)

["ED-VENTURE" SERIES FEATURES THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL](#)

[CMC Trail Maintainers Receive Volunteer Hours Awards for 2020](#)

[Speaking with Debby Jones, President of CMC](#)

[Pisgah Inn by Marci Spencer](#)



Paul Curtain Acknowledged by ATC

Forwarded by Tom Weaver

Congratulations!

Each month, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy honors one of their volunteers. Paul Curtain received that honor this August.

"I would like to thank you for all of your contributions to the Appalachian Trail," writes Alivia Costa, National Service Coordinator. "We are thankful to be able to share the passions and stories of incredible volunteers such as yourself in the form of monthly [Volunteer Spotlights](#)." (Click there to find Paul's tribute.)

Thanks for all that you do Paul!

Bridge Installation Woodfin Cascade to Orchard Overlook Section - MST

The Wednesday Waynesville trail crew of the Carolina Mountain Club installed a bridge on the Woodfin Cascade to Orchard Overlook Section of the Mountain to Sea Trail, August 19, 2020. They completed the bridge in less than 5 hours!



[Click here](#) for an amazing video of the work.

"ED-VENTURE" SERIES FEATURES THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

AS A VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Are you curious about snakes on the A.T.? Want to know more about the chemistry of venom? How about learning a few words in Cherokee? Check out the previous sessions or sign up for new ones so you can participate in the questions and answers. Click here: <https://appalachiantrail.org/our-work/conservation/education-and-outreach/ed-venture/>

HARPERS FERRY, W.Va. (Aug. 19, 2020) - The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) invites learners of all ages to join the A.T. Ed-Venture, a series of virtual lessons taught by environmental educators from each of the Trail's 14 states. Every two weeks, the series will explore a new topic connected with the A.T. through interactive presentations led by local experts covering topics such as wildlife, botany, folklore and more. New sessions will air on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 4 p.m. through March 2021. Each hour-long session will be hosted live via Zoom, providing participants the opportunity to ask questions and interact with each session's hosts. All sessions will later be published to the [ATC YouTube](#) page for all to access. Participants in each live session will also be eligible to win a daypack to use on their next hike.

“Through the Ed-Venture series, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy hopes to connect with and foster a lifelong love of learning and discovery, both on the Appalachian Trail and beyond,” said Julie Judkins, ATC’s Director of Education and Outreach. “We are thrilled to create and co-host this series with educators and partners involved with the conservation of our public lands, providing engaging lessons for young learners. This series will also supply teachers, parents and guardians, and after school instructors with material they can implement into their own instruction.” To develop the Ed-Venture series, the ATC has partnered with a number of state and local partners to showcase a broad range of topics and expertise. Each session will have two instructors — typically a formal educator and a partner from a local community, trail club or land management agency — and will feature approximately 45 minutes of lesson time. Participants will be able to ask questions about the lesson and about the presenters’ work as environmental educators. Content will vary based on the educator’s expertise, discipline, focus and areas of interest. The Ed-Venture sessions continue the ATC’s work to build a broad network of talented and innovative educators in all 14 Trail states, utilizing the A.T. as a living classroom to explore a wide range of educational topics and introduce a new generation of nature lovers to the wonders of the great outdoors. <https://appalachiantrail.org/our-work/conservation/education-and-outreach/ed-venture/> to register for upcoming sessions and find links to recordings of previous sessions. Education and Outreach Committee

CMC Trail Maintainers Receive Volunteer Hours Awards for 2020 by Ron Navik

Many CMC members help to maintain over 400 miles of hiking trails in Western North Carolina, including 94 miles of the A.T. and 160 miles of the MST. The CMC usually recognizes those members who have put in large numbers of lifetime volunteer hours at a trail Maintainers Picnic in September each year. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the picnic has been canceled this year. But these people will still receive their awards from their Crew Leader or in the mail and I hope you will recognize them the next time you see them, for all the great work they have been doing keeping the trails open, safe and sustainable. If you would like to help, we would love to have you join us.

Ron Navik, CMC Councilor for Trail Maintenance.

500 Hour Award – Jacket and Patch 1000 Hour Award - Patch and AT Book Joe Bange Robert Bolt Jr. Robert Boyle Tim Carrigan Todd Eveland Samuel Clarke Richard Figura Elrose Couric Steve Forst Rick Harkins Victor Mariano John F. Miller Gail Snowden Vance Waggener MarGn Stankus Les Stradley 2000 Hour Award – Patch 2500 Hour Award – Fleece Vest Paul CurGn Bob Beach Les Love Roy Davis Robert McLean Bill Fallender Ron Navik Shawn Riley Chris Werbylo 3000 Hour Award - Patch 4000 Hour Award - Patch John Busse Tom Weaver Mike Williams 7000 Hour Award - Patch Richard Evans – Patch

Speaking with Debby Jones, President of CMC September 2020

Interviewed by Danny Bernstein

Debby Jones was interviewed December 2017 by Becky Smucker. As it is our custom to interview all incoming president, the Communications Committee thought it was important to talk to Debby again.

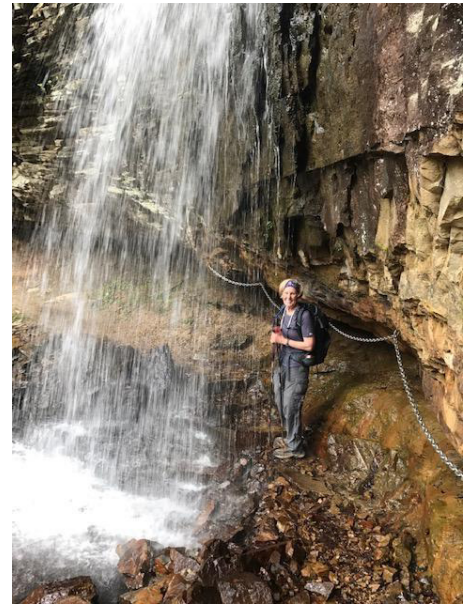
Debby Jones, President of CMC, is an active can-do type of person.

Right now, Debby is still technically at work. She's worked for the Marietta City Schools (Georgia) her whole career. Marietta is a district about 15 miles north of Atlanta.

Debby, a native of Atlanta, began as an elementary school teacher. Then she taught in a special education program in a high school and worked her way to director of special education and assistant principal. She moved to the central office to work on policy and planning. Then she started presiding at disciplinary hearings.

Her title is Executive Director of Student Support. Debby deals with every aspect of a student's school life except for curriculum. She's supervised nursing, social work and suicide prevention and intervention. When she started this position, she was both the athletic director and in charge of disciplinary hearings. She dealt with parents when their child was recommended for expulsion and when they didn't make the baseball team. She had to go to all the sports events.

Federal law requires that if a student can be expelled for ten days or more, he or she needs a hearing. Debby presides over these hearings. She's called a judge, although she doesn't have a law degree. Parents can bring in an attorney if they want, though Debby feels there's no need for one. She makes the decision about the student's immediate future after hearing all sides. Right now, she's not retired. She was supposed to train her replacement this past semester, but the pandemic halted these plans. Since right now the Marietta City school system is completely online, there are no disciplinary problems – at least not at school. So there's no need for her work. 1 “Very few people can do this work. As soon as I train someone, I'm done.” Her CMC involvement Debby and her husband, David, have a house in Black Mountain. Debby has been a member of CMC since 2015. “My role as a Vice President was very unusual in some capacity.” Debby had not been on the CMC Council beforehand when she was asked if she would consider running for Vice President. Past presidents Randy Fluharty and Barbara Morgan filled in her knowledge of the Council and committees. “I don't understand why people don't want to do this work (be on the Council), Debby says.” Her primary job as VP was to plan the annual dinner – the venue, menu, and speaker. It's a big job. “I feel that there are a lot of people who use the club but do nothing. Most people hike and go home. There are so many opportunities to volunteer, on a quarterly work crew as an example. Members can even volunteer to give out name tags at events. I find that the same people are involved over and over again.” Different members plan other events. Catherine and Les Love work on the Spring Social. Brenda Worley and the hiking committee plan the hike leaders' dinner. “I'm starting a monthly column in the eNews about various activities in the club,” Debby said. Hiking during the Pandemic Debby became president of CMC in January 2020. For the past ten years or so, presidents have organized an all-day planning meeting in January, and she did the same. “We talked about diversity again in terms of age, equity, families coming out on the trail. We didn't create a real plan - goals more than plans. The council has goals, but the committees have plans,” she explains. Committees should ask for what they need. Debby can't think of any request that have been turned down. CMC even subsidizes the annual dinner. Then the pandemic happened. What was Debby's reaction as an individual and a hiker? “I was nervous. It's an unknown – we didn't know how bad it was going to be. We found out it was worse than we thought. I was already staying in Black Mountain. Being outside was the best place to be.” 2 Debby kept hiking by herself and with a few friends. CMC closed hiking very early. “We are a public leading organization and we need to set an example,” she says. There were no guidelines except for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. “We needed to set an example.” She sent



an email to the CMC council explaining that the best course of action was to close hiking. At the same time, she participated in biweekly meetings with ATC and A.T. maintaining clubs such as Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. Before the CMC Council reopened group hiking again, it checked with a lawyer, the same lawyer who reviewed our previous waiver; the lawyer is not a volunteer. He suggested adding a Covid-specific waiver. "The new guidelines are working," Debby says. "The leader can see who is coming on the hike and maybe assess their ability level. I hope it doesn't have to stay this way. The new regulations are not a whole package; we can adapt as we go." "The club has to set an example." And when does Debby think we can go back to our past way of group hiking? "When cases stop increasing and/or we have a vaccine. CMC members are patient and supportive, even if I feel that some people are not happy about the guidelines." Favorite hike Interviewer: If you want to take a friend on a hike, what hike would you choose? To make this question relevant, assume that she/he hikes at the same level as you. For a day hike, Debby would choose Charlies Bunion in the Smokies. For a backpack, Debby would go from Charlies Bunion to Davenport Gap. In conclusion, Debby was recently interviewed by the Mountain Xpress for its Green Scene section [July 29 to August 4]. She is quoted as saying that she "has seen a recent increase in outdoor users. But she notes that trail crowding, especially on weekends, has actually lightened up since the start of Phase 2." "We are in a good position," Debby concludes. "We were able to continue hiking as individuals. Because so many of us know the trails, we could go places without millions of people. We opened up the outdoors. Everybody wants to be outside."

Pisgah Inn by Marci Spencer Reviewed by Danny Bernstein

The Pisgah Inn on the Blue Ridge Parkway (Milepost 408) in Pisgah National Forest has been around for a long time. Hikers and nature lovers pass it on their way to a hike or to climb Mount Pisgah and view it as a landmark. The Mountains-to-Sea Trail goes right past the Inn as it traverses the state.

Now we have a new book by Marci Spencer, a Carolina Mountain Club member, which explains the history of the Inn. It starts with George Vanderbilt buying land in Western North Carolina to build his chateau, Biltmore House and Estate, in the late 1880s.



Pisgah Inn, published by Arcadia Press, is part of the Images of America series. Spencer is well-known for several recent books that have been meticulously researched and written – think "Pisgah National Forest", "Nantahala National Forest" and others. This book is another feather in Spencer's cap. If you came to the 2015 CMC annual meeting, you'll remember that Marci was our guest speaker. She presented a program about Pisgah National Forest. A Few Fun Facts The Pisgah Inn that we are so familiar with is the second inn. The original Inn was built in 1919 way before the Blue Ridge Parkway was built. Somehow visitors found their way up the mountain. Some bright guys working for Pisgah National Forest thought it would be great to create a Gameland Preserve. They brought bisons and elk up the mountain and fenced them in. By the 1930s, the animals had either died, escaped or were killed by locals. Carolina Mountain Club cleared the site of Buck Spring Lodge, a little way from the Inn. The club put in a new exhibit sign explaining the history of the lodge, Vanderbilt's hunting place. A photo on Pg. 46 shows Walt Weber of CMC next to George Cecil, grandson of George Vanderbilt at the dedication ceremony. The Book Pisgah Inn, the book, puts the inn in context with Pisgah National Forest, George Vanderbilt and the Biltmore Estate. The photos have been well-researched and documented. Spencer must have great contacts with many archives by now. It's not easy to market new books now. Ordinarily Spencer would be doing the circuit of bookstores and hiking clubs. I am trying to help outdoor authors by highlighting their books. You can find this gem at Malaprop's Bookstore in Asheville and other independent bookstores, on the Arcadia Publishing website, and numerous other online retailers.

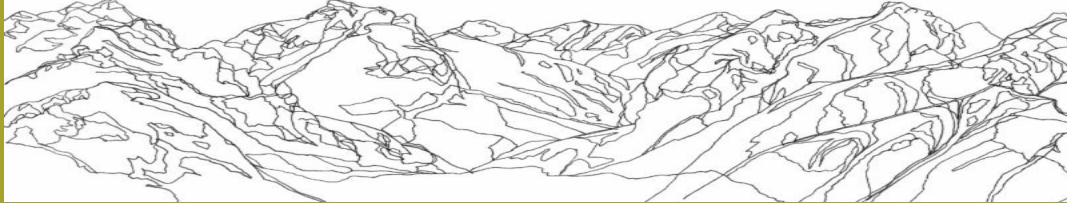


The eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month. Send your news to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words.

You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments.

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