



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE AND A THOUSAND THANKS TO BOBBI POWERS!!

Have you ever considered running for "Office"? How about being a Crew Leader? Not that either? You don't have to!! There are so many different ways in which individuals can and do contribute to the fact that CMC has been voted the best Hiking Club in WNC. Please read the short biography on Bobbi Powers. One will quickly understand why the Council has chosen to select Bobbi as the "Volunteer of the Quarter" and give her a huge shout-out.

I moved to WNC from northern Indiana 8 ½ years ago and have been on perpetual vacation ever since. I did not know a soul when I moved here, so I hooked up with Mountain Area Radio Reading service which reads to the sight-impaired over a special radio frequency. I had done that in the Hoosier state. A local reader introduced me to CMC.

*Looking back 8 years to my first hike **ever in my entire life** from FAC to Lunch Rock, I have to laugh. I showed up wearing sneakers, jeans and wearing my hot pink Vera Bradley back pack. What a greenhorn! And that hike about killed me! Gradually, I got some proper equipment and kept going on the Sunday 1/2-day hikes where I found my niche. (I hate to feel totally wiped out after a hike because I have so many other physical activities that fill up my days, so I stuck with Sundays) Paula Robbins goaded me into*

leading hikes, and as a former high school English teacher, there is a certain satisfaction in bossing people around. ☺ The only bad part about being a hike leader is by having to go first; I don't get to chat with everyone. I especially like to lead wild flower hikes, and I have fun finding interesting things to point out and to share little-known factoids I've learned from listening to other hikers for 8 years. For instance, did you know that the root of Indian Cucumber Root actually looks and tastes like a cucumber? Try one! I want to have fun on hikes, so I want my hikers to also enjoy the day.

I do several small things for CMC. I maintain a section of the MST. I occasionally write for the eNews and Let's Go. I also am one of the proofreaders for both the hike schedules and the Let's Go. (Once an English teacher, always an English teacher!) I have served on several behind-the-scenes committees to choose award recipients or select officers. CMC hikers have been excellent mentors for me, allowing me see gorgeous places I would never go on my own, and providing me with a nice group of friends. For all that CMC has given me, I feel it's only fair to give back a bit to the Club.

Other than trying to hike twice a week, I have several other interests. I walk 18 holes of golf regularly at the Municipal and will be President of my ladies league next season. I am the treasurer of my Enka-Candler Branch Library Friends group. I live on an acre of woods whose maintenance could be a full-time job; I have dug, whacked, or pulled out many thousands of invasive species and there are plenty more. I like to garden whimsically; last summer I created a flock of individually decorated plastic flamingoes which frolicked among my plantings. (Yes, tacky, but so cute!) I've recently added lawn bowling at Carrier Park to my repertoire; this takes a lot of finesse, and I am definitely the novice in the group. I'm also a regular at OLLI where I take classes most quarters. I usher at Diana Wortham Theatre and love to see live theater all over town.

Leading hikes, maintaining trails, writing articles, proofreading articles and newsletters, participating on committees, all of these "small" things, add up to a dedicated volunteer that we would love to clone! On behalf of the CMC, THANK YOU BOBBI!