



From The Editor

Stuart Camblos identified the location as Mt. Leconte for the picture taken of the hikers in a picture featured last month. We still don't who the unidentified people are. This month features Bob Hysko, a CMC hiker and leader who recently finished all the trails in the Smoky900 challenge. Put on your calendar Danny Bernstein's book talk of her latest project. This one is about the Mountain To Sea Trail. See story and review. Congratulations Danny.

If you are interested in wildlife and would like to write four or five articles a year on the subject for the newsletter, please contact me at the email below. Becky Smucker will write a column on plant life in the area. Stuart English and Danny Bernstein will start writing articles about the history and culture of these mountains to bring in the human element. As hikers, sometimes we miss the details of the beauty around us. Learning about the creatures and life we share so much of our time with, will enrich our hikes.

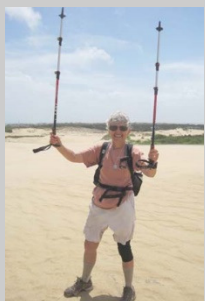
If anyone has any articles for the newsletter, send them to me at eNews@carolinamountainclub.org

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

CMC 90th Birthday To Be Celebrated June 8 - Save The Date

Saturday, June 8th we will have a party to celebrate- CMC's 90th birthday and the 90th birthday of a very special member. More information about the celebration next month.



At Diamond Brand Bernstein To Launch MST Book On Tuesday, March 5,

What: Book Launch and Fundraiser for Friends of the MST

Where: Diamond Brand Outdoors in Arden

When: Tuesday, March 5 at 6 P.M.

Hike
Save
Trails
Make
Friends



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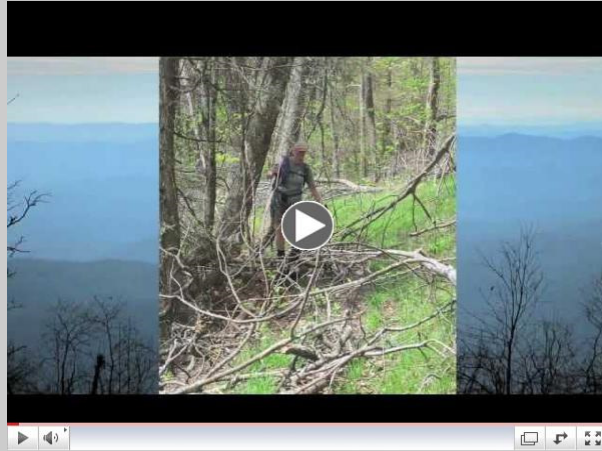
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Danny Bernstein will talk about her adventure, walking the whole MST from Clingmans Dome to the Outer Banks and show slides. What does the MST look like east of the mountain? The Mountains-to-Sea Trail Across North Carolina (published by the History Press) will captivate the curious, the adventurous, the hiker, the biker, and the history buff. See the book trailer:



The Mountains-to-Sea Across North Carolina

Enjoy refreshments by Earthfare. [Diamond Brand Outdoors](#) will offer a \$20 gift card for anyone that registers to become a member of Friends of the MST that evening or buys a FMST North Carolina license plate. In addition, outdoor equipment will be raffled off to benefit [Friends of the MST](#). Friends of the MST is the non-profit organization that works to build, maintain, and protect the MST. Kate Dixon, Executive Director of FMST will be at book launch.

Book Review

Danny Captures Spirit Of Trail, North Carolina

By Stuart English

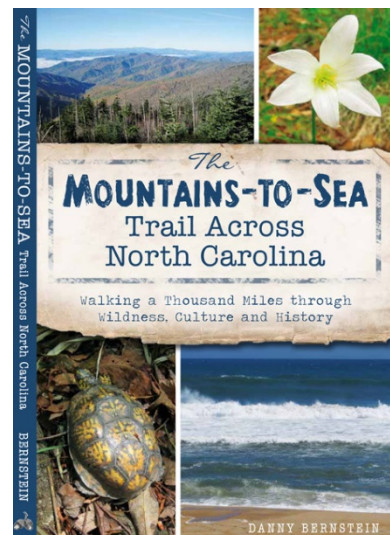
In his book *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell writes about "people that do not fit into our normal understanding of achievement. They operate on the extreme outer edge of what is statistically plausible." To me, Danny Bernstein is this type of person. Since getting to know her in our CMC hiking club, it is impossible not to be inspired and carried along by her energy, enthusiasm, and tireless achievement of accomplishment and knowledge of the outdoor world.

This is her third published book. The first two were hiking books that required a great deal of research and wear of shoe leather to virtually capture the hiking experience in Western North Carolina. The Mountains-To-Sea Trail Across North Carolina sets its sights a little higher and captures the state of North Carolina. The readers will not only walk 1000 miles across the state with Danny; they will learn its history, experience its culture past and present, and feel the three distinct geographical regions under their feet.

In the mountains, the reader will survey the Smokies from Clingmans Dome, learn about Horace Kephart, the history of the Cherokee Indians, the story of the Blue Ridge Parkway, meet George Vanderbilt and

Allen de Hart, be immersed in the culture of Asheville, and go on a Saturday Trail Day with the CMC trail crew and actually build a section of the MST.

In the Piedmont, the trail starts to follow more roads and go through more small towns. Danny explores several nice state parks including Hanging Rock and Stone Mountain where mountains seem to



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pop out of the flat landscape around them. Revolutionary war history is a part of the lore of the Piedmont.

North Carolina's textile industry, past and present is discussed. Sharon McCarthy's description of biking

the MST roads is a highlight. Also, there are moonshiners, dog encounters, and plenty of good coffee and cookies to be had.

In the Coastal Plains, the topography really flattens out and the towns and the culture change noticeably again. The readers will visit Smithfield and La Grange. They will learn about planting tobacco

and cotton. They will visit New Bern, and Tryon Palace. Finally Danny reaches the Outer Banks and the

readers are walking in sand much of the time and feeling ocean breezes. Wild birds, lighthouses, and

Blackbeard the Pirate are among the highlights of this part of the journey. Finally after climbing Jockey's

Ridge and signing the guest book at the visitor center, Danny could raise her hiking poles in triumph.

I have lived in North Carolina all my life; born and raised in the mountains and went to college in the Eastern part of the state. Six or seven years ago, I would not have admitted under torture that

someone from New Jersey in 12 short years knew my state better than I did. But now I must wake up

and smell the coffee. As Malcolm Gladwell says she has put in the "10,000 hours." She has done the work. Danny Bernstein, this is your state now.

Fees To Camp In Great Smoky Mountain National Park Start Feb. 13

Beginning February 13, 2013, people staying overnight in the Great Smoky Mountains NP (GRSM) backcountry will be subject to a \$4/person/night permit fee.

A.T. thru-hikers will be charged \$20, with the permit good for 38 days. A GRSM backcountry permit can be obtained up to 30 days in advance. Thru-hikers will have 8 days to pass through the GRSM. Thru-hiker permits will be available year-round.

Start Date	End Date	Nights	Miles
1/23/13	2/10/13		

The current GRSM definition of an A.T. thru-hiker will remain "a backpacker starting & ending their hike at least 50 miles outside GRSM".

Thru-hikers will be able to obtain permits on-line, by fax (once payment is made by phone) and in person at the GRSM Backcountry Office (BO) at the Sugarlands Visitor Center near Gatlinburg, TN. Credit cards will be accepted on-line, by phone and in person at the BO. Checks, money orders and cash will be accepted in person at the BO.

There will be no refunds.

Each thru-hiker will have to carry their own paper permit.

1/2 of the permit must be left in the trailhead permit receptacle at either Fontana Dam or Davenport Gap. Thru hikers will need to write their date of entry into the GRSM on both halves of their permit.

Four bunks will be reserved in each GRSM A.T. shelter for thru-hikers March through May.

Thru-hikers must always give up space in shelters to non-thru-hikers holding reservations.

Ranger presence will be increased on the A.T. during thru-hiker season.

For more information, please call 865-436-1297.



What About Bob

Bob Hysko Inherits Love Of Outdoor Adventure From Dad

Interview By Kathy Kyle

How did you find out about CMC and when did you join?

One of the reasons I moved to Asheville in 2007 was to enjoy the great hiking opportunities in the area. CMC had a reputation for having very knowledgeable hikers, the type of people I wanted to meet so I joined the club within the first two months of moving.

When and where did you start hiking?

My father was an avid backpacker in his youth and he would take my sister and me on short day hikes when we were young. By the time I was old enough for serious hiking, however, he was no longer physically up for it. I got into backpacking with a group of friends when I was in my early thirties. It was great but it did not last very long, family obligations got in the way. My hope at that time was that there would be a window of opportunity, maybe two to three years, between the time my sons were old enough and I was still young enough to do some of the backpacking I always wanted to try. Fortunately that window has stayed open for over 20 years and we have been able to see some of the great wilderness areas in North America.

What do you enjoy about hiking?

Hiking is the perfect activity for me, part aerobic, part social and part spiritual.

What is your ideal hike? Good company, good views, good weather and old growth forest.

You had a close call with a hiking club cutting wood on an outing. What

happened? I've had a number of misadventures associated with my hiking activities. Seven years ago while I was splitting logs, at a hiking club lodge in NY State's Harriman Park, a piece of metal when through my body at high speed. The next thing I remember is being airlifted to a regional trauma center. The surgeon said the metal went through my chest bone, ricocheted off and went around the inside of my rib cage and settled near my spinal cord resulting in extensive internal bleeding. If not for ricochet, he said it would have been fatal. As it was, I still needed a week in the hospital in order to get the gook out of my lungs. It is not completely clear what the metal object was. The Park police said it came from my wedge or my sledgehammer at impact, went down and hit a stone and came back and hit me. The surgeon said that I did not enough straight to do this type of damage and wound had all the characteristics of a gunshot wound which he has seen much too often. I side more with the police, I do have the ability to seriously hurt myself, and I have proven this on more than one occasion. The good news is that while the metal still travels with me, it is not large enough to set off airport security systems.

Other mishaps include having a black bear in the Adirondacks steal three days worth of our food, and losing my footing on a glacier in the Grand Tetons and sliding into a 12 foot deep crevasse.

My family has also been attacked by some of the most ferocious animals known to mankind, black flies in the Adirondacks and mosquitoes in the Canadian Rockies. When you read a trail description that describes hundred of lakes or turns, think about the possibility of a billion mosquitoes joining you for dinner. We do not have anything near the mosquito problem here in Southern Appalachia. The mountains are so old that water has found a way to get to the ocean leaving much less breeding ground for mosquitoes.

You have backpacked out west, what is your favorite trip you have had out there?

Gee, that is hard to say, there have been so many great trips, I go west at least once a year and usually more. To pick one I would say the John Muir Trail. The JMT is a 217 mile long trail in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California running between Yosemite Valley in the north and Mt. Whitney in the south. It goes through 3 National Parks: Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia and the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas and has only one road crossing. This is a land of 13,000-foot and 14,000-foot peaks, of lakes in the thousands, and of canyons and granite cliffs. It's also a land blessed with the mildest, sunniest climate of any major mountain range in the world. It doesn't get any better than this, especially if one goes after mosquito season.

How does the hiking experience differ in other parts of the country?

All areas have their pluses and minuses. If one is looking for an extensive all season interconnected day hiking trail system, I have not seen anything that comes close to the Asheville area. The AT has the hundreds of shelters, which are great places to meet your fellow hikers, and there are ample resupply opportunities. It is, however, a difficult trail to hike; always going for the ridgeline no matter how many rocky up and down miles that creates. The Pacific Crest Trail is just the opposite. It seems designed to make hiking as easy as possible. The trail is extremely well graded and always seems to be headed for the lowest pass needed to get you over to the next range. A pass in the West is the same thing as a gap in North Carolina, a notch in New England and a saddle in the Adirondacks, just much higher. The rule of thumb in terms of difficulty is that walking 20 miles on the AT is equivalent to 25 miles on the PCT. The PCT has great and varied scenery; it also has no shelters, a shorter hiking season and major logistical problems. The Rocky Mountains are spectacular; I particularly enjoy climbing in Colorado. Janet Martin and I have managed to summit five 14ers in the last two years.

When did you buy that backpack you use? The only piece of equipment leftover from my early hiking days is my 1971 Kelty Green

backpack. At the time it was the top of the line backpack in the country. Since it was the only pack that properly fitted me, I sprang for the \$90. By today's standards it is obsolete, especially here in the East. It is too heavy, too tall (hits every low hanging branch on the trail), too top heavy and unstable at any speed. I have taken some nasty falls with this pack; the worst was on Paul Benson's backpack in the Smokies. It's hard, however, for me to give it up; it's like an old friend that has been with me in good times and bad. The pack came with a lifetime warranty and is currently in Colorado again, this time asking for new zippers and top rim. At some point Kelty is going to say enough is enough, the problem is not equipment failure but rather the pack is just worn-out, just like you are. Kelty, however, is still selling an updated version of this pack on the west coast, where the mountains have different types of trees and where the long distances between resupply points make the extra carrying capacity advantageous. I'm hopeful that Kelty will see a promotional opportunity here; a chance to show how well they design and build their packs. I still see original Kelty Greens on the trail but I never notice any competing brands from that era still in use.

What is your favorite hike in this area? What do you like about it?

There is a five mile section of the MST near my home that I find very enjoyable. It runs

between Craven Gap and the Folk Art Center and for a while drops far enough below the BRP to lose any road noise.

You recently finished the Smoky hiking challenge. How did you approach the challenge? I started with a very relaxed ten year plan in mind, about 80 new miles a year. It did not work out that way. Partners are very helpful in this type of challenge, not only for their company and ride sharing but also for the ability to provide a second car at the end of trail. All my fellow challengers had a more aggressive time schedule in mind, I just don't know why. I think it is call type A personality. My choice was to either pickup my pace and stay with them or find new partners down the road, if I could. I increased my monthly mileage and completed the challenge in a little over six years.

Don't you maintain a trail? Which one? What do you have to do to maintain the trail? Having spent so much time hiking on the AT, I felt it was time give a little back. Early last year, I took over Lenny Bernstein's 2.7mile inaccessible section of the AT that runs between Rice Gap and Sugarloaf Gap. This was not a match made in heaven. Almost has soon as I took it over, my knee started to go to go bad. I had real pain just carrying my weedwacker up the mountain to Rice Gap to start my work. I realized that I had to choose between my AT section and my knee, I could not keep both. I chose to keep the trail and had a partial knee replacement last December. Hopefully by spring I will be able to resume my normal activities. If anyone would like to become a co-section maintainer, let me know. I could use the help. The job entails a least three walkthroughs a year, doing routine maintenance such as weedwacking and small branch cutting. Reporting major problems to the trail crew and talking with the though hikers.

What is next?

I do not have any definite plans at this time but I would like to diversify my activities and get more out of my comfort zone. A long distance bike trip has always been one of my fantasies. A hiking vacation on another continent also seems exciting. I go on short day hikes with my grandson; maybe someday he will want to be a fourth generation backpacker.

Added To Top 10 Endangered Places Update On Preserving Devils Courthouse Views

By Steve Longenecker

Thank you so much for helping with the "Devil's" project that began on the 10th of this month, when the Asheville Citizen-Times published my "Guest Commentary". A recent development was the addition of the area to the Center of Environmental Law Center's addition of the area to their list of Top 10 Endangered Places In The Southeast. See release [here](#).



Letters and e-mails have been sent to Ranger Ibarguen, the USFS official who's in-charge of that section of Pisgah National Forest. Letters to the Editor have been written, all but one in support of protecting what the newspaper called The "Viewshed".

Recently, I learned that the lady who supported the ravishing of the trees below the "Devil's" lookout has a direct connection with the local private timber industry, something NOT mentioned in her LTE (which is certainly understandable!)

It seems that the editors of the Asheville newspaper are in-agreement with our project. Below is an editorial that ran in a recent issue of their paper. Each week, they assign "grades" to various news stories, ranging from an "A" to an "F". I have a feeling that they arbitrarily used a "d" in this editorial because it went-along with the "D" in "Devil's".

D is for Devil's Courthouse and what strikes us as a dumb idea, a plan to log 472 acres near the breathtaking landmark on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The U.S. Forest Service says the project is necessary for habitat improvement and forest health. We're not opposed to logging - and we respect the daunting tasks biologists in this area have in protecting forests beset by a host of invasive bugs, blights, pollution and encroaching development but the choice of this site seems at best to indicate a public relations tin ear on the Forest Service's part. Josh Kelly, public lands field biologist with the WNC Alliance, put it best: "Professionally, my objection to logging this area is that it has been noted by many biologists, including state biologists, as the highest-quality forest - it has many rare species present. It doesn't make sense why, when the Forest Service is logging so little of its land base, to log timber of such high scenic, recreational and biological value." The public has until today to comment on the Courthouse Creek Project Environmental Assessment. Email comments on the Courthouse timber sale by today to Derek Ibarguen, Pisgah District Ranger, to comments-southern-north-carolina-pisgah-pisgah@fs.fed.us and put "Courthouse Project" in the subject line. Or mail to Appalachian Ranger District, Attn: Jason Herron, 632 Manor Road, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754; fax to 689-9762; or call Jason Herron, interdisciplinary team leader, at 689-9694, ext. 112.

To read the Courthouse Creek Project Environmental Assessment online, go to www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc and type "Courthouse Vegetation Management" in the search field. The Carolina Mountain Club, the Audubon Society and the Western North Carolina Alliance have become involved, people have posted my piece on Facebook, also compiled on-line petitions. One family drove up the Parkway, then hiked to the top, just to check-out what's been reported regarding the incredible view from the top

Also...

All appropriate members of the U.S. Congress have been contacted, as have members of the NC House. I now have more than eighty e-mails on my computer that are directly-related to Devil's Courthouse!



Mooney Falls

CMC Member DeGrauw Invites Members On Canyon Adventure

By Will DeGrauw

Will DeGrauw, CMC Member, invites you to join him on a hiking/yoga adventure in the Grand Canyon sponsored by Yoga One, a Charlotte based, yoga studio. Yoga One's Dave Kuklantz is the hiking/yoga leader organizing this trip that begins June 22 and continues until June 29.

The adventure will bring together the worlds of hiking, yoga, backpacking, canyons and swimming in the wild. On this journey you will have an out of the box, amazing time exploring

how to be safe and have fun outdoors with your backpacking and camping gear, practice meditation and yoga asana on rocks, on sand, in canyons and by waterfalls. Step out of your business as usual and do something completely different. Climb to new heights and stretch your ideas of what is possible. Get inspired, free and clear. Oh yes, bring on the sweat from hiking, asana and sheer excitement! We'll wash it off in magnificent waterfalls, creeks and rivers. We will be spending most nights in hotels and will have a few nights sleeping on the trail. Every day will be hiking and/or swimming.



Appalachian Trail

Applications Open - Trail To Every Classroom

Trail To Every Classroom applications are open. Through this cumulative series of workshops, teachers create experiential learning curriculum based on state educational standards that integrates hands-on study of Appalachian Trail resources in your community.

Over 275 educators have participated in the program since 2006 - join the growing network of teachers and students from Georgia to Maine.



Bridge To Chimney Tops

More Flooding Closes Roads, Trails In Smokies

By Tom Wainner

The following trails in The Smoky Mountain National Park are closed: Greenbrier Road (beyond the park ranger's home) and Parsons Branch Road (closed for winter) have both sustained major damage from last week's rain. The park is predicting months to repair these roads before reopening them.

Because of the earth slide on U.S. 441 on the North Carolina side of the park, the following trails are closed:

Deep Creek Trail from U.S. 441 to Campsite 53.

Thomas Divide Trail from U.S. 441 to Sunkota Trail.

Kephart Prong Trail.

Kanati Fork Trail.

The earliest estimate for opening these trails is mid May to 1st of June.

The Chimney Tops Trail is closed because of the collapse of the first bridge after the recent rains.

The Hatcher Mountain Trail, Beard Cane Trail and Scott Mountain Trail (from Campsite 6 to Schoolhouse Gap) remain closed as a result of the storm months ago. No prediction of a reopening time is being given.

The foot-log bridge on Rabbit Creek Trail near the Abrams Creek Campground is out.

Access across Abrams Creek at this point is only by wading a significantly deep stream.

No time prediction for replacing the foot-log is being given.

Make your plans accordingly.

Trail Report Completed

By Stevin Westcott, US Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service National Forests in North Carolina today, Feb. 13, unveiled the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Non-motorized Trail Strategy report. The report is available online at: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/nctrailstrategy.



"Thanks to the hard work of numerous partners and Forest Service staffers, the agency has a report that helps to identify objectives for an environmentally, socially and financially sustainable trail system for non-motorized uses in the two national forests," said Kristin Bail, forest supervisor of the National Forests in North Carolina. "The report also identifies issues that should be addressed in order to provide diverse and quality trail experiences into the future."

The report provides information on trail complexes in the Nantahala and Pisgah national forests and summarizes recommendations from stakeholders. The report includes comments from each ranger district on recommendations from the public. Additionally, the report identifies sources of funding, such as grants, which could be used to help maintain trails.

While no decisions on specific trails are being made at this time, the report will serve as a guide for future trail management in the two national forests. The report will be helpful in formulating desired conditions for trail management in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests management plan, which is in the process of being revised.

The Trail Strategy process began in 2010 with Forest Service personnel updating the agency's database of non-motorized NFsNC trails by verifying location and condition of the existing trail system. In 2012, the Forest Service held multiple public meetings in all six districts of the Nantahala and Pisgah national forests. During the public meetings, trail enthusiasts and others with knowledge of non-motorized trails in North Carolina had a chance to provide input in the transparent and inclusive process. Organizations that promote nature-based tourism also played a role in development of the Non-motorized Trail Strategy.

During working meetings, collaborators shared the types of trail experiences they enjoy. They also looked at larger landscape and recreation issues to see how existing trails fit on national forest and non-forest lands. Partners explored connectivity of the national forest trail system with surrounding communities, county greenways, and other federal, state and local trail systems. Also, recommendations were provided on volunteer recruitment, training and project management.

The Nantahala and Pisgah national forests have close to 1,600 miles of non-motorized trails. Millions of people visit the two national forests every year.

The Small Print

The next issue will come out on Friday, March 29. 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 March 22 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