CMC goes back to school

By Bobbi Powers

One hundred-plus CMCers and guests gathered in the Mountain View Room of the Sherrill Center on the UNC Asheville campus on Oct. 30 for their Annual Dinner.

Our back-to-school experience began with recess – can’t beat that. It was like any first day of school with lots of old friends catching up on news – lots of mingling and laughter.

After recess we went directly to the lunchroom and had a feast unlike our previous school mystery meat entrees. There was a lovely buffet with pastas and an array of toppings, salad, and 2 (!) desserts.

Vice President and dinner organizer Barbara Morgan (well done, Barbara!) rang the bell to start “class,” introducing special guests from Appalachian Trail Conservancy, BRP Friends of the MST, and Cherokee National Forest. Ann Hendrickson announced the winners of the photo contest, and Vance Mann named those members who had completed challenges during the year.

President Lenny Bernstein presided over the business meeting and gave a State of the Club summary. Cutting to the chase, he said, “We had a very good year.” Among highlights, he mentioned two new challenges: A.T./MST Challenge and Youth Partner Challenge. The latter was then promoted by creators Kay Shurtleff and Jan Onan. He thanked departing Council members...

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Most of the Friday Crew celebrates the completion of the MST around Waterrock Knob. Members of the crew are Jack Albright, Adair Andrew, Bob Beach, Lewis Blodgett, Piet Bodenhorst, Stan Boyd, John Busse, Roy Davis, Ken Deal, Jeff Dektor, Rich Erman, Jack Fitzgerald, Alan Frank, David Galentine, Rick Gloor, Ann Hendrickson, Erwin Hoadley, Bob Lindsey, Peter Litvinkych, Howard McDonald, Ron Navik, Bill Otto, Tom Reeder, Bill Sanislow, Bob Scar, Skip Sheldon, Brady Schroeder, Wayne Steinmetz, Mary Swain, Phil Swartz, Paul Thrailkill, Tom Weaver.

COUNCIL CORNER

Since my term as CMC President is nearly up, it’s a good time to reflect on the Club’s accomplishments over the last two years.

• We completed the Mountains-to-Sea Trail around Waterrock Knob. We now have an unbroken stretch of the MST for 140 miles from Heintooga Road to Black Mountain Campground. We’ll be celebrating that accomplishment on National Trails Day, June 4th.

• Less visible, but just as important, we now have trail maintenance agreements with Pisgah Ranger District, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Green River Gamelands. These agreements cover the majority of trails we maintain. We are working on agreements to cover the rest.

• We created two new hiking challenges:
  1. The Youth Partner Challenge, which is aimed at getting kids out on the trail and learning about the outdoors, and
  2. The A.T./MST Challenge, to hike all the miles of the Appalachian and Mountains-to-Sea Trails that CMC maintains. While the Challenge Committee was working in this challenge, it got harder. An A.T. relocation into the new Rocky Fork State Park in Tennessee added 0.8 miles to the section of A.T. our Club maintains, bringing our total to 93.5 miles.

• We continue to schedule about 200 hikes a year thanks to the unstinting efforts of our Hiking Committee.

• We updated our bylaws to reflect the way the club actually operates and created a new Council position – Councilor for Technology – in acknowledgement of the growing importance of the web and databases in our Club’s operations.

It’s been a great two years and I thank everyone who’s contributed to the Club’s success.

– Lenny Bernstein
Challenge committee

By Vance Mann

I have been the chair of the Challenge Committee since June. I never thought of being chair of this committee, but it’s a good fit for me. In January of 2013, Tom Sanders invited me to be part of a Friday hiking group. I had no idea what that involved. I only hoped it would not be too strenuous. I had recovered not long ago from open-heart surgery, and I was not that confident about my hiking ability.

Our first hike was 10 miles with a 1500-foot elevation gain. I survived. The next hike Mark Cobb said, “Let’s hike thirteen miles along the MST.” Well, if I can hike ten miles maybe I could do thirteen. At the end of January, I learned that we were hiking all of the A.T. and MST sections maintained by CMC. The goal was to complete the “90 in 90” Challenge. Not only was I able to hike through my initial anxiety, but also once started, I could not stop until the challenge was completed.

I have good memories of those Friday hikes. Friendships were developed as we hiked to complete the challenge. We were willing to hike a section we had already completed if that meant helping someone else complete a section. I surprised even myself at the distances I was able to hike through rain, snow and mud. At the end of 2013, I was in the best physical condition I had been in years. That was due to a group of hikers willing to help one another.

There are seven challenges sponsored by CMC. Persons completing these challenges in 2015 are:

**Waterfall 100**
Barry Schmidt (father)
Julie Schmidt (daughter)
Emily Feltz
Justine Homiak

**A.T./MST**
Mark Cobb
Ann Hendrickson
Sawako Jager

**SB6K**
Casey Marcum
Wesley Davis
Sam Erwin

**Lookout Tower**
Sharon McCarthy

**P400**
Garrett Ransom (son)
Beth Ransom (mother)

CMC award winners

**Award of Appreciation**

This award (for a year’s exemplary service) went to the Asheville Friday Crew for finishing the Mountains to Sea Trail to Waterrock Knob over the toughest section that they have faced so far. Over 3,000 volunteer hours went into this effort. The Asheville Friday crew took on the challenge to complete this task in 2015 and stayed the course no matter how many rocks, stumps, briar bushes, or political intrigues rose up in front of them. This is a monumental one-time achievement for which our Club will always be remembered. (See their names in the caption on page 1.)

**Distinguished Service Award**

This is an annual award made to a member who, during his/her membership, has made consistent and cumulatively extraordinary contributions to the operation of the Carolina Mountain Club. If you go to Hiking on our website, click on Find a Hike by hike leader, and type in Danny Bernstein’s name, you will see pages and pages of hikes she has led. Look closer at this list and you will find that a great many of these are multiple day trips. These are excursions to places like Nantahala Village, Congaree National Park, Hanging Rock State Park, Townsend Campground (a back packing trip in the Smokies), and many more. She has also done the little behind-the-scenes things that no one notices. She is responsible for our first membership database. She took over the eNews from Don Walton and edited it for many years (most of this time the eNews came out twice a month). She has made an indelible mark on this Club.
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.

**Burnsville Monday Crew**
John Whitehouse, johnwhitehouse@ccvn.com

**Waynesville West Crew** *
Larry Sobil, lsoibil@bellsouth.net

**Thursday Crew**
Bill Falender, billfalender@hotmail.com

**Asheville Friday crew** *
Skip Sheldon, shellalla@bellsouth.net

**Pisgah Friday Crew** *
Pete Petersen, roap@aol.com

**Wilderness Crew** *
Becky Smucker, bjsmucker@gmail.com

**Quarterly Saturday Crew** *
Les Love, leslove@charter.net

**AT Maintainers**
Tim Carrigan, tim@newprism.com

**MST Maintainers**
Heintooga Road to Old Bald
Larry Sobil, lsoibil@bellsouth.net

Old Bald to Mt. Pisgah Parking Lot
Pete Petersen, roap@aol.com

Mt. Pisgah Parking Lot to Folk Art Center
Les Love, leslove55@gmail.com

Folk Art Center to Black Mtn. Campground
John Whitehouse, johnwhitehouse@ccvn.com

**HIKE SCHEDULE First Quarter 2016**

**HIKE RATINGS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Letter</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation Gain</th>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Over 12 miles</td>
<td>Over 2,000 ft.</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>9.1-12 miles</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>6.1-9 miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Up to 6 miles</td>
<td>Under 1,000 ft.</td>
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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.

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.

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. 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, pjbar@gmail.com

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

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

**LTC** For hiking all 24 lookout towers in WNC. Contact Peter Barr, pjbar@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

**A.T./MST** For hiking the combined 228 miles of the A.T. and the MST on sections maintained by the Club. Contact Vance Mann, hvancem@icloud.com

**YPC** For hiking eight different Land Management areas with youth 17 and under. Contact Kay Shurtleff at kshurtleff@msn.com

**YOUTH PARTNER CHALLENGE HIKES**

The Youth Participation Challenge is designed to welcome and encourage youth to fun and educational hiking experiences. Hikes are open to CMC members, and newcomers are welcome. Call the leader before the hike. YPC hikes submitted by Jan Onan, 828-606-5188, janonan59@gmail.com and Kay Shurtleff, 828-280-3226 or 828-749-9230, kshurtleff@msn.com. Driving distance is round trip from Asheville. Meet at either location listed in the schedule.

**SATURDAY WORKDAY**

For the Saturday MST Trail Building Workdays in 2016, meet at 8:30 at the Home Depot at the Enka-Candler Exit 44 off of I-40.

Workdays for 2016 are March 19, May 7, June 4, August 20 and October 1. 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.

**SUNDAY WORKDAY**

For the Saturday AT hike to see the top of High Falls, followed by hiking back to the trailhead and a short hike to Hooker Falls. Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont State Recreational Forest Trails Map

Half-Day No. H1601-316 Mar. 20
Carl Sandburg Park *12:15 PM
Hike 4, Drive 70, 700 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Jan Onan, 828-698-3237, cell: 828-606-5188, janonan59@gmail.com and Kay Shurtleff, kshurtleff@msn.com

**YPC** Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at Carl Sandburg parking lot at 1:00 PM. Driving Directions: I-26 E to Exit 53; right onto Upward Rd. to end; left onto US 225; right onto Little River Rd.; left into parking lot for Carl Sandburg Nat’l. Historic Park. Traverse the same trails that poet/author Carl Sandburg enjoyed. Hike to overlook on Big Glassy Mountain. Return via same route, but turn at barn trail. After hike, enjoy walking around the goats in the barn and tour Carl Sandburg’s historic house for a small fee. Topo(s): Hendersonville

**WEDNESDAY HIKES**

Wednesday hikes submitted by Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656, bdbworley@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; start times vary. Times listed are departure times – arrive early.

Wednesday No. W1601-001 Jan. 6
Case Camp - Seniardi Ridge Loop 8:30 AM
Hike 8, Drive 80, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Mary Beth Gwynn, cell: 828-545-6487, mbgwynn@gmail.com

**P400, WC100** This loop hike is scheduled for our coldest month to see 50-ft. frozen cascades along the closed Blue Ridge Parkway. We’ll do a two-mile climb up to the MST and some gentle MST hiking before our lunch spot with great views of the mountains. After lunch, we’ll hike downhill through beautiful woods on the Seniard Ridge Trail. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Loo at 9:00 AM. Topo(s): Shining Rock; also pp. 36-39 of MST Trail Profiles book and NatGeo map #780

Wednesday No. W1601-444 Jan. 13
Avery Creek Loop 8:30 AM
Hike 10, Drive 80, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Beth Fluharty, cell: 828-231-5785, elfluharty@gmail.com

**P400, WC100** A scenic hike featuring waterfalls and a beaver dam. We’ll first climb to Buckhorn Gap via Twin Falls, then follow the Black Mtn. Trail to Club Gap, with our return downhill on the Avery Creek Trail. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Loo at 9:00 AM. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also NatGeo. map #780
**Weekend Hikes**

**P400** This hike will traverse the Trace Ridge Trailhead area that was logged in 2014 and allow us to see first-hand the effect of logging on our hiking trails. We'll circle Coffee Pot Mountain by hiking up FS 5097. Then we will take a side trail to Trace Ridge Trail to Beaver Dam Gap on the BRP and return on the Spencer Branch Trail, and stop to see the Hendonville reservoir and dam. **Second meeting place:** Mills River Ingles on NC 280, behind gas pumps, at 8:50 AM. **Topo(s):** Dunsmore Mountain; also NatGeo map #780

**Wednesday No. W1601-297**
Jan. 27
**Sams Gap South**
10:00 AM
Hike 5, Drive 55, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Paul Benson, cell: 828-273-2098, pdbenson@charter.net
A moderate in-and-out hike from Sams Gap to the Hog Back Ridge Shelter and return along the Appalachian Trail. This will be a snowshoe hike if there is snow. **Topo(s):** Sams Gap

**Wednesday No. W1601-548**
Feb. 3
**Sams Gap to Big Bald**
8:00 AM
Hike 13, Drive 55, 3300 ft. ascent, Rated AA-AA
Janet Martin, cell: 502-494-5309, jaykaymartin@msn.com
This will be a challenging A.T. hike up to see some spectacular views from the summit of Big Bald. If the weather is clear, we will be able to see into the Rocky Ford Tract that the A.T.C. recently bought to protect the A.T. view shed. **Topo(s):** Sams Gap; also ATC TN-NC map #3

**Wednesday No. W1601-280**
Feb. 10
**North Slope and Art Loeb Trails**
8:30 AM
Hike 75, Drive 62, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Ken & Carol Deal, 828-274-7070, cnkdeal@charter.net
**P400** Form carpools at Westgate and meet leaders at the Mills River Ingles parking lot on NC 280, behind the gas pumps, at 8:50 AM. We start at the Davidson River Campground and ascend on the Art Loeb Trail to the North Slope Connector. We'll eat lunch at the intersection before we start down the connector to the North Slope Trail, ending with a lovely, easy stroll along the river to the cars. **Topo(s):** Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

**Wednesday No. W1601-778**
Feb. 17
**Bracken Mountain - Brushy Creek Trail**
9:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 70, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Stuart English, cell: 828-384-4870, stuenco@comporium.net
**Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:30 AM.** This hike will include the Bracken Mtn. and Brushy Creek Trails. This is a great winter hike with good views. **Topo(s):** Rosman; also Bracken Preserve Trail System Map

**Wednesday No. W1601-596**
Feb. 24
**Foothills Trail: Laurel Fork Gap to Lake Jocassee**
8:00 AM
Hike 10, Drive 103, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Daisy Karasek, 828-505-2056, cell: 408-887-3666, daisytk@yahoo.com
We'll hike the Foothills Trail in SC, from Laurel Fork Gap to Lake Jocassee. This in-and-out hike along Laurel Fork Creek features a beautiful stream, waterfalls, great bridges, and a scenic lakeside lunch spot. **Second meeting place:** Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 8:30 AM. **Topo(s):** Eastatoe Gap, Reid; also Foothills Trail map

**Wednesday No. W1601-421**
Mar. 2
**Canebrake Trail**
8:30 AM
Hike 10, Drive 95, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Barbara Morgan, cell: 828-460-7066, barbc129@gmail.com
We'll start the hike at the Frozen Creek Rd. parking lot in Gorges State Park and hike down the Canebrake Trail to our lunch spot at the Foothills Trail pedestrian bridge where the Towaway River enters Lake Jocassee. Return via same route. **Second meeting place:** Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. **Topo(s):** Reid; also Gorges State Park map

**Wednesday No. W1601-254**
Mar. 9
**Green Knob via Snooks Nose**
8:00 AM
Hike 9, Drive 65, 3600 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
Richard Sampson, 704-948-0425, cell: 704-453-9059, richardsampson360@gmail.com
*LTC* Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:20 AM. This strenuous trip beginning at the Curtis Creek Campground climbs up to, over, and above the Blue Ridge Parkway to the Green Knob fire tower. Great views along the way as well as at the lunch stop on the summit of Green Knob. Expect this to be a challenging hike in wintertime, and snow is possible at the upper elevations. **Topo(s):** Old Fort

**Wednesday No. W1601-186**
Mar. 16
**Little Pisgah Mountain**
8:30 AM
Hike 10, Drive 36, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Randy Fluharty, cell: 828-423-9030, rfluhraty54@gmail.com
A pleasant nearby hike. We'll hike from the new Florence Preserve parking lot on US 74-A up into an open meadow leading to the summit of Little Pisgah Mtn. If the weather is clear, the view doesn't get any better. **Topo(s):** Bat Cave

**Wednesday No. W1601-216**
Mar. 23
**Sams Gap to Devil Fork Gap**
8:00 AM
Hike 9, Drive 90, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Tish Desjardins, cell: 828-380-1452, desraylet@aol.com
*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at the corner of NC 208 and US 25/70 at 8:40 AM.** This section of the A.T. features nice views into Tennessee from the ridgeline, traversing a series of knobs along an unusual section of the TN-NC state line where Tennessee is east of N.C. and the southbound hiker is actually traveling north. This hike requires a car shuttle. Please bring enough cars to shuttle hikers. **Topo(s):** Sams Gap

**Wednesday No. W1601-806**
Mar. 30
**Shope Creek Loop**
8:30 AM
Hike 7.2, Drive 25, 2200 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
Jim Ariail, 828-505-0433, cell: 828-778-8355, jimariail@yahoo.com
*Only Meeting Place: Ingles store on US 70 across from the VA Hospital Old Pizza Hut side of parking lot.** We'll hike across the base of the mountain along a stream, then take a trail that leads to the ridge line. The trail is very steep near the top for a short distance. Then we hike along the ridgeline with beautiful views of the Riceville Valley. There is a rock scramble to Rocky Knob. Hiking poles are highly recommended. We will border the Asheveille watershed on one side and Riceville Valley on the other side for a while. **Topo(s):** Craggy Pinnacle

**ALL-DAY WEEKEND HIKES**

All-day hikes submitted by Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bnette@bellsouth.net. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All Saturday and Sunday hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center at I-240 exit 3B UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places, and starting times may vary.

**Friday No. A1601-281**
Jan. 1
**Green River Gamelands**
7:30 AM
8:00 AM Breakfast at Cracker Barrel, 9:15 AM Hike
Hike 8, Drive 70, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, cell: 828-699-6296, bnette@bellsouth.net
*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot off Exit 53 of I-26 at times above.** After breakfast, we'll do our traditional New Year's Day hike on a series of trails around the Green River Gamelands. We'll hike down to and along the Green River, with a late lunch at the big rocks on the Green River, and then hike up and out on the Paitland Creek Trail. Short car shuttle. **Topo(s):** Clifford Mtn.; also Trails of the Green River Gamelands map

**Sunday No. A1601-224**
Jan. 3
**Table Rock Loop**
8:30 AM
Hike 7.2, Drive 125, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Norm Sharp, 864-268-9409, cell: 864-609-7182, normSharp@att.net
*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s)
at Nature Center Parking lot in Table Rock State Park at 9:45 AM. Make stop at NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot off Exit 53 of I-26 at 9:00 AM for more hikers, before driving to Table Rock State Park. This is one of the classic South Carolina hikes with good views, starting from the Nature Center parking lot at Table Rock State Park. We will do an up-and-back to Table Rock summit with its spectacular views. We can add the two-mile Carrick Creek loop if people wish. We will skip the Bald Rock/Pinnacle Mountain portion in the hike database. $2 parking fee per person. Topo(s): Table Rock

Sunday No. A1601-001 Jan. 10
Case Camp - Seniard Ridge Loop 8:30 AM
Hike 8, Drive 80, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Mary Beth Gwynn, cell: 828-545-6487, mbgcnc@gmail.com

**P400, WC100** This loop hike is scheduled for our coldest month to see 50-ft. frozen cascades along the closed Blue Ridge parkway. We'll do a two-mile climb up to the MST and some gentle MST hiking before our lunch spot with great views of the mountains. After lunch, we'll hike downhill through beautiful woods on the Seniard Ridge Trail. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. Topo(s): Shining Rock; also pp. 36-39 of MST Trail Profiles book and NatGeo map #780

Saturday No. A1601-172 Jan. 16
John Rock Loop Hike 8:10 AM
Hike 6, Drive 72, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656, cell: 828-606-7297, bdworley@gmail.com

**P400, WC100** *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at Fish Hatchery Parking lot off FS 475 at 10:45 AM.* This moderate loop hike starts at the Fish Hatchery parking lot, goes up to see the great views from John Rock, and then continues through Cat Gap and down along Cedar Rock Creek, with a stop to see one nice waterfall. Topo(s): Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1601-634 Jan. 17
High Top Tower Site 8:10 AM
Hike 10, Drive 65, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Brent Martin, 828-587-9453, cell: 828-524-7400, brent.martin@tws.org

**P400** *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at Jukebox Junction on US 276 at NC 215 at 9:00 AM.* Wilderness hike, limited to ten hikers—call leader for reservation. This hike was a longtime favorite of the scouts at Camp Daniel Boone years ago. From the camp we will ascend to High Top with its excellent views, and then follow the Fork Mtn. ridge before descending to the rushing Little East Fork of the Pigeon River. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1601-636 Jan. 24
Coontree - Bennett Gap -

Pressley Cove Lollipop 9:00 AM
Hike 8.4, Drive 75, 2550 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
Bob Hysko, cell: 828-243-3630, rhysko@yahoo.com

**P400** This hike is an extension of the popular half-day Coontree Loop hike. We ascend the left branch of Coontree Trail, proceed in-and-out on Bennett Gap and Pressley Cove Trails, and descend on the right branch of Coontree Trail to the cars. We will visit an old homestead chimney, a remnant of the farming community between Pressley Cove and Maxwell Cove. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:30 AM. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest; also NatGeo map #780

Saturday No. A1601-633 Jan. 30
Mackay Mountain - Buckeye Knob 9:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 70, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Randy Fluharty, 828-253-1626, cell: 828-423-9030, rfluharty54@gmail.com

This hike will cover approximately 8 miles through remnant old-growth forest with spectacular views of the Black Mtns. and surrounding area. About half of the hike will be along a ridge-line. Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 9:20 AM. Topo(s): Old Fort

Sunday No. A1601-056 Jan. 31
Turkey Pen Roller Coaster 8:30 AM
Hike 9.4, Drive 60, 3200 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Michael and Kathy Corn, cell: 828-458-1281, mcorn@aol.com

*Form carpools at westgate and meet leader(s) at intersection of NC 191 and Turkey Pen Rd. at 8:50 AM.* This great winter hike starts at Turkey Pen parking area, then around Sharpy Mountain and around Black Mountain, ending at the Pisgah Maintenance parking lot. A long uphill, but with good views from our lunch spot at Black Mountain. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1601-231 Feb. 7
Cane River Gap to Point Misery 8:30 AM
(strenuous)
Hike 9.5, Drive 60, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Carroll Koeppinger, 828-667-0723, cell: 828-230-1861, lesrlove55@gmail.com
Les and Catherine Love, 828-658-1489, cell: 828-423-9030, lkoepplinger@yahoo.com

**P400** From Yellow Gap, we'll hike up the Laurel Mountain Trail to Sassafras Gap, and then turn downhill to the Slate Rock Creek Trail, following this pretty mountain stream down to Yellow Gap Rd. Short car shuttle. Second meeting place: Ingles on NC 191 at N. Mills River Rd., by gas pumps, at 9:20 AM. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1601-596 Feb. 21
Foothills Trail: Laurel Fork Gap to Lake Jocassee 8:00 AM
Hike 10.8, Drive 103, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Daisy Karasek, 828-505-2036, cell: 408-887-3666, daisytk@yahoo.com

We'll hike the Foothills Trail in SC, from Laurel Fork Gap to Lake Jocassee. This in-and-out hike along Laurel Fork Creek features a beautiful stream, waterfalls, great bridges and a scenic lakeside lunch spot. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 8:30 AM. Topo(s): Eastatoe Gap, Reid; also Foothills Trail map

Saturday No. A1601-330 Feb. 27
Raven Cliff Falls 9:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 95, 1450 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Judy and Jim Magura, cell: 828-606-1490, jqs290@gmail.com

**WC100** We'll do a pleasant walk to the pedestrian bridge over the top of a beautiful 250 ft. waterfall...
in Caesar’s Head State Park in S.C. The hike will follow the Raven Cliff Falls Trail and a portion of the Foothills Trail to the bridge, and return on the same trails. $5 per person park fee.

**Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:30 AM.** Topo(s): Table Rock; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area trail map

Sunday No. A1601-305  Feb. 28
**DuPont Forest Lake Imaging P.L. #1 8:30 AM**
Hike 13.4, Drive 82, 2300 ft. ascent, Rated AA-AA
Jay Bretz, 828-658-1220, williambretz1220@gmail.com
This low-altitude hike will traverse a loop on the northern side of DuPont Forest, from Lake Imaging to Stone Mtn., including Grassy Falls, the Thomas Cemetery and Wintergreen Falls.

**Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM.** Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont State Recreational forest Trail Map

Sunday No. A1601-708  Mar. 6
**Maddron Bald 8:00 AM**
(strenuous)
Hike 12, Drive 150, 3500 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA+
Janet Martin, cell: 502-494-9309, jaykaymartin@msn.com
900M Spectacular old growth forests, tumbling cascades, and wet stream crossings add up to a memorable hike on the north side of the Smokies near Cosby, with a mostly gentle, but long and steady climb up Maddron Bald Trail and a shorter, steeper descent on Snake Den Trail. Car shuttle.

**Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop off Exit 24 of I-40 at 8:30 AM, but contact leader first.**
Topo(s): Luftee Knob, Mt. Guyot, Jones Cove; also NatGeo map #317

Sunday No. A1601-848  Mar. 6
**Three Forks Mountain 9:00 AM**
(moderate)
Hike 5.4, Drive 75, 2260 ft. ascent, Rated C-AA
Dave Wetmore, cell: 828-577-0648, dwetmore@comporium.net
*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:30 AM.* This Brevard area hike is a short but interesting loop hike and will be a variation of a hike led last year. It has good trail, bad trail, off-trail and old forest roads ranging from good to very poor. Although somewhat obscured by trees, the view from the summit of Three Forks Mountain is interesting. The off-trail portion is mostly ridgeline, with a steep descent into Cycleham Gap. Topo(s): Rosman; also NatGeo map #780

Saturday No. A1601-691  Mar. 12
**Upper Whitewater Falls - Round Mountain Gap 9:30 AM**
Hike 7, Drive 120, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471, mwbromberg@gmail.com
*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at corner of US 25/70 & NC 208 at 8:45 AM.*
Go along nine of the most scenic miles on the A.T., featuring two shelters, a historic gravestone and beautiful views from atop Big Butt. After the Jerry's Cabin shelter, we'll turn left and go down the Fork Ridge Trail to the parking lot in the Carmen area. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Greystone; also NatGeo map #782

**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 Gail Lamb, 828-338-0443, glamb46@gmail.com and Lee Silver, 828-668-7147, leesilver@aol.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, and starting times may vary. *Times listed are departure times – arrive early.*

Half-Day No. H1601-32  Jan. 3
**Warren Wilson Loop 12:30 PM**
Hike 6.1, Drive 24, 850 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Bobbi Powers, 828-667-5419, bobbipowers23@gmail.com
Resolved for 2016: Hike more! Start now! This hike will encircle Warren Wilson College by following the River Trail from Owen Park along the Swannanoa River to and across Old School House Rd. and Riceville Rd. to a high meadow with 360-degree views. From there we will continue the circle on various trails and roads, including the Trail of Fortune and Mulh Trail to the cars. This is a variation on hike #320. **Second meeting place:** Charles D. Owen Park at 12:50 PM. Topo(s): Oteen; also Warren Wilson College Trails Map

Half-Day No. H1601-431  Jan. 10
**Chestnut Cove to MST 12:00 PM**
*To Sleepy Gap to Explorer Trail* *12:00 PM* Hike 5, Drive 12, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Dick Zimmerer, 828-989-0480, dd1zz@yahoo.com
*P400* Only meeting place: Toys-R-Us parking lot on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets.
This loop hike begins with a moderately steep climb from the Bent Creek Gap Road to the MST, but is otherwise an easy walk. Poles are recommended, especially if there is any ice or snow on hike day.
Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also USFS Bent Creek Trail Map

Half-Day No. H1601-630  Jan. 17
**Another Bent Creek Loop 12:00 PM**
Hike 5.5, Drive 18, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Linda Blue, 828-296-7537, lblue@bellsouth.net
We will park at the Sandy Bottoms Recreation Area and begin our hike with a long uphill climb on the Shut-in section of the MST. The loop will include the Hard Times Road, Rocky Cove Trail, Owl Ridge Trail and back to the Hard Times Road to take us out through the Arboretum entrance to our cars. This is a variation on hike #630. Topo(s):...
Skyland; also NatGeo map #780 and USFS Bent Creek Trail Map

Coontree Loop *12:30 PM
Hike 3.7, Drive 65, 1050 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Lee Belknapp, 828-693-2635, cell: 828-674-3631, rivergypsy@sprintmail.com
P400 *First meeting place: Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 1:00 PM. This loop hike is partially along a lovely creek, with views on Coontree Mountain ridge. Some steep areas. Topo(s): Shining Rock

Half-Day No. H1601-511 Jan. 31
Florence Nature Preserve *12:00 PM
Hike 5, Drive 20, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Ron and Barb Navik, 585-662-8047, ron.navik@gmail.com
*Only meeting place: Ingles parking lot, off Exit 64 of I-40 at 12:00 PM. This hike will take us into the history of Montreat, with special focus on the trestle railroad for logging, opened for passengers in 1914 to encourage tourism, and the 21-mile Mount Mitchell auto toll road. This modification of hike #767 will return via Rainbow Trail. Topo(s): Montreat; also Montreat Trail Map

Half-Day No. H1601-852 Feb. 14
Jones Mountain *12:30 PM
Hike 4.1, Drive 8, 750 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Dennis Bass, 828-367-8619, DBass3607@gmail.com
*Only meeting place: Back parking lot of Folk Art Center. A short, close to town, hike that meanders around and over Jones Mountain, passing some intriguing ruins on the campus of Warren Wilson College. There are some steep uphill sections. Topo(s): Oteen; also Warren Wilson trails map

Half-Day No. H1601-591 Feb. 21
Bent Creek Loop #13 *12:00 PM
Hike 5, Drive 6, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Stuart English, cell: 828-384-1759, stuengo@comporium.net
P400 *Only meeting place: Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets. A pleasant winter walk along lesser-hiked trails and roads in Bent Creek, including Sidehill Connector, Lower Sidehill Trail, South Ridge Road, Chestnut Cove and Explorer Loop Trailhead. Topo(s): Skyland; also NatGeo map #780; also USFS Bent Creek Trail Map

Prizewinners from the CMC Gerry McNabb Photo Contest

Grand Prize: Janet Martin Treetops near Soco Gap (at left)
Winner of People on the Trail: Randy Pfluharty on Jane Bald
Winner of Landscapes: Jack Ollis on Roan Mountain
Winner of Plants and Animals: Carolyn Baker in Graveyard Fields

These photos may also be found on the home page of the CMC website and in the November eNews.

Half-Day No. H1601-108 Feb. 28
Green River Gamelands: Bishop Branch - Pulliam Creek - Rock Hop Trails *11:30 AM
Hike 6.5, Drive 70, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Tom Lucha, 828-696-9117, cell: 828-712-0736, luchat@bellsouth.net
*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at northeast corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot, off Exit 53 of I-26 at 12:00 PM. Deep forest hike with distant winter views of Green River Gorge. The Narrows and Bishop Branch Falls. We'll hike the Rock Hop Trail to complete the loop rather than walk along Big Hungry Road. Topo(s): Cliffs Mountain; also Trails of the Green River Gamelands map

Half-Day No. H1601-665 Mar. 6
Ox Creek Road to Rattlesnake Lodge *1:00 PM
Hike 5, Drive 30, 830 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Bonnie Allen, 828-645-0357, cell: 828-707-6115, bonnie@allencats.com
*Only meeting place: Back parking lot of Folk Art Center. Meet at Westgate if BRP is closed. Popular in-and-out hike to historic site. Unusually fine switchbacks. Topo(s): Craggy Pinnacle

Paint Rock Trail *12:00 PM
Hike 4, Drive 80, 1330 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Jack Dalton, 828-622-3704, jckdalton9@gmail.com
*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader(s) at NOC/Lovers Leap parking area in Hot Springs at 12:45 PM. Note: First day of DST. We will drive to the Paint Rock area on the French Broad River/Paint Creek just over the TN border, and hike up from the road to the intersection with Chimney Rocks and Paint Mountain Trails. From here we’ll have views of the French Broad River, with Hot Springs in the distance. This is an in-and-out hike. Topo(s): Hot Springs; also NatGeo map #782

Half-Day No. H1601-424 Mar. 27
Falls Creek Falls/ Mountain Bridge Wilderness *12:30 PM
Hike 2.6, Drive 45, 960 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Bev MacDowell, 828-777-5806, bevmacdowellhappy@gmail.com
*First meeting place: Form carpools at Toys-R-Us on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets, and meet leader(s) at Cracker Barrel off exit 53 of I-26 at 1:00 PM. Although this in-and-out hike is taxing, the hard work is rewarded with a breathtaking view of Falls Creek Falls, where you get an up-close look at the Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area’s most spectacular waterfall. This hike covers a portion of hike #424. The climb is strenuous. Hiking time will be 1½ hours one-way. Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area map
Carolina Mountain Club
P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802

NEXT CMC COUNCIL MEETING

When: Monday, February 22, 2016
Where: West Asheville Library Community Room
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Info: Call Barbara at 738-3395 if you would like to attend.
All CMC members are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP: Everyone is eligible for CMC membership by joining and paying dues. To join online or by paper application, go to www.carolinamountainclub.org and click on the green Join button just below the Member Login. Choose either Join CMC online or CMC application form (pdf). Don’t have internet access? Mail a note to the CMC address requesting an application form be mailed to you. Annual dues are $20 for individuals and $30 for families. Hikers are expected to join CMC after participating in a few hikes. Some trail maintenance activities are only open to members.

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Deadline next issue: February 15, 2016

CMC goes back to school

continued from page 1

Dave Wetmore (Secretary) and Jim Ariail (Treasurer). He explained changes to the bylaws that had not been revised since 2005.

Marci Spencer announced the winners of our two most prestigious awards. The Award of Appreciation went to the Asheville Friday Crew, and the Distinguished Service Award went to Danny Bernstein. All deserve A+ for outstanding work out of the classroom!

Even though a few students may have been doodling during class (aka business meeting), everyone perked up when Marci Spencer took the stage for our program. Marci, author of Pishag National Forest: A History, showered us with interesting tidbits, accompanied by photos, from her book. We learned about the Lost Penny Pine Forest, the Buckspring Lodge site, the USFS air quality monitoring station on Cold Mountain, and that Little Snowball fire tower, built by the CCC in 1934, was saved and is now at Big Ivy Historical Park. Thankfully, we were not tested on her material because in about half an hour she peppered us with one wonderful story after another – too many for this student to keep up with. She really knows her subject, and her book is available locally and on Amazon.

I gave the whole class period an A for awesome! Class dismissed.

HIKING INFORMATION: CMC hikes are open to all and we welcome guests. Non-members need to call or email the hike leader to introduce themselves and find out more about the hike. All hikers are encouraged to call or e-mail the leader if they have questions about the hike or the location of the meeting place. Hikes may be canceled by the leader due to adverse weather or dangerous roads. Minors are welcome on CMC hikes, if accompanied by a responsible adult. Pets are not allowed on CMC hikes.

Hikers will carpool from the meeting places to the trailhead and back. Passengers are expected to contribute 10 cents per mile towards the driver’s operating expenses. Most CMC hikes do not require reservations. However, check the hiking schedule to determine whether a reservation is required, and if so, call or email the leader to reserve your space.

Hike leaders have the right to reject participants who are not properly equipped for the hike or who are unlikely to be able to complete the hike. All hikers are expected to follow the leader’s instructions. No one should get ahead of the leader, or lag behind the sweep, without specific permission. Hikers should obtain the leader’s permission if they wish to leave the hike before its completion.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT: CMC’s website (www.carolinamountainclub.org, click on Hiking) has a full list of day hiking needs. Most critical are water, footwear, rain gear and a first aid kit. Carry at least two quarts of liquid (water, Gatorade, juice) for a full day hike, no matter what time of year. Hiking boots are recommended for all hikes. They should be broken in before the hike. Each CMC member and guest agrees to provide adequate food and water. Most hikes are 10 miles or more.

Weather changes quickly in the mountains. Even if there is no sign of rain in the morning, you need to be prepared for an afternoon shower. Your first aid kit should include any personal medication, including allergy medication, if needed. Wear layered clothing – you’ll want to take layers off during a strenuous climb or as the day proceeds, then put them back on in cooler conditions.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY: Each CMC member and guest agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her own safety and for the safety of accompanying minors. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant on hikes or trail maintenance activities. Each participant agrees to hold harmless and free from blame event leaders and the CMC, its officers and members, for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participating in Club hikes and other activities.

CONSERVATION: CMC works with other organizations concerned about the protection of our natural heritage to protect trails and the hiking experience in our hiking area. Phone the Councilor for Conservation for details.

Further information about regulations is available at www.carolinamountainclub.org