



Carolina Mountain Club

Since 1923

eNews | Hike . Save Trails . Make Friends.

June 2022



The beginning of CMC's 100th year is July 16, 2022!

To kick off our celebrations, CMC is offering a **\$100** discount on Family and Individual Lifetime memberships! All you need to do is pay for your Lifetime membership between July 16 and the

Your membership supports our newly established Endowment Fund which will help support CMC into the next 100 years!

Mark your calendars and help CMC begin and continue for the next 100 years!!



Save the date, June 16th, and plan on attending a groundbreaking art auction for Preserving a Picturesque America (PAPA), presented by Brunk Auctions!

Exquisite works of art by celebrated local artists will be on the auction block to support local organizations and their conservation efforts along the French Broad River. This is a unique opportunity to purchase impressive, original works of art. Even better, a portion of the proceeds from the auction will be contributed to protect natural landmarks in the beautiful mountains we call home!

The artwork below by Sandra Moore will be auctioned off to benefit CMC! CMC members Scott Varn and Mike Wurman will also be selling pieces.

Date: June 16, 2022

Location: Brunk Auctions, 117 Tunnel Road, Asheville

Time: 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

The event opens with an Art Preview and Artist Reception from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Meet the artists and savor the works on offer while enjoying wine, hors d'oeuvres, and musical entertainment by Phil Alley, acoustic guitarist. The live auction kicks off at 7:00 p.m. Be prepared to bid on the masterpiece that you want to take home.

Tickets are available on PAPA's website, <https://preservationthroughart.org>

- \$75/person
- \$125/couple

(Beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and bidding card are included in the price.)

These juried works, in a variety of mediums, depict modern-day versions of scenes along the French Broad River originally captured in the 1870s publication, *Picturesque America*. The publication of *Picturesque America* in the late 1800s helped ignite the conservation movement.

PAPA, a non-profit organization, was founded to find and re-create 1,000 original pieces from the 1870s series. This series depicted natural and historic landmarks from across the country for the purposes of education, conservation, and preservation. PAPA documents how these landmarks are today to determine if we have been good stewards. For more information about PAPA, or to see all the pieces available please visit <https://preservationthroughart.org/>

This auction is PAPA's major fundraiser and the culmination of its French Broad initiative. For each sale of artwork, the contributing artist receives 50% of the sale and a designated organization receives 50%. These organizations include the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Asheville Greenworks, Carolina Mountain Club, Chimney Rock State Park, Friends of Cherokee National Forest, MountainTrue, Pisgah Conservancy, and Riverlink — their portion of the proceeds is intended to support their efforts to protect places along the French Broad River and the health of the river itself.

Please come out to not only help preserve the beauty of our French Broad River Valley but also to support the generous artists who have given their time and talents to create the works you will see at the auction.

For more information about Preserving a Picturesque America (PAPA), visit them on the web at [Preserving a Picturesque America \(preservationthroughart.org\)](http://Preserving a Picturesque America (preservationthroughart.org)). For more information about the auction, contact PAPA at 828-273-5383.



Original 1870's Steel engraving by Harry Fenn



Modern version by Sandra Moore

MORE WEDNESDAY HIKE OPTIONS —

SHORTER, HALF-DAY HIKES

by Daisey Karasek

For over two years, CMC's Wednesday hike schedule has offered members with a choice of a strenuous all-day hike (8 miles or longer with significant elevation gain) and a moderate hike (5 to 7 miles with moderate elevation gain). Beginning with the next quarter (July - September), shorter hikes will also be offered. This is in response to a call for hikes to meet the needs and interest of beginning hikers as well as members who prefer shorter hikes.

Several hike leaders have stepped up to broaden our offerings. Next quarter's Wednesday schedule includes:

- a few short hikes on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, easily accessible from the Blue Ridge Parkway and providing good views and a chance to catch summer blooms at their peak.
- a short hike in "Vanderbilt Country" visiting the ruins of Buck Spring Lodge and its springhouse with great views from a few peaks.
- an easy stroll along the Swannanoa River bordering Warren Wilson College.
- walking up to Frying Pan Mountain Tower for panoramic views.

Those new to hiking in Western North Carolina are encouraged to review each hike description closely for distance, terrain and elevation gain to determine their ability to participate, enjoy and complete the hike. Hike leaders are available to answer your questions when you contact them during the sign-up process.

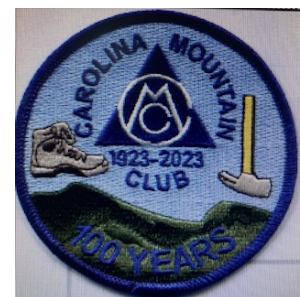
The third quarter hike schedules will be published mid-June.
HAPPY TRAILS!

Centennial Challenge

by Tom Weaver and Chris Koebelin

As announced in an earlier eNews article, Carolina Mountain Club has created a new challenge to celebrate our 100th anniversary.

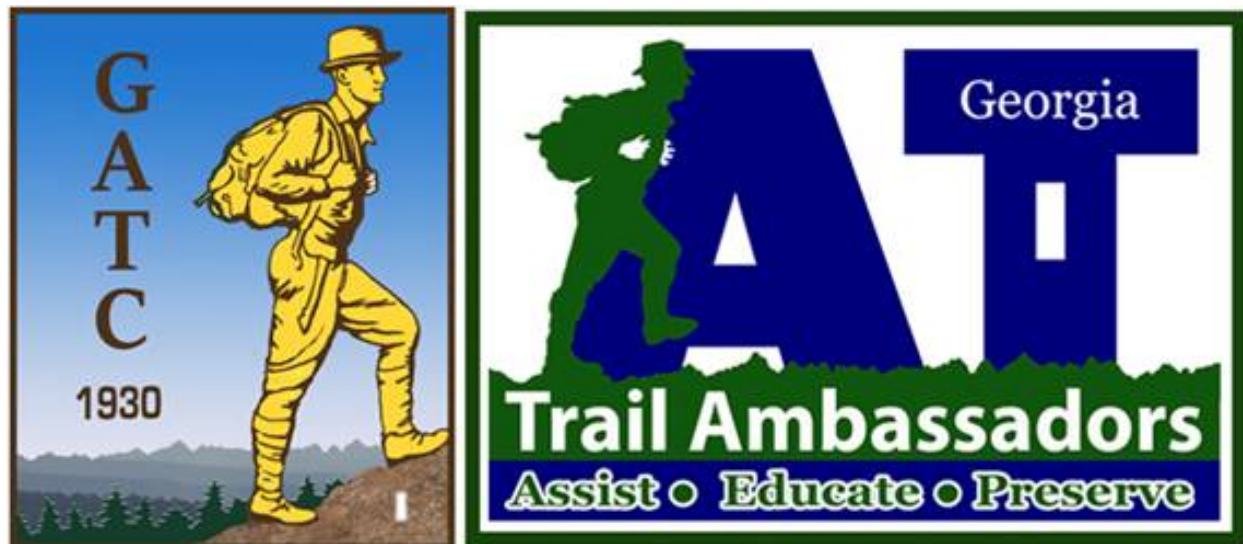
Called the **Centennial Challenge**, it requires club members to work 50 hours on our trails and hike 50 miles on club-led hikes over the course of 2022 and 2023. Completers will be awarded a certificate and a newly-designed patch.



The advantage of this challenge is that it is conceptually simple and CMC members of any fitness level can participate at their own speed. Many of our CMC challenges require a certain level of endurance and fitness to complete. Trail maintenance hours

can be as simple as scouting trails, lopping brush, or more physical tasks such as cleaning water diversions and more on a trail you have adopted or on trail crew events.

The existing CMC website trail maintenance hourly log will be used to track hours worked. There is a personal hike log form available to download so one can manually log their hiking accomplishments. Look for information on this challenge on the Carolina Mountain Club website under Challenges tab.



Trail Skills Workshop with Georgia A.T. Club

The annual Trail Skills Workshop (TSW), will be held at Lake Winfield Scott (Suches, GA) September 24-25, 2022. This training event is focused on teaching the most current trail construction and maintenance methods for Eastern landscapes. It is applicable for all skill levels. Expert instructors are provided from the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC), the United States Forest Service (FS) and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC).

This year's offering includes courses on rock construction, log cribbing, and sawyering in addition to introductory and advanced trail maintenance. The courses are offered so participants can attend different classes each day, or dig in on one track for in-depth knowledge.

For more information and to preregister visit georgia-atclub.org or contact Jay M Dement, 404-731-1901, tsw@georgia-atclub.org

CMC members presented trail maintenance skills courses at MST Gathering of Friends conference

by Skip Sheldon and Gail Snowdon

Carolina Mountain Club members developed and taught classes in trail maintenance skills at the recent MST Gathering of Friends conference. The courses were:

Basic trail maintenance including handling water issues and addressing trail cupping. Taught by Rich Evens, Paul Curtin, and Joe Bange.

Building box steps with locus logs. Taught by Chris Werbylo.

Building turnpikes to cover wet areas and roots. Taught by Ken Hummel

Building a trail bridge. Taught by Tom Weaver

All the courses received very positive feedback with many of the students saying they had learned new skills and had a great time doing it. In addition to the maintenance skills courses, a workshop on tool maintenance was given by Roy Davis and one on chainsaw maintenance by Skip Sheldon. Gail Snowdon videoed several of the sessions and put them on a YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/4VVc4R9mSsQ>.

Paul Curtin Receives an Award

by Tom Weaver

Our own Paul Curtin was recognized at the recent Southern Partnership Meeting in Damascus, VA as the 2022 ATC Deep South Region **Club Volunteer of the Year!**

This award recognizes an A.T. club volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the Trail and/or ATC. The candidate should show initiative, effectiveness and dedication to ATC's mission and programs in Georgia, Tennessee and/or North Carolina.

Paul, our A.T. Supervisor, has led the ATC's Visitor Use Management process over the past several years, recruiting and training Trail Ambassadors to help restore Max Patch. Additionally, he started and leads our Remote Overnight Crew, is co-leader of the Friday Asheville Crew, is a section maintainer for both the A.T. and MST and is now in the top 20 all-time for trail maintenance hours since joining Carolina Mountain Club just 6 years ago. Paul is also an alumni of the ATC VLM (volunteer leadership management) training and is working on a project that will help CMC. He is a member of the ATC-inspired CMC Diversity and Inclusion Committee which has been active for over a year now.



Jen Barnhart, Appalachian district ranger; Tom Weaver; Paul Curtin; Drew Ball, ATC southern regional director

Another Great Garlic Mustard Day!

by Barbara Morgan



On May 3, Matt Drury and his seasonal employee Michael Kochinski joined Neill Hurst, Mary Swain, and me to continue our project to pull invasive garlic mustard from the area of the A.T. at Lemon Gap. CMC is helping out with our Natural Resources Team to provide additional people-power to combat invasives in several A.T. areas, and this year was our 7th year working in the same area, and we're really making a difference!

Matt's official title is Associate Director of Science and Stewardship for the ATC and he had this to say about our day in the woods: "I do really appreciate performing stewardship on our public lands with awesome folks like you!

And it's so encouraging to see the positive impact our work has had at that site! Thanks for all your work!"



Lew Blodgett Receives Prestigious Honor from Gov. Roy Cooper

by Donna Bange



May 2022 was a big month for Lew Blodgett, CMC Trail Maintainer. He turned 99 years old and was inducted into the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society. This esteemed Society is the highest honor given to a North Carolina resident and includes such prominent individuals as Colin Powell, Maya Angelou and Dale Earnheart. Lew received a proclamation from NC Governor Roy Cooper.

Lew is still volunteering once a week doing trail maintenance on the A.T. or MST with Roy Davis. Lew was honored at the Spring Social by CMC President Tom Weaver. His daughter Daphne and son-in-law Bruce drove up from South Carolina to attend the Spring Social.

Roy and Donna Bange prepared the nomination package for Lew's admission to this prominent society which additionally included a recommendation letter from the ATC Director. Lew plans to continue trail maintenance next year so that he can celebrate both his 100 year birthday and CMC's 100th year anniversary.



Mt. Mitchell Quarterly Crew-23 April

by Donna Bange



This past month CMC held the first 2022 Quarterly crew at Mt. Mitchell State Park. Mt. Mitchell is the highest peak east of the Rocky Mountains. The MST trail connects from Camp Alice to the path leading to the top of Mt. Mitchell. There were over 40 volunteers present to rebuild the trail with rock steps and water diversions.

Mt. Mitchell has a very sensitive ecosystem with endangered species and fir trees. Care was taken to use only rocks and dirt immediately adjacent to the trail. The next quarterly crew is Saturday, June 4 on National Trails Day at Mt. Mitchell. Quarterly Crew is led by Les Love, Joe Bange and Chris Werbylo with support from Todd Eveland.



Pisgah Project Day at Skinny Dip Falls-Carolina Mountain Club (CMC)

by Donna Bange

Skinny Dip Falls along the MST & Blue Ridge Parkway is an iconic hiking and tourist destination. For years, individuals of all ages would jump from the rocks into a deep pool below, just above the Falls. Unfortunately, Tropical Storm Fred and the resulting flooding completely destroyed the steps and the bridge. Likewise, Tropical Storm Fred changed the rock formations and resulting water flow. This year, the Pisgah Conservancy hosted their annual Pisgah Project Day in late April. The CMC Trail Maintenance team chose Skinny Dip Falls.



Tom Weaver, CMC Trails Facility Manager, and Todd Eveland, Councilor for Trail Maintenance, worked very closely with Pisgah Forest Service to lay out a new trail and get their design approval on two sets of ladder steps. Under Tom's leadership, these ladder steps were built and installed. They enable hikers a safer means to go from the trail down to the water and then reconnect with the MST trail on the other side of the Falls. Tuesday, Saturday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday CMC weekday crews worked to repair the trail and prep for the ladder steps installation. On Saturday April 30, Todd Eveland organized over 30 volunteers to restore the trail and complete ladder step installations. CMC had volunteers that ranged in age from 15 to 80.

This was a major CMC project to restore an iconic Asheville hiking trail and tourist destination. CMC also anticipates additional work to rebuild the MST hiking trail adjacent to Skinny Dip Falls over the next couple years.

Engaging the Next Generation in Trail Crew

by Donna Bange

It is never too late to start engaging the next generation in hiking trail maintenance. On Saturday, April 30 Bob Boyle, long time CMC trail maintainer, and his 15-year-old grandson Tyler participated in the Pisgah Project days at Skinny Dip Falls. Skinny Dip Falls is a very popular destination on the MST trail.



The steps and bridge were completely destroyed last fall by Tropical Storm Fred. CMC, under the leadership of Tom Weaver, has built two new ladder steps to cross the stream. Tyler helped carry locust logs to rebuild steps down to the Falls. He also was able to do rock work to build new rock steps near the water crossing. Tyler worked with Tom Weaver to install the new ladder steps and do rock work. Bob Boyle commented that his grandson had a great day. Tyler was able to see first-

hand the hard work that goes into rebuilding an iconic hiking trail.

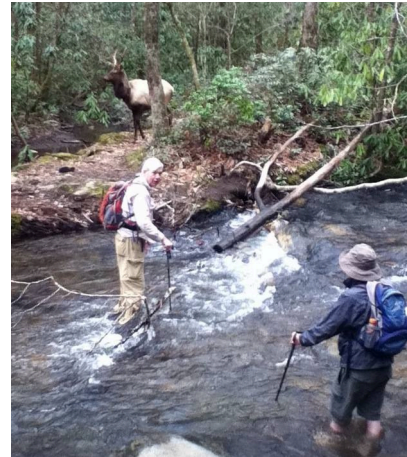
Mike Knies Profile

by Kathy Kyle

Mike Knies is known for his bushwacks, his love of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, his quirky sense of humor and his willingness to share those loves with the Carolina Mountain Club. He recently answered some questions to share more about himself.

When did you start hiking and how did you become interested in hiking?

I was born at a very young age. When I was six, we stopped at Newfound Gap on the way back from vacation. (He grew up in Tennessee) There was a path leading from the parking lot called the Appalachian Trail. My dad said it was created by the Indians and went to Pennsylvania. I wanted to see the other end! When I was eleven my Boy Scout Troop planned a weeklong trip from Cosby to Cades Cove. The first day was hell climbing the Low Gap Trail to the Cosby shelter. The second day a parent in the group ahead of us had a heart attack and died on the trail. His son was trying to give him artificial respiration when I walked by. The third day it rained all day. The fourth day bears kept us out of the shelter. Things got better from thereon and I was hooked!



You sign your emails “Shemp”. Where does Shemp come from?

All my male friends love the three stooges. Shemp was the least popular Stoooge so....

What did you do before moving to WNC?

I was an attorney in the investment business with a number of banks. Our motto was “We will make you a millionaire! Bring us two million and we will lose half of it!” I was doing time in Pittsburgh before getting out for good behavior and retiring to Asheville. Pennsylvania is known as “The Gateway to West Virginia”.

When did you join CMC?

I joined in 2006 and moved to Asheville in 2008. I wanted to join before anyone had a chance to meet me. I never planned to join a club that would have someone like me for a member!!

My regret is that out of 1,000 club members only about four have my interests in off-trail hiking and two of them have retired from hiking. Even so, the club is a great resource for our community, so I give back by leading eight hikes a year, scouting an A.T. section and infrequently working on trail crews. Maintainers do incredible work way beyond my “If it’s open and dry, it’s good enough!” philosophy.

What is your idea of a “perfect” hike?

It starts with perfect weather, 25 degrees, sunny, early start, no wind and two or three inches of snow. With the snow you can see all the animal tracks in addition to the beauty. Being a wimp, I don’t do bad weather like hiking in rain or when it’s over 70. I prefer winter with no leaves, weeds, bugs, humidity or wildflowers, especially those acres of bland spring beauties!! My ideal group is three when one is absent and one is deceased. I like to hike by myself off trail about every other trip. There is just a magical feeling being alone exploring the woods, prepared and self-reliant. It isn’t off trail but Carver Gap in the snow is my favorite hike in the East.

I am different from my hiking buddies. For them “being there” is what is important. For me it’s “getting there”. I always have an objective, something to find or explore like an old homesite, remote waterfall, former trail or a logging railroad grade. That objective is

more important than just being in the woods. It's a reason I don't really like doing many of the same trails over.

I have hiked all but two miles of the current 900 Challenge. I am saving the last two miles of the Gatlinburg Trail, which can be done in a wheelchair, until I am 81. Having started at eleven it will have taken me 70 years and that must be a record. I know a lot of people that have hiked all the trails numerous times. For me there are about 500 miles of "canopy" hikes that just aren't worth doing again!

How did you become interested in abandoned trails and artifacts?

I like exploration and discovery. Hiking the Old Settler's and Lakeshore Trails I noticed a lot of old homesites. I got some old maps and started checking them off. So far, I have explored about 1,200 homesites in the Smokies. I am trying to get it added to CMC as "The Shemp Homesite Challenge"!

Tell us how you find the abandoned trails in the GSMNP.

I made friends with the Park librarian and archivist. They found old trail guides in their records. So far, I have approximated (some are so faint or overgrown that you can't actually walk them) 65 sections of former official Park trails that have been abandoned.

What has been your most memorable recent hike? Why?

At my age I am lucky to remember the last one. On club hikes I keep meeting new people who tell me they have been on multiple hikes of mine before. Seriously, last fall in Glacier National Park, my seventh trip. We had filled in Gable Pass when we couldn't get to Canada. It turned out to have incredible views and wild weather. I ended up chasing three grizzly bears across a boulder field and got pictures.

What are your current projects?

I write pithy boring stories about my hikes so I will have something to read and remember when they roll me out in the sun "at the home". I am working with WCU's Hunter Library to put my Cataloochee stories online in their Collection.

What hike are you looking forward to next?

Generally, the next one if I don't forget it and if I wake up that morning. Really, a trip with Brazilian friends I met in Iceland to Mont Blanc in August and then in September the Canadian Rockies with my regular group.

Carolina Mountain Club eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Send your news to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month. Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words. You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments.

To join Carolina Mountain Club go to : www.carolinamountainclub.org. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side. Follow the instructions. For all address and email changes, log in, select "Modify Profile", make changes and click on "Update Member" or email Dennis Bass at dbass3607@gmail.com. Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.