HALF-DAY: June 30, 2008
Big Creek Trail in Pisgah Ranger District $1.00
Nonmembers, call leader, Greg Goodman, 828-684-9703
Hike #5, Drive No. Rated B-C
*Note early start time. We will proceed to the trailhead in Big Creek, then retracing our steps.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT:
CMC hikes are open to all ages and are suitable for all ability levels. Comfortable clothing and footwear are advised.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY:
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 CMC hikes and other activities.

CMC 2007 Spring Barbecue
The third annual Spring Barbecue will be held at the beautiful NC Arboretum on Saturday, April 19 from 2 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. CMC members, their families and friends are welcome. You do not have to be a member to attend.

There will be two hikes in the Arboretum, both ending at the new Baker Visitor Center. Paula Robbins will lead the first at 1:30 p.m., taking time to identify spring wildflowers. At 3 p.m., Sherman Stambaugh will lead a hike starting on the Carolina Mountain Trail. Both are easy loop hikes of about 5 miles, returning with plenty of time to enjoy the Arboretum. 6:00 p.m., Bobba B will again serve barbeque pork and chicken, sides and dessert.

The program will be an “Old Timers” info session, CMC members enjoy barbeque at the 2007 spring social.
In November, 2007, CMC lost one of its icons. Dr. Edward Dunn passed away at the age of 89. Ed Dunn was a CMC member since 1963. He had over 10,000 hours of trail maintenance in Pisgah National Forest by 1991. He was 1996 Volunteer of the Year with the Blue Ridge Parkway. In 2003 he was awarded the President’s Call to Service Award for more than 4,000 hours of trail maintenance on the Appalachian Trail. At the age of 86, he was named the North Carolina Volunteer of the year by the American Hiking Society.

Don Walton recalls, “When I joined CMC in 1992 there was a trail work requirement before you could become a member. My work day was with the Friday Crew on the AT towards Sugarloaf Mountain. Ed Dunn was assigned to be my trail mentor the day. I remember clearly how dedicated and knowledgeable Ed was as he patiently explained the process of trail maintenance to me. This was my first exposure ever to trail maintenance.”

Piet Bodenhorst said, “Many just take, but Ed Dunn gave back. He was a doer.” Bernard Elias said, “He has almost single-handedly created, explored, and established new hiking trails. He was instrumental in introducing the South Beyond 6000 program to the club and managed it alone for many years.”

Ed Dunn was one of the legendary figures in our club. If you never met him; you wish you had. But if you appreciate our club the way it is today and walk those trails, then maybe you know him after all.

Map reading, GPS course available for members; what can you teach?
Are you an expert on flowers, trees, birds, wildlife, history, geology, insects, or Katrina? An expert is someone who has the history associated with a section of the A.T. or the day. I remember clearly how dedicated and knowledgeable Ed was as he patiently explained the process of trail maintenance to me. This was my first exposure ever to trail maintenance.”

Most of us would agree that our youth would benefit by spending more time in the woods and that we will need future volunteers to continue our conservation and trail maintenance efforts. One of the goals of the education committee is to promote member involvement with the Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC). This program is sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service with the assistance of other non-profit and business partners. The program seeks to link communities along the Appalachian Trail and promote stewardship and volunteerism through education and service-learning projects close to home.

In its third year, the 2008 program offers a sequence of three learning events to classroom teachers. Once accepted into the program, educators will attend a spring weekend workshop at the Hike Inn in Georgia, a week-long summer institute at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV and a fall weekend event in Hot Springs. There is no cost to participants. Funds are provided, in part, by sales of AT license plates.

Several CMC members and educators are applying. Other club members who are interested in working with teachers and students on hike leader- ship, Leave No Trace and other hiking related topics may contact Kate Fisher at fish-wein@ioa.com or Jan Onan at janonan@bellsouth.net.

There is life after being CMC President

CMC Presidents continue to contribute to our Club and the broader hiking community after they leave office. Howard McDonald, who was CMC’s A.T. Supervisor for many years, is now CMC’s Manager for Trail Facilities, responsible for building bridges, shelters and other facilities on all of the trails we maintain. His first project will be to install bear cables at the shelters on our section of the A.T.

Don Walton is our Supervisor for the A.T. and MST, as well as our Webmaster. Don was also our representative to the A.T.’s Southern Regional Partnership Council (with Howard—his alternate) and for the past two years, Chair of that group. Don also maintains our trail maintenance database, which keeps track of both problems on the trail that require trail crew attention, and the number of hours worked by each CMC volunteer.

Don McNabb is Chair of our Communications Committee, and writes the Club’s press releases when we need them. All of those nice mentions of CMC that you see in local newspapers don’t just happen. Gerry also organized and judged the photo contest at our 2007 Annual Dinner.

Lenny Bernstein, our own Nobel Prize winner, is making use of his climate change expertise as a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s Energy Subcommittee. This group develops ACT policies on issues such as the location of wind turbines and on energy conservation for A.T. facilities. As immediate Past President, Lenny is still a member of the CMC Council, and also Chair of this year’s Nominating Committee.

Discussion forums on the CMC website

The CMC has enabled discussion forums on its website. These forums provide an opportunity for members to interact with each other on topics of interest to them. The forums cover a wide range of subjects including but not limited to: trail construction, trail maintenance, Leave No Trace and other hiking related topics. New members are always welcome and questions are encouraged. To join in the discussion, simply post a message and it will be added to the forum.

The US Forest Service recently issued new directives concerning wind energy on public lands. Following research by the Conservation Committee, the CMC Council voted to support wind turbines in the right places and to support strong protections of special places.

CMC’s position is that wind turbines on public lands must not compromise the recreational, health, spiritual, and economic benefits of our natural environment. Unless strong protections are established, erection and maintenance of wind turbines and necessary roads and transmission lines could have serious and permanent impacts on limited and irreplaceable public natural treasures. There are large, untapped opportunities for reducing the use of fossil fuels that do not involve the unavoidable, permanent environmental damage to these irreplaceable natural treasures.

CMC included several specific requests in its letter to the Forest Service. Use existing rights-of-way and allow wind projects within national parks, wilderness areas, and scenic and historic areas that can also support concentrating solar technologies. Consider how noise, lighting, and dust would affect recreation.
MUST call the leader before the hike to deter
to see the Rhododendron Gardens and the vista
to a scenic overlook for lunch, then double back
rhododendrons and flame azaleas to be in bloom,
hike with some of WNC's finest views. Expect

Middle Prong Wilderness map
Topos: Shining Rock, Sam Knob; also Nat'l.
a side trail up to a ridgeline with great views.
Then we'll follow the Graveyard Ridge Trail and
Graveyard Fields area, using the Pisgah Ridge
at 9:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leader
P400 *Note later start time. Meet at Pilot Truck Stop, off I-40 at Exit 24 at 1:00 PM,
HALF-DAY No. H0802-344
Apr. 11 Pulliam Creek in the Green River Game Lands
12:30 PM

HIKE SCHEDULE
Second Quarter 2008

HIKE RATINGS
First Letter Second Letter Difficulty Rating
AA: Over 12 miles AA: Over 2,000 feet
BB: 9-12 miles BB: 1,000-2,000 feet
BB: 6-9 miles C: Under 1,000 feet

In the also includes the description, the ties easy, moderate or strenuous reflect the overall trail
conditions, physical challenge and other factors
expected on the hike. If you have questions or
if the weather on the day of the hike is ques-
tionable, contact the leader.

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS:
Now for all peaks above 6000'.
for information, contact Don Gardner,
gard@kodak.net
for hiking in every trail in GSMNP. For infor-
mation, contact John Gallemore, kelarco@aol.com
If you don't wish to hike on the regu-
larly scheduled hike, it may be possible to accom-
ply your own hike of the same record. Optional
hikes will return to a week or two before the
date scheduled for the hike. Call or email the hike leader.

WEDNESDAY HIKES
Hikes are sometimes welcome, but must call the leader before the hike to deter
requirements. Half-day hikes submitted
by volunteers will not be included in our listings.

HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES

Hikes are submitted by volunteers, except those that involve car pools or
meetings at various locations.

SUNDAY WALK ON THE PARKWAY

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SOMES HIKES WILL HAVE SECOND MEETING PLACES AS DESCRIBED IN HIKING LISTINGS.

Hike 8, Drive 80, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
*Note later start time. This great waterfall hike will begin alongside Hawkbill Creek, then climb a short steep hill, and 2 crossings over Hawkbill Rock and Little Sassafras Mtn., the site of an old fire tower, and then down to the starting point. The next hike, Long Branch Deep Gap and a short climb over Sassafras Knob. It's nearly all downhill or level as we continue to follow Big Branch to the Mt. Sterling ridge. The ridge will be followed to rejoin the Baxter Creek Trail to the summit for lunch and the good views from the summit of the Great Smoky Mountains.

ALL DAY NO. A0802-113 June 1 Cold Mountain

Hike 4, Drive 80, 200 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
*Note later start time. This hike includes superb views into Tennessee from the ridge line, 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 hikers is actually traveling west.

ALL DAY NO. A0802-105 May 4 More "Fancy Pantry" hiking. We will follow 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 west. Enjoy the many wildflowers that carpet the forest floor while the leader shows off the AT section that he maintains. After lunch on the summit it will be all downhill back to the trailhead. Topo: Lemont Gap

ALL DAY NO. A0802-405 May 4 Nolans Bald & Cold Mtn. via Round Bald, to Grassy Ridge Bald. These climbs each have a view of the Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. Rated B-B

The Pump Gap Trail to Tanyard Gap. Topo: Hot Springs, also Appalachian Ranger District: "Hiking trails in the Hot Springs area" map

Hike 8, Drive 4, 2500 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
*Note later start time. This great waterfall hike will begin alongside Hawkbill Creek, then climb a short steep hill, and 2 crossings over Hawkbill Rock and Little Sassafras Mtn., the site of an old fire tower, and then down to the starting point. The next hike, Long Branch Deep Gap and a short climb over Sassafras Knob. It's nearly all downhill or level as we continue to follow Big Branch to the Mt. Sterling ridge. The ridge will be followed to rejoin the Baxter Creek Trail to the summit for lunch and the good views from the summit of the Great Smoky Mountains.

ALL DAY NO. A0802-184 May 14 Hawkbill Rock - Snowball Circuit 8:30 AM

Carroll Koepp, 828-698-7119, inakobk@msn.com

ALL DAY NO. A0802-216 May 11 Appalachian Plateau Rock Creek Trails *9:00 AM

(Strenuous) Don Gardner, 828-754-4067, gardog3@bellsouth.net

ALL DAY NO. A0802-085 May 5 Beech meeting place: Pilot truck stop at Exit 24 off I-40 at 9:45 AM. Rated B-A

Benn Knob

ALL DAY NO. A0802-069 May 25 Red meeting place: Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop Exit 24 at 9:45 AM. Rated B-B

Day hikes-all submitted by Bruce Rente 828-492-0166, brente@bellsouth.net. Distance driving is estimated from Asheville to the trailhead at the east end of Westgate Shopping Center near 1-240 exit unless OTHERWISE NOTED. This in-and-out hike features superb views into Tennessee from the ridge line, 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 west.

ALL DAY NO. A0802-064 May 4 Splash Dam via Trail Ridge (moderate)

Hike 7, Drive 145, 350 ft. ascent, Rated A-A

ALL DAY NO. A0802-201 May 13 NSTC over Woods Mtn. 8:00 AM

P400 *Note later start time. Meet at 8:30 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at Trailhead Ridge Trailhead at 9:00 AM. This will be a good jeep road, with a short diversion to the Noland Creek and more steeply on the Noland Branch to the Mt. Sterling knob and a trip around the John Rock Loop. All on trail, moderately paced, expect later return. Topo: Shining Rock, also Natl. Geo. PRD map #780

Hike 6, Drive 80, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A

ALL DAY NO. A0802-205 May 26 Mt. Sterling via Big Branch or via Steak Grill Trail 8:00 AM

Kathleen.hannigan@pgnmail.com

ALL DAY NO. A0802-049 April 15 Second meeting place: Pilots Creek Trailhead at 9:00 AM. Rated B-B

MST: NC 80 over Woods Mtn. – Deep Gap and a short climb over Sassafras Knob. It’s nearly all downhill or level as we continue to follow Big Branch to the Mt. Sterling ridge. The ridge will be followed to rejoin the Baxter Creek Trail to the summit for lunch and the good views from the summit of the Great Smoky Mountains.

ALL DAY NO. A0802-046 April 27 Gore Gap – Bluff Mt. 8:30 AM

Siler Bald, Noland Creek, Bryson City; also Nat’l. Geo. GSMNP map #229

ALL DAY NO. A0802-560 April 15 Second meeting place: Rose’s car pool (opposite McDonald’s) exit 19B I-240 at 8:20 AM, but call leader first. Topo: Mt. Le Conte; also Natl. Geo. GISMNP map #229

ALL DAY NO. A0802-404 April 6 Exploration Meeting PLACE: Rose’s car pool (opposite McDonald’s) exit 19B I-240 at 8:20 AM, but call leader first. Topo: Mt. Le Conte; also Natl. Geo. GISMNP map #229

Hike 5, Drive 4, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated B-B

ALL DAY NO. A0802-214 May 10 Laurel Falls - Sassafras Mtn. 8:00 AM

Don Walton, 828-654-9904, donwalton@bellsouth.net

THIS IN-AND-OUT Hike features superb views into Tennessee from the ridge line, 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 west. Enjoy the many wildflowers that carpet the forest floor while the leader shows off the AT section that he maintains. After lunch on the summit it will be all downhill back to the trailhead.

Topo: Lemont Gap

ALL DAY NO. A0802-105 April 13 Exploring Blue Ridge 8:00 AM

Topo: Sugarloaf Mtn. and other structures.

June 1 Cold Mountain Church *(easy) Hike 10, Drive 55, 300 ft. ascent, Rated B-B

All hikes listed below are submitted by Bruce Rente 828-492-0166, brente@bellsouth.net. Distance driving is estimated from Asheville to the trailhead at the end of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit unless OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in hiking listings.

Hike 6, Drive 4, 2500 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
*Note later start time. This great waterfall hike will begin alongside Hawkbill Creek, then climb a short steep hill, and 2 crossings over Hawkbill Rock and Little Sassafras Mtn., the site of an old fire tower, and then down to the starting point. The next hike, Long Branch Deep Gap and a short climb over Sassafras Knob. It’s nearly all downhill or level as we continue to follow Big Branch to the Mt. Sterling ridge. The ridge will be followed to rejoin the Baxter Creek Trail to the summit for lunch and the good views from the summit of the Great Smoky Mountains.

ALL DAY NO. A0802-055 May 3 *Note later start time. A moderate hike on a series of good-to-hard trails in the Clingman’s Dome area. Car shuttle. Second meeting place: Toms Spring Fl...