



## From The Editor

January has been an eventful month. U.S 441, a major artery into the smokies, collapsed (See the firsthand account by Mike Knies), the possibility of rerouting the MST into the Cherokee reservation looks like an impossibility (see Les Love's article), and a new challenge to honor the club's 90th anniversary has been announced. New Year's Day hikers found a clear cut muddy mess on the annual hike (See Bruce Bente's article and Ashok Kudva's photos). There is plenty to keep CMC members busy in 2013.

Every year CMC recognizes a member for consistent and extraordinary contributions to the club during their membership. Skip Sheldon received that honor this year. Read about how this crew leader goes beyond the average person to keep the trails maintained for CMC and all hikers. Thank you Skip.

Starting this month, there is a new section in the eNews. It will feature thank you notes and classifieds. Submit items as directed for articles.

If anyone has any articles for the newsletter, send them to me at [eNews@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto: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

## Vice Chief Says Trail Would Not Be Welcome By Territorial Residents

**By Les Love**

I met on Thursday with the Vice Chief of the Eastern Band, Larry Blythe, for close to an hour. I had not called ahead, but dropped in just after they had adjourned a Council meeting about their new golf course, which apparently had been a pretty heated meeting, because Larry and I got interrupted twice, and once he asked if I could step out while he met with one person behind his closed door.



But he wanted to talk about this - it has been a passion and concern for him for over 20 years. Back then, Robert Hawk, the engineer with the Soil Conservation District in Jackson County (I'm pretty sure that is the correct agency) came to Larry with the idea of the MST going across the Cherokee land. At that time Larry was the forester for the tribal land and was also serving on the Tribal Council. He and Robert spent days laying out a good route for the trail to zigzag down the mountain from Heintooga Road to the end of the Parkway. He presented this to Council and it hit the wall. Too many people

**Hike  
Save Trails  
Make Friends**



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owned individual tracts where their trail was going to go and they would not want a trail going across their land. The Council threw this idea out immediately, and Larry knew he would be fighting a losing battle.

My presenting Piet's idea of using the roads to get there had apparently never been talked about. Larry was extremely interested in this idea and I could see he was passionate about the possibility of this working out. He said the roads would not be a problem to get permission to blaze and walk on. I had my old Smokies map with all the old roads and trails on it and we went over it extensively on how the route might travel to Big Witch, then down Bunches Creek road, and he said the Pigeon Creek road/trail could probably be approved by the Tribe for use to get to Mingo Falls. Then it would have to get on Big Cove Road and we both agreed since there is no shoulder on this heavily traveled paved road, it would be a dangerous location.

So we talked about going on the gravel road across the river that goes in behind the new Ravensford School. He immediately said this won't work and is not a battle we want to fight. Those are a tight-knit, pure-bred community of Indians that have their houses built almost touching the road (Piet and I had seen this) and they would never agree to having outsiders walking through their yards, no matter how much it benefited everyone else.

His statement after 45 minutes of talking about all this, was we could present this to the Council, but he did not have the political clout to make it happen and he felt we would get nowhere if we tried. My statement to him was that CMC wanted to make sure the Cherokee knew all the facts of the trail being moved away from going through their property via the Parkway and once that happened, it would be permanent - that both the Cherokee and CMC had examined all possibilities and the Cherokee would still feel it would be in their best interest to not have the trail. He agreed that that would be the Tribe's position.

It was an excellent, enjoyable meeting for me, and Larry treated me with incredible respect. After an hour, I realized we could talk about this right on and on, so I said I know you're a busy man and I need to get out of your hair. He said he could talk about all this for hours because he loves these mountains and loves to get out and hike in them.

Piet and I agreed that this position by the Vice Chief is enough for us to pursue other options to put our energies into.

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## Quick Links

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New challenges decided for club anniversary.

## For 90th Anniversary Of CMC Hiking Challenges Decided

2013 is the Carolina Mountain Club's 90th anniversary year. Look for opportunities to celebrate this benchmark throughout the year. We begin with two special one-year challenges: the "90 in 90" Appalachian Trail challenge to hike the 93 miles of the AT maintained by the CMC and the MST 130 Challenge to hike the 130 miles of the MST constructed and maintained by the Club. Learn more by checking out the website that features details of the challenge. ***Then get started hiking!*** We will try to schedule and highlight CMC hikes that will help those who are working on one or both of the challenges.

## Mother Nature Firsthand Look At Collapse Of US 441 To Newfound Gap

By Mike Knies

My friend Mark and I could not stand the suspense and just had to work our way up to see the slide on 441 caused by all the rain last week. We went up the really old road on the north side of the Luftee River that is totally overgrown but that is another story.

We chose that course for a couple reasons, we had been that way before and it is difficult but beautiful with a lot of old settler evidence along the way and we wanted to stay off the road so that no one could tell us we could not go up there.



Mother Nature destroys part of U.S. 441.

We developed a number of stories in case anyone did catch us. Unfortunately we were not the only people with the idea to get a first hand look and older?? Couple had gotten there by walking up 441 (over 6 miles uphill) just before us. There were surveyors on the far side and when I tried to go over the top and get to their side they started yelling and waving their hands so unfortunately I did not get a picture from the absolute top down or the north side. You can see what I call the intermediate road at the top of the slide. It look closer the that road is about 40 feet above the current one. It merges with the current road about ½ mile down 441 from the slide. Since it doe not start at the top anywhere, I surmise that there was/is a spring in the middle of the former embankment that over time contributed greatly to the softening of the shoulder and the heavy rain dramatically increased the weight of the soil resulting in the slide. The length of the slide is about 6-700 feet according to my GPS. It starts perpendicular to the road but then quickly veers to the right stopping just short, strangely enough, of the river. If it had gone the same distance in a straight line it would likely have created coffer dam type of lake for a while. Seeing the amount of destruction in person, the hundreds of tons of earth moved, the thousands of trees that were snapped like toothpicks remind you that Mother Nature is still in charge! Nostalgia Break: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLrTPrp-fW8> Looking at the pictures you can see how far along the north slope the slide pulled the ground away. I walked about halfway across the bottom of the slide to get the last pictures. At first I staid on logs thinking the ground would be soupy and muddy and maybe even like quick sand. But I found most of it to be pretty stable as I guess it was drying out a bit and also to some extent it was frozen. I don't know nuthin about engineering but it will be a challenge to fix road. The number of trucks of fill required will be incredible but even before that they are going to have to clean it out like preparing for a dental filling. What are they going to connect it to? The walls on either side appear to be dirt fill and not original mountain side and probably not that stable in themselves. I wish my pictures were better but I barely know how to turn a camera on. Maybe my friend Don will sneak up there and get some really good ones. There is supposed to be a media event up there today so they may have more information in the Citizen Crimes about it tomorrow. It will be interesting to hear which side they conduct it on since they don't want people crossing the great divide and it will be an extra two hour drive for whichever group gets the short straw. I doubt any of them will be allowed to get pictures from the bottom though. Jimmy Olsen



Recipient Of Distinguished Service Award

# Skip Sheldon Maintains

# A High Standard For CMC

**By Stuart English**

Skip Sheldon has made his mark in Trail Maintenance since he first joined the Asheville Crew in 1998. He became a Crew Leader in 2011. According to Jim Ariail, "if we can't lift something on the trail, it is always 'where is Skip?' I think everyone likes him and appreciates him as a crew leader." Recently Skip won the Distinguished Service Award for consistent and extraordinary contributions to the club during the years of membership. Recently we contacted Skip and gathered some information to share with all those who may not know a lot about trail maintainers.

## **What led you to become interested in Trail Maintenance?**

I have been interested and involved in outdoor activities my whole life. Boy Scouts added to that interest including introducing me to the Appalachian Trail while working with a Scout troop in Wilmington Delaware. This interest in trails and hiking continued when I came to Hendersonville, and I took my Scout troop on many long distance hiking trips including some on the AT. In 1992 I learned about the Konarock trail maintenance crew program through the ATC and applied to work with them for a week that summer. I enjoyed the trail work very much and returned to Konarock for the next 10 years. When I retired, I looked around for a trail crew to join, and someone gave me Howard McDonald's name. I called him, and soon found myself part of the Asheville Friday trail crew. As my trail maintenance time increased, my hiking time dwindled, so now maintenance is about all that I do.

How did you evolve into crew leader after years of being a crew member?

When I started on the crew, Phil Smith was the leader of all the CMC crews (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday). When he passed away suddenly, we were tossed into a leadership panic and had to regroup quickly. Several of us got together to address this problem, and the decision was made to split into 3 separate crews (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) with a different leader for each. The Friday crew was the largest, with the most complicated work schedule, and nobody was very interested in taking over as its leader. With some prodding, Piet Bodenhorst and I agreed to share the leadership duties. We took turns doing the scheduling and other weekly crew leader duties and Piet did most of the CMC and agency partner contact work. This arrangement worked fine, until about 3 years ago, when Piet decided that he wanted to downsize not only his home, but other commitments as well, and stepped back from crew leadership. I have been the solo crew leader since then, but am working on breaking in some new folks so they are experienced and ready to go when I pull a "Piet" in a couple of years.

What were some of your biggest challenges in Maintenance?

For leading the crew itself, the biggest challenge is to find the right work each week. We usually have 15-20 folks show up to work with us each week, who range in skills from brand new to extremely experienced, and range in age from 20+ (sometimes) to almost 90. The trail work I schedule has to give all of them work to do that is within their ability level and something that they will enjoy, so they keep coming back. Within the crew, we have the skills and experience to do any trail job that comes along, but many of the jobs that need to be done (clearing 1 or 2 down trees on a trail section, for example) don't provide enough work to keep everyone busy, so I can't schedule them. This is even true sometimes when building a new trail that require special skills, like building long sections of rock tread. That work is beyond the ability or interest of some of the crew, but they still want to come out with the crew, so there needs to be something for them to do. Facilities work, like installing a new privy or building a picnic table can also present this problem. We sometimes split the crew in these cases, but then you have to worry about transportation to several different places, and so on. Keeping enough folks certified to do the special jobs like sawing or weed whacking can also present problems. Building and maintaining the trails themselves is the easy part of the job. We sometimes get into very interesting trail problems, but that just makes solving them more fun, and with our folks, I know that we have the talent needed to complete the job.

Tell us about your life before CMC.

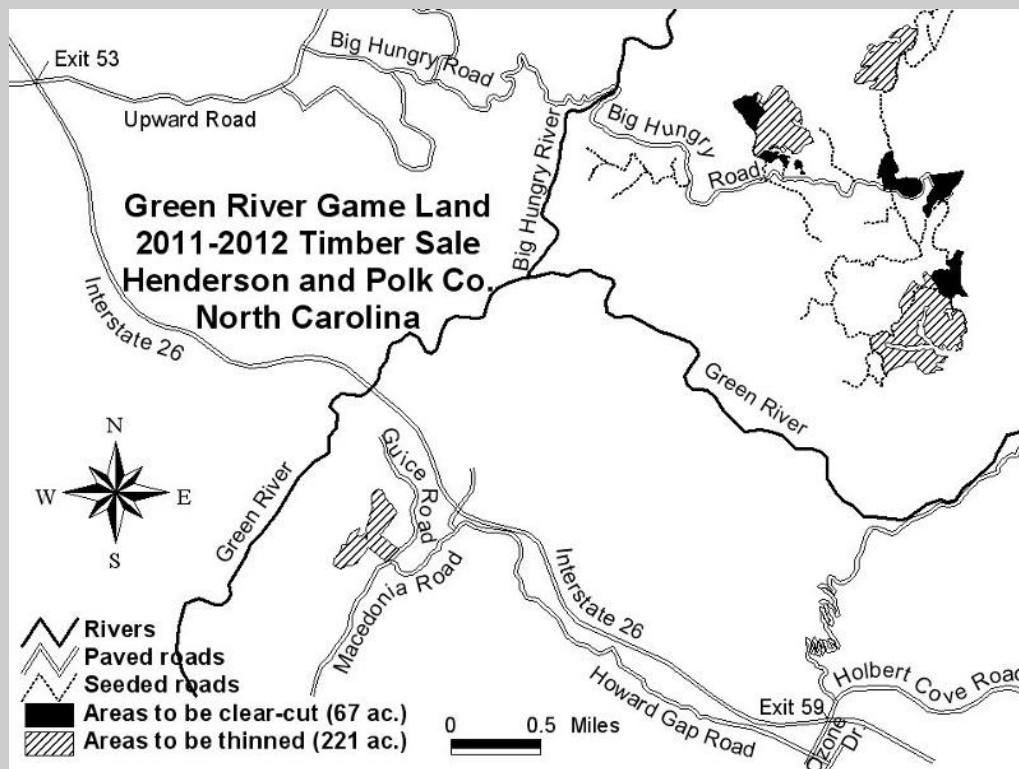
I was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. I was active in the Boy Scouts while growing up and earned the Eagle rank. One of the biggest adventures from my time in Minnesota was spending the summer of 1963 in Alaska working for the state highway department. We lived in a fly-in tent camp and had to carry guns with us each day because of the bears in the area. I earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1966 and a MS in Engineering Administration from the University of Tennessee in 1976. I went to work for the DuPont Company right out of college. My first assignment was with the Development Department in Wilmington Delaware, where I helped develop new building products. One of those products that is still being sold is Corian counter top material. I transferred to The Brevard Plant (now the DuPont State Forest) in 1970 and worked in assignments including production supervision, maintenance, and process engineering until I retired in 1998. A large part of my career was spent developing, building, and bringing on line the production equipment for the finishing of X-Ray film. I hold two US patents on this equipment. I met and married my wife (Phyllis) in Delaware. We have two adult sons, who are both living with their families in Raleigh, NC. We have four grandchildren. Phyllis and I have had the good fortune to do a considerable amount of traveling for pleasure and have visited over 30 different countries.

What are some other interests you have?

I have been involved in a number of activities besides trail work. This includes working with the Boy Scouts for over 50 years. I served as a Scoutmaster for over 15 years in both Delaware and Hendersonville and worked in a number of training and leadership positions since then. I am now a member of the Scout Council Endowment Committee and the Executive Board. I served as the fund raising chairman and Chapter President for the Henderson County Heart Association; member and Chairman of the Henderson County Junior Crime Prevention Commission; Counselor and Chapter President for SCORE (a volunteer organization that provides counseling to small businesses); served on the Board of Directors of the Henderson County YMCA; and was major project chairman, Treasurer, Executive Board member, and President of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited. I am a Community Ambassador for Blue Ridge Community College and taught classes at Brevard College for a couple of years. After I retired, I established a small consulting company to complete the work underway when I left DuPont. I work with my church as chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Executive Board. In the spare time I have left, I love to fly fish for trout and hunt Ruffed Grouse.

What are the club's biggest challenges in the future involving Trail Maintenance?

I believe the biggest challenge will be working with our agency partners within the government and non-profit systems. This is becoming very complex. The old days of just going out and building good trail are gone. In their place we have memorandums of understanding, partnership agreements, and many, many rules and regulations that must be followed. All of these are important and necessary in some cases and some places, but most of them have been developed to cover a very wide span of situations, which frequently don't apply to volunteer trail maintenance. An example is; having to make special designs for shelters and privies so they are "handicapped accessible" to accommodate folks, who may be "handicapped", but have hiked 10-20 miles over sometimes very rough trails to get to them.



Green River Game Land - Timber!

## Happy New Year Hike

# Game Lands Being Clear-Cut And Thinned

By **Bruce Bente**

A logging operation has begun at Green River Gamelands and will continue during 2013. A total of 286 acres will be either clear cut (67 acres) or "thinned" (221 acres) in four different sections. Referring to the attached map, the Long Ridge Trail is closed all the way from Big Hungry Rd. during the logging operation.

On New Years Day, CMC hiked this trail (an old forest road) and found it to be a goopy muddy mess due to logging trucks travelling on it. It was a relief when we hiked past the logging area onto Bear Branch trail and the usual trail conditions...but this may not be the same in the future as the map shows that the logging will continue downhill to the edge of the Bear Branch Trail.

Hikers should avoid the entire Long Ridge Trail due to danger from logging equipment. During the logging, any hiking in the Green River Gamelands should be done from the Green River Cove or Pulliam Creek Trails. The intent of the state of N.C. is to eliminate tree types other than oak trees. In the "thinned" areas, about 90% of the trees have been logged, leaving only "toothpicks" of occasional oak trees, identified by red paint on their trunks. With the tree removal, it is now possible to see all the way to the buildings near I-26 at the Saluda Exit.

As a footnote, I contacted ECO (Environmental and Conservation Organization) in Hendersonville to ask about the logging. ECO publishes the Green River Gamelands Trail map and oversees the Gamelands. ECO had not been informed about the logging by the State of NC. The State of NC subsequently sent them the logging plan, and the (attached) map. The ECO phone number is 692-0385.

# Protecting Devil's Courthouse Viewshed

By Steve Longenecker (a reprinted guest commentary from the Asheville Citizen-Times)

Three groups of two words...

"Devil's Courthouse."

"Endangered species."

"Forest Service."

All, some or none of these words may be important to you, or they may not be even a blip on your radar. They are more than that to me.

Devil's Courthouse: That's the name of the rock outcropping next to the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 422.4. From its summit, you can see into South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee, also view Lake Toxaway, Lake Keowee, the Nantahalas, Balsams and Great Smokies.



Devil's Courthouse

Whiteside Mountain, boasting the highest cliffs in the Eastern U.S., can be seen far in the distance.

In 1965, I was with a group of rock climbers recognized as being the first to climb Devil's Courthouse from base to summit. Thirty or so years later, I was guiding a client and discovered peregrine falcons nesting under an overhanging section.

After notifying the National Park Service about the falcons, the entire rock was closed to all climbing. Guess it could be said that I was both the first and the last to climb on Devil's Courthouse. Endangered species: A term referring to a group of living things whose existence is in peril. There is only one more step in the decline of an endangered species, that being extinction. A partial list of endangered plants and animals living on or near Devil's Courthouse includes: peregrine falcon; northern flying squirrel; green salamander; eastern smallfooted bat; brown creeper; vasey's azalea; spreading avens; and the rock gnome lichen. "Forest Service": The U.S. Forest Service (Southern Region), whose stated mission is "Caring for the land and serving people." It is proposing to change the view from the top of Devil's Courthouse by removing 440 acres of timber below the summit, then use herbicides and hand tools to "thin" another 330 acres. The U.S. Forest Service states that this work will cost the taxpayer roughly \$660,000 and will net about \$24,000 in timber sales. Do the math. In fairness, the Forest Service cites other reasons for this to be appropriate, but those are spurious, at best. I challenge you: Hike the half-mile trail from the Blue Ridge Parkway to the summit of Devil's Courthouse, take a panoramic look, then return to your family and friends with an explanation for why the area you witnessed from the top should be despoiled. Another option: Send comments to Ranger Derek Iburguen, Pisgah Forest Ranger Station, 1600 Pisgah Highway, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. Email: [dibarguen@fs.fed.us](mailto:dibarguen@fs.fed.us). There are also U.S. senators and members of the U.S. House of Representatives who could become involved with this. Better act soon. The deadline to comment is Jan. 18. Steve Longenecker is an Outdoor Educator with Falling Creek Camp, Tuxedo, NC.

## Appalachian National Scenic Trail

# Janssen Named New Superintendent

By Danny Bernstein

The National Park Service has announced their selection of Wendy K. Janssen as the new superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a unit of the National Park System. She replaces Pam Underhill, who recently retired this past year. Janssen is expected to assume her new position in February and will be working in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and its affiliated Trail clubs and volunteers, and federal, state, local and private partners in the protection and management of the A.T.

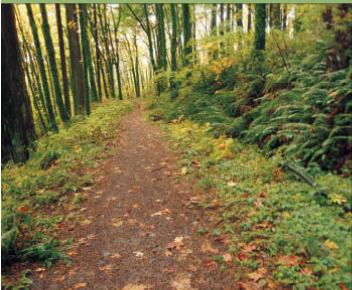


"The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is excited that the National Park Service has named Wendy as the new superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Her proven history in maintaining and developing strong partnerships will be instrumental in continued protection of the Appalachian Trail," stated Mark Wenger, Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Since 2008, Janssen has served as superintendent of Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (HAFO) and Minidoka National Historic Site (MIIN) in Idaho, with a unit of MIIN in Bainbridge Island, WA.

"It is an honor to be selected as the superintendent of this much loved national treasure and the first National Scenic Trail," Janssen said. "This 'footpath for the people' is a wonderful example of 'citizen action in the public interest' and I look forward to working with Trail staff, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, stakeholders, agency partners, neighbors and communities to continue to protect this incredible trail system and its significant resources that are accessible to millions of residents in the eastern United States."

## The Gentle Art *of* Wandering



By David Ryan

## Book Review

# The Gentle Art of Wandering

**By Danny Bernstein**

The Gentle Art of Wandering by David Ryan

New Mountain Books

112 pages, \$12

I love Facebook. I love it not because I can keep up with my friends but because of the people I meet that may become future friends.

As you know, I've been working on the ATC Biennial 2013 for years. It seems like it's ATC Biennial 24/7 at our house. Recently Leanna Joyner set up a FB page just for the ATC Biennial conference

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/groups/atcbiennial/?fref=ts>.

And this is where I met David Ryan, author of The Gentle Art of Wandering. I would have just glazed over the FB entry but David, who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is giving a workshop at the biennial. So I had to look at his book. This may be a long introduction to a small book.

David is an A.T. 2000-miler, not afraid of "real" backpacking but he's been exploring new areas at a slower speed and really looking. Wandering, he says, is the ability to "see" with your entire body and experience what's around you. I think of the last hike I took with Carolina Mountain Club - 33 people all catching up on news with each other. I love these hikes for their social aspect and for showing me areas that I haven't seen before. I am present and connected to others that may point out something that I haven't noticed. But wandering, David says, is not a station-to-station journey; you have permission to change course. This is what you do when you first arrive in a new city. David discovered public staircases in Los Angeles. Walking in LA? It turns out that LA has over 260 staircases that were built to help riders reach trolley lines located in the hilly parts of the city. The trolleys are long gone but the staircases are there for you to explore. The book mentions other cities with staircases, including Cincinnati. Trying to check out a new city by car is not easy, David says. Where do you park? How are you going to get back and what if there's a one-way street? Of course, New York is almost built for wandering. But what about here in North Carolina? The Mountains-to-Sea Trail is perfect for David's wandering. About half of the trail is on footpath and the other half is on back roads. If David is looking for new places to wander, he could check out the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, followed by the Florida Trail and the Palmetto Trail. But as the author says, anytime you get out of your car, it's a wonderful experience. You can buy The Gentle Art of Wandering at [www.newmountainbooks.com](http://www.newmountainbooks.com) and meet the author at the ATC Biennial Conference 2013.



CMC maintainers help at Chimney Rock.

## CMC Maintainers Help With Trail Day At Chimney Rock State Park

On December 1, 2012 rangers at Chimney Rock State Park hosted a trail work day at the Rumbling Bald Climbing Access area off Boys Camp Road in Lake Lure. The park acquired the climbing area in 2008, but it has long been used by the public for climbing, bouldering, and hiking.

The park began stewardship of this land by creating a new parking area and trailhead, and this stewardship continues today as state park staff works alongside local volunteer groups to complete a new trail to the base of Rumbling Bald Mountain.

The existing trail route leading to the base of the climbing area consisted of old logging roads and had become washed out by rain, causing very deep gullies. A new reroute of the trail was flagged out by park staff to a more sustainable grade and also to provide access for emergency personnel. Next, the NC Division of Parks and Recreation contracted with YRU Contracting Inc., a professional trail building company, to do the initial rough cut of the trail and to fix the existing eroded areas.

Most recently, local volunteer groups, such as the Carolina Climbers Coalition, Friends of Chimney Rock State Park, and the Carolina Mountain Club, all came out to volunteer their time to manicure the newly constructed trail back to a more natural looking state.

The volunteers' specific tasks and responsibilities included cutting all exposed roots on trail and side slopes, raking side slopes to cover roots and create a more natural looking slope, and removing anything from the trail tread that would be a tripping hazard.

Volunteers used a variety of tools including rakes, axes, loppers, wheelbarrows, and ropes to complete their tasks along areas with steep banks. Chimney Rock State Park Staff would like to give a big shout out to all that were involved in this very successful trail work day on December 1. The volunteers lent their excitement over the project and made a significant difference in the new trail reroute. For those interested in hiking the new trail themselves, park rangers will lead a free hike on January 1, 2013 in conjunction with the nationwide First Day Hike event organized by America's State Parks. Join a ranger at the Rumbling Bald Climbing Access at 1:00 that day for a discussion on how the park uses ecological information to reroute old trails and plan new trails.



The Way Of Saint James

## Local Way Of Saint James Group

# Resources Available

By Chris Slater

For those interested in hiking the Way of Saint James in France and Spain, we now have a Western North Carolina Chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino. Events can be viewed at [www.americanpilgrims.com/about/local\\_chapters.html](http://www.americanpilgrims.com/about/local_chapters.html). We're typically having a camino related event on the evening of the first Monday of the month at REI Asheville - these are published on the REI web site. Also, we have a coffee morning on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m at Atlanta Bread Company, 633 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville to which anyone interested in the camino is cordially welcome

## A Picture From The Past

A CMC picture from the past. We've identified Harlow Hoskins and Dick Roberts. Does anyone recognize the other people in this group or where it was taken?





## FMST Annual Meeting To Be Held February 2

Friends of the MST's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 2. Click [here](#) for a link to more information and registration.

Photo by Danny Bertnstein. She placed in the recent MST photo contest with this photo of Lenny. To see more winning MST photographs click [here](#).

## Maintaining Trails: Opportunity For You, A Benefit To Hikers

**By Kayah Gadish**

Ever wonder what is happening in the Carolina Mountain Club trail maintenance world? CMC has several trail maintenance crews that go out weekly all year long! In CMC we do all types of trail work, on almost every day of the week! From maintaining trails in Chimney Rock State Park, to taking long hikes and clearing back growth and fallen trees on wilderness trails, to maintaining 92 miles of the Appalachian Trail and over 100 on the MST, or building brand new trail on the Bearwallow Mountain, there is something for everyone. No experience is needed to work with these crews.



You can quickly learn how to easily move huge boulders, where to clip the overgrowth, build steps, pull massive clumps of rhododendron stumps, divert rainwater, and more. CMC will even provide the tools. Volunteering with a maintenance crew is not just another rewarding way to get into the woods with friends, it is also very meaningful work.

I have often wondered what shape our trails would be in if every hiker in WNC gave one day a year towards trail maintenance. That would make a big difference! You can learn

more about CMC trail maintenance crews

here... <http://www.carolinamountainclub.org/index.cfm/do/pages.view/id/12/page/TRAIL-WORK>

## Consider A Friends Of The MST License Plate

By Danny Bernstein

What does your license tag say about you?

A specialty license plate says that you are a supporter of a nonprofit group, someone who's willing to spend a little more money to show off your affiliation. As a Carolina Mountain Club member, you're intimately connected with the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. CMC maintains 140 miles of trail and is actually still building new trail.



But the trail needs our financial support as well. Friends of the MST is working hard to sell North Carolina MST license plates and we're almost there. Fewer than 30 plates are needed for the NC Department of Transportation to start printing them. And soon the plates will be on the road. Need more reasons to buy an MST plate? Click [here](#) to read more.

## Friday Crew Begins Work On Bearwallow Trail Extension

By Ann Hendrickson

On December 14th the Asheville Friday crew broke ground on the new Bearwallow Mountain Trail extension. For hikers, this is exciting news! This "section" will complete about 5 miles of Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy's budding "Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Trail". This trail will one day be a 15 mile hiking loop in this very popular area, linking Bearwallow Mountain, Florence Nature Preserve, and Little Bearwallow. Long term, it will one-day link to trails in Chimney Rock State Park. The Hickory Nut Gorge is a pristine ecosystem that



contains unique flora and fauna, a waterfall, dramatic rock formations, a fire tower, old growth forest, rugged wilderness, high elevations, and a spectacular viewshed. CMLC conserved many of the Gorge's precious natural lands for future generations to enjoy as well as obtained public "right of way" for permanent public access to new hiking trails. In a wonderful partnership, CMC has joined CMLC to establish a trail in this region, one section at a time. In 2011, the one mile section of the Bearwallow Mountain Trail was completed in a partnership with CMLC, CMC, and REI. This trail is wildly popular with locals, tourists, and seasoned hikers; nowhere in WNC is there a one mile trail that provides the rigor, the accessibility, and the views that the initial Bearwallow Trail provides. The new section of trail route is going to be interesting in and of itself, (both for trail builders and hikers) there is a rugged rock outcropping, rock tread and steps, uniquely formed trees, and the foundation remnants of a family homestead. For a trail maintainer, building new trail is analogous to a "first date"... endless possibilities that we are (almost) giddy to engage in. Perhaps our work is more similar to an "arranged marriage": we know that the trail we build will be forever, that it is an indelible commitment between our personal toil with the soil, and the future footsteps that will hurry, pause, trudge, or glide along the path we carve. Each and every one of us fulfills our "work" assignments with adeptness, pride, and skill, as if the future depends on it. Actually, it does. If you haven't hiked the Bearwallow Trail (it qualifies for CMC's [HYPERLINK "http:/](#)

[/www.carolinamountainclub.org/index.cfm/do/pages.view/id/25/page/LookoutTower-Challenge](http://www.carolinamountainclub.org/index.cfm/do/pages.view/id/25/page/LookoutTower-Challenge)" Lookout Tower Challenge and CMLC's [HYPERLINK "http://www.carolinamountainclub.org/hikingchallenge2"](http://www.carolinamountainclub.org/hikingchallenge2) White Squirrel Hiking Challenge), you must! It is a gem. If you want to participate in building the next leg of the trail, please do! You will be personally fulfilled in a manner words cannot describe. (Skip Sheldon is the Asheville Friday crew leader: [HYPERLINK "mailto:shelhalla@bellsouth.net"](mailto:shelhalla@bellsouth.net)shelhalla@bellsouth.net - contact him for crew details and how to sign up.)

## Thank You And Classifieds

I would like to express my appreciation to the CMC community for the support and encouragement I received after my recent knee surgery. Special thanks to Carroll Koeplinger, when one is not able to drive, a lift to the supermarket is a very big deal.

The arrangement I had with my surgeon was that he would decide during the operation if I needed a full replacement or I could get by with a partial. The idea of a partial replacement is to remove only the most damaged areas of cartilage from the joint, and leave any healthy parts of the joint for continued use. This type of procedure may be possible if the arthritis in the knee is confined to a limited area. Luckily I got only a partial and was able to go home the next day. After three weeks I was able to walk over three pain free miles. My hope is to be back hiking with the CMC by February. - **Bob Hysko**

### The Small Print

The next issue will come out on Friday, February 22. Wednesday hike reports for the hike just before the eNews comes out will be published in the next eNews.

Hiker leaders, post your photos and hike reports on the website as directed, or send your eNews hike reports and photos to [hikereports@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:hikereports@carolinamountainclub.org)

So send your news by Friday evening at 9 P.M. the week before the newsletter comes out, that is, by Friday evening February 15 to Kathy Kyle at [eNews@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.