CMC returns to the Chariot for Annual Dinner

By Bobbi Powers

‘Twas a dreadful, blustery night for the 2014 Annual Dinner at The Chariot in Hendersonville – but that was only on the outside. Inside, all was delightful, from the jolly crowd (somewhat smaller than past years – perhaps due to the weather) to the cheap libations (hence the happy attendees!); to a fine buffet meal with chocolate cream pie that was to die for; to a business meeting that clicked off like clockwork; and ending with a program that was – in this writer’s view – totally awesome!

Sawako Jager announced the challenge awards for the past year (see accompanying article).

President Lenny Bernstein welcomed everyone and especially some dignitaries, most prominently Kristin Bail, Forest Supervisor for National Forests in NC; Julie Judkins of the A.T. Conservancy; and Dan Wells, chairman of the Asheville Chapter of Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Lenny then gave a brief “State of the Club” speech in which he paraphrased Bill Clinton by saying, “The state of the CMC is good.” He followed up with mentioning the 17,000+ hours of maintenance and trail building in 2014 and said by next year the entire MST between Black Mountain Campground and Waterrock Knob should be one continuous trail. The gaps will have been filled! And it’s taken only since 1983 to get this done! Yah, builders and maintainers!

Lenny also commended the Club on its 165 hikes led last year, not including scouts and those hikes led in sub-groups. His goal for the year is to add 50 new members; let’s all help him!

Last, he recognized the three people leaving Council: Tish Desjardins’ five years as Councilor for Conservation; Stuart English’s six years as Councilor for Communications and then Secretary;

As many of you know, this is my second time as CMC President. I was amazed when I started last January by how the Club has changed since I left office at the end of 2007.

- We’re bigger – 900 members.
- We’re far more technologically savvy – we have a truly interactive website and a Facebook page.
- We have new leadership. Not one of the other Council members in 2014 or 2015 was on Council in 2007.
- We hope to complete our section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in 2015.
- We’re taking on new initiatives. Our trail maintainers negotiated their first-ever five-year agreement with the Forest Service’s Pisgah Ranger District and are negotiating similar agreements with Appalachian Ranger District and the Blue Ridge Parkway. CMC Council is creating an Operating Manual, so new volunteers will have more than word-of-mouth about how CMC does things.

However, some things stay the same. We need more members – our membership has been flat at about 900 for the last few years. I’ve challenged the Club to increase that number to 950 by the end of 2015. All of us on your Council will be working toward that goal. And we need more volunteers – especially on the committees that do the behind-the-scenes work, such as creating our hiking schedule and keeping up our communications links. If you can help, please contact me or one of the other members of Council.

– Lenny Bernstein
and Danny Bernstein’s five years as Secretary and Councilor for Communication.

Marcia Bromberg then took the stage to announce winners of our most prestigious awards. Tish Desjardin and Ruth Hartzler will share the Award of Appreciation. According to Marcia, both have “done yeomen’s work to ensure the CMC and the whole hiking community is represented on the National Forest Service Plan which will guide activities in the Pisgah and Nantahala Forests over the next 10-15 years.”

The Distinguished Service Award, given for years of service to the Club, went to Becky Smucker who has served in several offices, including President, initiated and leads the wilderness crew, leads hikes, and helped lead the technology improvements. And she keeps on giving! Becky is one of our crown jewels.

Then there was the program – Wow! Jeff Wilcox, associate professor of environmental studies at UNC Asheville, spoke and showed slides of “Geologic History of the Southern Appalachians.” His spirited talk touched on a lot of “Wow, I didn’t know that!” moments. A few of many highlights….There are rocks on Roan Mtn. that are 1.8 billion years old, among the oldest in the world, and they are just lying on the ground. We’ve all heard of Pangea, which, when it split apart gave us our Blue Ridge Mountains standing at 25,000 feet, but who knew that eons before, there was Rodinia, a super continent that split apart?

The biggest buzz (or I should say hum) came when Jeff talked about Spruce Pine’s having the purest quartz in the world, and every computer chip in every nation has a bit of that quartz in it. In crushing the quartz, an ultra pure “singing bowl” is used. Jeff brought several big fascinating rocks with him, along with two singing bowls. It was quite a performance!

Everyone left smiling as we zipped our heavy coats, put on our gloves, and headed out into the cold wind after a memorable evening.

CMC returns to the Chariot for the 2014 Annual Dinner

continued from page 1

Challenge completers from left, Sawako Jager, Jim Reel, Tom Sanders, Barbara Morgan, Lars Holmquist and Timo Holmquist.

Our Challenge Committee continues to challenge

The goals of the Challenge Committee are to promote hiking, conservation and an appreciation for Trail Maintenance.

Currently the club offers four challenges: SB6K, 40 WNC peaks over 6000 feet, LTC, the Lookout Tower Challenge, Pisgah 400, all the trails in the Pisgah Ranger District, and WC100, 100 Waterfalls & Cascades.

At our Annual Dinner, Sawako Jager, Chair of the Challenge Committee, first introduced challenge finishers who finished in 2013 but had not been recognized.

SB6K – Steven M. Castellano, Barbara Morgan, and William Shaffer

LTC – Steve Covert and Mary Swain

Last year was the Club’s 90th Birthday and the Challenge Committee created two special challenges, 90 miles on the A.T. and 130 miles on the MST. Those special challenges were successful and 21 challengers completed each challenge, a total of 42 challengers. They also received an adorable special patch. Extra patches are available for the completers to purchase at $5 each. If someone is interested in patches, please e-mail Sawako, Baiko70@aol.com.

A.T. 90 – Clifford Andrew, Jacob Cox, Lisa Hart, Jim Reel, Tom Sanders

MST130 – David Baldwin, Jacob Cox, and Peter Julius.

In 2014 the following finished their Challenges:

SB6K – Lars Holmquist, Timo Holmquist, Brian Knauer, Charlie Sizemore, and Rachel Sizemore.

WC100 – Steve Covert

The Challenge Committee consists of Sawako, David Wetmore, who is a creator and coordinator of Pisgah 400 Challenge, Jack Fitzgerald who is a creator and coordinator of WC100, and Peter Barr who is a creator and coordinator of LTC and a coordinator of SB6K. The Challenge Committee will continue to challenge you in 2015. The first step for you to take is to download the application form and start hiking.
HIKE SCHEDULE
First Quarter 2015

Hike Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Letter</th>
<th>Second Letter</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA:</td>
<td>AA:</td>
<td>Over 12 miles</td>
<td>Over 2,000 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A:</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>9.1-12 miles</td>
<td>1,501-2,000 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B:</td>
<td>B:</td>
<td>6.1-9 miles</td>
<td>1,001-1,500 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C:</td>
<td>C:</td>
<td>Up to 6 miles</td>
<td>Under 1,000 ft.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All hikes are round trip and calculated from the parking area. Times listed are approximate. Check the CMC website for more complete and timely information, including scout reports, at www.carolinamountainclub.org.

Wednesday No. W1501-766 Jan. 14
Bent Creek Loop #10 *9:00 AM

SATURDAY WORKDAY
For the Saturday MST Trail Building Workdays in 2015, meet at 8:30 at the Home Depot at the Enka-Candler Exit 44 off I-40.

The workdays are March 21, May 2, June 6, August 15, and October 3. 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.

P400 *Only Meeting Place: Ingles parking lot across NC 191 from Asheville Outlets (formerly Biltmore Square Mall). We will start at the parking lot near the west end of the Campground Connector, walk along Boyd Branch Road, then take a left on Little Hickory Gap Trail to Five Points; left on North Boundary Road (FS 485); left on Green’s Lick Trail; right on Laurel Branch Road; left on Lower Sidehill Road, and right onto Boyd Branch Road, to take us back to our cars. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo map #780

Wednesday No. W1501-001 Jan. 21
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, mbgcmc@gmail.com

P400, WC100 This loop hike is scheduled for our coldest month to see 50-ft. frozen cascades along the closed BRP. 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

Wednesday No. W1501-550 Jan. 28
Paris Mountain State Park *8:30 AM
Hike 9.9, Drive 130, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656, cell: 828-606-7297, bjdworley@gmail.com

*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot off Exit 53 of I-26 at 9:00 AM. Located between Traveler’s Rest and Greenville, Paris Mountain State Park is one of the oldest protected areas in South Carolina. Originally, the lakes were the source of Greenville’s water supply. We will walk on well-maintained trails, enjoying good views of Greenville. $2 per person entrance fee. Topo(s): Paris Mtn.

Wednesday No. W1501-031 Feb. 4
South Mountains Loop *8:00 AM
Hike 9.3, Drive 170, 2300 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Rich Sampson, cell: 704-453-9059, richsampson360@gmail.com

WC100 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at South Mountains State Park Visitor Center at 9:00 AM. South Mountains State Park, south of Morganton, has outstanding views, a beautiful waterfall, and a new visitor center. We’ll climb to Jacob Fork River Gorge Overlook and then continue to Chestnut Knob Overlook, a rocky outcropping with outstanding views toward the Kings Mountain Range and on a clear day, Charlotte’s skyline. Later, after another climb, we’ll reach the top of High Shoals Waterfall – truly awesome. Awesome too are the wooden staircase and...
platform which allow a close look at the falls and the jumble of rocks in Jacob Fork. Since this is a state park, the trails are meticulously maintained.

Topo(s): Benn Knob; South Mountains SP map

Wednesday No. W1501-330 Feb. 11 Raven Cliff Falls 7:30 AM Hike 8, Drive 95, 1450 ft. ascent, Rated B-B Vance Mann, cell: 828-273-7592, lvcanec@icloud.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 then return with a side trip to the spectacular overlook of the falls and Matthew Creek Gorge. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 8:00 AM. Topo(s): Table Rock; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area trail map.

Wednesday No. W1501-778 Feb. 18 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, stuengo@compornium.net

*Form carpool 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. Topo(s): Rosman; also Bracken Preserve Trail System Map

Wednesday No. W1501-246 Feb. 25 Around Coffee Pot Mountain 8:30 AM Hike 7.5, Drive 40, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B Laura Frisbie, cell: 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@gmail.com

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 taking a side trail to Trace Ridge Trail to Beaver Dam Gap on the BRP and returning on the Spencer Branch Trail, with a stop to see the Hendersonville reservoir and dam. Second meeting place: New Mills River Ingles on NC 280 behind gas pumps at 8:50 AM. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mountain; also NatGeo map #780

Wednesday No. W1501-224 Mar. 4 Table Rock – Pinnacle Loop 8:00 AM Hike 10.8, Drive 120, 3200 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA Randy Fluharty, 828-253-1626, cell: 828-423-9030, rfluharty54@gmail.com

This is a great hike with good views, starting from the Nature Center parking lot at Table Rock State Park. Our first objective will be Bald Rock near Pinnacle Mtn. with glorious views. Then after a climb to Pinnacle Mountain for lunch, we’ll walk the ridgeline to Table Rock with more great views, then down steeply to our cars. $2 parking fee. Second meeting place: NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot off Exit 53 of I-26 at 8:30 AM. Topo(s): Table Rock

Wednesday No. W1501-286 Mar. 11 Sycamore Cove 8:30 AM Hike 7, Drive 70, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A Paula Massey, 828-299-0226, cell: 828-989-0003, massey.paula@gmail.com

P400 Sycamore Cove, with forest diversity and stream crossings, connects with old logging roads of Grassy Road, Thrift Cove and Black Mountain Trails. Winter views include the site of old Eucata paper manufacturing plant (1939-2002), which once employed 2000 people, including the local CMNC member Art Loeb. Includes a 0.2 mile walk on US 276 or a 1 mile car shuttle. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest; also NatGeo map #780

Wednesday No. W1501-203 Mar. 18 Tanyard Gap to Lovers Leap *8:30 AM Hike 9, Drive 70, 2200 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA Tish Desjardins, cell: 828-380-1452, desraylet@aol.com

*Form carpool at Westgate and meet leader at the junction of US 25/70 and NC 208 at 9:10 AM. We’ll do a moderate loop in the Hot Springs area, starting and ending at Tanyard Gap. We’ll start southbound on the A.T. up to Mill Ridge and continue on the A.T. until reaching Lover’s Leap, then follow the Lover’s Leap Trail to the Pump Gap Trail and the A.T. northbound to Tanyard Gap. Topo(s): Hot Springs

Wednesday No. W1501-826 Mar. 25 Corn Mill Shoals P.L. #4 *8:30 AM Hike 10, Drive 90, 1550 ft. ascent, Rated A-A Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374, Ashok.kudva@att.net

*Form carpool at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. This four-loop hike will explore a rock quarry, mountain vistas and river water views. Topo(s): Standingstone Mountain; also DuPont State Recreational Forest Trail map, 2014 edition

ALL-DAY WEEKEND HIKES

All-day hikes submitted by Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@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.

Thursday No. A1501-281 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, bbente@bellsouth.net

*Form carpool 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 Pulliam Creek Trail. Short car shuttle. Topo(s): Cliffs Mtn.; also Trails of the Green River Gamelands map

Sunday No. A1501-850 Jan. 4 DuPont Corn Mill Shoals P.L. #5 *8:30 AM Hike 11.6, Drive 90, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374, ashok.kudva@att.net

WC100 *Form carpool at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. This low-elevation hike in a popular hiking and mountain biking area is best done in the winter. This new CMC hike will visit High, Triple and Grassy Branch Falls and the Thomas Cemetery. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont Trails map, 2014 edition

Sunday No. A1501-847 Jan. 11 The Pinnacle *8:30 AM Hike 8, Drive 125, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A Brent Martin, 828-587-9453, cell: 828-371-0347, brent_martin@tws.org

*Form carpool at Westgate and meet leader at trailhead (end of Fisher Creek Rd.) at 9:20 AM. Driving route: About mile marker 85 on US 23/74, turn right at Exxon station to end, then left, then right onto Fishers Creek Rd. to end of road. This new CMC hike is from the Fisher Creek Recreation Area near Sylva. We will ascend on the East Fork and Pinnacle Trails to see the great view from the pinnacle. Our return will be via the West Fork Trail. Topo(s): Sylva North

Saturday No. A1501-182 Jan. 17 Green River Cove *10:00 AM Hike 6.7, Drive 75, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-C Dennis Bass, 828-367-7792, dbass3607@gmail.com

*First meeting place: Ingles on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets (formerly Biltmore Square Mall). This is a moderate in-and-out winter hike along the scenic Green River to the rocks jutting into the river. If we are lucky, we may see kayakers in the river at our lunch spot. Second meeting place: NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot (I-26 Exit 53) at 10:30 AM. Park near Upward Rd. Topo(s): Cliffs Mtn.; also Trails of the Green River Gamelands map

Sunday No. A1501-654 Jan. 18 Squirrel Gap, Cane Creek Loop 8:30 AM Hike 12, Drive 55, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated A-A Janet Martin, cell: 502-494-9309, jaykaymartin@msn.com
**P400** From the Turkey Pen trailhead, we will hike up the S. Mills River, Pounding Mill and Squirrel Gap Trails, then down Horse Cove and Cantrell Creek to the site of the former Cantrell Lodge. Cross three pedestrian bridges as we hike out on the S. Mills River Trail. Possible wet stream crossings on Cantrell Creek Trail if there has been recent rain. Second meeting place: Turkey Pen Trailhead at 9:00 AM. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1501-493 Jan. 25
Pine Mtn. Loop II
- *8:30 AM*
Hike 10, Drive 20, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Michael and Kathy Cornn, cell: 828-458-1281, mcornn@aol.com

**P400** *Only Meeting Place: Ingles on NC 191 across from Asheville Outlets (formerly Biltmore Square Mall).* Hike up to Pine Mtn. from the Bent Creek side via Explorer loop, Chestnut Cove Trail and MST. Bushwhack through open woods to our scenic lunch stop atop Pine Mtn., then down to MST, Ruth’s Ridge and the Lower Sidehill Trail to cars. Topo(s): Enka, Dusnmore Mtn.; also NatGeo. map #780

Saturday No. A1501-550 Jan. 31
Paris Mtn. State Park
- *8:30 AM*
Hike 9.9, Drive 130, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656, cell: 828-606-7297, elworley@bellsouth.net

*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at NE corner of Cracker Barrels parking lot off Exit 53 of I-26 at 9:00 AM.* Located between Traveler’s Rest and Greenville, Paris Mountain State Park is one of the oldest protected areas in South Carolina. Originally, the lakes were the source of Greenville’s water supply. We will walk on well-maintained trails, enjoying good winter views and warmer weather than in Asheville. Topo(s): Paris Mtn.

Sunday No. A1501-848 Feb. 1
Three Forks Mountain
- *9:00 AM*
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 at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lot at 9:30 AM.* This new CMC hike in the Brevard area is a short but an interesting loop hike. 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 ridge-line, with a steep descent into Cycleham Gap. Topo(s): Rosman; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1501-019 Feb. 8
Winter Plant ID hike
- 9:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 20, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Becky Smucker, cell: 828-231-2198, bjsmucker@gmail.com

**P400** This moderate-paced hike is designed for identification of plants in the winter for beginners. Bring magnifying glasses if you have them. We’ll hike the MST between the French Broad River Overlook and a little beyond Walnut Cove, stopping often to look at various plants along the way. If the BRP is closed, we’ll hike along the roadway. Limited to 10 people: contact leader for reservation. Topo(s): Skyland; also NatGeo map #780 and MST Profiles book, pg. 57

Saturday No. A1501-298 Feb. 14
Hardtimes Loop
- *10:00 AM*
Hike 7, Drive 15, 900 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Lenny Bernstein, cell: 828-450-1325, lennybernstein41@gmail.com

**P400** *Only Meeting Place: Ingles parking lot across from Asheville Outlets (formerly Biltmore Square Mall) on NC 191.* This loop hike will start at the Hardtimes trailhead in Bent Creek. It will follow the Hardtimes Road up to the BRP and down to the Arboretum. We’ll hike through the Arboretum, with a side trip to the Education Center and the Carolina Mountain Trail. Topo(s): Skyland; also NatGeo map #780 and Bent Creek Trails Map

Sunday No. A1501-093 Feb. 15
Graybeard Mountain
- 9:00 AM
Hike 11, Drive 35, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Les and Catherine Love, 828-658-1489, leslove55@gmail.com

An exciting ridgetop amble along Middle Mountain (West Ridge) is our path to the summit. Return to Montreat via Walker Knob and Pot Cove Gap. There’ll be good views, a delightful hike and a good workout. The first mile is very steep. Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 9:20 AM. Topo(s): Montreat; also NatGeo maps

Sunday No. A1501-582 Feb. 22
Gauging Station – Pink Beds loop
- *8:30 AM*
Hike 9, Drive 85, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Stuart English, cell: 828-384-4870, stuenego@comporium.net

**P400** *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lot at 9:00 AM.* This will be a pleasant loop from the gauging station, covering parts of the S. Mills River, Buckhorn Gap, Black Mtn., Barnett Branch and Pink Beds Loop Trails. Topo(s): Shining Rock, Pisgah Forest; also NatGeo map #780

Saturday No. A1501-498 Feb. 28
High Windsy and High Top
- 8:30 AM
Hike 7.6, Drive 40, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Barbara Morgan, cell: 828-460-7066, barbc129@gmail.com

A fairly steep ascent on beautiful backwoods trails in the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly area. High Windsy is the former site of a lookout tower. We’ll hike another mile to High Top for more views to the north and east. Back the same way we came. Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:50 AM. Topo(s): Black Mtn.; also Blue Ridge Assy. Trails map

Saturday No. A1501-246 Mar. 14
Around Coffee Pot Mountain
- 10:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 50, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Laura Frisbie, 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@charter.net

**P400** We’ll circle Coffee Pot Mountain by hiking up Trace Ridge Trail to Beaver Dam Gap on the BRP and returning on the Spencer Branch Trail, with a stop to see the Hendersonville Reservoir and dam. Second meeting place: Mills River Ingles (near gas pumps) at 10:20 AM. Topo(s): Dusnmore Mtn; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1501-322 Mar. 1
Foothills Trail: Upper and Lower Whitewater Falls (strenuous)
Hike 11.6, Drive 115, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Bob Hysko, cell: 828-243-3630, rhysko@yahoo.com

WC100 Come to hike in the warm weather at the lower elevations! We’ll hike part of the Foothills Trail in NC and SC, featuring two of the region’s most stunning waterfalls. We will begin near the Upper Whitewater Falls parking lot and hike to the footbridge over the Thompson River. We’ll partially retrace our steps, then take the side trail to Lower Whitewater Falls, and finish at the Duke Power Co. Bad Creek parking lot. Short car shuttle. Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lot at 8:30 AM. Topo(s): Reid, Cashiers; also Foothills Trail map

Sunday No. A1501-256 Mar. 1
Moore Cove Figure-8 Loop
- *10:00 AM*
(moderate)

Hike 7, Drive 70, 1050 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Jan Onan, 828-698-3237, cell: 828-606-5188, janonan@bellsouth.net

**P400**, WC100 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lot at 10:30 AM.* This moderate double-loop trail follows two overgrown USFS trails. Expect a lot of scrambling over blowdowns, a couple of steep sections and two minor creek crossings. There is one good view of Looking Glass Rock, several waterfalls, and other views visible only when there are no leaves on the trees. Topo(s): Shining Rock; also NatGeo. map #780

Sunday No. A1501-711 Mar. 8
Asheville MST East
- *9:00 AM*
Hike 8.3, Drive 15, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Danny Bernstein, cell: 828-450-0747, danny@hikertohiker.com

*Only Meeting Place: Back parking lot of Folk Art Center. NOTE: This is the first day of DST.* This pleasant hike along the MST in the eastern end of Asheville will start at the Folk Art Center and end at US 25. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Asheville, Oteen; also MST Trail Profiles, pp. 50-53

Saturday No. A1501-714 Mar. 14
Around Coffee Pot Mountain
- 10:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 50, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Laura Frisbie, 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@charter.net

**P400** We’ll circle Coffee Pot Mountain by hiking up Trace Ridge Trail to Beaver Dam Gap on the BRP and returning on the Spencer Branch Trail, with a stop to see the Hendersonville Reservoir and dam. Second meeting place: Mills River Ingles (near gas pumps) at 10:20 AM. Topo(s): Dusnmore Mtn; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1501-246 Mar. 14
Around Coffee Pot Mountain
- 10:00 AM
Hike 7.5, Drive 50, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Laura Frisbie, 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@charter.net

**P400** We’ll circle Coffee Pot Mountain by hiking up Trace Ridge Trail to Beaver Dam Gap on the BRP and returning on the Spencer Branch Trail, with a stop to see the Hendersonville Reservoir and dam. Second meeting place: Mills River Ingles (near gas pumps) at 10:20 AM. Topo(s): Dusnmore Mtn; also NatGeo map #780
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, glmamb46@gmail.com and Lee Silver, 828-668-7147, leehsilver@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. H1501-852  Jan. 4  Jones Mountain
Hike 4.1, Drive 7/10 mi., 750 ft. ascent, Rated C-C  Bobbi Powers, 828-667-5419, bobbipowers23@gmail.com
*Only Meeting Place: Christian Creek Missionary Baptist Church, 1/10 mile off US 70 on the right on Warren Wilson Road. (Precise instructions will be provided with scout report). What a nice way to start 2015 – a new hike for a new year! This hike meanders around and over Jones Mountain, passing some intriguing ruins. Be ready for some steep uphill hiking. Topo(s): Oteen; also Warren Wilson trails map

Half-Day No. H1501-851  Jan. 11  DuPont Forest:
Corn Mill Shoals P.L. #6  *11:30 AM  Hike 6.5, Drive 90, 800 ft. ascent, Rated B-C  Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374, ashok.kudva@att.net
WC100 *Form car pools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 12:00 PM. This low elevation hike in the popular tourist and mountain bike area is best done in the winter for comfortable road and trail traffic. We start the hike on 4 miles of new trails for CMC to access popular High Falls. An optional 1.5 mile in-and-out hike is included to the bottom of High Falls. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Standingstone Mountain, also DuPont State Recreational Forest map, 2014 edition

Half-Day No. H1501-786  Jan. 18  Bracken Mtn. – Brushy Creek  *12:00 PM  Hike 5.5, Drive 70, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-C  Stuart English, 828-883-2447, cell: 828-384-4870, jckdalton9@gmail.com
*Form car pools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 12:30 PM. A hike in Bracken Mtn. Preserve near Brevard. There are several stream crossings on bridges, and should be spectacular winter views without leaves on the trees. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest

Half-Day No. H1501-767  Jan. 25  Lookout Mountain Loop  *11:30 AM  Hike 5, Drive 40, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated C-B  Linda Blue, 828-296-7537, lblue@bellsouth.net  *Form car pools at Westgate and meet leader at Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 11:45 AM. A modification of hike #767. This loop hike will start steeply uphill on the Lookout Trail, then will turn onto Old Trestle Rd., and will include the Buck Gap and East Ridge Trails, then return on Rainbow Road after an optional 0.4 mile side trip to Lookout Mountain Overlook. Topo(s): Montreat

Half-Day No. H1501-294  Feb. 1  Picklesimer Fields  *12:30 PM  Hike 5, Drive 72, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C  Lee Belknap, 828-698-9394, Rivergypsy@sprintmail.com
P400, WC100 *Form car pools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 1:15 PM. In-and-out hike from the Fish Hatchery. We’ll take Butter Gap Trail to Grogan’s Creek Falls and possibly farther, depending on weather. Topo(s): Shining Rock

Half-Day No. H1501-096  Feb. 8  Jack Branch Trail  *11:00 AM  Hike 5, Drive 75, 1650 ft. ascent, Rated C-A  Jack Dalton, 828-622-3704, jckdalton9@gmail.com
*Form car pools at Westgate and meet leader at Murray Branch Recreation Area on River Road in Hot Springs at 12:00 PM. River Road turns off US 25/70 just north of the bridge over the French Broad River, just before Hot Springs and goes along the river toward Tennessee. The trail follows the ridge that offers good views of the French Broad River and the town of Hot Springs and traverses open fields and oak-hickory forests. An in-and-out hike. This hike will be done jointly with CMC and the Hot Springs Mountain Club. Topo(s): Hot Springs; also ARD’s Hiking Trails in the Hot Springs Area booklet

Half-Day No. H1501-508  Feb. 15  Green River Gamelands: Bishop Br./Pulliam Creek/Rock Hop Trails  *11:30 AM  Hike 6.5, Drive 70, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B  Tom Lucha, 828-696-9117, luchat@bellsouth.net
*Form car pools at Westgate and meet leader at the Cracker Barrel, off Exit 53 of I-26, north-west corner of parking lot 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. H1501-687  Feb. 22  Chambers Mountain  *1:30 PM  Hike 5, Drive 50, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated C-B  Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, cell: 828-699-6296, bbente@bellsouth.net
**CMC initiates family hikes**

Education Chair Kay Shurtleff has been working to make connections with the community to get youth on the trail. Her recent venture included the Big Bother/Big Sister program in Henderson County, since she volunteers with this organization and has a Little Sister. She invited 'siblings' to spend some time in the woods Saturday, November 8th in Pisgah Forest to see Looking Glass Falls then hike to Moore Cove stopping for a lunch break before heading back to the cars. Jan Onan and her husband joined Kay on this beautiful fall day. Although only one pair came out for the adventure they were delighted and are hopeful that word will spread so more will join them next time in the spring. They appreciated that CMC members Joanne, Tommy and Rusty were at the ready to join them had a larger group showed up. They were able to head out to do maintenance instead.

Kay and Jan are now working on a new CMC Challenge to encourage CMC members and other adults in the community to take a hike with a youth! Stay tuned for more information as the plans unfold!

Please contact Kay if you are interested in leading or participating in a family or youth hike.

---

**How to join the CMC**

1. Go to www.carolinamountainclub.org
2. Click on Join (top left) or Join CMC! (right center).
3. You will see instructions for joining online or via mail. or ... write to us at CMC, PO Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802 and we'll mail you an application

---

**Winter hikes**

Winter weather is coming, and hikes may be cancelled either because of dangerous hiking conditions or bad road conditions. If the weather forecast is questionable for an upcoming hike, do this to find out if a hike will be done:

*Check the Breaking News section of the CMC website. Leaders will post a hike cancellation either the previous night or early on the day of the hike.
*Contact the leader. A phone call is better in case the leader's email is not working.

---

**How to participate?**

1. Go to www.carolinamountainclub.org
2. Click on Join (top left) or Join CMC! (right center).
3. You will see instructions for joining online or via mail. or ... write to us at CMC, PO Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802 and we'll mail you an application
Scouting the Cookie Hike

In the morning, as far as the eye can travel, a rainbow quilt of leaves; and crunching underfoot, making music for hours, their swish of rhythmic percussion.

Briefly, pine needles and a drift of giant cones blanket the leaves, and send their scent wafting in our wake. Suddenly, the still lake and a row of geese at the shore, each shaking a foot like a chorus line!

In the afternoon, a rhododendron tunnel hushes us, hushes us home.

— Susa Silvermarie

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 email 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.

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.

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.

Carolina Mountain Club
P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802

Next CMC Council Meeting
When: Monday, March 2, 2015
Where: EarthFare, Hendersonville Road (US 25), south Asheville
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Info: Call Lenny at 450-1325 if you would like to attend. All CMC members are welcome.