



Carolina Mountain Club

Since 1923

eNews | Hike . Save Trails . Make Friends.

January 2023

Annual Meeting Recap

by Tom Weaver

We had a very successful annual meeting last October, thanks to all who attended and helped prepare for the event!

I concluded my President's report with a Call to Action for our members to continue our legacy. What does this mean? As our club marks the momentous milestone of 100 years since our inception, the year 2022 was a time of reflection on our successes and accomplishments in hiking, trail maintenance and conservation. While we should all be extremely proud of our work in Western North Carolina, there is still much to be done.

As we look to celebrate our 100th birthday this year, we need your help across many areas of our club. Volunteer opportunities are available in many areas, including:

- Hike leadership
- Trail maintenance
- Centennial Birthday Planning Team
- Volunteer Engagement Team
- Council Leadership
- Conservation Committee
- Youth Partner Engagement Efforts
- Search and Rescue Team
- Diversity Team
- and more...

Please consider where you can lend your time and talents to continue the legacy of the Carolina Mountain Club into the start of our next 100 years. Visit our newly redesigned web pages to look for engagement opportunities and contact information on these opportunities. Without support from volunteers, our work wouldn't have nearly the impact that it does. We look forward to continuing our successes and accomplishments as the oldest and largest hiking and trail maintenance club in North Carolina.

North Carolina Announces Year of the Trail

The Great Trails State Coalition announces the launch of the 2023 North Carolina Year of the Trail campaign. NC Year of the Trail will celebrate and draw attention to North Carolina's vast network of trails, greenways, and blueways. These trails showcase our state's diverse landscapes – from grand mountain vistas to quiet rivers, vibrant urban greenways, coastal forests, and the rolling hills of the Piedmont. North Carolina Year of the Trail is the largest statewide celebration of trails and outdoor recreation in state history and will firmly establish North Carolina as “The Great Trails State.”

For more information, visit <https://greattrailsnc.com/> and follow us on social media @greattrailsnc - help spread the word about Year of the Trail!

To read more, go to <https://greattrailsnc.com/>



Bailey Mountain Community Art Show

Now accepting submissions for Bailey Mountain Community Art Show!

Bailey Mountain Preserve in Mars Hill is a great place to hike and is becoming popular with plein air landscape painters and other artists. Artists of all ages, mediums (paintings, photography, poetry etc) inspired by Bailey Mountain are encouraged to submit pieces for an exhibit in the Weizenblatt Gallery of Mars Hill University in June 2023 to celebrate and benefit continued preservation through the Friends of Bailey Mountain.



Trees in Winter

with UNCA botanist Dr. Irene Rossell
Friday, February 24, 11am-2pm
by Jeff Wilcox

Following a well-received "Tree Walk" in October, the CMC Education and Outreach Committee is once again pleased to sponsor an event with Dr. Irene Rossell, a botanist in the Environmental Science Department at UNC Asheville. Dr. Rossell will explain how woody plants adapt to life in winter and how to identify native trees by their twigs, bark, and other features.

The group will meet at the Botanical Gardens parking lot on Friday, February 24th at 11:00 am for a walk through the gardens and the UNCA campus. The group will then move indoors (~12:00-12:30pm depending on weather) for a restroom break and about an hour of hands-on instruction in an Environmental Science lab.

Bring a water bottle and snacks/light lunch. Limited to 20 participants--reserve your spot via email to jwilcox@unca.edu.

Are You a Map Freak II?

by Mike Knies

I wrote an article for eNews back in 2014 about maps. I can't believe it has been that long ago! People are so into GPS map sources now that many don't ever use a hard copy map. But there is much information on them, depending on what you are looking for, that isn't going to be on some GPS copy.

A friend called me recently and said some of the sites for U.S. Geological Survey maps from that article were not working for him now. The USGS has a much more user-friendly site now. In fact, it is so user-friendly that it hardly requires instruction.

I have updated my description below and included links to other map sites.

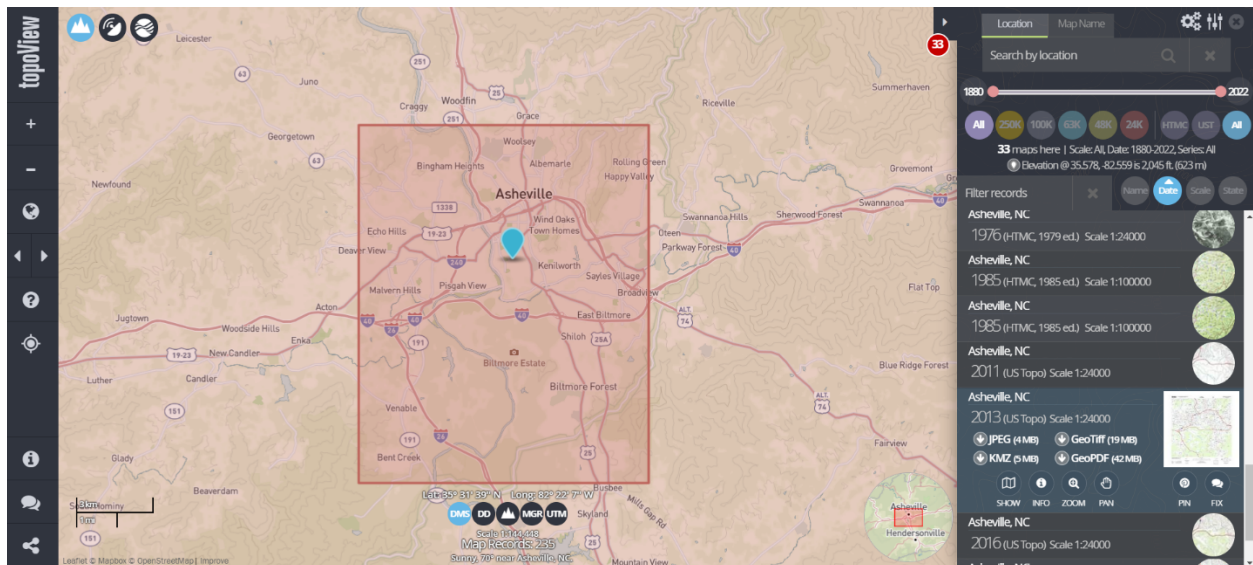
USGS Map Site

<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#11/35.5644/-82.6027>

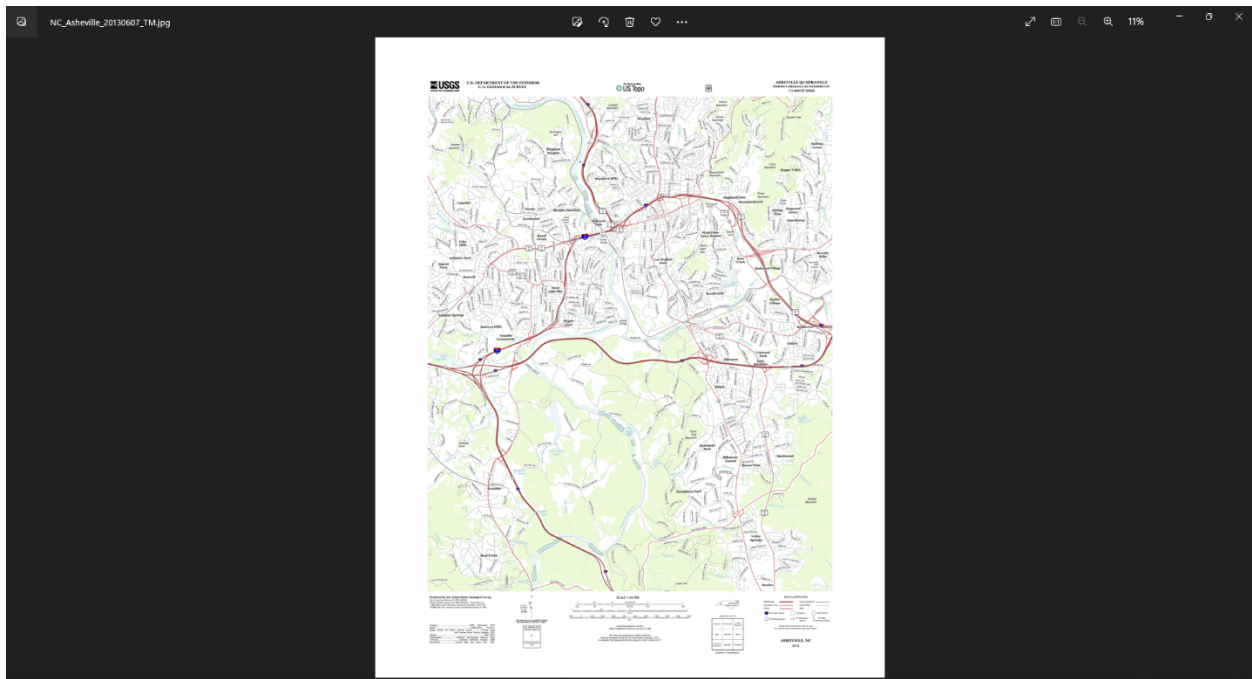
Follow the guide on the right side of the screen.



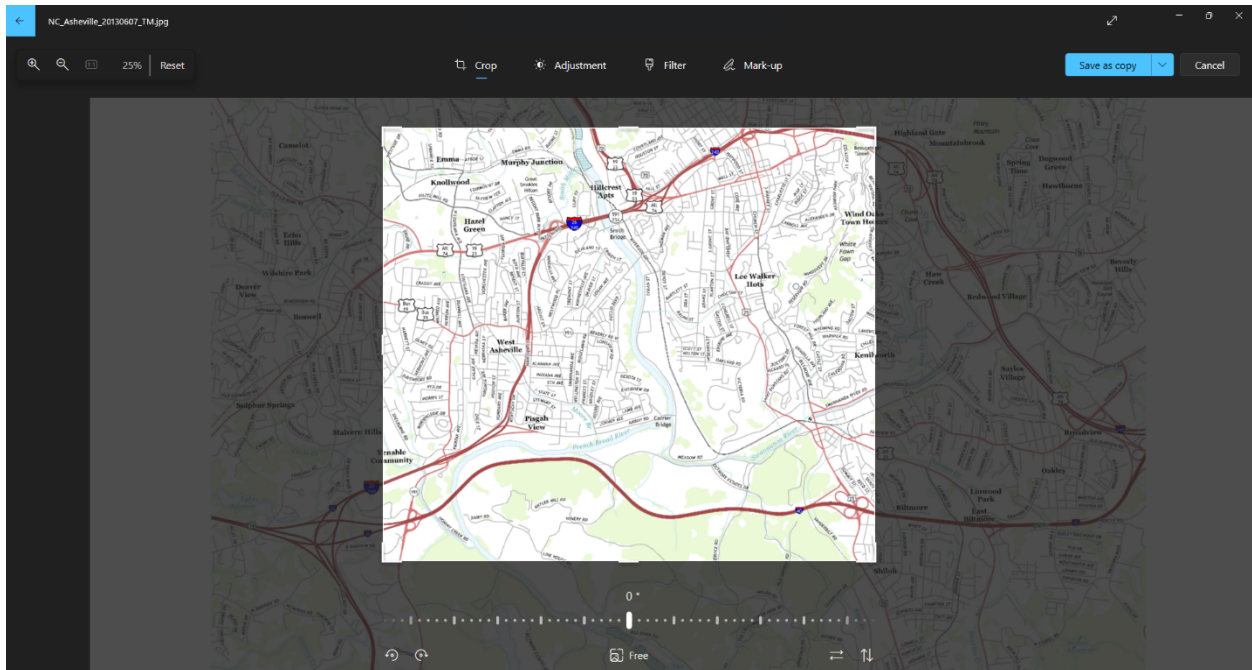
A list of almost every reasonable historic general map of that area will appear. Scroll to the one you want.



You will be given a list of destinations for downloading that map and saving to your system.



If you desire a larger section of one **area** of the map use the edit feature next to **the** left of the delete symbol at the top center.



Adjust borders and size as needed and save. Print out what you need for your next hike!!

You no longer need to keep a file of those old expensive, unwieldy topo maps. The use of sites like these has become so pervasive that the TVA has closed its formerly invaluable map shop in Chattanooga.

Here are some other sites from that old article that might be of interest to you.:

Maps of the Great Smoky Mountains

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/nhtml/gsmhome.html#em>

This site has the history of maps of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and sites to click on leading to an almost innumerable list of maps. If you can figure out how to download the individual maps you can have them readily available on your PC and export sections to save as separate files and to make notes on. Particularly useful to guys like me looking for a lot of pre-park features are the 1929 Topos and the 1931 east and west maps.

Smoky Mountain Hiking Trails

<http://tnlandforms.us/gsmnp/index.php>

This site provides more sites to click on with more information than you might want to know about all the trails in the Smokies including contours, aerial photos, and profiles. It also has locations for waterfalls, unusual landforms and other information.

North Carolina Maps

<https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/search/collection/ncmaps>

This site provides road maps for each of the counties of North Carolina going back to the late 1800s, plus other historical maps.

Horace Kephart Notebook and Maps

<http://wcdigitalcollection.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16232coll8/id/556/rec/347>

For Kephart and Smokies fans, this site provides a copy of his notebooks with pictures, notes and maps of the mountains in the early 1900's. It takes a while to get comfortable with using this site though.

Many maps available from the US Geological Survey can be downloaded to your computer, but they will sell you paper copies if you prefer. And some USGS maps are not available for download, notably including National Forest trail maps, but USGS sells paper copies. To buy maps from the USGS, visit <https://store.usgs.gov/maps> .

Even if you are not a map freak like me, I hope you find these sites fun to peruse and useful in facilitating and enhancing your outdoor excursions. You can use the money you save to buy a new pair of hiking socks!!

A.T. Trail Maintainers Have Stories to Tell!

by Debra Smith, A.T. Museum

The Appalachian Trail Museum is seeking TRAIL MAINTAINER stories, past and present. We know your club probably has some good ones to share!

Two new exhibits are being planned, opening to the public in summer 2023:

1. PIONEER TRAIL MAINTAINERS and BUILDERS

Going back to the 1920s, this exhibit will feature trail building and maintaining tools brought to life with the compelling images and stories of early A.T. trail builders and maintainers.

2. TRAIL MAINTAINERS and BUILDERS OF TODAY

Beginning with Lyndon Johnson's signing of the National Trails System Act in 1968, this exhibit will feature modern-day tools, trail-building techniques, and engaging stories of the dedicated groups and individuals who continue to this day to honor the volunteer traditions of the Appalachian Trail.

We invite your club to be a part of these new exhibits. **Please send us special stories of trail builders and maintainers from your club's history.** Complete the attached short form and return to Debra Smith at dsmithwsr@gmail.com (and please cc: Larry Luxenberg: larry.luxenberg@lexingtonave.com) by **January 30, 2023**. Responses may be brief; we will contact you for additional information if needed.

Save the Date!

The Carolina Mountain Club is celebrating our 100th birthday on Sunday, July 16th, 2023 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Join us for this fun-filled, family-friendly day at the NC Arboretum.

Highlights include vendor and nonprofit partner booths, food trucks, music, children's activities, guided hikes, and much more! All CMC party goers will receive free admission to the arboretum, courtesy of the NC Arboretum!

Come help CMC celebrate our legacy of 100 years of hiking, trail maintaining, conservation, and education.



Carolina Mountain Club is turning

100!

JULY 16, 2023

1-5pm at the NC Arboretum



Fun for the Whole Family!

Hikes • Music • Ice Cream and more!

Remembering Dave Wetmore

by Marcia Bromberg

When I think of Dave Wetmore it's remembering that every hike I took with him included off-trail bushwhacking. That's just the type of hiker he was. We lost Dave in December when he passed away on his 86th birthday.

A chemist by training, Dave taught at St. Andrews College and later at Brevard College. It was while at St. Andrew's he first hiked in and fell in love with the Smokies, leading students on rigorous camping trips and, over time, completing the Smokies 900M trail challenge.



In 1990, after moving to Brevard, Dave met long-time CMC'er, Bernard Elias, on a hike. From Bernard he learned about and then joined the CMC. Being one for challenges, he joined and eventually led the Challenge Committee, creating the Pisgah 400 challenge to go along with the SB6K.

In a 2011 interview with Danny Bernstein, Dave said "hiking fulfills some deep internal need" and that "I like leading off-trail hikes". (Yep) He Also enjoyed the solitude that hiking can bring.

Dave was definitely a character and I bet many CMC'ers have stories about him. Here's one from Stuart English from when a bear charged into Dave's campsite while he was cooking breakfast. He just threw his pot of boiling coffee at the bear and it took off. He later ran into hikers who confirmed they saw that bear hightailing down the trail.

My story is one he told on one of those bushwhacking hikes, maybe to shame those of us who were whining about all the wet water crossings. According to him he got frostbite on a couple of toes when he was out in the winter cold in his home state of Nebraska. He just waited for them to turn black and pulled them off with his pliers. Tough guy!

Son Dan describes his Dad as a "lover of symmetries and thrift" who maybe even planned to pass away on his birthday. A memorial service was held for Dave on January 4th in Brevard. Dave's ashes will be brought back to Stella, Nebraska, to join his wife in the family plot.

Carolina Mountain Club in the 1940s and 1950s

by Danny Bernstein

Continuing our series of extracts from the forthcoming book, *Carolina Mountain Club: One Hundred Years*.

A month into World War II in Europe, the October 1939 *Let's Go* had a paragraph titled *Propaganda Stuff*.

The feelings of insecurity and apprehension that troubles all thinking mortals today is as definite a fact on our horizon as Mt. Pisgah. What are you going to do about it? You can't dissipate it by brooding, by idleness or by idle talk. It's going to take action, and there is no line of action more rational than following our plan of building sturdy legs, hefty chests, and a serene spirit in the great out-of-doors. Besides, it's a lot of fun, and we predict a renewed activity in this sport and also a bigger and more enthusiastic CMC.

Still CMC continued to attract new members, including two men who went on to be giants in the Western North Carolina outdoor world. Several (many) current members still remember both Arch Nichols and Bernard Elias. Both Nichols and Elias were Asheville natives and both became CMC presidents. But they were two very different men with two different set of skills. Their contribution to the club is told throughout the CMC 100 book.



Bernard Elias on the left in 1979 – From the William T. Kirkman Photograph Collection, UNCA Special Collection

I never knew Arch Nichols but I was privileged to interview Bernard for the CMC eNews. He was the first person I interviewed in 2005. See <http://carolinamountainclub.org/enews/Enews%20archive/bernardint.html>

By September 1941, though the United States was not yet officially at war, CMC could not ignore “the effect of on-rushing war on our club. Some remember the gasless Sundays of the other war and when they come again, we'll just rear up on our hind legs and hit some of the fine trails that lead away from our back doors.” This referred to the

Arch Nichols maintaining a trail, 1983. Courtesy of Bill Ross



tail end of World War I, where Sunday pleasure drives were outlawed.

The October 1941 *Let's Go* reported that the draft had started. The United States had instituted the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 over a year before, which required all men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. On returning from a hike on Saturday December 6, 1941, hikers learned about the attack on Pearl Harbor. The United States was at war. But the club tried to keep going. "The boys are all about to go to war, come on girls." Like other aspect of the war effort, everyone had to do their part.

CMC continued to persevere by choosing hikes carefully. "The hikes have been chosen with the view of conserving transportation as much as possible. Practically all trips are accessible from bus lines or railroad so that the use of private

automobiles will not be required." These include Wesner Bald in the Richland Balsams, Cedar Cliff, and Reems Creek. It is difficult to imagine today how these trailheads were accessed by public transportation; this might be a research project all its own.

CMC offered hikes close to home or with public transportation until mid-1943. For example, Shumont Mt. overlooking Lake Lure – "The bus leaves AVL at 8:40am. Return by leaving Lake Lure at 6:11 pm."

In 1943, under CMC President H.A. Haseltine and with Dr. Tennent still very active as a council member, the club purchased war bonds with available funds. The same year, Arch Nichols, now a lieutenant on leave from the military, took the opportunity to climb Mt. Le Conte. The group took a bus to Newfound Gap and hiked via Boulevard Trail to the top. But where did the bus originate?

The last newsletter and the last documented CMC hike until July 1946 offered a hike close to home. Mrs. H.A. Haseltine, the wife of the CMC president, led this hike; her first name is never mentioned.

Craven Gap June 25th (1943) Mrs. H.A. Haseltine, Leader; Phone 1902

Leave Headquarters at 9:00AM. Out through Kimberly Ave. to NC 694 (Scenic Highway). Park at Locust Gap. This hike is an educational one to show how easily we can get away from cars and people and into the quiet of pastures and woodlands. By following trails and abandoned roadway on the north side of the ridge we can reach Craven Gap

without traversing more than a quarter mile of the highway. The return by way of the old railway grade is level, unbroken woods, with a profusion of wild-flowers and drinking water at several points.

Driving: 10 miles. Hiking: 7 miles. Climbing: negligible

By the second quarter of 1946, the club resumed its activities although it took a while for CMC to get over the effects on World War II.

In the 1950s, CMC members spent a lot of time and energy working on the Appalachian Trail. The A.T. had officially been declared completed in 1937.

In the summer of 1953, a woman is shown on top of Silvermine Bald wearing a skirt and white gym socks; pants and shorts were still not accepted by all women hikers. The newsletter describes the preferred clothing and equipment. "Footwear comes first. High shoes are best, and women should wear low heels...Hobnails are a help on the more rugged mountains" Under equipment it states "Perhaps a knife and a drinking cup. The less, the better." Hikers were still not used to taking all their water from home.

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.

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