



Carolina Mountain Club

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October 2022

Shining Rock Wilderness Has a New Look

by Bobbi Powers

You wouldn't think that installing seven small signs, removing two small signs, and re-positioning one sign would change the character of a wilderness area, but a great many people are hoping that is the case. Wilderness areas are traditionally sign-free to preserve an *au natural* experience for hikers. However, Shining Rock Wilderness has received a small makeover in hopes of improving safety. Vance Waggener, a member of CMC's Wilderness Response Team, said, "I am opposed to signage in most wilderness areas, but here, due to the popularity of the trails, it's necessary. If these signs can save one life, it's worth it."



Haywood Search and Rescue (SAR), an all-volunteer group, is called to Shining Rock Wilderness for the majority of its calls. Bill Zimmerman with Haywood SAR stated that "Haywood County is big. It goes all the way up to the Smokies, yet most of our calls are to Shining Rock." Steve Kuni, another member of the Haywood team elaborated, saying, "We've had 15 calls so far this year. We average 30 or more a year, the vast majority in Shining Rock. I didn't grow up in this area. I was up at Shining Rock on nighttime missions 3 or 4 times before I ever saw it in daylight."

To read more, [click here](#).



No Experience Necessary: Trail Maintainers Go Out for Fun

by Mike Williams

Retired attorney Bob Widman didn't know a hazel hoe from a Pulaski several years ago when he started volunteering as a part of a weekly trail maintenance crew that helps keep Western North Carolina's hiking trails open.

Now he's an old hand at building steps, clearing water drains, trimming back thick vegetation and helping clear fallen trees blocking the trail.

He's also got enough lawyer jokes to keep most of his fellow crew members laughing as they work.

"I always thought park rangers or Forest Service workers cleared the trails," Widman said, a

misconception held by much of the public. "I was never very handy with tools, but these guys are patient and have taught me everything I need to know."

To read more, [click here](#).

Update on 100 Favorite Trails Challenge

by Steve Pierce

The **100 Favorite Trails Challenge** is proving to be a popular challenge. We will have several challenge completers honored at the Annual Meeting in October. If you are aiming to complete the challenge by the annual meeting, the [deadline for submitting your spreadsheet is October 15](#) If you have questions email Steve Pierce – stevepierce50@gmail.com.

Here are some updates on two temporary trail closures and alternative hikes and one trail that is no longer accessible to the public and the replacement trail:

To read more, [click here](#).

CMC to Celebrate 100 years

by Pete Steurer

The Carolina Mountain Club will be 100 years old in 2023. Be sure to save the July 16th date when a social is planned to celebrate our Centennial. Each month leading up to the event, eNews will have an article to get us ready for the party. There will be Facebook posts, a video, a 50/50 hiking challenge, and a history slideshow at the CMC October Annual Meeting. A book, ***Carolina Mountain Club: 100 Years*** will be published next year. The following is the kickoff article of our history, safeguarded in the Special Collections & University Archives at the University of North Carolina Asheville D. H. Ramsey Library.

History is amazing! The events of today are history tomorrow. It may be etched in our minds. Sometimes saved in words and images whether on paper or film or stored on the latest digital technology. How it is saved is of lesser importance than the history itself. Most important is that history is there for future generations to understand and appreciate.

To read more, [click here](#).



Congratulations to CMC!

The results are in and ***Mountain Xpress*** readers have chosen **Carolina Mountain Club** as a winner in the following categories:

First Place (Hall of Fame): Hiking Club or Group

Category: Outdoors



Trail Maintenance Tool Repair Specialists: Roy Davis and Joe Bange

by Donna Bange

Abraham Lincoln is credited with stating: "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe." Any veteran maintainer knows that tool condition is critical to trail maintenance. A sharp Pulaski will cut tree roots like a hot knife through butter. A dull Pulaski will result in a tree root that is time consuming and difficult to remove. Trail maintainers can be intensely demanding of their tools as they crush rocks, move dirt, repair the trail, build steps, remove trees and unwanted foliage. Many CMC volunteers maintain their own tools; they customize their tool attributes (e.g., sharpness) to their liking.

Behind the scenes, Roy Davis and Joe Bange do tool repair and upkeep for CMC trail maintainers for several weekday crews. There are additional tool

maintainers in CMC. They met years ago on Friday Asheville weekday crew and quickly became friends. Roy taught Joe the tool repair fundamentals; Joe still considers himself an apprentice of Roy. Roy and Joe enjoy certain aspects of tool maintenance, especially generating sparks as they remove unwanted metal from wedges.

To read more, [click here](#).



Trail Maintainers Picnic

by Donna Bange

The Maintainer's Picnic is always a good time to reconnect with other CMC volunteers as evidenced by the two photos. Brenda Worley, Sallye Sanders and Danny Bernstein enjoyed catching up on both CMC hikes and trail maintenance.

Sallye is the first CMC member to be awarded the Centennial challenge: 50 hiking miles and 50 hours of trail maintenance. Mike Davis, Sallye Sanders, Rich Evans and Paul Curtin also reconnected and swapped stories about trail maintenance. Rich Evans has over 10,000 hours volunteering with CMC.



Skip Sheldon is Awarded the Presidential Life Time Achievement Award

by Donna Bange

Skip Sheldon was bestowed the honor of the Presidential Life Time Achievement Award for his hard work and dedication to the Appalachian Trail at the recent CMC Trail Maintenance Picnic. He has logged over 4000 volunteer hours just on the A.T. Skip is only the third CMC member to receive such a prestigious honor. Likewise, there are only 40 total individuals across America who have been granted such an award for their Appalachian Trail efforts.

To read more, [Click here](#).



CMC Friday Crew Works With Young Adults from AmeriCorps

by Donna Bange

The Friday Asheville Crew, led by Paul Curtin and Chris Werbylo, worked in mid-September with a team from the National Civilian Community Corp (NCCC). NCCC is part of AmeriCorps, an independent agency of the federal government. The NCCC team consisted of eight volunteers from ages 18 to 22, and is in the midst of a ten-month term of service being spent working with the US Forest Service.



To read more, [click here](#).

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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