



**Carolina Mountain Club**

**Since 1923**

**eNews** | Hike . Save Trails . Make Friends.

May 2022

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**THE SPRING SOCIAL IS BACK - May 14th!**

**Please RSVP by May 11th!!!**

**We've changed it to a Potluck at midday at the beautiful Lake Julian. We'll have live music and award presentations under the outdoor pavilion #6 accessed off Hendersonville Road.**

**Sign up on the [CMC website](#) Log in, then tap on the RED Spring Social button and enter your name and what dish you will be bringing. WHAT FUN!!**

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## **Carolina Mountain Club's Cordage and Craft Beer Appreciation Event**

by Jan Onan

Why Knot Get Together is back after two years... Join us outside over a craft beer and maybe dinner for a fun interactive evening!

Why Knot Get Together gatherings allows hikers and hike leaders to learn how to tie a few useful knots for hiking, camping or survival skills. Instruction in the tying and usage of various knots will be led by members of CMC's Search and Rescue Crew. They will bring a variety of cordage and other gear for you to use, but feel free to bring your owns as well.

Come join us for all or some of our 5 meeting dates.

When: Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00:

May 11 - Mills River Brewery

June 8 - Highland Brewery

June 22- Blue Ghost Brewery

July 13 - The Wedge at Foundation

July 27 - Sierra Nevada

Questions, contact Jan at [janonan59@gmail.com](mailto:janonan59@gmail.com)




**SAT MAY 14**  
**CMC SPRING PICNIC**  
**LAKE JULIAN**

**Held at Lake Julian pavilion #6 from noon to 3pm.**

It's been a long two years but we are ready now to roll out the Spring Picnic again! Come join the fun at a potluck with no charge to members. CMC providing the meat and tea & water to drink. If you want something else, including beer and wine, bring it yourself.

Bring your best potluck to share with everyone. Sign up on the members side of the website by clicking the red Spring Social button, adding how many folks you're bringing and what dish you're bringing so we won't have too much of one thing.

No formal program except we will be delivering some awards to very deserving people!

Also a chance to say goodbye to Kate Dixon of the Friends of the MST and say hello to other special guests.

**Please RSVP on CMC website to attend**

**All outside**

**Carolina Mountain Club - all members**



**Potluck**

**Looking forward to seeing your smiling faces!**




Note: Please contact me if you plan to come so we can confirm the location and try secure a place for all of us to sit together.

## **New Saturday schedule for the Section Rovers Maintaining Crew**

by Jan Onan

In order to accommodate folks who have weekend time to work on the trail, the Section Rovers Crew is adding two Saturdays a month to our weekly Tuesday schedule.

“The purpose of the Section Rovers is to have section maintainers who may or may not be affiliated with a CMC crew to come out and get additional training in trail maintenance.”

Coming out every week is not necessary, but twice a month is encouraged. Section Rovers will meet section maintainers on their section to address trail issues. We will rotate our trails so all who want to have work done can get a good start while getting a truly hands-on learning experience. You can select either a Tuesday or a Saturday for your rotation and the Section Rovers will work on your trail with you. However, you are welcome to join us any day.

You get to work with experienced and non-experienced maintainers who are more than willing to share their knowledge, talents and on-the-spot problem solving. There is something for everyone to learn, no matter physical abilities. The group makes it fun. As Rich says, “We are here to be safe, have fun and if we have time, get some work done!”

If you are interested in joining us on either day, send an email to [sectionrovers@gmail.com](mailto:sectionrovers@gmail.com)

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## **Max Patch and Trail Ambassador Update**

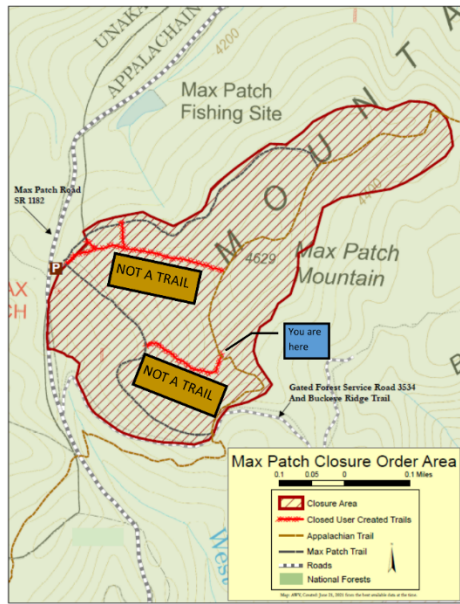
by Paul Curtin

As a Trail Ambassador (TA) makes her patrol, she notices a person starting down a social trail to the parking lot instead of using the A.T. loop as shown on the maps. She gets their attention, and then patiently explains using the Authority of the Resource technique she was trained in why the trail is closed and how to use the loop trail to get back. Once informed about the resource damage hiking off trail causes, the hiker gets back on the trail and follows it back to their car. Each small win adds up to a lot over the course of a year.

As many of you know, the USFS Appalachian Ranger District put in place a Forest Order starting July 1, 2021 for a period of 2 years, after which it can be extended, made permanent, or ended. The implementation of this order was the end of a long process beginning with it being written by then District Ranger Richard Thornburgh prior to his departure in January of 2020, proceeding through the maze of government approvals, preparation for the order, and putting it in place. The order was shepherded through by District Ranger Jennifer Barnhart starting in July of 2020, and given rocket fuel by the infamous picture from September 2020 of the party with 100+ tents on top.

CMC played a major role in getting this order put in place. The Trail Ambassadors collected the needed data to support writing the order, and CMC helped to shape the language. CMC helps to lead the Visitor Use Management Committee with the Forest Service and Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The VUM Committee put its support behind the order and decided what additional signage and notices were necessary to communicate it. CMC got the signs and notices made and installed in a number of locations across the bald and at the entrances of the closure area.

# DO NOT ENTER



**THIS  
IS  
NOT  
A  
TRAIL**

USDA Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## NOTICE

1. NO camping.
2. NO fires or stoves.
3. AREA CLOSES 1 hour after sundown. Reopens 1 hour before sunrise. Visitors prohibited during closed hours.
4. GROUP size limited to **10**.
5. STAY ON designated trails.
6. DOGS and other animals must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
7. AIRCRAFT may not land nor drop off or pick up anything in this area. DRONES are prohibited on Appalachian Trail.
8. NO fireworks.
9. BIKES must stay on roads only.
10. HORSES and other saddle and pack animals may not be ridden, hitched, tethered, or hobbled in this area.



**ENJOY AND DO NOT DESTROY  
YOUR PUBLIC LANDS.  
PACK OUT WHAT YOU BRING IN**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

District Ranger Jennifer Barnhart says “Without CMC leadership and dedication to making a difference at Max Patch through the Trail Ambassadors program, National Public Lands Day, and the VUM committee, we would not be hearing the praises from the locals of Spring Creek community that they have the “old Max Patch back”, we would not be hearing the birds chirping on top of Max Patch, and we would not be experienced a quiet sunset on one of the most iconic locations on the A.T.” She commissioned the original drone photographer and CMC member Mike Wurman to take the picture again one year later. Here is the result.



**One year later**



Here is some more data on the impact of the Order and our Trail Ambassador program.

	Max prior to order	Max since order
Tents in place	125	4
Fire Rings	70	9
Hikers off Trail	50	10
Area of Social Trails	22000 sq ft	9000 sq ft

TAs collect other data as well on traffic, parking, numbers of people, resource damage, toilet paper and trash, etc. One notable figure is the TAs made personal contact with nearly **3000** people in their role as educators and resource protectors. The impact of the TA program and the Forest Order has been nothing short of transformational.



Alice and Anna on patrol and enjoying the day!

The program has grown to having 20 active TAs. In order for the program to reach its goal of covering every weekend from March through November we would need about double that. Please consider joining the cause. If you enjoy talking to people, like spending a beautiful day on Max Patch, and the reward of giving back, you would enjoy putting the TA uniform on. We provide all the training required and have experienced TAs who you can shadow until you get comfortable. Please contact Paul Curtin at [pmcurtin@hotmail.com](mailto:pmcurtin@hotmail.com) if you have interest. Become part of the team making a real difference!

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## Youth Partner Challenges

One or two Family Friendly Youth Partner Challenge hikes are once again being scheduled for each quarter. Check the schedule for upcoming hikes and invite a youth to go hiking with you! Be sure to contact the leader to let them know you are coming.

Our first hike was scheduled for on May 1st to meet at the Carl Sandburg Parking lot.



## You're invited to join the Friends of Rocky Fork State Park

Have you experienced the natural beauty of Rocky Fork State Park on the Tennessee and North Carolina border?

This wilderness park features Appalachia at its best, with beautiful cascading creeks and waterfalls, a diversity of flora and fauna, and a system of trails for every hiking level ranging from easy to challenging.

The Friends of Rocky Fork State Park exists to support and assist park staff to protect, preserve, promote, and enhance the park. Formed in 2016, this nonprofit group is seeking new members to assist in expanding efforts on behalf of the park. By becoming

a member, you can get involved in projects such as trail maintaining, volunteering at special events, and visiting fairs and festivals to promote the park throughout Tennessee and North Carolina.

Members are invited to attend board meetings every other month and may also choose to join committees such as Trails, Event/Fundraising, Communications, Grants, ByLaws/Policy/Insurance, Finance and Planning. You might even consider becoming a board member, with elections held at the December annual members' meeting.

Individual memberships are just \$25 annually; families can join for \$40, and students for \$10. For more information and to join, visit [rockyforkfriends.org](http://rockyforkfriends.org). Email [rockyforkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rockyforkfriends@gmail.com) with questions.

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## Southern Partnership Meeting

by Paul Curtin

Each year CMC attends the Southern Partnership Meeting, which gathers all the A.T. maintaining clubs in Virginia and south to Georgia, along with the land management agencies and Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). The meeting is organized by ATC but led by the 13 regional volunteer clubs. This year's meeting was in Damascus VA on April 22 - 24, and attended by about 75 people from the clubs, Forest Service, National Park Service (NPS), SAWS (Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards), and ATC.



On Friday the attendees had an opportunity to do a group hike and also tour the new Damascus Trail Center built by the town and ATC. It is an impressive facility which will open to the public in August. There is a large relief map of the area showing the terrain and all the trails that are available.



The meeting kicked off with a joint plenary session led by the two Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) chairs, Theresa Duffy of the Old Dominion Club and Paul Curtin of CMC. It was exciting for everyone to get back together again after two years of remote meetings. A large tent was set up to allow the meeting to be held outdoors near the river, a beautiful setting. Reports were made by ATC, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the ATC Stewardship Council. This was followed by the annual awards and a

welcome by the mayor. Like many mountain towns, Damascus is growing. If you haven't been there in a while you would be impressed.

During these meetings you can see the impact of the cooperative management system, where the clubs, ATC, and the land managers (Forest Service) work together in a system led by volunteers. This is a unique arrangement within the National Parks which has been in place for the A.T. for decades. The clubs derive their authority for their work on the trails through Visitor Service Agreements executed with the USFS. CMC is just about to finalize a new agreement with the Pisgah, Nantahala, and Cherokee Forests. The ATC is delegated authority to manage the trail through an agreement with the NPS.



Following the plenary session on Saturday morning the respective regional committees split up to have their biannual RPC meetings. The meeting for the five clubs of the Southern region was led by RPC chair Paul Curtin of CMC. CMC had the largest Southern club contingent on hand with Tom Weaver Club President, Jan Onan Councilor for Membership and RPC voting member, and Ron Navik, past Councilor for Maintenance. The RPC meeting was held Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, and focused on a number of club issues and initiatives. Everyone left excited by the challenges ahead and rewarded with the acknowledgement of the great accomplishments of the past year. The dinners and get togethers Friday and Saturday nights were great fun and a chance to catch up with old colleagues and make new friends. We look forward to next year's meeting but this one will be hard to top!

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## North Carolina Historical Marker Unveiled for CMC's George Masa

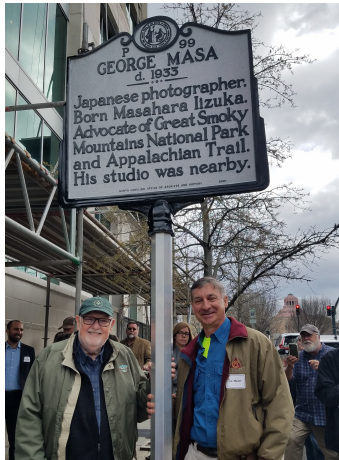
by Pete Steurer

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, North Carolina unveiled a new Historical Highway Marker in downtown Asheville to honor George Masa. I was there, and Carolina Mountain Club president, Tom Weaver, had the honor to help pull the unveiling cord. Masa was an early member of CMC. He died penniless in 1933. CMC had to pay for his burial and memorial stone in Riverside Cemetery. In 1961, Masa had a 6,000-foot mountain named for him. Now he has one of only 1,600 historical markers in our state. His tireless work in mapping the Appalachian Trail and striking photographs of the Great Smokies resulted in preserving these indescribable treasures that we all enjoy today.



I have been a member of the CMC since 1980, a past historian, and involved with CMC's history records for almost half of those 42 years. Masa Knob, Mt. Kephart and Mt. Ambler in the Smokies, Ambler's Rattlesnake Lodge on the Mountains to Sea Trail, and Tennent Mountain in Shining Rock Wilderness are all named in honor of early CMC

members. They did extraordinary things in our mountains when timber barons were clearcutting every tree in their path in the late 1800s and 1900s.



Asheville was a different place when Masa and the others were hiking. It is hard to believe there were only tree stumps on many of our beautiful mountains back then. With no trees, rain caused devastating floods. Erosion carried away the topsoil and killed all the life in the silt laden rivers down to the Atlantic and Gulf. Once the easy lumber was harvested, the timber barons went to the more remote areas like the Smokies. It was not until the Great Depression when the logging finally stopped. The Great Smokies became a National Park in 1934, more than three decades after Dr. Chase Ambler organized a 1902 convention in Asheville to establish the Park. Masa's photographs and Horace Kephart's words rallied the cause in the 1920's.

People remain mystified by Masa. Documentary films were made about his life such as Bonesteel Films in 2007 and Ken Burns' 2009 National Parks ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Masa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Masa)). I wrote CMC's 70th and 80th anniversary histories in 1993 and 2003 which include stories about these CMC giants, especially Masa. (<http://www.carolinamountainclub.org/view/assets/uploadedAssets//CMC%20History%2070th%20Anniversary.pdf>). The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CMC is 2023. We look forward to reading what Danny Bernstein writes about our amazing club. In the meantime, check out the new marker across the street from Pack Square and Salsa's. You may get mystified too as to what Masa did.

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## Theodore Charles Connors Obituary

Everyone who knew him thought highly of him. He never led a hike, but he was a wonderful sweep. There was something in his nature that allowed him to help and encourage those having difficulty on a hike.

Theodore Charles Connors  
10-13-1940 to 3-20-2022

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven  
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted  
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance..."

Ted Connors was hardwired toward kindness; it was his nature. He never mentioned his career, unless asked to elaborate his experience as an aerospace engineer with Boeing in the 60's in California; the era of the "space race" to the moon. His team designed an outer material for the Apollo and Shuttle missions, that would withstand the pressure and speed of the returning vehicle as it entered the earth's gravitational field, jetting at about 5,000 miles an hour, generating an immense heat.

Retiring from Boeing in 2000, Ted decided to head eastward, settling in Hendersonville, NC. He joined the Carolina Mountain Club, hiking and exploring the exquisite beauty of our NC mountains. He volunteered at the Blue Ridge Literacy Council, teaching reading and writing. He loved travel, classical music, concerts, theater, his family, his dearest of friends, and his quirky cats.

Many heartfelt thanks to Comfort Keepers of Columbus, NC, who were dedicated professionals, helping with the details of Ted's care toward his final weeks. These women were heroes, day, as well as through the night. Their expertise was utterly inspiring. The nurses of the Hospice House of the Carolina Foothills, Rutherfordton, NC, were incomparable; the dedication to their craft is incomparably stellar.

He will be missed by his nieces and nephews, Carolyn Troast, Lisa Doctor, Paul and Mikee Thistle, Sue and Sam Soroko, Cathy Lueck, Steve and Tina Troast, Doug and Carla Troast, David and Debi Welsh, Tom and Tamara Welsh.

Ted will be eternally missed by his wife, Elaine Pearsons, to whom Ted's daily mantra was "We are Blessed."

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## **Interview with Tish Desjardins**

by Kathy Kyle

Since joining CMC in 2007 Tish Desjardins has played many roles including maintainer, hike leader, hiker and conservation chair. Her most cherished role though is hiker. Her interest in hiking can be traced back to when she lived in Massachusetts in the 1980s after her two sons were grown and in college.

She was working at Texas Instruments at the time and started swimming laps at the YMCA before work when she met a woman who belonged to the Yankee Trailers Hiking Club. She went, she joined, and she hasn't stopped hiking since. The group hiked in several states including Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Yankee Trailers Club would also go even further afield - taking hiking trips to Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine on long weekends.

As she said: "I joined immediately and was opened up to a wonderful world of woods, beauty and wonderful companions." She later joined the much bigger Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC).

She joined CMC before moving to the remote area of Hot Springs in WNC because she knew of CMC from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) get-togethers she attended when living up North. The ATC brings together hiking clubs along the east coast every other year and beyond to go on hikes, excursions, and to attend workshops



and lectures at different club locations along the Appalachian Trail for several days during the summer. This year, the event is being held in New York.

Tish brought some of those traditions as well as her strong Boston accent and wide smile with her when she moved. She started holding covered dish or potluck suppers in 2008 at her development's clubhouse just outside Hot Springs. "The inspiration came from the local hiking club up North - they used to do it and it was such fun." Tish's husband Ray has made chicken pot pie and started the fire in the large stone fireplace in the lodge and set up the supper much to the delight of the hikers who have come in and enjoyed the delicious community dinner.

It was again through word of mouth that she learned about maintaining. Danny Bernstein, she said, mentioned it to her. "I had known folks who did it in New Hampshire from the hiking clubs that I belonged to up North."

She maintains the 2.7 mile A.T. section from Tanyard Gap to the Pump Gap Trail intersection. "I used to maintain the whole 5.9 mile A.T. section continuing to Hot Springs from Tanyard Gap. Prior to that I maintained the A.T. section from Garenflo Gap to Deer Park shelter. And, on my own, unofficially, I used to trim back the Pump Gap Trail and also the Hickey Fork Trail," she said.

In addition to leading and maintaining, Tish helped CMC when it hosted the ATC Conference when it was held at WCU. She also chaired the CMC Conservation Committee and she is still on this committee. Tish is also the CMC's Representative to the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership

Conservation has brought new awareness, she said. "Being on the conservation committee opened up my eyes to the importance of hiking within an undisturbed environment along the trails other than the designated trail that we're walking on. And, it is important that the Forest Service does not disturb the views that are encountered along the trails by logging. Keeping an eye on the Forest Service's projects is important in order to remind them of not disturbing views and to remind them of the importance of no logging near the trails so that erosion can be prevented."

She also sees challenges for the future with increased use of the forests. "Due to the Forest Service's recent release of their final management plan with regard to the subject of 'Recreation,' there is now a new challenging problem for hikers. Instead of letting mountain bikers and horse riders be allowed to create their own trails, the Forest Service has stated in the plan that bikers and horse riders will have to start using "hike only" trails. Where those shared trails will be, who knows at the moment. In other words, more "hike only" trails will have to be converted to "multi-use" trails. That will definitely cause much erosion on the trails and safety concerns."

What is Tish's ideal hike? "For me, the perfect hike is getting away from the noise of traffic and enjoying the sounds of wildlife and the creaking of the trees from the wind," she said.

“As far as hiking near my home in northwestern Madison County, I have to say I love being up on the ridge of the A.T. northbound, getting there from the Jerry Miller Trail and being up on the ridge from Devil Fork Gap going southbound. You're truly away from it all.”

Tish has found her sweet spot and CMC is lucky it's included in that spot.

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Carolina Mountain Club eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Send your news to [eNews@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:dbass3607@gmail.com). Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.

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