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October 2023

Craggy Pinnacle Trail Rehabilitation - October 14th

Join Carolina Mountain Club as we restore this trail to a great overlook. We'll be out rehabbing the trail and making new friends. No experience necessary, experienced CMC trail crews will be on site to supervise and train.

*You do not have to be a CMC member to come on these work days. We will have release forms you can fill out before we start work. **If you are under 18, you must have a parent or guardian with you.***

Please wear sturdy boots, long pants, bring work gloves, lunch, and plenty of water. We will provide tools, hard hats if you need one, and expert guidance.

Meet at 8:15 AM at the Folk Art Center parking lot off the BRP to carpool, or at the Craggy Pinnacle parking lot on the Parkway at 8:45 AM. Please carpool if you can, parking is limited.

We will return to the Folk Art Center by 3:00 PM

Please contact Les Love at: lesrlove55@gmail.com with questions.

Register at: <https://carolinamtnclub.org/eventform.cfm>



SAT, OCT 14

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Sponsored by Waynesville Location
MAST GENERAL STORE

Forest Festival Day

Saturday, Oct. 7 will be Forest Festival Day at the Cradle of Forestry in Pisgah National Forest.

Forestry students from across the region, traditional craftsmen and exhibitors will be on site during the family-friendly celebration from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and guests are encouraged to cheer as the students compete during the Woodsmen's Meet that has the flavor of an old-time lumberjack competition.



The students test their skills in a number of events including archery, axe throwing, crosscut sawing and pole felling. Competing schools include Haywood Community College, Penn State Mont Alto, Montgomery Community College, Wayne Community College, Mountain Gateway Community College and NC State University.

The following partners will also be at the event with information about their work, give aways and other fun things: Stihl, Society of American Foresters, Hemlock Restoration Initiative, Carolina Mountain Club and FIND Outdoors.

CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY - CMC's ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, October 28

Our **Very Special CMC Annual Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, October 28, 2023**, at the Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park. We have just had a hugely successful 100-year birthday party for our incredible club, so let's keep that momentum going by having a hugely successful Annual Meeting. **These are special times**. Our guest speaker will be Nancy East, author of *Chasing the Smokies Moon*, holder of the FKT of the Smokies 900-mile challenge, and an active member of CMC's Haywood County Search and Rescue Team.

You can register online by signing in to the CMC website and clicking on the red Annual Dinner icon to pay with a credit card **OR** you can click the link below and print the form to mail with your check. Now is a good time to renew your membership and make that donation to either the CMC General Fund or the newly formed **CMC Endowment Fund** to ensure our club's stability for our next 100 years. (Note: We must limit the attendees to 150 due to the size of the Hilton's banquet room, so make your reservations early.)

Please make your reservation by October 15th.

Especially for Trail Maintainers

Do you know how to correctly install the new MST blazes or how to blaze a secondary trail? Do you know how to check out a weed eater at Ace Hardware? Answers to these questions and much other pertinent information for trail maintainers is available in the Members' section of the CMC website.

After you sign in, go to "Trail Maintenance" and click on "Training Videos." You will find several short and informative videos. Whether you are a newbie to maintaining or a seasoned maintainer, you will likely find some information you either didn't know or have forgotten.

Please check them out!

Pisgah View State Park - Request for Carolina Mountain Club Member Input

by Tom Weaver

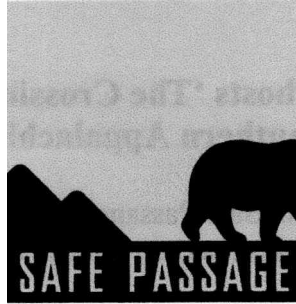
The Division of Parks and Recreation is preparing a master plan for Pisgah View State Park. The master plan will be a 20-year plan that covers the entire state park, which includes over 1,600 acres spanning Buncombe and Haywood counties and is located within the Spring Mountain range and the Southern Appalachian escarpment, an ecologically significant region. Equinox Environmental of Asheville has been contracted to work with DPR and the public to develop the master plan, initially identifying the recreation, educational, and conservation needs for the park. The master plan process is estimated to last about a year and a half and stakeholder input will continue throughout the process.

Les Love and I attended the first of three public information meetings held in the community. The meeting was an openhouse style that allowed feedback from the community and was well attended. Members of the public were encouraged to attend, dropping in at any time, and expected to spend 20-30 minutes to review, discuss and weigh in on their preferred recreational amenities for the park.

Carolina Mountain Club is expected to contribute to the plan for hiking trails and has the reputation and skills to help the park design and build sustainable trails. We have a history with this property, leading hikes in the past - as described in Danny's book.

They will have two more meetings after this, but if you'd like to give your input, you can take the online survey:

[Pisgah View Survey](#)



The 1-40 Pigeon River Gorge Wildlife Crossing Project

Safe Passage: The 1-40 Pigeon River Gorge Wildlife Crossing Project
smokiessafepassage.org

For more information, contact:

Tracy Davids, Outreach Committee Chair

Safe Passage: The 1-40 Pigeon River Gorge Wildlife Crossing Project
tdavids@defenders.org

- What:** The Crossing: A short-film screening about animals, highways and
Who: ideas
When: Safe Passage Fund Coalition
Where: Thursday, Oct. 26 at 5 p.m.
Social hour, 5-6 p.m. Program & film screening, 6-9 p.m.
Tickets
: pleb urban winery, 289 Lyman St., Asheville
Free; Reserve a spot at safepassageoct26.eventbrite.com

For Calendar Listings

The Safe Passage Fund Coalition is hosting The Crossing, an exciting free event and screening of films highlighting road ecology in Southern Appalachia and beyond. The evening, which will be emceed by Jeff Hunter of National Parks Conservation Association, features guest speaker Ted Grudowski, award-winning conservation filmmaker and director of two of the films.

Thursday, Oct. 26, from 5-9 p.m. at pleb urban winery, 289 Lyman St., Asheville.

Reserve a spot at safepassageoct26.eventbrite.com

Safe Passage Fund Coalition hosts 'The Crossing,' a short-film screening on wildlife crossings in Southern Appalachia and beyond, Oct. 26

ASHEVILLE- On Thursday, Oct. 26, Safe Passage Fund Coalition welcomes the public to attend The Crossing, an exciting free event and screening of films that highlight road ecology in Southern Appalachia and beyond.

The event, held from 5-9 p.m. at pleb urban winery, 289 Lyman St. in Asheville, features emcee Jeff Hunter of National Parks Conservation Association and guest speaker Ted Grudowski, award-winning conservation filmmaker and director of two of the films. In addition to films and programming, guests can enjoy a short winery tour, drinks from a cash bar and meals from local food trucks. One is pleb's onsite food truck, and the other is El Bodgeon, serving Argentinian food with Italian and Spanish influences.

Since 2017, 20-some regional organizations have been collaborating to make Interstate 40 between Asheville and Knoxville safer for people and wildlife. This partnership ultimately led to the creation of Safe Passage: The I-40 Pigeon River Gorge Wildlife Crossing Project.

At The Crossing, Safe Passage will showcase two films, "Cascade Crossroads" and its follow-up "Critter Crossing in the Cascades," diving into a similar project along Washington state's Interstate 90, where bridges are being built for wildlife to cross.

"The importance of wildlife connectivity can't be overstated," explained guest speaker Grudowski, who directed the two "Cascades" films. "Wildlife passages allow for animal movement to happen as they need it to, allowing for genetic flow in animal populations of countless species. It also saves human lives by reducing animal-vehicle collisions, as well as the cost of the vehicle and the life of an animal. It feels good knowing that your region is doing the right thing by the natural world.

"The wildlife passages on I-90 at Snoqualmie Pass shown in these films demonstrate that the science behind road ecology works - and it works in a big way," he continued. "At a time when more roads are being built, more people are driving, and more wildlife habitat is being encroached upon by human development, it's critical to show what we can do to protect our precious wildlife, because once they're gone, they don't always come back."

In addition to Grudowski's two films, The Crossing also features several other short films on road ecology in Southern Appalachia, including "The Search for Safe Passage" from Wildlands Network and National Parks Conservation Association, which was an official selection of the 2023 North Carolina Film Festival. Additional films scheduled to screen include "Safe Passage: Accommodation or Decimation;" "Negotiating the Right-of-Way Between Humans and Wildlife," a TedX Talk by Nikki Robinson of Wildlands Network; and "Safe Passage: Animals Need a Hand" by Frances Figart and Joe Lamirand, featuring The Fates and River Guerguerian.

The event begins with a social hour and short winery tour from 5-6 p.m., followed by the film screening and programming from 6-9 p.m. Tickets to this free event are limited to the first 230 people to register. Reserve your seat now at safepassageoct26.eventbrite.com

The Safe Passage Fund Coalition comprises The Conservation Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, Great Smoky Mountains Association, National Parks Conservation Association, North Carolina Wildlife Federation, Wildlands Network and The Wilderness Society - all of which are dedicated to making the 28-mile section of Interstate 40 in the Pigeon River Gorge a safer place for wildlife and humans alike. They are supported by a stakeholder group of nearly 20 federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental organizations that have been meeting about the issue since 2017. More information on the coalition can be found at smokiessafepassage.org



Eastern Hemlock Cones Are Ripe!

Hemlock Restoration Initiative

Help out the NC Forest Service by collecting and donating your hemlock cones. The time is ripe and so are the cones! Click here <https://savehemlocksnc.org/cone-collection/> to visit our website for more information on how to know when your cones are ready to pick and other details about collecting and dropping them off. Email volunteer@savehemlocksnc.org with any questions.

NOTE: please try to collect on a dry day as the cones will start to mold if stored wet.

For other Hemlock Restoration Initiative activities, visit their website:

<https://savehemlocksnc.org/events/>

Nominations for 2023 CMC Awards

Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to make a nomination for the awards to be given out at the Annual Meeting on October 28th! We've had a larger than usual number of nominations this year, and it just goes to show how special our membership is and in so many ways! If you want to hear - first-hand - who has been selected for the Award of Appreciation and the Distinguished Service Award, be sure to attend this year's Annual Meeting!

-Barbara Morgan and Donna Bange

Great Day at Max Patch

by Paul Curtin, CMC AT Supervisor

WOW! What a great day we had at Max Patch for National Public Lands Day on September 23rd. We had a total of 95 volunteers out for the day, which is the largest CMC maintenance outing ever! Our total hours for the workday were 813, which is valued at \$25,853 in contributions for our volunteer hours to the USFS!

Thanks to our sponsors:

- BearWaters Brewing for providing a nice afterparty space and the first drink
- Fjällräven for their giveaways
- Sawyer for their sponsorship and giveaways
- The Landmark Project for the t-shirts, giveaways, and presence at the event

We appreciate our partners, especially Natalia Muglia and Tara Wu from the ARD USFS Pisgah National Forest. We appreciated having the ARD EMTs out with us and not needing them because everyone worked worked safely! We appreciate our partners Anne Sentz and Jake Stowe from ATC for joining us and digging in the dirt alongside us.

Thank you to the following crew leaders: Skip, Katie, Nicole, Sallye, Linda, Richard, Bill, Gary, Tara, Meghan, Henry, Mike D, Ron, Rene, Rich, Michael W, Peter, David, Les, Ed, Rick, Jake, and Sam.

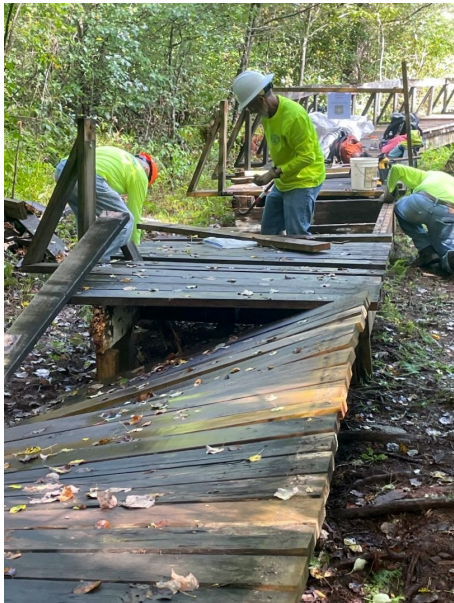
I'm already looking forward to next year on Sept. 22nd. Mark your calendars!



Meet the Pisgah Friday Trail Maintenance Crew!

By Priscilla Estes

Eight trail workers, aged 60 to 86, met Friday, September 22 to rebuild part of the Barnett Branch Trail Boardwalk (Pink Beds), originally built in 2008 by CMC in response to flooding caused by beaver activity. (The beavers, being beavers, moved downstream as soon as the project was complete.) Undergrowth rotted the boards, and hikers sent pictures asking for help. The project had been in the design and planning stages for two years with the Forest Service. Fortunately, the collapse occurred within a week of when the materials, purchased by the Forest Service, arrived.



Back in 2008, the boardwalk took about six months to build, recalls Jim Spicer, the oldest crew member and an original boardwalk builder. “Each section had to be carried in by hand from Yellow Gap Road,” he says, which is almost a mile from the building site. But this year, Simon Farr, a Forest Service employee whose position is funded by the Pisgah Conservancy, was able to use a Forest Service ATV to help tote the partially assembled lumber to within 100 yards of the construction site.

Don Cooper, the Pisgah Friday crew leader, explains that during the last two weeks, members volunteered (in-between Fridays) to drill 5/8-inch holes for the half-inch rebar and 18-inch-long all-thread bolts. The holes remain stuffed with sawdust and require clearing by pounding in the rebar or redrilling. The

challenge today is to arrange the boards correctly so drill holes align. To that end, the air fills with shouts of “A, B, E, G, I, L” as we stack boards alphabetically from A to S, in accordance with their pen-marked labels. The “mules” then load the sorted lumber—along with buckets of rebar, gravel and all-thread bolts—the last few yards to the construction site.

Don's safety lecture precedes these tasks, after hard hats are distributed (required headwear for work in the Pisgah Forest). "Be careful, go slow, and pace yourself." He also starts each work day with an inspirational riddle, but requested this article not reveal his particular brand of humor. (Think Rich Evans.) Pisgah employee Simon reinforces the safety aspect. "Don't burn out, and take breaks."

While we walk to the work area, Don points out huge cut logs on the side of the trail. "At one point, we had the most sawyers of any crew. But the Forest Service cut these so the ATV could get past an 18-inch tree that fell on top of a 12-inch tree and created a dangerous spring pole blowdown, which we decided was better left to the experts."

We arrive at the work site, roped out with pink tape. The old boardwalk was removed, with about half the lumber salvaged. "We tried to reuse the pilings," one person explains. "But they were sunk with cement three feet in the ground. It took an hour to dig up just one. Now we just cut them down to the ground."

The assemblers begin the hard work: stacking the boards to line up the drill holes. Many opinions fly, but consensus is soon reached. Non-essential workers begin to peel away for safety's sake, as pounding, drilling, and sawing begin in earnest.

During the day, we discuss camaraderie, teamwork, and why the heck anybody does trail work? Hiker and recent retiree Cheow Tan-Babcock from Hendersonville, one of the newest maintainers at three months, says she volunteers to give back. "And why should I pay for a gym?" she says, laughing. Cheow has completed the 50/50 Centennial Challenge: 50 hours of trail work and 50 hours of hiking, a contest CMC may continue next year.

Tony Bland from Fletcher says, "I just like to get out in the country with all the other folks who work hard for no pay, and do as I'm told!" (Volunteers who follow orders—the perfect trail worker!) Jerry Aldridge from Hendersonville, recent recipient of a 2000-hour trail work award, says that trail work was on his bucket list. "I hiked and camped a lot as a child and saw trail work being done and said, 'I'd like to do that one day.'" (Thank you for following your childhood dream!) Don, who earned the 1000-hour trail work award, likes the feeling of accomplishment. "Hiking is great," he says, "but what have you gotten done by the end of the trail?" One of the few workers not present today is Anna, a 28-year-old Appalachian Trail (A.T.) through-hiker, who worked last week and said she'd be back. (Thank you, Anna!)

Jim and Sharon Spicer are a husband-wife team (married 48 years) who in addition to weekly trail work, have adopted several trails. (Any CMC member can adopt a section of trail and maintain it at their convenience. Sharon says, "We do the Buck Spring Lodge area and the A.T. from Tanyard to Hurricane Gap and Rich Mountain Fire Tower." Each year, she and Jim paint the fire tower "federal gray," carrying ladders to reach the graffiti. All trail workers have interesting stories: the rescue of four young hikers at Pink

Beds, the quick response that literally saved a trail worker's life, and a foreign hiker's unique request to ID her poison ivy allergy. (Let's just say she bared all.)

Come join the Pisgah Friday Crew and earn your own stories! (Contact Don Cooper, at dncpr47@gmail.com.) Young, old, skilled, unskilled—it doesn't matter. There is no perfect trail worker except for the one who shows up for all or part of a half-day's work, once a month, once a week, or once a quarter. "There's so much to be done," says Don, "that prioritizing projects becomes key." Make it your priority to try trail work. Work outside, enjoy camaraderie, and be part of something bigger.

About 15 regular Pisgah Friday Crew members (average crew size is 7) maintain 19 trails in Pisgah (28.3 miles); and the MST from 215 to Pisgah Inn (22 miles). About one-third have adopted their own section to maintain.

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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