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Carolina Mountain Club eNews



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November 2023

Danny Bernstein Receives Honorary Life Membership Award

by Barbara Morgan

Danny Bernstein received the Honorary Life Membership award at the 2023 Annual Meeting. She was selected by Council due to her outstanding dedication and service to the club throughout her 23 years as a CMC member. This is not an annual award; there are years that no member receives this honor and years where a number of members are recognized. According to the listing on the website, only 14 such awards have been made.



Danny's achievements span every aspect of what CMC is all about. As a very active and dedicated hiker and hike leader, she has served the club's membership and has also completed most or all of the club's challenges. She has an insatiable desire to learn from others and from first-hand experience. She's served on Council and the Communications, Conservation, and Hiking committees for many, many years. She's also served as an important record-keeper for the Club's history through its archives, eNews, and interviews available on the website.

Danny has promoted area and Club hiking through her authorship and promotion of multiple books on hiking, most recently the *Carolina Mountain Club; One Hundred Years*. Through her dedication to this project, the centennial history of the club was released this year (2023), in time for our 100th Anniversary Party at the Arboretum on

July 16. She clearly made the book by Danny Bernstein “For the Carolina Mountain Club” and it says so in the copyright.

2023 Award of Appreciation:

David Huff

by Donna Bange

Not many companies or organizations achieve their 100-year birthday. In 2023 CMC celebrated the Centennial in style and more importantly in a WNC community outreach way. The cornerstone of this community awareness and outreach was David Huff.



David Huff, leveraged his WNC network, marketing, and communication skills to promote the effort. There were press releases, invitation letters, Facebook posts, Social Media posts, and posters that David was the driver behind. He built a fantastic CMC Centennial Website with all the key information. He was also the professional photographer at the event. Obviously, the word got out about the Centennial Arboretum celebration with the >1500 visitors.

As CMC Communications Councilor David has done a tremendous job in raising the CMC awareness in the greater Asheville area. For the Centennial, CMC was on the cover and above the fold in the Asheville Citizens Time newspaper. Likewise, there were articles in Mountain Express, Transylvania Times and Smoky Mountain News of CMC led hikes and trail maintenance. David routinely develops professional CMC content for social media including Facebook, Instagram and Linked-in.

This awareness, coupled with the Centennial Arboretum party, has contributed to an increase in the CMC membership. Volunteers and members are CMC’s foundation to grow and positively impact the Western North Carolina Community for the next 100 years.

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Rich Evans

by Donna Bange

Rich Evans joined CMC in May of 2012 after hiking the Appalachian Trail. Over these past 11 years he has logged over 12,000 hiking trail maintenance hours and is the all-time CMC volunteer leader in terms of hours. There are over 6000 hours on the MST and over 3000 working in the Pisgah Ranger District. He is currently averaging over

1000 hours per year in trail maintenance. In 2016 Rich Evans was named Blue Ridge Parkway volunteer of the year.

Rich has a passion for learning and sharing, letting others learn by doing, his attention to safety, his vast knowledge of trail techniques and work details, and his generosity in time. He is a great instructor, teaching and showing many crew members and visitors how to do work that lasts. He goes the extra mile to pick up tools needed for others, offers rides for those who cannot make it to the trail for work, organizes work days with other organizations, business, and universities to provide opportunities for volunteer experiences just to name a few.



As an A.T. hiker who completed the entire 2200-mile trail, Rich knows first hand the importance of a well-maintained trail. When he sees an opportunity, Rich takes action. He created and leads the Monday Art Loeb crew. Along with Jan Onan, he co-created and co-leads the Section Rovers crew. Working alongside Les Love, he co-created the Secondary Trail Program and is the Field Supervisors of the section maintainers. Rich co-created and co-leads the Remote Overnight crew with Paul Curtin.

Rich's dedication and service to CMC trail maintenance is legendary and so deserving of the Life-Time Achievement Award.

2023 Award of Appreciation **Sallye Sanders & Adrienne Chang** **Co-Leaders of the Centennial Celebration** by Donna Bange

On Saturday, October 28 at the Annual CMC Meeting, Sallye Sanders and Adrienne Chang were honored with the 2023 Award of Appreciation as co-leaders of the CMC Arboretum Centennial Celebration. The Centennial Celebration far exceeded everyone's expectations; the estimate was >1500 visitors. The Centennial Celebration raised awareness of CMC's contributions in the WNC community along with strengthening our stakeholder partnerships. Sallye, Adrienne and David Huff were the pillars of the Centennial Celebration efforts.





Sallye Sanders had the vision in July 2022 to have a family-centered event at a local park with booths from CMC partners. Sallye worked with a small group to secure the Arboretum as the location. She then worked tirelessly to organize the event with the partners, Arboretum staff and CMC volunteers. This CMC and Arboretum partnership made the event so special.

Adrienne Chang worked hard to provide detailed project management support to the event. She coordinated the partners' booths. Adrienne spent considerable time setting up the volunteer roles and organizing the volunteers. The volunteers were the backbone of the event.

Countless CMC individuals were involved in planning and executing the Centennial. However, Sallye Sanders' and Adrienne Chang's contributions and efforts were orders of magnitude greater. Their leadership and execution made the CMC Centennial celebration so memorable.

2023 Distinguished Service Award: Dr. John Whitehouse

by Donna Bange

John Whitehouse has been the outstanding leader of the CMC Monday Trail Maintenance Crew for over a decade. He has been responsible for trail maintenance and rehab in the northern counties of CMC's hiking area. John is also a co-founder and presently president of NC High Peaks-Friends of Mount Mitchell State Park, a hiking, maintenance, and conservation partner of CMC. He is knowledgeable of all the trails in Madison, Yancey, and Mitchell counties, including Mount Mitchell State Park.



Rocko Smucker highlighted John's numerous contributions to CMC and High Peaks during the Annual Meeting. John is a teacher and valued friend. Because of his vast knowledge, John is an effective mentor to members of his crew. The Monday Crew is so appreciative of John that they gave him a special trail sign made by Tom Weaver and several gifts this past January. The sign said "John Whitehouse-Teacher, Leader, Mentor, Friend. With Our Deepest Gratitude, The Monday Trail Crew.

John is a master manager and administrator. For more than ten years he has been planning Monday Crews workdays. He keeps numerous manual and power tools at his

home so there is no lack of tools for workdays and new volunteers. John has over 6000 accumulated trail maintenance volunteer hours.

John has developed a working relationship with the Forest Service, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Park Service, the Pisgah and Appalachian District rangers, the ATC, and the Mount Mitchell administration that they trust him with keys to gates, plans for their areas, and even ask for his advice. Quarterly he submits trail maintenance reports that include volunteer hours by trail to CMC's Government and Conservancy Partners.

2023 Distinguished Service Award: Jim Spicer

by Donna Bange

Jim Spicer was honored at the CMC Annual Meeting for the Distinguished Service Award. Jim has been an active CMC member for over 15 years. He is also the Assistant Crew Leader of the Friday Pisgah Crew. Over his CMC tenure, Jim has mentored countless new CMC maintainers. His guidance, assistance, insights, as well as his general good nature, have been invaluable to all of us newer (and younger!) crew who have worked with him. Jim is the "go-to mechanical guy" for maintaining and fixing tools. He does all the chainsaw and string trimmer maintenance for the Pisgah Friday Crew as well as cutting all the rebar for the whole club. The club officers over the years contact him for all sorts of questions about tools as well as ask him to fix up and resell old tools nobody wants anymore.



At 85 Jim is still chainsaw certified and one of the most active Friday Pisgah crew members. He was nominated by two of his fellow Pisgah crew members. At the Annual Meeting, Pisgah Friday Crew Leader Don Cooper spoke about Jim's accomplishments, his service and dedication to CMC. Jim has logged over 4500 hours during his CMC tenure. Don also recognized Jim's wife, Sharon Spicer, for her efforts working alongside Jim. From left to right on the photo is Don Cooper, Jim & Sharon Spicer, Tom Weaver.

Hiking Challenge Awards at Annual CMC Dinner

by Donna Bange

One of the highlights at the Annual CMC Meeting is the presentation of the 2023 Hiking Challenge Awards. Chris Koebelin and Tom Weaver congratulated the numerous CMC members that achieved these hiking milestones. Attached is a listing of the challenges and the Awardees. The CMC hikers were enthusiastic about their recognition and congratulating their fellow hikers. Congratulations to Henry Kassell for achieving 4 out of the 7 Challenges.



Lookout Tower: *Visit designated towers within 100 miles of Asheville*

Evan Canfield	Scott Leslie	Chad Terry
David Conley	Wilse "Winn" Martin IV	Lisa Wancheck
Evan Joseph	Charles Sweetman	René Williams
		Geoffery Wren

AT/MST: *Hike the CMC maintained sections of the AT and MST*

Jon Bellows, Susan Levy, Wilse Winn Martin IV

Pisgah 400: *Hike all of the official trails in the Pisgah Ranger District*

Marielle DeJong	Henry Kassell	Andrew Plyler
Joanna Hanley	Wilse Winn Martin IV	Zachary Robbins
Patrick M Hanley		

South Bound 6000: *Climb 40 peaks over 6000 in the Southern Appalachians*

Kevin Akard	Paul Curtin	Abigail Pruden	Paul Rudershausen
Luke Akard	Sarah Decker	Amy Pruden	Bobby Schultz
Cameron Allen	James Despain	Jonathan Pruden	Russ Shade
Chris Armenti	Joseph Doak	William Pruden	Lisa Wancheck
Brandon Burke	Jacob Hall	Karen	Elliot Williams
Sean Coughlin	Henry Kassell	Anne Richardson	René Williams
	James E. Morris	Michael Roda	

Waterfall 100: *Visit 100 best waterfalls within 100 miles of Asheville*

Jim Magura, Judy Magura, Sharon McCarthy, Sharon Smith, Peter Style

100 Favorite Trails: *Hike "100 Favorite Trails of the Smokies and the Carolina Blue Ridge"*

Marie Chamberlin, Kay Haskell, Henry Kassell, Ken Scharmman, Karen Schultz

Centennial Challenge: *50 Hours Trail Maintenance and 50 Miles Hike*

Renee Amodeo	Catherine Love	Jan Onan
Paul Benson	Les Love	Bill Snow
Paul Curtin	Bev MacDowell	Cheow Tan-Babcock
Priscilla Estes	Jim Magura	Bob Smith
Randy Fluharty	Judy Magura	Tom Weaver
Henry Kassell	Barbara Morgan	Paul Wulfing

Trail Maintenance T-shirts

by Donna Bange

The yellow trail maintenance shirts have been a huge hit the last 3 years. Due to numerous requests, I am organizing a CMC **yellow trail maintenance crew shirt** order. This year we will order using Google forms-see the link below. Click on the link and you will complete a survey.

<https://forms.gle/HC7TCfDse92bryox8>

A few comments:

- Please place your order by November 10th.
- The shirts are the same as previous years: smooth and waffle.
- For each shirt type (gender, sleeve length, size) you will submit another survey. At the end of the survey you will be asked if you want to submit another shirt order.
- In mid November I will send you an email (assuming you ordered a shirt(s)) with a confirmation, a total amount owed and payment instructions.

Thank you for all your CMC volunteer work to build, maintain and sustain hiking trails in Western North Carolina.

2023 CMC Trail Maintainers Picnic

by Ron Navik

The CMC Trail Maintainers gathered for a picnic at Lake Julian Park on Saturday, September 16 to share tales of trails made safe and sustainable, and celebrate the volunteers who put in huge amounts of hours to make it happen. Jim Vint provided the enjoyable background music. Tim Carrigan, CMC Trail Maintainer and expert on the barbecue grill, provided a delicious ensemble of barbecue and everyone brought their own special dishes to share. Everyone enjoyed trying something new and no one went home hungry.



While everyone was enjoying their desserts, the following people were awarded rocker patches to line up under their 500 hour patch they received earlier.

1000 Hours

Bange, Donna
Cathey, Clayton
Cobb, Mark
Cooper, Don
Dickens, Paul
Onan, Jan
Roberge, Rene
Sanders, Sallye
Sanderson, Bill
Stradley, Bill

2000 Hours

Aldridge, Jerry
Eveland, Todd
Litvinchyk, Peter
Mariano, Victor
Miller, John

3000 Hours

Davis, Roy
Navik, Ron
Riley, Shawn
Roberts, Dave
Rose, Duke

4000 Hours

Spicer, Jim
Werbylo, Chris

5000 Hours

Curtin, Paul
Smucker, Rocko
Sreinmetz, Wayne
Williams, Mike

6000 Hours

Skiles, Mel
Weaver, Tom
Whitehouse, John

7000 Hours

Skiles, Mel
Weaver, Tom

8000 Hours

Sheldon, Arnold (Skip)

Finally, a **12,000 Hour** Rocker for Rich Evans. This had to be ordered special as Rich is the first and only CMC Trail Maintainer to have reached this amazing goal. Thank you, Rich and everyone for their hard work in maintaining safe and sustainable hiking trails in Western North Carolina.

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.

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