



From The Editor

This issue features an article by Stuart English about the annual Cookie Hike - a tradition started by Carol and Ken Deal. Thank you to all those who create CMC traditions such as swim hikes, New Years Day hikes, barbecues, and camping trips. These are some of the best gifts.

If anyone has any articles for the newsletter, send them to me at eNews@carolinamountainclub.org

The newsletter will go out the last Friday of every month. The deadline to submit news is the Friday before it goes out.

Sincerely,
Kathy Kyle
Carolina Mountain Club



CMC President Responds MST Friends Propose Two Routes

By Marcia Bromberg, CMC President

After months of review and public sessions, including input from the CMC, the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail has made a recommendation to the Southwestern Commission about the route of the MST in Western North Carolina. (To read letter click [here](#).) The FMST recommends two routes for for the trail--a northern route through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that takes advantage of the trail the CMC is about to complete to Heintooga Road and a southern "river valley" route that follows the Tuckaseegee River from Bryson City through Sylva, returning to the GSMNP route at Waterrock Knob. The CMC commends the FMST for recommending a solution that honors the hard work that has gone into building the trail to Heintooga Road but also acknowledges that some hikers are not up to the

Hike
Save Trails
Make Friends



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challenge of the high peaks of the Smokies. As they note in their letter to the Southwestern Commission the dual route will allow hikers the opportunity to "experience some of the most remote, beautiful parts of the GSMNP" or "a rural mountain valley with farms and small towns". The Club agrees that this is an worthy proposal given present circumstances.

The CMC continues to believe that a central, more direct route, one that is closer to the original plan for the MST, is most desirable in the long run. Club members have suggested routes along existing gravel roads and trails that could be used for such a route and hope that permission to use these roads and trails can be attained in the not-too-distant future.

The Southwestern Commission will use the proposals, recommendations and ideas received during this trail review to develop their own recommendation for trails in Western North Carolina. The NC State Parks Trails division and Trails Commission are charged with making final decisions about all State Trails.



Holidays, Cookies and A Hike Tradition

ByStuart English

The Christmas season is a funny time of year. It means many things to many different people. Some times it just sneaks up on you whether you want it to or not. One of the traditions of the Carolina Mountain Club is to have a hike in December where everyone is encouraged to bring homemade cookies to be enjoyed and traded at the lunch spot.

Ken and Carol Deal have led this hike for years. Sherman Stambaugh and his daughter, Diane Stickney, lead a shorter version (for those who want a shorter version) and everyone meets for lunch at the same place with their cookies.

This year the longer hike involved a good climb up to the MST and then back down a trail created and named after Sherman. Before we got to Lake Powhatan, we met the other group and our number for lunch had almost doubled. It was like a who's who of the club. Many were old friends that don't get to see each other enough. There were some Christmas epiphanies. One hiker left his cookies in his car. One hiker could not eat cookies because of dietary restrictions and talked of leaving before lunch even started. One hiker was caught and chastised for not actually baking his cookies.

But what we learned was that it was not about the cookies. The

cookies were a symbol and looked good on that picnic table. But after a steep climb, a five mile hike, and releasing all those endorphins, we were in an epiphany friendly mood. We were here with our friends. It was that time of year. What could be better than that?

Happy Holidays Everybody!

Leaders Dinner Set For Feb. 22

By Jim Reel and the Hiking Committee

The 2013 Hike Leaders Dinner will be held on Friday, February 22, 2013, in the Century Room at Packs Tavern in Asheville. We will have a reception at 6 pm, dinner around 7 pm and a very exciting program from 8 - 9 pm. Our volunteer hike leaders are one of the great assets of the CMC and we appreciate the hours that you ladies and gentlemen spend scouting and leading hikes for us. We hope all leaders will attend.



Rainbow Falls leads to cave.

Mapping Technology Shows Sinkholes And Caves

Knoxnews.com By Morgan Simmons

TOWNSEND - Cades Cove's unique combination of natural beauty and history make it the most popular destination in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Some visitors come for the wildlife, while others are drawn to the grist mills, barns, log houses and churches scattered along the 11-mile loop road.

Last week, Keith Langdon came for the sinkholes.

A retired biologist for the Smokies, Langdon was in the right place - the cove's limestone bedrock makes it a hot spot for sinkholes and caves - and to aid his search, he had a special map, one that depicted Cades Cove as lunar landscape.

Maps of the Smokies have come a long way since the mid-1800s when Swiss geographer Arnold Guyot measured the high peaks along the

Tennessee-North Carolina divide by calculating the altitude with a barometer.

Langdon's map is based on a remote sensing technology called Light Detection and Ranging that uses laser pulses transmitted from an airplane and reflected off the ground to create highly detailed, three-dimensional images of the terrain.

To further enhance the map's realism, a computer-generated effect called "hill shading" casts shadows upon the sinkholes and hills, as if light is illuminating the landscape from the northwest. Accompanying Langdon that day in Cades Cove was Tom Colson, the park's geographic information systems specialist, and Chris Rehak, a GIS intern for the park.

The map indicated a depression in the ground not far from the loop road. After a 20-minute walk, they located a tear-drop-shaped sinkhole in the woods. At the downslope end of the sink beneath the fallen leaves was a small hole in the ground that indicated a cave.

"With these digital maps, we're seeing the park in a whole new way," Langdon said. "Instead of relying on lines on a contour map, we're now picking up landscape features that weren't interpreted in the old aerial photography. It opens up a whole new world for those interested in exploring the park."

Langdon is among a cadre of volunteers who hike into the backcountry and take global positioning system readings to confirm the accuracy of the new laser maps. Langdon is interested in sinkholes as indicators of caves and groundwater, as well as habitat for rare plants and animals. In the same vein, volunteers are helping the park generate detailed digital map layers for features like streams, contour lines, cemeteries and roads.

As for mountain elevations, the park's big three - Clingmans Dome, Mount Guyot and Mount LeConte - have not been officially remeasured with GPS. Park officials say the peaks they've checked so far haven't deviated much from what's indicated on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps that used stereoscopic aerial photography.

For example, Cliff Tops, a subpeak of LeConte, has been remeasured via GPS at 6,573 feet rather than the 6,555 feet that's currently published. According to the park's GPS, Mount Hardison is 6,150 feet tall rather than 6,134 feet, and Mount Kephart stands at 6,218 feet - just 1 foot taller than is indicated on topographic maps.

"Some people are really passionate about mountains," Colson said. "They want to know within an inch how high they are."

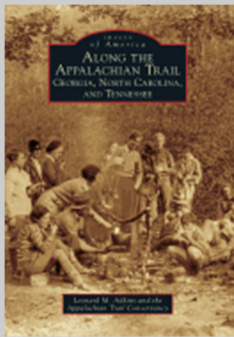
"When you look at a map of the park, you're looking at highly varied terrain - that's what makes the Smokies a unique part of the Southern Appalachians. With the contour lines we're getting from the new LIDAR data, we can study these landforms in ways we've never been able to before."

The USGS collected the LIDAR data for the park last year using federal stimulus money. Not only will upgraded information be a big help to

natural resource managers, but road and trail crews will make use of it, too.

After the digital maps are reviewed for accuracy, they will be made available to the public on an interactive website. Colson said he expects an announcement on that around the middle of next year.

"With the LIDAR mapping, we can discern a boulder that fell down Mount LeConte and rested against a stump," Colson said. "That's where the resource management application comes in. We never imagined we'd be looking for sinkholes."



Book Review

Along The Appalachian Trail

Reviewed by Danny Bernstein

Along the Appalachian Trail: Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, published by Acadia Publishing (\$21.99), is a book to read, browse, and refer to often. It contains over 200 photographs of the A.T. then and, sometimes, now. Leonard M. Adkins, the author, is a nature and outdoor writer with 16 books to his credit. He's hiked the A.T. five times.

The book is organized by hiking clubs. Photographs of and from the five "Deep South" clubs--Georgia ATC, Nantahala Hiking Club, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Carolina Hiking Club and Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club, are featured. Coincidentally, these five clubs will be the host of the 2013 ATC Biennial Conference. Old hiking pictures portray backpackers with external frame packs--yeah I had one of those and I'm so grateful for internal frame packs. Even in the 1970s, dayhikers still used soft and shapeless rucksacks. Trail building and maintenance was a lot harder in the days before chain saws. A photo taken in 1932 shows a group using hatchets to bring down trees for a new section of trail.

For this book, Adkins had to scour archives and libraries. He also asked hikers to look at their old photo collections. Many photographs came from the ATC archives, Smoky Mountains National Park Library and the Ramsey Library Special Collection. Most of the historic CMC pictures at the Ramsey Library came from the William Kirkman Special Collection. Coincidentally, this shows the importance of shooting and saving photographs in hi-res and labeling them properly. The captions tell the story of the history of the A.T. as it moved from road to trail to new trail. But if you need one more reason to check out this book, there's a historic photo of our own Morgan Sommerville, ATC Southern Regional Director, on a work trip. Along the Appalachian Trail:

Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee is available through your local bookstore, at the ATC store and of course, on Amazon..

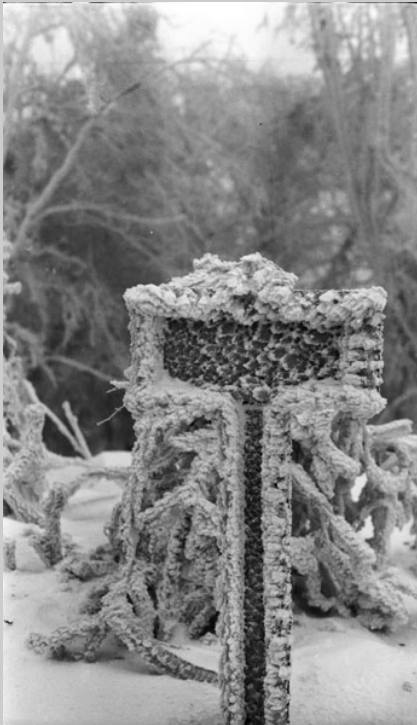


Kayah Gaydish

Trail Improvements and Plant Eradication

CMC Member Featured In A.T. Journeys

CMC member Kayah Gaydish was featured in the recent issue of A.T. Journeys. She coordinated the work of volunteers from Missouri and Boy Scouts to install steps on the A.T. near Hot Springs and to help eradicate invasive exotic plants from along the French Broad River near Hot Springs and near Max Patch.



Albert Gordon (Dutch) Roth,
1890-1974; "Sign at Newfound
Gap covered in hoarfrost and ice

Database Of Smoky Mountains Available

By Mike Knies

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Libraries has released a free online bibliography of Smoky Mountains material published since 1934, the year the national park was established.



Linville Gorge was named for the explorer William Linville.

Forest Service Proposes Prescribed Burn Of Wilderness

The Forest Service has issued a proposal to do a prescribed burn of all of the Linville Gorge Wilderness. It is to be done in four stages.

The proposal and map are on line at <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=37966>.

The deadline for comments has been extended to 15 January 2013.

All details about where to send responses are on the material on the web site indicated



ATC Seeking Community Ambassador For Hot Springs

By Marcia Bromberg

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has recognized towns close to or on the AT as Trails Communities, including Hot Springs. They're currently looking for an interested individual to serve as a Community Ambassador for Hot Springs. If you're interested in learning more about this program or in becoming an AT Ambassador follow this link: <http://atcommunities.wordpress.com/2012/11/27/ambassadors-2013/> (The deadline for applications has been extended beyond the date shown).

The Small Print

The next issue will come out on Friday, January 25. Wednesday hike reports for the hike just before the eNews comes out will be published in the next eNews.

Hiker leaders, post your photos and hike reports on the website as directed, or send your eNews hike reports and photos to hikereports@carolinamountainclub.org

So send your news by Friday evening at 9 P.M. the week before the newsletter comes out, that is, by Friday evening January 18 to Kathy Kyle at eNews@carolinamountianclub.org. Include your email address at the end of your story. Thank you.

The CMC Calendar is meant to answer the perennial question "When is this happening again?" It is also meant to prevent conflicts between competing CMC events. Please check it often.

Westgate parking - Park in the northernmost part of the lot - past EarthFare, in the last row of parking spaces.

How to join the Carolina Mountain Club

1. Go to www.carolinamountainclub.org
2. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side and follow the instructions

For CMC members only - Send all address and email changes to Gale O'Neal at gogalemail@gmail.com. Do not resubscribe yourself to the eNews. That will be done automatically. If you are a non-member subscriber, you need to go back to the eNews and make the change yourself.