



Carolina Mountain Club

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April 2017

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NEW MEETING PLACES FOR CMC HIKES

CMC will no longer have one primary meeting location for hikers to form carpools in the Asheville area. Instead, hikers will meet in places that better coordinate with the location of the hike.

For hikes north of Asheville that use I-26, hikers will meet at National Forest Headquarters at 160 Zillicoa St. off Exit 25 of I-26. For hikes going north along the BRP, hikers will meet at the back parking lot of the Folk Art Center. The meeting spot for hikes to the west is the Home Depot off Exit 44 of I-40. Hikes to the south and southwest of Asheville will use Toys-R-U's on Brevard Road across from the Asheville Outlet Mall, off Exit 33 of I-26. And for those hikes to the east of Asheville the new meeting place is the River Ridge Shopping Center off Exit 53 of I-40 or Exit 8 of I-240. There we'll meet behind the CVS which is to the right as you enter the Shopping Center.

AS ALWAYS, POSTED TIMES INDICATE WHEN CARS WILL LEAVE THE MEETING PLACE. For questions please contact the hike leader.

Rescued by an APP

A recent article in the Asheville Citizen Times told the story of a hiker needing aid in the Grandfather Mountain area. Planning for just a short hike, he was not prepared when the weather changed to foggy and cold. Trying to back track, but feeling lost, the hiker remembered he had recently download an app, RapidSOS. The app was built by partnering with 911 and using technology that immediately connects to emergency personnel, broadcasting the user's exact location. The hiker was located by a park ranger in about 15 minutes.

Compare that outcome to the two hikers from Charlotte who in January became lost in the Shining Rock Wilderness Area and spent two days without food or water, when temperatures dipped below freezing and trails became covered in a foot of snow.

The two men called repeatedly for help on their cell phones, but emergency services were not able to locate them. It took about 200 rescuers and volunteers from 46 agencies across the state more than two days with the use of three helicopters to locate the men, at a cost of more than \$100,000.

The RapidSOS app is available as a free download.

Meet "Tree Hugger" Jack Dalton: Environmentalist Extraordinaire **by Bobbi Powers**

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Jack Dalton, CMC member since 2003, was an environmentalist before being "green" was cool. Jack is a real outdoorsman and eco-involved guy; he not only talks the talk, he also walks the walk. Jack is also a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), Hot Springs Mountain Club (HSMC), Sierra Club, Mountain True, the Nature Conservancy, and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC), among others. He is active in his Spring Creek community about 12 miles south of Hot Springs where he and wife Maxine have owned 85 beautiful, secluded acres since 1994. Eighty of those acres are in a conservation easement with SAHC, and they built a house on the other five. They spend many hours battling invasive plants, growing food, and hiking with friends. Jack worked with the HSMC creating two trails on the NW side of Bluff Mountain – Betty Place Trail and Bluff Mountain Loop. When Jack leads hikes for the CMC, he often chooses one of these trails. The ATC is also a recipient of Jack's volunteerism. He is part of an ATC phenology (the study of organisms as affected by climate) project in which he, among others, is assigned tagged trees to keep track of throughout the year – when they bud out, leaf out, etc. Jack has helped with the Hot Springs Trailfest since 1998. The 21st Trailfest will be held April 21 - 23, 2017. Jack is a "yes-man" when it comes to active volunteering for environmental and community groups. A truly serendipitous event: When the Appalachian Trail license plate was proposed and before enough had been sold to make it a "go," Jack set up a card table on Hot Springs' main street, explaining to passersby the importance of signing up for a tag to get the project underway. Then-Senator Joe Sam Queen happened to saunter by, and the two men had a good conversation. Later, to thank Jack for his volunteer hours, Queen appointed him to the tag committee which decides how the funds are allocated. An interesting tidbit about Jack is that he has hiked to Mt. LeConte Lodge every year since 1972, except for the year that winter storm Sandy came through and the lodge was closed. He concedes that the trails have gotten longer and steeper over the many years he's been hiking. On an A.T. hike in 1990, he and Maxine spent two nights at the lodge and were treated as special guests, enjoying food other than the set menu which has not changed in 40+ years. That and hot showers made a lasting impression! The Spring Creek/Hot Springs community is a tight-knit group of

residents, including many A.T. hikers who settled there after completing the trail. Jack says, "We enjoy our very rich life among wonderful people in this beautiful area." And the other residents are mighty lucky to have Jack and Maxine Dalton as neighbors.

MST Logo Plaque

Andrés Sarre, CMC member since 2006, adapted the MST logo with high-tech machinery to create this cartouche. A fine-art woodworker in Mexico City by trade, he learned of CMC during one of his buying trips to WNC for timber for his ornate mirror and picture frames. He has been a hiker of the tall peaks in Mexico for years, so the CMC hikes are like a home-away-from-home. He maintains a section of the MST near Graveyard Fields and was looking to improve the signage for his section. Tom Weaver, our Trails Facility Manager, learned of his cartouche, and with our club's new router obtained through a recent LLBean grant via the ATC, has been refining Andrés' design to fit the recently-developed FMST trail-wide standards for MST signage.



Andrés with wife and indispensable "gofer," Reyna



You may win this prototype plaque with a winning photo entry for the Spring Social. See the website homepage for details about the photo-sharing. Thanks to Andrés and Tom, and good luck to you photographers!

Book Review by Stuart English



The French Broad By Wilma Dykeman

"Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters." Norman Maclean

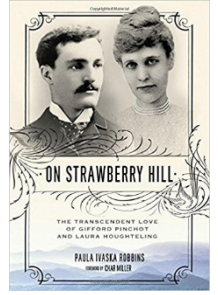
The theme of our April 22nd Spring Social will be *The French Broad River: Floating and Conserving our Watershed*. One of our guests will be Jim Stokely, President of the Wilma Dykeman Legacy and Dykeman's son.

In 1955 Wilma Dykeman wrote a book that every WNC resident should have on their bookshelf. Known for area based fiction like *The Tall Woman* and *The Far Family*, this great nonfiction work is of timeless beauty that could have been written yesterday. From the early indigenous people who dwelled here centuries ago, the explorations of Andre Michaux and William Bartram, the sad plight of the Cherokee, the Civil War, to the ways that people lived their lives beside these waters, Ms Dykeman creates a fascinating oral history of our singular part of the world. You will read about the birth of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the great drives to market, not just of cattle, but sheep, turkeys, and chickens.

Geological history, political history, and a vibrant picture of the character of the inhabitants of this region, she tells a story that only a native could write. But you don't have to be a native to appreciate it. Anyone who has spent any length of time here will relate. This river has been as much a part of my life as the mountains and the sky. To watch and listen to it flow is to glimpse eternity.

Member Book Launch

Long-time CMC member, Paula Robbins, will give a brief presentation and sign copies of her new book, *On Strawberry Hill: The Transcendent Love of Gifford Pinchot and Laura Houghteling*, at Malaprop's Bookshop in Asheville on Tuesday evening, April 18 at 7 PM. Gifford Pinchot, forester for the Biltmore Estate, was the father of modern forestry in the United States. The book includes interesting information about Asheville history and the early days of West Asheville, and traces Pinchot's lifelong love for Miss Houghteling.



Spring Social

REMINDER! There's still time to register for the April 22nd Spring Social. Simply go to the website, logon and click on Spring Social on the right side menu. Or download the registration form and mail it along with the \$22 registration fee to CMC PO Box 68 Asheville, NC 28802.

Spring Mountain Treasures Camporee

REMINDER: Register now for the spring Mountain Treasures Camporee to be held Friday, May 5, to Sunday, May 7, at Standing Indian near Franklin, NC. The cost for a campsite is \$10 per person for two nights. Barbecue will be offered at a minimal cost on Saturday. Please bring a side dish, dessert or appetizer. To reserve a space, send \$10 to Bev Macdowell, 166 Mt. Royal Drive, Arden NC 28704. Indicate if you want barbecue and what you plan to bring Saturday night. Include your name and email address.

Garlic Mustard

CMC will partner again this year with the ATC to work on eradicating this noxious weed from Bluff Mountain. We will meet Matt of the ATC May 2nd at 9 AM at the Home Depot on Acton Road which is off Exit 44 of I-40. Please contact Brenda Worley at bjdworley@gmail.com for more information and to register for this important event. Don't worry that you don't know what it looks like; once we show the plant to you, you will never forget it.



Garlic mustard was brought by immigrants as a garden plant for food and medicine. It was first reported as an escaped weed on Long Island, New York in 1868. Unlike other plants that invade disturbed habitats, garlic mustard spreads readily into high quality forests. Once established, it competes with tree seedlings for available light, nutrients and water resources, thus preventing recruitment of replacement trees. In addition, plant chemicals produced by roots and decaying leaves inhibit the growth of other plants including trees. (information from *Forest Invasive Plants Resource Center Newsletter*)

Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration by Danny Bernstein

[Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail](#) just celebrated its 40th anniversary in Elkin, North Carolina with a gala, meeting and lots of activities. The evening gala attracted about 260 members, the meeting about 290. Here are a few highlights.

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On Friday evening, we went back to the past. In 1977, Howard Lee, then Secretary of the NC Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, announced that there would be a hiking trail through North Carolina. Howard, now on the board of Friends of the MST, was at the meeting. So was Dr. Doris Hammett who had chaired the Fourth National Trails Conference where Howard spoke. Doris was also a leader in the trail building Task Force in Haywood County.

Saturday was all about the future. What would the trail look like in the next 40 years, in 2057? Each table brainstormed the future of the MST. Our table came up with:

- One million hikers have completed the trail.
- The MST is all on footpath
- Hostels and campsites will enable hikers to hike the whole trail smoothly.

Kate Dixon, Executive Director of Friends of the MST since 2008, received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, a major award in North Carolina conferred by the Governor of North Carolina.

Jennifer Pharr Davis, who we all know as the past record holder of the fastest person on the Appalachian Trail, was the keynote speaker. She will walk the MST starting in August to publicize the trail and encourage everyone to get out there. Her husband, Brew, will handle the logistics for Jennifer's hike. It takes support of all kinds to walk the MST.

Jennifer will hold events in the communities around the MST and invite hikers to walk with her. She emphasized the healing and uplifting power of nature. No, Jennifer won't be running. This is a different kind of project. I managed to take a picture of her with Gus, her younger child.

To my amazement, I received recognition for my involvement on the MST over many years. I received a beautifully framed print of the certificate now given out to MST completers.

In my thank-you remarks, I emphasized that in our efforts to get the MST off the road, we must not forget that the MST is more than a walk between two sets of trees.

I hope we don't lose the history of our state that we can now see on the road – the mills, cabins, tobacco barns, historic plaques, hamlets, old advertising – and major reminders of the American Revolution and even a little of the Civil War.

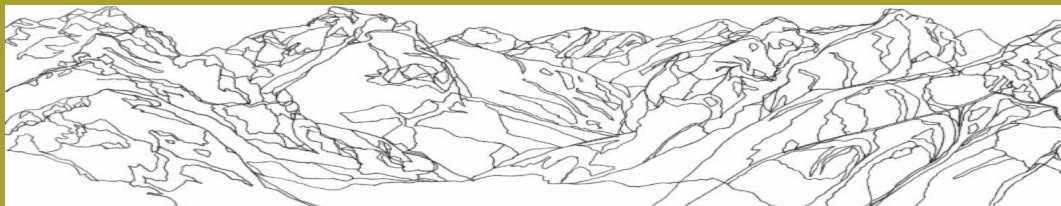
Carolina Mountain Club again took the honors for the most hours worked to build, maintain and promote the MST. We had 11,191 hours. The next highest was Elkin Valley Trail Association with 5,325 hours



The next issue will come out on Friday, May 5th. Please send your eNews articles by Friday, April 28th, to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Include your email address at the end of your story. Thank you.

To join Carolina Mountain Club go to: www.carolinamountainclub.org. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side. Follow the instructions. Send all address and email changes to Dennis Bass at dbass3607@gmail.com. Do not resubscribe yourself to the eNews. That will be done automatically.

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