

# LET'S GO!



FOURTH QUARTER 2011  
Quarterly News Bulletin  
and Hike Schedule



P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802 • www.carolinamountainclub.org • e-mail: cmcinfo@carolinamountainclub.org

## ATC biennial conference

During the first week in July, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy held its biennial meeting at Emory and Henry

College in Emory, VA. This is a great gathering to meet with hikers from different parts of the country, hike nearby sections of the AT, attend workshops, and generally learn more about this very narrow National Park. To get a fresh perspective, we talked to several members who were relatively new to the conference.



*Exploring Virginia with hikers from all over the country.*

## 2011 Annual Dinner

Fall is here and with it plans for the CMC Annual Meeting and Dinner. This year the dinner will be held in the Century Room at Pack Tavern in Asheville. Located just off Pack Place, this room offers views of the mountains and Pack Place Park. The date is Saturday, November 5th, with the "cocktail hour" to begin at 5 PM, dinner at 6 and the annual meeting to begin at 7. So mark your calendar and check the insert in this quarter's *Let's Go* for information about reserving your place for dinner.

Paul Benson had spent a brief time at a previous conference and looked forward to attending this one. He was eager to explore the Mt. Rogers area, which he

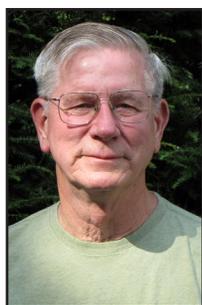
found to be full of open meadows, spruce forests, and rocky outcroppings. In between two Mt. Rogers hikes, Paul enjoyed biking on the Virginia Creeper Trail and a wine tasting in Abingdon.

This was the first ATC Conference for Michael and Kathy Cornn. They enjoyed hiking to waterfalls, lakes, and meadows with wild ponies grazing. They enjoyed meeting new hikers and experienced a diversity of leaders. One leader was a trail runner who rarely stopped at intersections and knitted during lunch breaks. One wore Chaco sandals.

Paul, Michael, and Kathy look forward to the next conference, to be held in 2013 at WCU.

## COUNCIL CORNER

I am a long-time member of the CMC's Pisgah Friday Crew.



In the past five years, the Pisgah Ranger District has lost the help of three crews, including one from CMC. Pisgah Forest Service positions have also been lost and the Forest Service has shifted the emphasis of the remaining personnel more to firefighting (and those rangers prefer firefighting obligations since they receive the bonus of hazard pay). At one time, we used to have rangers come out with us occasionally; now they don't have time to answer their e-mails.

At a meeting at the Blue Ridge Parkway Office this month, there was talk about potentially shutting down some stations. If the budget gets cut further, as anticipated, there will be an even greater shortage in

staff. I guess what I am trying to say is that we, as volunteers, will be needed even more by all of the governmental agencies to keep the trails open.

The CMC currently has maintenance responsibility for well over 400 miles of trails: our trails include our portions of the AT and MST, a hundred plus miles in the Pisgah Ranger District and Appalachian Ranger District, and all the trails in the Green River Game Lands (also Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy land in the Bat Cave area, Holmes State Ed. Forest and Connemara). All of these different entities have slightly different rules, which are another ongoing problem.

Luckily, what has happened in the Pisgah Ranger district has not happened to us: we currently have the Monday Crew, Waynesville West (new), Asheville Friday, Pisgah Friday, the Wilderness Crew, and an ad hoc MST Building Crew that goes out quarterly. Of course,

*continued on page 8*

## Change in weekend hike meeting place

Due to weekend highway construction near Westgate through October, Asheville hike meeting locations for Saturday and Sunday hikes have been changed. Please check the hike schedule to verify the new meeting locations.

Wednesday hike locations will NOT be changed.

A new hike series –

# North Carolina's Mountain Treasures

The U.S. Forest Service will soon be starting the process of making a new Management Plan for the Nantahala/Pisgah National Forests. Anticipating that, The Wilderness Society has analyzed some 40 areas that should be given Wilderness designation or other special protection in the new Plan. The results of the work of The Wilderness Society are set out in a just-released revision of its *North Carolina Mountain Treasures*.

The Carolina Mountain Club is initiating a new hike series that will send our members into each of these special places. This will help our members and citizens of Western North Carolina to contribute knowledgeable input as the Forest Management Plan is developed. The first hikes in this series are announced in the Fourth Quarter Schedule.

The series will continue over the next 12-18 months. A main feature of the North Carolina's Mountain Treasures series will be several car-camping weekend camporees, from which we will launch multiple hikes to nearby treasures from one central location.

Jim Reel (jimr57@yahoo.com) and Ted Snyder (tedsnyderjr@bellsouth.net) are coordinating the effort. Please contact one of them if you would like to lead a hike within one of these special places.

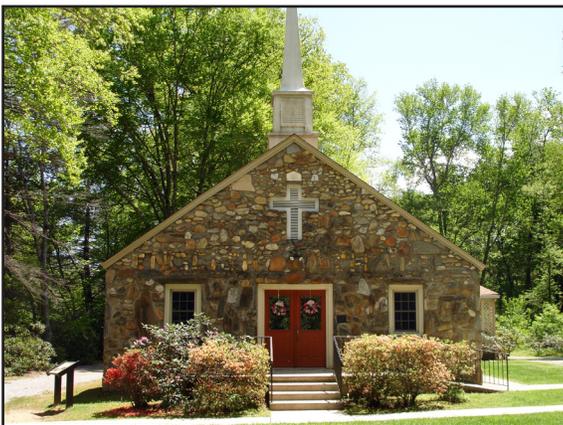
If you would like more information about The



Wilderness Society's North Carolina's Mountain Treasures campaign or a copy of the new book, please contact Jill Gottesman at [jill\\_gottesman@tws.org](mailto:jill_gottesman@tws.org).

The best of the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests will be protected only if those who love

them stand up and speak for them. To speak for these places, we must first know them, experience them, and enjoy them! We hope you'll join us for hikes and camporees as we tour the unprotected wildland treasures within our own backyard.



Above, English Chapel, and below, the new bridge.



## The Bridge to English Chapel

English Chapel is a Methodist church conducting services within the boundaries of the Pisgah National Forest, on the banks of the Davidson River in Transylvania County, near Brevard. The church was founded in 1860 by Alexander English, a circuit-riding Methodist minister, before the area was public land. The present church was rebuilt in 1941 using rocks from the river. Some of our hikes go by the chapel and it is a conversation starter.

The chapel has always been accessible by a bridge across Davidson River. Several years ago the bridge was condemned and relegated to foot traffic only. Normally such a bridge would be torn down and eventually replaced by a new one. This bridge, however, is an historical artifact and cannot be removed. The bridge was

put in place in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The bridge was taken down for repairs and after several years it has been put back in place, although it's not finished or open to car traffic yet. The project is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. So English Chapel will remain as a part of the history that lies within public land for all to see and enjoy.

### Time to Renew Membership!

This is a gentle reminder that all CMC membership dues need to be in by Jan. 1, 2012. Please fill out the application in this issue of Let's Go and send it, with your dues, to:



Carolina Mountain Club  
P.O. Box 68  
Asheville, NC 28802

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE

All members are encouraged to participate in trail maintenance activities. Non-members are invited to try it a few times before deciding if they want to join the Club and be a regular part of a crew. We train and provide tools.

Below is a general schedule of work days. Exact plans often cannot be made until the last minute, so contact crew leaders for details. Crews marked with an \* are currently seeking new members. MST and AT section maintainers work on their own schedule.

### Monday

Barth Brooker, barthb@bellsouth.net  
**Wednesday\***

### Friday Asheville\*

Skip Sheldon, shelhalla@bellsouth.net

### Friday Pisgah

Pete (R) Petersen, roap@aol.com

### Saturday bimonthly\*

Becky Smucker, bjsmucker@gmail.com

### Saturday quarterly\*

Les Love, lesrlove@charter.net

### MST sections

Barth Brooker, barthb@bellsouth.net

Les Love, lesrlove@charter.net

Pete (A) Petersen,

arpetersen11@morrisbb.net

Larry Sobil, lsobil@bellsouth.net

### AT sections

Tim Carrigan, tim@newprisim.com

## HIKE SCHEDULE Fourth Quarter 2011

### Hike Ratings

First Letter Distance	Second Letter Elevation Gain
AA: Over 12 miles	AA: Over 2,000 ft.
A: 9-12 miles	A: 1,500-2,000 ft.
B: 6-9 miles	B: 1,000-1,500 ft.
C: Under 6 miles	C: Under 1,000 ft.

All hikes assemble at the **far rear (north end)** of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted.

Hike cancellations are announced on the CMC website in the "Breaking News Box." Hike Leaders will announce a cancellation or significant change for a hike at least a few hours before the hike meeting time. **Hikers that do not have internet access or live hours away from the meeting place: It is important to call the hike leader ahead of time to let them know you need to be informed about hike changes.**

If it's not possible for a hiker to go on the regularly scheduled hike, it may be possible to accompany the leader when the hike is scouted. Scouts typically take place one to six weeks before the scheduled date. Call or email the hike leader.

See the Hike Schedule on the CMC website for more complete and timely information, including scout reports, at [www.carolinamountainclub.org](http://www.carolinamountainclub.org).

## CHALLENGE PROGRAMS

**SB6K** For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000'. Contact Peter Barr, pjbarr@unc.edu

**P400** For hiking every trail in Pisgah Ranger District. Contact Dave Wetmore, dwetmore@citcom.net

**900M** For hiking every trail in GSMNP. Contact Dave Wetmore, dwetmore@citcom.net

**LTC** For hiking all 24 lookout towers in WNC. Contact Peter Barr, pjbarr@unc.edu

**WC100** For hiking to the 100 best waterfalls in the mountains of WNC, SC and the Smokies. Contact Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897, suejackfitz@bellsouth.net

## WEDNESDAY HIKES

Wednesday hikes submitted by Ann Gleason, 828-859-9387, cowbonetail@yahoo.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at the **far rear (north end)** of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in the schedule, and start times may vary. *Times listed are departure times – arrive early.*

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-355 **Oct. 5**  
**AT: Devil Fork Gap to Carmen** \*8:30 AM  
Hike 10.7, Drive 90, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA  
Tish Desjardins, desraylet@aol.com or 828/380-1452

**\*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at corner of US 25/70 and NC 208 at 9:10 AM.** This hike travels 9 very scenic miles on the AT. It features 2 shelters, including Jerry's Cabin, a historic gravesite as well as great vistas atop Big Butt. We return down Fork Ridge Trail to the Carmen area. Topos: Flag Pond, Greystone; also NatGeo map #782

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-698 **Oct. 12**  
**Mt. Mitchell via Potato Knob** \*8:10 AM  
Hike 10, Drive 55, 2100 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA  
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656, clworley@bellsouth.net

**SB6K \*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Craven Gap at 8:30 AM.** We take the MST west onto the Boundary Trail over Potato Knob, then do a short in-and-out to Mt. Gibbes, then follow a gravel road to Stepps Gap, and Old Mitchell Trail to Mt. Mitchell with another short in-and-out to Mt. Hallback. Then we descend on

## SATURDAY WORK DAY

For the Saturday MST Trail Building Work Days in 2011, we've decided to skip the breakfast and meet instead at 8:30 at the Home Depot at the Enka-Candler Exit 44 off of I-40. The date is October 22. As in the past, we will be back in Asheville by 3:00. Call Les Love at 828-658-1489 (lesrlove@charter.net) to verify date.

the Commissary Ridge Trail and right onto the Buncombe Horse Range trail (MST) trailhead. Topos: Montreat and Mt. Mitchell

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-740 **Oct. 19**  
**Six Waterfalls near Brevard** \*8:30 AM  
Hike 5.8, Drive 100, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C  
Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897, suejackfitz@bellsouth.net

**WC100, P400 \*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM.** We will visit six waterfalls near Brevard, all on the Waterfall 100 Challenge: Maidenhair (new to the list), Dill and Upper Dill, Courthouse, Bird Rock and Catheys Creek. All are in-and-out hikes of 2.5 miles or less for each waterfall. Topos: Rosman, Sam Knob; also NatGeo map #780

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-254 **Oct. 26**  
**Green Knob via Snooks Nose** \*8:00 AM  
Hike 9 Drive 65, 3500 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA  
Barbara Morgan, 828-738-3395, cell: 828-460-7066, barbc129@gmail.com

**LTC \*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Ingles Parking lot at Exit 64 off I-40 at 8:20 AM.** Starting from campground, we'll follow the trail over Snooks Nose and over the BRP to the Green knob fire tower, then return. 360 degree views from fire tower. Topo: Old Fort

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-270 **Nov. 2**  
**Cedar Rock Mtn. - John Rock Loop** \*9:00 AM  
Hike 8, Drive 80, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A  
Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@bellsouth.net

**P400 \*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 9:40 AM.** This trip features two of the spectacular bare rock faces in the Pisgah National Forest, with great views from both. Starting at the Fish Hatchery, we'll have our major climb up to Cat Gap and then on to Cedar Rock to enjoy the view during lunch. We'll return via John Rock. Topo: Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-308 **Nov. 9**  
**Ox Creek to Rich Knob** \*8:30 AM  
Hike 8.2, Drive 25, 1850 ft. ascent, Rated B-A  
Laura Frisbie, 828-337-5845, laurafrisbie@charter.net  
We'll hike the MST from Ox Creek Road and climb to Rich Knob via Rattlesnake Lodge. Topo: Craggy Pinnacle

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-222 **Nov. 16**  
**Montreat Loop #3 Modified** \*8:40 AM  
Hike 5, Drive 40, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated B-B  
Ames Tryon, 828-669-3805, tryonaf@charter.net

**\*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Ingles parking lot, off Exit 64 of I-40 at 9:00 AM.** This hike will be a modification of the #3 Loop hike. The hike will start and end at the Greybeard trailhead parking area. We will hike the

Greybeard trail for a short distance, then ascend a steep un-blazed spur trail to the Trestle road. The hike continues up the Trestle road until intersecting the Greybeard trail. Hike will descend via Greybeard and Harry Bryan trail to parking area. Topo: Montreat

WEDNESDAY **Nov 23**  
NO HIKE SCHEDULED – NO LEADER  
AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAY **Nov 30**  
NO HIKE SCHEDULED – NO LEADER  
AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-492 **Dec. 7**  
**Annual Cookie Hike,**  
**Bent Creek Ramble** **\*8:30 AM**  
Hike 7, Drive 10, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B  
Ken and Carol Deal, 828-281-4530,  
cnkdeal@charter.net

**P400** \*Only meeting place: Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall. Moderate loop hike in the Bent Creek area. We will start from the parking area for Cold Knob Road (FS 479H off Bent Creek Road beyond Lake Powhatan). Using a variety of short sections of trails, we will hike up to the MST, follow it past Sleepy Gap, and descend by the Stambaugh Trail to the Lake Powhatan picnic area for lunch and a cookie feast. Bring cookies to share. The afternoon walk back to the cars is approximately 2 miles. Topo: Asheville; also NatGeo map #780 and Bent Creek Trail Map.

**ALTERNATE HIKE**  
WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-i **Dec. 7**  
**Cookie Hike, shorter version** **\*10:00 AM**  
Hike 4, Drive 10, Rated C-C  
Diane Stickney, 828-254-9054  
**\*Only meeting place: Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall.** We will start on the Lake Powhatan Connector and hike to the picnic area to meet the other group for lunch and share cookies. After lunch we return to cars.

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-216 **Dec. 14**  
**Sams Gap to Devil Fork Gap** **8:00 AM**  
Hike 9, Drive 90 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-A  
Janet Martin, cell: 502-494-9309,  
jaykaymartin@msn.com  
Follow the AT south from Sams Gap to an overlook at High Rock, and continue to Rice Gap, Lick Rock, Sugarloaf Gap and end at Devil Fork Gap. The ridge along the state line provides views into Tennessee and North Carolina with the south bound hiker actually traveling north. Car shuttle. Topo: Sams Gap

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-182 **Dec. 21**  
**Green River Cove Trail** **9:00 AM**  
Hike 6.7, Drive 73, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-B  
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471,  
mwbromberg@yahoo.com

This is a scenic winter hike along the lovely Green River. We'll hike to the big rocks in the river at the end of the trail, and return by the same route. This hike includes a few steep, but short uphills. **Second meeting place: Cracker Barrel at Exit 53 off I-26 at 9:30 AM.** Topo: Clifffield Mtn.; also Green River Gamelands Map

WEDNESDAY NO. W1104-589 **Dec. 28**  
**Shut-in Trail, Lake Powhatan loop** **10:00 AM**  
Hike 7, Drive 15, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B  
Bob Hysko, cell: 828-243-3630,  
rhysko@yahoo.com

**P400** This will be a shorter version of #589, a loop hike that follows the MST west, then descends Stambaugh Trail, skirts Lake Powhatan and finishes on the Bent Creek Trail. **Second meeting place: BRP French Broad Overlook at 10:15 AM.** Topos: Asheville, Dunsmore Mtn., also NatGeo. map #780 and Bent Creek Trail Map

## ALL DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY HIKES

All-day hikes submitted by Bruce Bente 828-692-0116, bbente@bellsouth.net. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All Saturday and Sunday hikes assemble at the **far rear (north end)** of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted. Some hikes will have second meeting places, and starting times may vary. *Times listed are departure times – arrive early.*

HIKING WEEKEND **Sept. 30-Oct. 2**  
**North Georgia State Parks**

Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192,  
hikertohiker.com  
Hike in three north Georgia State Parks and into Chattahoochee Nat'l. Forest. We'll stay at Unicoi State Park where you can also swim or boat in a lake. We'll walk into Helen, a funky tourist town. Make your lodge, cabin or tent site reservations at [www.gastateparks.org/info/unicoi](http://www.gastateparks.org/info/unicoi) soon and let the leader know that you're coming. Full details are posted in the E-News.

SUNDAY NO. A1104-697 **Oct. 9**  
**Silers Bald** **\*8:30 AM**  
**(Bernard Elias Favorite Hike series #13)**

Hike 9, Drive 150, 2800 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA  
Ted Snyder, 864-638-3686,  
tedsnryderjr@bellsouth.net  
**900M, SB6K** \*Form carpools at Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall, and meet leader at 9:30 AM at parking lot of new Oconaluftee Visitor Center in Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l. Park north of Cherokee on US 441. Early fall, but at this altitude some of the leaves will be down, opening views in all directions as we hike the mile-high, narrow ridgeline from Clingmans Dome to Silers Bald. Two named peaks over 6K, Mt. Buckley and Clingmans Dome. Topos: Clingmans Dome; Silers Bald. NatGeo Maps #316 and #317

SATURDAY NO. A1104-349 **Oct. 15**  
**Buck Spring Trail uphill** **\*10:00 AM**  
Hike 6.2, Drive 60, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B  
Bev MacDowell, 828-684-1000,  
bevmacdowell@charter.net  
**P400** \*First meeting place: back parking lot of Folk Art Center. **Second Meeting Place: Pisgah Inn parking lot, near convenience store, at 10:35 AM.** This pleasant hike starts at US 276 and ends at Pisgah Inn. Possible late lunch at Pisgah Inn. Car shuttle. Topos: Shining Rock, Cruso; also MST Profiles book, pg. 40-41

SUNDAY NO. A1104-082 **Oct. 16**  
**The Blacks Beyond 6000** **\*7:30 AM**  
**(joint hike with Greenville Natural History Assn.)**  
Hike 11.3, Drive 70-80, 3000 ft. (northbound) or 6000 ft. (southbound) ascent, Rated A-AA+  
Don Gardner, 828-754-4067,  
gardog3@bellsouth.net (northbound) &  
Lisa Hart, 828-450-6986,  
tiw.south@gmail.com (southbound)

**SB6K, LTC** \*First meeting place: back parking lot of Folk Art Center. **Second meeting place: Phone a leader.** Key-swap hike. This is your chance to bag seven SB6K peaks on this *very strenuous* hike. The southbound initial climb is 3100 ft., and there's much more climbing in the ups and downs between peaks. North-bounders get to descend 3100 ft. The hike is great fun with incomparable views, but do not consider this unless you are in top shape. Bring extra water. *Participants must phone a leader beforehand.* Topos: Celo, Mt. Mitchell; also PNF South Toe River, Mount Mitchell & Big Ivy Trail Map

SUNDAY NO. A1104-737 **Oct. 23**  
**Noland Divide Trail** **\*7:30 AM**  
Hike 11.6, Drive 160, 700 ft. ascent,  
4800 ft. descent, Rated A-C

Mike Knies, 828-628-6712, knies06@att.net  
**900M** \*Only meeting place: Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall. We had such a good time hiking down the Sugarland Mountain trail in April that we decided to do a similar hike on the North Carolina side. This hike will feature a dramatic seasonal change as we descend from 5929 ft. to 1780 ft. Hike through a magnificent stand of red spruce near the top and watch the vegetation change as we descend. *Hikers must register with leader beforehand so that car shuttle arrangements can be made. The leader is investigating the possibility of hiring a bus to eliminate the long shuttle time, and will provide info when you register.* Long car shuttle. Topos: Clingmans Dome, Bryson City; also NatGeo maps #317

SATURDAY NO. A1104-736 **Oct. 29**  
**Cove Creek Gap/Gooseberry Knob** **\*8:15 AM**  
Hike 11.7, Drive 85, 2450 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA  
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119,  
(cell 828-674-1374), ashok.kudva@att.net

**900M** \*First meeting place: Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop at I-40 Exit #24 at 8:35 AM, but call leader beforehand.** If it is clear, we will experience spectacular views as we hike to the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center facing Purchase Knob and then to Gooseberry Knob. We will hike the Cataloochee Divide Trail for a long but moderate hike. Limited trail-head parking space may add 0.8 mile distance and 10 minutes of easy walking. NOTE: If the Science Center gate is open, we may substitute a different hike in this area. Topos: Cove Creek Gap, Dellwood, also NatGeo. Map #317

SUNDAY NO. A1104-716 **Oct. 30**  
**Pilot Mountain Cross-Country \*8:30 AM (moderate)**

Hike 8.2, Drive 80, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A  
Dave Wetmore, 828-884-7296,  
dwtmore@comporium.net

**P400** \*Form carpools at Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall, and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM. This hike is a combination of old roads (some very old) and off-trail hiking. We'll begin by going southwest from Gloucester Gap, then do an off-trail climb with two short but steep sections from the south to Pilot Mtn. with its wonderful views. The return will be mostly on trails and old roads. Topo: Shining Rock, also NatGeo map #780

SUNDAY NO. A1104-738 **Nov. 6**  
**Woodlawn – Kistler Highway (Mountain Treasures hike #1) \*8:00 AM (strenuous)**

Hike 12.2, Drive 100, 3000 ft. (EB), 1200 ft. (WB) ascent, Rated AA-AA (EB), AA-B (WB)  
Jim Reel, (WB), 828-738-0751,  
jimr57@yahoo.com, & Lisa Hart, (EB),  
828-450-6986, tiw.south@gmail.com  
The Dobson Knob Area is considered to be a Mountain Treasure by the Wilderness Society. This area features Old Growth Virginia Pine and some of the healthiest Carolina Hemlock left. This MST section crosses a bridge over North Fork River and RR tracks before ascending to Bald Knob and Dobson Knob and then a section of Overmountain Victory Trail, before ending (or starting) on Old NC 105. This hike will be a key swap and we will meet off I-40 Exit 86 at Loves at 8:45 to swap cars. **Second Meeting Place: Ingles parking lot off I-40 Exit 64 at 8:20 AM.** Topos: Ashford, Little Switzerland, NatGeo Map #779

SUNDAY NO. A1104-471 **Nov. 6**  
**Wagon Road Gap, MST to Big East Fork \*8:00 AM (moderate)**

Hike 9.7, Drive 75, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated A-B  
Tom Sanders, 828-252-6327,  
tsanders.avl@gmail.com  
**P400** Starting at Wagon Road Gap, we will fol-

low the MST south to the connector to the Big East Fork Trail and follow that down to US 276. Short car shuttle. \*Wilderness area hike, limited to ten hikers—call leader for reservations. **Second meeting place: Cold Mtn. overlook (BRP M.M. 412) at 8:40 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

SATURDAY NO. A1104-578 **Nov. 12**  
**Flat Laurel Creek,**

**Little Sam Knob, MST Loop 10:00 AM**  
Hike 7.5, 1000 ft. ascent, Drive 80, Rated B-B  
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471,  
mwbromberg@yahoo.com

**P400** This is a pleasant loop trail with views of Sam Knob, Fork Ridge and Flat Laurel Creek. We'll begin on the Flat Laurel Creek Trail, which ascends gradually until we are hiking next to the creek, where we will stop for lunch. Little Sam Knob Trail, with views of Little Sam Knob and Sam Knob, connects to the MST. A one-mile side trip to Devils Courthouse will offer good views before we return on the MST to our cars. **Second meeting place: contact leader.**

SUNDAY NO. A1104-683 **Nov. 13**  
**DuPont Forest: Hooker Falls P.L. #2 – Five Falls Loop 8:30 AM**

Hike 11.2, Drive 95, 1250 ft. ascent, Rated A-B  
Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192,  
danny@hikertohiker.com

**WC100** This hike takes in five outstanding waterfalls, including some that were sites for *The Last of the Mohicans*. On the way, we'll climb to a ridge in the forest that gets fewer visitors. **Second meeting place: Bi-Lo in Pisgah Forest at 9:00 AM.** Topo: Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont State Forest map

SUNDAY NO. A1104-355 **Nov. 20**  
**AT: Devil Fork Gap to Carmen \*8:00 AM**  
Hike 10.7, Drive 95, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA  
Tish Desjardins, cell: 828-380-1452,  
desraylet@aol.com

**\*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at parking lot on US 25 at intersection with NC 208 at 8:45 AM. After the hike there will be a potluck supper in the nearby Bear River Community Lodge. Hikers are requested to contribute food for the supper. Food will be taken to a refrigerator before the hike. Please phone the leader to coordinate what food to bring.** Hike along nine of the most scenic miles on the A.T., featuring two shelters, a historic gravesite and beautiful views from atop Big Butt. After Jerry's Cabin, the hike then goes down Fork Ridge trail to Carmen. Car shuttle. Topos: Flag Pond, Greystone; also NatGeo. map #782

BACKPACK NO. B1104-739 **Nov. 25-27**  
**AT from Wallace Gap to Deep Gap \*7:30 AM**  
Hike 21.3, Drive 82, 4640 ft. ascent,  
Rated AA-AA+  
Paul Benson, 828-251-1909,

pdubenson@charter.net

\*Meeting place(s) to be arranged with leader. *Wilderness area, so group size is limited to ten.* Contact leader to reserve a space. This two-night, three-day backpack will follow the AT southbound through the remote Southern Nantahala Wilderness Area, and skirt the Big Indian Mountain Treasure addition to the Wilderness Area. The hike will be moderate, but winter backpacking experience is desirable. We should be treated to plenty of spectacular views from our ridgeline walk around the headwaters basin of the Nantahala River. We'll climb Standing Indian Mountain, highest point south of the Great Smokies. Starting at Wallace Gap, we'll cover 6.4 miles to the Big Spring shelter on the first day. The next day we'll hike about 10 miles to our camp at Beech Gap, and the final day will be about 5 miles to Deep Gap. Ten-mile car shuttle. Topos: Rainbow Springs, Hightower Bald; also ATC Nantahala Natl. Forest-Bly gap to Fontana Dam and USFS Southern Nantahala Wilderness maps

SATURDAY NO. A1104-584 **Nov. 26**  
**Butter Gap Loop 9:00 AM**

Hike 9, Drive 75, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA  
Les & Catherine Love, 828-658-1458,  
lesrlove@charter.net

**P400** We'll follow parts of the Cat Gap Loop, ALT, and all of the Butter Gap trail through the beautiful Grogan Creek watershed to Picklesheimer Fields. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 9:40 AM.** Topos: Shining Rock, Rosman; also NatGeo. map #780

SUNDAY NO. A1104-409 **Nov. 27**  
**Jones Gap - El Lieutenant Loop 8:00 AM**

Hike 10.3, Drive 95, 2200 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA  
Carroll Koeplinger, 828-667-0723,  
carrollkoepp@bellsouth.net  
Starting at Jones Gap State Park (NOTE: \$2 entry fee per person), we will hike up the Jones Gap Trail along the Middle Saluda River, then the Bill Kimball Trail up through the boulders and forest, then a rock scramble to climb up and over the granite face of El Lieutenant. We'll continue on the Kimball trail, walk a short portion of US 276 to our return loop on the Tom Miller and Jones Gap Trails. **Additional meeting places: NE corner of parking lot at Cracker Barrel at Exit 53 of I-26 at 8:30 AM; also Jones Gap State Park parking lot at 9:00 AM.** Topos: Cleveland, Table Rock; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness map

SUNDAY NO. A1104-335 **Dec. 4**  
**Bald Mtns. via Big Creek (Mountain Treasures hike #2) 8:00 AM (strenuous)**

Hike 10, Drive 96, 2280 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA  
Ted Snyder, 864-638-3686,  
tedsnyderjr@bellsouth.net  
The ridge of the Bald Mountains forms the NC-TN state line where we are venturing. A road

less area of about 23,000 acres falls on both sides of the ridge. This is one of the largest unprotected mountain forests in the two states. A warm-up climb takes us to the ridge where we join the A.T. The A.T. takes us over Big Rocks, or Big Butt (4838 ft.) with wide views. Our descent is along Dry Creek which runs mostly underground. A short road walk closes the loop. Topos: Greystone, Flag Pond; also NatGeo map #782

SUNDAY NO. A1104-588 **Dec. 4**  
**Coontree Loop extended** **9:00 AM**  
(moderate)

Hike 8, Drive 70, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated B-A  
Lenny Bernstein, 828-236-0192, lsberns@att.net  
**P400** We'll hike the Coontree Loop, but extend it by including the Perry Cove and Bennett Gap trails, with a short road walk on FS 477 to connect the two. **Second meeting place: Coontree Picnic area at 9:40 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

SUNDAY NO. A1104-310 **Dec. 11**  
**Pinnacle Pass – Rim of the Gap** **\*8:00 AM**

Hike 9, Drive 80, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A  
Jeff McGurk, 864-921-6469,  
jbsbestfan@hotmail.com  
**\*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Jones Gap parking lot at 9:00 AM. (Hendersonville hikers form carpools at Cracker Barrel parking lot, NE corner, and leave at 8:30 AM.)** Starting at Jones Gap State Park (NOTE: \$2 entry fee per person), we will hike a scenic loop route, first hiking up the Pinnacle Pass trail over Little Pinnacle Mountain and taking in two of the best views in the Jones Gap/Caesars Head parks. The way up includes some scrambling over boulders. We will have lunch at the second overlook. Then after backtracking about a mile we will take a connector trail and return via the Rim of the Gap Trail. Topo: Standingstone Mtn.; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness map

SATURDAY No. A1104-589 **Dec. 17**  
**Shut-in Trail, Lake Powhatan loop** **10:00 AM**

Hike 7, 1200 ft. ascent, Drive 15, Rated B-B  
Bob Hysko, cell: 828-243-3630,  
rhysko@yahoo.com  
**P400** This will be a shorter version of #589, a loop hike that follows the MST west, then descends Stambaugh Trail, skirts Lake Powhatan and finishes on the Bent Creek Trail. **Second meeting place: BRP French Broad Overlook at 10:15 AM.** Topos: Asheville, Dunsmore Mtn., also NatGeo. map #780 and Bent Creek Trail Map

SUNDAY NO. A1104-489 **Dec. 18**  
**Bad Fork - Trace Ridge Loop** **8:30 AM**

Hike 8, Drive 60, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A  
Becky Smucker, cell: 828-231-2198,  
bjsmucker@gmail.com  
**P400** From the Trace Ridge parking area, we will hike a short distance along a gravel road to the

Bad Fork Trail, which will take us to the BRP on a steep 800 ft. ascent. From the BRP, we will have a long, steady climb to Ferrin Knob, then down to Beaver Dam Overlook for lunch. After lunch, we continue down the Trace Ridge Trail Topo: Dunsmore Mtn; also Natl. Geo. PRD map # 780

SUNDAY **Dec. 25**  
NO HIKE SCHEDULED – MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!

## HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES

Newcomers are welcome, but non-members MUST call the leader before the hike to determine the requirements. Half-day hikes submitted by Bonnie Allen 828-645-0357. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at the **far rear (north end)** of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B off I-240 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in hike listings.

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-665 **Oct. 2**  
**NC 128 - Waterfall** **\*11:00 AM**

Hike 6, Drive 62, 500 ft. ascent, Rated C-C  
Nonmembers, call leader: Maggie Marshall, cell:  
828-772-4286, maggie.marshall@yahoo.com  
**\*Only meeting place: back parking lot of Folk Art Center.** A gentle hike along the MST to a lovely waterfall and return. We'll have early fall views along the BRP on the drive up to Mt. Mitchell Rd. where the hike begins. Topos: Montreat, Mt. Mitchell

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-699 **Oct. 9**  
**Pisgah Loop II** **\*12:00 PM**

Hike 6, Drive 70, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated C-B  
Nonmembers, call leader: Ashok Kudva,  
828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374  
ashok.kudva@att.net  
**P400, WC100** **\*Form carpools at Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall, and meet leader at BRP Cold Mtn. Overlook at 12:30 PM.** We will hike the Boundary Trail and MST to Skinny Dip Falls, returning via the MST and Graveyard Fields. Expect bright fall colors along the trails. Topos: Sam Knob, Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-453 **Oct. 16**  
**Max Patch Loop** **\*12:30 PM**

Hike 5.5, Drive 104, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C  
Nonmembers, call leader: Gail Lamb,  
828-338-0443, galmb46@bellsouth.net  
**\*First meeting place: Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall. Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop I-40 Exit 24 at 1:00 PM, but call leader first.** Awesome 360 degree panoramic views of fall color from summit of Max Patch make this a favorite hike. Topo: Lemon Gap

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-464 **Oct. 23**

**Balsam Gap/Greybeard Overlook** **\*12:00 PM**  
Hike 3.9, Drive 44, 1030 ft. ascent, Rated C-B  
Nonmembers, call leader: Renate Rikkers,  
828-298-9988, reriokers@aol.com  
**\*First meeting place: rear parking lot of Folk Art Center; another stop will be made at Craven Gap at 12:10 PM.** This one-way 3½-4 hour hike is over an enjoyable section of the MST that takes us through a wide variety of environments, from rugged high elevation vegetation, lichen-covered rocks and gnarled trees, a stretch of lovely beech forest to long range views from an open bald with late fall wildflower meadows. Please wear sturdy footwear for this rocky trail!  
Topo: Montreat

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-062 **Oct. 30**  
**Daniel Ridge Loop** **\*12:15 PM**

Hike 4, Drive 70, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C  
Nonmembers, call leader: Bobbi Powers,  
828-667-5419, bobbipowers@live.com  
**P400 Only meeting place: Ingles parking lot on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square Mall.** This moderate loop hike has lots to C: fall Color, Creeks, Chasms, and a Cool Cascade finale. **Second meeting place: Fish Hatchery parking lot at 1:00 PM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-437 **Nov. 6**  
**Pilot Cove Loop** **\*12:00 PM**

Hike 4, Drive 80, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-B  
Nonmembers, call leader: Ashok Kudva,  
828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374,  
ashok.kudva@att.net  
**P400** **\*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at North Mills River parking lot at 12:35 PM.** This (shortened version of CMC Hike #437) is a moderate hike up to the top of the cliffs on Fork Ridge, which provides beautiful views of Pilot Cove, Pilot Rock, Pink Beds, and beyond. Topo: Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-153 **Nov. 13**  
**Cove Creek/Caney Bottom** **\*11:20 AM**

Hike 5, Drive 80, 1280 ft. ascent, Rated C-B  
Nonmembers, call leader: Tom Joyce,  
828-885-2152, timinbrevard@webtv.net  
**P400 Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 12:00 PM.** This is a pleasant walk in the valley below Looking Glass Rock. The trail follows a moderate grade as it wanders through the woods along a number of streams and cascades, and includes Cove Creek Falls as its feature attraction. Topo: Shining Rock

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-325 **Nov. 20**  
**Rich Mountain Fire Tower** **\*12:30 PM**

Hike 5.5, Drive 46, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated C-B  
Nonmembers, call leader: Russ and Heather  
Cooper, 828-484-9562, cooper.hs@charter.net  
**\*Only meeting place: Rose's parking lot**

## The Storms of September (2004)

On August 12, one of our archetypal trail maintainers passed away. John Soldati was more than that, however. According to his friend Don Christiansen, John had a fan club that anxiously awaited his trail reports because he was such a good writer.

This is one of his poems.



From the far south Atlantic, two children of the elements were spawned  
And out of atmospheric heat to the East coast they were drawn.  
Two wild furies, a brother and sister each, swept across the cold, deep sea  
And pointed their wrath and destruction at our beloved MST.

No mild, mannered children were these  
For by the middle of September they had brought us to our knees.

The first one to visit was the sister, ... Frances by name.  
A storm that weather pundits predicted would be rather tame.  
But the moisture she carried and deposited at our mountains' gate  
In rain, by inches, would measure two times eight.

We surveyed our muddy trails and all seemed sound  
But seven days later, brother Ivan raced into town.  
A murderous gale that brought destruction galore  
And ripped up great trees that would cover the forest floor.

Then, to this south western corner of the Old North State  
Ivan's winds were to arrive at a velocity of thirty-eight.  
To our mountain coves and ridges this monster would subjugate  
And to our surprise his rage was clocked at ninety-eight.

Like a well-trained pugilist, these siblings would crunch  
Our trails and footpaths with a classic "one two" punch.  
For the ground was saturated more than two feet deep  
And the great oaks were set up to fall like summer wheat.

You can talk of heavy rains, high winds and of summer drought  
But these two hurricanes, like naughty children, certainly did shout.  
Of recent great tempests, like Hugo and Opal, mountain folk would recall  
But the storms of September would be the worst of all.

John Soldati  
Flat Rock, NC 12/22/04

**(opposite McDonald's) off Exit 19B of I-26 in Weaverville.** This moderate in-and-out hike features great views from the Rich Mtn. Fire Tower near Hot Springs. We follow the A.T. and then a short side trail to the fire tower and return via the A.T. Topo: Hot Springs

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-513      **Nov. 27**  
**Craven Gap to Tanbark Tunnel      \*1:00 PM**  
Hike 4.6, Drive 6, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C  
Nonmembers, call leader: Chris and Bonnie  
Allen, 828-645-0357, bonnie@allencats.com  
**\*Only meeting place is at Craven Gap.** A pleasant walk in the winter woods along the MST from Craven Gap to Rattlesnake Lodge and down an access trail to the BRP. Topo: Craggy Pinnacle

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-534      **Dec. 4**  
**Turkey Pen, Pounding Mill, Mullinax Loop      \*12:30 AM**  
Hike 6.5, Drive 55, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B  
Nonmembers, call leader: Bruce Bente,  
828-692-0116, bbente@bellsouth.net  
**P400 \*Form carpools at Westgate, and meet leader at Turkey Pen Trailhead at 1:00 PM.**  
This is a nice winter hike, low elevation and close to Asheville. We'll cross the S. Mills River foot-bridge, and then do a loop on the scenic Pounding Mill and Mullinax trails. Topo: Pisgah Forest; also NatGero map #780

SUNDAY HALF-DAY      **Dec. 11**  
NO HIKE SCHEDULED – NO HIKE LEADER

HALF-DAY NO. H1104-182      **Dec. 18**  
**Green River Cove      11:00 AM**  
Hike 5.5, Drive 73, 400 ft. ascent, Rated C-C  
Nonmembers, call leader: Marcia Bromberg,  
828-505-0471, mwbromberg@yahoo.com  
Hike Green River Cove trail from bridge to its intersection with the Pulliam Creek Trail, and return on same trail. Enjoy great winter views of the Green River. Although not a lot of altitude gain, there are several short steep uphill sections.  
**Second meeting place: Cracker Barrel, I-26 Exit 53 at 11:30 AM.** Topo: Clifffield Mountain

SUNDAY HALF-DAY      **Dec. 25**  
NO HIKE SCHEDULED – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

# Joint hikes with Greenville NHA

Carolina Mountain Club and Greenville Natural History Association (GNHA) have agreed to alternately host a yearly joint hike. The first joint hike will be CMC's "Death March" on 10/15/11. Each year the host club will select the hike, and be responsible for leading it. This includes providing the other club with details of the hike, leader(s), and sweep(s) as needed. When the CMC hosts the hike it will be held on a Sunday; when the GNHA hosts the hike, it will be held on a Saturday.

The Greenville Natural History Association was founded 44 years ago. The aim of GNHA and part of its charter is "To promote the enjoyment of the outdoors, teach outdoor ethics, and encourage the conservation of air, woods, waters, and wildlife in general." Check out their website at [greenvillehiking.com](http://greenvillehiking.com).

## COUNCIL CORNER

*continued from page 1*

we would ALWAYS welcome additional maintainers. I would strongly encourage everyone to experience a day out with one of the crews. I think you will get an appreciation for the trails that you may not have had previously. For more information, please click on "Trail Work" on the front page of CMC's new website to get more information on becoming a Section Maintainer or a member of one of the crews. – *Pete Petersen*

**HIKING INFORMATION:** CMC hikes are open to all and we welcome guests. Non-members need to call or email the hike leader to introduce themselves and find out more about the hike. All hikers are encouraged to call or e-mail the leader if they have questions about the hike or the location of the meeting place. Hikes may be canceled by the leader due to adverse weather or dangerous roads. Minors are welcome on CMC hikes, if accompanied by a responsible adult. Dogs are not allowed on CMC hikes.

Hikers will carpool from the meeting places to the trailhead and back. Passengers are expected to contribute 10 cents per mile towards the driver's operating expenses. Most CMC hikes do not require reservations. However, check the hiking schedule to determine whether a reservation is required, and if so, call or e-mail the leader to reserve your space.

Hike leaders have the right to reject participants who are not properly equipped for the hike or who are unlikely to be able to complete the hike. All hikers are expected to follow the leader's instructions. No one should get ahead of the leader, or lag behind the sweep, without specific permission. Hikers should obtain the leader's permission if they wish to leave the hike before its completion.

**CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT:** CMC's website ([www.carolinamountainclub.org](http://www.carolinamountainclub.org), click on Hiking) has a full list of day hiking needs. Most critical are water, footwear, rain gear and a first aid kit. Carry at least two quarts of liquid (water, Gatorade, juice) for a full day hike, no matter what time of year. Hiking boots are recommended for all hikes. They should be broken in before the hike. Weather changes quickly in the mountains. Even if there is no sign of rain in the morning, you need to be prepared for an afternoon shower. Your first aid kit should include any personal medication, including allergy medication, if needed. Wear layered clothing – you'll want to take layers off during a strenuous climb or as the day proceeds, then put them back on in cooler conditions.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY:** Each CMC member and guest agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her own safety and for the safety of accompanying minors. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant

## Carolina Mountain Club

P.O. Box 68  
Asheville, NC 28802

## NEXT CMC COUNCIL MEETING

**When:** October 6, 2011  
**Where:** West Asheville Library meeting room  
**Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
**Info:** Call Barth at 299-0298 if you would like to attend.  
All CMC members are welcome.

Further  
information about  
regulations is available at [www.  
carolinamountainclub.org](http://www.carolinamountainclub.org)

on hikes or trail maintenance activities. Each participant agrees to hold harmless and free from blame event leaders and the CMC, its officers and members, for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participating in Club hikes and other activities.

**CONSERVATION:** CMC works with other organizations concerned about the protection of our natural heritage to protect trails and the hiking experience in our hiking area. Phone the Councilor for Conservation for details.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Everyone is eligible for CMC membership by completing a Membership Application Form and paying dues. Membership Application Forms are available on the Club website or by mail. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. Applications should be sent to Carolina Mountain Club, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC, 28802. Hikers are expected to join CMC after participating in a few hikes. Some trail maintenance activities are only open to members.

### CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB OFFICERS

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