

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

Carolina Mountain Club eNews



December - 2024 Year End Review

Dear CMC Community,

As we wrap up 2024, we reflect on a year of remarkable achievements and resilience. Hurricane Helene brought devastation to our trails and communities, but thanks to your hard work and generosity, recovery is well underway. While the impact of Helene is still fresh and the road to recovery ahead of us, we want to take stock of how our collective strength has shone through during these times. From clearing debris and rebuilding trails to helping one another in countless ways, the resilience and compassion of the CMC community have been nothing short of inspiring.

This Giving Tuesday, you helped us raise \$11,175, surpassing our \$10K Donation Match Challenge from Bob Fuller! These funds will support vital programs and initiatives that keep our trails safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all.

As we gather with family, friends, and our hiking community, we are especially grateful for the shared love of the outdoors and the spirit of helping one another that binds us together. We look forward to seeing you on the trails in 2025 as we continue exploring and caring for the places, we cherish most.

Wishing you peace and joy this season,

Les Love, President

'24 YEAR END REVIEW

Membership: It all starts with our
>>> 1,250+ MEMBERS

51%
Family
Membership*

*Family Memberships assume 2 people

49%
Individual
Membership

+10%
Membership increase
from 2023

Welcome New Members!

Trail Work:

+34K Hours
of Volunteer Trail Work
which equates to

>> \$1,000,000+ <<
of volunteer contribution
hours!

Hiking:

1,574 Miles
of led hikes

Total Hikes **218**

7.2 miles Avg Hike Length

Most Popular Hike:
John Rock

grants received
\$108K

+77%
Increase over
2023 funding



Over the last 100+ years CMC has only ever had to cancel hikes 3 times:

- 1 World War II
- 2 Covid-19
- 3 Hurricane Helene

2024 CMC Award Winners

Congratulations to Susan Canale for earning the Distinguished Service Award for 2024!

Since 2016, Susan has been the driving force behind our eNews, consistently delivering a high-quality newsletter that has become essential reading for both CMC members and the broader Western North Carolina outdoor community.

Each month, she has maintained exceptional standards, ensuring the newsletter is informative and engaging. By soliciting contributions from CMC members, Susan has curated a wide range of topics relevant to our community, enhancing the newsletter with captivating photographs and interesting tidbits that make it visually appealing. Major CMC events, such as the annual dinner, receive thorough coverage under her stewardship. Thanks to Susan's efforts, the eNews is now widely read beyond our membership, serving as a vital resource for outdoor enthusiasts in Western North Carolina. Her ability to combine informative content with engaging storytelling has strengthened our community connections and elevated CMC's profile.

However, we must also announce that Susan has resigned from her position as of the end of October 2024. Her dedication and creativity have greatly enriched our club and the outdoor community. Congratulations once again, Susan!



Congratulations to Joe Bange, our dedicated Councilor for Trail Maintenance, for receiving the Carolina Mountain Club Award of Appreciation for 2024!

Joe stepped up to the role of Trail Maintenance Councilor during a particularly challenging period. When the position became vacant mid-term, he eagerly took on the responsibility. One of his notable contributions was the implementation of a trails assessment tool, which assigns scores to each trail based on maintenance needs and usage. This innovative tool enables crew leaders to prioritize their efforts, focusing on the most popular trails that require attention.

Throughout his tenure, Joe has navigated complex situations with our partners. Following the expiration of the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) agreement, new leadership required more from our club in terms of planning and execution. Joe dedicated countless hours to facilitate discussions and modifications to the agreement, ensuring all parties were aligned and satisfied.

[Full Story](#)



A highlight of 2024 was the Hot Springs Workday on November 30th, which saw the participation of 130 enthusiastic volunteers.

[Full Story](#)

Looking Forward to 2025

As we move into 2025, CMC is excited to embark on several important initiatives. While we continue our extensive trail work restoration projects, our primary focus will be on two major new endeavors:

Website Revamp

We are committed to creating a more accessible and user-friendly website. This new platform will make it easier for hikers to join our many upcoming hikes and for volunteers to connect with our extensive trail maintenance opportunities.

Strategic Planning for the Next Century

In addition to our website improvements, we're bringing in an external facilitator to help us develop a comprehensive strategic plan. This plan will ensure that CMC remains a leader in conservation, trail maintenance, and outdoor recreation for the next century.

Additionally, we will continue to map out and lead hikes, as well as take on new and exciting conservation projects. These efforts will help us enhance the experiences we offer to our members and the broader Western North Carolina outdoor community.

Save the Date:

April 26 - Pisgah Project Day

June 7 - National Trails Day at Hot Springs

[Volunteer](#)

[Donate Today](#)

Carolina Mountain Clubs is the oldest and largest hiking and trail maintenance organization in the Southeastern United States. As a member-run volunteer organization, we embody the spirit of community and shared passion for the outdoors, welcoming everyone who wishes to participate in its activities.

Leading over 200 hikes per year, the club maintains more than 400 miles of trails in Western North Carolina, including 94 miles of the Appalachian Trail and 150 miles of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.



www.carolinamountainclub.org

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