

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

Carolina Mountain Club eNews



April 2025



Lending a Helping Hand

By: Tom Weaver

The Carolina Mountain Club recently got a call from one of our sister clubs, the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club (SMHC), for a super cool project.

The project: Over the past few years, some heavy rains have caused a lot of erosion along a half-mile section of trail near the Icewater Spring Shelter in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The club had two big challenges to fix the

trail and stop the erosion. First, there weren't any good materials nearby, and second, it was tough to get the materials there. But the SMHC had a plan! They used the Tennessee AT license plate grant program to buy around 80 locust logs from a supplier in Rosman near Brevard, NC. Then, they hired a helicopter to fly the logs 3 miles into the backcountry of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

But...the logs needed to be de-barked before the GSMNP would let them in, and it would be hard for SMHC to find enough club volunteers to drive the 3.5 hours each way to do it. Franklin LaFond (OX), the trail maintainer extraordinaire, asked for our help. And guess what? **The Carolina Mountain Club's Friday Pisgah and Section Rover crews came to the rescue!** Don Cooper and his crew went to the supplier's site and finished de-barking half the logs the next day. Jan Onan and her crew took over the next day and finished de-barking the rest. They worked together with the SMHC to make sure all the logs were ready to be transported to the Park and flown up the mountain. The logs were bundled up and flown into the Park a few days later.

SMHC will have trail crews in the Icewater Spring area to fix the erosion problems as part of the upcoming National Trails Day event in early June. They're so grateful to the Carolina Mountain Club for helping them out on short notice and making this project a huge success. **Teamwork makes the dream work!**

Update: 2025 CMC Strategic Planning



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB!

Carolina Mountain Club is excited to announce the launch of our strategic planning process! We are setting our eyes on planning the future to ensure that the CMC continues to grow and thrive for years to come.

GET INVOLVED!

This is a great opportunity for all of our members to join in and share hopes, dreams and possibilities; and how to achieve them. In that spirit

JOIN US for one of the following forums. You can look forward to discussing program evolutions, leadership stability and membership growth and much more!

UPCOMING DATES AND TIMES:

April 27th, 2025

Haw Creek Commons

315 Old Haw Creek, Asheville NC 28805

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

April 29th, 2025

Online

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

May 6th, 2025

Online

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

To RSVP click the link in the caption

www.carolinamountainclub.org



Together, let's shape the future of Carolina Mountain Club!

Register Now!

LeConte Lodge: A Centennial History of

a Smoky Mountain Landmark

Written by Tom Layton and Mike Hembree

Reviewed by Danny Bernstein

I just discovered that there is a website (LeContest.com) that keeps track of people who hike up to LeConte Lodge numerous times. One man has done it over 560 times. Summer, winter, at every time of the year. It's managed by Tom Layton, one of the two authors of *LeConte Lodge: A Centennial History of a Smoky Mountain Landmark*.

July 16, 1925, marked the arrival of the first overnight guests to LeConte Lodge, which was a tent at the time. This was almost nine years before the official opening of Great Smoky Mountains National Park (June 15, 1934). The next year, Jack Huff built many of the buildings still in use today. Huff opened the original 32-bed cabin. He decided to hang a sign over the door, calling it LeConte Lodge.

[Read Full Review](#)



Women in Trail Work

Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) is the place to be for women who enjoy trail maintenance. Women are well represented today but haven't always been.

Becky Smucker, CMC's first female crew leader, provides history. Becky joined CMC in 1998 when all trail maintainers were men and became Vice President in 2006. Mainly a hiker, she decided to explore trail work, and discovered only one woman doing it. "I thought it was a shame and a waste that there were no other women. So, I looked for an opportunity to change that." She met skepticism and territoriality, so determined a new turf would break the old culture. "Peter (Alan) Pederson said Friday Crew would cede responsibility for Shining Rock and Middle Prong Wilderness areas." Becky assembled a coed team. "We went out twice a month on Saturdays so we could get younger, still-working folks. From that point, we had a slow but steady growth of women working trails throughout the club."

[Read Full Story](#)

CMC Outreach Opportunities

Led by: Jeff Wilcox

We have several upcoming outreach opportunities to showcase the club, support community partners, and recruit future hikers and trail maintainers....but **we need volunteers to help staff the CMC info booth!** If you're friendly, enthusiastic, and passionate about the Carolina Mountain Club, please consider volunteering to help for an hour or two (or more?) at one of the following events. We'll have a table with stickers, bookmarks, and brochures to distribute; hats, t-shirts, and books to sell; sign-up sheets for those interested in receiving the enews or helping with trail maintenance; and a newly branded canopy to keep you protected from the sun or rain. No prior experience necessary.

Please click the link below to sign up and contact jwilcox@unca.edu with any questions. Thanks in advance!

Upcoming outreach events:

April 15 (Tuesday), 5-7pm
Asheville Sports and Fitness Opportunities Fair
Memorial Stadium

April 26 (Saturday), 8am-2pm
Pisgah Project Day
Cat Gap Trail, Pisgah NF

May 3 (Saturday), 10am-4pm (setup 8-10, teardown 4-6)

Hot Springs Trailfest

Hot Springs Resort & Spa

May 10 (Saturday), 10:30am-1:30pm

WNC Bike Fest (Pisgah SORBA)

Ecusta Brewing, Brevard

May 17 (Saturday), hours TBD

Fresh Market, Hendersonville Rd.

[Register Here](#)



Training Opportunities

Our CMC member and Haywood County Search and Rescue volunteer, Steve Kuni, will be teaching again through Haywood County Parks and Recreation. He is fun, shares tips and offers a hands-on approach to help you learn and understand new skills.

Whether you are a solo hiker or hike leader, Staying Found will provide you with must know skills.

Hiker Gear will offer a fun way to get started if you are new to hiking in the mountains and how to stay out of trouble.

Staying Found: Hiker Navigation (\$10)

4/17 @ Allens Creek Park

This six-hour course provides the hiker the basics of modern navigation required to not become lost in the wilderness. The course covers hike planning and preparation, actions to take during the hike, and what to do if bewildered. The foundations and fundamentals of traditional map and compass are presented with hands-on exercises. This information is then used to provide an introduction to modern navigation using a common cell phone app; again with practical exercises in a safe, controlled environment.

Hiker Gear (Free)

4/24 @ Waynesville Public Library

Hiker Gear is a short lecture and show and tell meant for new hikers and hikers seeking to become safer and more efficient in the mountainous rain forests of Western Carolina. Instead of a prescriptive list of items, seven broad capabilities will be discussed. The factors of weight, cost, and bulk will be covered with the intent of enabling hikers to make informed cost/benefit decisions about what to carry and how to analyze risks in choosing what not to bring. This short course serves an introduction to the longer hands-on instruction presented in Hiker Survival.

Note: Please bring your typical hiking pack/gear to this lecture.

[Register Here](#)

Save the Date!

Click on date to register

May 24 - Annual Potluck Spring Social

Hosted @ Lake Julian shelter #6 *registration and details to follow*

June 7 – Hot Springs (National Trails Day)

August 16 – Cat Gap Loop

September 27 – Max Patch (National Public Lands Day)

PISGAH 400 PANEL DISCUSSION 15 MAY | 6:00 PM



The Mule at Devil's Foot Beverage
131 Sweeten Creek Rd, Asheville, NC 28803

A conversation with local hikers and runners about
undertaking the challenge to complete every trail in the
Pisgah Ranger District



CMC Committee Updates

[Read More](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

The Club is currently seeking both section maintainers and members for our weekly trail crews.

Section Maintainers "adopt" a portion of trail and are responsible for tasks such as quarterly walk-throughs, routine maintenance (including tread work, trimming, and clearing water diversions), and reporting any downed trees or other trail obstructions.

Weekly crew members join scheduled group outings to help with a variety of trail maintenance projects. It's a great way to learn trail skills, meet other volunteers, and make a meaningful impact.

Like to join a weekly crew or become a section maintainer? Like more information? Click the **Volunteer** link below.

[Donate](#)[Volunteer](#)[Hike](#)

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 440 miles of trails in Western North Carolina, including 94 miles of the Appalachian Trail and 150 miles of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Questions or feedback on the CMC eNewsletter and content can be directed to Alessia Farley at carolinamountainclub2015@gmail.com



www.carolinamountainclub.org

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