

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends
Carolina Mountain Club eNews



December 2025

Fork Mountain *A Joint Crew Day in the Heart of Shining Rock*

Story by Amber Gibbs
Photos by Amber Gibbs, Fran Crowley, and Paul Allen



On Sunday, November 16th, the Carolina Mountain Club's Wilderness Crew joined forces with the Extra Mile Crew for a full south-to-north hike-through of the Fork Mountain Trail in the Shining Rock Wilderness. Eighteen volunteers gathered at first light at Sunburst Campground. Ten Extra Milers and seven

Wilderness Crew members prepared for a long day that would stretch deep into the backcountry and focus on a trail edging toward disappearance.

[Get the whole story here](#)

Rebecca Alfaro Raises \$1,286 for Carolina Mountain Club Through New Belgium Program



Rebecca Alfaro with David Huff, CMC Councilor for Communications

Rebecca Alfaro selected Carolina Mountain Club for this year's New Belgium Liquid Center Annual Donations Program and raised \$1,286 in support of our work.

Rebecca is a lead Hospitality Representative at New Belgium's Liquid Center, where she gives tours, shares the brewery's history, walks visitors through the brewing process, and pours beer. She and her husband, Richard, moved to Asheville in 2023 from Cincinnati. They first visited in 2016 for a friend's wedding and quickly fell in love with the city and its access to the outdoors. When Richard was offered a job in New Belgium's Quality Assurance Department, they took the

opportunity to move, and Rebecca soon joined the team, drawn to the company's culture and values.

She discovered CMC while hiking in the Pink Beds when a bridge built by our volunteers caught her eye. Soon she began noticing our logo on trails throughout the region. When asked why she chose CMC, Rebecca said, "I wanted to pick a nonprofit that helps people get outdoors." After Hurricane Helene, she felt even more strongly about supporting the work of reopening damaged trails and helping the community recover.

Rebecca and Richard are avid hikers who love Mt. LeConte, Max Patch, Black Balsam Knob, Mt. Mitchell, and stretches of the Mountains to Sea Trail. During the week they are often in Bent Creek. Richard and two friends even hiked the entire Art Loeb Trail in a single day this past June and said it was one of the hardest hikes they had done.

Thank you, Rebecca, for supporting CMC and for the care you show for the trails we all love.

CMC-SAR Participates in Multi-Agency Wilderness SAR Mock Search in Transylvania County



On Saturday, November 15, at 11:00 am, to Sunday, November 16, at sunrise, several members of CMC Search & Rescue (CMC-SAR)—Bill Sanderson, Steve Kuni, Michael Chapman, Sarah Hendriksen, Frank Goldsmith, Barry Kelling, Jane Dawson, Jayne Carbone, Jackson Newton, and myself, Nicolas Nouvel—joined The Pisgah Search Experience 2025, a large-scale, multi-agency wilderness search and rescue mock exercise hosted by the Transylvania County Rescue Squad in Transylvania County, NC. The area is known for rugged terrain, dense forest canopy, unpredictable weather, and complex search environments.

The event brought together resources from county emergency services, regional SAR teams, law enforcement, fire-rescue, and volunteer groups to sharpen interagency coordination and enhance real-world readiness.

"It was an absolute pleasure getting to know you all! Thank you for coming out. Hope to see you at the next one."

– Transylvania County Rescue Squad

Meet Your New Councilor for Preparedness Nicolas Nouvel



Practicing patient (Nicolas as the patient) packaging during a CMC-SAR training day—fine-tuning our patient care and transport skills before we ever need them in the field.

Hello CMC community! I'm honored to step into the role of Councilor for Preparedness and continue serving a Club that has given me so much—great experiences, great people, and a deeper connection to the mountains that brought many of us here in the first place.

When I'm not working behind the scenes or answering a SAR notification, you'll probably find me out exploring our trail network—running, hiking, or cooking at home. I'll also occasionally show on a Maintenance Crew.

My favorite brewery is Burial Beer at The Forestry Camp. I love learning from our experienced members and appreciate every conversation, gear tip, and trail story shared along the way.

The Conservation Committee is back online!



The Conservation arm of CMC has new leadership and we're in the early stages of outlining our 2026 conservation roadmap. An important step toward getting things up and running is rebuilding the CMC Conservation Committee.

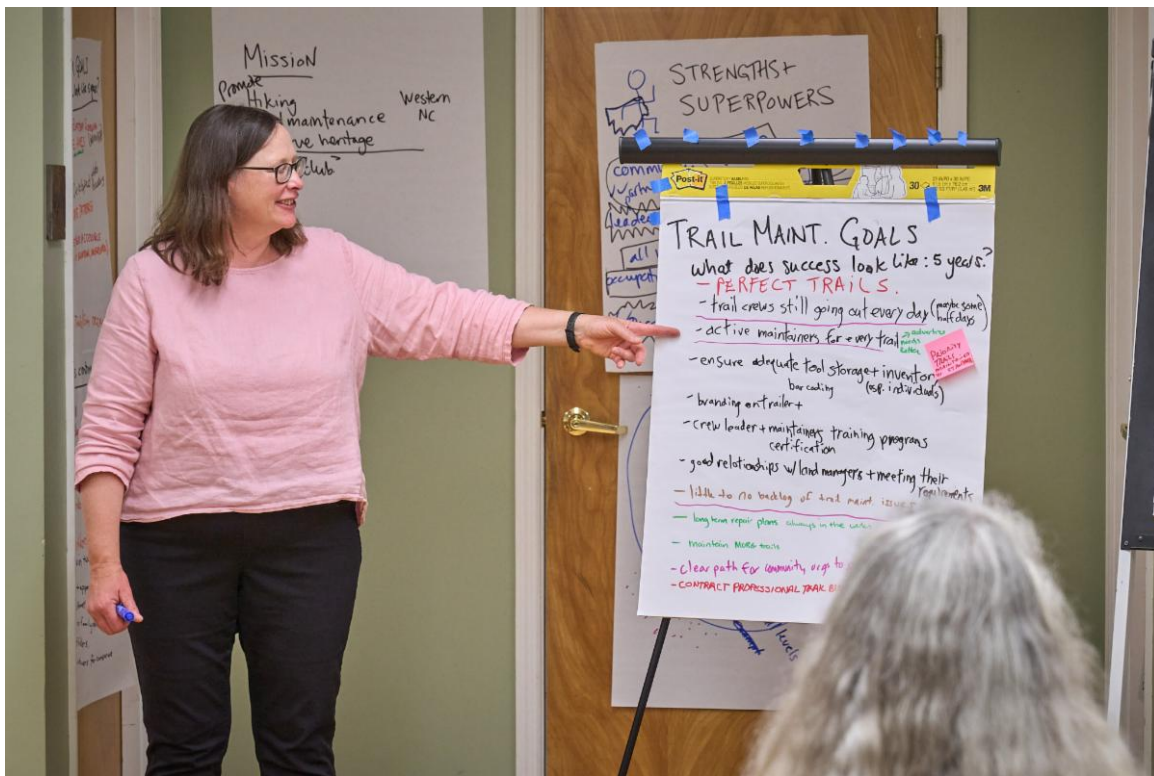
The CMC Conservation Committee collaborates to conserve our trail systems and the ecosystems that surround them. Join us as we rebuild this critical component of the Carolina Mountain Club!

Together we will:

- Define CMC's conservation and advocacy priorities and scope.
- Recruit, train, and support Conservation leadership volunteers.
- Recruit and train trail ambassadors for key trail segments and hikes.
- Educate CMC members on responsible trail use and care for the environment along the trail.
- Assist partners with conservation and advocacy activities that align with our scope.

We're hoping to gauge interest both in joining the committee itself and in conservation-related CMC activities via [THIS FORM](#). The more responses we get the better able we'll be to fold conservation initiatives and opportunities into CMC next year.

Strategic Plan



Carolina Mountain Club moves a Strategic Direction and Vision forward!

Take a look at where we plan to go and let us know how you would like to be involved.

Seven Goals, one for each Council Team, were created as a component of our Strategic Direction.

In addition, three focused initiatives will cut across all CMC's programs.

Excellent volunteer experience: Provide training and support to help volunteer leaders create safe and inclusive volunteer experiences across all of our efforts.

Sustainable leadership: Broaden our base of members, volunteers, and hikers, and continuously look for opportunities to cultivate leadership.

Strong partnerships: Seek out and nurture mutually supportive partnerships with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and other organizations who share our goals.

We will carry on our work as an **all-volunteer** organization dedicated to encouraging and supporting hiking in the Southern Appalachians.

Come Join us!

[View the Plan](#)

Hike Leaders' Appreciation & Education Dinner – Save the Date!

Attention all Hike Leaders!! The annual Hike Leaders' Appreciation and Education Dinner has been confirmed for Friday evening, **February 27, 2026 at the Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park**. Always a fun time, this event is for any hike leader who will have led or co-led a hike during 2025 or the first quarter of 2026. CMC Council members are invited as well. Our featured speaker will be CMC's own superstar A.T. Maintenance Supervisor, Paul Curtain, and all trail crew leaders will be invited too! Be sure to mark your calendars and look for your invitation in January.

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 Club 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 David Huff at communications@carolinamountainclub.org



www.carolinamountainclub.org

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meetup

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