

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

Carolina Mountain Club eNews



February 2025

Blazing New Trails: Your CMC eNewsletter Editor

By Alessia Farley

Hi, I'm new...

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as the new eNewsletter editor for CMC, a role I took over in November 2024. This role is an exciting opportunity to blend my enthusiasm for storytelling with my love for the outdoors and our trail community. As a wife, mom to two adventurous daughters (ages 9 and 11), hiker, and mountain enthusiast, my passion for the outdoors drives me. Living in Mint Hill, just outside Charlotte, and working as a Senior Strategy Manager, I bring over 20 years of marketing and communications experience to this role.

My connection to the outdoors runs deep, and CMC has given me the opportunity to not only build and restore trails but also to strengthen the community that cares for them.

Over the years, I've learned that trail work isn't just about clearing paths; it's about preserving a shared legacy, ensuring access for future generations, and forging connections through hard work and dedication. Some of my favorite moments with CMC have been spent alongside my family—my husband, both of my daughters, my uncle, and my cousins—contributing together to something greater than ourselves.

What to Expect

Expect updates, stories, and a touch of humor as we celebrate CMC's work together. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the club, I hope to inspire and connect you to the trails—and the people who care for them.

Looking forward to the adventure ahead—both on the trails and in your inbox! I'm excited to collaborate on stories, hike together, and work alongside you on future projects that continue to strengthen our community and preserve our cherished trails.

Please feel free to reach out directly to me to say hello or with any feedback, story ideas or updates to share: carolinamountainclub2015@gmail.com

Shoutout: BOOTS ON THE GROUND

By Priscilla Estes

Thank you (and welcome!) to all new CMC Members, as well as those who have stepped up to Trail Section Maintainers.

New Volunteer Trail Section Maintainers Since September:

Victor Zona - Case Camp Ridge Trail

New CMC Members Since September:

Fifty new members have joined since September 2025! Be sure to give them a warm welcome on the trails and at events.



Hurricane Helene: CMC Highlighted on CNN

I wanted to highlight a CNN article featuring an excerpt from CMC's own Paul Curtin, written and published in November 2024 following the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

[Read Article](#)

Another Shoutout: Yellow Trail Crew Shirts Available

CMC yellow trail crew shirts are a mainstay for any active maintainer. CMC Trail Maintenance has replenished the inventory of the yellow shirts for:

- Waffle Long Sleeve Men's size only from Small to 2Xlarge (\$10/shirt)
- Waffle Short Sleeve Men's size only from Small to Xlarge (\$9/shirt)
- Smooth Long Sleeve Women's size only from Small to Xlarge (\$8/shirt)

If you are interested or know a fellow maintainer that is interested in a new shirt, contact Donna Bange at donna.bange@gmail.com.

Note that depending upon demand, some sizes may be sold out quickly, so act now.

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities: Event: Hike Leaders' Appreciation and Education Dinner

Invitations have been sent out for the annual Hike Leaders' Appreciation and Education Dinner coming up on Friday evening, February 28, 2025, at the Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park. This event is for recognizing and celebrating all leaders who volunteered to lead or co-lead a hike during 2024 or the first quarter of 2025. CMC Council members are also invited. It promises to be a fun and informative evening including our featured guest speaker Dana Soehn, President and CEO of Friends of the Smokies.

Be sure to RSVP no later than February 14, 2025 - [RSVP Here!](#)

Questions? Contact Karen Lachow at hiking@carolinamountainclub.org

Help Wanted: Trail Maintenance

The Club needs section maintainers for the section(s) shown on the attached link. Section Maintainers "adopt" a section of trail. Adoption includes (but is not limited to) quarterly walk-throughs, routine maintenance (tread, trimming, water diversions), and noting downed trees and other trail blockers. (For complete adoption guidelines, see the Members' Section of CMC's webpage. Click on "Trail Work," then "Trail Maintenance," then "Extras.") If interested, please contact the Supervisors on the link. Thanks!

To review sections currently in need of maintainers, [click here.](#)



Save the Date:

April 26 - Pisgah Project Day
June 7 - National Trails Day at Hot Springs

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

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