

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

Carolina Mountain Club eNews



January 2025

Rising to the Challenge

By Paul Scalese

Everyone has their own reasons for hiking and partaking in outdoor adventure, and no reason is any more “right” than the other. Some hike to reconnect with nature, while others choose hiking as their primary avenue of fitness. Some even set foot on trail in hopes of spotting wildlife, or perhaps foraging for mushrooms. Then there are those like myself, who are fueled by the challenges of exploration in crossing off checklists, to *truly get to know* an area and constantly push towards a goal...

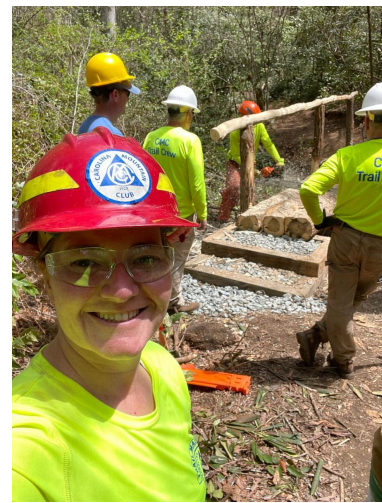
[Read Paul's Full Story](#)

Meet the Free Rangers Trail Maintenance Crew!

By Priscilla Estes

The Free Rangers Trail Maintenance Crew flies under the radar, with no set schedule, and that's the way crew coordinator John Busse likes it. But eNews detected Busse at the CMC Trail Maintainers picnic and cornered him with questions. “You found me!” He laughed. “We Free Rangers are like an EMT response crew. We need to respond quickly to a trail issue, typically downfall, so must be flexible,” Busse continued. “Unlike most other CMC crews, we can go out on short notice, any day of the week, and can adjust for rain days.” ...

[Read Full Interview](#)



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.

Book Review - *Cherokee National Forest: A History* by Marci Spencer

A review by Danny Bernstein

As I write this in mi-October, the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina is closed as a result of Hurricane Helene. No surprise here. But the Cherohala Skyway is open, according to its Facebook page. If you've never been to the Cherohala Skyway, you are missing out on lovely views and some great hiking. Think of it as the BRP's younger sister...

[Read Danny's Full Review](#)

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities:

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!

BENT CREEK EXPERIMENTAL FOREST BROWN BAG LUNCHES PRESENTS:

A mammoth woolly problem: dealing with an
invasive insect on an ecologically foundational
evergreen - the hemlock

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH 2025
FROM 12PM TO 1PM
TALK BY BUD MAYFIELD



[HTTPS://WWW.FS.USDA.GOV/RESEARCH/SRS/NEWS/EVENTS/BCEF-BROWNBAG](https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/srs/news/events/bcef-brownbag)

Save the Date:

April 26 - Pisgah Project Day

June 7 - National Trails Day at Hot Springs

Donate

Volunteer

Hike

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

[Let's Go!](#)



[meetup](#)

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