

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

Carolina Mountain Club eNews



July 2025



Amy Stork led a dynamic and informative discussion during our strategic planning meeting.

CMC Strategic Planning Update

Story by Karen Schultz

Photos by David Huff

In 2024, Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) engaged consultant Amy Stork to begin work on the group's first ever formal strategic planning process. In preparation for a retreat scheduled for June 2025, Amy gathered thoughts about CMC from more than 80 individuals which included, 13 current and 4 former CMC Councilors and representatives from 14 public agency and nonprofit partner organizations. In addition, 7 Strategic Planning Forums were conducted by a group of CMC volunteers.

THANK YOU to the 50+ CMC volunteer leaders and members who participated in one of our forums and a special thank you to our facilitators, Alessia Farley, Jan Onan, Paul Scalese, Amber Gibbs, Marielle DeYong, Donna Bange, David Huff, Tom Weaver and Karen Schultz.

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Social with Japanese Trail Maintainers

Join us and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for a special social gathering with our Japanese partners from the Shin-Etsu Trail and the Michinoku Coastal Trail. The event will take place on **Saturday, July 19th at 5:00 p.m. at RAD Brewing**. This is a unique opportunity to meet and connect with international trail leaders, share experiences, and celebrate our shared commitment to long-distance hiking and conservation. All are welcome.



Michinoku Coastal Trail crew members on the A.T. with section maintainer Joe Bange, December 2023

Walnut Mountain Shelter Relocation Project

Story by Tom Weaver
Photos by David Huff



Some of our hardworking CMC crew after the build was completed.

Since 2017 the Carolina Mountain Club has been working with two states, two National Forests, and the Town of Hot Springs to save the Walnut Mountain Shelter. Built on the AT in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the shelter had been condemned and scheduled for demolition (i.e., disassembled and tossed into the woods). CMC said no; this historic building, constructed of American Chestnut logs, needed to be saved.

Countless hours of meetings, phone calls and paperwork later, CMC was finally given the green light to proceed. In March 2025, CMC trail crews labeled, photographed, and disassembled the structure and hauled it down to the town of Hot Springs. A spot was dedicated behind the Visitor's Center, a slab was poured, and now here it is...rebuilt and preserved in perpetuity as an historical exhibit for all to enjoy.



Original location Walnut Mountain, TN.



Walnut Mountain Shelter now in its new home Hot Springs, NC.

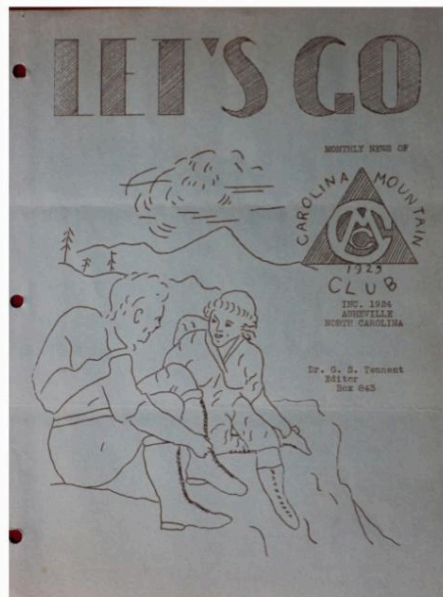
Happy 102nd Anniversary CMC!

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly 2 years since CMC's huge Centennial Celebration at the Arboretum. On July 16, CMC will turn 102 years old. This impressive milestone is a testament to CMC's vitality and impact in the Western North Carolina

Community. More importantly CMC's foundation is still built upon 100% volunteers who are passionate and dedicated. Below are some CMC photos over the years.



Typical CMC hike in the late 1940s
This one to Ogle Meadows



CMC Installs Bear Boxes at all Shelters

Story by Paul Curtin



Bear box installed at Spring Mountain shelter. Captured clockwise: Bill McGinnis, Sarah Jones Decker, Paul Curtin, Tom Fink, Luke Mason, Tom Weaver

Bear incidents have been on the rise along the AT and on the CMC section since 2020. Bears have gotten food at Painter Creek on Snowbird, harassed hikers at the Groundhog Creek shelter (David Huff's nephew Benji famously slept on the roof of the shelter after a bear got too close during his thru hike), gotten food at the Rich Mountain fire tower, Deep Gap near Allen Gap, the Spring Mountain shelter, the Jerry Cabin shelter, etc. You get the picture. Human food and bears are a combustible situation, especially after they have gotten their first taste. The Groundhog Creek and Spring Mountain shelters were closed for months in the last few years after persistent bears continued to visit the sites.

[Read Full Story](#)

Councilor Elections

Dear CMC Members:

Would you like to give back to our western NC trail community, connect people to the outdoors, and help preserve and protect your favorite trails?

The Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) is looking for dynamic and motivated leaders to fill several club officer (Councilor) positions in our upcoming November 2025 election. Several club-wide council positions are up for election this year for two-year terms beginning in January 2026. The club needs councilors to provide the critical leadership for our important work in maintaining our status as the best hiking club in WNC.

[Read More](#)

Trail Adventures and Updates

Story by Paul Curtin & Ken Hummel



Minister Darcy along with 3 kids and Art Loeb crew leader Dan Sanford.

A group from the First Congregational Church, Ann Arbor, contacted CMC about coming to do a service work trip on our trails. They would bring 3 adults and 15 youth. They were interested in coming to the area to help with Helene recovery. Could we help them? Well of course!

[Read Full Story](#)

Save the Date!

Click on date to register

[August 16](#) – Cat Gap Loop

[September 27](#) – Max Patch (National Public Lands Day)

[October 18-19](#) – Remote Overnight

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 Alessia Farley at carolinamountainclub2015@gmail.com



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meetup

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