

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends
Carolina Mountain Club eNews



May 2025



SPRING POTLUCK SOCIAL

Bring your best potluck to share with everyone. Sign in on the member's side of the [website](#) and click the red **Spring Social** button.

Saturday, May 24, 2025 | 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Members, friends, and guests are all welcome!

Lake Julian Park, Shelter #6 can be accessed from the park entrance off Hendersonville Rd., just south of the Long Shoals Rd. intersection, after passing under the railroad underpass.





Pisgah Project Day-Cat Gap Loop

By Donna Bange

Pictures from Amber Gibbs, Kathy O'Donnell, and Kit Ogburn

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene's unprecedented devastation, volunteers and organizations are coming together to restore and rebuild our beloved hiking trails. This was evident on Saturday, April 26 when The Pisgah Conservancy (TPC) and Pisgah Ranger District (PRD) sponsored Pisgah Project Day. CMC partners with TPC and PRD to support this effort; this year our work focused on the Cat Gap Loop and John Rock trails with the effort of 69 volunteers.

CMC's highlight was building a new bridge on the John Rock trail connector that crossed a mountain stream. This effort was led by Tom Weaver, CMC's Trails Facilities Manager and our specialist for bridge building.

[Full Event Recap](#)

Hot Springs

National Trails Day



SATURDAY

June

7

9 AM - 3 PM



Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/CMC-HotSprings>

Join Carolina Mountain Club for a volunteer day in Hot Springs to help restore area trails.

8:00 am - Carpool from the US Forest Service parking lot, 160 Zillicoa St., Asheville, NC

9:00 am - Kickoff at Hot Springs Resort, 315 Bridge St, Hot Springs, NC

3:00 pm - Afterparty at Big Pillow Brewing—raffle prizes and your first beer is on the house!

Please bring your own lunch/snacks, water, work gloves, long sleeves/pants, and rain jacket. CMC will provide tools and personal protective equipment (PPE).



Register



Recovery From Helene on the Appalachian Trail: CMC Challenged Like Never Before

By Paul Curtain

Backpacking the Colorada Trail on Sept. 26, I had heard (even with spotty service) the National Public Lands Day event at Max Patch scheduled for that Saturday was cancelled due to the storm. Understandable but disappointing for all the folks who planned to attend. My personal plans included hiking into Denver by early October for a college reunion of sorts. My wife Alison had traveled to St. Louis the week prior and planned to fly back to Asheville to pick up our clothes for the trip to Colorado. On the 28th she said the airport and all roads were closed and she wouldn't be able to get back. I told her surely in a few days she could reschedule and they would get the roads open. **I mean, how bad could it be?**

The tragic impact to Asheville and the region will be felt for many years. This article focuses on the impact to the Appalachian Trail (AT) and CMC/US Forest Service/Appalachian Trail Conservancy efforts to respond. A similar article could be written on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) and other area trails. In some way this is an historical record of this event in CMC history. Helene was probably the most damaging storm in AT annals, certainly in our region. Trails are not the most important part of the recovery but are still an essential element of the local economy and needed for people to get away from the everyday horrific sights around the area. We need trails. We need to get outside.



Pisgah 400 Panel Discussion

On Thursday May 15 at 6pm, Carolina Mountain Club and The Pisgah Conservancy (TPC) will present a panel discussion on the joys and demands of completing the P400 challenge.

Details of the P400 Panel Discussion

When: Thursday May 15 starting at 6pm

Where: The Mule at Devil's Food Beverage
131 Sweeten Creek Rd. in Asheville

Food truck, beer and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. **The event is free.**

Please register at: <https://pisgahconservancy.org/event/pisgah-400-challenge-panel/>

This gives the organizers an idea of who is coming. Final details will be sent out after you register.

[Learn More Here!](#)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN *Living* MAGAZINE

The Appalachian Way: Rebuilding the A.T. After the Storm

Story by David Huff



The Appalachian spirit is one of resilience. Generations of people who have called these mountains home know how to weather storms, rebuild, and come back stronger. The aftermath of Hurricane Helene tested that spirit, leaving behind destroyed communities, shattered landscapes and economic uncertainty. But in the face of devastation, communities and volunteers banded together to do what they have always done—adapt, rebuild, and keep moving forward.

[Read Article](#)

Save the Date!

Click on date to register

May 24 - Annual Potluck Spring Social
Hosted @ Lake Julian shelter #6 - *details above!*

June 7 – Hot Springs (National Trails Day)

August 16 – Cat Gap Loop

September 27 – Max Patch (National Public Lands Day)

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



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meetup

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