

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends
Carolina Mountain Club eNews



September 2025



CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB

A Fresh Look, the Same CMC Spirit

Carolina Mountain Club is turning the page with a new look! As the oldest and largest hiking and trail maintenance organization in the Southeast, we've spent more than a century leading hikes, caring for trails, and protecting the mountains we all love. Now, we're refreshing our logo and updating our website to carry that spirit into the future.

The new logo honors our long history while giving us a clean design you'll see on T-shirts, signs, and online. And our new website—coming soon—will make it easier to discover hikes, join trail workdays, and connect with fellow hikers.

What hasn't changed is who we are: 100% volunteer, maintaining over 440 miles of trails and leading more than 200 hikes every year. Our community of hikers and trail maintainers continues to welcome everyone with a love for the Southern Appalachians.

Here's to the trails, the people, and the next century of CMC.



Shout-out to Crew Leaders!

We're giving a big shout out to our incredible trail crew leaders who gathered recently for their quarterly Crew Leader Meeting. These dedicated volunteers are the backbone of our trail maintenance program—helping plan workdays, manage tools and budgets, coordinate first aid and sawyer trainings, track volunteer hours, and more.

We were especially honored to be joined by Eiji Suzuki, head of trail maintenance for Japan's Shin-etsu Trail—a trail inspired by the Appalachian Trail. Eiji (holding the Shin-etsu bear banner) joined the group for a photo and is pictured with Paul

Curtin (right) and Les Love (left), who hiked a section of the Shin-etsu with him during their trip to Japan last summer. Eiji thru-hiked the A.T. in 2016.

This is what trail community looks like—local commitment with global connections.

TRAIL MAINTAINERS

POTLUCK

11.00a - 2:00p





Bring a favorite side dish to share

Please sign in at <https://carolinamtnclub.org/maintenance/> and click the Volunteer Picnic spinning wheel

Saturday
13 Sept

|||

Lake Julian
Pavillion 6

|||



Enter Lake Julian Park from the Hendersonville Rd entrance.

Sign Up

A Place to Call Our Own

During our Strategic Planning process, we had several occasions to discuss the possibility of having a dedicated Carolina Mountain Club building. We have a number of members who keep club tools and supplies in their personal space and with the number of meetings we schedule to address CMC business, we continued to discuss this as a possibility rather than an impossibility.

[Read More](#)

MAX PATCH

Trail Workday



Saturday September 27

Afterparty at BearWaters (Canton)

Raffle Prizes!

- 8:00 Sign-in (Canton Ingles) and carpool to site
- 9:00 Sign-in at Max Patch
- 9:30 Event kick-off
- 2:30 Afterparty at Bearwaters

Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, eye protection, and work gloves.

Bring water, snacks, and lunch.

Tools and hardhats are provided.



Sawyer

Join Us!



Quarterly Crew @ Cat Gap Loop

By Donna Bange

Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) Quarterly Crew Day was held on Saturday, August 16th at Cat Gap Loop in the Pisgah Ranger District. There were 66 volunteers

including 5 students that spent the day working on a very popular trail. Volunteers came from all over Western North Carolina and even from the Charlotte area.

The Cat Gap Trail, nestled within Pisgah National Forest, is a popular destination offering hikers a scenic journey through varied forest environments. Clearly, Cat Gap Loop, has evolved into a significant recreational resource. Hikers, birders, campers and camp groups of all ages use this beautiful trail.

[Read Full Article](#)

Join Us for the Carolina Mountain Club 2025 Annual Meeting and Dinner!

We're excited to gather with CMC members and guests for an evening of celebration, reflection, and connection. This year's meeting will be especially meaningful as we look back on the remarkable work accomplished in response to Hurricane Helene.

Save the Date!

Saturday, November 1st, 2025
Hilton Inn Biltmore Park, Asheville
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm

[More Details](#)



CMC Work To Restore Art Loeb Trail

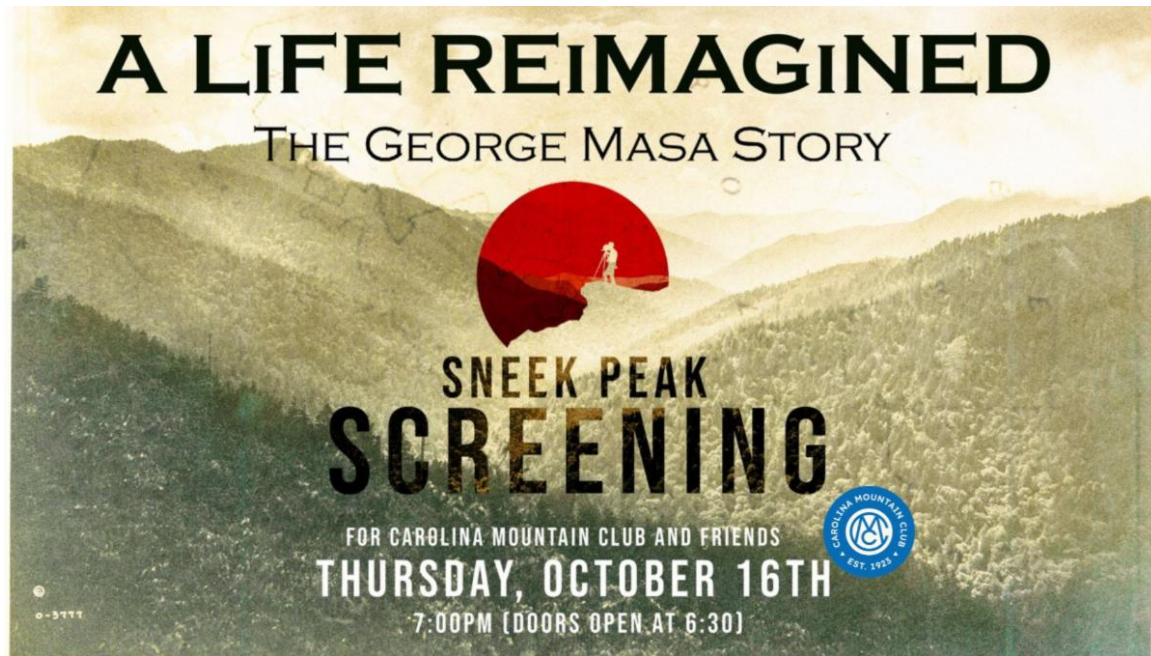
By Paul Curtin

Photo above: Jim Grecni has agreed to be the Art Loeb Trail Supervisor

The Art Loeb Trail is one of the most popular and iconic trails in WNC. It has a nationwide reputation for the challenging terrain and beautiful vistas. Many hikers and backpackers are justifiably proud to have completed the trail, some even covering the 30 miles in one day (a DayLoeb). Unfortunately, the trail fell into poor repair over decades, exacerbated by the oftentimes fall line route. Madison Evans formed the Art Loeb crew a six years ago, working on Mondays to address the issues that had built up. One amazing project the crew led was to put timber steps in the steep, rocky 3/4 mile coming up from the Parkway. The crew has done a great job, but like any crew it can't practically work on sections that are far from trailheads.

[Read Full Article](#)

Sneek Peak Screening



Please join us on Thursday, October 16th, at the Fine Arts Theater for an **exclusive *sneak peek* screening for Carolina Mountain Club members and friends** of *A Life Reimagined: The George Masa Story*, a new documentary from Emmy Award-winning director Paul Bonesteel. This inspiring film explores the life and legacy of early CMC pioneer George Masa (1885-1933), a Japanese-born photographer whose passion for the Southern Appalachian landscape helped encourage the creation of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Appalachian Trail. Don't miss this special opportunity to experience the film before its official release and celebrate a story that continues to inspire conservation efforts today.

[Watch Trailer](#)



A Celebration of Volunteers!

The Blue Ridge Parkway Volunteer Appreciation Tour included a celebration of volunteers at the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center in Asheville on Friday August 22. A few CMC maintainers arrived and by mingling, learned that there is quite a variety of ways folks can volunteer! Everyone enjoyed light refreshments, a trivia game about the National Parks and The Parkway and made new connections. A commemorative cup and blue bandana were handed out to each volunteer who attended.

Since many CMC maintainers who did not attend the event but have put in plenty of hours on the MST, Les secured 20 extra cups and bandanas for the maintainers with the top 20 volunteer hours for 2025. If your name is on this list, we will have your cup and bandana for you to collect at the Maintainers Picnic Sept. 13 at Lake Julian. (sign up on our website or using the link above)

[Full Story](#)

Save the Date!

Click on date to register

September 13 - Trail Maintainers Potluck

September 27 - Max Patch (National Public Lands Day)

October 18-19 - Remote Overnight - Work Crew

November 1 - Annual Dinner and Meeting (RSVP today through the Members Section of the CMC website)

February 27, 2026 - Hike Leaders' Appreciation and Education Dinner (Registration details to come)

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



www.carolinamountainclub.org

[Let's Go!](#)



meetup

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