

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends
Carolina Mountain Club eNews



New Year for the Carolina Mountain Club!

Introducing Karen Schultz, President



I'm thrilled to be taking the helm of CMC as we move into 2026. I'm grateful for the direction and guidance from President Les Love and Past President Tom Weaver over the past two years. Their expertise and passion for the work of CMC have given me a great perspective on how to lead and support the CMC Council as we move our strategic direction forward over the next two years.

I'm a native of Chicago, Illinois, a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in Agricultural Economics, and I lived in Northern Michigan for 25 years. I raised my daughter Abbey in Traverse City, Michigan, and returned to Chicago after she went off to college in New York. Abbey and her partner, Chris, now live in San Francisco.

My career path started with a long history in the grocery retail industry and food service operations. I retired five years ago after a career with Whole Foods Market, where I

was in charge of Human Resources and Organizational Development for the Midwest Region, which included eight Midwest states and Ontario, Canada. I have extensive experience with organizational development, strategic planning, and leadership development. I bring these skills, along with a passion for the incredible work of CMC, to the presidency. My role as Vice President over the last two years has given me an opportunity to become well versed in the work of the club.

I met my husband, Ken Scharmann, a fellow CMC member and hike leader, in Chicago seven years ago. We shared a love for running trails, hiking, biking, and all things in nature. We married five years ago and quickly moved to Asheville to be close to the mountains. We moved here in the middle of COVID—our saving grace, the Carolina Mountain Club! We joined the club before moving down here and spent the remainder of COVID hiking and learning about the incredible trails in Western North Carolina. We have made so many wonderful friends through CMC, and our passion for the natural world has evolved as we continue to learn about the area around us.

I can be found most weeks hiking with the club and/or friends I have made through CMC. I'm a CMC challenge advocate—I've completed the 100 Favorite Trails and am currently working on the Pisgah 400 Challenge. In addition to leading hikes for CMC and Friends of the Smokies, I also volunteer at the NC Arboretum and am a volunteer usher at the Wortham Center.

As we move into 2026, I look forward to working with all of you to move the vision of CMC forward.

OUR VISION

To be a leading force for hiking, trail stewardship, and conservation in the Southern Appalachians, inspiring people to connect with the outdoors, care for our trails, and protect the natural beauty of our region for generations to come.

Wishing you all the best in the New Year. Here's to new adventures for CMC!

Best regards,
Karen

Volunteer Opportunities

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 David Huff at communications@carolinamountainclub.org



www.carolinamountainclub.org

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meetup

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