

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

Carolina Mountain Club eNews



February 2024



A Trail(work) Tale

by Amber Gibbs

The first time I ever did any kind of Trail Maintenance, any kind of volunteer work really, it was with the Carolina Mountain Club. I had already begun looking for a way to turn my passion for the outdoors into something more beneficial to others, so it was only natural that I started looking for an organization that could help me on my journey. The trails had given me so much, I wanted to give something in return. I found the Carolina Mountain Club, and decided on a whim to join and sign on to participate in my first quarterly workday.

I wasn't really sure what to expect when I arrived at the trailhead but nothing I imagined could have prepared me for what was waiting

for me there. I was astounded by how many people turned out to participate in this single event on a little mountain called Sam Knob. Every person there had tools in hand ready to clear brush, crush rock and, quite literally, move mountains.

To read more, [click here](#).

RSVP for March 1st Hike Leaders Dinner

If you have received your invitation to the March 1 Hike Leaders' Dinner and haven't yet responded, please do so as soon as possible to Daisy Teng Karasek no later than February 15 at daisytk@yahoo.com.

This not-to-be-missed event for qualifying hike leaders will be held at the Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park. It starts at 6 pm with a social hour, followed by dinner at 7 pm. An education session and award presentation will round out the evening by 9 pm.

The Hiking Committee looks forward to your participation!

Seeking Q2 Leisure Hike leaders

Leisure hikes are a new CMC initiative designed for beginners, youth, or anyone else looking for a shorter, more leisurely club hike. If you are interested in leading a future Leisure Hike, please email Education and Outreach Councilor Jeff Wilcox at jwilcox@unca.edu.



Extra Mile Trail Crew

by Christine Martens

John Haffner and Christine Martens recently created new trail crew called the “Extra Mile Crew,” which meets roughly once every two months on a weekend day. This crew targets folks who can move faster on trails and can go the “extra mile” to get to trail sections that are difficult to reach and are suffering from lack of maintenance. At the moment the crew is focusing on the Art Loeb Trail, particularly through Shinning Rock Wilderness. Currently the crew is

comprised mostly of trail runners, many of who are new to trail maintenance, but are eager to learn.

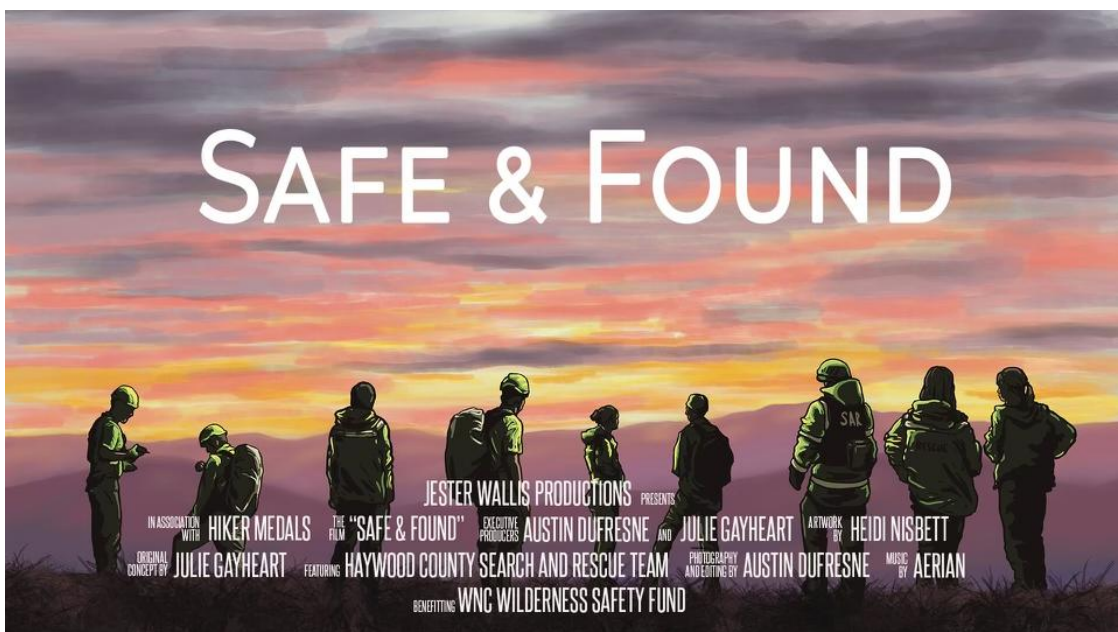
Our next crew meets on February 4th, and is sponsored by the local backpacking gear and clothing company, Lighthearted Gear who will be providing donuts and coffee ahead of a big climb up Cold Mountain and the Art Loeb to do some heavy brushing. Email john.e.haffner@gmail.com for more information.

Educational Hike with Hemlock Restoration Initiative - March 18th

by Jeff Wilcox

Please consider joining an educational hike with staff from the Hemlock Restoration Initiative (HRI) on Monday, March 18th, at 1pm. We will head to the Green River Gamelands and take the ~2-mile, 280', roundtrip trail to Little Bradley Falls. This hike has a couple of technical sections and shallow stream crossings. Along the way, HRI leaders will discuss the ecological importance of hemlocks, how to ID them, what is threatening them, and what is being done about it. Jeff Wilcox, a geology professor at UNC Asheville, will talk about the importance of trees and vegetation on streams and flooding. Upon returning to the trailhead, those with time and energy will have the opportunity to add a ~2-mile, 300' roundtrip hike to the Big Bradley Falls overlook. If you opt for the hike to Big Bradley Falls, note that there will be another creek crossing.

To read more, [click here](#).



Safe and Found Premieres at Haywood Community College

by Danny Bernstein

There were no ballgowns or tuxedos to be seen. Yet, the premiere of the movie *Safe and Found* at Haywood Community College (HCC) was an important social event for the outdoor community, complete with a red carpet.

Over 350 people gathered in the HCC Auditorium in Clyde on a particularly cold and icy day. They were there to meet new people, greet old outdoor friends, and watch a movie on the logistics of rescuing people in Pisgah National Forest and the North Carolina side of the Smokies. Bill Sanderson, CMC's councilor-at-large and a member of the Haywood County Search and Rescue (SAR) team, points out that this constitutes a very large area.

The movie was created by Julie Gayheart, an educator, and Austin Wallace, a public safety officer, under the company name Jester Wallace Productions based in Charlotte. This is their second documentary after filming "I am the MST".

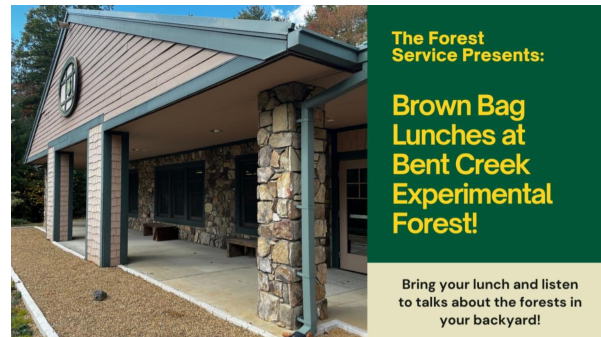
To read more, [click here](#).

Brown Bag Lunches at Bent Creek Experimental Forest

by Christine Martens

The Forest Service is hosting a series of lunchtime talks at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest Training Center by local foresters, botanists, wildlife resource managers and other experts. These talks are free, open to the public, and occur once a month. Space is limited to 50 people, and registration is required to attend. Bring your lunch (no lunch provided), and learn more about our local forests.

For flyer, [click here](#).



You're invited to a series of in-person talks at the Southern Research Station's Bent Creek Training Center.

— ♦ —
We will be holding lunchtime talks roughly once a month on subjects related to forests of the Southeast.

— ♦ —
For more information or to register, visit:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/srs/news/events/BCEF-brownbag>



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Are You a Map Freak III?

by Michael Knies

I recently wrote an article in eNews about the upgraded site on the net for accessing most of the maps that the U.S. Geological Survey has ever produced. They have now produced an additional version of maps that includes LIDAR imaging technology. Lidar — Light Detection and Ranging — is a remote sensing method used to examine the surface of the Earth. Lidar strips away all the vegetation and presents the actual lay of the land. That

feature has been used by archeologists exploring the Mayan sites in Central America to penetrate the dense layers of plant life.

National Geographic and others have presented television programs including LIDAR explorations. In many areas in the Yucatan the LIDAR has indicated extensive settlements way beyond what the surveyors had anticipated around the major temple complexes.

The USGS has now provided that technology for the United States at <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer/>. It is called Hillshade. Maps on this site now will reveal almost any detail in the topography including former trails, logging roads, building sites, stone walls and the like.

To read more, [click here](#).



Monday Crew Helps Install Bear Boxes on the MST Near Mt. Mitchell

By Mike Williams

After assisting A.T. Supervisor Paul Curtin installing bear boxes at the Flint Mountain and Big Bald shelters on the club's signature trail, Monday Crew did one better by joining with Burnsville's NC High Peaks Trail Association to install two more boxes at the Commissary Ridge campsite near Mt. Mitchell.

To read more, [click here](#).

Updates from the Challenge Committee

by Brenda Worley

Several changes have recently occurred in the Challenge Committee. Chris Koebelin has been the club's Challenge Chairman for several years. In this role, he received all the completion logs from each challenge manager,

reviewed the logs, checked to see if the completer is a club member and mailed out the certificate with the patch or presented it to the individual at the annual dinner. Chris asked me to take over these duties for him and I agreed to give it a shot with his help.

After doing six of the challenges, I found that I traveled north, south, east and west in search of the trails, waterfalls or fire towers required in the particular challenge I was doing. It opened my eyes to new areas within the surrounding countryside. The Centennial Challenge gets you out of your comfort zone in having to hike 50 miles and work 50 hours doing trail maintenance. That is the beauty of the challenges.

To read more, [click here.](#)



Meet George Bauernfeind, Treasurer

Growing up in northern New Jersey I was fortunate that my father took his needed breaks from the daily commute into the city by taking his family hiking on weekends in the New York mountains. I didn't know then, but at age 10 I was already hiking the A.T. in Bear Mountain State Park, the first section of the A.T. built. Those early years set in me a love of hiking and camping in the mountains, which is why my wife Sally and I headed to Asheville when I retired in 2014.

To read more, [click here.](#)



Get to know Karen Lachow, Secretary

After graduating from SUNY at Buffalo, I took my undergraduate degree in Psychology back to my hometown of Queens, NY and promptly got a job in the unrelated field of international commercial lending. A transfer to Wilmington, DE in the mid 1980's coincided with the introduction of personal computers. I was enthralled with this new technology, began learning everything I could and became the office tech guru.

To read more, [click here.](#)

Carolina Mountain Club Planning Meeting

by Les Love, President

Twelve members of CMC Council Leadership and four guests joined together on January 16, 2024, for the annual CMC Planning Meeting. This meeting gave the new CMC Council a chance to meet, get to know each other and share information and ideas to enhance each area of CMC, ultimately building strong 2024 programming for CMC members.

While each Councilor will introduce their vision and goals for 2024 in future eNews publications, you can review a few highlights of what to expect for 2024 by [clicking here.](#)

Annual Meeting and Dinner Survey – 2023

by Karen Schultz, Vice President

Summary

A survey was sent to CMC membership via the December 2023 eNews. Questions were asked of those that attended the meeting/dinner and those that did not attend.

26 Respondents to the survey

of the 26 respondents;

- 69.2% attended dinner
- 30.8% did not attend dinner

To read more, [click here](#).

Karen Schultz will form an annual meeting committee to review suggestions received during the survey and plan the 2024 CMC Annual Meeting. Please contact her if you would like to help in this work. vp@carolinamountainclub.org

Carolina Mountain Club eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Send your news to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. **Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month.** Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words. You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments.

To join Carolina Mountain Club go to: www.carolinamountainclub.org. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side. Follow the instructions. For all address and email changes, log in, select "Modify Profile", make changes and click on "Update Member" or email Dennis Bass at dbass3607@gmail.com. Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.

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