

Hiking • Saving Trails • Making Friends
Carolina Mountain Club eNews



August 2026

Join us for our next quarterly trail workday!



TRAIL WORKDAY

ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

BIG BALD

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15



Work Hours
9 AM to 2 PM



Location
Big Bald

We are meeting at the Big Bald Trailhead on US Forest Service Land. However we need to enter through Wolf Laurel; a gated community. Thus we need to carpool to gain access to the trailhead and also there is very limited parking.

SIGN UP
WITH THE
QR CODE!



BRING:

- WATER
- LUNCH
- BOOTS
- LONG PANTS
- SAFETY GLASSES
- GLOVES



WE WILL PROVIDE
HARD HATS AND TOOLS

CARPOOL LOCATIONS

1 USFS Office 160 Zillcoa St., Asheville

Meet between 7:45 to 8:00 AM

Last carpool leaves at 8:00 AM sharp!

Note it is a 35 minute drive to the Wolf Laurel gate and then another 5 to 10 minute drive to the trailhead.

2 Bright Hope Laurel United Methodist Church Parking Lot toward I-26

Meet between 8:10 to 8:20 AM

Last carpool leaves at 8:20 AM sharp!

Note it is a 11 minute drive to the Wolf Laurel gate and then another 5 to 10 minute drive to the trailhead.

[Sign Up Here](#)

**A Mountains-To-Sea Trail Section
Maintainer's Worst Nightmare**

In Western North Carolina (WNC) the Mountains to Sea Trail (MST) is an exceptionally popular hiking trail for locals as well as tourists. In the Asheville area the MST follows the Blue Ridge Parkway, allowing for spectacular views along with easy access.

To keep the (MST) safe and accessible to hikers, the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) uses volunteers to keep the trail clear. The role of the Section Maintainer (SM) is a significant part of this effort because they are the “eyes and ears” of the club for finding and reporting the need for heavy maintenance and for taking care of light maintenance. The SM are not alone as the CMC trail crews support them.

[Read More](#)



Interested in Helping Lead CMC?

Would you like to give back to the Western North Carolina trail community, connect people with the outdoors, and help strengthen the Carolina Mountain Club?

CMC is seeking members interested in serving as Councilors. Several Council positions will be up for election at our Annual Meeting in November, with two-year terms beginning in January 2027.

Councilors provide leadership for the programs, trails, and volunteer efforts that make CMC possible. If you enjoy helping organizations grow and have a few hours each week to contribute, we would like to hear from you. You do not need to have held a leadership position with CMC before.

To express your interest or recommend another member, contact Les Love at PastPresident@carolinamountainclub.org. The Nominating Committee will follow up to share more about the available positions.

Not ready for a Council role? There are many other ways to get involved. Contact CMC President Karen Shultz at President@carolinamountainclub.org to learn about other volunteer opportunities.

And if someone comes to mind who would be a good CMC leader, please send us their name. Sometimes the best candidates simply need to be asked.

Signs Installed at Lane Pinnacle

Les Love

Now you'll know which peak you are perched on as you traverse the spectacular Lane Pinnacle Ridge. Tom Weaver did his magic creating 4 beautiful signs for Rich Knob, Wolf Den, Lane Pinnacle, and Ravens Call.

Brandon Smith, the trail section maintainer, who does 100-mile trail runs in his spare time, could not cut the weeds and grass back last year due to the Parkway being closed, so he spent three 8-hour days recently getting it trimmed (and he will do this again before September).

John Busse recruited 2 of his Free Ranger Crewmembers to go with Brandon and Les Love to carry these 7-foot 4 x 4 posts, along with posthole diggers and other tools on July 9 (a beautiful day when hundreds of Turks Cap Lillies decorated the ridge) to accomplish this task.



Our crew took off from Potato Field Gap at 8:30 and after safely securing these posts in the ground with rebar and rocks to stop souvenir hunters from taking them home (Tom uses special bolts so they can't be removed from the posts) we arrived at Tanbark Tunnel at 3pm, just before the thunderstorms came rolling through. It was a fun day to help the many people who hike this section of the MST know exactly where they are.

Nominate a CMC Member for a Service Award

As Immediate Past President of the Carolina Mountain Club, I have the honor of chairing this year's Awards Committee. Each year, we consider members whose exceptional service has helped strengthen the Club and advance its mission.

CMC recognizes outstanding service through two awards:

Award of Appreciation

Presented to a member who, during the year prior to the Annual Meeting, has rendered exceptional service to the operation of the Carolina Mountain Club and significantly advanced its goals.

Distinguished Service Award

Presented to a member who, over the course of their membership, has made consistent and cumulatively extraordinary contributions to the operation of the Club and the achievement of its goals.

These awards are not necessarily presented every year. They are reserved for individuals whose contributions meet the high standards established by the Club and reflected in our past honorees.

You can learn more about the awards and view past recipients on our Service Awards page: <https://carolinamountainclub.org/about/service-awards>.

We welcome nominations from CMC members. If you know someone deserving of either award, please email me at lesrlove55@gmail.com with the nominee's name, the award you are recommending, and a brief summary of their contributions to CMC.

The Awards Committee will review the nominations and select this year's recipients, who will be recognized at our Annual Meeting in November. Thank you for helping us recognize the members whose service makes CMC the organization it is today.

Les Love
Immediate Past President



THE GREAT TRAILS STATE 2026 CONFERENCE



Winston Salem NC,
Benton Convention Center



August 10-12, 2026

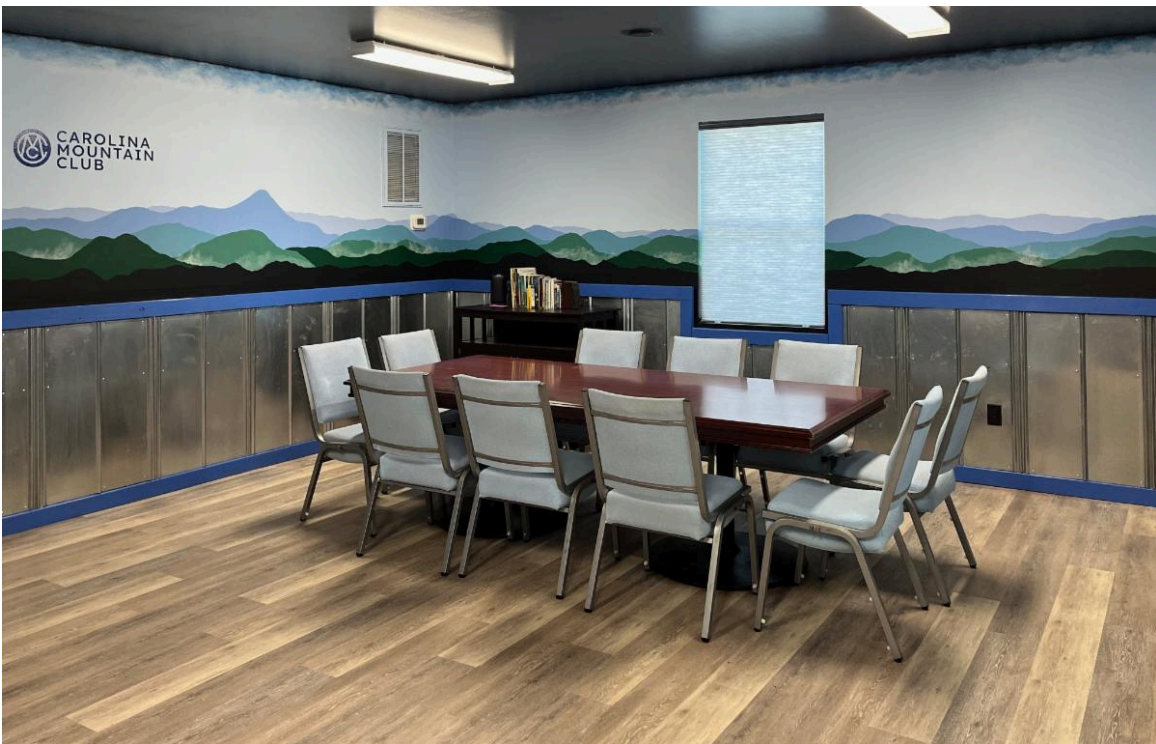
Meet the dedicated trail professionals, advocates, and community leaders
making North Carolina the Great Trails State!

Register Today!

<https://greattrailsstatecoalition.org/conference/>

Warehouse and Office Space Update

Tom Weaver, Project Foreman



We have essentially completed all of the renovations of our new warehouse and office space. Painting, cabinets, carpeting, furniture are all in place to allow us to fully use these spaces.

We have a small office on the ground floor to accommodate small (up to 10 people) meetings. Our larger conference room will comfortably accommodate 20+ people. The warehouse space is an open area set up with trail tools and supplies, including our small pieces of mechanical equipment. We plan to hold training sessions there including hand tool sharpening and maintenance, chainsaw maintenance, Griphoist use and maintenance, etc.

We have already booked this space for monthly CPR/First Aid training sessions through the end of the year, Crew Leader and Trail Crew Leader meetings, and even loaning out our space to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) for an all-day planning session in early August!

Still just a few items to complete, but again, we are up and running!

And again, we want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed their time, talent, and sweat equity to get us this far!

P.S. We are looking for a donation of a full-size microwave oven if anyone has a lead on one.

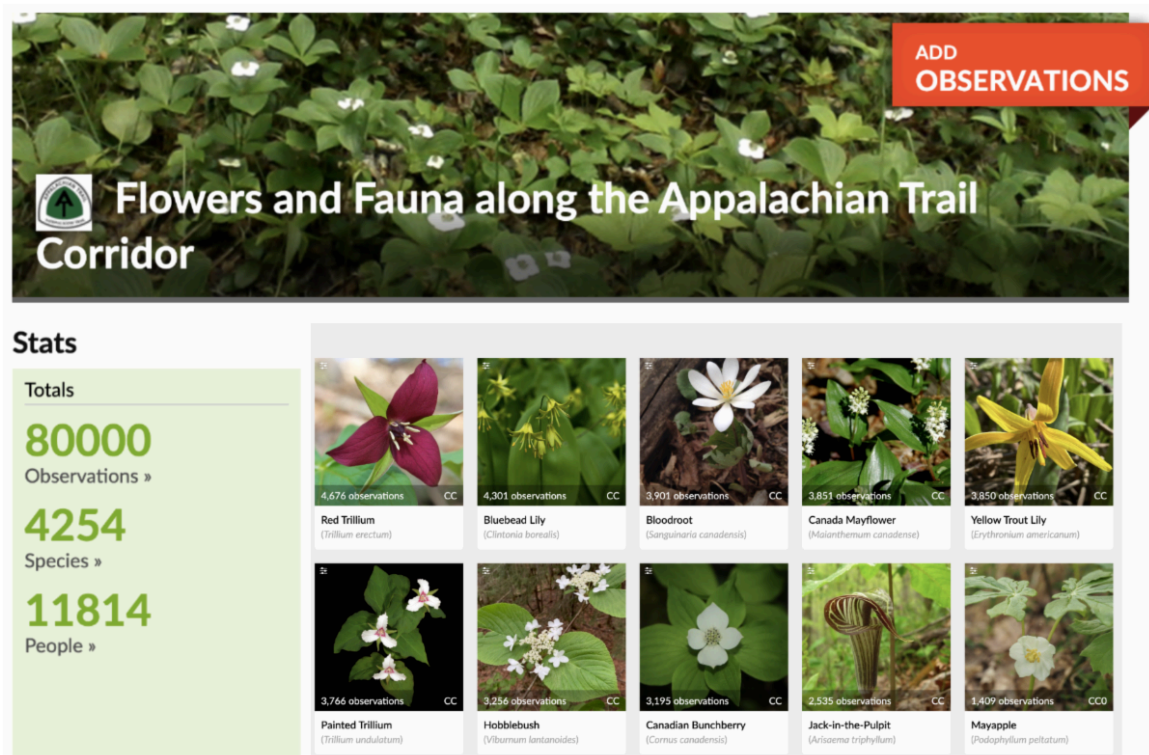
Conservation Corner

John Ribes

Flora and fauna curators needed! Partner with the Appalachian Mountain Club's efforts to monitor plants and animals along the Appalachian Trail corridor and track phenological changes.

I haven't quite seen them all, but I know that the 94 miles of the Appalachian Trail managed by the CMC hold a diverse ecosystem of plant and animal life special to our region. We spend thousands of hours on these trails and some years those trail miles look different than others. We see things change week to week, but are we missing the bigger picture to see how things are changing over the years? One of the best ways to understand what's happening on the Appalachian Trail corridor is to take a hard look at the data, in this case, photos from the trail.

[Learn More](#)



Member Welcome Call

Thursday, September 3rd

Whether you're a new member or you've been with CMC for years, our next **Member Welcome Call** is a great opportunity to learn more about the club and discover new ways to get involved.

Join us on **Thursday, September 3, from 6:00–7:00 PM** for this virtual session hosted on **Zoom** and led by several **CMC Council members**.

During the call, we'll share:

- Who CMC is and the impact we have across Western North Carolina
- The many ways members can get involved, from hiking and trail maintenance to committees and volunteer opportunities
- Training and leadership opportunities
- Annual events and important dates

- Membership resources and ways to stay connected

Whether you're looking to volunteer, become more active in the club, or simply learn more about everything CMC has to offer, this session is for you.

To register, please email Membership@carolinamountainclub.com, and we'll send you the Zoom meeting invitation once we get closer to the event date. We hope you'll join us and learn more about the people, programs, and mission that make CMC such a special organization.

Outdoor Skills and Safety Classes



Volunteers with the CMC Search and Rescue Crew offer free classes, typically one per month, on a variety of topics within the realm of outdoor skills, safety, and preparedness. Use the links below to learn more about each upcoming class, as well as to register.

Wednesday, August 26
[“Introduction to GMRS Radio Communications”](#)

Wednesday, September 16
[“Navigation 101: Coordinates for Hikers and Maintainers”](#)

Become an Appalachian Trail Section Maintainer

Looking for a rewarding way to give back to the Appalachian Trail? We currently have four section maintainer opportunities available, including two positions where you'll partner with an experienced co-maintainer.

- **Section 2317** – 2.5 miles to Lemon Gap (*Co-maintainer opportunity with Bob Beach*)
- **Section 2145** – 4.1 miles from Bluff Mountain to Garenflo Gap
- **Section 2240** – 2.3 miles to Big Butt, including Jerry Cabin Shelter (*Co-maintainer opportunity with Russ Gillenwater*)
- **Section 2252** – 2.8 miles from Sugarloaf to Rice Gap

Contact Paul Curtin for more information.

Contact Paul Curtin

Save the Dates

Saturday, September 19th - Maintainers Picnic
Saturday, November 14th - Annual Meeting and Dinner

Quarterly Workdays

[Saturday, August 15th - Big Bold, Appalachian Trail](#)
[Saturday, September 26th - National Public Lands Day](#)

Remote Overnight Crews

[October 10/11 - Deer Park Mountain Shelter, Appalachian Trail](#)

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 David Huff at communications@carolinamountainclub.org



www.carolinamountainclub.org

[Let's Go!](#)



meetup

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Carolina Mountain Club | P.O. Box 68 | Asheville, NC 28802 US

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