October 2026

86 Volunteers for National Public Lands Day at Max Patch!

Donna Bange and Paul Curtin

Saturday, September 26 was National Public Lands Day and CMC sponsored a trail maintenance day at Max Patch. National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public parks, forests, and natural spaces. We had 86 volunteers from 3 states spread across 9 work sites with 22 crew leaders. The efforts contributed to improving one of the top 10 most beautiful areas in the southern Appalachian trail.

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Join Us for the Carolina Mountain Club 2026 Annual Meeting and Dinner

Saturday Nov. 14th, 2026
5:30 to 9:00 PM
Hilton Inn Biltmore Park, Asheville

We're looking forward to gathering with CMC members and guests for an evening of celebration, recognition, and connection. This year's annual meeting will be especially meaningful as we reflect on all we've accomplished together over the past year.

Highlights of the evening will include:

- Celebrating CMC's new headquarters
- Guest speaker Cinda Waldbuesser, the new CEO of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)
- Skip Fredericksen performing A.T.: The Musical
- Presentation of the 2026 Annual Awards

We'll also conduct our annual business meeting, including the election of Council officers, consideration of proposed bylaw changes, and approval of the 2027 budget. The proposed budget, slate of officers, and revised CMC Bylaws will be posted on the CMC website two weeks before the meeting.

Join us for an evening of good food, great company, and a chance to celebrate the people and accomplishments that make CMC special.

Registration is $40 per person, and the food at the Hilton Biltmore Park is always excellent!

We hope to see you there!

Log into Member's site to Register

Trail Work on the College Level

Priscilla Estes and Tracy Mensah

The trail became the classroom when it hosted seven Western Carolina University (WCU) students and their Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) teacher, history professor Tracy Mensah, PhD. The education began on Saturday, Sept 5, at Bear Pen Overlook's blue connector trail, the route to the "Forgotten 14." Months before this day, the idea to collaborate with WCU students was planted during a conversation with Chris Werbylo on a quarterly workday at Cat Gap.

Chris thought it would be great to have students work on the Forgotten 14 and if possible, make them interested enough to adopt some sections.

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Save the Date: Max Patch Fundraiser

Friday, November 13, 6–9 PM

New Belgium Brewing, Asheville

Join us for an evening of live music, entertainment, and community as we come together to support one of our region's most beloved places, Max Patch!

This special event will kick off a fundraising campaign to improve parking and install a much-needed restroom facility at Max Patch.

More details, including tickets and registration, will be announced soon.

Invasive Plant Training

In partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the NC Wildlife Federation, CMC's 3rd conservation focused event will be held on October 28th, 2026 on the Appalachian Trail right outside of Hot Springs, NC.

Get first-hand non-native invasive plant training, led by ATC's NNIP specialist, Emily Powell and help remove invasive species that are crowding out native vegetation. No experience necessary, just a willingness to help, meet new people, and spend the day on the trail!

Wednesday, October 28th
10AM - 3PM
Madison County, NC
This event is free and open to the public

Click to Register

Outdoor Media Summit

CMC teamed up with **The Landmark Project** for an afternoon of trail work with 16 participants from the Outdoor Media Summit on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in Asheville. **Madison Evans, Paul Curtin and Tim Evans** led the group, giving participants a firsthand look at the kind of work CMC trail crews do. We built a turnpike, cut back side growth and removed obstacles from the trail.

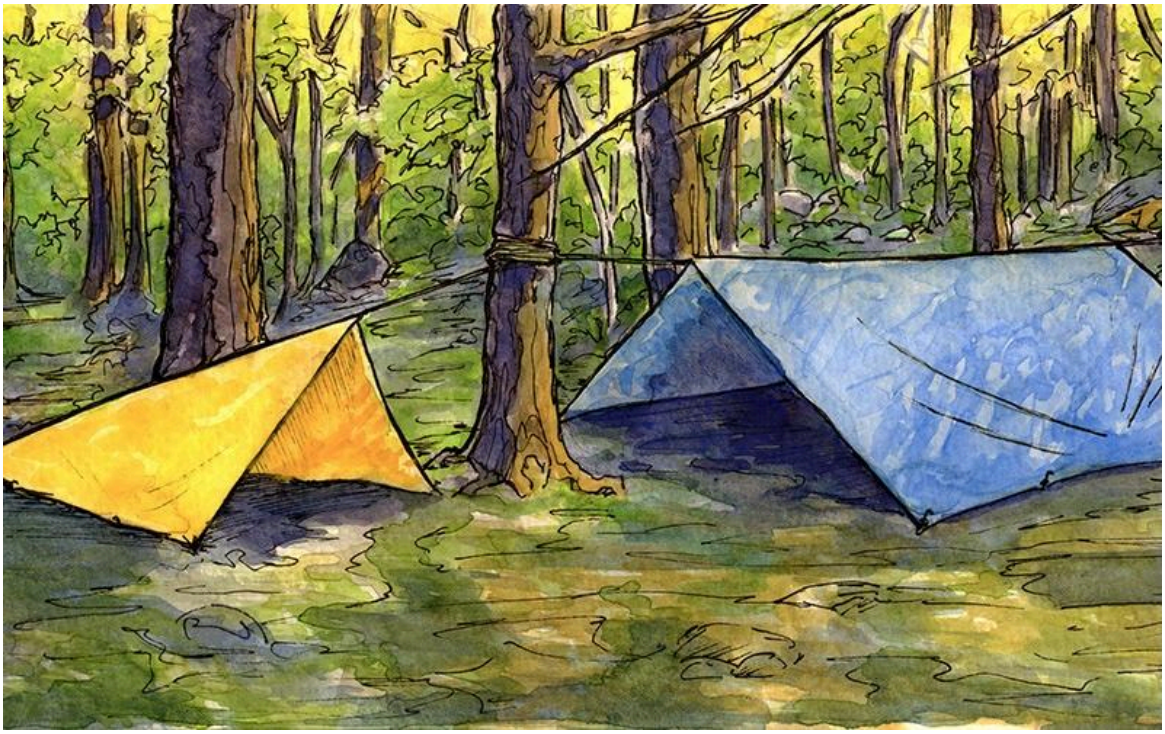
Vote for Us!
15th Annual ReStore ReUse Contest

Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity®
Serving Buncombe and Madison Counties

Carolina Mountain Club, an all-volunteer hiking and trail maintaining 103 year old, non-profit club took a huge step in 2026, leasing warehouse and office space in Arden. We spent 3 months retrofitting the space using many materials obtained from AAHfH. Voting ends October 31st.

Click Here to Vote

Staying Found or at least dry



Sunday, 18 October 2026
3:00 - 4:30 PM

Highland Brewing Company (in the meadow) 12 Old Charlotte Hwy, Asheville.

You stepped off the trail for just a few moments, and now you realize that you don’t know where the trail is. What do you do now? We’ll discuss a simple yet effective strategy for getting you back on track (bring your CMC orange bandana for this one!)

In addition, we’ll discuss the "Four W's" (or is it Five W's???) of shelter site selection, then demonstrate light and effective emergency shelter systems that you can carry on any hike so that you’ll be more comfortable if you do find yourself in an “unplanned camp-out” situation.

Click to Register

Trail Impact Award

CMC received the Trail Impact Award at the 2026 Great Trails State Conference for its extensive trail recovery work following Hurricane Helene, with a special acknowledgment of Paul Curtin for his leadership during the recovery efforts

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!

CMC Calendar Hike Reports Future Hikes

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

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