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ROC Monthly Newsletter

Thanks for being a part of ROC!

Go to our website for our weekly outdoor schedules, information on the ROC Race Series, local trails, and more.

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Become A Member](#)

[Donate Now](#)

NEWS



Welcome to all of our new and returning ROC members and sponsors!

Steven Trantham

Tim Nates

Maria Arango

Amanda Claire
Demeusy

The money we receive from memberships helps us to continue improving local trails, leading group hikes and river floats, and creating new outdoor programs. Membership is only \$20 for individuals, \$35 for families, and \$100 for businesses. We also offer multiple sponsorship opportunities for businesses to help expend and enhance recreational opportunities in Rutherford County.

Members get discounts at Chimney Rock, Barley's Taproom, Copper Penny, Main Street Coffee, Impact Fitness, and more.
Click the link below for more details.

[Get Involved](#)

NEWS



ROC Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 19th

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Barley's Taproom

We are excited to return to **Barley's** for our monthly meetings! Join us to hear about all the latest with ROC - including recent updates, upcoming events, how you can get involved with our mission, and more!

Feel free to order food and beverage while you connect with new and returning ROC members. All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ROC Hike to Hawksbill Mountain

Join us for a beautiful hike to the summit of Hawksbill Mountain on October 7 at 9 am!

This is a 2.4 mile out and back trail that is moderate, with some rocky terrain and an elevation gain of 695 feet.



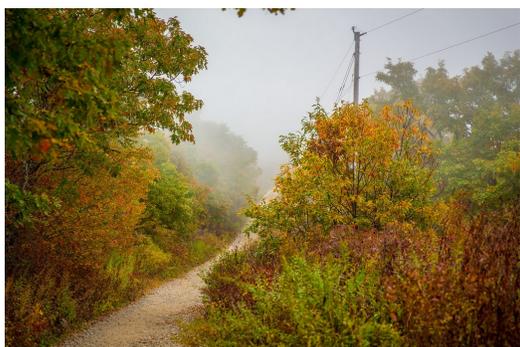
The hike to the summit of Hawksbill Mountain gives hikers a panoramic view of the Linville Gorge almost 2,000 feet below. It is a short but strenuous hike because of the elevation gain. The hike takes you through a hardwood forest before a rocky climb surrounded by rhododendrons. This takes you to the summit and offers amazing views of the Linville Gorge and surrounding forest.

Trailhead access and parking is off of a gravel forest service road off Table Rock Lake Rd.

Date: Tuesday, October 7th

Time: 9am

To RSVP or if you have any questions, please contact Sam Brooks at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org



ROC Hike to Fryingpan Mountain Lookout Tower

Join us and see a spectacular view from the Fryingpan Mountain Lookout Tower on October 30 at 11 am!

This 1.5 mile out and back trail is moderate, with a steady elevation gain of 357 feet.

The trail begins at a dirt pull-off off Blue Ridge Parkway and follows a road to a 70-foot fire lookout tower constructed in the 1940s. Now the trail and tower are only used by hikers to see the incredible surrounding views. The path is a wide gravel roadbed surrounded by wildflowers. At the tower, hikers will be able to see a beautiful 360 degree view of the Pisgah National Forest and the Blue Ridge Mountains, an especially spectacular sight in the fall.

This trail is located off of Blue Ridge Parkway. Park and meet at the entrance to Forest Service Road 450. It may be colder and windier at the top of the mountain, so be prepared!

Date: Saturday, October 30th

Time: 11 am

To RSVP or if you have any questions, please contact Sam Brooks at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org



RUTHERFORD OUTDOOR COALITION'S
PHOTO SERIES
Fall Foliage

OCTOBER 1 - OCTOBER 31

TO ENTER:
UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS TO FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM & USE
#RUTHERFORDOUTDOOR
1 ENTRY PER PERSON PER DAY

All may participate and share their photos but only ROC
Members are eligible to win prizes.
To become a member of ROC head to
www.rutherfordoutdoor.org



LOVE THE OUTDOORS?

EARLY EXPLORER'S NATURE CLUB

Adventure is all around us!
Especially outside!

Join us on the third Wednesday each
month at 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Programs are designed for children ages 5- 12.
Parents must stay with participants for the
entire program. You must RSVP to be added
to an email list for monthly theme and
location updates. We will utilize local trails
and facilities such as Kiwanis Park, Purple
Martin Greenway, Thermal Belt Rail Trail, The
Bechtler House, Isothermal Community
College Trails, and more.

R·O·C
RECREATION OUTDOOR CLUB

Kiddos in your life that love to spend time outside? Join our Early Explorers Club!

We are so excited to announce nature programs designed for youth! Programs are designed for ages 5-12, feature hands-on activities, and include lessons that connect to state standards to support science topics that students are learning in the classroom. Outings and lessons will be lead by our Outdoor Programs Director, a certified NC Environmental Educator.

What to look forward to in our club:

- Visiting parks and forests
- Studying plants and other wildlife

- Learning about saving the environment
- Meeting various animals and insects
- Finding lifelong friends
- Health benefits that result from time spent outdoors

For more information or to sign-up, contact our Outdoor Programs Director, Jess Kerr at jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org, or 828-351-3235. You can also check out the places we've visited and what we've discovered by following us on Facebook!

October Volunteer Days



Wednesday October 6th:

Weed Patch Mountain: 8 am - 12 pm

We will be removing any down trees on the trail.

Expect to walk about 3 miles.

Tuesday October 12th:

Buffalo Creek Park: 8 am - 12 am

We will be improving the tread on switchbacks and fixing erosion issues. Expect to walk about 3 miles.

Wednesday October 27th:

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails: 8 am - 10am

We will be trimming overgrown sections of the trail. Expect to walk about 1-2 miles.

Saturday October 23rd:

Heart of the Foothills Dog Walk. 10 am - Noon.

Come walk shelter dogs and puppies with us!

Expect to walk about about 2 miles, mostly level terrain.

Tuesday October 26th:

Isothermal Community College Trails: 8:00 am - 10:00 am

We will be trimming overgrown sections of the trail, cleaning litter, and removing fallen trees. Expect to walk 1-2 miles.

Contact Jess at jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-351-3235 to RSVP or for more information.

UPDATES

Updates on Dittmer-Watts Trails



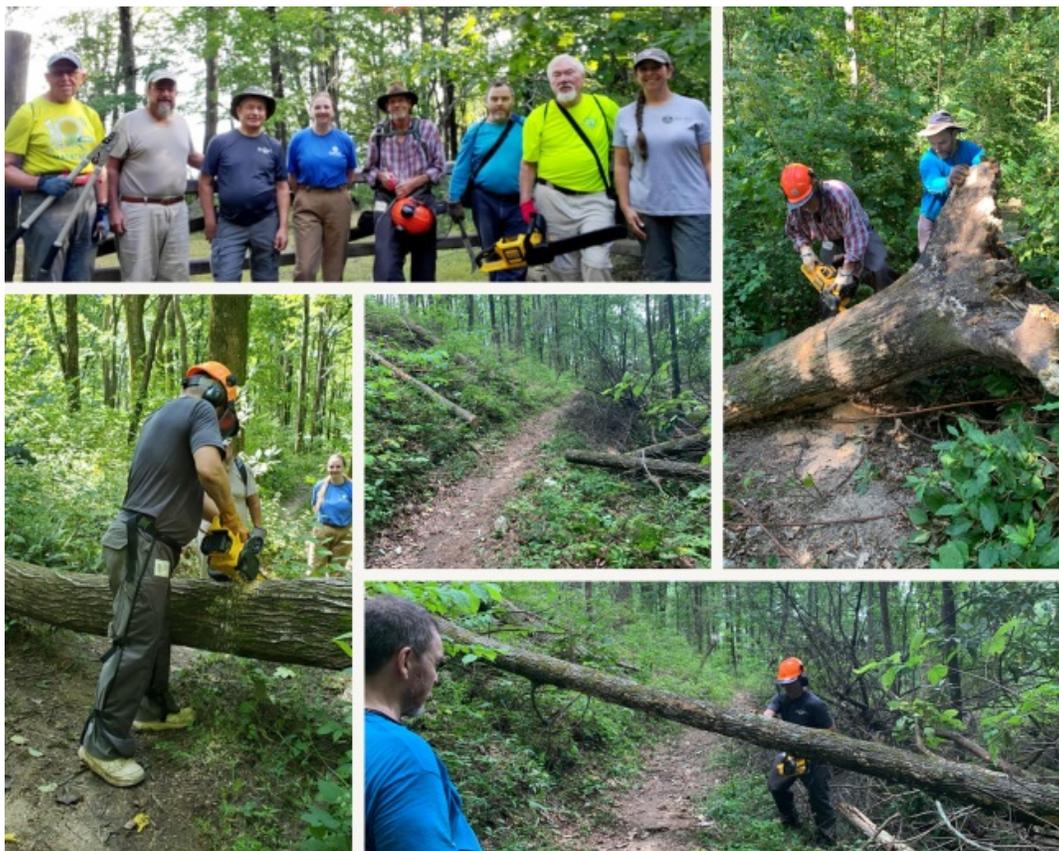
On Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails, Town of Lake Lure and ROC worked to prevent erosion on the trails. Spots for water to drain were created or repaired along the Dogwood, Mulberry, and part of the Mountain Laurel trails. Thanks to our volunteers for showing up and working hard!

[More about the Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park](#)

Updates on Buffalo Creek Park and Weed Patch Mountain



Buffalo Creek Park had some major erosion issues that needed some fixing. Town of Lake Lure and ROC worked hard and smoothed the trail out and filled some especially damaged places with gravel. Spots for water to drain off the trail were also fixed as a preventative measure. In total, 3.5 miles of trail were worked on and repaired.

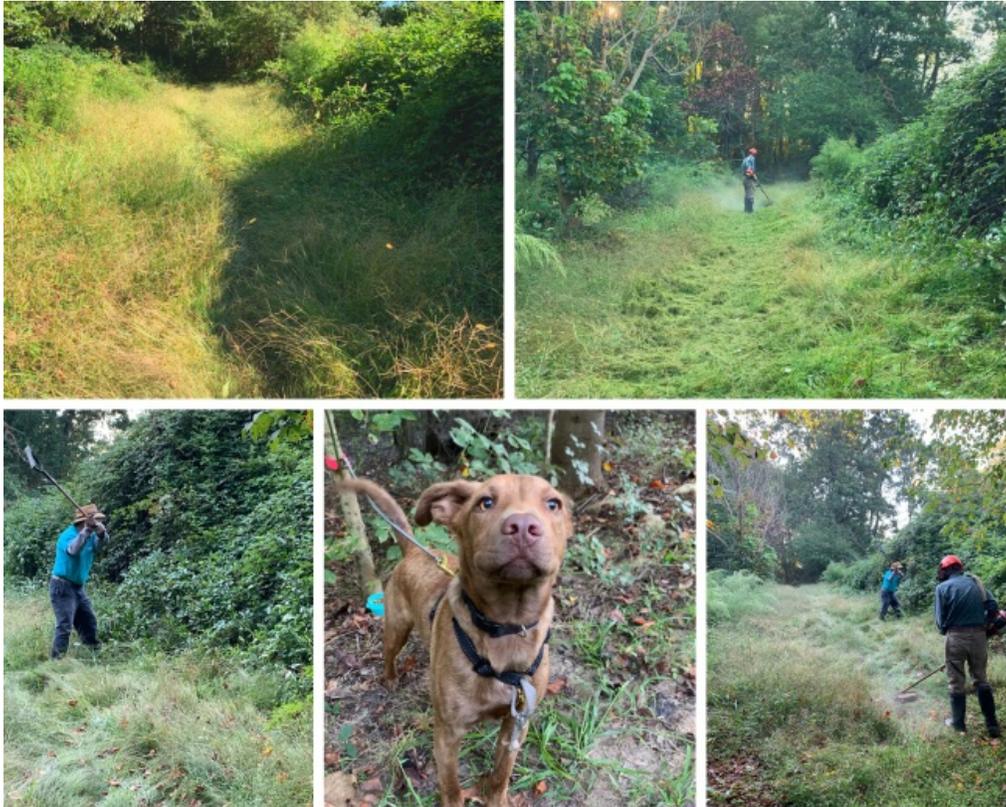


On Weed Patch Mountain Trail, Town of Lake Lure and ROC

volunteers set out to chainsaw some downed trees. There were eight trees blocking the trail and the crew managed to remove all of them, making sure the trail is accessible and safe. Thanks to our volunteers for all the hard work they do!

[More about Buffalo Creek Park](#)

Updates on the ICC Trails



At the ICC trails, ROC spent a morning cleaning up the orange trail. One particularly overgrown section was cut back and briars that were reaching across the trail were removed. ROC's honorary trail dog, Jake, joined in for the fun too!

[More about the ICC Trail System](#)

ROC Broad River Fall Sweep



ROC had a successful annual Broad River Fall Sweep!

River Stewards had a long day on the river. Section 4 of the Broad River was filled with trash. The crew worked for almost 8 hours and cleaned up 7 miles of the Broad River. All kinds of litter was collected, including cans (hundreds), plastic, shoes, tires, a chair, and even a cell phone!

Thanks to everyone that spent a long day with us for helping keep our river beautiful and enduring the rain that hit in the middle of our trip.

Crabtree Falls Hike

ROC had a great hike to Crabtree Falls! This gorgeous hike led to the tallest waterfall on the Blue Ridge Parkway! ROC members had a pleasant and scenic hike, ultimately making it to the falls, where water cascaded off a 60-foot cliff. It was a beautiful day with even more beautiful scenery!



WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN ROC

Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteering is a great way to build skills, meet people, and give back to the community all while having fun. We invite and encourage individuals and groups of all backgrounds and ages to get involved and help grow a stronger community.

ROC offers many types of volunteer opportunities throughout the year with varying levels of involvement and physical activity. Our volunteer opportunities include trail projects, fundraising events, festivals, group outings, clean-ups, and more.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, contact Jess Kerr at jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-351-3235.

Trail Boss and River Steward Programs

ROC needs Trail Bosses for the ICC Trails in Spindale. If you are interested, please contact us and we will get you started!



- We need people like you to become trail bosses and river

stewards for our local trails and river system.

- Trail Bosses walk their section of trail at least once a month, report any issues they see, and help keep their section clean.
- River Stewards float their river section once a month and report downed trees and other obstacles that need to be addressed. There is a River Stewards meeting held on the 2nd Thursday of each month to discuss river improvements and plan future clean-ups.
- **If you are interested in learning more about becoming a trail boss or river steward, contact Jess Kerr at jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org or 828-351-3235.**
- **[Click Here](#) for more information on Rutherford County trails.**

Trail Ambassador Program

If you are out enjoying the Thermal Belt Rail Trail, look out for our fantastic group of volunteers who are walking, running, and biking the trail to assist other users. If you have any questions or concerns about the trail or local information, a Trail Ambassador would be happy to help!

Just look for the bright green shirts, like Steve and Betty are wearing, to ask questions on where to stop for lunch, where the nearest bike repair station is located, or anything else you are looking to do!

- **If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Trail Ambassador, contact Jess Kerr at jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-351-3235.**
- **[Click Here](#) for more information on Rutherford County trails.**



Rutherford Outdoor Coalition

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Contact Us



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