



## ROC Monthly Newsletter

Thanks for being a part of ROC!  
Despite the changes we're all currently experiencing, ROC staff and members have been keeping busy and staying true to our mission. Take a look at what we've been up to lately.

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**A LETTER FROM US, TO YOU**



## We Miss You

The work we do here at ROC, as you're likely well aware, includes getting together with many of our members and volunteers. Be it trail workdays, the Walking Club, our group outings, any of our other fun activities - it all revolves around the participants. Sure, we can go out and hand saw trees on our own. We can camp in our backyards and explore trails by ourselves. While this is still enjoyable, it just doesn't seem to have as much purpose without all of you being there with us. All of this is to say the obvious - we miss you, a lot. We're all hoping that things get better, sooner rather than later, and that we can begin organizing activities like we used to! Until that happens, we'll be out there doing all the good things that we can, and we'll wave when we see you.

## NEWS



**Welcome to all of our new and returning**

# ROC members and sponsors!

Stephen Kittle

Robert Byers and  
Family

Amelia Harmon

Dot Houlditch

Paula Garrard

Dennis and Kathy  
Coldren

Tim and Eleanor Will

Jane Weast and Family

Steve and Betty Gilbert

Don and Sally Leshar

Jimi Moore and Family

Steve Garrison and  
Family

David Dyer and Family

Charles Costanzo and  
Family

Sandy Austin

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!](#)

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO (Since March)

### Volunteering at Food Banks

Three times a week Dana Bradley and Jason Smoak head over to Chase Corner Ministries and Neighbor's Food Pantry in Gilkey. There, with other volunteers, they prepare roughly 200 boxes of food each week that goes out to those in need.

If you're interested in lending a hand, click [here](#).



## The Trails at Isothermal Community College

The trails at Isothermal Community College have been seeing a lot of ROC members and volunteers over the past several weeks!

At the beginning of March a group of almost 20 came out to finish installing rails on the new bridge and worked to create drainages for areas of the trail that were seeing too much sitting water. There was so much dirt and so much teamwork! Thank you to Greg Stearns and his students from Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy for spending one of your last group activity days with us!

Since then, we've had help from Adam Thomas and his friend, Duncan, assisted by Callia Johnson. They came out to chainsaw some trees that had fallen on the trails during the last rainstorm so that the trails would still be passable, especially by the runners.

David Greenleaf, Dana Bradley, and Callia Johnson went out to begin working on trimming back of all the Spring growth along the trails. The poison ivy is in full growth mode so if you're out there, make sure to stay on the trail. We're heading out again soon to keep trimming it and the briars back!



If you have your own tools and would like to help while being socially distant, please reach out to Callia about when you'd like to go. She can be reached at [Trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:Trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or 828-351-4161.

[More about the ICC Trail System](#)

## Buffalo Creek Park Loop



Before the restrictions and guidelines were put into place for being safer at home and social distancing, ROC had gotten one last group workday in at Buffalo Creek Park. Bruce Hunt, Robin Worcester, and Trails Coordinator Callia Johnson went out to improve areas along the switchbacks that were beginning to form ruts.

We'd like to extend a big THANK YOU to Almon Cox, Robin Worcester, and Ken Gollither. Since the restrictions were put into place these gentlemen have gone out on the trail at Buffalo Creek Park and done work themselves. Anything from taking photos of areas in need of work, to hand-sawing the smaller fallen trees and getting them out of the way, and Almon going out with his chainsaw to remove the larger trees for us - we are so grateful for all of your help during this time (and always)!

If you're ever out on our trails and see something that should be addressed, please email the Trails Coordinator at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org). Photos and descriptions of location are very helpful (look for nearby markers on the trees).

[More about Buffalo Creek Park](#)



## **Weed Patch Mountain Trail**

With all the rain and the stronger bouts of wind the area has been getting, Weed Patch Mountain Trail has seen quite a few fallen trees these past couple months.

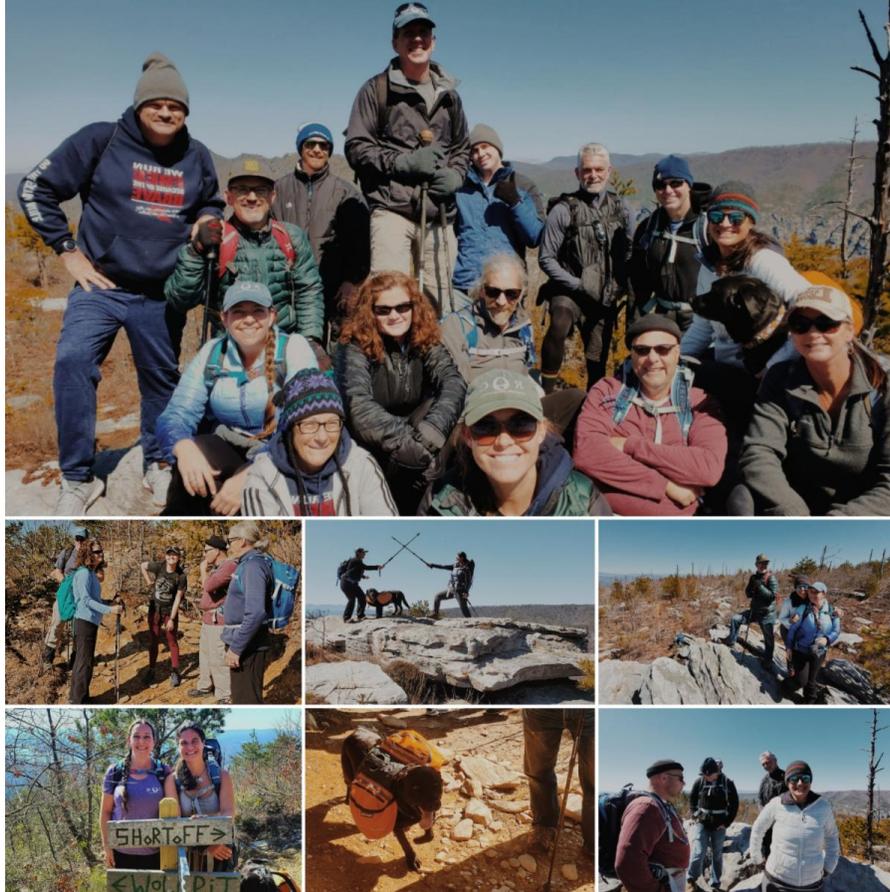


ROC Trails Coordinator, Callia Johnson met up with Conserving Carolina's Trails Associate, Devon Hathway twice to chainsaw and

handsaw over 20 fallen trees. There's still a few very large trees down on the trail that the girls weren't able to remove, so if you're out there just be mindful of them. Otherwise Weed Patch is in excellent condition and has tons of wildflowers blooming right now if you're up for a longer hike!

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## **ROC Hike: Shortoff Mountain Trail in the Linville Gorge** **Saturday March 7th**



Thank you to everyone that joined us for the hike up Shortoff Mountain Trail back in March! We had sunshine, a fair bit of wind, and two happy puppers to accompany the group while we explored incredible overlooks, sheltering woods, and surprise ponds. We're so grateful to have gotten this hike in before groups were limited and the trails were closed down.

Click [here](#) to see more photos from the day.

For information about area trail closures and open trails, see the [Trail Guide](#) we created!

## 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 Callia Johnson at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or call 828-351-4161.

## 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 Callia Johnson at

[trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or call 828-351-4161.

- [Click Here](#) for more information on Rutherford County trails.

Rutherford Outdoor Coalition | [www.rutherfordoutdoor.org](http://www.rutherfordoutdoor.org)

## STAY CONNECTED:

