



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](#)

NEWS



Welcome to all of our new and returning ROC

members and sponsors!

Patrick Kerney

Denise Thomas

**Amanda Claire
Demeusy**

Daisy Laws

Tim Nates

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!](#)

Rutherford Outdoor Coalition has a new headquarters building!



Located at about the midpoint of the Thermal Belt Rail Trail in Spindale, the old depot building is now the new home and office space for ROC. Being at the center point of one of our most popular trails that stretches from Rutherfordton to Forest City, the new building will be a great way for trail users to access information about the trail and surrounding area. It will also be a perfect spot for our Outdoor Programs Director, Jess Kerr, and Trails Coordinator, Baily Hornstein, to have a meeting place to plan upcoming projects, events and any other group activities for ROC.

A big thank you to Jerry Stensland and Willie Lowe for speaking at the Spindale Town Council meetings to get the lease request approved for our new building!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fall Broad River Sweep
Saturday, October 3rd
10 am - 2 pm**



On Saturday, October 3rd, ROC will be having our annual Broad River Fall Sweep. We will be cleaning multiple sections of the Broad River in Rutherford County. Volunteers will drop off their boats at designated areas between 10 am and 10:30 am. At 10:30 am sharp, we will take vehicles to the take-out points. We will get started with the clean-up around 11 am.

PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS EVENT. You will be added an email list where we will assign boats and sections, as well as send out important information.

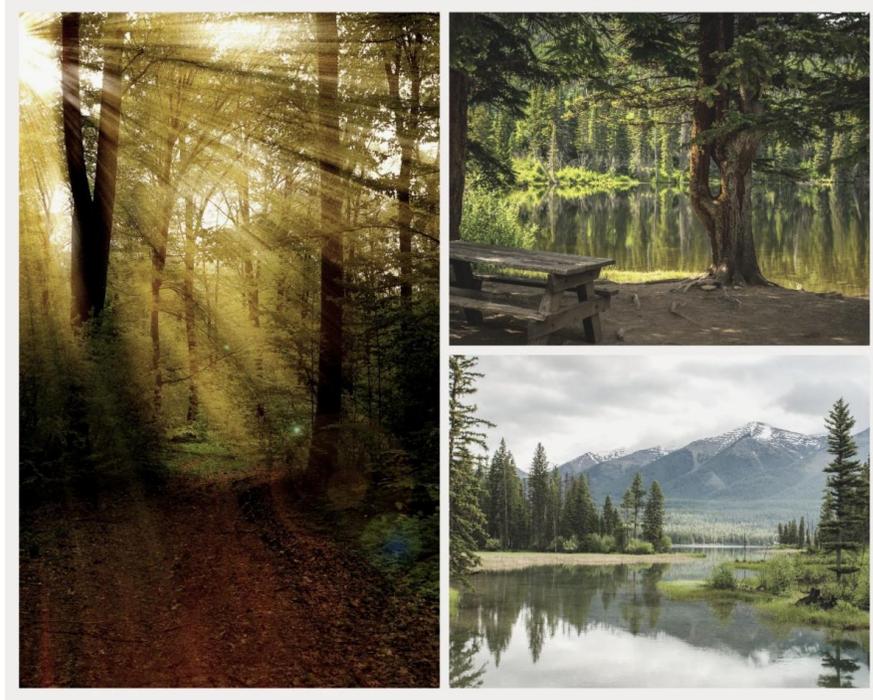
We need volunteers with kayaks as well as canoes. If you have an extra boat that could be used, please let us know. If you would like to participate but do not have a boat, we will try to arrange a boat for you. Let us know if you have trucks or trailers to help carry kayaks and canoes. ROC will provide trash bags and a few grabbers.

Bring a lunch and some water with you. We will stop about half way through the clean-up for a lunch break. River shoes are recommended since we will have to get in the water to get some of the trash.

****To RSVP or for any questions, please contact Baily Hornstein at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-619-0035.**

**Fall Camping Trip
Saturday, October 10th - Sunday, October 11th**

3 pm - 11 am



On Saturday, October 10th, ROC will be hosting a camping trip. We will be camping out at a site alongside the Broad River. Participants can meet at the campsite anytime after 3 pm, and we will have dinner as well as a campfire later that evening.

PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS EVENT. You will be added an email list where we will send out important information, including the specific location and where to park.

Please let us know if anyone would like to volunteer to make or supply any food for dinner and breakfast the next day. If you have an extra tent/sleeping bags that could be used, please let us know. If you would like to participate but do not have a tent, we will try to provide one for you.

Things to bring include a tent, sleeping bag, flashlights, hiking/tennis shoes, water bottle (there will be water at the campsite as well), and any other necessary overnight gear.

****To RSVP or for any questions, please contact Baily Hornstein at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-619-0035.**

**Fall Hikes
Thursday, October 8th: Wildcat Rock Trail
10 am - 2 pm**



Join our new Trails Coordinator Baily on a gorgeous hike in the Hickory Nut Gorge area! The Wildcat Rock Trail will be a moderate to strenuous 4 mile round trip hike, with beautiful landmarks and landscapes to see along the way. One mile into the hike is Little Bearwallow Falls, a picturesque 100-foot waterfall. Hike another mile farther and we will arrive at Wildcat Rock, providing hikers with a spectacular view of the Upper Hickory Nut Gorge. Here you can stop and enjoy the landscape of Little Pisgah Mountain, Blue Ridge Pastures, and the Hickory Nut Gap.

The Wildcat Rock Trail contains over 100 log/rock stairs, and has about an 1,000 ft elevation gain to Wildcat Rock. The trip back will be mostly decreasing in elevation then, making it a more relaxed trip back after the 2 mile mark. Part of the trail will be rugged and steep, but definitely worth it for the view!

To get to the trailhead, park at the Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Trailhead. It is off of road 74 and about half an hour West of Lake Lure. We will meet at the parking lot and take the crosswalk to get to the trail. For driving directions, the address is 3823 Gerton Hwy, Gerton, NC 28735.

Make sure to bring at least 2 liters of water, bug spray, sunscreen, and a lunch.

**Saturday, October 24th: Babel Tower
10 am - 2pm**



Come join ROC Member Bruce Byers as he leads a beautiful hike with Trails Coordinator Baily Hornstein on Saturday, October 24th! This trail features a large stone spire, known as Babel Tower, and flowing waterfalls shortly past that. The Tower provides hikers with views of the river 400 feet below, and other breathtaking views of the surrounding area. The trail is located at the west rim of Linville Gorge, and features rock filled forests and vibrant mosses along the hike.

We will be hiking 1.5 miles to Babel Tower, with an optional, but highly recommended by Bruce, short trip to Linville Falls. The hike will be 3 miles roundtrip, ascending about 850 feet with a moderate grade and sections of rocky footing.

From Rutherfordton, it is about an hour and 20 minutes drive to the trailhead. We will meet at the trailhead at 10 am, and have lunch once we hike to the tower. Hikers should bring at least 2 liters of water, a pack lunch, bugspray, and sunscreen.

****To RSVP or for any questions, please contact Baily Hornstein at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-619-0035.**



**The ROC Monthly Meeting
5:30 pm on Tuesday October 20th.**

The meeting will held at Crestview Park in Rutherfordton. Park St, Rutherfordton, NC 28139.

Feel free to order food from your favorite local restaurant and bring your dinner!

**We will space out and observe social distancing practices.
All are welcome!**



October Volunteer Days

Saturday October 10th:

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 6th:

Isothermal Community College Trails: 11:00 am - 2pm.

Three small trees need to be removed from the trail.

Expect to walk about 1 mile, mostly level terrain.

Tuesday October 13th:

Buffalo Creek Park Loop: 9 am - Noon.

Working on erosion issues and fixing washout areas.

Expect to walk about about 3 miles, mostly downhill.

Thursday October 15th:

Luremont Trail: 9 am - Noon.

We will begin construction on a brand new trail in Lake Lure!

Expect to walk about 2 miles.

Saturday October 17th:

Thermal Belt Rail Trail Litter Sweep: 10 am - 12pm.

Expect to walk a few miles along the rail trail as we work to clean up the trail!

Wednesday October 21st:

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park: 9 am - 11 am.

Clearing overgrown plants on the trail and picking up trash.

Expect to walk about 1 - 2 miles, mostly level terrain.

Tuesday October 27th:

Weed Patch Mountain Trail: 9 am - 5 pm.

We will be clearing any down trees and fixing any trail maintenance issues.

Expect to walk about 7.5 miles.

Thursday October 29th:

Luremont Trail: 9 am - Noon.
Continuing construction on this trail.
Expect to walk about 2 miles.

Contact Baily at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-619-0035 to RSVP or for more information.

UPDATES

October ROC Photo Series!



RUTHERFORD OUTDOOR COALITION'S PHOTO SERIES

Fall Foliage

OCTOBER 1 - OCTOBER 31

THIS MONTH'S PRIZE: \$35 GIFT CERTIFICATE
TO THE TWISTED PEAR

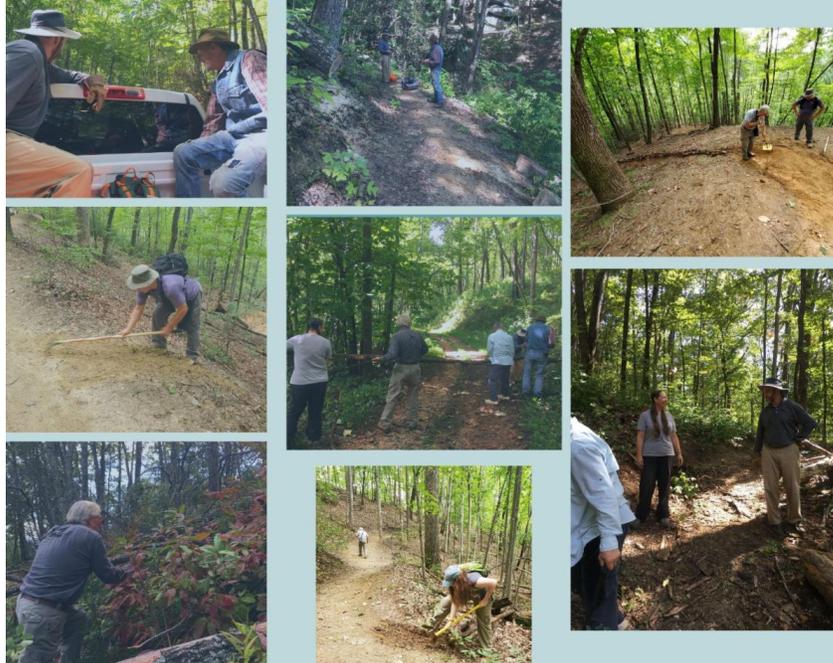
TO ENTER:
UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS TO FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM & USE
#RUTHERFORDOUTDOOR
1 ENTRY PER PERSON PER DAY

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

Happy October Everyone!

This month's theme for the ROC Photo Series is Fall Foliage!
Don't forget to tag us and use [#rutherfordoutdoor](https://www.instagram.com/rutherfordoutdoor)

Updates on Buffalo Creek Park and Weed Patch



Photos of: Bruce and Jeff riding in the truck down the maintenance trail; Weed Patch trail after Jeff removed a fallen tree; volunteers constructing a berm; Dana, Robin, and Ken holding a tree so Bruce could cut it; Dana and Bruce after they pushed the tree off the trail; Ken cutting branches from a fallen tree; and Jess helping with erosion control.

ROC and Town of Lake Lure joined forces for two awesome workdays this month! They went out and worked on erosion issues, removed large vines in two locations on the trail, constructed an awesome berm, and removed five trees that had caused some serious damage to the trail! Thank you Ken, Robin, Dana, Jeff, Bruce, Baily and Jess for you work at Buffalo Creek Park and Weed Patch!

[More about Buffalo Creek Park](#)

Updates about the trail at Isothermal Community College



Photos of: ; Jeff cutting a down tree, Bruce tossing part of a tree off the trail and

clearing brush, David cutting a tree blocking the trail, and Bruce looking happy as a clam!

Our Outdoor Programs Director Jess, Trails Coordinator Baily, and volunteers removed four trees from sections of the Orange Trail at Isothermal Community College so that it remains passable! Members David, Jeff, Bruce, and Baily also cleared a monster oak tree from a section on the Blue Trail. Thank you so much for your time Bruce Hunt, David Greenleaf, and Jeff Hodge!

[More about the ICC Trail System](#)

Updates on ROC River Scout: Section 6



ROC members joined our Outdoor Programs Director, Jess Kerr and Trails Coordinator, Baily Hornstein, on a float down section 5 of the Broad River! We paddled about half of the section before we took a break on a sand bar for lunch. We continued downstream and got to paddle into some fun little rapids as well! Pete, Jeff (as well as his son and his family), Bruce, Larry, and David were all participants and made it an enjoyable day. Thank you to everyone that joined us for the river scout!

ROC Walking Club

The times and dates are listed below.

May 1st - August 31st:

- **Tuesdays:** 6:30 pm at the Thermal Belt Rail Trail. Park in the Rutherford County Farmer's Market parking lot located at the corner of Park Square and Pryor Street in Forest City (behind the new pavilion, POPS).
- **Thursdays:** 6:30 pm at Purple Martin Greenway in Rutherfordton. Park at the new, gravel lot at the corner of S.Main Street and Industrial Avenue.

September 1st - April 30th:

- **Tuesdays:** 4:30 pm at the Rutherford County Farmer's Market parking lot located at the corner of Park Square and Pryor Street in Forest City (behind the new pavilion, POPS).
- **Thursdays:** 4:00 pm at Purple Martin Greenway in Rutherfordton. Park at the new, gravel lot at the corner of S.Main Street and Industrial Avenue.

The walks are led by our Outdoor Programs Director or Trails Coordinator. The club walks together for 30 minutes to an hour depending on location, but you can feel free to walk more or less if you like. This is a great opportunity to interact with others from the community that enjoy walking. Walk at your own pace, enjoy the scenery, and make some new friends.

For more information or to join, visit our ROC Walking Club page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184160622179015/> or call us at 828-351-3235.

[Facebook Page](#)



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 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 Baily Hornstein at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-619-0035.
- [Click Here](#) for more information on Rutherford County trails.



ROC is launching a Trail Ambassador Program for the Thermal Belt Trail!

The purpose of the program is:

- To assist users of TBRT in learning user protocols, routes, parking and local guidelines.**
- To provide on-site assistance as needed to users.**
- To report any outstanding maintenance issues on the trail.**
- To interact with users and discover user wants and needs for the trail.**
- To work with the Trail Partners to improve utility, appearance and trail conditions.**
- To establish a representative for on-site monitoring trail use and providing positive user enforcement.**

We are looking for volunteers that regularly walk, bike, or run the trail. As a Trail Ambassador, you will be provided with an identifying tshirt and the tools needed to engage with TBRT users to support positive experiences and encourage trail safety. Ambassadors can also serve as a reference point for restaurants and other county services. Ambassadors are a friendly face, not enforcers. Ambassadors are to encourage safe use of the trail and inform users of trail rules, not enforce these rules. Ambassadors can also help serve as eyes for the Trail Partners if maintenance or other improvements are needed.

If interested in becoming a Trail Ambassador, please get in touch with our Outdoor Programs Director, Jess Kerr, for more details. She can be reached by email at jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org and by phone at 828-351-3235. Please include information such as your availability, preferred trail section,

tshirt size, and contact information.

Rutherford Outdoor Coalition | www.rutherfordoutdoor.org

STAY CONNECTED:

