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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.

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Website](#)

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NEWS



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

Richard Merwin

Christian Friday

Grace Webster

Jeff & Amanda Davis

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: April 19th, 2022

Time: 5:30 PM

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

Birding Walk at Morse Park

Calling all bird enthusiasts to join ROC at Morse Park in Lake Lure on April 7th at 8:30 am for a birding walk! This walk will be led by our President, Jerry Stensland, an avid birder and our Trails Coordinator, Sam Brooks, a bird enthusiast. Binoculars are highly recommended in order to get an up close view of the birds.



Come learn how to identify birds by sight and sound! We will meet in the Morse Park parking lot at 8:30 am. The address is 2948 Memorial Highway Lake Lure, NC 28746

Date: Thursday, April 7th

Time: 8:30am

You must RSVP to this event. Please email Sam Brooks at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or text/call (828)-202-9811.

ROC Members Only Hike at Chimney Rock State Park



Join ROC for a hike at Chimney Rock State Park on Saturday, April 9th at 11 am! This is a great opportunity for our members to see some spectacular views and to hike some incredible trails. We

will be visiting the beautiful Hickory Nut Falls and hiking to the top of Chimney Rock! RSVP for further details about meeting location.

Date: Saturday, April 9th

Time: 11 am

You must RSVP to this event. Please email Sam Brooks at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or text/call (828)-202-9811.

Rail Trail Clean-Up

The Rail Trail is a great resource for many people in Rutherford County, but needs some periodic work to keep it pristine. On Saturday, April 16th, ROC will clean up litter and debris along the trail and we need volunteers from the community to help us. We will divide into groups and each group will cover about a mile of trail. This clean-up will coincide with the Keep Rutherford County Beautiful County-wide Litter Sweep happening throughout the month. We will be meeting at 10 am in the left side parking lot at the McDonald's in Spindale, 810 W. Main Street, Spindale, NC.



Volunteers should dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks as needed. ROC will provide gloves, trash bags, and a few grabbers. Volunteers can bring their own gloves/grabbers, if desired. Come help us keep the Rail Trail beautiful and safe for everyone! This is also a great opportunity for anyone that has volunteer hours that need to be met and a great way to get ready for Earth Day!

Date: Saturday, April 16th

Time: 10 am

You must RSVP to this event. Please email Sam Brooks at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or text/call (828)-202-9811.

ROC Hike: Wildflower Hike at Craggy Gardens



Come celebrate the beginning of spring with ROC by hiking the Craggy Gardens Trail on the Blue Ridge Parkway! This is an easy to moderate 1.9 mile out and back trail. This hike features a variety of beautiful spring wildflowers and hardwood trees. We will meet in the Visitor Center parking lot at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 23rd located

on Mile 364 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The address is 364 Blue Ridge Pkwy, Barnardsville, NC 29709.

Date: Saturday, April 23rd

Time: 10:30 am

You must RSVP to this event. Please email Sam Brooks at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or text/call (828)-202-9811.

Purple Martin Clean-Up

The Purple Martin Greenway is an incredible community asset, but periodically it needs some help to keep it beautiful. Come volunteer with ROC Monday, April 25th to clean up Cleghorn Creek, adjacent to the Purple Martin Greenway. We will be meeting in the gravel parking lot next to the ABC Store in Rutherfordton.

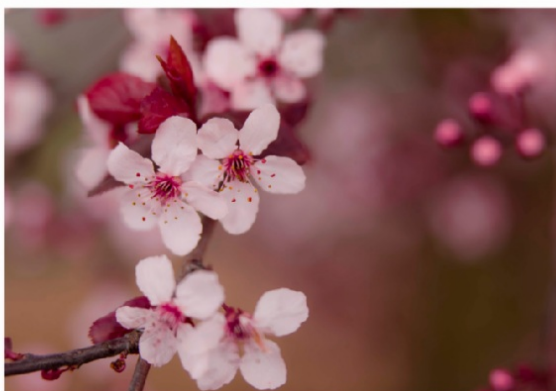
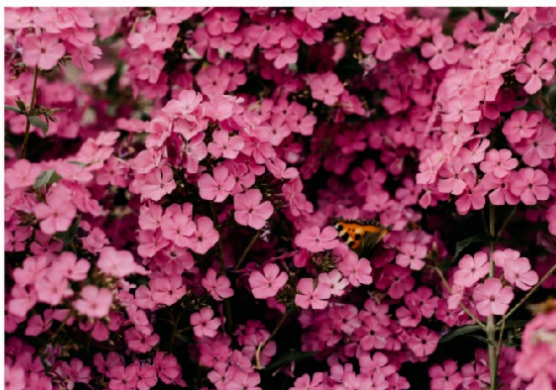
Volunteers should dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks as needed. ROC will provide gloves, trash bags, and a few grabbers. Come help us keep the area surrounding the Purple Martin Greenway beautiful! This is also a great opportunity for anyone that has volunteer hours that need to be met and a great way to get ready for Earth Day!



Date: Monday, April 25th

Time: 10 am

You must RSVP to this event. Please email Sam Brooks at trails@rutherforddoutdoor.org or text/call (828)-202-9811.



RUTHERFORD OUTDOOR COALITION'S PHOTO SERIES

Spring Flowers

APRIL 1 - APRIL 30

THIS MONTH'S PRIZE: A \$20 GIFT CARD TO
MAIN STREET MARKET

TO ENTER:

EMAIL YOUR PHOTOS TO TRAILS@RUTHERFORDOUTDOOR.ORG OR
COMMENT THEM BELOW ROC PHOTO CONTEST FACEBOOK POSTS
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.



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!

March Volunteer Days



Saturday April 2nd:

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, April 5th:

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails: [8 am - 10am](#)

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

Tuesday April 12th:

Buffalo Creek Park: [8 am - 12 pm](#)

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

Tuesday April 19th:

Isothermal Community College Trails: [8 am - 12 pm](#)

We will be continuing to work on the new trail reroute and improving the trail tread.

Tuesday April 26th:

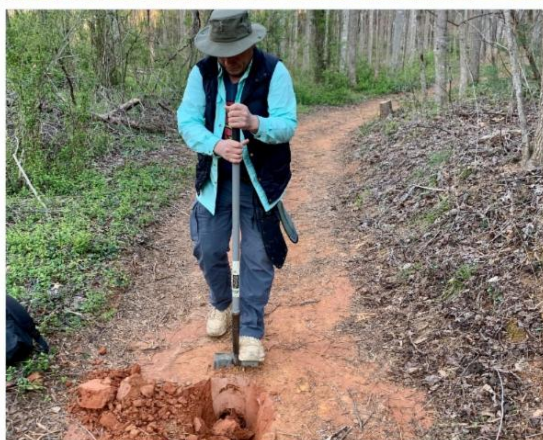
Weed Patch Mountain: [8 am - 1 pm](#)

We will be improving the trail tread and removing any downed trees.

Contact Sam at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-202-9811 to RSVP or for more information.

UPDATES

Updates on Dittmer-Watts Trails



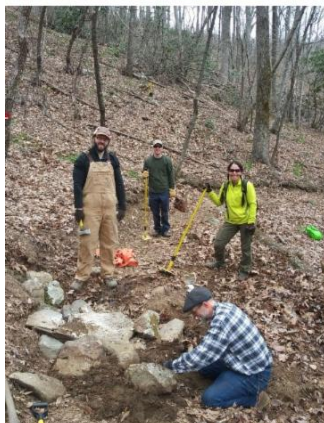
ROC had a fantastic workday at Dittmer-Watts! Volunteers spent the morning removing four trees from the Creekside Cliff, Mulberry, and Raptor Ridge Trails. They also fixed some holes in the trail to get rid of major tripping hazards. Thanks to much to our AMAZING volunteers for helping us maintain our local trails for everyone to enjoy!

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

Updates on Buffalo Creek Park and Weed Patch Mountain



ROC had another very productive workday at Buffalo Creek Park! Volunteers worked hard and spent the day making repairs to the trail tread. Two sections had been especially washed out, so volunteers armored these sections with rocks to hopefully prevent more erosion in the future. Thanks to our volunteers for helping us maintain these trails for hikers and bikers to enjoy.



ROC and the Town of Lake Lure had a great joint workday with Conserving Carolina's Rock Crushers at Weed Patch Mountain! Volunteers repaired a good section of the trail tread with rock armoring and drainage repair to prevent further erosion issues. Thanks so much to our volunteers and Conserving Carolina's for helping us maintain this amazing trail!

[More about Buffalo Creek Park](#)

Updates on the ICC Trails



ROC had a fantastic workday at ICC! Our amazing volunteers worked to create new trail that reconnected the Blue Trail East. Some sustainability improvements will be made on the next Trail Workday, but this section is open to trail users who can now hike the Blue Trail East without crossing into the neighboring property. We are so excited about this development and can't wait to finalize it! Thanks so much to our volunteers who came out and made this possible!

[More about the ICC Trail System](#)

ROC Hike at Green River Game Lands

ROC had a fantastic hike at the Green River Game Lands on the Green River and Bear Branch Loop! This was a long, challenging hike that made for an excellent workout. It featured numerous scenic views of the Green



River and surrounding forested area, including sprouting plants and blossoming flowers, making it an especially beautiful time to get outside! Thanks to everyone who came out and joined us!

Bird Hike at ICC

ROC had a fantastic time on the Birding Hike at ICC! It was a perfect morning to learn some bird identification techniques! Guided by ROC President and avid birder Jerry Stensland, a total of 26 bird species were identified on this hike! Thanks to everyone who came, it was a wonderful turnout!



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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Rutherfordton, NC 28139
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Contact Us



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