

A Cool, Moist, (But Warm) Spring Social Stuart English

Seventy-five brave souls came to Carolina Mountain Club's 14th Annual Spring Social. Nineteen of them attended the two hikes led by Bobbi Powers and Michael and Kathy Corrn in the rain. The previous day the area had received an unprecedented amount of rain in less than 12 hours. The French Broad River was creeping onto Highway 191 at the entrance of the Arboretum, where the Social was held. Bent Creek seemed almost Straight Creek there was so much water in it.

But as Les Love pointed out, this event transcends weather. The veteran organizer of the event mentioned several of our older members present: Sherman Stambaugh (98), Lew Blodgett (96), and spring chicken Carroll Koeplinger (not yet 90). Les then identified several Trail Maintainers in attendance including the amazing Rich Evans. Rich has organized three new trail crews, taken on various duties concerning these groups, and has become the renaissance man of trail maintenance for CMC. Les asked for a standing ovation to all the folks who got out and worked on the trails every week. It was delivered.



Sherman Stambaugh, left and Ken Deal

Bubba Q once again catered the meal. There was no beer or wine this year; but we were all high on life!



The event ended with "An Evening with Brew." Brew Davis, the husband of Jennifer Pharr Davis, is a talented singer song writer and guitar player, who has recorded several CDs in Nashville. The thoughtful lyrics and mellow chording of his guitar seemed to fit the evening very well.

So as we drove home in the dusk, the waters parted for us, the fog started rising from the wet earth, and we enjoyed the satisfaction of spending time with old and new friends.