

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB

Hike -- Make Friends -- Save Trails

PROCLAMATION

The Great Smoky Mountain National Park was born seventy-five years ago. Now this land preserved for all future generations is a wealth of cultural heritage, recreation opportunities, and biological diversity. Its 800 miles of trails with numerous backcountry campsites and shelters provide a diversified and welcoming place to hike and backpack.

The Carolina Mountain Club, established in 1923 in Asheville, was an early proponent of the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Among the strongest advocates for the park were three early members of the Club: Dr. Chase Ambler, Horace Kephart, and George Masa.

Dr. Chase Ambler is considered the Western North Carolina father of the movement which eventually established the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Horace Kephart, author of *Our Southern Highlanders*, wrote many articles in favor of preserving the Smokies. George Masa's exquisite photographs illustrated the value of the land that needed to be saved. In their honor, three peaks in the park bear their names: Mt Kephart (1931), Mt. Ambler (1953), and Masa Knob (1961).

Through the years, the Carolina Mountain Club has sponsored many hikes in the park. In many cases, newcomers to the area do their first hike in the park with CMC. The Club remains actively involved in issues related to the preservation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

This year, as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park celebrates its 75th anniversary, I urge all hikers to recognize the importance of the Smokies and enjoy its wonderful hiking trails.

Now, therefore, I, Becky Smucker, President of the Carolina Mountain Club, proclaim that we applaud the Great Smoky Mountain National Park on its 75th anniversary.

Proclaimed in Asheville, North Carolina on this the 24th day of April, 2009



Becky Smucker, President, 2009