



Benton MacKaye Trail Association

P.O. Box 53271, Atlanta, GA 30355-1271

WWW.BMTA.ORG

February, 2006

State of the Trail, NC / TN

Bill Ristom, TN/NC Maintenance Director

The new year gives us pause to reflect on the one that's gone before. (written mid-January) By all accounts, it couldn't have been much better in BMT-Middle. February saw a near-record worktrip turnout of over 30 volunteers for the End Of Construction celebration. Regular monthly work trips began on the newly completed trail and averaged 11.4 maintainers-per-outing, a solid start for this most remote segment of the trail.

Volunteer efforts continued to be anchored by 'The Four Horsemen of the Trail Extension'; Clayton Pannell, Ken Jones, Gary Smith, and Robert Owenby. These guys are probably getting tired of being repeatedly thanked for all their work on the BMT. If y'all will allow me, the BMTA really doesn't have a way to express sufficient gratitude. With deepest appreciation, thank you.

The other 64 (mortal) volunteers brought the total to 68 (not counting Eagle Ranch) people who worked on the middle 100 miles of BMT in 2005. Of these, 16 earned USFS parking passes with 20-or-more hours in the same ranger district. (Six earned passes in 2-or-more districts, one in 3-or-more, and two in all four districts.) Unfortunately, 5 volunteers had enough hours, but they weren't all in the same district. The passes are good for the entire forest where earned. See page 3 for a summary listing of maintainer efforts in TN/NC in 2005.

A heartfelt thanks to all who worked, and continue to work, on trail. Also to all you BMTA members who help support this effort with your membership. These funds help us buy tools and run programs that keep the trail open. We together look forward to an even better year in 2006.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2006

By Tony Oldfield

It is that time again! The dues for annual members became due on January 1, 2006. Please complete the form on page 3 and mail it with your check to the address shown on the form. The rates remain unchanged and are:

Student/Retired - \$15; Individual - \$20; Family - \$30; Corporate - \$50 and these may be converted to Life membership with payment of \$400.

Please consider adding a donation to your dues since our expenses continue to rise and we are a non profit organization.

Reroute in Georgia

Walt Cook

Our first major relocation since the completion of the trail last year has begun. On Friday, January 13, Tom Keene, George Owen and Walt Cook began flagging a reroute on the south side of Wallalah Mountain. The purpose was to eliminate the dangerous, steep, rocky segment that has caused several falls recently.

We left GA 60 at 10AM and climbed to the second switchback, just below the problem area. The three of us negotiated the steep and slippery hillside, trying to put the trail on areas with surface rock that could be moved, rather than bedrock. We were making good progress when the rain began, followed shortly by lightning and thunder at 12:30. We hurried down off the mountain, getting thoroughly soaked on the way. But the three of us used our down time wisely by sitting in George's living room, solving all the major problems of the world while we dried out.

Saturday morning, we awoke to a snow-covered landscape, but fortunately, the roads weren't icy. We returned to Wallalah and resumed our efforts. By luck, just as we were connecting two segments of flagged route, Tom found an old road that we thought might go to the gap between Wallalah and Licklog. We followed it and it came out on the trail some distance above the gap, but below where the trail gets steep going up Wallalah. So we flagged it back, planning on using it as an alternate route.

Our wanderings brought us to a huge, long monolith that George named Turtlehead Rock. Since it had a large overhang, we sat under it to eat lunch and ponder our next move. That was to re-flag the first line to bring it lower and miss some nasty-looking rock. We think we have a good route, but it will need to be checked, because the great and world-renowned trail expert (Walt) had left the clinometer on George's porch, so all of Saturday's slopes were estimates. We will return on January 27 to tidy up the flagged lines, WITH a clinometer. We will also flag a reroute on the steep upper part of Licklog Mt; and a short one near the GA 60 trailhead, to eliminate a short but difficult series of steps.

Once the Forest Service looks at the route, they will do botanical and archaeological surveys on it. With luck, we may be building new trail next fall.

NEW MEMBERS

By Tony Oldfield

Please welcome new members Keith Roberts of Stone Mountain, GA and Stuart Tauber of Asheville, NC.

Question-of-the-Month

Got question? Send to
Question@BMATA.org

Tennessee/North Carolina Maintainer Hours

(Previously unreported, through 2005 year end)

Recorded by Bill Ristom

Maintainer	Date	Section	Work	Travel	Total
Steven Cartwright	11/12/05	13b	6.5	1.5	8
Linda Davis	11/12/05	13b	6.5	1.5	8
Ernest Engman	08/07/05	19b	8.5	2	10.5
Matthew Engman	08/07/05	19b	8.5	2	10.5
William Engman	08/07/05	19b	8.5	2	10.5
Ken Jones	07/20/05	14a	7	2	9
Ken Jones	08/11/05	13c	7.5	1.5	9
Ken Jones	10/28/05	18a	6	2.5	8.5
Ken Jones	11/12/05	13b	6.5	1.5	8
Ken Jones	12/03/05	18a	3	2	5
Ken Jones	12/07/05	18a	6	2.5	8.5
Bill Lundin	08/06/05	12d	4	4	8
Kent Mathews	11/12/05	13b	6	3.5	9.5
Pam Mathews	11/12/05	13b	6	3.5	9.5
Matt Mcwain	08/06/05	12d	4	4	8
George Owen	10/05/05	14c	5.8	2	7.8
Robert Owenby	08/11/05	13c	7.5	2	9.5
Robert Owenby	09/30/05	18b	8.5	4	12.5
Robert Owenby	10/19/05	18a	6.5	4	10.5
Robert Owenby	10/28/05	13c	5	1.5	6.5
Robert Owenby	11/02/05	18b	8	4	12
Robert Owenby	11/04/05	13c	3	1.5	4.5
Robert Owenby	11/12/05	13b	6.5	1.5	8
Robert Owenby	12/27/05	18b	6	4	10
Clayton Pannell	07/20/05	14a	7	2	9
Clayton Pannell	08/11/05	13c	7.5	1	8.5
Clayton Pannell	11/12/05	13b	6.5	1.5	8
Bill Ristom	04/05/05	11b	8	2	10
Bill Ristom	11/12/05	13b	6.5	1.5	8
Diana Ristom	04/05/05	11b	8	2	10
Diana Ristom	07/20/05	14a	7	2	9
Al Rymer	11/12/05	13b	1	1	2
Gary Smith	07/20/05	14a	7	2	9

American Hiking Society Membership

The BMATA is a member of the Alliance of Hiking Organizations within the American Hiking Society (AHS). This makes all BMATA members eligible for a \$5 discount off AHS's basic individual membership, which brings the cost down to \$25. membership dues are \$30.

For more information, call 1-800-972-8608 ext. 207, or visit AHS's website at www.americanhiking.org/join, or send an email to: Membership@AmericanHiking.org, or write to:

American Hiking Society
1422 Fenwick Lane

Attn: Membership Department
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Q: "I do all my business online using my credit card. With BMATA membership dues coming up, it makes me think of what a pain in the butt it is to write a check, put it in a paper envelope, put a stamp on it (Postal rates have gone up again.) and mail it the old-fashioned way. Why doesn't the BMATA take credit cards and make my life easier?"

Diana Ristom, Publicity Director and Chair of the Website Committee, replies:

As our organization continues to grow, the board is making changes to keep pace. This is one of the potential improvements to be considered this year. Since going to a new web-service provider in December (at a cost savings), the BMATA now has the opportunity to consider accepting credit cards for everything from annual dues to merchandise to special contributions. We must keep in mind that the total costs for this convenience may be as high as 4%. But that could easily be offset by increased activity, i.e. more people joining or renewing because it's more convenient, more merchandise sold, etc.

A nice feature of being able to take credit cards is that anyone would be able to use the service, not just those with internet access. One could not only do transactions on our website, but could also call directly by phone; even hand-written notes delivered in person would work! Unfortunately, even if the board decides to approve this measure, there will be a delay while the website is modified so it probably won't be ready for accepting dues by the cutoff date for this membership year.

Feedback from the general membership is important and will be considered! If you have an opinion on this, please use the [Contact Us](#) form on your website, www.BMATA.org. Those with no internet access can feel free to call me at 423-476-2945.

2005 Maintainer Summary Report, TN/NC

Total hours are listed in each of the four US Forest Service ranger districts. If all your hours are not reported correctly, please contact Bill Ristom (see back page).

	Year			
	Cheoah	Ocoee	Tellico	Tusquitee Total
Jerrad Barne	-	-	7.0	7.0
Sara Barne	-	-	7.0	7.0
David Bennie	-	-	10.0	10.0
Steve Biatowas	-	8.0	-	8.0
David Blount	-	-	16.5	16.5
Donald Bodley	-	-	7.5	7.5
Harry Bolton	-	63.0	-	63.0
Claire Broadwell	-	-	8.0	8.0
David Caldwell	-	-	8.0	8.0
Steven Cartwright	6.0	18.0	29.5	53.5
Wes Clonts	-	-	12.0	12.0
Linda Davis	6.0	20.5	34.0	60.5
Marty Dominy	-	-	16.5	16.5
Darcy Douglas	-	-	8.0	8.0
Larry Dumas	-	-	5.0	5.0
Eric Eades	-	9.5	13.0	22.5
Tamera Easterly	-	7.5	-	7.5
Bill Edmondson	-	-	10.0	10.0
Ernest Engman	26.0	-	11.0	37.0
Matthew Engman	26.0	-	11.0	37.0
William Engman	26.0	-	11.0	37.0
Dick Evans	9.5	-	11.0	20.5
Margaret Evans	9.0	-	8.0	17.0
Debbie Flower	-	10.0	-	10.0
Lee Gooch	-	7.5	-	7.5
Philip Gooch	-	7.5	-	7.5
Chuck Hall	-	58.5	10.0	68.5
Bill Hamrick	-	15.0	-	15.0
Eric Harris	-	4.5	8.0	12.5
Mike Harwood	6.0	-	13.0	19.0
Tina Hatfield	-	-	8.0	8.0
Gail Henley	-	-	10.0	10.0
Danny Jones	-	16.5	5.5	22.0
Ken Jones	23.5	116.0	254.5	421.0
Tom Keene	-	-	8.0	8.0
Eric Lewis	-	18.5	18.5	37.0
Patti Logan	-	-	13.0	13.0
Bill Lundin	-	22.0	66.5	88.5
Autumn Manor	-	-	11.0	11.0
Lyndsi Manor	-	-	11.0	11.0
Kent Mathews	-	9.5	-	9.5
Pam Mathews	-	9.5	-	9.5
Matt Mcwain	-	12.0	-	12.0

Cheoah Ocoee Tellico Tusquitee Total

Ricky Mcwain	-	4.0	-	-	4.0
Brandon O'Rear	-	9.0	-	-	9.0
George Owen	-	28.0	-	-	28.0
Robert Owenby	-	66.5	135.5	-	202.0
Clayton Pannell	20.5	178.5	154.5	27.0	380.5
Betty Petty	-	-	6.0	-	6.0
Lamar Powell	-	12.0	8.0	-	20.0
Ryan Ragsdale	-	-	8.0	-	8.0
Ted Reissing	-	-	9.0	-	9.0
Wayne Ridgeway	-	9.5	-	-	9.5
Bill Ristom	6.0	89.0	42.0	10.5	147.5
Diana Ristom	6.0	76.5	42.0	10.5	135.0
Bill Ross	-	-	10.5	-	10.5
Al Rymer	-	2.0	7.0	-	9.0
Cindi Shumpurt	-	-	8.0	-	8.0
Paul Shumpurt	-	-	8.0	-	8.0
Bryan Smith	-	7.0	-	-	7.0
Gary Smith	15.5	88.5	122.5	30.0	256.5
John C. Smith	-	16.0	-	-	16.0
Wade Smith	-	-	8.5	-	8.5
Ralph VanPelt	-	-	6.0	-	6.0
Gerrit Voogt	-	-	8.0	-	8.0
Steve Winslett	-	9.0	42.5	-	51.5



25TH ANNIVERSARY BMTA HIKE - Pictured above are ten of the eleven who completed the October 15 trek of the Flat Creek Loop off Aska Road near Blue Ridge. Front: David Kelsey, Victoria Kelsey, Laurice Haney, Linda Davis, Maryann Kelsey, George Owen. Back: Jim Lumpkins, Walt Cook, David Sherman, Ron Jayson. Eleventh member Mary Hughes Frye snapped the picture. (Photo by George Owen)

2006 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS NOW DUE. PLEASE REMIT PROMPTLY.

INDIVIDUAL \$20 FAMILY \$30 LIFE MEMBER \$400 STUDENT/RETIRED \$15 CORPORATE \$50 DONATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

PHONE (home) _____ (work) _____ email _____

Please mail this form and your check to:
BMTA
P.O. BOX 53271
ATLANTA, GA 30355-1271



Work trips and other events

Members are reminded that it is important to call the trip leader prior to the event to confirm times and meeting places.

January 28 - Georgia Work Trip. On the Falls Branch section (Section Six). We will refresh some side-hilling, install some new water diversions and clean old ones. Meet at the East Ellijay (not Blue Ridge) Waffle King at 8:00 AM. Or meet at the Falls Branch Trailhead off Stanley Gap Road at 9:15 AM. Trip leaders are Doug Kleiber 706-369-6655 (dkleiber@uga.edu) and Walt Cook, 706-549-5979 (wcook@negia.net).

February 11 - Tennessee/North Carolina Work Trip
Tentatively slated for a section on the Hiwassee River. Please contact Bill Ristom, Ristoms@hotmail.com, 423-476-2945 for more information.

February 25 - Georgia Work Trip. On beautiful, isolated Section Eight, between McKenny Gap and Hatley Gap). We will refresh side-hilling, install some new water diversions and clean old ones. Meet at the East Ellijay (not Blue Ridge) Waffle King at 8:00 AM. Or meet at the Bush Head Gap trailhead at 9:15 AM, from which we will carpool in to the parking area beyond Hudson Gap. Trip leader is Tom Keene 770-422-4838 (tkeene@kennesaw.edu).

March 18 - Tennessee/North Carolina Work Trip Special - 3rd Saturday. The Sycamore Creek Trail (on Bald River Rd. above Tellico Plains, TN) is on an old railroad bed. This makes for an easy grade and the trail does climb one of the prettiest hollers in this part of the country. But the treadway needs a lot of help to make it comfortable walking for hikers. Trail maintainers may be coming in from all around so contact one of the trip leaders for carpool arrangements; Kent and Pam Mathews, 865-945-2758 pmath0804@yahoo.com and thundball@aol.com or Bill Ristom, ristoms@hotmail.com, (423) 476-2945.

Need updated Work Trip and Fun Hike Info?
Check the "Scheduled Activity" link on the Homepage of www.BMTA.org.
Always available and up-to-date!

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