



Newsletter of the

# BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Volume 29, No 6

September 2009

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Next Issue Deadline - Oct 10

## 2009 BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

**WHO?**  
**WHEN?**  
**WHERE?**

**COME ONE, COME ALL!**  
**NOVEMBER 6, 7, & 8, 2009**  
**COKER CREEK VILLAGE, TENNESSEE!**

What better way to spend a fall weekend than hiking and relaxing in the beautiful Cherokee National Forest. Join us in the idyllic setting of Coker Creek Village where we will seat the 2010 board of directors, enjoy nearby day hikes, and spend time getting to know each other better. Richard Harris, TN/NC Maintenance Director, is putting together a slate of hikes for Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday morning so leave the tools at home and let's celebrate 29 years of constructing and maintaining the Benton MacKaye Trail. Saturday night is set aside for a group dinner from 6:00 to 7:00 followed by the meeting of the membership, election of 2010 board, and a guest speaker. Our featured speaker will be Bob Richards, TN Greenways and Trails Program Coordinator. Mr. Richards has an extensive background in trail construction in Tennessee, and we are fortunate to have him as our speaker for the evening. Guests are welcome but please remember to include them in your reservation. New or renewing memberships paid for at this event will be good for the 2010 calendar year.

To ensure your spot in this year's event and to help us in planning for meals and accommodations you need to make your reservation now. Reservations and payments for just the Saturday night meal and meeting as well as any combination of meals and bunkhouse accommodations should be sent to: BMTA P.O. Box 53271 Atlanta, GA 30355-1271. The deadline for receiving reservations for bunkhouse accommodations or just the Saturday night meal is Monday, October 26. Please cut out or photo copy the options table on page 2, fill out the information for the option you have chosen, and include with your payment to the appropriate address. Please include a contact number or e-mail also. For general questions you may contact David Blount at [bmtahiker@aol.com](mailto:bmtahiker@aol.com) (See various charge options on page 2)

## BMTA Officers

President: ..... Ralph Heller  
Vice President: ..... David Blount  
Secretary: ..... Margaret Meadows  
Treasurer: ..... Darcy Douglas  
GA Maintenance: ..... Tom Keene  
TN/NC Maintenance: ..... Richard Harris  
Smokies Maint.: ..... Dick Evans  
Construction: ..... Eric Eades  
Membership: ..... Bill Hamrick  
Publicity: ..... Jeff Hunter  
Hiking Director: ..... Bob Ruby  
Newsletter Editor: ..... Betty Petty  
Conservation: ..... Denny Rhodes  
Past Pres.: ..... Steve Cartwright  
State Rep. - GA: ..... Walt Cook  
State Rep. - TN: ..... Ken Jones  
State Rep. - NC: ..... Butch Horn

## Calendar

- Oct 10** - GA Maint. - Tom Keene  
770-422-4838
- Oct 17** - Keene Color Hike pg. 2
- Oct 24** - TN/NC Maint. - Rick  
Harris 423-353-6368
- Oct 25** - Dayhike, 10.5 miles across  
Wayah and Siler Balds at  
peak fall color, George  
Owen, **706-374-4716**.
- Nov 6-8** - Annual Meeting!
- Nov 27-29** - Backpack Page 2
- May 22-26, 2010** SEFTC Meeting

## ARTICLE IV. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section 9. ELECTION PROCEDURE.

At least 90 days before the Annual Meeting, the President shall present to the Executive Committee for approval nominees for a Nominating Committee, consisting of at least three members of the Association and including a resident from at least two of the three states through which the trail passes. The President shall designate the Chair of the Nominating Committee. At least 60 days before the annual meeting the Nominating Committee shall publish a list of nominees. The Nominating Committee shall present a list of nominees for election to the membership at the Annual Meeting; such nominations shall not preclude nominations from the floor at the time of the election with the prior consent of the nominees. Election may be by secret or voice vote. See report of the nominating committee on page 3.

- Option 1: \_\_\_\_\_ (number of persons) x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total payment for Saturday night meal and meeting only\*.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(\*Note: attendance of the meeting only is free)
- Option 2: \_\_\_\_\_ (number of persons) x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total payment for bunkhouse Saturday night, dinner Saturday night, and breakfast Sunday morning.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Option 3: \_\_\_\_\_ (number of persons) x \$60 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total payment for bunkhouse Friday & Saturday night, breakfast, lunch, and dinner Saturday, and breakfast Sunday.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Option 4: For persons wishing to share a leadership cabin, which is fully furnished and has a private bathroom. These cabins have a queen bed and a futon for sleeping. Several include a bunk bed in addition to the queen bed. The price for these cabins is \$40 per night not including meals. The total charge depends on the number of meals desired and nights stayed. For example, the charge for 2 persons staying Saturday night in a cabin with Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast is \$104.

To make a reservation for Option 4 please contact Leal Giddens at Coker Creek Village P.O. Box 96 Coker Creek, TN 37314  
Telephone: 423-261-2310 Toll Free: 800-448-9580  
Fax: 423-261-2518 E-mail: [leal@cokercreekvillage.com](mailto:leal@cokercreekvillage.com)  
Web: [www.cokercreekvillage.com](http://www.cokercreekvillage.com)

We look forward to seeing you at this year's event. This will be an excellent opportunity for non-members to see what our organization is about so bring a friend. Please see our website, [www.bmta.org](http://www.bmta.org) for additional and updated information. Thanks in advance for making your reservation early. Happy Trails!

## Smokies Loop Backpack - November 27-29 (Fri-Sun)

**Rating:** Strenuous, moderate distances

**Leader:** Bob Ruby

**Co-Leader:** Regina Reiter

Work off some Thanksgiving calories on one of the best loop hikes in the Smokies. This is a joint GATC/BMTA backpack.

We will start and end the loop at the Big Creek Campground near Davenport Gap. After the drive, on the first day we will climb 5.1 miles on the Big Creek/Walnut Bottom Trail to the Lower Walnut Bottom Campsite. On the second day, we will climb the Swallow Fork Trail to the BMT and hike on the BMT to Mt. Sterling. On the third day we hike 6.1 miles down the BMT/Baxter Creek Trail back to the campground. Maximum: eight hikers. To register contact: Bob Ruby at [bob.ruby.2@gmail.com](mailto:bob.ruby.2@gmail.com) or 404-252-8888, or Regina Reiter at [rbrfuture@juno.com](mailto:rbrfuture@juno.com) or 404-286-8913.

*Announcing the 2nd Annual Jane Keene Jacks River Fall Color Hike! Last year's was a treat. Let's do it again!*

### **BMT (GA) Fall Color Dayhike: Dally Gap to the Jacks River**

**Date:** Saturday 17 October 2009

**Rating:** Easy to Moderate (your choice)

**Distance:** 5-6 miles

**Max # hikers:** 10

**Co-leaders:** Jane and Tom Keene

We will meet at 10 am near Blue Ridge, then carpool to Dally Gap, arriving about 11am. Then we hike a mile up Hemp Top Trail to Spanish Oak Gap and the intersection with the BMT. We go south on the BMT 1.4 miles to the junction with the Jacks River Trail (JRT). Then we turn right on the JRT and follow it about a mile and a half to the river. We will walk along the river until we agree on a lunch spot. The peak fall color in north Georgia can occur between the second and fourth week in October. Here's hoping....

We will do a leisurely lunch. Hang out; explore a little. Bring the Texas/Crocs and a walking stick if you want to ford the Jacks River. The fording party will go down river perhaps a half mile along the JRT before doing an about face. Once back to the crossing spot the River ford will awaken the dry feet from their post-lunch naps and follow the JRT back up to Dally Gap.

To reserve a spot in this award winning hike, call **770-422-4838**, or (after 3pm Friday the day before) **770-722-6016**.  
Max # hikers: 10 -- Sign up **NOW**



Hikers crossing the Jacks River