



# Benton MacKaye Trail Association



VOLUME 28, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 31, 2011

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Vice President:	David Blount
Secretary:	Sara Bland
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TN/NC Maintenance:	Rick Harris
Smokies Coord:	Ernie Engman
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State Rep GA:	Bob Ruby
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State Rep NC:	Vacant

**Sunrise Photo at  
the Hike Inn by:  
Ralph Heller**

## Phyllis and Ken Announce Engagement

**The Hiking Community would like to announce the engagement of Phyllis Loman of Hiawassee, GA. to Ken Jones of Athens, TN.**

On a snowy December evening, hikers with the BMTA witnessed a surprise twist during the end of George Owen's presentation at the Hike Inn when romantic music began playing, Ken, a major contributor in the building of the BMT, knelt before Phyllis and the deal



was sealed with a beautiful engagement ring. Tears and laughter rippled throughout the dining hall, chocolate cherry cordials showered down and Darcy Douglas called from Alaska in a merry celebration of the proposal. No wedding date has been announced yet but it will likely occur anywhere hiking trails merge. Happy Trails to a wonderful couple!

## Benton MacKaye Trail Association

Click on BMTA

**BMTA at the Hike Inn**

# President's Column

## President's Column

### Year End Recap by Dick Evans

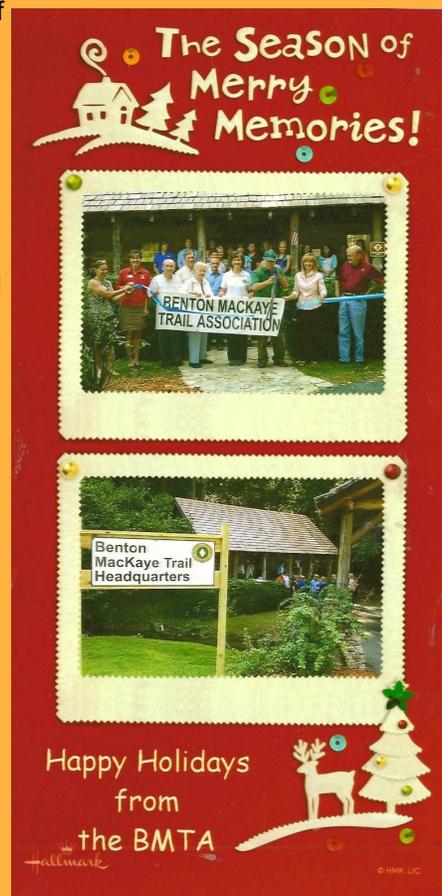
We had three key issues this year and I wanted to let the Membership know what we have accomplished this. First, we migrated from a printed to an electronic newsletter this year. While not without concern, it had become clear to the Board of Directors over the past several years that a majority of our funds were being used to print and distribute the newsletter. In addition, it was taking some 3-4 weeks between the time the Editor submitted the copy and the time Members received it in their mail. This delay was unavoidable in the way we were doing things at the time, and it produced a great deal of frustration and concern by all involved. In January, we started distributing the newsletter electronically, and, although we had a few glitches on the way, overall, it seems to have been well accepted by the Members. It can still be printed by those who prefer to have their hands on a physical copy, so most of the concerns about readability seems to have been answered. By changing this method of distribution, the BMTA saved some \$3,000 per year in printing and mailing costs. It is the intention of the Board that the majority of these funds be used in support of the Trail, in terms of more equipment, signage and training. The upcoming "Training for Maintaining" Session on March 10th (more in another article) is being funded in great measure by this savings of postage and printing. In addition, we purchased Chainsaw Packs for the maintenance trips. These funds would not have been available had it not been for the saving by the electronic distribution.

A second issue was the move of the "World Headquarters" from the shed at the Sisson Pavilion to the new (at least to us) building at the Sisson Sales Pavilion in Blue Ridge. The new building gives us much more room, but more importantly, given its location right on a major highway, gives greater visibility to the Association. Ralph and Marge Heller have taken the lead in setting things up there, helped greatly by Tom Mitchell and many others. We now have a place to display some of the awards and recognition the Association has received over the years. The building is manned from time to time on major Holidays and we have roadside signs to attract folks to the building and hear about the Association. We are deeply grateful to Joe Sisson and his folks for allowing us to use this facility.

The third major accomplishment was the first successful coordination with the American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacation Program, set up by Shirley Banks and Rick Harris. This resulted in a fantastic group of folks volunteering their vacation time to work on the Benton MacKaye Trail. We have requested more crews this year, and details will be released once AHS has finalized things. The advantage of having a group of 8-10 folks for four days of hard work on the Trail cannot be overemphasized. We really appreciate all they did, and look forward to hosting many more crews.

On a personal note, it has been my privilege to have served as President in 2011. We have a great group of folks volunteering to maintain trail and perform the administrative duties involved in running a group as diverse as ours. All the Board of Directors deserves special thanks for all that they do. As for the trail maintainers, your efforts can be summarized by a comment made by a US Forest Service District Ranger. We were at a recreational users meeting and discussing budgetary issues on the Forest Service and the resulting lack of trail maintenance in general. The District Ranger, in public and before their Forest Supervisor, said "If I had three more groups like the Benton MacKaye (Trail Association), all my trails would be in great shape!" That really sums up the contributions by all the trail maintainers, so, at the close of 2011, let me thank all of you for your dedication to the Trail. It could not exist without you!

Happy Holidays,  
Dick Evans

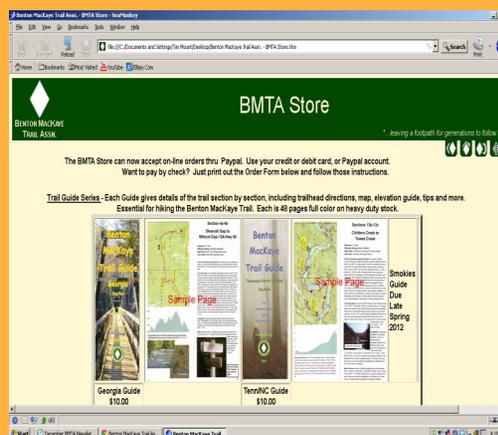


# BMTA Store Open for Business

By Dick Evans

The BMTA Store is now on line, at least partially. We have been working for a while to bring the Store items on line to give Members a better chance to get BMTA materials. This is a multi-phase issue, and we have put the printed materials, such as Guide Books, Databook, Thru-Hiker Guide and the Tim Homan "Hiking the Benton MacKaye Trail" book up first. You can see what we have by going to [www.bmta.org](http://www.bmta.org) and clicking the BMTA Store link. You can buy these items using your Credit or Debit Card, or your Paypal Account on-line. You can also print out an Order Sheet with instructions if you choose to pay by check. By the way, using Paypal as we do, for Memberships as well as Merchandise, the BMTA never has access to your credit card information. All we get is information about what was purchased and where to send it, so you don't have to worry about the BMTA storing your personal information. The Board of Directors has affirmed that we will not, and have not, given or exchanged any member information with any outside organization, ie, we don't sell member lists, etc. As many old time members know, we used to distribute a Membership Roster on an annual basis to all members, but with the expanded numbers, this would now be a 30 page list, and the cost of preparation and mailing was too great for us to continue this practice. In addition some members

did not want their information shared in this manner. The BMTA Store page gives details of each publication, including sample pages and basic information. For those of you in Georgia, the check-out procedure will add Sales Tax to the order. Shipping is, for now, by number of items in the order. Items are being shipped from Robbinsville, NC, but this may change in the future. The format of the sales page will probably change as we add more items to the offerings. The next class of items to be added will be patches, rockers, bumper stickers and the like, and last will be clothing. We should have everything on the site by late January.



# Will The Real Ralph Please Stand Up....By Gene Nix

The November issue of our Newsletter contained an excellent article giving an overview of a downloadable application for the iPhone called GPS Motion X. It detailed how this application could give the iPhone all the functionality of a dedicated full-featured GPS receiver. The author was listed as Ralph Harris. The only problem with Ralph Harris is he doesn't exist. The actual author was Ralph Heller. Somehow throughout the frenzy of editing our newsletter, Ralph Heller and Rick Harris merged to become, Ta



Da.....Ralph Harris. Now for those of you that know Ralph and Rick better than myself, you might agree that this Ralph Harris fellow could actually have been an excellent addition to our association. However, since my ability of cloning humans is somewhat limited, Ralph will stay Ralph and Rick will stay Rick. Now, to conclude this "rambling of words", I apologize to Ralph Heller for placing the credit for an excellent written and informative article to someone that doesn't even exist. However, Ralph Heller being the man he is, would have never said a word other than, " You know, that Ralph Harris fellow sure wrote a good article." Thank you, Ralph Heller, for a great article and I hope to see many more in the future.



# BMTA & GATC Section 8 Group Hike

**By Bob Ruby**

On November 26, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, our merry group of seven met to enjoy the longest section of the BMT in Georgia and to work off some turkey dinner. This was a joint hike with members from the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association. The weather cooperated with pleasant fall temperatures and no rain. After a brief discussion over breakfast, the group decided to eliminate the shuttle from Bushy Head Gap to Dyer Gap and hike and in-and-out to Hatley Gap. The trail was freshly blazed and in beautiful shape.



Most of our hike was along a ridge that offered great views on both sides with the leaves off the trees. We hiked to a nice spot just before Hatley Gap where we ate lunch and hiked back to our cars. We capped off a great day with milkshakes at the Ellijay Chick-Fil-A.



**GATC Members:**  
Susan Caster, Dawn Collinge,  
Sun Krieg, Doug Meade and Bob Ruby

**BMTA Members:**  
Gene Nix and Bob Ruby



## Membership Expires In December

### Reminder!

**Memberships expire at the end of December each year. Now is the time to renew your membership for 2012. Just go to the Website and click on the "Membership Info". You can pay using a credit or debit card, Paypal account or a personal check. Don't delay!**



## Whitehouse B&B Closing After 19 Years

By Ernie Engman

I've been updating information on service providers and thought this might be information other old-time members with the BMTA might want to know. Mardee & Dan Kauffman of Whitehouse B&B in Ducktown are packing it in after 19 years service. Mardee said it has been great serving hikers, but they can't keep it going and are moving to Blue Ridge. Mardee



even volunteered to help man the HQ at the Sisson place from time to time. As the members might know, not only did they run the B&B but they have also been volunteers for years at the White Water center on the Ocoee River. Their concern and care for hikers will be missed.

## Georgia Work Trip December 10

A good group came out on December 10 to continue work on a trail relocation near No Name Gap on Section 2. The trip leader is George Owen. Over 20 folks turned out to continue work on this project.



# BMTA FUN HIKE - Saturday, December 17, 2011

By Rick Harris

## BMT from TN68 to Coker Creek Bridge, then up the Coker Creek Falls Trail, 7.2 miles, moderate



Seventeen hikers enjoyed this chilly day in the Tennessee mountains with temps in the 30s all day. The day started with beautiful misty fog and ended in sunshine. We all met at the BMT / TN68 crossing north of the Hiwassee River at 9 AM, then shuttled cars to the Coker Creek Falls Trail Parking Lot, then returned to the TN68 crossing. We hiked out Unicoi Mountain with some ups and downs for the first 2 miles, then steadily downhill to the Coker Creek bridge the second 2 miles. The trail was in perfect condition with no logs and the brush was cut back nicely, due to

a recent work trip on this section.

We ate lunch down by the edge of Coker Creek, which was running full from the recent rains. We then headed up the Coker Creek Falls Trail with the creek almost constantly in sight over to our right with lots of small waterfalls and rapids. This trail was also in excellent condition due to recent work trips by the Coker Creek Ruritan Club who are responsible for maintaining this trail. One of our BMTA members, Marc Bernatti, organizes these

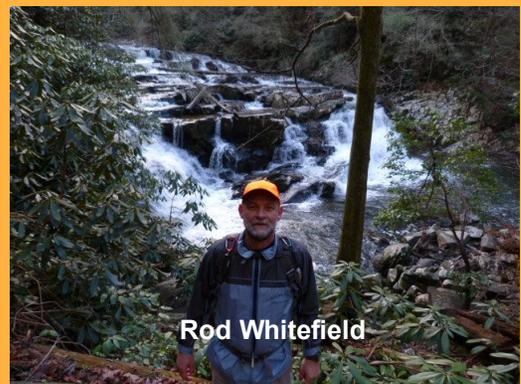


work trips. We finally reached the main falls around 2 PM and spent some time taking pictures and just enjoying the scenery. The falls were quite impressive due to the recent rains.



After the hike, the TN contingent returned to Tellico Plains for supper at the Tellico Outpost. The GA contingent ate at the Copper Pot in Ducktown.

Photos by Rod Whitfield



Rod Whitefield

## Hiking with Children: by Gene Nix

### Hiking with Children.....

I have been an avid outdoorsman and hiker since my youth. My father introduced me to the outdoors at an early age through weekly hikes and fishing trips. Being a father of four boys myself, I have had the opportunity to share my love for hiking with all four of my children. Seeing that my boys range in age from 4 to 31, I have been blessed with a hiking buddy throughout my entire life. It was, and continues to be, a rare occasion that I ever hike with anybody other than one of them. It also has been a rarity that I ever hike with anybody over 16. Sad as it might be, young boys lose much of that love for being with their father around the age of 16 and turn their interest toward things like girls and cars. I guess that is why I have always tried to keep a son or two within that range of birth to 16 so I would always have someone to pal around with.

A few weeks ago, I was invited by some young men I had met while hiking the Appalachian Trail, to join them on a 15 mile day hike in the Cohutta Wilderness. They were young professionals from Atlanta ranging in age from 26 to 33 years of age. This was a chance to do some male bonding and enjoy some real hiking, or so I thought. We met at Waffle House early on the morning of our hike to indulge in as much caffeine, cholesterol, and high calorie foods as possible. By the time we left, I was looking over my shoulder expecting either my cardiologist or the funeral director to be following me.

As we drove toward the trailhead, I could sense a feeling of uneasiness. I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but the excitement and fun I was accustomed to with my boys wasn't there. Instead of the smell of juicy fruit gum and blow pops, there was the strong smell of sweat and mildewed hiking equipment. Instead of giggling and boys polishing their pocket knives there was discussion concerning who was going to lead the hike and bets on how long it would take to make our destination.

I was already feeling uneasy about this hike and then I heard someone mention trail running. At that point I spoke up and said that I normally hiked a slower pace than they wanted to hike and if it was alright with them, I'd just bring up the rear and meet them at our shuttle vehicle. Being 56 years old and retired for over 4 years, I had forgotten what "Testosterone" did to a young male and how all mental reasoning left the body when it was in control.

These men were more concerned about the destination than the journey. On the other hand, my boys were all about the journey and many times didn't even have a destination. As we reached the trailhead, everyone but myself, leaped from the car. As I was getting out, I could catch a glimpse of them as they ran up to the trailhead and disappeared into the woods. Wow, what a morning. As I stretched and put on my day pack, I started missing my boys. I was thinking about what a long day this was going to be without James and John.



James is my 4 year old and John is 8 wanting to be 16. They would have already been asking when they could eat their "Honey Buns" we had brought for snacks. As I started my hike, I could only wonder how far these guys were ahead of me and what they were going to do as they waited on me.....I had the car keys, they had to wait. 15 miles was a long hike and even at my best speed, would take me at least 6 to 8 hours.

Gene and Brian are my older sons. Gene is 31 and Brian is 28. We hiked in the late 80's and early 90's. Our hiking then was no different than it is today with James and John. Nobody ever worried about getting there. What was important was what we saw, heard, smelled, climbed, and ate. James never saw a leaf that wasn't worthy of being picked up and every rock John saw was a rock that was worthy of being climbed. Our hikes consist of hiking a few feet, picking up a leaf, hiking a few feet, climbing a rock, hike a few more feet, have a snack, and repeat this process until time to make camp. Where we were never really mattered, only what we did on the way.

As dark was entering the forest, it had been almost 8 hours since my hike had begun. I hadn't seen any of the guys I had started with. Occasionally I would see a foot print or a Cliff Bar wrapper, but no men. Finally about five that afternoon I reached our shuttle vehicle. All my young friends were there and greeted me with the enthusiasm of a parent finding a lost child. I in turn greeted them and drove us back to our cars. We met once again at Waffle House for another cup of coffee before they drove back to Atlanta.

As they drove off I immediately phoned home and told Laura I was back and would be home in a few minutes. I then asked her to put me on speaker phone and let me talk with the boys. Once Laura rounded up James and John, I told them I was back and asked what they wanted to do after church tomorrow. I could hear both of them scream in unison 'let's go hiking!' As I said sure, their next question was, "Can we have a Honey Bun?"

# Maintainers Training Session-March 10

## "Training for Maintaining"

**Date** - March 10, 2012 (This is a change from prior announcement)

**Location** - Ocoee Whitewater Center Conference Room, Route 64 in Ocoee Gorge, Tennessee.

**Time** - 9 AM - 5 PM.

**Who should attend** - All current Section Maintainers, plus any folks who want to work on trail maintenance on the BMT.

The morning session will include trail design parameters and standards, hazards, safety briefings and reporting. The afternoon session will have a choice of First Aid and CPR certification, or "hands-on" instruction in trail maintenance techniques. Lunch will be provided by the BMTA.

We are limited by the size of the room, so Register by emailing "President@bmta.org" with the Subject "Maintainer Training", and we'll save you a spot!

**Maintainer**

**Training**

**Session on**

**March 10th.**

**More details**

**in next**

**Newsletter.**

# Smokies Hikers...Laurel Gap is Open

## Laurel Gap Shelter

The Laurel Gap Shelter is once again open. The Shelter had been closed for rehabilitation. Melissa Cobern at the National Park made the statement that the shelter was now reopened to hikers. This is an important stop on the BMT in the north-east corner of the Park.



# BMTA TN/NC Maintenance Reports...by Rick Harris

**November 26, 2011** - BMT Section 14a - Towee Creek to Motorcycle Trail - Eleven maintainers enjoyed this warm late November day following Thanksgiving, working off some of those excess calories on this 4.5 mile stretch of trail. The entire section is now maintained to standards with all logs removed and brushed out from where the BMT leaves the motorcycle trail on top of Unicoi Mountain down to the bridge over Coker Creek. Some sidehilling and filling in two holes in the trail from trees which fell taking out the trail with the rootball. We will probably do this work in the spring. All those present received a new BMTA trail maintainer car window sticker.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
Rick Harris	0.5	6	6.5
Larry Dunn	2.5	6	8.5
Shirley Adams	2	6	8
Chris Beck	2	6	8
Lucas Beck	2	6	8
Greta Farmer	2	6	8
Tom Smith	1	6	7
Richard Sullivan	3	6	9
Bill Hodge	0.5	6	6.5
Richard Taylor	2.5	5	7.5
Kim, friend of Richard Taylor	2.5	5	7.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>84.5</b>

**Nov 23, 2011** - BMT Section 12c - McFarland Road to Kimsey Highway - Sul Sullivan, section maintainer, returned and finished clearing the large tree from near Kimsey Highway.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
KB Sullivan	3	1	4

**Nov 22, 2011** - BMT Section 12c - McFarland Road to Kimsey Highway - Sul Sullivan, section maintainer, worked on clearing the large tree from the trail near Kimsey Highway until a rain storm made him retreat.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
KB Sullivan	3	2	5

**Continued on Next Page**

# BMTA TN/NC Maintenance...by Rick Harris

Nov 9, 2011 - BMT Section 12b - Dry Pond Lead to Kimsey Highway - Sul Sullivan, section maintainer, cleared 5 moderate and minor blowdowns/deadfalls with primitive tools, between Kimsey Crossing S/B to Powerline. He also brushed this stretch as necessary and cleared trash from Kimsey Crossing Trailhead. He surveyed from Powerline S/B to Dry Pond Lead.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
KB Sullivan	3	6	9

Nov 10, 2011 - BMT Section 12b - Dry Pond Lead to Kimsey Highway - Sul Sullivan, section maintainer, cleared 3 moderate and minor blowdowns/deadfalls with primitive tools, between Powerline S/B to Dry Pond Lead. Also brushed this stretch as necessary. Cleared trash from Powerline trailhead.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
KB Sullivan	3	5	8

Nov 17, 2011 - BMT Section 12c - McFarland Road to Kimsey Highway - Sul Sullivan, section maintainer, cleared many blowdowns/deadfalls again. Cleared four moderate (one was very "involved") and at least a dozen minor blowdowns/deadfalls with primitive tools, along entire section. One blowdown (600 yards N/B from Kimsey Crossing) will need a second visit to finish. I ran out of daylight. Trail is now easily passable at that spot, but there are three large limbs on the ground across the trail. I plan to return next week to either remove them or cut pass-through steps. Also, brushed section as necessary. Removed trash from the (Piney Flat) creek crossing and the McFarland Road trailhead. Discovered and removed yet another discarded tire near Kimsey Crossing.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
KB Sullivan	3	7	10

Friday, December 2, 2011 - BMT Section 12e - Lost Creek Section - [Report by Larry Dunn, section maintainer] - I updated the BMT blazes and added a few on Lost Creek. Because the trail is essentially a canyon along the entire creek portion with few ways to get lost, there is no real need for blazes there. But at both ends of the trail, it gets a bit confusing. I added a few blazes in those areas, especially where the trail leaves Lost Creek to cross a small mountain and another stream on its approach to Webb's Store. The gated 4-way intersection at the top of that small mountain had no BMTA blazes, but does now. This should help first-timers on the trail. I also did some rock work to fill a washed-out place at the point where the trail climbs steeply from Lost Creek to the road. On the return trip, I used my 18 inch pruning saw to remove a number of saplings of the 2 to 4 inch variety and my hand-snips to remove a modest amount of brush and briars. Overall, the trail was in good condition from work Tom Smith and I did earlier this year. The new signs at the end of Lost Creek look great. Five or six dead trees have fallen and need removal. They lie flat or low enough to step over and most are a foot or less in diameter. Tom, this might be a job for this winter. Brushing and weeding won't be needed probably before May, but will by then. It was a cold day, starting at 27 degrees.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
Larry Dunn	2.5	6	8.5

Continued on Next Page

# BMTA TN/NC Maintenance...by Rick Harris

**December 10, 2011 - BMT Section 19b - Little T to Slickrock Creek -** Ernie Engman (section maintainer) and his two sons got out to work on their section, clearing 11 trees and reworking about 20 yards of tread.



Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
Ernie Engman	2.5	4	6.5
Matthew Engman	2.5	4	6.5
William Engman	2.5	4	6.5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19.5</b>

## Nothing beats a day in the woods to elevate the spirit....

### Jan 14 Georgia Work Trip – By Tom Keene

We will work on Section 7b (Hwy 515 to the Shelter) refreshing side-hilling and cribbing several places in the Sisson Property. This work-site allows us to avoid early morning driving on back roads during January, aka Black Ice Month. We meet at the Village Restaurant in Blue Ridge at 8:30AM (note the later start) or at the Sisson Pavilion at 9:15AM. After the trip, for those who wish, Jane Keene's (semi-legendary) Hearty Vegetable Chowder will be served at the Keene's cabin, near our worksite. We will carpool up from the Sisson Pavilion. Trip leader is Tom Keene, 770-548-4935.

First-timers are most welcome.

Check here for what to expect, etc.:

<http://www.bmta.org/pdfs/WorktripsWhatToExpect-revSep2011.pdf> TK

Tom Keene  
 Georgia Maintenance Director  
 Benton MacKaye Trail

# American Hiking Society BMTA Volunteer Vacation

By Rick Harris



## The 2012 American Hiking Society BMTA Volunteer Vacation and Alternative Spring Break

By Richard Harris

This past fall, the BMTA sponsored a week long AHS Volunteer Vacation in the TN/NC Section of the BMTA. This was very successful with 9 Volunteer Vacationers. Numerous BMTA members helped to make this event a success. A total of 436.5 hours of trail work was accomplished. Work was done at four locations. Drainage was improved on the Fodderstack Trail. New signs were put up on both the Stiffknee Trail and the John Muir Trail and extensive sidehilling was performed. Several signs were placed on the trail up Big Frog and some treadwork was done as well. Each evening there were excellent programs given by our volunteers on such topics as: An Overview of the BMTA (Rick Harris), Working Hand in Hand with Horsemen (Bobby Mitchell, Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen, SABCH), USFS/BMTA Volunteer Work Crews and Bear Reintroduction to the Cumberland Plateau (Leslie Morgan, Tellico Ranger District), Wilderness Designation (Jeff Hunter, Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, SAFC) and Wilderness Trail Maintenance (Bill Hodge, Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, SAWS). The crew stayed at the historic Ranger House at the Tellico Ranger Station, the location of one of the first CCC camps in the eastern USA.

The trip was so well received that even before the week was over we were asked by the AHS to sponsor another trip next year and to also consider sponsoring an AHS Alternative Spring Break. So we will be doing both this coming year. Rick Harris will be overseeing both these week long work trips as below:

**AHS/BMTA Alternative Spring Break, March 25-31, 2012.** The 8-10 college students, all from one college, will be housed at the mobile homes behind the USFS Ocoee Work Center near Ocoee Lake. Steve Biatowas (Trail Tech, Ocoee-Hiwassee Ranger District) and Rick Harris will be organizing the work, most likely on trails in the Big Frog Wilderness. Some important connector trails to the BMT, such as the Licklog Ridge Trail, are in desperate need of rehabilitation. We will need BMTA volunteers Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of that week to work with the college students. Wednesday will be a free day for the students to go on such activities as hiking, kayaking, and mountain biking. We will also be looking for volunteers to give presentations to the students each evening at 7 PM as we did this past year to the Volunteer Vacation crew. Information on this Alternative Break program can be found at the following website: <http://www.americanhiking.org/Volunteer-Vacations/Alt-Spring-Break/2012/#Cherokee> National Forest.

**AHS/BMTA Volunteer Vacation, April 22-28, 2012.** Eight VV crewmembers will be again staying at the Tellico Ranger Station Ranger House. Rick Harris will be organizing the work trips and the evening programs again this coming year. As last year, we will need volunteers for the work days (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and volunteers to give talks of interest to the volunteers at 7 PM each evening. As this past year, Wednesday will be reserved as a fun day for the volunteers. Information on this Volunteer Vacation program can be found at the following website: <http://www.americanhiking.org/ProjectRegistrationDetail.aspx?projectId=587>.

So look over your calendar and decide what days you might be able to help out and let Rick Harris (BMTA TN/NC Maintenance Director) know by emailing him at [HarrisRi@aol.com](mailto:HarrisRi@aol.com).

# American Hiking Society BMTA Volunteer Vacation

## Maintenance Hours



**Monday, October 10, 2011 - BMT Section 18b - Fodderstack Trail** - The AHS Volunteer Vacation Crew and several BMTA volunteers logged out the few trees on this section of the BMT and repaired a dozen or so water bars and water diversions. We entered via Farr Gap and exited on the Crowder Branch Trail. Most of the water bar work was done on the final stretch of trail just before reaching the Crowder Branch Trail.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
Rick Harris	0.5	7.5	8
Ken Jones	1.5	7.5	9
Bobby Mitchell	1.5	7.5	9
Joanne Mitchell	1.5	7.5	9
Richard Sullivan	3.5	7.5	11
Rick Foster	1.0	7.5	8.5
Eric Randall - VV		7.5	7.5
Mark Harrold - VV		7.5	7.5
Sarah Slover - VV		7.5	7.5
Betty Gill - VV		7.5	7.5
John Carmichael - VV		7.5	7.5
Tina Stambaugh - VV		7.5	7.5
Tina Temple - VV		7.5	7.5
Bill Twitty - VV		7.5	7.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>124.5</b>

# American Hiking Society BMTA Volunteer Vacation

## Maintenance Hours



**Thursday, October 13, 2011 - BMT Section 11c-d - Big Frog Area** - This was the third day of the 2011 AHS Volunteer Vacation. We put up 5 signs along the BMT in the Big Frog area and did tread work on the West Fork Trail along the sidehill heading down toward Rough Creek. The new signs were put up at the Fork Ridge Trail / Big Frog Trail intersection, the Fork Ridge Trail / Rough Creek Trail, the Rough Creek / West Fork Trail intersections (2), and the intersection of the old road section with the single track trail along the West Fork Trail. The signs were routed by Marty Dominy and mounted on 4x4 6' posts. The weather was off and on sprinkle but overall very tolerable. We even had periods of sunshine.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
Rick Harris	0.5	9	9.5
Steve Biatowas - USFS		(9)	(9)
Larry Dunn	2	8	10
Jeff Hunter	2.5	9	11.5
David Blount	3.5	9	12.5
Bob Ruby	0.5	9	9.5
Rick Foster	1.5	9	10.5
Eric Randall - VV		9	9
Kathy Stege - VV		9	9
Sarah Slover - VV		9	9
Betty Gill - VV		9	9
John Carmichael - VV		9	9
Tina Stambaugh - VV		9	9
Bill Twitty - VV		9	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>126.5</b>

# American Hiking Society BMTA Volunteer Vacation

## Maintenance Hours



**Friday, October 14, 2011 - BMT Section 13c - Big Bend to Towee Creek on the John Muir Trail** - This was day 4 of work for the 2011 American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacation Crew. The day started out foggy but cleared off and was cool and clear by the end of the day. We put up a new sign at the Towee Creek trailhead and did treadwork from Towee Creek about half of the way toward Big Bend. This is a steep sideslope section down to the road and the river. The trail tread is now safe to walk without fear of sliding off the edge. Afterwards, we all went up to the swinging bridge by the powerhouse and then to the overloop at the bend in the river. All day TVA had one generator open, giving us great river views.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
Rick Harris	0.5	8	8.5
Steve Biatowas - USFS		(8)	(8)
Dick Evans	3	8	11
Jim Bishop	3	8	11
Bob Ruby	3.5	8	11.5
Eric Randall - VV		8	8
Kathy Stege - VV		8	8
Sarah Slover - VV		8	8
Betty Gill - VV		8	8
John Carmichael - VV		8	8
Tina Temple - VV		8	8
Tina Stambaugh - VV		8	8
Bill Twitty - VV		8	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>106</b>

# American Hiking Society BMTA Volunteer Vacation

## Maintenance Hours



**Tuesday, October 25, 2011 - BMT Section 19a - Farr Gap to Stiffknee Gap** - The AHS Volunteer Vacation crew tackled this 1 mile section of trail today along with a few BMTA volunteers. We brushed and logged out this section in the gentle continuous rain and put up a new wilderness sign as well as a new BMT sign at Stiffknee Gap. We finished early due to the continuous rain. We did not get to pull off the side of the hill two rootballs because of the rain and slipperiness. Next time for those. We also did not do any treadwork except for a short section which had been washed out in a sidehill drainage. This section of trail looks really good now and sports new signs.

Name	Travel Hours	Work Hours	Totals
Rick Harris	0.5	5.5	6
Travis Schwartzer - USFS		(5.5)	(5.5)
Larry Dunn	2	5.5	7.5
Rick Foster	1.5	5.5	7
Eric Randall - VV		5.5	5.5
Mark Harrold - VV		5.5	5.5
Sarah Slover - VV		5.5	5.5
Betty Gill - VV		5.5	5.5
John Carmichael - VV		5.5	5.5
Tina Stambaugh - VV		5.5	5.5
Tina Temple - VV		5.5	5.5
Bill Twitty - VV		5.5	5.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>64.5</b>