



**Newsletter of the
Benton MacKaye Trail Association, Inc.**
Post Office Box 6
Cherry Log, GA 30522

Volume 28, Issue 10 October, 2011

“Leaving a footprint for generations to follow.”

Fall on the Benton MacKaye Trail



Directors

<i>President</i>	<i>Dick Evans</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>David Blount</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Margaret Meadows</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Butch Horn</i>
<i>Georgia Maint</i>	<i>Tom Keene</i>
<i>TN/NC Maint</i>	<i>Rick Harris</i>
<i>Smokies Maint</i>	<i>Ken Jones</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Hiking</i>	<i>Pam Sullivan</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Vic Fredlund</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Marge Heller</i>
<i>Conservation</i>	<i>Betty Petty</i>
<i>GA Rep</i>	<i>Bob Ruby</i>
<i>Tn Rep</i>	<i>Ernie Engman</i>
<i>NC Rep</i>	<i>Kim Hainge</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Ralph Heller</i>

Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be held November 4-6 at Coker Creek Village in Coker Creek, Tennessee. Join us for a fun time in the Cherokee National Forest as we take in the last of the fall colors and Indian Summer temperatures. Fun hikes are scheduled for Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday morning. The business meeting, including the election and induction of the 2012 BMTA Board of Directors, will take place at 4:30 PM Saturday, November 5th. The meeting will be followed by dinner and a "Hoedown" so wear a big smile and be prepared to learn some country dance steps – no experienced required!

The Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to meet with existing friends and to make new friends. It is the best opportunity of the year to meet the Directors, ask questions, and learn more about the history and purpose of the Association and the Trail.

As this goes to print, the cabin accommodations are all reserved for the weekend but there still remains plenty of space in the men's and women's bunkhouses. Space for self-contained campers is also available on site; utility hook ups, however, are not provided. There is a bed and breakfast in Ducktown, www.ocoeewhitehousebb.com which is located south of Coker Creek and there are numerous lodging options located in Tellico Plains, www.tennesseehosts.com/tellico_plains.htm or www.EastTNGeotourism.org, located to the north on Highway 68.

As always, there is no charge to attend the business meeting of the association and your attendance and participation is welcomed and encouraged. For more information about the event and to make your reservation and payment for on-site accommodations and meals, please visit our website <http://www.bmta.org/AnnualMeeting-2011.php>. Please make your reservations soon. **The deadline for meal, bunkhouse, or camper reservations and payments is Wednesday, October**

26. We look forward to seeing you at Coker Creek in November!

David Blount – Annual Meeting Chairman

Nominations Slate

The Nominations Committee, consisting of David Blount, Ralph Heller, Ken Jones and Vic Fredlund, have recommended the following Nominees for election:

Nominations for the 2012 Board

President	Dick Evans
Vice President	David Blount
Secretary	Sara Bland
Treasurer	Butch Horn
Construction	Bill Hodge
GA Maintenance	Tom Keene
Tenn/NC Maintenance	Rick Harris
Smokies Maintenance	No Nominee Presently
Newsletter	No Nominee Presently
Membership	Vic Fredlund
Publicity	Marge Heller
Conservation	Betty Petty
Hiking	No Nominee Presently

Nominations are open to any current Member of the Association, and nominations from the floor during the Election are accepted, provided the nominee has agreed to serve if elected. We are trying very hard to fill the Smokies Maintenance, and the Newsletter Editor and Hiking Director positions, as they are key positions. If you would like to serve in any of these positions, or if you have a suggestion, please contact David Blount via email at "bmtahiker@aol.com".

Work Trip Reports

September 10, 2011 - BMT Section 16e - Sugar Mtn to Tellico River - [Betty Petty reporting] We decided to go do maintenance on our Benton MacKaye (Sugar Mtn) section. We encountered two huge root ball blowdowns about 20 feet apart in the first 100 yards or so of the trail. Unfortunately the only tools which we did not take with us were dirt digging tools. We cut out obstructing roots and other brush that had been downed by these two trees. We went up to the spring after doing all we could at these rootballs. We will need to figure out how to get enough dirt/rocks to fill in the two huge holes left in the trail. It did not look like that any humans had been across the muddy bottoms of these holes; just a bear track. There were four 4-5 inch trees that were easy to step over a short distance up the trail from these. Other than a little annual growth, everything was clear all the way up to the spring.

Volunteer Hours

Betty Petty 6 hours

Ralph Van Pelt 6 hours

Georgia Work Trip September 10 by Ralph Heller

The September work trip was to Section 10b (Jacks River Trail to Hemp Top Trail). This section goes through an area within the Cohutta Wilderness in the Conasauga Ranger District. In spite of the fact that a number of our regulars were either occupied with taking the Chainsaw Course or not available for other reasons, we had 9 enthusiastic participants. There were no large trees down on the trail in this section, With just a bow saw, Eric and Mark Winter cleared the eight trees, either down on or hanging over the trail. Overall section 10b was in good shape. By the time we finished clearing vegetation that was starting to encroach on the trail, it was in great shape.

A total of 21.5 hours of travel time and 45 hours of work time were recorded for this work trip. Participants were regulars Ralph Heller, Claire Broadwell, Tom Mitchell, and Walt George. First time participants were members Brock Birdsong, Mark Winter, Eric Winter, Jay Dement and guest Bill Jeneus. Brock Birdsong drove here from Pulaski Tennessee, about a seven hour round trip. We were glad to have member Jay Dement with us. Jay is a Leave No Trace trainer with the SEFTC. He will be teaching a course for LNT trainers in Blairsville on November 12 & 13. The course will be from 9 am on Saturday to 4 pm on Sunday. Trainers, who complete the course, can lead Awareness Classes in their clubs and organizations. If you are interested in taking the course contact Jay at 404-731-1901, email Jay@JayDphotos.com.

The day concluded with everyone devouring a home-grown watermelon in the parking area of Dally Gap. The melon was supplied by Ralph Heller.

Photo on Next Page



Work on Sisson Property Bridges in Section 7b

In preparation for the Hemlock Hike, scheduled for Section 7b on Oct 1, two of us completed cleanup of the bridge work on Sisson Cherry Log Mountain development that still needed to be finished. That work consisted of disassembling the old bridge adjacent to the new bridge located near the railroad tracks. Mark Yost and Ralph Heller dismantled the old bridge and removed the debris from the area. The new bridge near the shelter needed some steps at either end to make it easier to access the bridge tread. The steps were constructed from some of the large timbers removed from the old bridge near the railroad tracks.

Travel time was for two people 1.5 hours and work time was 8 hours. The trail is now in good shape for the hike.

Chainsaw CPR/ First Aid Course on Sept. 9 and 10 by Ralph Heller.

The CPR/First AID Chainsaw Certification course offered on September 9 and 10 was truly a BMTA affair. Of the eleven training participants, 9 were from the BMTA. In addition to that statistic, the CPR/First Aid instructor was BMTA member Jim Holland. Jin was also one of the two chainsaw instructors. The other chainsaw instructor was Milton Bradley of the Forest Service. Members taking the courses were Tom Keene, Ernie Engman, Larry Dumas, Vic Fredlund, Ernie Culpepper, Mark Yost, Dennis Bailey, Steve Bayliss and Gilbert Treadwell.

We were very fortunate to have the CPR/ First Aid and Chainsaw courses combined in a two day training session. In the past, the chainsaw course was offered separately, and two weekends were required to complete both courses. In the National Forest, getting chainsaw certification also requires being certified in CPR/First Aid.

Thanks to all these folks who participated in this two day training session. We now have a nice core of qualified sawyers. Not all of the participants were awarded the B certification. Those who received the A certification must participate in a few more field sessions with their instructors to be upgraded to B status. The instructors, Jim Holland and Milton Bradley, have promised that they will be available to work with folks wanting the upgrade. Until then, anyone with an A certification must be accompanied by someone with a B certification or higher when doing chainsaw work.



Crosscut Certification by Ralph Heller

By the time this newsletter is published, the BMTA should have 4 newly-qualified crosscut sawyers. The Crosscut Certification Course offered by the Blue Ridge District of the Chattahoochee National Forest was offered on Sept. 24 and 25. Bmta members taking the course are Bob Ruby, Steve Cartwright, Niel Kirsten, Vic Fredlund, and Marty Dominy.

In wilderness areas, trail workers are not allowed to use chainsaws. Therefore, crosscut saws are used to cut large trees that are obstructing the trail. Thanks, guys, we appreciate your taking the time to get this training and look forward to utilizing your new certification to help clear trees in the wilderness areas of the BMT.

Note from BMTA Member Gil Treadwell:

I was lucky to get one of the last slots in the Chainsaw Class on September 9th and 10th. From the start, the First Aid/CPR training was well presented and focused on conditions on the trail and potential chainsaw injuries. I participated in First Aid/CPR training twice before by another organization. This training was far better. The chainsaw classroom portion was once again, on target; practical, poignant and informative. I had much to learn about safety and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). I took 3 pages of notes for the day.

The Saturday session was a real world situation with blowdowns blocking a forest road. We learned, practiced and worked together to clear that road. I am impressed with what we accomplished.

I am grateful to Jim Holland and Milton Bradley for the fine First Aid/CRR, Chainsaw course. I hope that the US Forest Service, BMTA and the GATC continue to support this training. See you on the trail.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Treadwell

A Note from the President

Our next Newsletter will be after the Annual Meeting on November 5th, to enable us to notify everyone of the results of the Election for Directors. I would like every Member to try to get to the Annual Meeting at 4:30 at Coker Creek to vote on the leaders of your Association, even if you can't join us for the rest of the festivities.

In the meantime, join us on one or more of the Activities listing in the email. We would love to see you!

Best wishes,

Dick Evans