



### Points of Interest

Go directly to the page by clicking on the title.

- [BMTA Annual Meeting](#)
- [Easy Trekkers](#)
- [Hemlock Hike](#)
- [Blue Ridge Trail Signs](#)
- [Autumn Gold Festival](#)
- [Fontana Lake Clean-up](#)
- [Georgia Work-Trip](#)



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 26, 2013

# BMTA ANNUAL MEETING November 2, 2013 ...

By Darcy Douglas



North Georgia Community Center

Please join us in Ellijay, Georgia on November 2 for the Benton MacKaye Trail Association Annual Meeting at the North Georgia Conference Center (822 Industrial Blvd). Each year we take this opportunity to gather (without tools) to elect our new Board, hear reports on the state of the trail, share a meal, and enjoy a speaker. We also have hikes scheduled for Friday, Saturday (prior to the 4:30 meeting) and Sunday. This year we have a bylaw change vote, too.

- President: David Blount
- Vice President: Darcy Douglas
- Secretary: Sara Bland
- GA Maintenance: Tom Keene
- TN/NC Maint: Ernie Engman
- Smokies Coord: Bob Ruby
- Trail Construction: Bill Hodge
- Hiking: Ralph Heller
- Membership: Vic Fredlund
- Treasurer: Margaret Evans
- Publicity: Marge Heller
- Newsletter Editor: Gene Nix
- Conservation: George Owen
- Past President: Dick Evans
- State Rep GA: Steve Bayliss
- State Rep TN: Rick Harris
- State Rep NC: **Vacant**



BMTA Headquarters

Log In To [bmta.org](http://bmta.org) For More Information

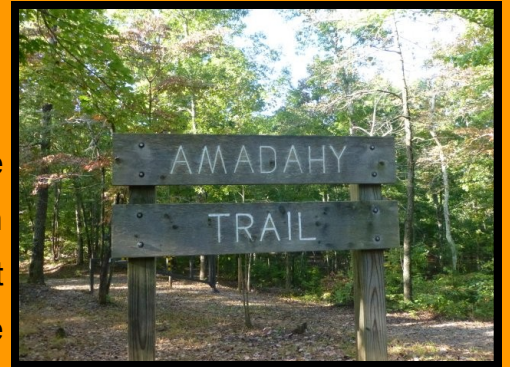


# EASY TREKKERS ON AMADAHY TRAIL



**By Sara Bland**

The setting for our Easy Trek, [October 9](#) hike was: a brilliant blue sky, an abundance of sunshine, perfect temperature, and an almost continuous view of a sparkling Carter's Lake. It just couldn't have been better for the eighteen Easy Trekkers to make the 4-mile loop on the Amadahy Trail at the south end of Carter's lake.



Some of our group were returning to the trail after minor injuries. You would never know it by the talk, laughter, and high spirits. We loved having Jim Moody and Mike Pilvinsky as first-time Easy Trekkers, although they are both experienced hikers.

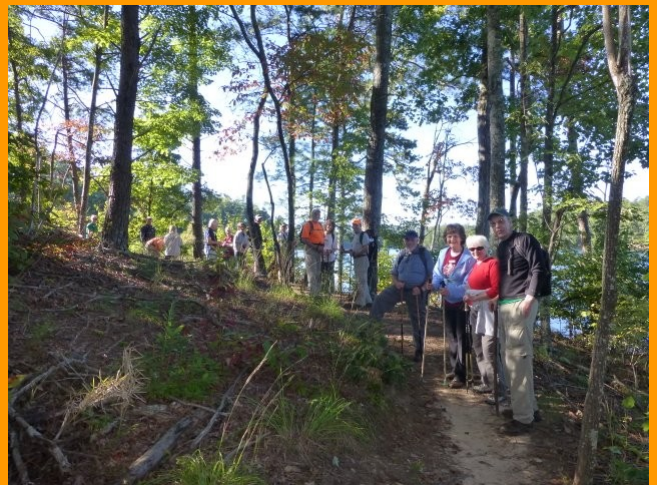
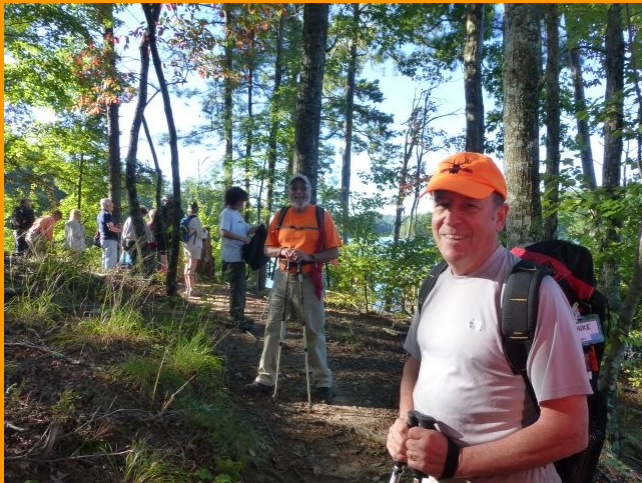
There was talk of a possible sighting of a "Loch Carter Monster"; however, one was never sighted (at least that day).

After finishing the loop, we traveled to the picnic area along the lake to eat and visit some more. It was a little sad to part because we had such a great time, but there is always the next happy trail.





# EASY TREKKERS ON AMADAHY TRAIL





# Hike and Help the Hemlocks ...

By Ralph Heller

On [Sept 28](#), Public Lands Day, the BMTA sponsored a hike in the Cooper Creek Scenic Area as part of the Hike and Help the Hemlocks cooperative event with Donna Shearer and Save Georgia's Hemlocks. The hike was a little over 3 miles in length. The route covered part of the Yellow Mountain Trail, Cooper Creek Connector Trail and part of the Mill Shoals Trail, to make an easy loop. For most folks on this

trip, the Cooper Creek Scenic area was a new trail experience. This route took the hikers through sections containing some large old-growth trees. Along the way, numerous hemlock trees severely infected by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid insects were pointed out. The problem to the hemlocks was explained and measures to save the trees were described. Twenty hikers participated.

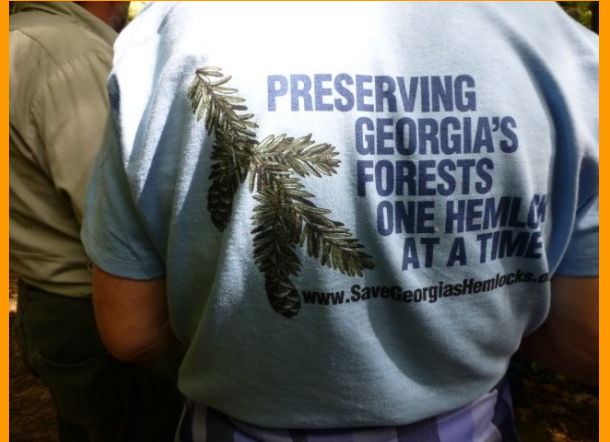


After the hike, almost everyone met up with the Save Georgia's Hemlocks group of 56 folks at Sea Creek Falls. These volunteers had been treating approximately 360 trees in the Mulky and Clements Branch hemlock conservation areas. During lunch time at the falls, everyone was treated to information on Save Georgia's Hemlocks and efforts in different areas to treat the hemlocks by Donna Shearer and Dave Teffeteller. Short talks were given by organizations participating in this event. These included the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (Ralph

Heller), the Mountain Stewards (Don Wells), Georgia Tech Trail Blazers (Patrick Shower) and Go Outdoors USA. Jim Wentworth representing the USFS Blue Ridge District also spoke.



# Hike and Help the Hemlocks ...





# Blue Ridge Trail Town Signs ...

By Ralph Heller

When you are driving into Blue Ridge from different directions, keep an eye out for our new BMTA/SEFTC Trail Town signs placed just below the city limit signs. These can be seen at the city limits on US76/Hwy 515 when entering Blue Ridge at the Toccoa River Bridge coming from Blairesville and coming from Ellijay at the bridge over the railroad tracks. They are also located below city limit signs at Aska Road and at East 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Due to construction on Hwy 5 into Blue Ridge from McCaysville, the city limit sign has been removed. When it is re-installed, there will be a Trail Town sign at that location also.



# Autumn Gold Festival at Coker Creek

By Rick Harris

The annual Autumn Gold Festival at Coker Creek, TN, just south of Tellico Plains, was held [October 12-13](#) on the grounds of the Coker Creek Elementary School. The weekend weather was perfect and the festival was well attended both days. The BMTA again had a booth displaying the BMTA board and map and selling the guides and maps. Rick and Brenda Harris manned the booth both days along with Jake, their golden retriever, and two foster dogs Brenda was keeping.

The dogs were a big hit, attracting many families to the booth to see the dogs, then to look over the displays. In fact, one of the dogs was adopted by a festival goer.



**Jake**

The BMT runs just about 3 miles from the school, crossing Joe Brown Highway at Unicoi Gap. Most of the festival attendees who came to the booth were aware of the BMT but wanted to know more about it. With Tellico Plains soon to be designated a BMTA/SEFTC Trail Town, the interest is running high in the community about the BMT and what it provides to the local community in the way of recreation, tourism, and money brought into the community.

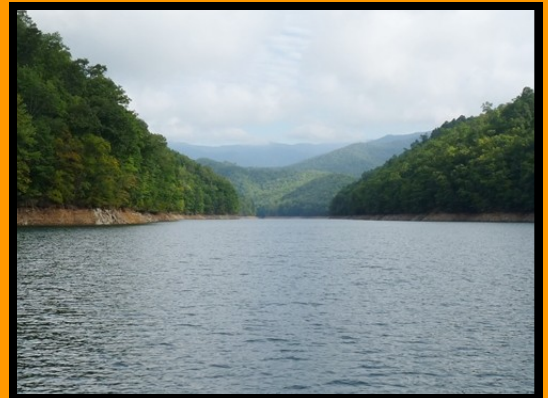


# Fontana Lake Clean-Up...

By Dick Evans

On a beautiful morning at the end of September, several members of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association met on the shore of Fontana Lake to clean up campsites along the Lakeshore Trail section of the BMT. Rick & Brenda Harris, Kim Hainge and husband, Jim Kriner, Darcy Douglas, Bob Ruby, Dick Evans and Boat Owner Captain Jim Mize combined to clear the sites from North Shore Campsite east to Lower Forney, amassing several bags of trash in the process. Since the Park shut down the next day, we were not able to get to all

the sites along the trail, but we were amazed by the volume and types of trash left at the sites. Iron Grills, camp chairs, and other comfort items not normally used by backpackers were removed, fire rings were emptied and the bear cables were checked. A highlight of the trip was spotting a mother bear and three cubs at the waterline, but they rapidly returned to the woods as we watched.





## Georgia November 9 Work Trip: No-Name Gap Area

**By George Owen**

Our monthly Georgia work trip coming up will be on second Saturday, November 9, around both sides of so-called No-Name Gap 2.6 miles north of Three Forks. Work will primarily be installing water drainages and some other trail repair duties.

We have a group of students from Young Harris College here in North Georgia coming to learn and help us on this trip. They will join us at Three Forks.

Also we need all the trucks we can acquire since the last 0.6 mile to our unloading site near the work starting point is a little "rough" - four-wheel drives especially welcome. (NOTE: The road beyond Hickory Flats Cemetery out to that final 0.6-mile turnoff has recently been regraded and greatly improved by the Forest Service.) Please let the leader know if you can provide transportation from Three forks.

Meet for breakfast in Blue Ridge at the Village Restaurant at 8:00 a.m., or there at 8:30 if not eating then.  
The other option is to meet us at Three Forks at 9:15. (Snack or early dinner at the Pink Pig after the work trip is optional)

For further information or to volunteer truck transportation, contact trip leader George Owen at 706-374-4716.

