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President:	David Blount
Vice President:	Darcy Douglas
Secretary:	Joy Forehand
GA Maintenance:	Tom Keene
Smokies Coord:	Bob Ruby
TN/NC Maintenance:	Bill Hodge
Hiking:	Ralph Heller
Membership:	Dick Evans
Treasurer:	Margaret Evans
Publicity:	Marge Heller
Newsletter Editor:	Gene Nix
Conservation:	Steve Bayliss
Past President:	Dick Evans
State Rep GA:	George Owen
State Rep TN/NC:	Rick Harris



**BMTA Headquarters**



# SOUTHEASTERN FOOT TRAILS COALITION CONFERENCE FOR HIKERS COMING TO GEORGIA

Hikers from across the Southeast are invited to the Eighth Biennial Conference of the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) in Blairsville, Georgia and neighboring Vogel State Park [September 18-21, 2014](#).

Registration for this event has begun and may be accomplished by going to the web-site: [southeastfoottrails.org](http://southeastfoottrails.org) or [seftc.org](http://seftc.org)

Highlighting this conference will be presentations by Ron Tipton, Executive Director of the national Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Janet Zeller, National Accessibility Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service. Numerous other presenters will lead workshops on [Friday](#) the 19<sup>th</sup> and [Sunday](#) morning, the 21<sup>st</sup>.

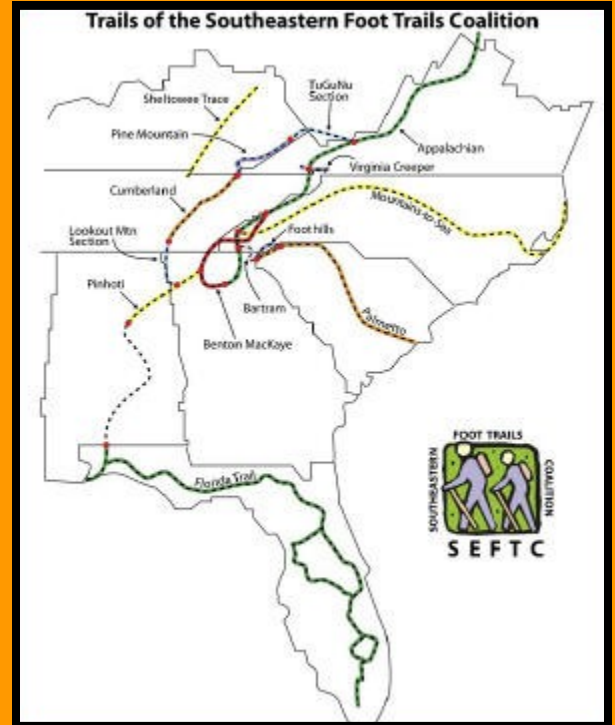
The [Friday](#) plenary session and most workshops, as well as registration sign-in, will be at the new Union County Community Center in Blairsville.



Continued On Next Page

Thursday afternoon, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon will feature hikes in the mountains of northern Georgia, southeastern Tennessee, and southwestern North Carolina. Most of these hikes will be of various lengths and descriptions from easy to strenuous on the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye trails with experienced leaders. Most will feature scenic vistas and/or waterfalls.

Registrants may purchase tickets with their registration for two special meals: Friday dinner at the large indoor lakeside pavilion at Vogel State Park with that park's naturalist Jessica Mou as speaker, and Saturday's evening meal at Brackett Center in Blairsville with ATC's Ron Tipton speaking.



Housing for the conference includes the three Blairsville motels, cottages at Vogel State Park and elsewhere, and Vogel's pioneer campsite for those wishing to camp.

The registration fee for all SEFTC Conference events, workshops and hikes, but excluding the two evening meal events, is \$30 through August 31. The fee increases for late registration to \$40 on September 1 and for walk-ins at the conference dates.

Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition is composed of 36 foot trail clubs and organizations from across the Southeast that range in size from dozens of members to two with over 5,000 members. The coalition was established 15 years ago.

### Further Contact Information:

**George Owen, President, SEFTC**  
706-374-4716

OR

**Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition**  
P. O. Box 1492  
Hayesville, NC 28904

More Information On Page 19

Join us for the

# 2014 Biennial Conference

of the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition

BLAIRSVILLE, GA – Sept. 18 – 21, 2014



Join us for hikes, workshops on all sorts of hiking related topics with nationally known speakers, lots of fun and great food! Our headquarters for the Conference will be the Union County Community Center in Blairsville and the new Comfort Inn right next door. Visit our website for details and registration information:

[www.southeasternfoottrails.org](http://www.southeasternfoottrails.org)

Our speakers include:



## **RON TIPTON**

Executive  
Director,  
Appalachian  
Trail  
Conservancy



## **JANET ZELLER**

Manager, U.S.  
Forest Service  
Accessibility  
Office,  
Washington,  
DC

## ANNUAL MEETING .... 2014

Please join us for the BMTA annual meeting, this year at Coker Creek Conference Center in Tennessee, on Hwy 68, south of Tellico Plains, TN. The weekend will be [October 18](#), 19, and 20 to take advantage of the beautiful fall colors. We'll be hiking [Friday](#), [Saturday](#), and [Sunday](#), having a Board meeting at some point (perhaps [Friday](#) night), and there will be a fun meeting [Saturday](#) evening. Of interest to all will be the State of the Trail reports, election of new officers (see those in another article herein), and our presentations, including one by Dick Evans about the new trail route through North Carolina. We also are planning a hayride! Please contact the Conference Center directly to make your reservations. They can be reached at 423-261-2310. You may refer to the previous newsletter for details about housing and meal options, or just ask Leal when you call. We look forward to yet another memorable Annual Meeting!!!



Get More Information On Page 17 Of This Newsletter.

### OFFICERS FOR 2015

**"Publicity Chairperson being sought"**

In another article, the Nominating Committee for 2015 presented a slate of officers. We do not yet have a Publicity Chair. Likely the main reason is that Marge Heller's shoes will be so hard to fill! She assures us she will provide guidance and assistance to our new person! If you are interested in this position, or know of someone who might be, please contact Darcy at [bmtadarcy@yahoo.com](mailto:bmtadarcy@yahoo.com). The committee will be glad to answer any questions you might have. This might just be your chance to find a new way to volunteer for the Benton MacKaye Trail! Thank you so much!!



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:  
August 27  
SUBMIT ANY ARTICLE AND/OR  
PHOTOS TO:  
[Editor@bmta.org](mailto:Editor@bmta.org)**

Picture Courtesy of Steve Davis .... Big Frog

## Presidents Message

*Walk With Me a Moment.....*



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. We have benefited from cooler than usual temperatures through the spring and early summer seasons making it pleasant to get out on the trail. One can hope we continue to experience the milder temperatures into August. Much of the BMT is at the loftier elevations and the weather can change unpredictably. Please remember to take plenty of water and snacks as well as rain gear when you venture out for trail work or a hike. Always let someone back home know your intended destination as well as the planned duration of your outing.

New and renewing memberships continue to come in. On behalf of the Board and all BMTA members, thanks for your support. I hope you will find ways to get engaged with the activities of the association and that you will tell family, friends, and co-workers about the trail and the work we do to keep it open and enjoyable.

Dick Evans and a dedicated group of helpers continue to complete details and enhancements to the newly dedicated Yellow Creek Reroute of the BMT. Thanks to all who have contributed time, travel, and labor to this effort. I encourage the rest of you to make a trip to the Robbinsville / Fontana Village area and see this phenomenal addition to the BMT firsthand.

We have been fortunate this year to have a number of people volunteer to become section maintainers. We have 3 more sections in Tennessee and North Carolina recently identified as being in need of a new maintainer. Section 12b (2.7 miles) and section 12c (2.4 miles) are south and north of the Kimsey Highway, respectively. Both can be worked with power tools except a small portion of 12b which lies within the Little Frog Wilderness. Section 15c (2.0 miles) straddles the TN/NC line from Six Mile Gap to Sandy Gap. There is gravel road access at Sandy Gap. If interested in adopting one of these sections, please go to [www.bmta.org](http://www.bmta.org) and send a message using one of the Contact Us links on the home page. Many thanks go out to KB Sullivan, Butch Horn, and Liz Carter who maintained these sections for several years.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that this is your newsletter and you can play an active part in it. I invite and challenge you to share photos, anecdotes, observations, poems, or firsthand accounts of your time spent in the forest that your fellow members might relate to or find of interest. To be considered for publication, submit your entries to [editor@bmta.org](mailto:editor@bmta.org) or send by mail to the PO Box in Cherry Log, GA.

See you on the trail!

David

# MOUNTAIN GAP SIGNS FOR BMT IN GEORGIA

**By Marge Heller**

Recently the BMTA Board of Directors approved 17 new trail signs to be made and installed on the Benton MacKaye Trail. The small, unobtrusive wooden signs will enable hikers to determine their location when hiking in an area some distance from any trailhead or road crossing.

Hiking Director, Ralph Heller, contacted Ace Hardware store in Blue Ridge, with a computerized router, and placed the order for these signs. Ralph then stained and secured the signs to the posts, which he also painted. A few of the signs are already installed.



## In Honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

**By Tom Keene**

Under review: Roderick Frazier Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed., 2014

The Wilderness Act was signed into law September 3, 1964. The Act was, and is, a big very deal. But...what exactly is a “wilderness?” What is the origin and history of this concept, the very idea of which inspires so many of us? How and why has the meaning of “wilderness” evolved over time? Roderick Nash’s brilliant book answers these questions and many more.

Nash’s survey begins with the some of the earliest writings in human history and examines the varied uses of the term “wilderness” right through history. But the main emphasis is on the influence of American writer-naturalists like Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, and, yes, Benton MacKaye. Nash’s quotes from, and analysis of, these American greats is one of the most exhilarating aspects of his book. Beyond that, he shows how the changing meaning of the term “wilderness” constitutes a kind of mirror image of the changing character of human society. It’s fascinating stuff. The book is also a great read; I have assigned it, or parts of it, to undergraduates for years.

Nash’s book can justly be called a classic. First published in 1967 and now in its 5<sup>th</sup> edition, it has been a defining book for two generations of environmental historians. Indeed it is not too much to say this book played a key role in establishing environmental history as an academic field. The 2014 (5<sup>th</sup>) edition contains an excellent foreword by Char Miller that traces the impact of the book and the changing character of environmentalism since its publication.

I can think of no more satisfying way to honor the passage of the Wilderness Act than to read this book!

# Corporate Member Travis Crouch paddles down Main Street

Travis Crouch, of North Georgia Mountain Outfitters, participated in Ellijay's 4th of July Parade.



## Benton MacKaye Trail Association

Membership Totals as of **7/14/2014**

By Dick Evans

Life Members	57
Individuals	97
Family	66
Senior/Student	40
Corporate	6
Total	266



## ... TN/NC Work Trip ...

### Saturday, July 26, 2014 - TN/NC BMT Work Trip

Work-trip leader, Rick Harris, [harrisri@aol.com](mailto:harrisri@aol.com), 423-253-6358.

We will clear the Sycamore Creek section of the BMT from Whigg Meadow Road down to the Tellico Fish Hatchery. We will plan on going in from both ends with chain saw, brushcutters, loppers, and swing blades. The lower two miles of this section of the BMT will be a hike sponsored by the Tellico Wild weekend (Aug 9-10) when Tellico Plains receives its SEFTC/BMTA Trail Town designation. Meet behind the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center in Tellico Plains at 8 AM. Please let Rick Harris know you are coming in advance.

## Local Newspaper Coverage on the BMT helps get the word out...

By Marge Heller





# July Work Trip Report ...Georgia ...Section 8a and 8b ...

Submitted by Barry Allen

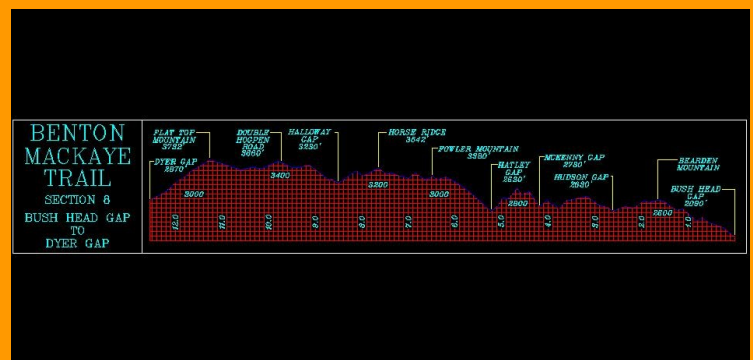
Section 8A and 8B, Bushy Head Gap to McKenney Gap

July 12<sup>th</sup> was a perfect summer day for working the trail; temperature was in the mid 60's when we gathered at Bushy Head Gap for a brief safety talk and review of our plan for the day. We divided into two groups, with George Owen leading a three man crew to Hudson Gap, then working the section from Hudson to McKenney. George and his crew spent the day knocking out the heavy weed growth in section 8b, stopping just short of McKenney. On the return trip to Hudson, the group also removed quite a bit of trash that had been left at a campsite along the secluded route.

The balance of our work party began the day at Bushy Head Gap, working on weed and brush removal on the 2.6 mile section to Hudson Gap. The seven man crew working section 8A made short work of the overgrowth, finishing the work day at Hudson Gap as the clock hit 12:30.

As the work day ended, the thermometer was still struggling to hit 80 degrees in the North Georgia Mountains. Nevertheless, we could hear the approaching thunder of heavy rain storms moving into the area. Just as we made it back to civilization and Cherry Log, the bottom fell out of the skies. But our 10 man crew logged in 50 work hours for the day, plus travel time to and from the work site. Section 8 could use the loving footsteps of a few more hikers to keep the trail better defined. This is a remote section, with only one forest service road (FS 793) crossing at Hudson Gap as the trail winds its way more than 12 miles from Bushy Head to Dyer Gap. The walking is just right, that is, not too strenuous, but enough up and down hill walking to keep things interesting. Water and campsites are available in several places, and winter views are amazing. So keep Section 8 in mind if you are looking for a nice weekend path to explore. It won't let you down.

My thanks go out to members George Owen, Walt Cook, Ralph Heller, Steve and Connor Bayliss, Phil Guhl, Curt Voogt, Jack Kennedy, and our special guest for the day, Ashburn Seavey. Thanks for your dedication. See you all next time.....and maybe someone will remember to take a picture of our group!



# August 9–Georgia Work–Trip (In Tennessee)

## Little Frog Wilderness ...

BMT Trail-workers,

Our Tennessee brethren can use our help catching up with summer growth after all this rain. So we are once again headed up the Narrow Road to the Deep North.\*

We will be working on Section 12b on both sides of the point where the BMT briefly touches the Kimsey Highway at the Deep Gap powerline crossing. We will be cutting back vegetation with loppers and swing-blades. Trailhead meeting will be at that Deep Gap powerline crossing.

Long, slow drive; short walk: Unlike the recent Big Frog trips we will not have a long walk in to the work. In fact the work starts right at trailhead! The drive-times, though, are a bit longer, because the 10 miles or so on the Kimsey Highway will take about 45 minutes. The reward – it's a beautiful section far away from human habitation, part in the Little Frog Wilderness Area.

Saturday **9 August** Meeting information (note [breakfast location](#)): The Breakfast meeting will be at 8:00 at the [McDonalds](#) at the corner of Hwy 515/US76 and GA 5 (the road to McCaysville). Departure for the trailhead will be at 8:25am sharp. We will consolidate riders behind the DQ, then drive ca. 25 minutes up GA 5/ TN 68 to the [sharp left turn](#) at Vic's Auto Parts onto the Kimsey Highway. Then we drive ca. 45 minutes (at about 15 mph!) on the Kimsey Hwy to the Deep Gap powerline crossing. So the trailhead meeting time is ca. 9:45am.

### Important Cautionary Notes:

Vehicles taken on Kimsey Hwy should have good road clearance. Road is quite eroded in spots. But traction is good; four-wheel drive not required.

Water: bring at least two liters; it's August.

Poison ivy and bramble alert: Wear long pants and long-sleeve shirts and/or use Ivy Block liberally.

**FIRST-TIME VOLUNTEERS are most welcome. For what to expect, check here:**  
<http://www.bmta.org/pdfs/WorktripsWhatToExpect-revSep2011.pdf>

Trip leader: Tom Keene – tkbmta AT gmail DOT com – (c) 770-548-4935.

See you there! Should be a great day in the woods!

**WEATHER POSTPONEMENT:** If weather forces a change of plans, the trip will NOT be cancelled in most cases. Instead we will simply postpone the trip for one week. Because of the changeable nature of the weather we wait as long as possible before postponing. Usually the decision is made early **Friday** evening and circulated immediately by email.

\*Apologies to Basho

Tom Keene

## Nominating Committee Report for 2015

The Nominating Committee for 2015 would like to present the following as a slate of officers to be voted upon at the BMTA Annual Meeting, October 18, 2014. Nominations will be taken from the floor at that time. We have not yet found someone to serve in the capacity of Publicity, but have agreed it would be best to have someone near the north GA area to continue the Chamber of Commerce work so far. We will continue to search for this person, and will take suggestions from all! Please contact Darcy with those suggestions.

The slate is as follows:

- President: Bob Ruby
- Vice President: Tom Keene
- Secretary: Joy Forehand
- Treasurer: Margaret Evans
- GA M/C: Barry Allen
- TN/NC M/C: Tracy Sheffield
- Smokies Coordinator: Dick Evans
- Hiking Director: Ralph Heller
- Membership and the Store: Ken Cissna
- Publicity: (needs to be filled)
- Conservation: Steve Bayliss

There are 3 non-elected positions, and the two state representative positions will be appointed by the President after the election.

I wish to thank each of the members of this committee, namely Marge Heller, Tom Keene, and Rick Harris. Everyone worked hard, and we operated as a team. Kudos to each of you (and to your spouses for their patience!!!)!!

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy, Chairperson, Nominating Committee for BMTA for 2015

# Ocoee River Hike

**Hike Leader: Hank Baudet. ..**

The group met at the Piggly Wiggly in Ducktown, Tn. at 9:30, for another fine day of hiking in the Ocoee River trails area. We had a nice turnout of 7 folks, some who were on their 1st hike with the BMTA, and were enthusiastic about the adventure! Guess the ads in the local newspaper are beginning to pay off, since we seem to be attracting some new folks..



Everyone was on time, or early, so we carpooled to the trailhead at Boyd Gap, and set off down the mountain, to where the trail leveled out, and followed the west bank of the Ocoee River, which, since it was **Saturday**, was filled with Whitewater Rafters, and Kayakers, too!



Everyone enjoyed seeing the river running, as well as the river runners, going through the rapids!!

We stopped at the Ocoee Whitewater Center, and **sat** in the rocking chairs, on the 2nd deck (the balcony) for our lunch break.

All agreed to continue down to "Thunder Rock Campground", via the Rhododendrum trail, to complete a hike of about 5 miles.

Since we had "spotted" our "shuttle" cars at this location, all worked out well, and we just about beat an afternoon thunderstorm, that caught up with us, as we arrived at our cars..



All in all, a great hike...thanks to everyone who went with us **today**, and see you again soon on another trail

**Photos By: Joe Lafleur**

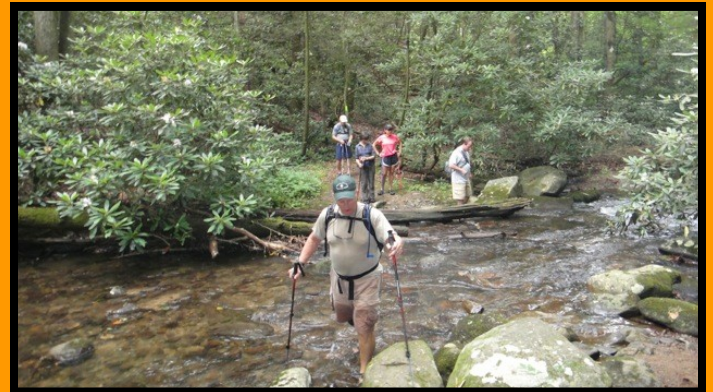
# Emery Creek Trail Hike

**By Michael Pilvinsky**

On Friday, [June 11](#), 2014, 6 hikers led by Mike Pilvinsky met in Ellijay and ventured into the Cohuttas for a fun filled day in the cool waters of Emery Creek. The Emery Creek Trail hike included between 20 and 24 stream crossings (depending on who is counting) over a pleasant 5.5 miles. BTMA members Mike, Kay Nelms and Larry Van Dyke were joined by Jason Phillips



from Tate, GA, and Diana and Vic Donald from Baton Rouge, LA. The stream crossings were a beautiful and refreshing change from your normal summer, “walk in the woods.” The depth of the water varied from 6” to more than 30” deep and the slippery footing presented a challenge which tested the skill and balance of all. We definitely learned how to safely navigate across a stream by the end of the hike. Added excitement occurred when Mike and Diana stepped over a nice copper-head as we returned on the trail. This is a truly beautiful hike punctuated near the turn-around point by two stunning waterfalls. Hikers who would like to experience this trail should wear good “water shoes” and come equipped with hiking poles.



**Photos By: Michael Pilvinsky**

## Upcoming Hikes ...

**By Ralph Heller – Hiking Director**

**Friday August 1:** Beech Bottom Trail to Jacks River Falls – 10 easy miles. Although the hike is about 10 miles round trip, it is relatively easy due to little elevation gain. It follows an old abandoned road bed. Highlights are Jacks River at 4 miles and beautiful Jacks River Falls at 4.6 miles. For those folks who would like to cool off, some say that the pool at the base of the falls is the best swimming hole in Georgia. Bring lots of water and lunch.

Hike leader is Mike Pilvinsky. To sign up for hike and for meeting time and location, call mike at 706-273-2086

**Saturday August 23:** Stanley Creek, Stanley Gap, Fall Branch Falls loop. This little known loop qualifies as an Easy Trek hike of a little over three miles. It follows Stanley Creek upstream from the falls parking area and involves two stream crossings. Wet feet are a possibility! From there it climbs gently to a Forest Service Road which takes us to Stanley Gap. The hike then follows Stanley Gap trail to the intersection with the Benton MacKaye Trail. It then follows the BMT down to Fall Branch Falls and down to the parking lot to form the loop. Bring lots of water and lunch.

Hike leader is Ralph Heller. To sign up for the hike and for meeting time and location, call Ralph at 770-235-9760.

**Thursday thru Sunday - September 18-21- SEFTC Biennial Meeting:** Refer to article in this issue for information on this great 4-day event. On [Thursday](#), [Saturday](#) and [Sunday](#), there will be a smorgasbord of hikes of varying difficulty and locations in Tennessee, north Georgia and North Carolina in the vicinity of Blairsville. To participate, register on the SEFTC site to be an attendee and to choose your hikes. I will be leading the Falls Branch to Weaver Creek hike on [Saturday](#).

## Tellico Plains SEFTC/BMTA Trail Town Dedication to be held during Tellico Wild Weekend Aug 9-10

The dedication ceremony for the Tellico Plains SEFTC/BMTA Trail Town will be held at 5:30 PM at the Outpost Pavilion at Tellico Plains on Saturday, [August 9](#). The dedication ceremony will include representatives from the BMTA, the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition, TN Wild, SAWS, the USFS, and the mayor of Tellico Plains and of Monroe County TN. After introductions and brief talks by those represented, there will be a presentation of the financial impact of outdoor recreation on small towns which border a national forest. The dedication ceremony will be followed by food, music, and entertainment in the Outpost Pavilion.

The dedication ceremony will be an integral part of the Tellico Wild Weekend Event sponsored by TN Wild. There will be several hikes and other outdoor fun events in the Tellico area on both [Saturday](#) and [Sunday](#). See the attached poster. Sign up for the events is via the TN Wild Meetup Page, [www.meetup.com/tennessee-wild/](http://www.meetup.com/tennessee-wild/). Spaces are limited since many of the hikes are in wilderness, with a limit of 12 participants for each of these events.

Being designated an SEFTC/BMTA Trail Town will likely bring more hikers and backpackers to the area. A website features the amenities for hikers in the area such as cabins, camping, restaurants, and grocery stores, as well as links to local trails and other outdoor events. A trail guide to the area will in the future become available highlighting the local trails.

Richard Harris  
TN/NC Representative, Benton MacKaye Trail Association  
Past President, Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition  
Hiking Trails Rep, TN Greenways & Trails Commission, TDEC  
533 Shaw Mountain Road  
Tellico Plains, TN 37385  
423-253-6358 home  
513-260-1184 cell  
[HarrisRi@aol.com](mailto:HarrisRi@aol.com)  
[www.bmta.org](http://www.bmta.org)  
[www.southeasternfoottrails.org](http://www.southeasternfoottrails.org)  
<http://connectwithtn.com/>

# TELLICO WILD • EXPLORE OUR BIG BACK YARD

A Weekend of Wilderness on the Cherokee National Forest

## AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup> AND 10<sup>TH</sup>



### Guided hikes on the Cherokee National Forest

Citico Creek, Falls Branch Falls, Brookshire Creek, Bald River Gorge,  
Benton-McKaye Trail-Sycamore Creek, Unicol Turnpike Trail

### Interpretive Hikes

Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts,  
Old Growth Forest - What Remains After Logging and Fire,  
Birds of the Forest,  
Simple Tips and Tricks to Better Photographs

### Stewardship Trip

Brushing the Jeffrey Hell Trail with the SAWS crew

### Snorkel Citico Creek

With an expert guide, explore the abundant life in one of the most  
biologically rich creeks in the USA!

### Tellico Plains 'Trail Town' Dedication & Ceremony

Celebrate the official Trail Town designation then  
stick around for some food, prizes, music, and fun!  
Outpost Pavillion, Tellico Plains, TN



Full schedule and registration  
information available at:  
[www.tnwild.org](http://www.tnwild.org) or Facebook/tnwild



Tellico Plains, Tennessee - The Little Town with the Big Back Yard!



# ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 17-19, 2014

**By Darcy Douglas**

Our Annual Meeting will be held this year at Coker Creek Village the weekend of October 17-19. Coker Creek is located on Hwy. 68 in Tennessee between Ducktown and Tellico Plains. We have stayed here before and enjoyed it thoroughly!



There are several arrangements for places to spend the night. There are bunk houses and cabins, as set out below. Food is served in the cafeteria, and the lunch Saturday will be a brown bag lunch for our hikes.

*Each person needs to make his or her own reservations for meals as well as for preferred sleeping quarters.*

We will have hikes scheduled Friday, a learning activity and social time on Friday evening, hikes Saturday, then the meeting itself late afternoon and evening. We will elect officers for 2015 and hear the State of the Trail report. Reports from Board members regarding membership, finances, and accomplishments of the year will also be shared. I hope you enjoy our entertainment after the formal part of the meeting! More later on that...

Please make your reservations through Leal at Coker Creek. She can be flexible with the number of nights and meals – just let her know what you need when you call or email.

Leal Giddens - Office Manager  
Coker Creek Village  
Email: [info@cokercreekvillage.com](mailto:info@cokercreekvillage.com)  
Telephone: 800-448-9580

## Annual Meeting Options

5 Meals*/2 Nights Lodging***	Per Person:
Bunk House	\$115
Leadership Cabin	\$155
3 Meals**/1 Night Lodging	
Bunk House	\$72
Leadership Cabin	\$112
Saturday Lunch and Dinner Only	\$20

The above options can be modified to fit each attendee's needs during the weekend.

Lunch on Saturday will be a brown bag lunch.

- \* Dinner Friday through breakfast Sunday
- \*\* Lunch Saturday through breakfast Sunday
- \*\*\* Bunk house lodging offers sleeping areas only, with cabins that sleep from 4 per cabin up to 25. Smaller cabins (sleeping 6 and under and one 12-sleeper) use an area shower house; larger cabins (sleeping 8 and up) have baths in the cabins. This will be shared housing for your group. Each person will provide his own linens (twin bed sheets or sleeping bag, pillow, towels).

Leadership Cabins are upscale cottages, sleeping 2-4 (depending on bed configuration)  
 Each cabin has a queen bed (two cabins have sets of bunk beds), a private bath,  
 sitting area, small refrigerator, microwave oven, all linens provided.  
 There are eight (8) of these.

## SEFTC BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2014

**Union County Community Center/Vogel State Park - Blairsville, Georgia**

**Friday (9/19): Presenter, Janet Zeller, Manager, U.S. Forest Service**

**Accessibility Office**

**Saturday (9/20): Speaker, Ron Tipton, Executive Director, Appalachian Trail**

**Conservancy**

-----General Schedule-----

### **Thursday, Sept. 18**

11:00 a.m. - Registration desk opens at Community Center

1:00 p.m. – Short hikes available in area – depart Community Center parking

### **Friday, Sept. 19**

9:00–11:40 a.m. – General Welcome and Opening Plenary Session

1:15–2:45 p.m. & 3:00-4:30 – Workshops

6:00-6:30 p.m. – Short lake/waterfall hike at Vogel State Park

\*6:30 p.m. – Barbeque and program, indoor pavilion at Vogel State Park

### **Saturday, Sept. 20**

Hike Day – Hikes begin as early as 8 & 9 a.m. – some are all day, some half-day

\*6:00 p.m. Banquet, Brackett Center, Blairsville

### **Sunday, Sept. 21**

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. – Workshops

10:05 – 10:45 a.m. – SEFTC General Business Meeting

11:00 a.m. Some short hikes or leave for home

*\*Indicates a separate meal fee shown on the registration form*

**[Registration form is posted on the website](#)**

<http://www.southeasternfoottrails.org/>

You must be registered to attend all sessions, hikes, dinners

Registration Fee: \$30 through August 30; \$40 September 1 and after

## Wildflowers On Our Trail

**By Barry Allen**

This beauty was found on Section 3B, a couple of hundred yards from the summit of Licklog Mountain. It is believed to be an Appalachian Oak Leach, and generally blooms in August and September with a trumpet shaped flower bearing 5 lobes (July 22 is a bit early for this flower). The interesting thing about this plant is that it is a parasite, deriving much of its nourishment from the roots of trees - thus the name Appalachian Oak Leach, *Aureolaria laevigata*. I found a picture almost identical to the one he snapped in a book called 'Wildflowers and Plant Communities of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and Piedmont.'



Appalachian Oak Leach, *Aureolaria laevigata*



Courtesy of Steve Davis from the top of Big Frog ....  
Can you name it ?