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**BMTA Headquarters**

# Benton MacKaye Trail Association



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## President's Column

**“It ain’t the heat, it’s the humility.”** Yogi Berra

A couple of months ago, *USA Today* chose to celebrate the opening day of the 2019 baseball season with a tribute to Yogi Berra – a NY Yankee Hall of Famer who passed away a few years ago. As our members may have guessed by now, I enjoy a good quote, and Yogi Berra is a fountain of memorable quotes. The most enjoyable thing about a Berra quote is that, intended or not, some level of truth exists in most of his expressions. “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.” “You can observe a lot by just watching.” And one of my favorites, “it ain’t the heat, it’s the humility.” Bear with me as I illustrate Yogi’s affinity for the Benton MacKaye.....



Anyone who has hiked with me knows that I don’t always take the fork in the road that was intended for the day. But at least I listen to Yogi, and **“when I come to a fork in the road, I take it.”** I guess maybe my guide sometimes is Mr. Frost, because I have sure taken my share of Roads Less Travelled, always preferring the trails that “wanted wear” and expecting to make it back another day to travel the other.

In May, thanks to outreach from **Bob Cowdrick**, Georgia’s work group was blessed with eight or nine scouts and leaders from the Atlanta area who volunteered to work with us on Section 5. **Phil Guhl** assigned these scouts to the “digging” portion of the work day – adding water diversions from GA 60 at Wilscot Gap to the top of Tipton Mountain. This particular second Saturday was a day of periodic heavy rain, and as the hour approached noon, we sent the group hiking out to the finish just as a particularly heavy storm materialized. These kids were able to put Berra’s colloquialism into practice and **“observe a lot by just watching.”** They were able to see the flow of water diverted at places they had just finished working. Walking further, they could see areas where water flowed freely down the trail – areas in need of diversions where flowing water eroded the surface. The heavy rain allowed these scouts to learn more through observation than they could learn just through work.

Continued next page

Later in May, **Shane Morrison, Brian Trinkle** and **Mike Kovitch** volunteered to help log out portions of Sections 10 and 11 in the Cohutta and Big Frog Wilderness; we scheduled an overnight work trip to clear these twelve or thirteen miles with ax and crosscut saw. After leaving several vehicles in Tennessee on the edge of the Big Frog Wilderness, **Dale Clark** graciously shuttled the group to Dally Gap in Georgia. The hike along the Jacks River Trail and then up the Benton MacKaye to Spanish Oak Gap seemed to be exceptionally hot and humid for May. There was little breeze as we worked through the first dozen or so trees; we looked forward to cooler temperatures as the work was uphill all afternoon toward Hemp Top and descending to Double Spring Gap for the evening. The next day, the hike began with one of the toughest up-hills on the entire 300 mile length of the Benton MacKaye. The ascent from Double Spring Gap to Big Frog Mountain is roughly 1100 feet in just over a mile – a steep section of trail by any standards. The heat had really affected one of our team members during the first day. But he said hardly a word and kept putting one foot in front of the other, helping at every opportunity. The work done by a couple of other BMTA members was an absolute exercise in humility. Never a word of complaint as one tree after another was removed from the trail... humble about the work they had done at the end of a hard two days. And our membership is full of these people – working hard to care for the trail. *It ain't the heat, it's the humility.* Thanks Yogi. Couldn't have said it any better myself.



Many of our members have noticed the new format for sending some communications to our membership. **Larry Van Dyke** and **Joy Forehand** have been the driving force behind this transition. Currently the Newsletter is being distributed through MailChimp – our hosted provider. In the coming months as we figure things out, we will migrate most communications, including work reminders and membership acknowledgements, to the hosted service. Thanks to Larry and Joy!

**John and Zoe Zardis** will be leaving for Montana this month. We certainly wish them the best; they will be missed. Dick Evans has graciously agreed to complete the year as Tennessee/North Carolina Maintenance Director. Thanks Dick! I hope everyone who is able will turn out to support Dick on future trips. And Dick – watch out for those trees. They will jump up and bite you!

## **BMTA's 2019 Annual Meeting at Fontana Village, NC Make Your Reservation NOW!**

by The Annual Meeting Committee

With lots of great hikes on the docket, a Friday Nite Social, the traditional Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, you won't want to miss BMTA's Annual Meeting held this year at the beautiful Fontana Village in North Carolina.

Below are descriptions of some of the cabins, lodge rooms and campground that have been reserved especially for BMTA members at a discounted price. Pictures of some of the lodging are on page [four](#).

The accommodations are going fast ... make your reservations NOW!

To reserve your cabin, lodge room or space at the campground, call **828.498.2211**. Mention BMTA to receive the discounted rate.

**THE WILLOWS ONE BEDROOM** units feature a queen bed, one bathroom, central heat and AC, basic cable TV, and a full kitchen. Kitchen utensils and all linens are provided. No phone service is available in these units.

**THE HICKORY TWO BEDROOM** has modern appliances including a full sized refrigerator, stove, microwave and dishwasher. Queen sized beds are in both bedrooms. Relax with the unit's cable TV but keep the world away by not having phone service. They have updated interiors and lighting and are modernized throughout. All of these units are non-smoking.

**THE AZALEA THREE BEDROOM**, two bath cabin is cozy with all the extras. It features a Queen bed and private bath with a whirlpool tub in the Master bedroom, two twin beds in the second bedroom, and a third bedroom with a set of bunk beds, making this cabin perfect large families. All of these beautiful cabins, in addition to a fully equipped kitchen and dining for six, feature an outside front porch with rocking chairs for fresh air and breath-taking views. All Azalea three bedroom cabins come with whirlpool tubs in the master bedroom, a DVD player and TV with cable in the living room, a landline phone, central heat and air, plus all linens and towels and personal toiletries. Some Azalea three bedroom cabins have a wood burning fireplace, please inquire with a reservationist for details.

**THE THREE BEDROOM HEMLOCK** features king, queen and twin beds, modern appliances including a full sized refrigerator, stove, microwave, cable TV and dishwasher. Escape without having a phone in these units. They have updated interiors and lighting and are modernized throughout. All of these units are non-smoking.

**THE CAMPGROUND** – Set camp on the shores of the Little Tennessee River in the Nantahala National Forest. The campground has sites available for tent, trailer and RV's of less than 30 feet. The Campground at Fontana Village features both hookup sites for motor homes and trailers as well as tent-camping sites. There is a bath house with shower and bathrooms available at the campground which is available to all our camping guests. The Fontana Campground also includes a separate RV dump station, located off the entrance to the campground.

**THE STANDARD LODGE ROOM** – Experience relaxed elegance with the most peaceful rest that the Smoky Mountain area can offer in our luxurious Lodge Room. The Standard Lodge Room can be equipped with two Queen beds, and can accommodate up to four people.

**CABINS AND ROOMS ARE GOING FAST!  
BOOK NOW!**

**BMTA's 2019 Annual Meeting Nov. 1 – 3**  
**Fontana Village Lodge, North Carolina**



**Hemlock Three Bedroom**

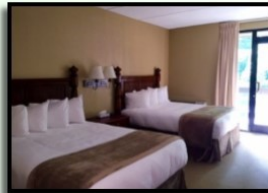


**COME EARLY / STAY LATE**  
**SPECIAL RATE APPLIES TO YOUR ENTIRE STAY!**

Lodge Rooms, Cabins and Campsites



**Azalea Three Bedroom**



**Lodge Rooms**



**Hickory Two Bedroom**



**Campground**



**Willow One Bedroom**



**For reservations call 828-498-2211.**  
**To receive your discount -**  
**Mention the Benton MacKaye Trail Association!**

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual AT&T Community Day on the BMT

by Phil Guhl

May 2019 brought a load of guests to the trail to get some work done...and work got done. Thanks to AT&T employees and Thrivent Financial employees, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual AT&T Community Day on the BMT was a success. It was fun, productive and safe.



AT&T gives its employees one paid day per year to volunteer for a qualifying 501(c)3, of which the BMTA is one. For five years now a group of AT&T employees have been coming out and lending a hand in getting some valuable work done. They have done it all at one time or another: water diversions, side hilling, knicks, lopping, brush cutting, sling blading and so on. They are an enjoyable and committed group to work with.

On Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, nine AT&T employees and three Thrivent Financial employees along with a few BMTA members met at the Iron Bridge Café in Blue Ridge. After getting a quick bite and swapping salutations, the crew loaded up and headed for the top of Brawley Mountain. We stopped at the amphitheater to consolidate cars and to conduct the Safety Debriefing and Job Hazard Analysis. At this time, my loving bride drenched me with DEET. Next stop: Brawley Tower.

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Upon arriving at Brawley, the crew split into two teams. Team Garland and Team Brawley. Team Garland hiked to the campsite at Garland Gap. They started by brushing out the path down to the water source. Then they cleaned the fire pit and began brushing the trail back toward Brawley. Team Brawley started cleaning some of the brush under the tower then began working down the trail towards Garland Gap.

Larry Dumas, Section 5c's maintainer, expressed a genuine appreciation for the work done. This allowed him to focus on several downed trees farther down Garland Mountain near Dial Road.

When the two teams met, everyone hiked back up to Brawley Tower. Upon arrival, a huge spread (Quesadillas, black beans, rice, chips, fixings, meat for tacos, and beverages) was provided and prepared by Thrivent Financial via our dearly beloved member Shane Morrison. Did I mention there was a huge amount of awesome food? And despite the DEET shower...I got two ticks.

**Team Garland:** Barry Allen (Team Leader), Debra Guhl (BMTA), Shane Morrison (BMTA/AT&T/Thrivent), Patrick Ward (BMTA/Thrivent), Charla Oja-Silvia (AT&T), Bob Silvia (AT&T) and Ken Burks (AT&T).

**Team Brawley:** Jamie Loden (AT&T), Ashish Kumar (AT&T), Ravi Doejode (AT&T), Pat DeLuca (Thrivent), Gail DeLuca (Thrivent) and Phil Guhl (Crew Leader).

## TN/NC Work Trips

by John Zardis

The following work was completed since our last newsletter on the Tennessee/North Carolina portion of the trail:

- ◆ Sections 18a, 18b and 18c were completed during our regularly scheduled 4th Saturday work trip for April (it was completed after the last newsletter deadline).
- ◆ Section 13e was completely logged out and over half the trail was brushed out on a small supplementary work trip.
- ◆ Sections 16e and 17d were cleared by individual maintainers.
- ◆ Section 16d was cleared on our regularly scheduled 4th Saturday work trip for May.
- ◆ Section 14c had significant tread work completed by a group of motocross enthusiasts that one of our new members put together.

Next month we plan to tackle Section 19c all the way up near the Fontana Dam. This section has over 25 trees down and the Forest Service plans to drop some steps for us to plant if we have a big enough team to get the job done. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 2019, although we are working out a few final details with the Forest Service regarding access points and those steps. We hope to see a lot of you there on the 22nd to check out this high altitude portion of the trail.

**Thanks for all the hard work in May!**



# Georgia May Work Report

by Phil Guhl

Our recruiter extraordinaire was at it again! May, 2019, saw 10 guests from the Boy Scouts due to our Georgia State Representative Bob Cowdrick's effective outreach efforts. Wow! What a group they were...

This being May, the fifth month of the year, we continued our tour of Georgia by working on Section 5. It all started with Larry Dumas and me scouting the section from Wilscot Gap to Shallowford Bridge Road on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. We met some thru hikers, as well as collected some stowaways...well at least I did. Yep! Larry has given me the trail name "Tick Bait." He did not get a single tick. The thru hikers who spent the night on Tipton Mountain did not get a single tick. HOWEVER, me? Did I get a tick? No. I got 28 of those little buggers. Whatever. It was a great hike and Larry is great company.

Our regularly scheduled maintenance day arrived on the second Saturday of the month, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Part of the crew, mainly members, met at the Iron Bridge Café in Blue Ridge. We then headed to Wilscot Gap to meet up with other members and the Boy Scouts Crew 630k from Flowery Branch. This was my first opportunity to work with the Boy Scouts. Based on stories I heard, I was a bit concerned since others have shared both good and bad experiences. I decided to approach it with an open mind. There would be no disappointments on this day.

At Wilscot Gap, we split the crew into teams and performed the Safety Debriefing and Job Hazard Analysis. All of this...while...thunder rumbled in the distance. A quick glance at the weather radar and there were some small storm cells here and there, but there was one growing over the Alabama/Georgia border. This concerned me and I conveyed that concern to the team.



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Team Wilscoth would work from Wilscoth Gap up toward the shortcut to the amphitheater. Barry Allen and Bob Cowdrick were the team leads. A small group would brush out the trail until they met up with Team Ledford coming from the other direction. A larger group of Team Wilscoth, primarily made up of the Boy Scouts would dig water diversions and side hill. Once the brushers met Team Ledford and the dirt heavers were complete, everyone would hike out to the amphitheater shortcut.

Team Ledford would work from Ledford Gap toward Team Wilscoth brushing as they went. Once they met up with Team Wilscoth, they would turn and hike out with them.



With assignments made, the teams dispatched. Neither team was deterred by the rain. Brush was getting cut, dirt was getting moved and berms were being removed. The rain continued with brief intermissions; however, rain was not the problem. Shortly after noon the thunder began. That Alabama storm cell was approaching. The decision was made to stop working and head for the amphitheater. Everyone was safely off the trail by 1:00 PM. The torrential rain continued and continued and continued.



What a terrible ending to a day...NOT!

When everyone got to the amphitheater, Debra Guhl and Sue Ricker were doing their thing. We had hot dogs, potato salad, cole slaw, chips, cookies, and beverages awaiting our arrival. The grill was hot and the condiments were spread out for our pleasure in the middle of this downpour. The thunder subsided and allowed us to gorge...

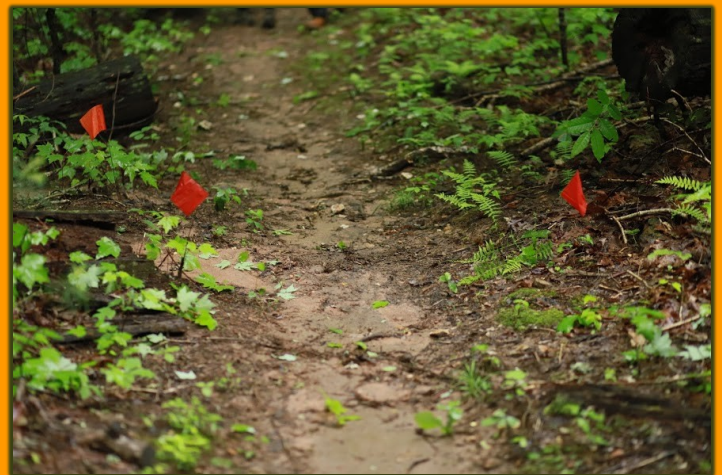
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Everyone on this trip showed his or her commitment. Each of us had a blast. I continue to say, “I want the crews to have fun, be productive and be safe.” We achieved that. Over two miles of trail was brushed clear, about 75 feet of side hilling was done, over 20 water diversions were cleaned or installed and many feet of de-berming was accomplished. To me, it does not sound like we were rained out at all!

**Team Wilscot:** Bob Cowdrick (Team Leader), Barry Allen (Team Leader), Mike Kovitch, Mark Yost, Dale Clark and Russ Ivey – Boy Scouts: Brian Cave, Scott Williams, Chad Wansing, Joseph Cararan, John Rennebiker, Sam Tennell, Seth Savage, Jaiden Green, Spencer McGovern and Liam Wansing.

**Team Ledford:** Debra Guhl, Dave Ricker, Sue Ricker, David Watkins, Frank Forehand, Ben Yaun, Butch Watson and Phil Guhl (Crew Leader).



Understanding the value of water diversions.

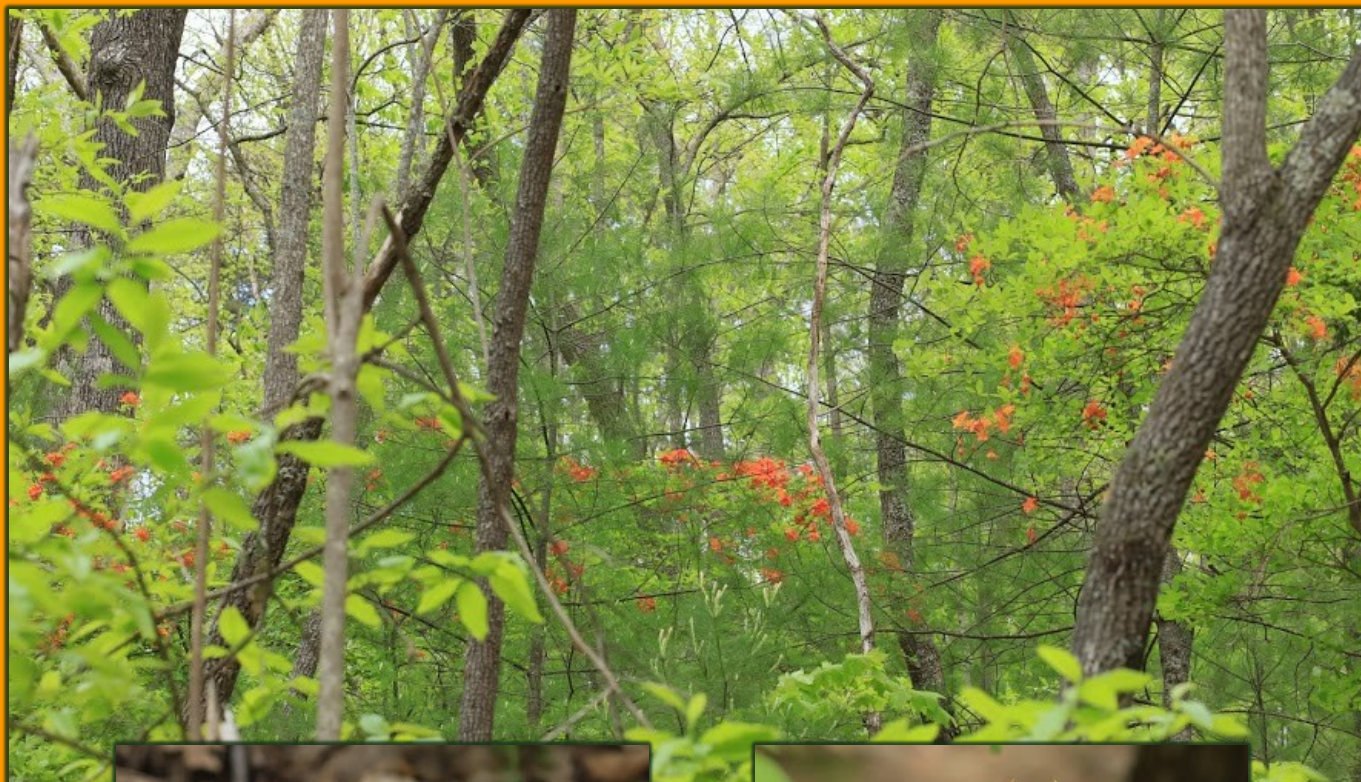
## Lady Slippers and Much More

by Joy Forehand with photos courtesy of Mike Kovitch

With the weatherman predicting just a 35% chance of rain for May 1, it sounded like a pretty good day for a hike.

Indeed it began that way as six hikers made their first stop at Fall Branch Falls where recent rains left volumes of water cascading down the rock cliff behind the falls.

A few brilliant orange Wild Azalea were spotted in the woods as the group approached Rocky Mountain where fields of Cinnamon Ferns were interspersed with pink and white Grandiflora Trillium.



Catesby Trillium, Trillium Luteum and False Green Hellebore dotted the landscape on the way to the top of Rocky Mountain where the hikers paused for lunch.

The high point of the day was the Lady Slipper garden at the entrance to the water cutoff. The deep pink beauties were far larger and more prevalent than in previous years.



And then the rains came. No time to appreciate the smaller Lady Slipper Gardens along the trail to Scroggin Knob ... hikers were scampering up and then down the mountain to escape the showers.

As the skies began to clear, we encountered George Owen ... our "guardian angel". George said he had encountered a large pine tree that completely blocked the trail below. Fortunately, George was able to cut away the offending branches before the hike reached the blowdown.

Hikers included: Hike Leader, Joy Forehand, Frank Forehand, Jan Hitt, Mike Kovitch, Wanda Stewart and Karen Steinberg.



## Membership Report

by Darcy Douglas

The changes in Membership this last month have been phenomenal. We continue to have new members (21 since last writing) and renewals (21 since last writing). Two of those were Corporate Members, so we are up to six for 2019. I'll list them below so you can favor them with your business when possible.

The huge change you may have noticed is that you received your newsletter in a different format this month. Due to our use of MailChimp, everyone for whom we have a good email address should have received the newsletter. Hurray!!! We will also be using this format for many other communications with members. My contact information will not appear in the MailChimp correspondence. If you need to reach me, click on the Contact button in the MailChimp email. State your question and ask that the email be directed to me for a response.

Our membership is on a calendar year, so it expires at the end of December. It is good to have so many renewals as well as new members. Please remember your dues go toward trail maintenance and the equipment used to maintain the trail so this is a worthy cause! We can't do it without the manpower, but we can't do it without the funds, either! **THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!!**

### CORPORATE MEMBERS OF THE BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

**Blue Jeans Pizza and Pasta Factory – Blue Ridge, Georgia**

**Faith and Hope Together, Inc. – Copperhill, Tennessee**

**Flip Flop Burgers – Reliance, Tennessee**

**Historic Tapoco Lodge – Robbinsville, North Carolina**

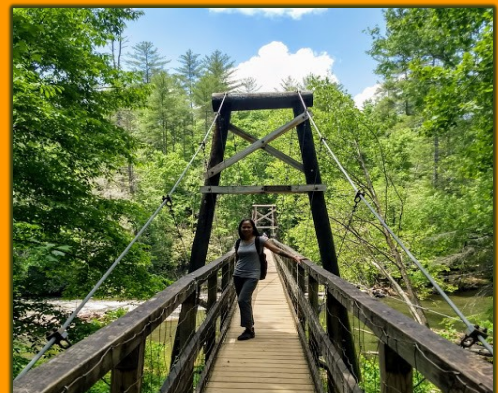
**Korean Alpine Club of Georgia - Georgia**

**Starr Mountain Outfitters – Etowah, Tennessee**

## Three Forks to the Swinging Bridge

by Tom Sewell

A hot Memorial Day weekend hike on the BMT from Three Forks to the Swinging Bridge had Tom Sewell and one BMT guest muster up for this nine mile hike. This beautiful ridge hike may be reoffered during the winter when the lack of leaf vegetation will afford great views. The only drawback is that that it has 70 minutes of shuttle time on both the beginning and end of the hike. However, our bridge never disappoints and makes it worth the trip and the shuttle.



# Springer Mountain Loop Hike

by George Owen

All went very well on the Springer Mountain Loop hike Saturday, May 18. We ended up with six hikers, five women and me. Originally we had ten signed up to go, but one couple had to back out Friday night due to one of them having a foot or leg injury. Another couple simply failed to show up. Four of the hikers attending were members, one has attended other BMTA events but is not a member, and one was completely new. We began around 10:30 on the 4.7 mile hike and were finished by 2:30. The weather was absolutely perfect for the hike. We proceeded at a rather moderate pace with stops to share the history of the BMT as well as to enjoy the beautiful mountain views and wildflowers along the trail. We had a lunch break at Owen's Overlook and enjoyed a refreshing breeze that complimented the stunning vista.



At an intersection of the AT and BMT.



Vista from the top of Springer Mountain.



First blaze of the AT.



Benton MacKaye plaque.



We did not want to leave Owen's Overlook.



A sun dappled stream.



A cairn among the ferns.

## Somebody Snored

by Mike Kovitch

A small but aggressive crew consisting of Barry Allen, Brian Trinkle, Shane Morison and photographer Mike Kovitch managed to log out 37 trees on Sections 10 and 11 of the BMT. While somewhat warm on the first day, the weather mostly cooperated with no rain, as was forecast in the 20% chance of same. Our crew hiked and worked our way approximately six to seven miles from Dally Gap to Double Springs Gap. We then spent the night at the latter, where two springs supplied refills for our water bladders and bottles. Barry showed us how to minimalist camp, constructing a pine bow bed to sleep on, topped off with a sleeping bag of choice. Somebody snored, off and on, during the night but the next morning, no one would own up to it. Sunday morning, May 19th, found us breaking camp early, then working our way on up the steep mile-long ascent at the beginning of the Big Frog Mountain Trail. Don't quite know how he did it, but Barry ordered up a strong, cool and refreshing breeze all morning, which made the strenuous early morning climb, somewhat easier. Thank you, Barry.

On the first morning, Dale Clark was kind enough to shuttle us to Dally Gap, after we left cars at the Low Gap parking area for our return on Sunday, saving us hours of time having to juggle cars around. So much appreciated by all. Thank you Dale. Both days, Brian and Shane set a blistering pace as they showed how maintenance is done on the BMT.





## Upcoming Hikes

by Ken Cissna, Hiking Director

BMTA normally schedules a minimum of two hikes per month, one of five to eight miles and moderate difficulty, and one that is shorter and easier. In addition, we have occasional backpacking hikes and more difficult ones that might be called “hardy hikes.” Occasionally we co-sponsor hikes with other organizations. Although more hikes are in Georgia than the other states, you will find hikes in all three BMT states: Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

If you are interested in leading a hike or have a hike you’d like to see us offer with someone else leading, please contact me at [kcissna@usf.edu](mailto:kcissna@usf.edu) or 706-636-1741.

The hikes for the next couple of months are listed below. Summer is here with opportunities for “water hikes.” More hikes will be forthcoming, so check the Activities Calendar of the website and next month’s newsletter for updates. Enjoy.

### June

**June 7 (Friday)** Amadahy Trail. **DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE** (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). 5 miles, easy to moderate along the shore of Carter’s Lake. Lunch at the marine campground.

Contact hike leader Ken Cissna at [kcissna@usf.edu](mailto:kcissna@usf.edu)

**June 9 (Sunday)** BMT: Wilscot Gap to Shallowford Bridge.

This 7.6-mile trek is not the easiest Benton MacKaye Trail section in Georgia, but it is pretty typical of the trail in the peach state. While rated moderately strenuous, this particular trek has the advantage that the leader is getting older (81), slower and loves little rests on the uphill (or anywhere else he can have them)! The trip begins with the longest, hardest uphill of 1.3 miles with just under 700-ft. elevation climb. We will take that in a slow and modest speed, to top off on Tipton Mountain (3,147'). Lunch will be at the fire tower on Brawley Mountain (3,027'). We will end the hike walking alongside the tumbling Toccoa River for a half mile to our waiting vehicles at Shallowford Bridge. Shuttle involved.

Contact hike leader George Owen evenings between 7-11 p.m. at 706-374-4716.

**June 15 (Saturday)** BMT from FS 221 to Thunder Rock Campground and back to the picnic tables on the Rhododendron Trail.

4.9 mile, easy; 98% downhill. We will include watching the water arrive at the Ocoee Whitewater Center before we hike. The rhododendrons should be in full bloom and the patch of wild raspberries, too.

Contact Clare Sullivan at [clare7982@gmail.com](mailto:clare7982@gmail.com).

**June 22 (Saturday)** BMT (Section 4) Skeenah Gap to Wilscot Gap.

5.3 miles, moderate. Includes discussion of the rocks, trees, plants and birds we find along the trail. Short shuttle.

Contact hike leader Gilbert Treadwell at [gilcraft@etcm.com](mailto:gilcraft@etcm.com) or by text to 404-660-4551

**June 24 (Monday)** Turtletown Creek Falls.

4 miles, moderate. Two beautiful falls in one short hike.

Contact hike leader Howard Baggett at [Howardeb@windstream.net](mailto:Howardeb@windstream.net).

## July

**July 4** (Thursday) Holiday Special. Stay tuned for further information.

**July 12** (Friday) Pine Log Creek.

5 miles, moderate (one steep 400' climb). See beautiful lake at old rock quarry with lots of fish.

Contact hike leader Howard Baggett at [howardeb@windstream.net](mailto:howardeb@windstream.net).

**July 14** (Sunday) Gahuti Trail.

8.1 miles, moderate to strenuous. Explore the Fort Mountain State Park back country including gorgeous overlook vistas and the cascades of a remote waterfall. State parking pass or \$5 parking fee required.

Contact hike leader Larry Dumas at [ledumas@hotmail.com](mailto:ledumas@hotmail.com)

**July 20** (Saturday) BMT Mud Gap to Whigg Meadow (**FAMILY AND DOG FRIENDLY HIKE**—adult humans may bring children and one leashed dog).

3.2 miles, easy (500' elevation change). From Mud Gap along the Cherohala Skyway in North Carolina, we will walk on the Benton MacKaye Trail uphill to Whigg Meadow at 5000 feet with 360-degree views of the surrounding Tennessee and North Carolina mountains. Shortly after leaving Mud Gap we will leave North Carolina for Tennessee. In addition we will have a short detour to see the grave of an unknown person who was killed by the Kirkland Bushwackers during the Civil War (Google "Kirkland Bushwackers" before your trip for an interesting history lesson for all). The trail is rocky in some places so we'll take it slow and easy. Bring a sack lunch to picnic at the meadow and plenty of water.

Contact hike leader Larry Van Dyke at [BMTAHiker@gmail.com](mailto:BMTAHiker@gmail.com).

**July 22** (Monday) Emery Creek in the Cohuttas.

5 miles, moderate. The trail itself is fairly easy, but 26 stream crossings (a number up to your ankles and two to your knees), a bunch of downed trees that have to be traversed (over, under, and around) and a section of potentially slippery rocks toward the beginning and again at the end make it more difficult than it otherwise would be. Holly and Emery Creeks, two lovely waterfalls, and a nice trail make it worth the trouble.

Contact hike leader Ken Cissna at [kcissna@usf.edu](mailto:kcissna@usf.edu) or 813-310-6084.



**The deadline for the July Newsletter is July 3. Thank you!**