



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

Points of Interest

Click the title to go directly to the page.

[President's Column](#)

[Annual Meeting](#)

[Volunteer of the Year](#)

[RENEW!!!](#)

[Boys in the "Wood"](#)

[My Wife's Hike](#)

[Bob Bald](#)

[GA Work Trip](#)

[Hangover](#)

[Over the River...](#)

[Gone to the Dogs](#)

[Corporate Sponsors](#)

[Upcoming and More](#)



BMTA Officers 2020-2021

- President: Ken Cissna
- Vice President: Joy Forehand
- Secretary: Clare Sullivan
- Treasurer: Lydia Burns
- GA M/C: Bob Cowdrick
- TN/NC M/C: Rick Harris
- Smokies Coord: Larry Dumas
- Hiking Director: Tom Sewell
- Store: Sue Ricker
- Membership: Frank Forehand
- Publicity: Cary Page
- Conservation: Dave Ricker
- Past President: Barry Allen
- Newsletter: Kathy Williams
- State Rep GA: Debra Guhl
- State Rep TN/NC: TBA



BMTA Headquarters



President's Column

"You are the leaven which binds together the entire fabricthe long gray line has never failed us"

Douglas MacArthur, speaking before the United States Military Academy.

After two years as President of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, this is my final column. The time has passed – quicker than I could ever have imagined. And I find myself struggling with the right message while dealing with all of the disruptions brought about by a tiny virus and a fast-moving hurricane named Zeta.

A few days ago, my thoughts turned to a friend who graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1984. I was reminded of something known as "the Long Gray Line." For a West Point graduate, this refers to the unbroken line of cadets who have formed the backbone of our nation's defense for over two centuries.

Every successful volunteer organization must have its own 'Long Gray Line.'

The Benton MacKaye Trail Association has had a successful two years, reaching new milestones in membership, volunteer hours and hike participation. We have a solid financial balance sheet which will allow us to better plan for improvements to the trail. And we are able to assist the Forest Service with maintenance on adjoining paths, adding potential loop hikes and improving the overall experience of the trail. All of this success is due to a continuum of volunteers – a 'long gray line' who will not allow failure. Much of our recent success in membership can be traced to volunteers like Marcia Lehman and Marge and Ralph Heller who pioneered better publicity for the group in print media and festivals. Folks like Larry Van Dyke, Joy and Frank Forehand and Rick Harris have built on these efforts as other avenues of social media and outreach have been explored. But there were many, many others, struggling with few resources and tough conditions before people like Marcia and Marge, Larry and Joy entered the scene. The long gray line.

George Owen, Darcy Douglas, Tom Keene, Ken Jones and Rick Harris have trained and taught scores of people to care for the trail. More recently, Phil and Debra Guhl, Bob Cowdrick and Ed and Clare Sullivan have begun leading events and training new volunteers while adding their own twists with after-work refreshments. But over the years, there have been many others leading volunteers on long, hot trips to care for the trail. The long gray line.

The long gray line for a West Point graduate made reference to the gray woolen uniform of a cadet. I'm afraid the 'long gray line' for our members may reference our age and hair color. But nevertheless, our small group forms an unbroken line, bound together by the common goal of care for a 300-mile trail.

This year's annual meeting at Vogel was unique. Due to the virus, we avoided the usual push for large attendance. The meeting itself was attended by about 40 people, enough for a quorum to elect a new board and revise the bylaws. Annual awards were announced with Bob Cowdrick receiving the Trail Worker of the Year Award and Rick Harris receiving the Volunteer of the Year award. In addition to the 30 hour and 100 hour volunteer awards, Darcy Douglas and Tom Keene received special awards for their long service to the Association. Well done and well deserved by all. I look forward to next years' "40 plus 1" annual meeting, hosted by new President Ken Cissna and Vice President Joy Forehand!

The association is well along in Hurricane Zeta cleanup. This was probably the worst storm to hit our trail in quite some time, with Georgia receiving the brunt of the damage. Bob Cowdrick, our Zeta coordinator, and new Georgia Maintenance Director tells me that as of November 10, over 180 trees have been removed. Stay tuned next month to get a final tally on tree removal and storm cleanup.

It's been an honor serving as your President these past two years. See you on the trail.....

Bob Cowdrick - BMTA 2020 Trail Worker of the Year



Congratulations to Bob Cowdrick, our 2020 Trail Worker of the Year! An active member of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA), for the last three years, Cowdrick served as the State Rep for Georgia. In 2021 he will become the Georgia Maintenance Director.

His time with the Boy Scouts peaked his interest in hiking and trail maintenance. While attending school in Maine, he decided to participate in a summer work trip. "The trip was a great learning experience and I met some incredible people – it's all about the people," said Cowdrick. "I wondered if there were other organizations that offered summer programs."

Cowdrick soon began looking for a new experience each summer – to hone his skills on the trail and to meet new people.

Two of his most memorable work trips were in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and in the Montana Wilderness. His search for the "new and unusual" also led him to become a member of the trail security team for the Iditarod Race in Anchorage, AK, and to join a trek to the summit of Mount Rainier. Cowdrick also was one of six chosen to go on an REI Lodge to Lodge Trek to Machu Picchu.

As the years passed, Cowdrick wanted a trail close to home to enjoy and maintain – he found the Benton MacKaye. He was impressed with the way the dedicated, knowledgeable crew leaders shared their enthusiasm, superb maintenance skills and trail maintenance expertise with other trail workers.

"It's all about building camaraderie and friendships," Cowdrick said. "My goal is to encourage our trail workers to love and appreciate all the BMT has to offer – the incredible vistas, the fast-moving rivers, the quiet solitude of the woods. And then I want to encourage them to become proficient in all aspects of trail maintenance."

Annual Meeting

A beautiful lakeside venue -- The Lake Pavilion at Vogel State Park -- was the site for the Benton MacKaye Trail Association's Annual Meeting, November 7, 2020. A much larger celebration originally was planned for this, the 40th Anniversary of BMTA, but COVID-19 required BMTA to postpone the celebration until next year.

Each of the 35 attendees at the meeting received a BMTA Bandana featuring a map of the BMT – the newest product, now available in the [Trail Store!](#)

At the business meeting, Barry Allen presented the State of the Trail report and several directors gave reports for their respective areas of expertise. The proposed Bylaws' Amendments and Slate of Nominees were presented for consideration. Both passed unanimously.

Then it was time for what everyone was waiting for ... the 2020 Awards!

- Bob Cowdrick was named Trail Worker of the Year. (See article on [page 2](#))
- Rick Harris was named Volunteer of the Year. (See article on [page 5](#))
- Fifty-nine trail workers put in 30 hours or more, earning the 2020 Maintainer T-Shirt.
- Seven trail workers who had not previously received a 100 Hour Club Maintainer's jacket received one.
- Six trail workers who had not received a 100 Hour Club Maintainer's Hat received a hat.
- Twenty-two trail workers who received a jacket in 2018, were given a Forestry Supplies Gift Certificate.

In spite of the COVID-19 shut down, BMTA trail workers turned in a phenomenal number of hours:

# of Trips:	1,003
Travel Time:	2,076.99 Hours
Work Time:	4,791.51 Hours
Total:	6,868.50 Total Hours

Two special awards for long time service were presented. A picture of Owen Vista was given to out-going Past President, Tom Keene. A picture of the Swinging Bridge was presented to Darcy Douglas. The pictures are the work of BMTA Corporate Member, North Georgia Treks Photography -- Richard Parks, Photographer.



To see the list of Awards, use the following links:

[30-Hour T-Shirts](#)

[100 Hour Club Jackets](#)

[100 Hour Club Hats](#)

[100 Hour Club Forestry Supplies Gift Certificates](#)

[Hike Leader T-Shirts](#)

The winner of the raffle for a beautiful wooden Benton MacKaye Trail directional trail sign was George Owen. Last on the docket were the Annual Meeting Hikes – a perfect ending for BMTA’s 2020 Annual Meeting.



Board Members Dave Ricker, Bob Cowdrick, Barry Allen, Joy Forehand, Frank Forehand, Tom Sewell, Rick Harris and Ken Cissna.



New this year-The “COVID Throw” of Hike Leader Shirts-brouhaha!



The colors of fall always stun us with their glorious serenity.

Rick Harris - BMTA 2020 Volunteer of the Year



Rick Harris is the recipient of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association 2020 Volunteer of the Year Award. A member of the association since 2005, Harris has served as both the TN/NC Maintenance Director and as the State Rep for Tennessee. He currently is the TN/NC Maintenance Director.

As a youth, Harris' parents and his Scout Master were enthusiastic hikers who instilled in Harris a love for hiking and the outdoors. Scouting and hiking slipped to the sidelines while he prepared for his future career in medicine -- as the Director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program and the Bone Marrow Failure Clinic at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Originally from Chattanooga, when retirement beckoned, Harris returned to the wilds of Tennessee. He joined the Cherokee Hiking Club (CHC) where he met Ken Jones and Bobby Mitchell. Jones encouraged Rick to join the Ocoee / Tellico Trail Crew and later, the Benton MacKaye Trail Association.

"I learned about trail maintenance by 'doing'," said Harris. "Ken and Bobby were great teachers. I signed onto the BMTA Maintenance Team; I became a member of the stellar Thursday Trails Crew and I'm the Hiking Rep for the Tennessee Greenways and Trails Council."

As hike leaders and shuttle drivers for hikers on the BMT, Harris and his wife, Brenda, are enthusiastic ambassadors for the BMTA. "We bring a lot of interesting people home with us," said Brenda. "We've brought very tired and very thirsty hikers as well as some injured hikers home for a good night's rest."

A multi-talented BMTAer, Rick has completed many projects for BMTA, including compiling and editing BMTA's *Georgia Guidebook*, BMTA's *TN/NC Guidebook* and the *Smokies Guide*. His latest project is BMTA's new bandana which features a map of the Benton MacKaye Trail.

"Whatever I do, my goal is to train other people to take over my position – people like Steve Cartwright, Ed and Clare Sullivan and Keith Mertz," said Rick. "I want to create a group of people who will be able to carry on and do as good a job – or even a better job -- of running the maintenance program."





Time to Renew Your Membership!

—*Leave a footpath for generations to follow.*—

To Join or to Renew your membership, go to [Membership](#).

[Donate Now.](#)

- ◆ Membership fees & donations are the primary source of funds for preserving & protecting the BMT.
- ◆ For a donation of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, you will receive an Individual or Family Membership for 2021.

Memberships purchased after October 1 will be good thru December 31, 2021.



Now Available in the BMTA Trail Store

This 22" x 22" Bandana features a map of the Benton MacKaye Trail.

Available in sateen cotton or polyester.

Perfect as a headscarf for you or as a collar for your four-legged companion. Use as a tourniquet, a mask for pollen and smoke prevention or as a cold pack.

Go [HERE](#) to Get Yours Today!

Boys in the “Wood”

Camping In the Cohuttas clearing the BMT/Jacks/Penitentiary - starring Steve and Connor Bayliss, Patrick Ward, Shane Morrison, Brian Trinkle, Bob Cowdrick and Barry Allen.



My Wife's Hike

by Steve Dennison



My wife Nancy suggested this route to a beautiful waterfall off Fall Creek between Mt. Oglethorpe and Dawsonville in the Wildcat Tract of Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area. I told her it would be too long for a club hike. After studying All Trails and other sources I realized that once again she was right and I was not.

Nancy, our granddaughter, her friend and I pre-hiked the route October 12 after three days of significant rain. The three women had no incidents while yours truly got himself and his smartphone wet in maybe seven inches of water two feet from the bank. Now I'll believe Weather Channel warnings about running water's ability to move cars and people!

One week later, members Darcy Douglas, Bill Cox, Rod Jude, Nancy and I did this hike with more reasonable stream crossings. The waterfall volume wasn't as high but we could see the cascades on the waterfall better that day.

I had pretty much given up on doing the hike to the waterfall because BMTA isn't doing shuttles right now. Nancy's "outside-the-box" thinking gave participants the opportunity to see the waterfall. Members Ken Cissna, Mike Pilvinsky and Tom Sewell also pre-hiked this route with me. I appreciated their help before I led the club hike there.

Amazon Smile Benefits BMTA

If you are going to make purchases from Amazon please use this address: BMTA's unique link is [http:// smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1428009](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1428009).

If you do so, Amazon will direct a small share of your purchases to BMTA. A convenient way to do this is to click on the link and then bookmark that page on your toolbar or wherever you keep hiking links.

Thank you!

Hike To Bob Bald

by Rick Harris

This was a joint BMTA and Cherokee Hiking Club Hike. Led by Brenda and Rick Harris, seven hikers and one dog set their sights on Bob Bald. At about 5400 feet elevation and a 7.6-mile round trip hike from Beech Gap at the state line on the Cherohala Skyway, it was a great way to get a good workout! Upon reaching the top, the group enjoyed the great views off to the south and ate lunch. It was a beautiful cool, fall day with the leaves starting to turn a variety of colors. Hikers included Rick and Brenda Harris, Clare Sullivan, Doug Lynch, Mary Alton, Will Dostie and Sandra Fenton. Numerous other day hikers and backpackers were encountered along the way. As a matter of fact, when we arrived at Beech Gap, the parking area was full and we had to drive down to the Unicoi Crest Overlook to park.



GA Work Trip October 10

by Phil Guhl with photos courtesy of Debra Guhl, Ken Cissna and Bob Cowdrick

The Director of Maintenance for the Georgia portion of the Benton MacKaye Trail has been a challenging one for me. Through it I have gained much more respect for those in these leadership positions. The hours of ‘behind the scenes’ work to coordinate with the US Forest Service, communicate with volunteers, manage budgets, plan events and more, are huge and untracked. I found these hours to have been extremely rewarding and valuable. I believe in what we are doing to preserve the trail we love, as well as to encourage and provide others with the means to get outside and experience all that the outdoors has to offer: the beauty, the break in life, the exercise and the opportunity to socialize without the burden and distractions society places upon us daily. With all of that said, I want to express a heartfelt “Thank You!” to each and every one of you. The most cherished component of any of these official roles is getting to work with some very wonderful volunteers. It has been a great two years and I look forward to possibly doing it again after I retire from my day job sometime in the future.

In these two years, the Georgia maintainers have become accustomed to adversity. We had trips cancelled for lightening, snow, a government shutdown and a pandemic. When we did work, it rained on all but one trip. I will be watching very closely when the next Director takes the reigns. If the trips are not challenged in some way...I will know the gods were not in favor of me being at the helm. I was watching over my shoulder continually thinking a possible tsunami, earthquake, or volcano may pop up. Thank goodness, those haven’t happened...yet!

The Georgia maintenance trip in October was no different. We started in the rain. Nineteen brave souls showed up to do whatever was needed. Some met at the Blue Ridge Home Depot at 8:30 AM and caravanned to Dally Gap while the remainder of the team drove directly to Dally Gap. Around 9:30 AM I gave the Job Hazard Analysis and Safety Debrief, then we split into teams, got our tools and hit the trail. The rain did back off shortly after 10:00 AM. The rest of the day was cool with a gorgeous fog rolling through the trees.



Smiles light up through the fog!



And a trail emerges.

Continued next page

Bob Cowdrick took a crew of four from Dally Gap to Spanish Oak Gap. They brushed and lopped from Spanish Oak Gap to Jack's River Trail and then back to Dally Gap, completing the loop. Along the way, Bob installed and cleaned several water diversions.



Bob Cowdrick drains a "Nature Pool."

I took a crew of five from Dally Gap and worked up to Penitentiary Branch Trailhead. We brushed and lopped along the way.

Several hikers came through while we worked the trail. Everyone got off the trail safely around 2 PM.

All total about six miles of trail was cleared to make it a safer and more pleasurable experience for users.

Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area Hike

by Larry Dumas

The October 16 hike in the Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area happened on a perfect day with clear skies and temperatures between 45 to 63 degrees. I was joined on the well-maintained trail by Tom Sewell, Travis Jones, Elaine Schirmer and Tom Johnson. We enjoyed the beautiful fall colors enhanced with a few fall wildflowers.



We hiked the seven-mile loop trail counterclockwise. We started trekking up Blood Mountain on the Jarrard Gap Trail, followed the ridgeline on the Appalachian Trail, and then headed back down on the Slaughter Creek Trail.

The hike rates as easy to moderate with some rocky spots. The beginning is a gradual incline that lasts approximately a mile. The AT section of three miles is fairly even with moderate ups and downs.

In the winter, this area can be windy and cold. In the summer and in the fall there is ample tree cover. The Slaughter Creek Section has a steep decline in some places with spots of rocky trail. Hiking poles are helpful. Highlighting this area are the "tunnels" of rhododendrons and mountain laurel.

Dogs on a leash are allowed on all three sections of this loop trail. There is a \$5 parking fee per day at the recreation area.

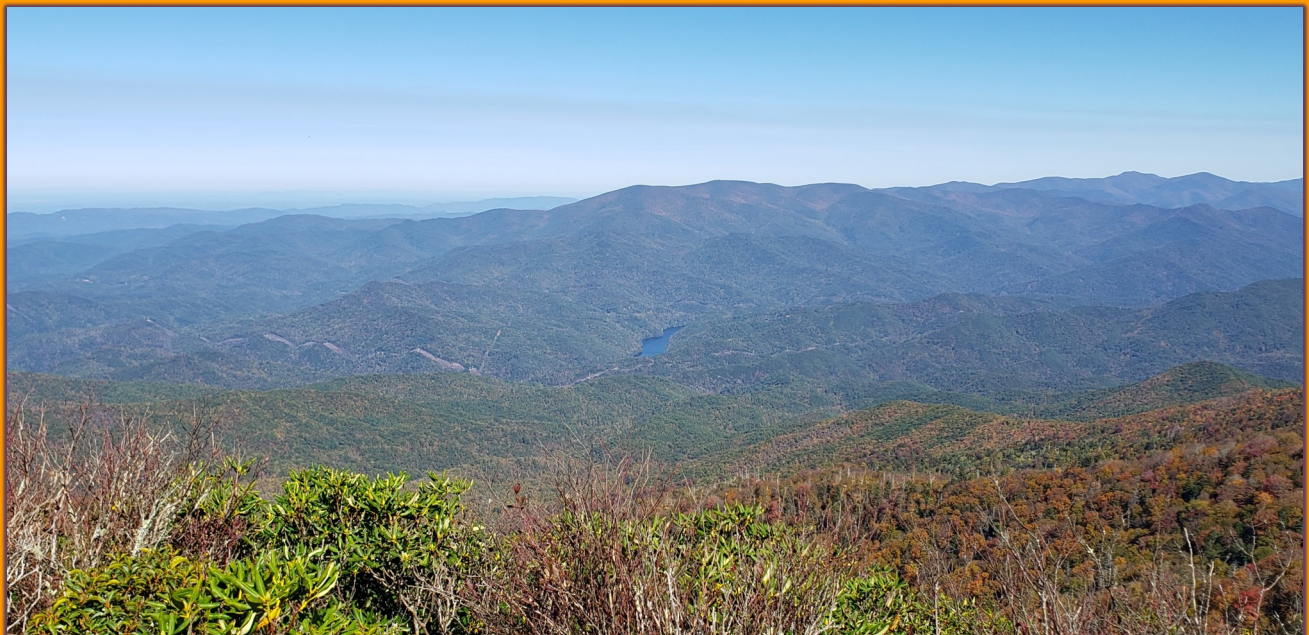
Hike to The Hangover

by Rick Harris

Ten hikers and one dog hiked from the Wolf Laurel Trailhead to the Hangover in the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness along the BMT on a beautiful fall day. The parking lot was overflowing when we arrived around 10 AM. The day started out cool at a little above freezing but warmed up to the mid-fifties by day's end with sunny, clear skies all day.



This difficult seven-mile hike with over 2000 feet of elevation gain started with a steady climb from the trailhead up to the BMT on the Stratton Ridge Trail. We then turned north on the BMT going steeply downhill to Naked Ground, then steeply uphill to Haoe, then down to the Hangover itself. With many leaves off of the trees, the views were impressive.



At the Hangover we met a group of Boy Scouts from Knoxville who were training for their 10-day trek scheduled next summer at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. They were encamped at Bob Bald on the BMT and were day hiking to the Hangover from there. We also met a group of hikers with the Tennessee Trails Association who were taking the same route as us. There were numerous solo and couple backpackers and day hikers. The trail was very busy.

We ate lunch at the Hangover with 360 degree views of the Smokies and the surrounding mountains. We then hiked back to the Wolf Laurel Trailhead and returned home. We had quite a job exiting the trailhead with us almost being pinned in. It seems everyone was enjoying "Our Big Backyard" out of Tellico Plains.



Hikers included Rick and Brenda Harris, their son David, grandsons Benton and Alex, Sue Robinson, Mary Alton, Judy Price and Sandra Fenton. Zoe, Sue's dog, was well behaved and did great on the hike.

David Harris had backpacked solo from the Tellico River up to Whigg Meadow where he spent Friday night with temps in the teens and high winds. He met us early on Saturday morning -- along the road to the trailhead.

Over the River and Through the Woods

by Clare Sullivan

Photos by Judy Price and Clare Sullivan

It was the day after Zeta swirled through the area and there were hikers left without power and downed trees everywhere. Our planned hike to The Narrows was rerouted through the woods for a loop from Towee Creek to Wildcat Creek and back along the beautiful Hiwassee River. The Narrows was underwater as dams were releasing for flood control. While strolling through the woods we were greeted by a hungry tree, roaring creeks, gorgeous waterfalls and sweeping views of the river and surrounding mountains. We welcomed new members Kitti Barth and Mike Vaughn. It was fun having Kitti's daughter from UT join us, too! Our guests Laura Dyer and Regina Haney added to the excitement. Nelson Ashbrook won the creek crossing contest! Judy Price showed us the secret cave just beyond Wildcat Creek. Kathy Williams took the safe way down from the cave, designing a trail as she slid. It was a beautiful fall day with perfect weather. Hopefully, Ed Sullivan burned off some of the calories from eating ice cream for breakfast and lunch the day the power was off!





Join Now!

Use this link to Join BMTA:

Membership

Bushy Head Gap to Hudson Gap-Gone to the Dogs

by Ken Cissna

The leaves weren't as colorful as they would have been had I not had to postpone this hike to November 5, after the big storm came through. But seven BMTA hikers enjoyed it nonetheless (Mike Carter, Martha Fowler, Cindy Minick, Mike Pilvinsky, Beth Roberts, Kathy Williams and hike leader, Ken Cissna). As always, three neighborhood dogs joined us for the whole hike, but they didn't faze hiker dog Artie even though they got to run around and he was on a leash. Mike sat down first at Hudson Gap to enjoy his lunch—so the neighborhood dogs seemed to give him most of their hopeful attention. It was a great fall day for a hike!



BMTA Corporate Members

The Benton MacKaye Trail Association is grateful for the help and support provided by our Corporate Members. When you visit one of these businesses, please identify yourself as a BMTA member and be sure to thank them for their support!

ALL CORPORATE MEMBERS ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS NOW!



THE BLACK SHEEP
www.blacksheepblueridge.com



BLUE JEANS PIZZA & PASTA
www.bluejeansblueridge.com/



CELEBRATE BLUE RIDGE
CABIN RENTALS
www.celebrateblueridge.com/



FLIP FLOP BURGERS
www.flipflopburgers.com/



KOREAN ALPINE CLUB
OF GEORGIA
www.sanakinusa.org/



LOWERY & ASSOCIATES LAND
SURVEYING, LLC
www.lowerylandsurveys.com/



MOUNTAIN PLACE REALTY
www.mountainplacerealty.com/



NORTH GEORGIA TREKS
PHOTOGRAPHY
www.northgeorgiatreks.com



SAVE GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS
www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org/



STAR MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS
www.starmountainoutfitters.com/



TAPOCO LODGE
www.tapoco.com/



THE DUCKTOWN COPPER INN
<https://www.theducktowncopperinn.com/location>

Upcoming Hikes and Work Trips

by Ken Cissna, Outgoing Hiking Director

BMTA normally schedules four or five hikes per month, some “leisure” hikes that are shorter and easier and some five to eight miles and of moderate difficulty. 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. Some, but not all, of our hikes are “dog friendly.” Although more hikes are in Georgia than the other states, you will find hikes in all three BMT states: Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

These, however, are not normal times. Because hiking in the out-of-doors is good for one’s mental and physical health, we encourage BMTA members and others to continue hiking as much as possible during this national health crisis *and to do so safely*. To that end, we are continuing our hiking program and welcome people to hike with us. In the interests of safety, we have instituted some modifications that you need to know about:

1. **Only hikes that do not require shuttles are allowed** under the auspices of BMTA.
2. All hikers must drive to the meeting place and trailhead in their own cars -- no carpooling except among family members.
3. Any potential hiker who is feeling ill, has traveled within the past 14 days to a location with a significant number of cases of the novel corona virus (COVID-19) or has been exposed within the past 14 days to a person who has been confirmed as or is even suspected of having COVID-19 must not come on a hike.
4. All hikes are limited to 10 participants —hike leaders may impose even lower limits.
5. Before, during and after a hike, participants must maintain an appropriate social distance from one another (an absolute minimum of six feet—but ten, fifteen or twenty is much better).

The hikes for the remainder of the year are listed below. Some areas continue to have beautiful leaf color and the cool fall weather should be great for hiking. You should find plenty to enjoy in the hikes below. More hikes will be forthcoming, so check the Activities Calendar of the website, BMTA’s Facebook page, our various email alerts and next month’s newsletter for updates. Enjoy.

November

November 20 (Friday) Benton Falls.

3 miles, easy. To a gorgeous 65-foot waterfall.

Hike Leader: Larry Dumas. For further information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

November 21 (Saturday) Rabun Bald.

3.3 miles, moderate.

Hike Leader: Barry Allen. For further information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

November 22 (Sunday) Selected Sections of the Unicoi Turnpike and BMT near TN 68.

4-6 miles, easy to moderate.

Hike Leader George Owen. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

November 23 (Monday) BMT/AT: From Three Forks southbound up AT to first crossing with BMT, back on BMT. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).
4.2 miles, moderate (option to go to second BMT/AT crossing—adds 1.7 miles)
Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. For further information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

November 26 (Thursday) Amadahy Trail.
4-5 miles, easy-moderate. For hikers who don't want to be alone on this Holiday, and for others who would like to get some exercise prior to their big dinners.....Treats for those who join us!!
Hike Leader Darcy Douglas. For further information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.



November 28 (Saturday) TN/NC Work Trip 12d -Kimsey Hwy to Lost Creek. To RSVP Contact Ed/Claire Sullivan clare7982@gmail.com.

December

December 5 (Saturday) BMT: Bushy Head Gap to Hudson Gap to High Point towards McKenny Gap, and return.
6.7 miles, moderate. Elevation change total 1376'. Beautiful ridge hike.
Hike Leader: Tom Sewell. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

December 7 (Monday) AT: Woody Gap to Gooch Gap and back.
7.2 miles, moderate. Two nice viewpoints.
Hike Leader: Steve Dennison. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

December 8 (Tuesday) Selected trails of Boling Park (Canton).
5-8 miles, easy to moderate.
Hike Leader Darcy Douglas. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

December 11 (Friday) Piney Knob Trail.
5.5 miles, moderate.
Hike Leader: Evelyn Yarns. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.



December 12 (Saturday) GA Work Trip Section 2a / Three Forks – Long Creek Boardwalk Renovation.
To RSVP contact Bob Cowdrick GAMaintDirector@bmtamail.org.

December 14 (Monday) BMT/AT: From Three Forks northbound up AT to just past Hickory Falls Cemetery and back. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).
5 miles, moderate.
Hike Leader Ken Cissna. For further information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

December 16 (Wednesday) BMT: John Muir Trail to the Narrows.

5 miles, moderate.

We'll start with a beautiful view from the swinging bridge that crosses the Hiwassee River at the Appalachia Powerhouse. The hike will be to a treasure, The Narrows, a deep narrow gorge through which the old riverbed flows is full of fascinating rock formations and Ruth's Golden Asters (in the fall). You'll want to drop your pack and explore! Be prepared for water crossings. Hiking sticks recommended. Bring snack/lunch and water. Hike Leader: Clare Sullivan. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.



December 19 TN/NC Work Trip Sections 12a-b, Ocoee River to Kimsey Hwy, log and brush out. To RSVP contact Ralph Van Pelt RVanp45246@aol.com.

December 28 (Monday) AT: Dicks Creek Gap south to Kelly Knob and return by way of Deep Gap Shelter.

9 miles, moderately strenuous.

Hike Leader Steve Dennison. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

Loop Hike Photo Story

Courtesy of Michelle Powell



The deadline for the December Newsletter is December 2.