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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: Steve Barnes



BMTA Headquarters



Benton MacKaye Trail Association

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2021

The Benton MacKaye Trail From Dream to Reality

by Joy Forehand

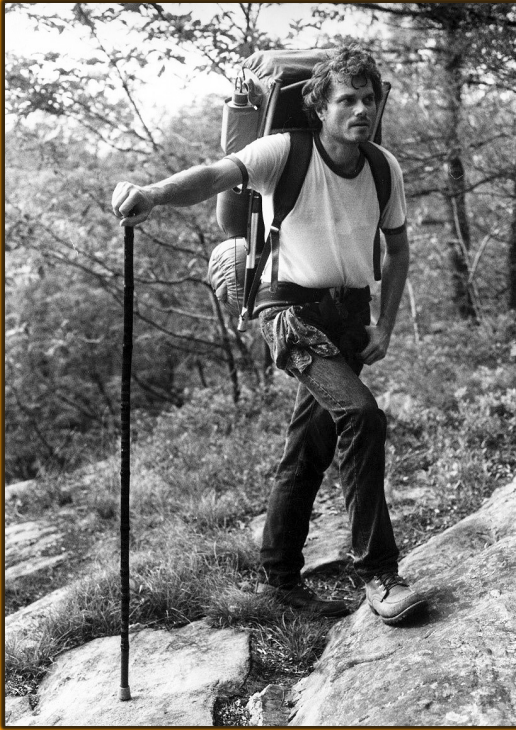
As a youth, the founding father of the Benton MacKaye Trail Dave Sherman declared, "If I ever get out of southwest Georgia, I'll never go camping again." During the hot and humid Georgia summers, his family would camp while clearing poison ivy and scrub oaks from the family's timberland in Early County, Georgia. The heat, the humidity and the mosquitos did little to make camping an enticing activity for Sherman.

Although the work discouraged his enjoyment of some outdoor activities, the concept of the need to preserve the forest's ecosystems was indelibly ingrained in the young man. Entrepreneurs of that time didn't understand the diverse ecosystems of the area and the land had been clearcut. Too many of the long leaf species were lost – something that Sherman's Great Uncle Walter would come to regret.

Sherman's aversion to camping disappeared when he was sent to California's Fort Ord for basic training. It was his first experience camping under the stars in cool weather. Cool breezes wafted in from the ocean and he thoroughly enjoyed the nights.

In 1970, Sherman was returning home after a business meeting in Tennessee. He didn't look forward to being stuck in Atlanta's rush hour traffic and he perused his highway atlas searching for something to do. It indicated Mount Oglethorpe was the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and he decided a visit would be a good way to pass the time. What he found disgusted him. The area was a garbage dump. Not one to stand silent, Sherman wrote a letter to Joe Tanner (then Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources), asking how the state could allow the southern terminus of the AT to become a garbage dump. Tanner replied that the terminus had not been there since 1958. It had been moved to Springer Mountain and now was managed by the Forest Service with the help of volunteers.

Sherman's initial attempts to visit the AT on Springer were unsuccessful and he realized he needed to learn more about hiking and the AT. When he finally did reach the summit, Sherman said, "I was in the woods – it felt like a magnet. I wondered what lies around the next curve and when I reached the summit, I wanted to know what's next (on the trail)". Sherman went on to complete a section hike of the AT. But, as he hiked the famous trail, some aspects of the trail still disappointed him. The trail suffered from overuse. "It was like an "army in retreat – so much trash and abandoned hike provisions on the trail," said Sherman. "At shelters, there was trash everywhere."



Sherman in 1980 on East Mountain, Massachusetts. Used with permission of the ATC.

In 1975, Sherman became State Coordinator for the Georgia Heritage Trust Program, the land acquisition arm of the Department of Natural Resources.

Shortly thereafter he was appointed Chief of the Historic Preservation Section and State Historic Preservation Officer of Georgia.

In the early 1970s, Sherman attended a presentation given by Billy Taylor on his thru hike of the AT. Sherman was captivated. When talking to Taylor afterwards, Sherman mentioned he planned on hiking the entire AT himself – he finished that hike in 1983.

Taylor's reply stunned Sherman -- "Well, if you're going to do it, you had better do it before it is too late." Taylor explained development pressures along the AT were forcing the trail off private land on to public roads and there may not be a continuous trail much longer.

It was at the presentation that Sherman met George Owen and Margaret Drummond, two of the six founding members of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA). Owen introduced Sherman to hiking, backpacking and trail maintenance.

Sherman was curious about the history of the AT and how/why the location was changed from the original proposal. Drummond gave Sherman access to the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) archives, a treasure trove that included letters from Benton MacKaye and Myron Avery as well as a map of MacKaye's initial proposal for the route of the AT.



MacKaye's initial map for the AT from the ATC Archives.

Inspired by the GATC material, Sherman began to think about a new, wilderness trail based on one of MacKaye's spur routes that had not been used for the AT. Sherman began to dream of a more primitive and remote trail that would attract hikers who already had hiked the AT and were looking for an uncrowded experience and environment. Of utmost importance for the trail ... no shelters. Because of his experiences at shelters, Sherman believed that shelters were a major cause for the overuse of the AT. The trail should be all about the natural environment that surrounds the footpath.

He proposed the concept of a new trail to several members of GATC ... an intriguing, but not readily accepted proposal. "I thought he was a little crazy," said BMTA founding member George Owen as Owen described his thoughts at the time.

In 1977, Sherman was promoted to be the Director of Office of Planning and Research where he administered 29 state and federal programs.

At the same time, planning began in earnest for a more primitive and remote trail that would attract hikers who already had hiked the AT and were looking for an uncrowded experience and environment. But this trail would have no shelters – Sherman was adamant!

Using USGS and relief maps, Sherman concluded that from the standpoint most of the land already was owned by the government, MacKaye's high elevation route was especially attractive. But was it feasible?

Sherman hired Roy Arnold (a member of the Governor's Intern Program) to check the entire route on the ground. Were there impediments to stream/road crossings? What about steep inclines? How would the trail cross the Little Tennessee River? If impediments were found, Arnold was to propose modifications to avoid/eliminate them.

Sherman provided letters of introduction for all the land managers along the route. Arnold was to advise them about the proposed trail and get their feedback – hopefully he would also receive their approval.

When enlisting support for the trail, Arnold's analysis of the proposed route was a valuable report included with the BMT's original concept map.

When it came to getting the trail through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), Sherman worked closely with Boyd Evison, then Superintendent of the GSMNP. Initially, Sherman proposed just a short segment connecting with the AT within the park. According to Sherman, Evison's reaction was, "Why stop there? We need a lower elevation trail all the way to Davenport Gap."

The lower elevation trail, running parallel to AT, was needed so rangers could divert hikers away from the overused AT as well as to help avoid the growing number of winter rescues where snow trapped hikers in shelters for days. Some of the hikers tried bushwhacking to get out. Some fell, got lost or otherwise injured themselves – almost all resulted in dangerous winter rescues.

Evison's backcountry rangers provided a lower elevation route and Sherman gladly accepted their proposal. That 93-mile-route made the BMT the longest trail in the GSMNP!

Another question was what to name the trail. Benton MacKaye's name was front and center in the discussion. Other worthy contenders were: Myron Avery who is credited with getting the AT on ground and built and Arnold Guyot, one of the greatest explorers of the Appalachians during the antebellum period.

"It was such a natural fit to name the trail for the man who designed it," said Sherman. "His map showed the trail coming down the spine of the Smokies and extending into the Cohuttas. But once it got through the Smokies and across the Little Tennessee River -- then followed the height of land down the spine of the Blue Ridge range, where should it go south of the Cohuttas? The Cohuttas being more a range of elevations and not just a single, fixed summit, it seemed appropriate simply to route it over to Springer Mountain," Sherman concluded.

And then there were the practical questions. Who builds the trail and who will maintain it once it's built? The answer to both questions was the Benton MacKaye Trail Association which was founded in 1980. The six founding members were: Dave Sherman, recognized as the Founding Father of the Benton MacKaye Trail, George Owen, Margaret Drummond, Nancy Shofner, Lyman Emerson and Randy Snodgrass.

Another question was how to blaze the new trail. White diamond blazes would be the most distinctive – no other trail in the area used them. The white diamond blazes now guide hikers along most of the 288-mile route (no blazes are allowed in Wilderness Areas).



In 1978 Sherman moved to Washington, DC as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Snodgrass, then the Southeast Regional Director for the Wilderness Society, took the lead for promoting the concept of a second long distance hiking trail.

The Benton MacKaye Trail Association was founded in 1980 and trail construction began in Georgia the same year. As construction progressed, Pat Thomas, Supervisor of the Cherokee National Forest, approved the BMT being routed through the Cohutta Wilderness.

When the trail crossed the border into Tennessee in 1987, BMTA celebrated the completion of 93 miles of trail.



BMTA member Clayton Pannell spearheaded the effort to extend the trail through the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests. Once approvals were granted, and with the GSMNP approval in hand, BMTA volunteers quickly completed the trail along its entire proposed route across three states!

The grand opening for the Benton MacKaye Trail was held in 2005. Today, approximately 95% of the route is on public lands managed by either the US Forest Service or the National Park Service. Only 15 miles currently remain on private land or as short road walks.



BMTA's Annual Meeting & Hike Fest
Unicoi Lodge — November 11-14, 2021
RESERVE YOUR ROOM BY 10/15/2021!
BOOK NOW — Use Code 99529

*Unicoi is holding a block of rooms for BMTA until 10/15/2021.
After that date, the rooms not booked will be released to the public --
guaranteed to be snapped up quickly.*

2021 BMTA Annual Meeting & Hike Fest

[2021 Hike Fest Schedule](#)



[Awards Banquet!](#)



Featured Speaker

Larry Anderson

*Author of Benton MacKaye: Conservationist,
Planner, and Creator of the Appalachian Trail
(Creating the North American Landscape)*



For reservations call 800-573-9659.
To receive your discount, use Code 99529!
Mention the Benton MacKaye Trail Association!

ALERT!

**BMTA's Annual Meeting & Hike Fest
REQUIRED FOR ALL INDOOR EVENTS**

- ◆ Proof of Vaccination or Negative PCR Test (dated 11/5/21 or later)
 - ◆ Masks Are Recommended When Not Eating or Drinking

These requirements do not apply to those who only wish to participate in the hikes — registration for hikes will be outdoors!

Please email copy of Vaccination Card or Negative Test to:

bmtainstant@gmail.com

Fowler Mountain and Bushy Gap

Courtesy of Greg Redman





2022 Membership Drive Starts Now!

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 2022.*

Memberships purchased after October 1 will be good thru December 31, 2022.



Nominating Committee's Slate of Nominees for 2022 Board

Nominating Committee:

Bob Ruby, Chair; Clare Sullivan; Barry Allen; Darcy Douglas and ex officio member, Ken Cissna

2022 Board Candidates

Position	Current	Years in Office	Nominee
President	Ken Cissna	1	Ken Cissna
Vice President	Joy Forehand	3	Clare Sullivan
Secretary	Clare Sullivan	3	Patrick Ward
Treasurer	Lydia Burns, CPA	1	Lydia Burns, CPA
GA Maintenance	Bob Cowdrick	1	Bob Cowdrick
TN/NC Maintenance	Rick Harris	2	Keith Mertz
Smokies Coordinator	Larry Dumas	4	Larry Dumas
Membership	Frank Forehand	2	Frank Forehand
Publicity	Cary Page	1	Joy Forehand
Conservation	Dave Ricker	4	Dave Ricker
Hiking	Tom Sewell	1	Tom Sewell
State Rep – GA	Debra Guhl	1	Presidential Pick
State Rep – TN/NC	Steve Barnes	1	Presidential Pick
Immediate Past President	Barry Allen	1	Barry Allen

This year's Nominating Committee, chaired by Bob Ruby, compiled this slate of officers for your consideration. Per our Bylaws, elections will be held at the 2021 Annual Meeting, set for Unicoi State Park and Lodge, in Helen, GA, on November 13.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

Thanks to the Nominating Committee members for their work to put this list together. And, a special thanks to all the nominees for their willingness to serve the association as officers next year.

Memorandum to Members of the BMTA – Revisions to Bylaws From Ken Cissna President

The BMTA Bylaws require that all proposed revisions to the Bylaws be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors. The Board, in turn, is required only to make a recommendation to the membership.

At the last two regular Board meetings and at a special meeting a week ago, the Board discussed two sets of proposed changes to the Bylaws. The Board unanimously recommends that the membership approve the revisions to the Bylaws. The proposed changes are identified as follows: Language in black indicates no changes were made; words highlighted in yellow with a strikethrough through them (~~like this~~) are ones that are proposed to be removed; language that is simply highlighted in yellow is proposed text to be added. Click <https://bmtamail.org/docs/2021ProposedBylawChanges.pdf> to view the changes.

There are two sets of changes that are being proposed - all within Article IV, Board of Directors:

1. The first set of changes involves the three positions that are elected by the Board rather than by the Association membership: Newsletter Editor, Store Manager and the Coordinator of Electronic Media. The changes make clear that (a) all three *are* Board members, (b) they are *voting* members, (c) they are *not subject to the five-year limit* in office as are all membership-elected Board members, and (d) they are *appointed and removed* (if necessary) in the same way. You will find these changes in Sections 2, 4, 5 (n, o, and p) and 6.
2. The second change involves renaming the position of Publicity Director as Communications Director and revising the description of the duties of the position. These changes are in Sections 2 and 5 (i) and 9.

Recommendation: The Board of Directors recommends the adoption of these changes to the By Laws.

The proposed changes will be discussed at the annual meeting November 13, 2001. Amendments to these proposed changes may be proposed from the floor prior to the vote. I hope to see you at the meeting at Unicoi Lodge next month.



2021 BMTA Annual Meeting

Banquet Menu

Garden Salad
Bread & Rolls
Carver Will Be Serving Sirloin, Ham & Turkey
Green Beans
Vegetable Medley
Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy / Rice w/Gravy
Coffee (Decaf & Regular) / Iced Tea / Cash Bar
Dessert - TBA
Optional - Vegan Plated Meal

\$35

*Cash Bar

Dinner Reservations

For reservations call 800-573-9659.
To receive your discount, use Code 99529!
Mention the Benton MacKaye Trail Association!

**Congratulations to Rick and Brenda
Harris!
Healthy Parks Healthy Persons TN!**



**Healthy Parks
HEALTHY PERSON**
USER SPOTLIGHT SERIES



“An Appalachian Trail” Centennial Commemoration Shirley Center, MA August 7, 2021

by Dick Evans

The Shirley (Massachusetts) Historical Society celebrated the centennial of the publication of Benton MacKaye’s proposal, *An Appalachian Trail-A Project in Regional Planning*, on August 7, 2021, at the Historical Society Building. This was followed by a walking tour of Shirley Center centered around the buildings important to MacKaye during his life there.

Richard (Dick) Evans, a Shirley native, spoke about the camps and communities that MacKaye had suggested to accompany the basic outline of the trail, as well as the feeder trails mentioned in the article. He presented the history of the Benton MacKaye Trail and Benton MacKaye Trail Association in providing an alternate to the heavily traveled southern portion of the Appalachian Trail. Following that, John and Trudy Phillips presented a slide show of their hike on the entire trail and offered some comments and insights on maintaining the trail.

Evans spoke of having a copy of MacKaye’s book, *Expedition Nine-Return to a Region*, that MacKaye had endorsed to his aunt and was quite excited to find in the Society’s Collection a second copy of that book endorsed to his great uncle.



Evans, Paul Przybla, the Society Volunteer who organized the event and Beth Myers, Dick’s long-time friend from college.



Evans was also excited to meet Larry Anderson, author of *Benton MacKaye: Conservationist, Planner, and Creator of the Appalachian Trail*. Anderson will be the Keynote Speaker for the upcoming BMTA Annual Meeting and Hike Fest in November.

After the talk, the participants headed to the Shirley Center Common and the homes where MacKaye did much of his writing.

Continued next page



The MacKaye Cottage, currently owned by Robert Adam, a retired preservation carpentry instructor from the North Bennet Street School in Boston, the nation's oldest preservation school.

The MacKaye family home on Shirley Center Common. When MacKaye wrote of going "South for the winter" he just moved into this building since it had heat. His cottage is on the far right.

Robert Adam, who is passionate about preserving the history in the Shirley Center area was able to confirm that MacKaye was cremated after his death. Some three months later he participated in scattering the ashes under the tree in front of the cottage. This tree had been planted by MacKaye around 1896.

MacKaye's "Sky Parlor" where he did much of his writing, is on the second floor of the cottage. Adam related that when it was constructed very little room was left for the staircase making it too tight to get furniture into the parlor. Adam fashioned a ramp that folds into the cottage allowing better access into the parlor. Adams reflected, "The MacKayes were long on ideas, not so much on carrying those ideas out."

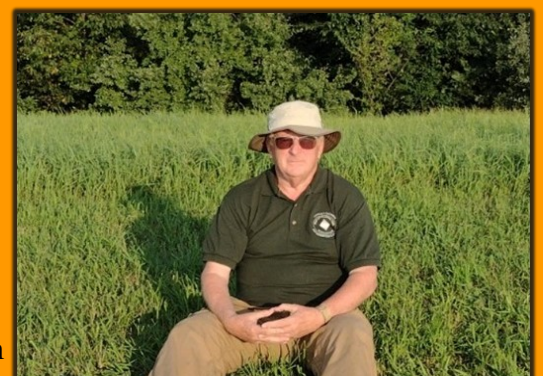
In MacKaye's *Expedition Nine*, MacKaye talks of climbing "Hunting Hill" as a fourteen-year-old and seeing the various ecosystems come together as a whole, not just as separate ecospheres. This influenced his future thoughts on regional planning as he recognized that sections affect each other. This comprehensive approach has been influential for the rationale behind the National Environmental Planning Act.



MacKaye on top of "Hunting Hill" in 1937.
Used with permission of the AT.

Given the importance of "Hunting Hill" Evans wanted to climb the hill. However, he discovered that the hill is now in private hands.

The owner, who was unaware of the history and value of "Hunting Hill" graciously gave Evans and his cousin, Jacqueline Belrose, permission to visit.



Evans on top of "Hunting Hill" in 2021.

GA Work Day – Fall Branch Falls

by Ken Cissna with photos courtesy of Chris Behrens

The Fall Branch Falls restoration project began on September 11, 2021. Ken Cissna was the work day leader. Preliminary work was done by John Stephens, USFS and his YCC crew. They installed some fence posts at the trailhead that would support cables to fence off natural areas. Rope was strung across most of the areas where people have been short-cutting between sections of trail or just running off into the woods. None of these will make it impossible for someone who wants to flout the rules, but our assumption is that most people want to follow the rules and respect the environment. Hopefully, these will serve at least as reminders of where one should and should not walk.

A new fence was added to block the old trail at the top of the falls and to direct hikers to the correct trek for their return to the parking lot. Ralph Heller and George Owen provided signs to point hikers toward the appropriate trail for their return to their cars.



The numbers were:

- ◆ 22 volunteers
- ◆ 162 volunteer hours
- ◆ 528 feet of cable
- ◆ 1200 feet of rope

We didn't finish it all, but we made a big dent in it! We need fences above the trail to the Falls where the BMT goes up the hill and at the road where hikers have walked a social trail to join the BMT. We need a railing along the steps down to the trail to the Falls. And we need to install even more rope to discourage cut-throughs. But all of that is for another day.

Five-Trail Loop Hike at Fort Mountain State Park

by Ken Cissna with photos courtesy of Mike Pilvinsky and Gloria Harmon

Eleven vaccinated BMTA members and guests, as well as four dogs of unknown vaccination status, enjoyed a glorious day of hiking at Fort Mountain State Park. The day began bright, sunny and cool, while warming up nicely later. We started on the Gahuti Trail where it crosses the road near the front entrance and headed clockwise. After stopping to enjoy the view to the south from the overlook, we continued another half-mile or so to our second crossing of the Goldmine Creek Trail. We then took the Red Creek Connector Trail to Fort Mountain State Park's lake and circled half of the lake. Our trail turned away from the lake and crossed the road bringing us to the Big Rock Trail. There we stopped for a photo beside the rushing creek. We resumed our hike onto the Lake Trail and lunched at the lake-side pavilion. By retracing our steps up (and going back, it is mostly up), we concluded an enjoyable four-and-half-mile hike. Hikers included: my guests Matt and Benjamin Brooks and their dog Noodle, Ralph Collinson, Debbie Crowder and her dog Buff, Gloria Harmon and her dog Erin, Pat and Judy Iverson, Travis Jones, Mike Pilvinsky, Penny Strickland, along with hike leader Ken Cissna with hiker dog Artie. A good time was had by all!



Fall Creek Falls Campout and Hikes

by Richard Harris

Ten folks participated in this campout at Fall Creek Falls State Park on the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. Those camping checked in on Sunday, setting up camp close to each other. Some of us wandered around the Mountain Folk Festival still going on from the weekend. Of special interest was watching a couple of artisans carve figures with chainsaws -- little, tiny chainsaws. We listened to some Bluegrass Music on the outdoor stage as well.

On Monday morning we hiked various trails around the park visiting all the waterfalls and checking out the overlooks into the gorge. We hiked about six miles of fairly challenging trails, including the almost dangerous trail down to the bottom of the iconic 256-foot-high Fall Creek Falls, reportedly the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi River. That evening we enjoyed a campfire at the Harris's campsite.

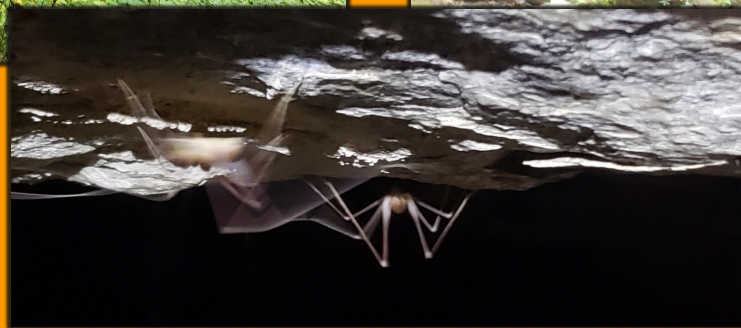
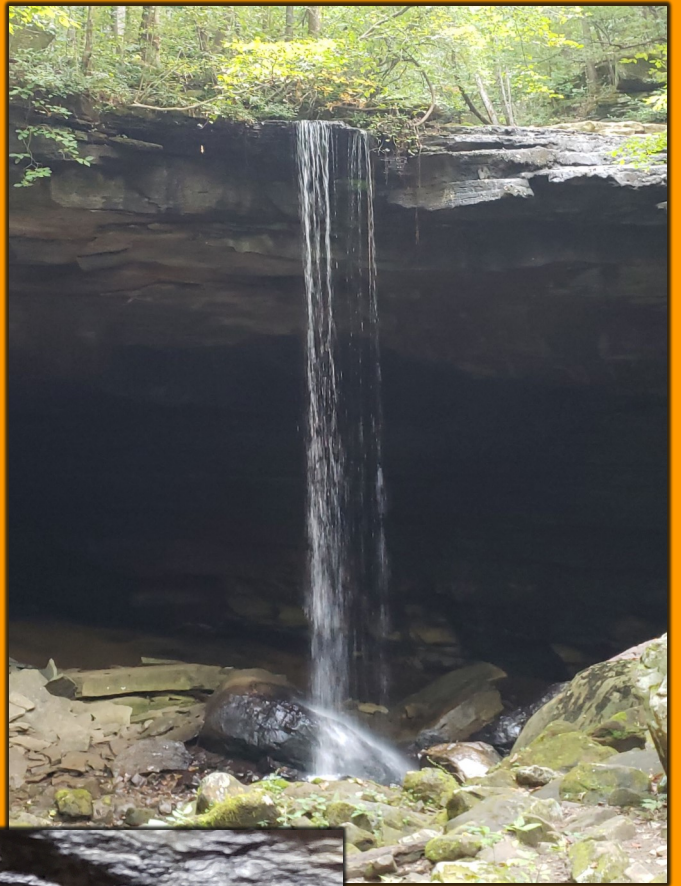
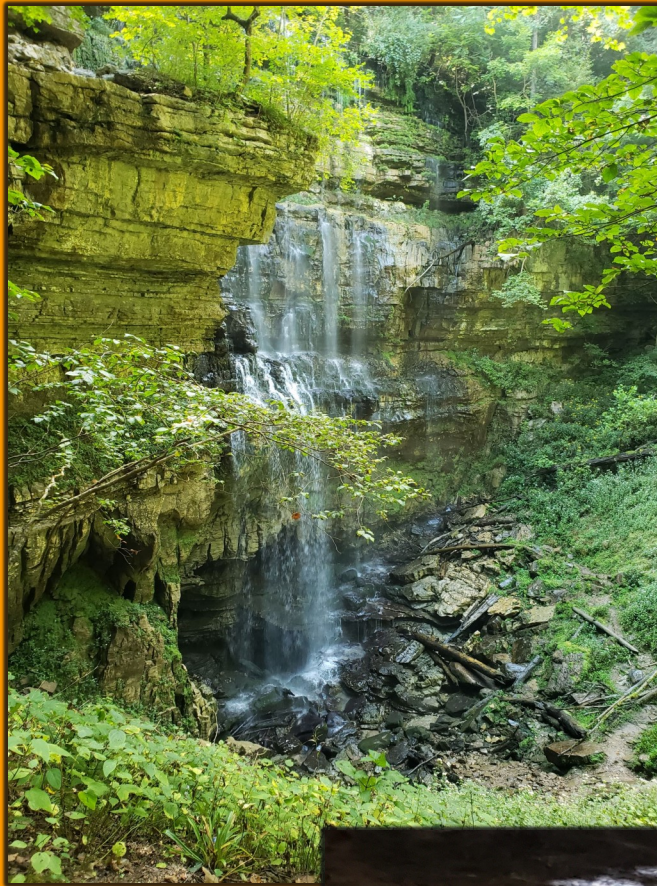


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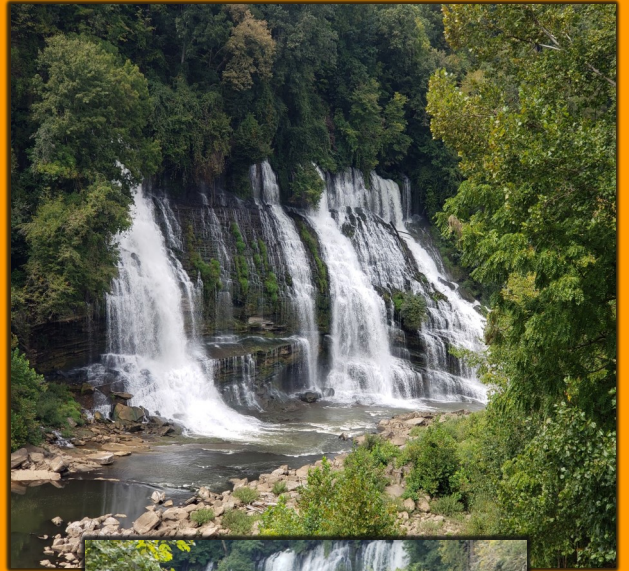
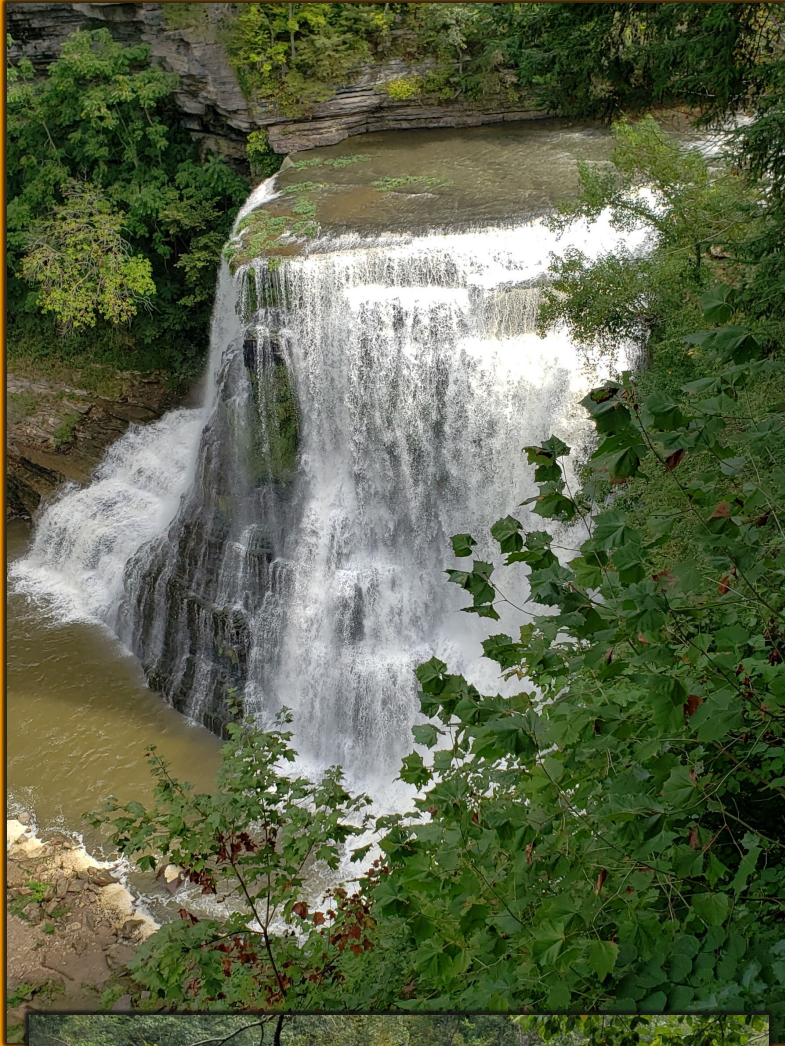
Tuesday, we hiked the entire nine-mile, difficult trail to Virgin Falls. This waterfall exits a cave, dropping about 100 feet into a large sinkhole at the bottom. The water was quite low due to a recent lack of rain - the lowest we have ever seen.

We also checked out two other waterfalls (one of which was totally dry) and checked out Sheep Cave. Two of us explored the cave with headlamps.

We returned to our campsites near dark. Everyone ate, showered and crashed in bed. No campfire.



Wednesday, we went to Burgess Falls and Rock Island State Parks. There was plenty of water in the waterfalls since it had stormed heavily overnight. These two gorges with large waterfalls were truly spectacular. Jack Bell and his little dog JJ made for great photo ops. Such a cute little bugger who loves to pose for pictures. After returning to the campsite we again enjoyed a campfire - Brenda's three cousins who live close by joined us. It was a very fun evening.



Thursday, we went to Cummins Falls State Park with plans to swim below the falls. However, the water levels were so high after more big storms overnight that we were not allowed to enter the gorge and swim. Usually, folks can hike up the gorge about a half-mile in the river bed to the base of the falls, but it was just too dangerous to do that on Thursday. The park staff had to use ropes to rescue a person who illegally went into the gorge and then got stuck by the high water. Can't fix stupid.



Since we got back fairly early, most everyone packed up and returned home that afternoon. Rick and Brenda were the only ones staying till Friday to check out.

This was a great trip in spite of low, then high water levels. We hope to repeat this joint campout in the future.

Orange You Safe?!!

We recommend wearing bright safety colors when in the woods during hunting season!

Click on the following websites for more detailed information:

Georgia: <https://georgiawildlife.com/2020-21-ga-hunting-regulations-available>

Tennessee: <https://www.tn.gov/twra/hunting/big-game/deer.html>

North Carolina: <http://ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Season-limits>

2021 BMTA Annual Meeting

Raffle



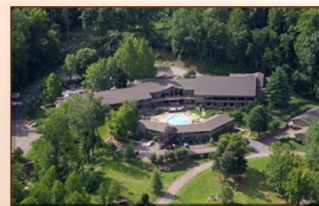
Unicoi Lodge
2 Nite Stay



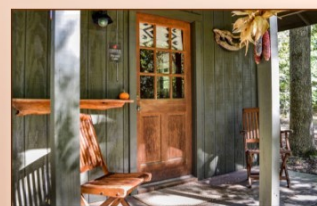
Hike Inn
1 Nite Stay



Charit Creek Lodge
\$275 Gift Certificate for
1 Nite Stay



Fontana Village
2 Nite Stay



Fireside Outpost
2 Nite Stay



Historic Tapoco Lodge
\$300 Gift Certificate for
Food & Lodging

Proceeds go to
**BMTA's
Land Acquisition Fund**

Tickets
\$10 each or 3 for \$25

Tickets available
at the meeting!



Starr Mountain
Outfitters

AND MORE!

For reservations call 800-573-9659.
To receive your discount, use Code 99529!
Mention the Benton MacKaye Trail Association!

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.
Thank you!

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!



THE BLACK SHEEP



KOREAN ALPINE CLUB OF GEORGIA



NORTH GEORGIA TREKS PHOTOGRAPHY



OCOOE ANIMAL HOSPITAL



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STAR MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS



TAPOCO LODGE



THE DUCKTOWN COPPER INN



WILDWOOD MAGIC

Upcoming Hikes and Work Trips

by Tom Sewell, Hiking Director

Guidelines for Our Hikes

Because hiking in the outdoors is good for one's mental and physical health, we encouraged BMTA members and others to continue hiking during the COVID-19 health crisis *and to do so safely*. Thus, we continued our hiking program during 2020 and 2021.

Due to the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, we have further modified our hiking program:

- ◆ We have resumed allowing shuttle hikes but caution that (a) no hikers should ride with another or have another ride with them if they are concerned about their safety and (b) unvaccinated hikers should not assume that others will want to ride in vehicles with them.
- ◆ Carpooling is permitted but not required.
- ◆ Any potential hiker who is feeling ill or has been exposed recently to a person with an active case of COVID-19 must not come on a hike.
- ◆ Hikes are limited to a maximum of 10 participants in Tennessee and North Carolina and 12 participants in Georgia. Hike leaders may impose lower limits.
- ◆ Masks are optional, but hikers should maintain an appropriate distance from one another.

October

Hikes in Celebration of Benton MacKaye's Proposal for the AT

Georgia Hikes

- ◆ **BMT/AT Loop from Big Stamp Gap** - Moderate five miles, (600' elevation change) with three minor creek crossings. Trip will include Springer Mountain (the southern start of the AT), the Benton MacKaye Memorial Plaque at the start of the BMT and Owen Vista - a beautiful open view of the southeastern Appalachian Mountains.
 - October 1** (Friday) contact Hike Leader Darcy Douglas hikeleaderDD@bmtamail.org.
 - October 4** (Monday) contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.
 - October 5** (Tuesday) contact Hike Leader Gilbert Treadwell hikeleaderGT@bmtamail.org.
 - October 18** (Monday) contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.
 - October 24** (Sunday) contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.
 - October 30** (Saturday) contact Hike Leader Barry Allen hikeleaderBA@bmtamail.org.
- ◆ **BMT/AT double loop hike west from Three Forks** - Moderate six-mile hike (650' elevation change) covers the lower north flank and top of Rich Mountain.
 - October 1** (Friday) contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.
 - October 4** (Monday) contact Hike Leader Darcy Douglas hikeleaderDD@bmtamail.org.
 - October 12** (Tuesday) contact Hike Leader Gilbert Treadwell hikeleaderGT@bmtamail.org.
 - October 27** (Wednesday) contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

- ◆ **BMT/AT Loop 3 Forks to Long Creek Falls to Hickory Flats** then FS road to No Name Bald rejoining the BMT back to 3 Forks. Moderate 7.5 moderate miles. 1,000 ft. elevation gain.
 - October 5** (Tuesday) contact Hike Leader Darcy Douglas hikeleaderDD@bmtamail.org.
 - October 8** (Friday) contact Hike Leader Gilbert Treadwell hikeleaderGT@bmtamail.org.
 - October 29** (Friday) contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

Tennessee Hikes

- ◆ **BMT from Hwy 68 to Buck Bald and return** - Total of four miles. Incomparable 360 view of the Appalachian Mountains. Parking area limited to around eight vehicles. Buck Bald is ½ mile off the BMT.
 - October 4** (Monday) contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan hikeleaderCS2@bmtamail.org.
 - October 15** (Friday) contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.
 - October 20** (Wednesday) contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.
 - October 26** (Tuesday) contact Hike Leader Ann Anderson hikeleaderAA@bmtamail.org.
- ◆ **Unicoi Gap on the Benton MacKaye Trail to the Doc Rogers' House** - Strenuous 9 miles, 1,000' elevation change, with a beautiful ridge line walk along the NC/TN state line. Added attractions include an old, engraved stone marker on the ridge marking the state line and the ruins of the "old" Doc Rogers' House. Meetup location is at the Coker Creek Welcome Center, TN.
 - October 30** (Saturday) contact Hike Leader Phyllis Jones hikeleaderPJ@bmtamail.org.

North Carolina/Smoky Mountain Hikes

- ◆ **End of the BMT at Big Creek to end of AT Smoky Mountain Section at Davenport Gap** - Moderate/strenuous 5 miles. One-mile road walk on GSNP road to Chestnut Branch Trail up to the AT then down to Davenport Gap. Four miles 1800' gain and 1300' loss. Requires a short shuttle if not done as an in and out for 10 miles.
 - October 23** (Friday) contact Hike Leaders Tom and Carolyn Sewell hikeleaderTS@bmtamail.org.
- ◆ **BMT Road to NoWhere "Tunnel to No Where" to Campsite #74** - Moderate 6.5 miles.
 - October 19** (Tuesday) contact Hike Leader Mike Pilvinsky hikeleaderMP@bmtamail.org.
- ◆ **Fontana Dam Area** - BMT/AT divergence near the end of Fontana Dam to same on the southside near the Marina. Easy three miles. Could be done as a shuttle or start at multiple access points and done as round trips of up to six miles. Parking is abundant, great views of the lake and possibly a visit to the Dam's Visitor Center.
 - October 18** (Monday) contact Hike Leaders Tom and Carolyn Sewell hikeleaderTS@bmtamail.org.
 - October 29** (Friday) contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.

Work Trips

October 9 (Saturday) GA Work Trip Sections 8, and 9. Logout, brushout and tread repair. For more information contact Bob Cowdrick GAMaintDirector@bmtamail.org.

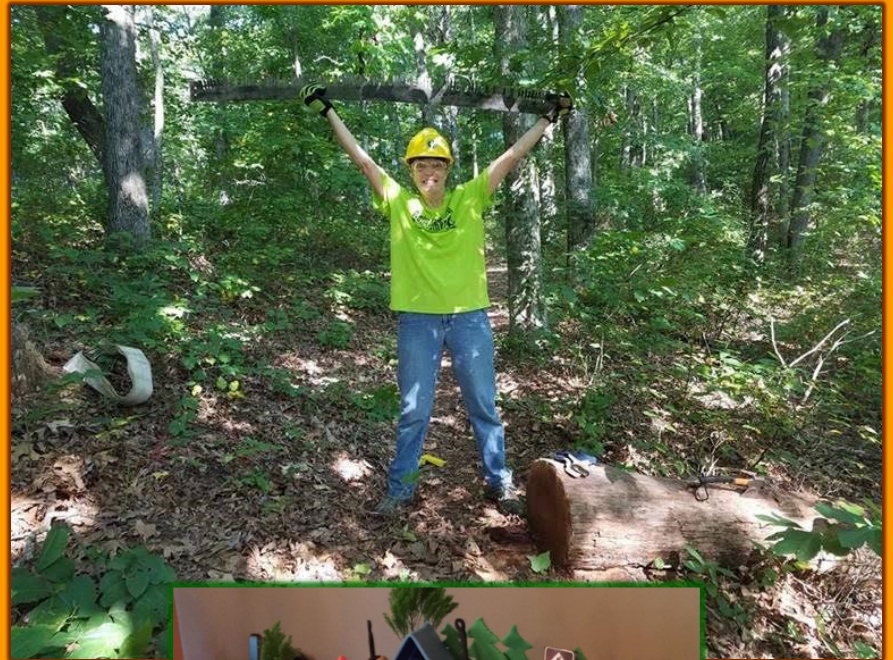
October 23 (Saturday) TN Work Trip Section 18a. Annual logout and refresh blazes. For more information contact Judy Norton jnorton193@gmail.com.

November 13 (Saturday) GA Work Trip Cancelled (due to the Annual Meeting)–Please help the TN folks by attending the TN Work Trip on November 20

November 20 (Saturday) TN Work Trip Section 12 c. Annual logout and refresh blazes. For more information contact Rick Harris harrisri@aol.com.

December 11 (Saturday) GA Work Trip Sections 11 a, b, c, d, e. Logout, brushout and tread repair. For more information contact Bob Cowdrick GAMaintDirector@bmtamail.org.

December 18 (Saturday) TN Work Trip Sections 12a, b. Annual logout and refresh blazes. For more information contact Steve Cartwright scdcmc@comcast.net.



The deadline for the November Newsletter is Wednesday, November 3. Thank you!