



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

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Vice President:	Clare Sullivan
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Communications:	Joy Forehand
Conservation:	Dave Ricker
Past President:	Barry Allen
Newsletter:	Kathy Williams
State Rep GA:	Darcy Douglas
State Rep TN/NC:	Steve Barnes



BMTA Headquarters



VOLUME 39, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2022

Ted Reissing and the "Done Deal"

by Marty Dominy

We have alluded to the personality and natural-born salesmanship of Ted Reissing in a previous story. Willing to engage anyone in conversation, Ted did not shrink or flinch in the face of a challenge. In the mid-1980s he served several terms as vice president of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) before serving one term as president in 1990. Ted and his wife, Kay, regularly served as gracious hosts for BMTA gatherings at their home in Dunwoody and at their second home and scorpion refuge high above the Coosawattee River southwest of Ellijay. He initiated the one first, true long-term strategic planning session for the organization. The story of how he saw opportunity and moved quickly is related below.

With much discussion related to removing the trail from Stanley Creek Road in recent years, a look back at previous efforts is warranted. Even in the early days, a trail route rising to the south from Aska Road at the end of Shallowford Bridge was deemed to be quite desirable. Some research showed far too many small acreage owners along Aska Road and something of a checkerboard ownership alternating between the Forest Service and private owner higher along Bill Ridge. The concept at the time was to acquire a route leading west on or near the crest of Bill Ridge to Indian Grave Gap, then follow the boundary of the Rich Mountain Wilderness to Stanley Creek. At this point, the trail would turn northeast along the creek to reach the existing Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) in the vicinity of Fall Branch Falls. Other options to take a more direct route through Stanley Gap fell into disfavor because they bypassed Fall Branch Falls.

Some context is necessary to the narrative before we proceed. In the days before the BMT, there was a Rich Mountain Trail, which has since been renamed the Stanley Gap Trail for reasons that will become obvious in short order. It ran from near Deep Gap on Aska Road to somewhere on or about Rich Mountain. Whatever was south of Stanley Gap Road was abandoned when a road was built up along the north flank of Rich Mountain. Some overgrown parts of that trail still exist, though the road was superimposed over much of it. The part north of Stanley Gap remained with a few miles of it becoming part of the BMT. In time, the Forest Service would develop the Aska Trails system to accommodate the rising popularity of mountain biking. It featured the Flat Creek Loop, using a bit of the Rich Mountain Trail. A number of trails were built on the northeast side of Aska Road along Green Mountain.



Solitude on Flat Creek Loop Trail.

Continued next page

Ted Reissing, often accused of spending more time thinking outside the box than inside the box, saw this as an opportunity. With a continuous trail system reaching from the BMT on Davenport Mountain to very near the Toccoa River on the north side of the Free Bend Area, all he had to do was piece together a route inside the bend in the river north and west of the existing BMT on Free Knob. As an afterthought, it also was mentioned that a new bridge over the Toccoa River might be in order (a minor detail, apparently). The problem inside the bend in the river was that while the Forest Service owned three distinct parcels of property along the river, none of them were connected. Ted contacted the owner of a private parcel which separated two Forest Service parcels and made his case. The owner was sympathetic and agreed to trail access across his property as long as the Forest Service would significantly upgrade the road leading into his property in a manner suitable for future development and/or subdivision. Ted was elated. He declared to the BMTA board of directors that all we had to do was convince the Forest Service to go along with this arrangement and we would have a “done deal”.

Well, not so fast. When Forest Service officials were presented with this proposal, they very nearly recoiled in horror. Rarely does one see the government shoot down any proposal as fast as they did this one. Under no circumstances could public money be used to assist in the development of private property. Legal access to a private inholding is one thing, but this was completely different. The Forest Service was still on the defensive from criticism of the access allowed to a private parcel owned by the brother of then Congressman Ed Jenkins within the Blood Mountain Wilderness near Jarrard Gap. They were not about to have anything to do with a new controversy.

As a postscript, it should be mentioned that a certain ex-construction supervisor was intrigued enough with this plan to conduct some investigation into the practicality of building it should the land deal come together. With a fiberglass 100-foot measuring tape in hand, he sought to determine the width of a free-flowing segment of the Toccoa River above the backwaters of Lake Blue Ridge. To his dismay, the tape reached its limit before the opposite bank was reached. A crude mark was made on the riverbed and the tape was spun back onto the reel. Trudging back across the river to the opposite bank, a measurement was made to the mark. One hundred forty feet, bank to bank. This meant a bridge roughly conforming to the dimensions of the Toccoa River suspension bridge on Section 2 would be needed. The cost of this would have been in the high tens of thousands of dollars even in the 1990s. And on a final note, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the same people who objected to a route through Stanley Gap bypassing Fall Branch Falls objected to this route for the same reason.

Hmm. Not a “Done Deal”! Back to the drawing board!



Quest for National Scenic Trail

Our Continued Success Depends on YOU!

– If You Love the BMT and You Live in the United States –

Please ask your Senators/Representative to support our quest.

Ask your friends and family to contact their

Congressional representatives as well.

Use the links below to find your Senators/Representative.

[Senator](#)

[Representative](#)

Angelina Jumper BMTA Annual Meeting's Featured Speaker



Angelina Jumper, Cultural Resources Supervisor, Junaluska Museum and Junaluska Medicine Trail, Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI) will be the featured speaker at BMTA's Annual Meeting and Hike Fest November 5, 2022. Her presentation is titled "Resistance in the Heart of Cherokee Country."

Angelina Jumper is an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee. She serves as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian's Cultural Resources Supervisor. Her role at the Junaluska Museum includes attaining archival inventory, researching Cherokee resistance in Graham/Cherokee counties, maintenance of the Junaluska Memorial and Medicine Trail, and design development for the upcoming Museum expansion.

Angelina grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, where she attended Georgia State University before attending Western Carolina University's Cherokee Studies Graduate program.

She is very passionate about sharing her culture with others and educating on the history of Cherokee peoples in Western North Carolina. Her presentation promises to be an enriching and unique experience!



You Won't Want to Miss This Year's
Annual Meeting & Hike Fest

Fontana Village, NC

November 3-6, 2022

For Complete Details, Go to [Annual Meeting](#)

Make your dinner reservations Now!



BMTA's Annual Meeting Nov. 3 – 6, 2022

Fontana Village Lodge, North Carolina

**Annual Meeting and
Awards Banquet November 5, 2022**

Buffet Entrees

Chicken Piccata

Garden Vegetable Ricotta Lasagna

Smoky Mountain Rainbow Trout

These are accompanied by Tossed Garden Salad, Assorted Artisan Rolls, Roasted Vegetable Medley and Green Bean Almondine. For dessert: Apple Cobbler!

Water ... Sweet / Unsweet Tea & Coffee at Beverage Station.

Additional beverages available at the Cash Bar.

\$30

Dinner Reservations

Payment must be received by October 17, 2022!

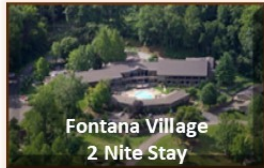


**For accommodations call 828-498-2211.
To receive your discount -
Mention the Benton MacKaye Trail Association!**

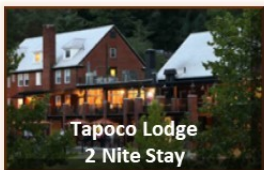
Raffle!

BMTA's Annual Meeting & Hike Fest November 5, 2022

Fontana Village Lodge, North Carolina



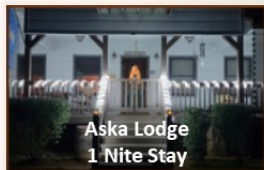
Fontana Village
2 Nite Stay



Tapoco Lodge
2 Nite Stay



Len Foote Hike Inn
1 Nite Stay



Aska Lodge
1 Nite Stay



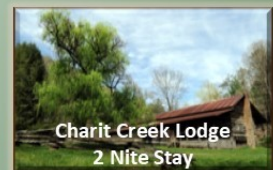
Lost Creek Cabins
2 Nite Stay



Unicoi Lodge
2 Nite Stay



Fireside Outpost
2 Nite Stay



Charit Creek Lodge
2 Nite Stay



Nantahala Village B & B
2 Nite Stay



Celebrate Blue Ridge
Cabin Rentals
2 Nite Stay



Proceeds go to

BMTA's

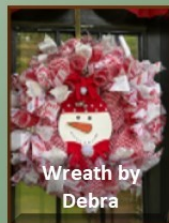
Land Acquisition Fund

Tickets available
at the meeting!

\$10 each or 3 for \$25

7 for \$50

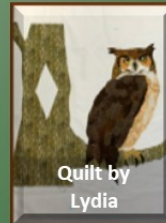
16 for \$100



Wreath by
Debra



Gourd by
Patty



Quilt by
Lydia

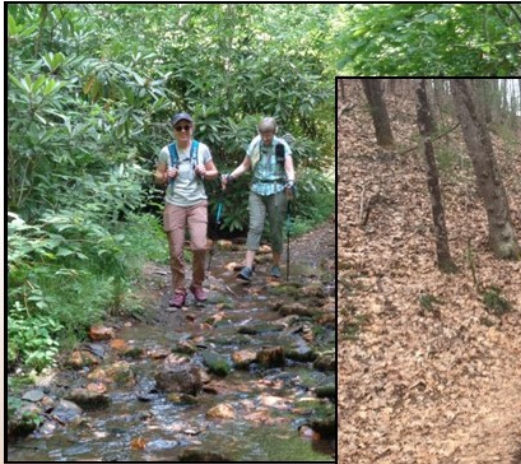




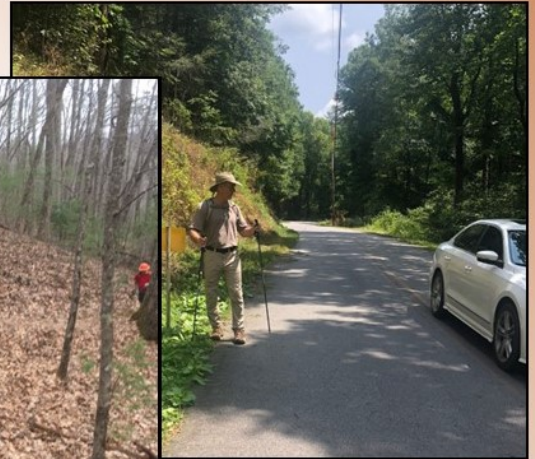
— It's Time —

Join or Renew Your Membership Now!

Hike the BMT!



Help BMTA to Be Prepared!



Join our Maintenance Team!

- ◆ Membership fees & donations are the primary source of funds for preserving, protecting and maintaining the BMT.
- ◆ Become a Member by Donation—For a donation of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, you will receive an Individual or Family Membership for 2023.
- ◆ Donate to BMTA's Land Acquisition Fund (LAF) so we will be ready to act when a parcel that would be valuable for the trail corridor comes on the market.

[DONATE](#)

[JOIN/RENEW](#)

[DONATE—LAF](#)

*Memberships purchased between October 1 and December 31, 2022
will be good thru December 31, 2023.*



Clean Trail Days & GA Work Trip October 8, 2022

Sections 6b & 10a

Fall Branch (at Rd) » Stanley Gap Trail and Jacks River Trail » Hemp Top Trail



A Job for Everyone!

- ◆ Logout
- ◆ Brushout
- ◆ Water Diversions
- ◆ Water Crossing Improvement



Clean Trails Day

Fall Branch Falls Suspension Bridge

Trail workers and event staff will acquaint our guests with hiking and maintenance opportunities with BMTA as well as the importance of using Leave No Trace (LNT) principles when on the trail.

[Register Online for the Clean Trails Day/GA Work Trip Now!](#)

Or Contact

Bob Cowdrick, bcowdrick@comcast.net



Charit Creek Lodge Spring Getaway



Sign up today for a backcountry, hike-in only spring getaway at Charit Creek Lodge May 18, 2023. Stay in rustic log cabins with solar showers, flush toilets, wood stoves — plus two great meals! Trail options to the lodge range from 1.8- to 5.5-mile hikes. Charit Creek Lodge is located in Tennessee's Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. With two of the largest side by side natural arches in the world, this trail is unrivaled in Eastern America.

For more information and trip details contact trip leader [Clayton Webster](#).

**Trip is combined with the Over the Hill Hiking Group which has reserved the lodge.*



Bird Banding and Hiking at Whigg Meadow

by Kelly Motter

On Saturday, September 17, I had the opportunity to lead a hike from Mud Gap to Whigg Meadow. The weather was perfect for the short, uphill hike. At Whigg Meadow, we saw several bird banding volunteers working quickly to get the specs on birds (type, age, body fat, weight, wing length and more). The birds are collected from 14 nets that are checked every half hour. We immediately engaged with the volunteers to learn more about this event. These volunteers came from as far away as Minnesota to participate in this very important task. Most of the birds were warblers and had spent the summer in Canada. Now they were just beginning their migratory flight to South America. Before flying over the Gulf of Mexico these birds must put on fifty percent more weight in order to make the long journey. This was a great hike and everyone really enjoyed the added perk of the bird banding!



Dahlonega Trail Fest Is Back!

by Clare Sullivan

After a two-year hiatus, the Dahlonega Trail Fest returned to Hancock Park September 17, 2022. The event put the spotlight on hiking as well as a wide array of other outdoor recreational opportunities in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, making it a great venue for the Benton MacKaye Association (BMTA).

The crosscut saw competition drew the crowd's attention as sawyer teams from the BMTA, Mountain High Hikers (MHH) and the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) competed to be the fastest to cut through a 12-inch log.

In first place with a time of 1:00 minute was the MHH team of a Mountain High Hiker and a National Forest Representative.

BMTAers Steve Bayliss and John Oudin came in second with a time of 1:18. GATC's team was third completing the cut in 1:55.

Festival guests were eager participants in BMTA's Inter-Active Crosscut where our guests cut their own piece of the pine. With their curiosity peaked by participating in the crosscut, many headed straight for the very busy BMTA Booth.

Presentations on the main stage included "How and Where to Use Bear Spray" by Gerald Hodge, "The Who, What, Where and Why of the BMT" by Clare Sullivan as well as a Thru Hiker Panel presentation.

An extremely successful event for BMTA, the association garnered 50 sign-ups and two Memberships!

Our thanks to Steve Bayliss, Jeff DePaola, Frank Forehand, Whitney June, Patty Masters, Patrick McNally, John Oudin, Clare Sullivan, Kathy Williams and Vicki Yunker for volunteering to host BMTA's activities at the Dahlonega Trail Fest! It is volunteers like these who make BMTA's recruitment programs possible.

If you would like to volunteer at a future festival, please contact [Joy Forehand](#).



Steve Bayliss and John Oudin during the crosscut saw competition!



Fairy Doors

by Kathy Williams

Once upon a time a Section Maintainer went to check her forest. The day was bright and sunny. The creek sparkled and gurgled. The light through the trees was magical. She came to the meadow that was tucked between the deep forests and marveled at the mountains nestled against the trees. She came to the second crossing of the creek. Dismayed. A foreign object lay across the creek, jarring the natural beauty of the water. The trail was supposed to run through the creek not over a man-made object. As a result, hikers were leaving the trail to make a short cut to use the foreign object. Hmm. Some must fear feet touching water. “This must be the people who hike in flip flops. Most hikers know that hiking through water is the safest. This creek is just not that deep. Clearly they were not aware of Leave No Trace.”

As she continued on, she came upon another piece of human trash. This was a Fairy Door constructed of plastic and nailed to the bottom of a tree. In the past she had picked up needles, syringes, beer cans and even left-overs from a hiker who must have decided to lighten their pack. Now a Fairy Door. Not magical, just plastic and nails.



Unnatural plastic.



Nature's Fairy Door, mysterious and magical!

2023 BMTA Nominees for Board of Directors

Thanks to the nominating committee: Bob Cowdrick, Darcy Douglas, Joy Forehand, Clare Sullivan and David Watkins. These will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

President	Ken Cissna
Vice President	Clare Sullivan
Secretary	Judy Price
Treasurer	Lydia Burns
GA Maintenance	Bob Cowdrick
TN/NC Maintenance	Nelson Ashbrook
Smokies Director	David Watkins
Membership	Frank Forehand
Communications Director	Joy Forehand
Conservation	Patrick Ward
Hiking Director	Kelly Motter



North Georgia treks

Hunting Season is Here! Get Out Your Orange!

Click on the following websites for more detailed information:

Georgia: [\[22gahd\] Hunting Seasons & Limits Summary | eRegulations](#)

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

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



TN/NC Work Trip—October 22

Section 19b-c (Old Field Gap Rd. – Stairway to Heaven)

- ◆ Brushout
- ◆ Lop Rhododendrons
- ◆ Logout

Please bring a brushcutter if you have one.

[Register for the TN/NC Trip Now!](#)

BMT's Hiker's Dictionary

by Bob Cowdrick

Access Road

An access road is the road you take to access a trailhead. Access roads usually are non-paved roads designed for Forest Service vehicles to access remote areas. Example FS 816 can be used to access the Suspension Bridge from GA Hwy 60.



Base Weight

Base weight is the weight of all of your backpacking gear without food and water. Typically, base weights range from 10lbs (ultra-light hikers) to 30lbs (winter hikers). The more weight you carry the harder the hike can become. BMTAer Mr. Bones removed his workout weights from his backpack.



Carabiner

Carabiners, often called "crabs" and "biners," have a spring-tensioned gate that opens under finger pressure and are used to clip gear to your pack or belt. Or in the case of BMTAer Mr. Bones, he can clip onto his bones!



Dog Friendly

Dog Friendly hikes are regularly scheduled during the month on the BMT. Bring your dog along on these hikes and share the journey with them. Snoopy loves to hike with Mr. Bones!

Continued next page

Edge

A sharp edge is very thin and can cut through things very easily. All digging tools with sharp edges are sharpened after each workday by Tom Mitchell.

False Summit

A false summit is a peak that you thought was the tallest or final summit, but then realize there is a higher point on the trail that you have yet to reach. False summits are great places to take a rest break before pushing on.



Hot Hands

HotHands are hand warmers you're most familiar with, as they're sometimes available online and at outfitters. HotHands are single-use but other brands include electric and USB rechargeable. Best practice is to bring a hand warmer on a cold hike. Mr. Bones enjoys some warmth every now and then.

Giardia

Giardia is a digestive tract parasite that hikers and campers can contract from drinking unsafe, unfiltered water. Mr. Bones always hikes prepared for the worst.

Jacks River Trail

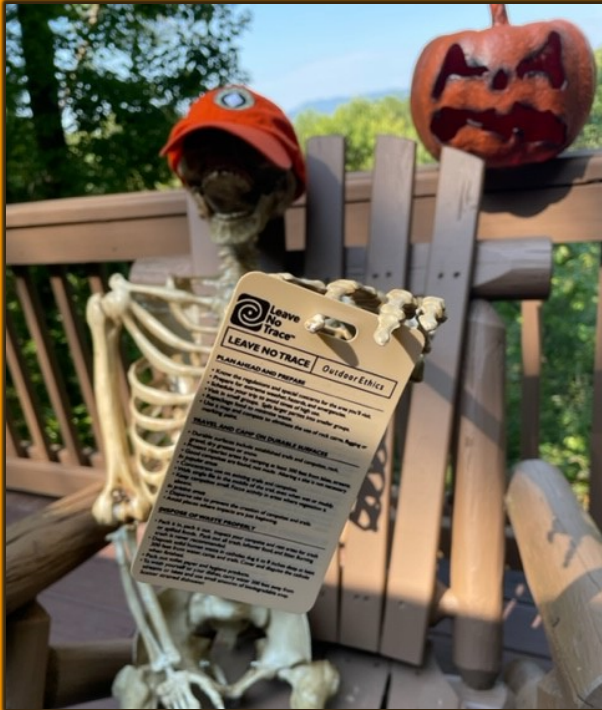
The Jacks River Trail is an enjoyable trail in the Cohutta Wilderness. It can be accessed from Dally Gap and includes numerous water crossings. This trail bisects Sections 10a (maintained by Ben Yaun) and 10b (maintained by Steve Dennison).

Kimsey Highway

Kimsey Highway is a 16.6-mile-long road and is also known as Forest Service Road 68. This highway is unpaved. It traverses 12b (maintained by Joe Cantwell) and 12c (maintained by Judy Norton).

Intersections

Trail and road intersection guidelines are published by the American Trail organization. These guidelines include recommendations on design specifications, signage, refuge areas, sight distance and elevations.



Leave No Trace-The Seven Principals

- ◆ Plan Ahead and Prepare.
(know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit).
- ◆ Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.
- ◆ Dispose of Waste Properly.
- ◆ Leave What You Find.
- ◆ Minimize Campfire Impacts.
- ◆ Respect Wildlife.
- ◆ Be Considerate of Other Visitors.

Switchback

A switchback is part of a trail that cuts sharply from one direction to the other while going up a steep hill or mountain. Switchbacks are typically used to control erosion. Hikers are encouraged to stick to the switchbacks on the trail. They should not cut or take a more direct route between them.

Trailhead

A place where a trail begins. The trailhead for Section 1b is Big Stamp Gap. Section 1b is maintained by Gilbert Treadwell.

Understory

A layer of vegetation beneath the main canopy of a forest. This is the vegetative layer of small trees and shrubs between the forest canopy and the ground cover. The "Heart of Darkness", Section 16a-b, has an understory of brush and brambles that flourishes every summer. Section 16b is maintained by Lydia and Josh Martinez. A trail worker who wants a challenge, Section 16a is available. Contact [Keith Mertz](#) if interested.

Mangan Branch

Mangan Branch is a stream in Tennessee at an elevation of 2713 feet located on Section 17b. This section is maintained by Pam and Kent Mathews. On your next visit to Mangan Branch bring your fly rod.

NPS

NPS is the acronym for the National Park Service. The BMT travels through part of the Great Smoky National Mountains Park. These are BMT Sections 20a-25b and are maintained by the NPS.

Out and Back

A hiking trail leading to a destination such as a waterfall or fire tower, that follows the same route back to the starting point.

Pulaski

A digging tool with a head that has an axe blade on one side and an adze on the other. Named for Ed Pulaski, the hero of the Big Blowup of 1910.

Quotes

Quotes about thru and section hikers' experiences on the BMT are posted on the BMTA website and on the BMTA Facebook pages.

Ridgeline

A narrow edge on a mountain that is typically precipitous and elevated above a valley. Ridgelines often are narrow with steep drop-offs on either side of the trail.



Volunteers

Volunteers are people who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task such as trail maintenance. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the BMTA please visit the BMTA.ORG website. Mr. Bones helps Section 7a maintainer, Kathy Williams, keep the trail in tip top shape!



Water bottle

A bottle containing water for drinking during a hike. Water bottles can be made of HDPE plastic, aluminum or stainless steel. Consider using a reusable water bottle and not single use plastic bottles on your hike.

Xout

Xout is used to draw an x through something to show that it is wrong or not wanted. After your hike, consider reviewing your pre-hike gear list and xout items that you have decided will not be needed on future hikes. This is a simple way to continue to hone your optimal gear list.

Yellowhammer Gap

Yellowhammer Gap is a saddle on the BMT in North Carolina. It has an elevation of 1765 feet on Section 18e and is maintained by Dick Evans and the Graham County Friends.

Zero Day

A zero day is a day when no trails are hiked on the BMT by a thru hiker. This day gives thru hikers a chance to restock, rest and allow the body to recover. Blue Ridge, GA, is a great location for a zero day with local hotels, food stores and laundry facilities readily available.

Tennessee Work Day!

Photos courtesy of Daphne Martin



Impressive turnout for the work trip!! Thank you everyone!!



Work day forest fun!!



A gigantic burl!!!!



Ed Sullivan taught them to sharpen their tools before going to work.

Continued next page



A Senior Patrol Scout checking on his troop mates.



Learning to crosscut with Rick Harris as instructor and Ed Sullivan helping to keep the saw straight.



A Scout sawing a stump out of the trail.



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

October 7 (Friday) Shady Falls Trailhead to Lake Blue Ridge and back. Dog friendly hike (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 7 miles. Views of Lake Blue Ridge including very close up during mid-hike lunch. Hike Leader Ken Cissna. For more information hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.



October 8 (Saturday) GA Work Trip. Sections 6b and 10a and Clean Trails Day-6b at Fall Branch Falls and 2d at the Suspension Bridge. Contact Bob Cowdrick bcowdrick@comcast.net.

October 14 (Friday) BMT in Tennessee between Ducktown and Coker Creek. Highway 68 to Buck Bald with 360-degree views and return. A total of 3 miles. Hike Leader Anne Anderson. For more information contact hikeleaderAA@bmtamail.org.



October 22 TN/NC Work Trip. BMT Sections 19b and c. Old Field Gap Road >> Stairway to Heaven
Contact Keith Mertz keithmertz@hotmail.com

October 24 (Monday) BMT Highway 515 to Weaver Creek and return. Dog friendly hike (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy 5 miles mostly along dirt roads. One "rock hopping" stream crossing could get your feet wet depending on stream levels and recent rainfall. Hike Leader Ken Cissna. For more information hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

To access our website calendar go [HERE](#).



Benton MacKaye Trail Association 2022 Annual Meeting & Hike Fest Hike Fest Schedule

ALL HIKES MEET AT THE FONTANA VILLAGE EVENTS HALL

All hikes are limited to 15 hikers. Additional hikes will be planned if needed

Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022

Cemetery Hike 2:00 PM

Drive to Shuckstack Trailhead (15 min.) Hike 3 miles, visiting two old cemeteries in Great Smoky Mtn. NP. Shuttle back for dinner.

Rating: Easy — Duration 2.5 hours

Friday, Nov. 4, 2022

EASY HIKE

Twenty Mile Falls

Drive to Twenty Mile Ranger Station and hike 1 mile to Twenty Mile Falls. Guide: TBD

Yellow Creek Falls

Drive to visit Yellow Creek Falls on Route 129. 3/8 mile trip to view a pleasant waterfall. Guide: TBD

MODERATE HIKES

Nichols Cove Hike

Travel to Big Fat Gap and follow the BMT 6 miles thru Nichols Cove to Tapoco Lodge. Return to Fontana Village approximately 5:00 PM or later. Shuttle needed. Guide: TBD

Twenty Mile Loop Trail

Drive to Twenty Mile Ranger Station and hike 7.6 miles over Loop Trail with 1,200 foot elevation change. Guide: TBD

STRENUOUS HIKES

The Hangover

Travel to Big Fat Gap and follow the BMT 5.2 miles to the Hangover, spectacular view. Return to Fontana Village approximately 5:00 PM or later. Guide: Randy Mulick

Yellow Creek Ridge

Drive to Old Field Gap and hike the BMT 8 miles over Yellow Creek Mountain and down into Fontana Village. Shuttle needed. Guide: TBD

Saturday, November 5, 2022

EASY HIKE

Twenty Mile Falls

Drive to Twenty Mile Ranger Station and hike 1 mile to Twenty Mile Falls. Guide: TBD

Bear Pen Gap Section of the BMT

Drive to Old Field Gap and hike a bit less than 2 miles along one of the prettiest sections of the BMT down to Tapoco Lodge. Could have lunch at Tapoco Lodge. Guide: TBD

MODERATE HIKES

Featured Hike: Fontana Ferry from the Marina to the BMT/Lakeshore Trail to the extinct town of Proctor.

Hazel Creek was once the most popular place along the north shore of Fontana Lake. Explore an old cemetery, learn local history. Mileage can vary, according to your willingness to explore. There is a \$25. per person charge for the Ferry. Guide: Dick Evans

Nichols Cove Hike

Travel to Big Fat Gap and follow the BMT 6 miles thru Nichols Cove to Tapoco Lodge. Return to Fontana Village approximately 5:00 PM or later. Shuttle needed. Guide: TBD

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The Hangover

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Yellow Creek Ridge

Drive to Old Field Gap and hike the BMT 8 miles over Yellow Creek Mountain and down into Fontana Village. Shuttle needed. Guide: TBD

Sunday, November 6, 2022

Any of the above hikes can be done as self-guided hikes. Lunch at Tapoco Lodge would be fun!

GPS directions are fairly reliable. Cell phone service is spotty to non-existent.

Weather in early November can be lovely, or snow. Be prepared for temperature and weather changes.

Gas is available at the Fontana Pitstop Service Station, but pricy. No other local gas available for several miles.

Fontana Loop Trail TR157 and Portions of Bee Cove Trail TR421 Closed due to Transmission Line Upgrades

Robbinsville, NC, August 22, 2022 - The Fontana Loop Trail TR157 and a portion of the Bee Cove Trail TR421, will be temporarily closed for visitor safety due to transmission line upgrades in the area. These trails are located in the Fontana Village Area of Graham County, NC and are accessed by North Carolina Highway 28N.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is upgrading high voltage transmission lines to address deficiencies in the electrical power distribution system to Fontana Village. Temporary trail closures are necessary to ensure visitor safety during construction activities. It is anticipated that this project will take approximately 2-3 months and be completed by the end of October. Upon project completion, the trails will re-open to the public. This trail closure will remain in effect until all work has been completed.

As the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) runs concurrent with both the Fontana Loop Trail TR157 and Bee Cove Trail TR421 in this area, BMT users are advised to utilize the Fontana Village Shuttle between Fontana Village and Fontana Marina. Walking along North Carolina Highway 28N is not recommended due to narrow road shoulders and winding curves along the highway.

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>.

If you do so, Amazon will direct a small share of your purchases to BMTA.
Thank you!

Great Smoky Mountains National Park will increase camping fees beginning next year. Parking tags will be also required to be displayed on any motor vehicle parked within the park boundary beginning March 1, 2023.

Approved parking rates are \$5 for a daily parking tag, \$15 for a parking tag for up to seven days and \$40 for an annual parking tag.

Use of all park roads will remain toll free. Parking tags will not be required for motorists who pass through the area or who park vehicles for less than fifteen minutes. Frontcountry family campsite fees will be \$30 per night for primitive sites and \$36 per night for sites with electrical hookups.



Please, Leave No Trace!



- ◆ Plan Ahead and Prepare.
- ◆ Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.
- ◆ Dispose of Waste Properly.
- ◆ Leave What You Find.
- ◆ Minimize Campfire Impacts.
- ◆ Respect Wildlife.
- ◆ Be Considerate of Other Visitors.

lnt.org

2022 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!



ALDHA



AMVETS POST 911
POLK COUNTY, TN



BLACK SHEEP RESTAURANT



CELEBRATE BLUE RIDGE
CABIN RENTALS



DE LEON PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT



GEORGIA FOREST WATCH



HISTORIC TAPOCO LODGE



KOREAN ALPINE CLUB
OF GEORGIA



MOUNTAIN WISDOM CAMP



NORTH GEORGIA TREKS
PHOTOGRAPHY



OCOEE ANIMAL HOSPITAL



SAVE GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS

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SPIRITS KNOB
JEFFREY DEPAOLA (404) 550-4488



STAR MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS



THE DUCKTOWN COPPER INN



THE HIKE INN
FONTANA DAM, NORTH CAROLINA



THE JUSTIS LAW FIRM LLC



WILDWOOD MAGIC



**The deadline for the November Newsletter is Wednesday, November 9.
Thank you!**