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BMTA Headquarters

Benton MacKaye Trail Association



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Trail Routes That Didn't Make the Cut

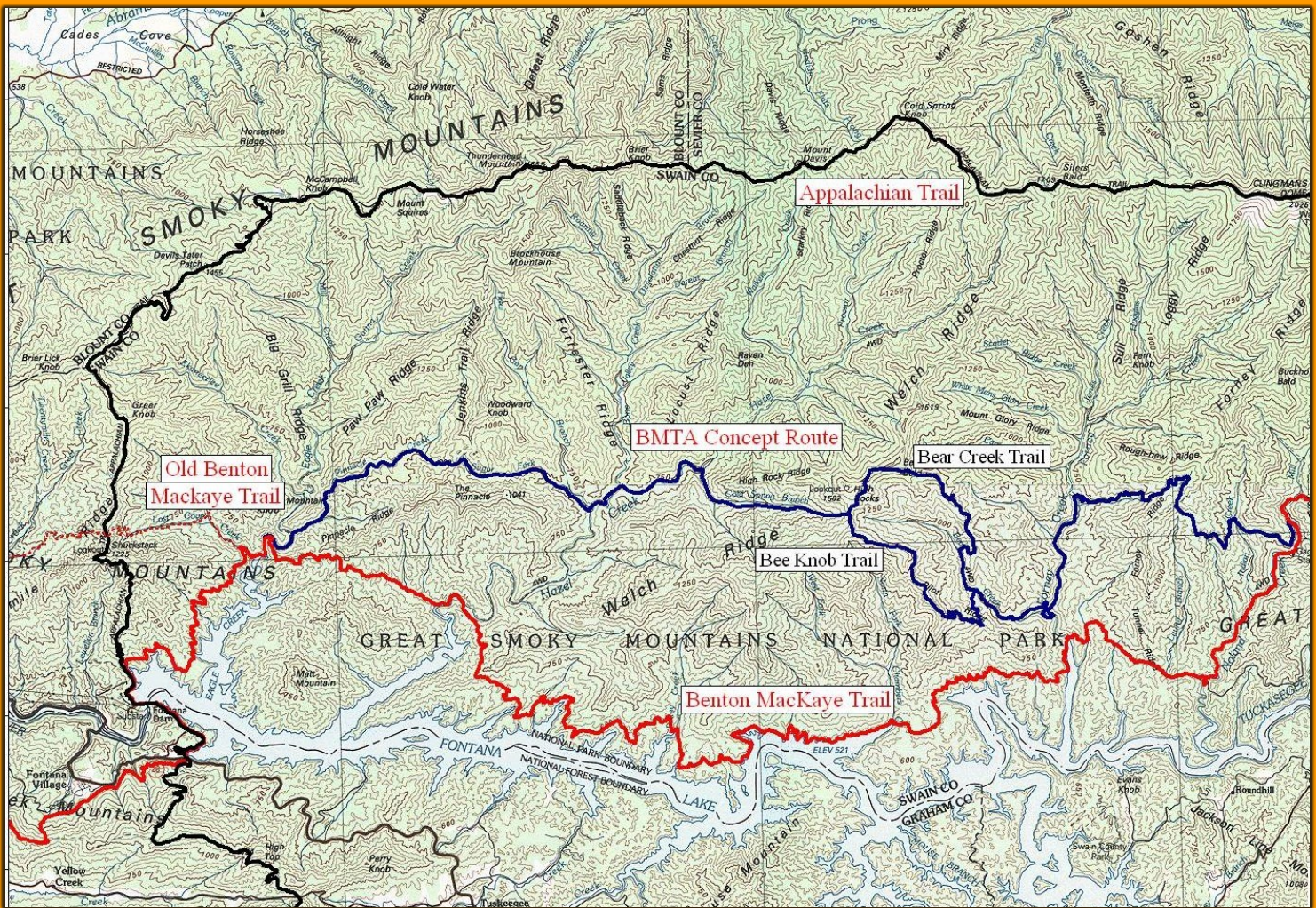
Part 3
by Marty Dominy

In Part 2 of this article, we covered routes along the Hiwassee River and in the Upper Tellico River basin. The early guidelines for trails in wilderness could have seriously impacted the route of the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) in the Joyce Kilmer – Slickrock /Citico Creek wilderness complex. However, by the time the BMT was approved north of the Ocoee River, these initial objections had evaporated. The original route along the Fodderstack Trail and the subsequent route over Stratton Bald were regarded as examples of just how good the trail could be in the wilds south of the Little Tennessee River.

Meanwhile, north of the Little Tennessee River, there were a number of desirable options with a few rather stubborn roadblocks. Deals Gap by itself was not a particularly attractive target, but Deals Gap was the gateway to Gregory Bald and Parsons Bald. The two balds on the state line truly are outstanding locations with some of the best views in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. However, the situation was so complex that Deals Gap will be examined in its own two-part series.

Other options for entering the Park, as suggested by the National Park Service, were Twentymile Ranger Station and Fontana Dam. Both would lead to a crossing of Eagle Creek just upstream of Fontana Lake. During the early negotiations between the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) and the National Park Service, the Lakeshore Trail was in the planning stages – the segment between Eagle Creek and Hazel Creek would be the last to be built. The initial BMTA Concept Map showed a series of trails that coursed roughly halfway between Fontana Lake and the main ridgeline occupied by the Appalachian Trail. To reach Hazel Creek from Eagle Creek, the route would need to follow Pinnacle Creek Trail and its many creek crossings. From Jenkins Gap, the route would descend to the southeast to reach Hazel Creek.

Even after the Lakeshore Trail was under development, there were influences within BMTA that were lobbying for the mid-elevation route. Rather than descend Hazel Creek to continue along the Lakeshore Trail, the route preferred by a number of BMTA members was up Hazel Creek to Cold Spring Gap Trail, then up to Welch Ridge. Just uphill and north of Cold Spring Gap was High Rocks, a peak with an elevation slightly over 5000 feet. High Rocks featured an old ranger cabin and lookout with great views of Fontana Lake. Among the strong proponents of the route past High Rocks was Reverend Charles Maynard, who later would go on to become the head of the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

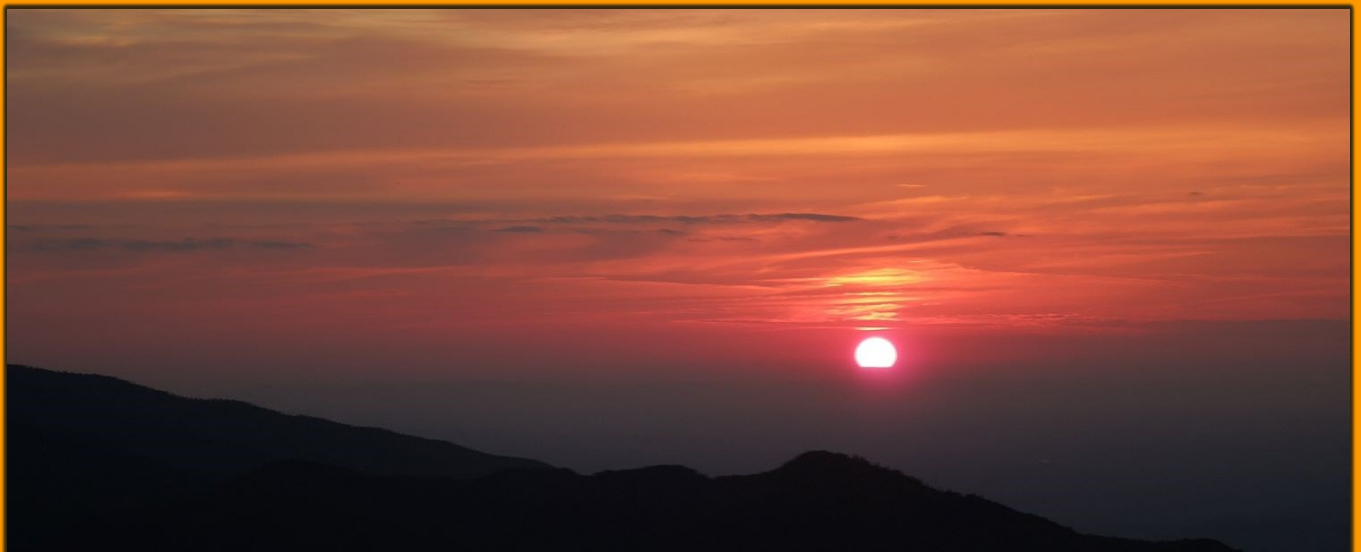


Beyond Cold Spring Gap, the initial route was slated to follow the Bee Knob Trail and the Bear Creek Trail to Forney Creek. Later, with the demise of the Bee Knob Trail, the route would be revised to follow the Welch Ridge Trail to the Bear Creek Trail, skirting High Rocks in the process. Confidence in this route was so high that former BMTA president Bill Porter organized a 1999 Sierra Club National Service Trip to correct some erosion problems on the trail (another subject for another newsletter). After climbing for two and a half miles along Forney Creek, the route would have crossed Forney Ridge via the Springhouse Branch Trail, which it would have followed for seven miles to Noland Creek at Campsite 64.

East of Noland Creek, the route of the BMT was destined to be reasonably faithful to the concept plan. The only difference came at Smokemont Campground, just northeast of Newfound Gap Road. Upon crossing the Oconaluftee River, the BMT turned right to reach the Hughes Ridge Trail. This trail led southeast before turning north and crossing a corner of the Cherokee Reservation. It continued to the Appalachian Trail at Pecks Corner, 10 miles from its start at Smokemont. The general concept for the BMT was to follow the Hughes Ridge Trail for five miles, then turn east on the Enloe Creek Trail. With the National Park Service having no jurisdiction on the trail in the Cherokee Reservation, maintenance on that portion was a problem. In time, the lower half of the Hughes Ridge Trail was decommissioned. Thus, the route of the BMT skirted the east edge of the Smokemont Campground, climbed on the Bradley Fork Trail and the Chasteen Creek Trail, and then followed one-half mile of the Hughes Ridge Trail before turning onto the Enloe Creek Trail.

The trail management philosophy of the National Park Service was/still is to maintain a relatively constant number of trail miles within the Park. When trail has been added to the trail system within the Park, there usually has been some reduction of trail in some obscure location. During the last four decades, the National Park Service decommissioned the Pinnacle Creek Trail, the Bee Knob Trail and part of the Hughes Ridge Trail – all of which might have been part of the BMT. In addition, they decommissioned the northern part of the Hyatt Ridge Trail, the Bunker Hill Trail, Greenbrier Pinnacle Trail and the Big Branch Trail. Some of these trails were redundant routes to a place where trails still exist and some were old, dead-end roadbeds leading to fire tower sites.

Before the Lakeshore Trail was proposed, plans for the BMT included a degree of challenge significantly higher than the route for today's BMT. Upon leaving the pavement of Highway 28 at Twentymile Ranger Station, pavement and direct road access was not reached for the next 58 miles. An analysis from a 1997 BMTA document revealed there were 12,300 feet of climbing to reach Newfound Gap Road. By the time Davenport Gap was reached, the total climb was over 20,000 feet. The net difference in elevation between Deals Gap and Davenport Gap was only 50 feet.





Benton MacKaye Trail Association 2023 Annual Meeting & Hike Fest Non-Hiking Activities

Benton's Smoky Mountain Country Hams, Vonore, TN

Featured on menus in the finest restaurants in the nation, Benton's relies on the age-old principles of brown sugar, salt and plenty of time to cure their hams. Enjoy the aroma of hickory smoke while selecting ham, bacon, or sausage.

Black Bear Trading Post, Vonore, TN

The Black Bear Trading Post is a unique chainsaw carving business featuring local art. offering hand turned pens, pottery and custom wood signs. Lots of unique items.

Charles Hall Museum, Tellico Plains, TN

Born in Tellico Plains in 1924, since boyhood, Charles was a local historian. Among the first white settlers in the area, his mother's family settled in Tellico Plains by 1830. His father's family settled in the area by 1908 and moved within the city limits in 1929. Charles served Tellico Plains as mayor for 31 years, as alderman-recorder for two years, as Justice of the Peace for six years, and as a county commissioner for six years. Showcased in two Museum buildings are his magnificent collections of historical memorabilia, artifacts, equipment, guns, antique telephones, coins and currency, photos, and so much more. There currently are over 10,000 artifacts and thousands of historical pictures and documents either displayed or archived for future reference. Tellico Plains is a special place with a rich heritage and limitless possibilities.

Fly-Fishing Class with Trout Unlimited

Learn about the proper gear for fly-fishing — fly rod, line, waders, vest, net, glasses, etc. Identify trout bugs — look at comparable flies as well as “reading” water and safety guidelines.

Additional instruction includes: how to cast a fly rod, set a hook and handle your trout.

Fort Loudoun State Historic Area, Vonore, TN

This reconstructed fort, located on the banks of Tellico Lake, was originally built by the British in 1756, when this area was known as the Overhill - a designation given to Cherokee communities that rested on the western slopes of the Appalachian Mountains. Explore the barracks, shops and other structures. Step inside the Visitor Center to see artifacts that were recovered from the original fort. A short film details the turbulent history that unfolded in and around the fort in the mid-1700's. Combining history and nature, much of the park's 1,200 acres lie on an island on Tellico Lake.

The Lost Sea Adventure, Sweetwater, TN

Deep inside a mountain is a remarkable body of water known as The Lost Sea. Listed by the Guinness Book of World Records as America's largest underground lake, the Lost Sea is part of an extensive and historic cave system called Craighead Caverns.

The caverns have been known and used since the days of the Cherokee Indians. From the tiny natural opening on the side of the mountain, the cave expands into a series of huge rooms. Nearly a mile from the entrance, in a room now known as “The Council Room,” a wide range of Indian artifacts including pottery, arrowheads, weapons, and jewelry have been found, testifying to the use of the cave by the Cherokees.

Your Lost Sea adventure begins with a guided tour of the caverns. This involves a ¼ mile round-trip walk on wide, sloping pathways. Learn about the cavern's colorful history as well as the fascinating geological development of the immense cavern rooms and rare formations. At the bottom of the cave, you will take a boat ride on The Lost Sea, America's Largest Underground Lake.

The 1/3-mile Lost Sea Nature Trail takes you through a cove-hardwood forest, typical of forest conditions of the Southern Appalachian Mountains around the turn of the century.

Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, Vonore, TN

A property of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, The Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, strives to promote the understanding and appreciation of the history of the Cherokee people. Located on the shores of beautiful Tellico Lake, the museum was built in 1986. It was renovated and a new exhibit installed in 2018.

Throughout much of the 18th century, the Overhill Towns of Tanasi and Chota were important Cherokee centers where Cherokees gathered for important councils and religious ceremonies. The State of Tennessee takes its name from Tanasi. After the waters of Tellico Lake covered the sites of Chota and Tanasi in 1979, memorials were placed at the edge of the lake near the site of each town.

Sweetwater Heritage Museum

Sweetwater began in 1858 when I.T. Lenoir deeded a tract of his farm for the location of a railroad depot as well as private lots. Located in the charming downtown, the museum provides visitors a glimpse into the cultural and transportation heritage of Sweetwater.

Vonore Heritage Museum

Artifacts used by the people of Vonore from the late 1800's through the 1950's are on display here. The museum is filled with local memorabilia from the Civil War, WWI, WW2, farms, schools, and more that defines what life in the town of Vonore was like way back when.

Raffle!

BMTA's Annual Meeting & Hike Fest November 4, 2023

Tellico Plains, Tennessee



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



Unicoi Lodge



Fontana Village



BMTA T-Shirt Quilt
by Lydia



Charit Creek



Len Foote Hike Inn

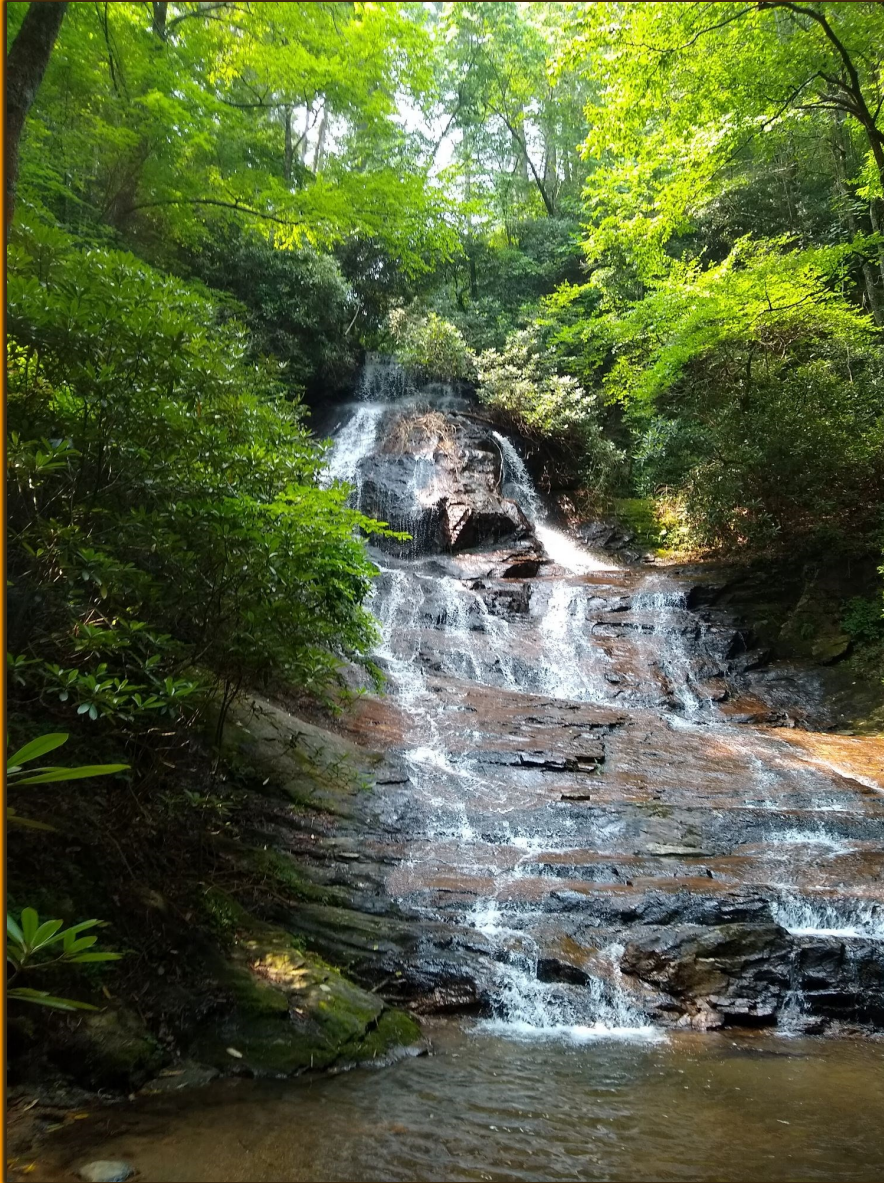
Early Donations from our Supporters!

For lodging info, go to [Accommodations](#).



Wildcat Creek

by Steve Dennison



Fall Creek Falls

Six adventurous hikers took on a challenging eight-mile route to enjoy several waterfalls. We first descended a steep Tobacco Pouch Trail before taking a side route to beautiful 20-foot Buice Falls. The 80-foot Fall Creek Falls was bursting with high water volume and a 40-foot-long stretch of sluice-like cascades above the waterfall.

Guest Vanessa Andrews from Jacksonville, Florida acclimated well to the hilly terrain. Hikers and new BMTA members Joan Thayer and Wendi Chatham welcomed the hike with plans for starting the Appalachian Trail next February. BMTA Hike Director Kelly Motter greeted the hikers. BMTA member Paul Lycett got an early start from Milton, Georgia.

Everyone arrived before the 8:45 AM meet time helping Hike Leader Steve Dennison out with an early start.

The group adjusted to a more strenuous hike with a long uphill finish without complaint. We had to change the hike from a straight thru hike to a loop hike due to the high, swift water levels for a stream crossing. The caveat was that we did not have to shuttle.



Upcoming Crosscut Certification!

The Blue Ridge Ranger District is hosting a Crosscut A/B/C course November 13-17.

The link to register is:

<https://wildernessskillsinstitute.org/sawsi/2023-georgia-crosscut-saw-certification-course/>.

Complete details are in the link. First come first serve so check it out and sign up early if you're interested!

Things We Should Carry - Hand Clippers

by Bob Cowdrick



You will never find me on a BMT hike or maintenance trip without a pair of hand clippers in my pack. You never know what you will find on the trail and wish you had a pair with you.

When it comes to trail work, hand clippers are an essential tool for maintaining vegetation and clearing brush. They are especially useful for trimming small branches, vines and other vegetation that can obstruct trails.

When choosing hand clippers for trail work, consider the following factors:

- ◆ **Type of Clippers:** Look for bypass clippers or pruning shears, which have two sharp blades that bypass each other, similar to scissors. This design allows for clean and precise cuts, making them suitable for trail work.
- ◆ **Blade Quality:** Hand clippers with high-quality blades that are sharp and durable. Stainless steel or carbon steel blades are common options as they offer excellent cutting performance and are resistant to rust.
- ◆ **Blade Length:** Choose a blade length that suits your specific trail maintenance needs. Longer blades provide more reach and are ideal for cutting thicker branches, while shorter blades offer better maneuverability for intricate cutting tasks.
- ◆ **Handle Design:** Look for hand clippers with ergonomic handles that provide a comfortable grip and reduce strain during prolonged use. Rubberized or cushioned handles can offer better control and reduce hand fatigue.
- ◆ **Locking Mechanism:** Consider hand clippers with a secure locking mechanism. This feature allows you to lock the blades in a closed position when not in use, ensuring safe and easy storage.
- ◆ **Weight and Portability:** For trail work, lightweight clippers are preferable as they are easier to carry and use for extended periods. Look for compact designs that are easy to pack and transport.
- ◆ **Reviews and Recommendations:** Read product reviews and recommendations from other BMT trail workers to get insights into the performance and durability of different hand clippers.

Some popular brands known for producing quality hand clippers include Fiskars, Gerber and Corona. Ultimately, the choice of hand clippers will depend on your personal preferences, budget, and the specific trail work you'll be doing.

Trail Work With Teenage Athletes

by Steve Dennison



Bill Cox, Colin Brady, Lance Brady and Steve Dennison spent seven hours on the BMT between GA 60 at Wilscot Gap and beyond Ledford Gap.

The young men loved clearing the brush with the weed trimmers but even more so rolling cut logs off the trail.

They are doing volunteer work toward a college scholarship and their "Poppy" is rightfully proud of them!

Jack "Rabbiting" Around Lake Chatuge

by Ralph Collinson



Rhodes Mountain Relocation Opened in July

by George Owen with photos by George Owen

It literally took years to receive U.S. Forest Service approval to proceed with the upper Rhodes Mountain BMT relocation and then months more before it was opened and blazed. Laid out by John Stephens of the U.S. Forest Service and me on the steep, upper side of Rhodes as the Covid 19 virus was just getting started. It subsequently took several virus years before the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) survey on it was done and approved. Due to construction and weather delays, it then took many more months before it was opened for approval on July 8. Whew!

Thus, on July 8, the usual Saturday Georgia maintenance trip resulted in one of several teams climbing approximately a mile which included 600-800 feet of elevation change to open the two ends of the newly constructed trail saved just for this occasion. This team of six workers featured Ken Andrews, Ian Guttridge, Art Kolberg, Andy Meeks, Steve Wakefield and crew leader George Owen. By noon, when GA Maintenance Director Bob Cowdrick said we should be coming down because of the intense heat of that day, we had opened both ends for foot traffic, scattered brush to close two parts of the abandoned trail and removed some nearby abandoned trail blazes. As remaining time allowed, part of the team worked on improving the rock steps at the big switchback turn of the reroute. Additional labor was also expended to better flatten and widen the trail in a few places.



Art Kolberg always wanted to play in the dirt!



Andy Meeks closing up the old trail.



Andy Meeks, Steve Wakefield and Ian Guttridge opening up and closing down!



Andy Meeks thinking "I prefer to work not pose."



The Rhodes relocation crew finally relaxes at the church parking near the Skeenah Gap Trailhead.



WHEW, FINISHED! These are the five guys that completed opening both ends of the new, upper Rhodes Mountain quarter-mile reroute at one of the newly opened trail ends: Art Kolberg, Steve Wakefield, Ken Andrews, Ian Guttridge and Andy Meeks.

On Monday, July 17, our Blaze Team Leader, Darcy Douglas, and Gilbert Treadwell climbed to the relocation and blazed the rerouted trail. So now, the first Georgia BMT relocation to be completed in recent years was both opened and blazed in July 2023. During the first half of 2023, a number of other BMTAers dug and trimmed to complete this gradual quarter-mile relocation that replaces a very steep tenth of a mile of BMT. This relocation is actually a quarter-mile long, swinging single switchback.

Some improvements to the relocation are still needed to enhance it and make it truly as safe - wide and flat - as most of the BMT in Georgia. Some parts need better flattening to 2-3% outer grade slope, and cutting a bit deeper into the sidehill. The rock steps on the one sidehill turn needs improvement - rock work lovers take note. Rains will also soon tell us where reverse grade dips may be needed for better drainage. So occasional future trips to this relocation by a few workers are in order!

Two final personal comments. First, thank you Ken, Ian, Art, Andy and Steve for all your work on July 8 and Darcy and Gilbert on July 17 - all finishing up for the official opening of this much more gradual ascent/descent of our trail. Secondly, since I had cataract surgery a few days before this trail opening, my doctor had told me not to bend over or lift anything heavy or work hard during this time. I made sure Bob Cowdrick knew that. He said to just tell the others what to do. Hey, I liked that! So I was bossy, invited others to do things and did virtually nothing physical myself! In my 80s now, I really, really like that kind of work system for me! Hope I can find ways to continue that practice in the BMTA!

Reimagine the Ocoee Whitewater Center

On April 26, 2022, the Ocoee Whitewater Center (OWC) was destroyed by fire. A legacy of the 1996 Olympic Games, the Ocoee Whitewater Center was a tremendous point of pride for the surrounding communities and a celebrated asset for the region. The loss is palpable.

However, from this tragic event comes the opportunity to reimagine the entire venue. The Forest Service (FS) is seeking broad public input to guide the future of the Ocoee Whitewater Center. The FS contracted with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of GA to compile information to create a vision for the future of the OWC.

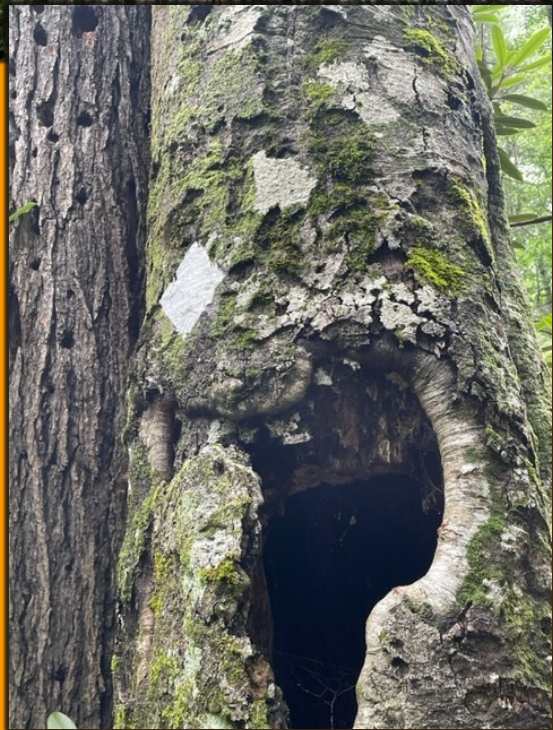
We need all the public input we can get!
-- Forest Service

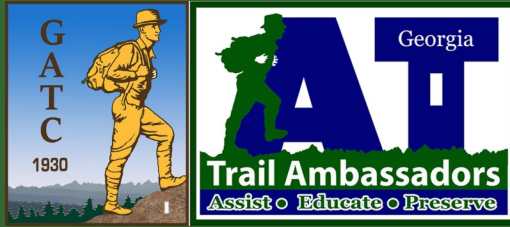
Your input will help to shape the future of the site and the redevelopment of the Ocoee Whitewater Center. The survey should take less than 10 minutes. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts.

Please go to [Survey](#).



While on the trail the trees were talking blazes.....





Trail Skills Workshop Save the Date!

Make plans to attend the seventh annual Trail Skills Workshop (TSW) at Lake Winfield Scott (near Suches GA), September 23 – 24, 2023. This is a training event focused on teaching the most current trail construction and maintenance methods applicable for Eastern landscapes.

As a special bonus, on Saturday, September 23, Morgan Sommerville will be leading an Advanced Trail Maintenance class for experienced maintainers. This is an occasion for members to work with one of the leading authorities of trail design and construction to refine their techniques.

The Trail Skills Workshop is an excellent opportunity for participants to learn and perfect trail skills. Skilled instructors are provided from the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC), the United States Forest Service (FS) and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). The \$30.00 fee (\$25.00 for GATC members) includes: all courses, a T-shirt, two nights camping and Saturday cookout and entertainment.

The \$25.00 (\$30.00 for non-members) covers the program, camping, dinner Saturday night and a T-shirt. For questions etc. contact tsw@georgia-atclub.org.

Submitted by Jay M Dement, jay@jayDphotos.com, 404-731-1901



Protect Yourself *The Bugs Are Out*



Mosquitos	West Nile Virus	Ticks	<u><i>*New Red Meat Allergies</i></u>
	Zika Fever		Lyme Disease
	Encephalitis		Rocky Mountain
	Malaria		Spotted Fever

These are just a few of the insect-borne illnesses.

For additional information, go [HERE](#).

Preventative Measures

- ◆ Wear long sleeve shirts & long pants.
- ◆ Use insect repellents.
- ◆ Do a tick check on you, your children & pets after being in the woods.
- ◆ Remove quickly to prevent infection — [See How to Remove Ticks](#).
- ◆ See a healthcare provider if you experience symptoms.

Upcoming Hikes and Maintenance Trips

by Kelly Motter, Hiking Director

Guidelines for Our Hikes

COVID-19 Concerns - If you believe you are in a high-risk group, please evaluate whether going on this hike is worth the potential risk.

August



August 12 (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. Sections 3a >> 5b – Wallalah Overlook >> Brawley Mountain
Contact Bob Cowdrick at gamaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

August 16 (Wednesday) Turtletown Falls. Easy/moderate 4-5 miles with beautiful falls. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at hikeleaderRC@bmtamail.org.

August 18 (Friday) Emery Creek. Moderate 5 miles. The trail for this in-and-out hike is fairly easy, but 26 stream crossings (a number up to your ankles and two around your knees) and a section of potentially slippery rock toward the beginning and again at the end make it more difficult than it otherwise would be. Holly and Emery creeks, two lovely waterfalls and a beautiful trail make it worth the trouble.
Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

August 21 (Monday) Brush Creek Loop. Easy/moderate 4-5 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at hikeleaderRC@bmtamail.org.



August 26 (Saturday) TN/NC Maintenance Trip. Sections 18e and 19a.
Contact Nelson Ashbrook at tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

August 28 (Monday) BMT Dyer Gap to Flat Top Mountain and return, then Dyer Gap to South Fork Trail briefly for Upper and Lower Shadow Falls then to the Pinhoti Trail intersection. About 7.3 moderately/strenuous miles. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org

September



September 9 (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact Bob Cowdrick at gamaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

September 12 (Tuesday) Hike to "The Narrows of the Hiwassee River" on a remote section of the BMT. See the flower, Ruth's Golden Aster, a tiny cave, magnificent river potholes and other unusual rock formations. Moderate 5 miles. Contact Hike Leaders Clare and Ed Sullivan at hikeleaderCS2@bmtamail.org.

September 15 (Friday) Gahuti Lite: Five Intersecting Trails Loop at Fort Mountain State Park. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog) About 5 moderate miles. Highlights include cascading creeks, a long-distance view and a lakeside walk. Ends with a moderate uphill walk. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

September 22 (Friday) BMT: From Highway 60 to the Swinging Bridge and back. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog) Moderate 7.4 miles. Lunch by Toccoa River and BMT's iconic Suspension Bridge. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.



September 23 (Saturday) TN/NC Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact Nelson Ashbrook at tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

October

October 6 (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. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.



October 14 (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact Bob Cowdrick at gamaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

October 20 (Friday) 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. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.



October 28 (Saturday) TN/NC Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact Nelson Ashbrook at tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

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

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Announces Upcoming North Carolina Road Construction

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is using nearly \$19 million in funding from the Great American Outdoors Act to reconstruct Lakeview Drive and repair Heintooga Ridge Road this summer.

“We are pleased to have this opportunity to rehabilitate and extend the life of some of our roads in North Carolina, in particular Lakeview Drive,” said Deputy Superintendent Alan Sumeriski. “Funds from the Great American Outdoors Act will allow us to make critical repairs and improve access to popular park destinations in North Carolina.”

Work will include the complete reconstruction of the 6.5-mile-long road, replacement of all guardrails, construction of ADA accessible parking spaces, new road signs, drainage repair and other miscellaneous work.

Construction dates will be announced in the coming weeks. Hikers and visitors will not be able to access the Noland Creek Trail, Lakeshore Trail, Goldmine Loop Trail, Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT), or Lakeview Drive Tunnel from the road during the closure. Consequently, BMT thru/section hikers will not be able to get into Bryson from the Tunnel on the Road to No Where for resupply. For reasonable resupply opportunities, hikers will have to hike from the Fontana Dam Visitor Center to Smokemont (about 60 miles) ... or go down Deep Creek into Bryson adding a lot of mileage.

For more information about temporary road and trail closures at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, please visit the park’s [Current Road, Facility, Trail & Backcountry Updates](#) webpage.

[MEMBERSHIP](#)[DONATE](#)[DONATE](#)
Land Acquisition Fund[STORE](#)

**The deadline for the September Newsletter is Wednesday, August 30, 2023.
Thank You!**