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**BMTA Headquarters**



# Benton MacKaye Trail Association

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## Trail Routes That Didn't Make the Cut

Part 2

by Marty Dominy

In Part 1 of this article, we reviewed a number of trail routes in Georgia and Tennessee that either never made it off the drawing board or were rejected after scouting and flagging took place. The issues regarding the Hiwassee River crossing were complex and deserve further explanation.

Both the preferred route up Dry Pond Lead to Kimsey Highway and the alternate route from Boyd Gap to Sassafras Knob allowed for wide latitude as to which crossing of the Hiwassee River would be used. Eventually, a commitment would need to be made to one of the three practical crossings that were available. Nobody within the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) at the time could provide an accurate picture of the scope of work involved in locating the trail along the concept route to the Highway 68 bridge over the Hiwassee. In looking at the map, the area north of Kimsey Highway was difficult to understand. There was the ridgeline of Smith Mountain that extended to the northeast for several miles, but the entire area then devolved into a complex area of low ridges cut by Wolf Creek, Turtletown Creek and their respective tributaries. If anyone actually walked this area looking for the ideal trail route, they kept it a secret.

The next crossing downstream from Highway 68 was a very long way downstream at the Apalachia Powerhouse where there was a very robust suspension bridge. It looked like at one time the bridge had a deck that would support vehicular traffic. At the north end of the bridge, you could turn immediately onto the John Muir Trail and follow it upstream along the Hiwassee. To get there from the south, it was projected that a trail could be built to the northwest from Smith Mountain along Smith Creek. The confluence of Smith Creek with the Hiwassee was within sight of the powerhouse and the suspension bridge, so this seemed like a logical route. A portion of the route along Smith Creek was scouted and was found to have good potential.

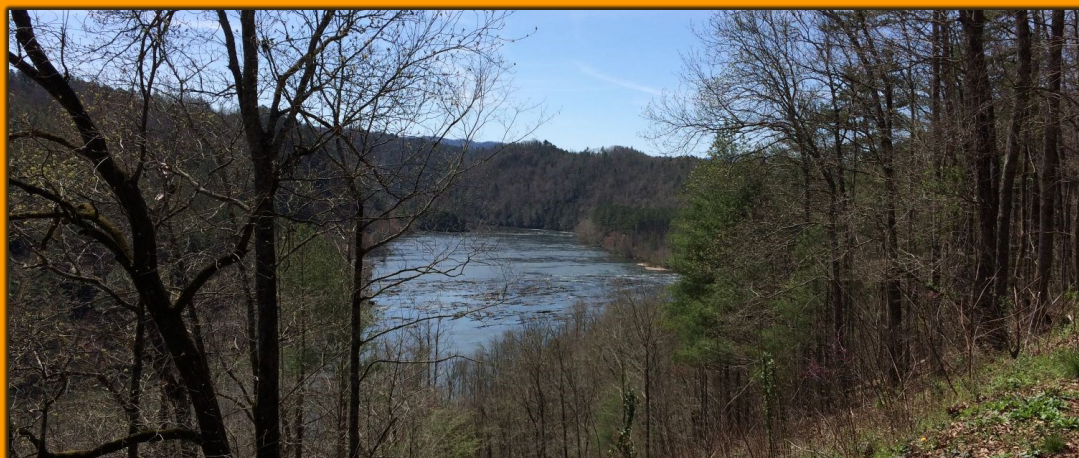
In the meantime, a local resident, store operator and rafting concessionaire by the name of Harold Webb became interested in the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT). Webb was a vocal advocate for bringing the BMT to the crossing of the Hiwassee in Reliance, Tennessee. At the time, Reliance had the look of a place that was at least 50 years back in history. An old steel truss bridge was the way across the river and there were very few modern buildings in sight – Reliance had a certain charm about it. For hikers, coming off a long, grueling hike through the Cohutta, Big Frog, and Little Frog Wildernesses, Reliance offered an opportunity for limited resupply at Webb's Store.

One of the problems associated with this westernmost crossing of the three considered was the road walk on each side of the river. At the outset, there was uncertainty about whether there was legal access from the public road near the railroad trestle to the Forest Service land along Big Lost Creek. Once this was resolved, the route down Ellis Creek, across the Tennessee Highway 315 bridge and up to the Childers Creek Trailhead of the John Muir Trail was adopted. A few people expressed the opinion that the frequent interaction with the road along the north side of the Hiwassee was undesirable. In the end, this supposition was more than offset by the outstanding opportunity to be in close proximity to the river. Several projects subsequently would be undertaken to improve the trail in the vicinity of Towee Creek. Despite numerous objections that the old span had historic value, the old truss bridge over the Hiwassee in Reliance was replaced by a modern bridge.

Notwithstanding the prolific summer growth along the section from Sandy Gap to Sledrunner Gap on what is now known as the “Heart of Darkness”, there were very few seriously considered alternatives to this route. That is not to say that other routes weren’t put to paper to at the very least demonstrate to the Forest Service that there was fair consideration of routes that would pass outside the Citico Creek and Joyce Kilmer – Slickrock Wilderness complex further north. One line on the map was to continue northeast from Sixmile Gap over Wauchesi Mountain and down the ridge to the Tellico River. A proposed crossing of the Tellico was a concrete footbridge downstream of Bald River Falls – since then, the bridge was destroyed by a flood. This route would continue along Flats Mountain north of the Tellico toward the Little Tennessee River with truly no viable proposal of how to cross the Little Tennessee.

North of Sledrunner Gap, slightly more serious consideration was given to continuing along the state line over Beaverdam Bald, then east through Jenks Gap and on to McDaniel Bald. Here, the route would turn north to encircle the headwaters of the Tellico River. Just north of here were the Snowbird Mountain Trail and Big Snowbird Trail, part of the Snowbird Creek trail system. On the latter, the route could return to the state line, cross Big Junction and Haw Knob, and descend to Mud Gap. Officials with the Nantahala National Forest explained that the upper basin of the Tellico River was somewhat of an inherited mess they acquired from a timber company. Because it was littered with rutted roads, for a number of years, it became the Upper Tellico Off-Road Vehicle Area. The Forest Service wanted no direct connection between the BMT and this off-road traffic.

Plan “B” for this area was to cross Beaverdam Bald, leave the Beaverdam Bald Road at the Sugar Mountain Lead Trail, descend to the Tellico River at the Pheasant Field Rearing Ponds (Fish Hatchery), then climb along Sycamore Creek to Whigg Meadow and Mud Gap. Even though the south part of this route technically was outside the ORV area, the Forest Service determined it still had too much direct access to the off-road vehicles. Parts of the Sugar Mountain Lead Trail had been obliterated by a logging road, so the approved route became – Brookshire Creek Trail, new trail construction north of Bald River and the north half of Sugar Mountain Lead Trail. Even before the Forest Service rendered judgment, all of the rejected routes had been scouted by BMTA volunteers and had been determined to have some less than desirable aspects. In retrospect, the BMT now occupies the best possible route through the area.





## November's a Great Time to Hike in Tennessee

### 2023 BMTA Annual Meeting & Hike Fest

November 2 – 5, 2023



#### Whigg Meadow from Mud Gap

A pristine meadow offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape.



#### Bob Bald from State Line on Cherokee Skyway

Enjoy a scenic drive along the Cherokee Skyway followed by a hike to the top of one of the iconic Southern Appalachian balds featuring expansive views into North Carolina.



#### Bald River Trail

Hike along a river full of numerous cascades and waterfalls in the Bald River Gorge Wilderness.



#### Hiwassee River along the John Muir Trail

Join us for a leisurely stroll along one of the most gorgeous rivers in the Appalachians — a broad, raging river with continuous shoals.



#### Coker Creek Falls

Hike to a series of whitewater cascades tumbling 20-30 feet over the large rocks in Coker Creek.

## Penitentiary Overnights, Thank You!

by Barry Allen

First of all, a big THANK YOU for the hard work and effort that you all put into the weekend. I hope everyone made it back home with no ill effects. The mosquitos and no-see-ums were a bit of a pain on Friday, but we made some good progress on getting a stable water crossing for Bear Branch. A couple of more trips, and we hope to have this done! A special thanks to Steve Dennison, Joe Cantwell, Bob Nelson and David Watkins for getting to Dally early on Friday to work on various projects. Steve and Joe were able to get a tree off the trail on Section 11b, as well as completing a trail check of the entire section. Bob made a trip to Penitentiary to get some tools in place for Saturday's sign installation. David joined our group last minute to help on the Bear Branch project -- and was great fun around the fire on Friday evening sharing a cold beverage.

Saturday was fun and exhausting! Steve and Connor Bayliss arrived early to help on the long hike past Hemp Top, working with Patrick Ward, Shane Morrison and Bob Nelson. Bob was the first to leave from Dally on Saturday, carrying a new sign and post toward Penitentiary to match the post hole that diggers left the previous day. Bob, by the way, was the mileage champion for the weekend, covering over seven miles on Friday and almost 10 miles on Saturday. This group installed a new sign at Penitentiary and began logging after the sign installation, taking on a large yellow poplar suspended over the trail about 0.5 miles from Penitentiary. Over the next two miles, another 10 or 11 trees were removed or cut further back.



In addition to this group, Gilbert Treadwell, Carol Nufer and Art Kolberg removed and cut back several additional trees between Dally and Penitentiary.

A special thanks to Joe Cantwell who had previously hiked the section, detailing the trees that needed removal and had also removed several trees to open the trail for hikers. Joe used a sling blade most of the day, getting the trail growth knocked back all the way to the yellow poplar past Penitentiary. I missed the four of you as we got off the trail on Saturday, so I hope all went well for the day.

**And last, but not least, thanks for the Friday night chili and cornbread, Sandra Allen and Chef Patty.**

This was a super treat on a very cool night, just the ticket after a hard day of work!

Working up an appetite!

## Standing Indian on the AT

by Kelly Motter



This beautiful hike is a short 2.5 miles up from Deep Gap in the Natchala Forest. We had great weather and the smog from the Canadian wildfires had cleared to allow for some spectacular views. The hike up was taken at a leisurely pace so that all could enjoy and not be worn out! At the summit, we enjoyed a casual lunch, spoke with other hikers and then made a slow return back to our cars.

All smiles! Laurie Music, Penny Strickland, Raymond Laws, Kelly Motter, Paula Laws, Laurie Columbo and Ray Myers.

## Things We Should Carry - Gloves

by Bob Cowdrick

You will never find me on a BMTA hike or work trip without a pair of gloves in my pack. You never know what you will find on the trail and wish you had a pair with you.

Trail work gloves are specifically designed to provide protection and dexterity for outdoor activities such as trail maintenance, hiking and other rugged tasks. They are typically made from durable materials that offer a combination of grip, flexibility and resistance to abrasion. Here are some features to consider when looking for trail work gloves:

- ◆ **Material:** Look for gloves made from sturdy materials such as synthetic leather, reinforced fabrics like nylon or polyester, or a combination of both. These materials offer durability and resistance to wear and tear.
- ◆ **Grip:** Good trail work gloves should provide a secure grip. Look for gloves with textured palms or added grip features like silicone patterns or rubberized coatings. This ensures you can handle tools and objects effectively.
- ◆ **Protection:** Depending on your specific needs, consider the level of protection required. Some gloves offer additional features like reinforced fingertips, knuckle protection, or padded palms to guard against impacts, cuts, or abrasions.



- ◆ **Breathability:** Since trail work can be physically demanding, it's essential to have gloves that allow air-flow to prevent excessive sweating and discomfort. Look for gloves with breathable materials or mesh panels that help keep your hands cool.
- ◆ **Fit and Flexibility:** Gloves should fit well and allow for comfortable movement. Look for gloves with adjustable wrist closures or elastic bands to ensure a snug fit. Opt for gloves that offer good dexterity and flexibility so you can handle small objects or perform intricate tasks with ease.
- ◆ **Weather Resistance:** If you plan to work in wet conditions or during colder seasons, consider gloves that are water-resistant or have a waterproof membrane. Additionally, thermal insulation may be necessary for colder environments.



Remember to assess your specific needs and preferences when selecting trail work gloves. It's a good idea to read reviews and consider recommendations from other hikers and BMT trail workers to find gloves that suit your requirements. By following these tips, you will have a safe and enjoyable adventure!

## Blaze Team 2023

by Darcy Douglas

Laurie Schatz and Daphne Martin recently spent several hours of their time to learn how to effectively and efficiently blaze the Benton MacKaye Trail.

They were full of interesting questions and thoughts to improve things for future blazers. Their energy and enthusiasm is quite contagious!

We got started with an intersection, one of the most challenging parts of blazing! This mini-team is quite an addition to the Blaze Team and you will soon see their work along the trail!

Welcome, Laurie and Daphne!!!



One of the reasons we need a Blaze Team!

# Grunting and Pointing

by Andy Meeks

Great work by Gilbert Treadwell on the saw and Ian Guttridge on the shovel while I watched, grunted approval and pointed. It really was fun to watch two pros handle a difficult project with ease. Three trees were removed from the trail on Sections 7b and one on 7c. The trail is now open from 515 to Boardtown Road.





# Work Trip Section 16e Sugar Mountain - Tellico River

by Rick and Brenda Harris



Ralph Van Pelt, Rick and Brenda Harris built 20' of tread above this rootball.



Look! Bumblebees kissed my lips!!!!

## 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.

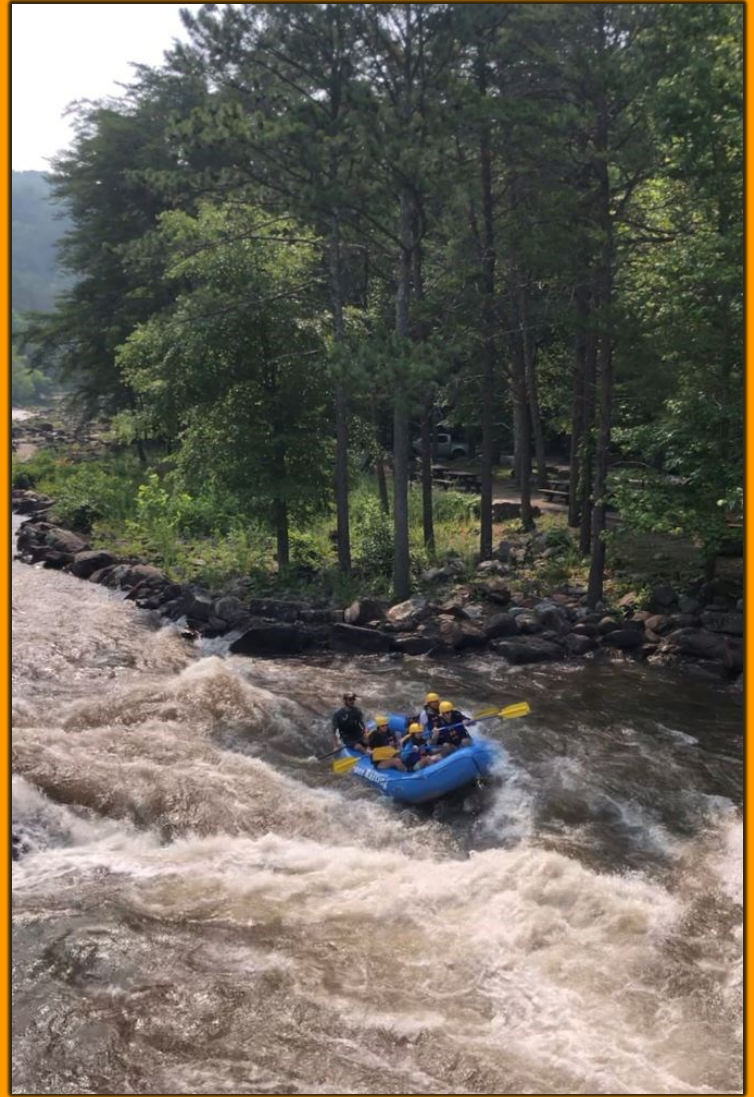
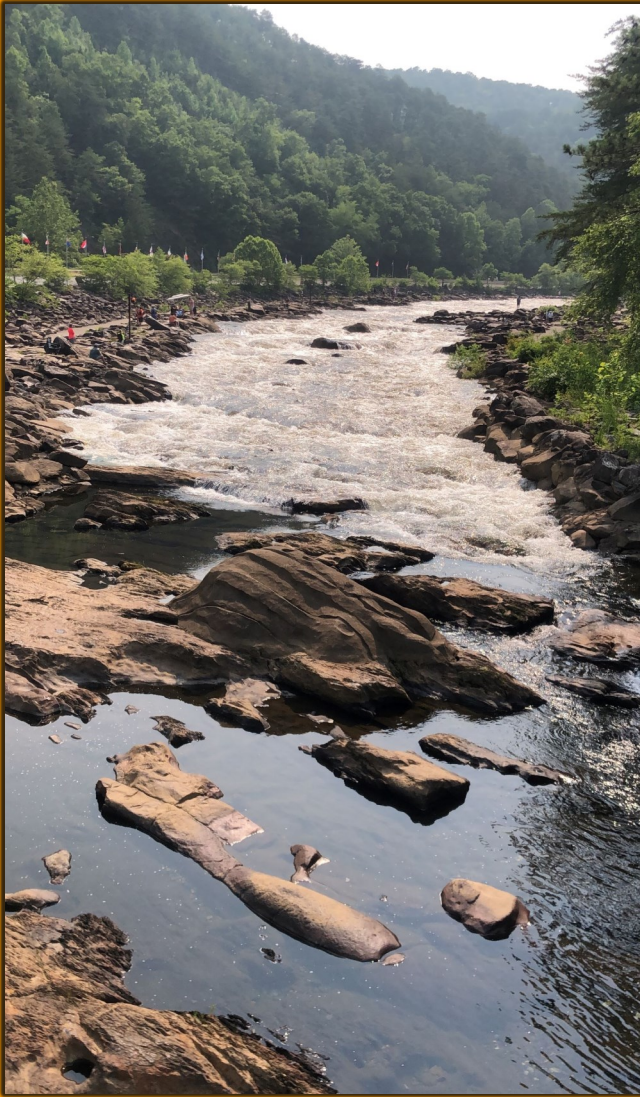
Please go to [Survey](#).



## Watch the Water Arrive!

by Clare Sullivan photos courtesy of Judy Price, Clare Sullivan

It was the beginning of an exciting adventure as 14 eager hikers stood on the bridge over-looking the 1996 Olympic Whitewater Course on the Ocoee River. They watched the almost dry riverbed turn into a raging torrent as the water arrived from Dam 3. In just 10 minutes, the Ocoee was filled and adrenaline-fueled rafters/kayakers were riding the water downstream!



As hikers watched in wonder, they learned the history of the Ocoee Whitewater Center, the competitive course and the hydro-electric power generated by the dam.

Did you know the Cherokee National Forest was presented an Olympic Gold Medal for construction of the site? This was the first gold medal ever awarded to a non-competitor. Sadly, the gold medal burned in the 2022 fire.

After watching the water-release, we carpoled from the Whitewater Center to the trailhead on Forest Service Road 221. We followed the Benton MacKaye Trail 3.4 miles down to the Thunder Rock Campground. Copious blooms of rosebay rhododendrons dotted the landscape and scrumptious raspberries were ripe for the “pickin”.



'Pickin'



Mystery Mound



Natural Log Bridge



It was a top-notch day with amazing weather, friendly hikers and a pristine trail!

The group also passed by a large, mysterious mound. George Owen explained that many years ago, he was scouting the section when he saw beautiful young ladies carrying bags of bricks to add to the mound. When he asked what they were doing, they explained that they were from a sorority at a nearby university and had been holding an annual ceremony at the location for several years. Owen explained that was not allowed in National Forests without a Special-Use Permit. The Cherokee National Forest then contacted the university and the practice ceased.

## National Trails Day

by Joy Forehand with photos courtesy of Clare Sullivan

The Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) celebrated National Trails Day (NTD) with a maintenance trip on June 3, 2023.

National Trails Day is the largest trails event in the United States. Its purpose is to encourage conservation, stewardship, and trail service. Thousands of hikers, bikers, rowers, horseback riders, trail clubs, federal and local agencies, land trusts, and businesses come together in partnership to promote, maintain, and clean up public lands and trails.

Before the crews set out from the Thunder Rock Campground in Tennessee, BMTA Past President Steve Cartwright, gave a short presentation on the history and significance of NTD. He recalled another BMTA/NTD celebration at the 2004 NTD/BMTA Thunder Rock Maintenance Trip when the Benton MacKaye Trail's (BMT's) 85-mile extension from US 64 to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was dedicated. In addition, Mary Margaret Sloan, then president of the American Hiking Society (AHS), announced BMTA member Ken Jones was the 2004 AHS Tennessee Maintenance Volunteer of the Year!

This year, 18 volunteers departed from the Thunder Rock Campground to repair tread, remove blowdowns and clear brush from the BMT.

“This is a very difficult section to maintain,” said Crew Leader David Watkins. “There’s a steep climb out from the highway, transitioning to a continuous, less steep uphill hike almost all the way through the section, some of which is in the Little Frog Wilderness. Using swingblades and crosscut saws make for a long day after hiking a mile up a steep trail before work can even begin.”



Maintenance in a Wilderness Area is far more labor-intensive than work done on a trail through non wilderness terrain. Vehicular access and motorized tools are prohibited – no chainsaws or gas-powered brushcutters are allowed. Instead, workers use swingblades, crosscut saws and small hand saws.

Continued next page

“The blowdowns were in places where a walk around was not possible. Plus, there was one ‘hazard tree’ overhanging the trail – it could have collapsed at any time,” Watkins continued. “The trail tread on a steep hillside had eroded badly in one area. We widened it to make it safely ‘hikeable’ again.

It took 16 tools, two power trimmers, one chainsaw, one crosscut saw and one hatchet to accomplish the tasks for the day.

- ◆ Two miles of trail were brushed with trimmers, swingblades and loppers.
- ◆ Three blowdowns were removed using either a chainsaw or a crosscut saw.
- ◆ Four hundred feet of tread were repaired, and two new water diversions constructed.

The day concluded with a scrumptious “Chow Time at the Trailhead” meal prepared by BMTA’s Chow Time Chef, Patty Masters.



EEKK!



Yum!!

To learn more about BMTA Maintenance Trips, contact Georgia Maintenance Director Bob Cowdrick, [bcowdrick@comcast.net](mailto:bcowdrick@comcast.net), or TN/NC Maintenance Director Nelson Ashbrook, [nelsonashbrook@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonashbrook@gmail.com).

## National Trails Day at Vogel State Park

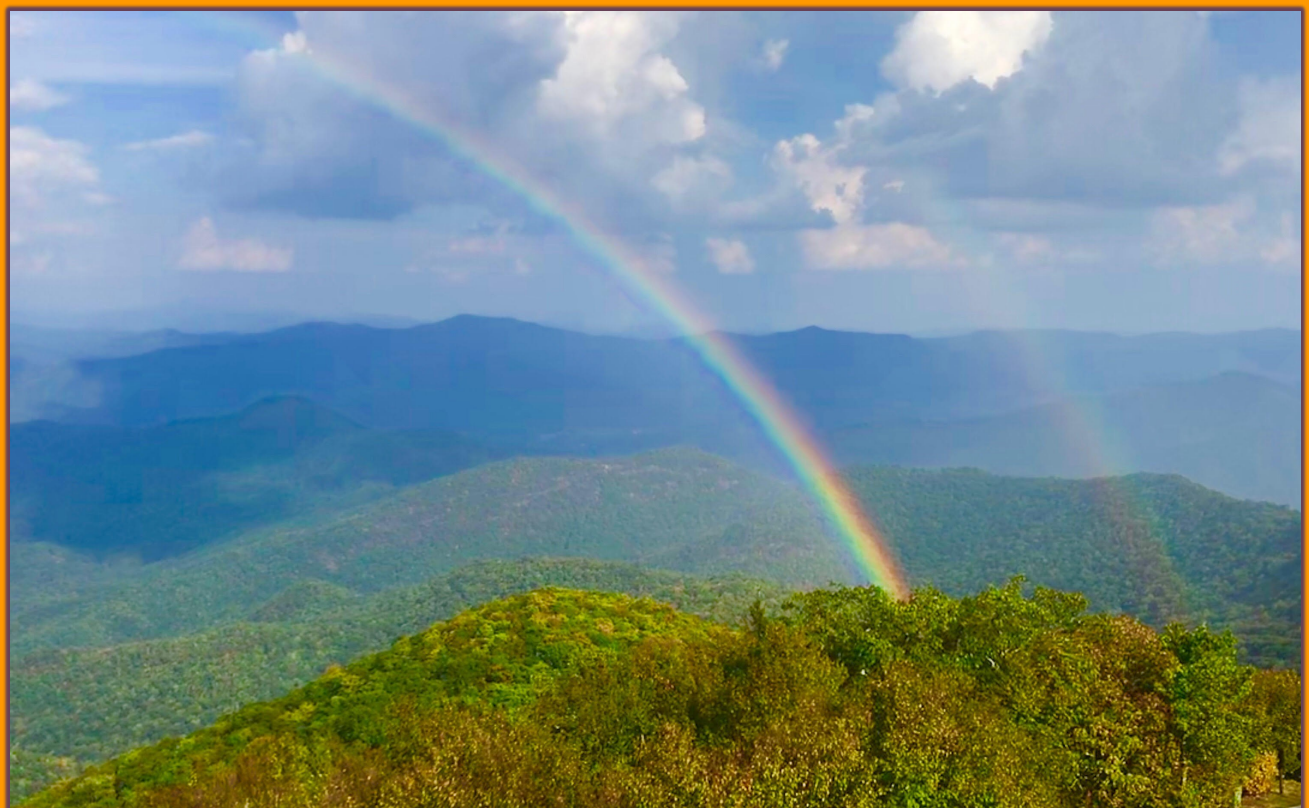
by Darcy Douglas

At Vogel State Park in north Georgia, the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) met with the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Mountain High Hikers and Georgia Forest Watch to share our love of trails with park visitors and one another.

We gave away items to remind people about the trails in our tri-state area, including a slice of wood with the BMTA logo for those who cut one from the log at the cross-cut saw area.

We were lucky again, as in years past, to have great weather! We shared lunch, music with Joe Boone and his group, followed by a hike around the lake and down to the waterfall.

Next year, the plan is to add back in the trail maintenance activity and to keep the ever-popular family hike.



# Faces of a TN Maintenance Day

Photos courtesy of Clare Sullivan



Nelson doing the tailgate talk. Twenty volunteers showed up for a long day of hard work.



We were so excited to have Kyle Ray and Patti Barrows as first-timers on our maintenance trip.

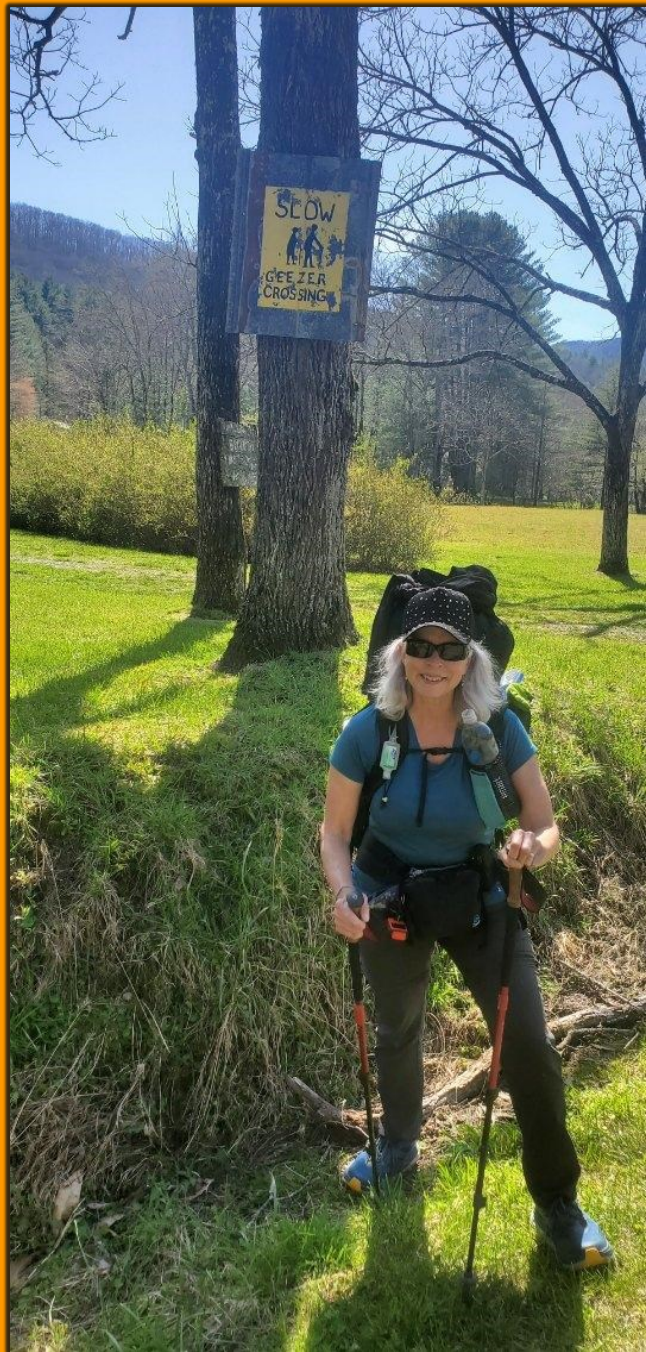


Bob Curry is welcomed by Brenda Harris.



## BMTA Presentations Are in Demand

by Clare Sullivan



**Kathy Anderson during her BMT thru hike.**

The interest in and excitement for the Benton MacKaye Trail Association's (BMTA) quest to have the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) designated a National Scenic Trail (NST) is growing. This spring, several organizations reached out to BMTA to ask for a BMTA volunteer to give a presentation on the BMT and our quest.

Talking to small groups is beneficial – by the end of the presentation, the audience is fully versed on both the trail and the quest. Better yet, the participants are eager to email their congressional representatives to let them know why the BMT should be designated an NST ... and to encourage their friends and family to do so as well.

The Harvey Broome Sierra Club (Knoxville) was the first on the docket. Clare Sullivan's PowerPoint traced the history of the BMT and why the BMT more than meets the requirements for an NST. Kathy Anderson's PowerPoint on her thru hike of the trail provided tips for thru hiking the BMT as well as showing some of the stunning beauty surrounding this peaceful forest pathway through the Southern Appalachian Mountains – the glistening white water rushing down sheer rock cliffs, the scenic vistas and crystal-clear creeks.

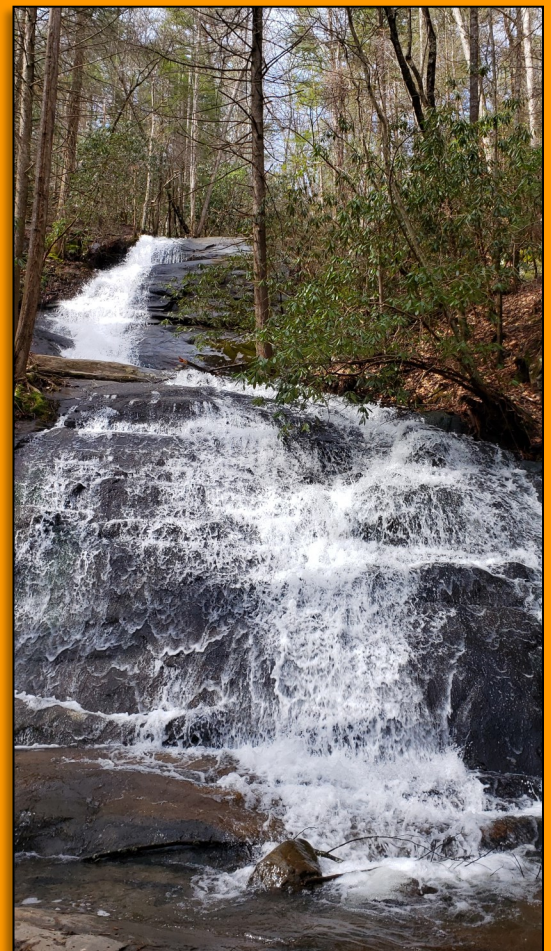
In May, Sullivan gave a presentation to the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association (TOHA) – a diverse group of people, organizations and government agencies serving McMinn, Monroe and Polk counties. The group's goal is to build a tourism program that honors local history, traditions, culture and natural resources. The name Overhill honors the earliest residents of these counties, the Overhill Cherokee. Sullivan's presentation was well-received – the TOHA wrote a great letter in support of BMTA's quest to both Representative Chuck Fleischman and Senator Bill Hagerty of Tennessee.

On June 1, 2023, Anne Anderson and Sullivan attended TVA's Media Day in McCaysville, GA. Guests stopping by the BMTA exhibit included a representative from Senator Hagerty's office (Tennessee), a marketing agent from Bryson City, North Carolina, and several potential Corporate Members.



Because The Coker Creek Heritage Association's Visitors' Center is close to our trail, the group invited Sullivan to do a presentation June 15, 2023. They wanted to be better able to respond to visitors' questions about hiking the BMT in the Coker Creek area as well as to learn more about the BMT/BMTA in general.

If you know of an organization that would like more information about the BMT/BMTA and how their members can help us achieve our goal of National Scenic Trail status for the BMT, contact Joy Forehand, [jwfbarga@gmail.com](mailto:jwfbarga@gmail.com).



# National Scenic Trail Quest

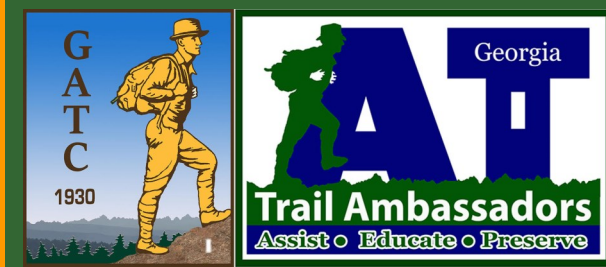


**YOU Can Help to Make this a Reality!**

Contact Your Senator or Representative Today

Let them know why you want the BMT to be an NST.

Go to [CONTACT](#) to learn how to contact your Senators & Representative.



## 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.

This event allows attendees to participate in a variety of classes to learn and improve their trail work expertise. In addition, there is plenty of time to socialize and develop new friendships.

The \$25.00 (\$30.00 for non-members) covers the program, camping, dinner Saturday night and a T-shirt. Registration will open in July. For questions etc. contact [tsw@georgia-atclub.org](mailto:tsw@georgia-atclub.org).

Submitted by Jay M Dement, [jay@jayDphotos.com](mailto:jay@jayDphotos.com), 404-731-1901



# 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.

### July



**July 8** (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. Section 3a – Wallalah Overlook  
Section 3c – Rhodes Mountain Reroute, Section 4a – Skeenah Gap >> Payne Gap  
Contact Bob Cowdrick at [gamaintdirector@bmtamail.org](mailto:gamaintdirector@bmtamail.org).

**July 10** (Monday) BMT: Lost Creek Section. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy 6 miles. Beautiful walk along Big Lost Creek. One stream crossing will probably get your feet a little wet so come prepared. **Help Ken celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup>!**  
Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org).

**July 14** (Friday) Rhododendron Trail to Bear Paw Trail and return. Easy/moderate 4-5 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at [hikeleaderRC@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderRC@bmtamail.org).

**July 17** (Monday) Wildcat Management: Monument Road to Falls Creek Falls, short side trip to Buice Falls, uphill side trip to Rocky Ford Trail Cascades, Turner Trail, Campground with ½-mile road walk to cars. Shuttle required. Hikers need GA DNR pass to hike in this state Wildlife Management Area and can obtain it online and print. Approximately 8 moderately/strenuous miles.  
Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at [hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org).



**July 22** (Saturday) TN/NC Maintenance Trip. 16a-b Sandy Gap to Sledrunner Gap (Heart of Darkness)  
Contact Nelson Ashbrook at [tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org](mailto:tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org).

**July 25** (Tuesday) Jack Rabbit Trails. Easy/moderate 4-5 miles of easy/moderate miles. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at [hikeleaderRC@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderRC@bmtamail.org).

**July 28** (Friday) Turtletown Creek Falls. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5 miles. Turtletown Creek plus two of the most beautiful falls you'll ever see on a short hike.  
Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org).

### August

**August 4** (Friday) Bear Creek Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 7 miles.  
Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org)



**August 12** (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. TBA  
Contact Bob Cowdrick at [gamaintdirector@bmtamail.org](mailto:gamaintdirector@bmtamail.org).

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

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



**August 26** (Saturday) TN/NC Maintenance Trip. TBA  
Contact Nelson Ashbrook at [tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org](mailto: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](mailto:hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org)

## September



**September 9** (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. TBA  
Contact Bob Cowdrick at [gamaintdirector@bmtamail.org](mailto:gamaintdirector@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](mailto: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](mailto:hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org).



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

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

**2023 BMTA Annual Meeting & Hike Fest**  
Tellico Plains, Tennessee  
November 2 – 5, 2023

**Rooms      Cabins      Campsites**

**BOOK NOW!**

Go to Accommodations for Details.

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The deadline for the August Newsletter is Wednesday, August 2, 2023.  
Thank You!

# Welcome 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!



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