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BMTA Officers 2023-2024

- President: Bob Cowdrick
- Vice President: Clare Sullivan
- Secretary: Jesse Hayden
- Treasurer: Lydia Burns
- GA M/D: Joe Cantwell
- TN/NC M/D: Nelson Ashbrook
- Smokies Coord: David Watkins
- Hiking Director: Kelly Motter
- Membership: Frank Forehand
- Communications: Joy Forehand
- Conservation: Patrick Ward
- Past President: Ken Cissna
- Store: Sue Ricker
- Newsletter: Kathy Williams
- State Rep GA: Darcy Douglas
- State Rep TN/NC: TBA



BMTA Headquarters

Benton MacKaye Trail Association



VOLUME 40, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2023

BMTA Annual Meeting

by Clare Sullivan with photos courtesy of Brenda Harris and Kathy Anderson

The Benton MacKaye Trail Association's Annual Meeting was held November 2-5 at the Alumni Center of the Tellico Plains High School in the charming country town of Tellico Plains, Tennessee. The annual event is where the Maintainers meet the Hikers and the Hikers meet the Maintainers. They come together to honor BMTAers who have generously contributed their time, talent and expertise to make the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) one of the premier mid-distance hiking trails in the southeastern United States.

Mayor Marilyn Parker, Department of Tourism Director Blaina Best and Monroe County Mayor Mitch Ingram welcomed our group to the area on Friday evening. Members enjoyed a Taco/Nacho Bar at the Alumni Center and later socialized at the Tellico River Retreat Cabin. While munching delicious snacks, they perused the outstanding array of raffle items and dropped tickets in jars next to the raffle items of their choice.





Ed Sullivan was thrilled to win the BMTA quilt!

Sixty-nine attendees were at the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. BMTA President Ken Cissna recognized past presidents, Barry Allen, George Owen, Steve Cartwright, Clayton Pannell and Darcy Douglas. Garret Briiick was recognized for his Eagle Scout project, refurbishing the Sisson Shelter. Ocoee District Trail Specialist Mason Boring, Tellico District Trail Forestry Technician Robert Alwood and Brandon Burke, Recreation/Trails/Wilderness Specialist in the Supervisor's Office of the Cherokee National Forest also were recognized.

Barry Allen received a plaque for nine and a half years of continuous service on the Board of Directors. Judy Price, Steve Barnes and Darcy Douglas received certificates in recognition of their tenures on the Board.

Cissna updated the group on the quest for designation of the BMT as a National Scenic Trail (NST). HR 3683, the Benton MacKaye Scenic Trail Act was introduced in the House in May of this year. There have been frequent meetings with Congressional staff and we are hopeful a Senate bill will soon be introduced.

As the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Darcy Douglas introduced the slate of nominees for 2024 BMTA officers. Those elected were:

President: Bob Cowdrick
 Vice President: Clare Sullivan
 Secretary: Jessie Hayden
 Treasurer: Lydia Burns
 GA Maintenance Director: Joe Cantwell
 TN/NC Maintenance Director: Nelson Ashbrook
 Smokies Coordinator: David Watkins
 Conservation Director: Patrick Ward
 Communications Director: Joy Forehand
 Membership Director: Frank Forehand
 Hiking Director: Kelly Motter

The GA Representative and TN/NC Representatives will be appointed by the new President, Bob Cowdrick. The Newsletter Editor (Kathy Williams), Electronic Communications Coordinator (Joy Forehand) and Store Manager (Sue Ricker) are appointed by the Board.

The next item on the agenda was the presentation of awards. Steve Dennison was presented with the much-coveted Trail Worker of the Year Pulaski. Dennison is the section maintainer for three sections, one in Georgia and two in Tennessee. With 326.5 hours of trail maintenance, Dennison is a member of this year's 100-Hour Club. Learn more about Steve Dennison on page [11](#).



Featured speaker Pam Mathews gave a passionate presentation on the history of Tellico Plains. The Cherokee Native Americans, Tellico Iron Works and lumbering were major players in that history. Mathew's father served as Tellico Plains mayor for 31 years! She was also presented a "late Pulaski" for her work on the trail.

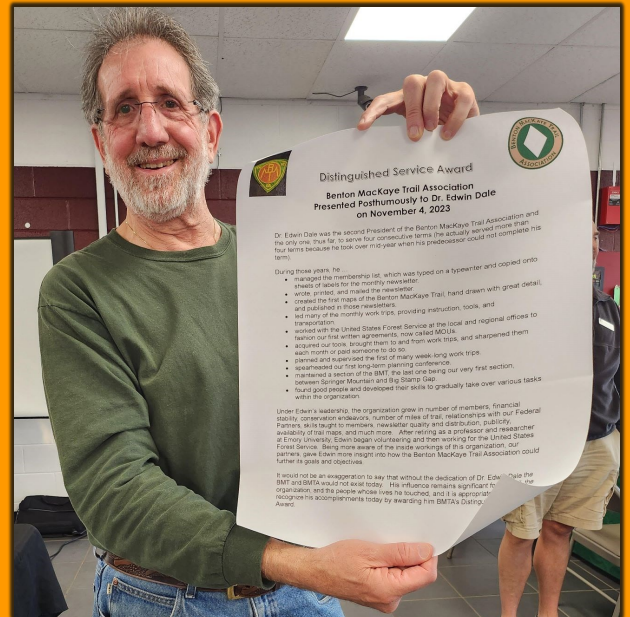
Clare Sullivan was named Volunteer of the Year. She is the current Vice President of the BMTA. She previously served as Secretary and is a member of the National Scenic Trail Committee. Sullivan is a member of the event staff and assists with Inter-Active Crosscut at festivals. She enjoys giving presentations on the BMT for special events and civic organizations. She is the liaison for BMTA with Fannin County Middle School and their learning objectives regarding forest and water quality. In addition to being a hike leader, Sullivan participates in maintenance activities, including blazing the trail, in Georgia and Tennessee. She and her husband Ed maintain Section 11e (FR221 >> Thunder Rock Campground). Learn more about Clare Sullivan on page [12](#).

The BMTA raffle produced many happy faces and \$1,835 for BMTA's Land Acquisition Fund! There were three exquisite handmade items that captured members' attention. BMTA T-shirts and our trail map bandana were the components of Lydia Burns' BMTA T-Shirt quilt. The association donated two "custom-order" signs to be done by BMTA's sign maker Bob Nelson. Tina Tempest, BeadbyBead.org., donated two BMT necklaces. Each bead on the necklace represents three miles of the trail. This necklace also is available in the BMTA store.

Following the award announcements, participants moved to the luxurious Tellico River Retreat Cabin for the raffle and awards for 30-Hour and 100-Hour maintainers, hike leaders and blazers.



Seventy-two trail workers who turned in a minimum of 30 hours of trail work were awarded the 2023 30-Hour Maintainer T-Shirt. This year, the shirt color was maroon. Hmm. Wild and crazy? Maybe they do not get out of the woods very often?



The Distinguished Service Award, was presented posthumously to Dr. Edwin Dale. Dr. Dale served as the President of the BMTA for 4.5 years. To learn about Dr. Dale's accomplishments, go to [Distinguished Service Certificate](#).



Jes Morgan won one of the BMT necklaces at the raffle. Jes is from Pensacola, Florida. The 70+ year-old hiker has section-hiked 50% of the BMT and plans to complete it.

Thirty-four trail workers garnered 100 hours or more maintaining the trail to become members of the 2023 100-Hour Club. Twelve were awarded the First Time 100-Hour Club Maintainer hats. Nine 100 Hour-Club members chose jackets as their reward, 17 selected a vest, and eight chose a REI \$50 gift certificate.



Lots of booty for a year's worth of hard, grueling but rewarding work!!



Styling in true BMTA fashion!



Six hike leaders who led five or more hikes during the year received a 2023 Hike Leader T-Shirt.



Hats for us!



This was the third year for the Trail Maintainer’s Idiosyncrasy Award which recognizes a person for their ... ”especially adamant” ... personal preferences. Rick Harris received a new roll of duct tape – so he can keep wearing his favorite puff jacket during trail maintenance. He also received a gift certificate for a Subway sandwich, his favorite snack/meal for trail maintenance.



Outgoing BMTA Secretary Judy Price was recognized for her diligent work. Thank you Judy!

To see the complete list of winners, go to:

[Hike Leader T-Shirts](#)

[First Time Maintainer Hats](#)

[100-Hour Club Gift Certificates](#)

[100-Hour Club Jackets](#)

[100-Hour Club Vests](#)

[30-Hour T-Shirts](#)

Holding the Annual Meeting and Hike Fest in Tellico Plains had long been a dream of Rick and Brenda Harris. They wanted to share the BMT in Tennessee as well as other amazing trails in their “big back yard”. It goes without saying ... they more than succeeded in showing BMTAers the wonderful treasures the small town with the Big Back Yard has in store for visitors!





2024 Membership Drive Join or Renew Now!

Support the Trail You Love

- ◆ 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, Family Membership or Corporate Membership for 2024.
- ◆ 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.

[Membership](#)

[Donate](#)

[Donate to LAF](#)

Memberships purchased between October 1 and December 31, 2023 will be good thru December 31, 2024.

Trick or Treat – Certainly Not

by Bob Cowdrick

When asking the attendees of the October 14 GA maintenance trip at Dally Gap what their favorite Halloween treats were, they did not have to think twice. Candy Corn, Reese's, Snickers and dark chocolate were the most popular. Soup, yogurt, KitKats, caramel apples, malted milk balls, sour candy, Smarties and Hershey bars were not far behind. What was not a treat was the work that was about to be done by 35 members and guests on a beautiful fall day.

Whitney June, Kelly Motter, Shane Morrison and Patrick Ward hiked eleven miles round-trip into Double Springs Gap cutting out 13 trees on their way back. Add some corridor brushing and that made for a long day.

Barry Allen, Joe Cantwell, Chuck Clarke, Byron Coker, Marty Dominy, Russ Johnson and Steve Pruett were treated to a 7-mile round-trip hike to cut out five large trees north of Penitentiary Gap. They finished the job by brushing out two miles of trail.

Bob Cowdrick, with the members of Troop 675 - Erik Davis, Randy Farmer, Nikki Hauser, Macee Davis, Amara Gudorf, Cam Kuntz, Charlotte Kinnaman, James Farmer and Michael Gudorf hiked into Spanish Gap and brushed out the trail north to Penitentiary Gap. The Scouts did an absolutely wonderful job and they were a joy to be with.



Continued next page



We got this!



Totally focused!



Snacks on the trail - better than Halloween treats!

Daphne Martin and Carol Nufer led the cross-cut team to clean out Spanish Oak to Jacks River. With the help of Ian Guttridge, Kenny Martin, Madison Martin and Andy Meeks, they removed four trees and brushed out the corridor.

Ken Andrews, Chris Behrens, Liz Behrens, David Dunn, Dale Fiedler and Johnny Emberson ventured down the Jacks River Trail, jumped across the beaver dam and removed six trees before returning to Dally Gap.

The crews never got “tricked” on the work that needed to be done. Joe Cantwell had pre-hiked the five sections and provided valuable details of what to expect. That made for successful day!

The “treat” of the day was Chef Patty’s post trip lunch. She waited patiently for the crews to arrive back to Dally Gap and everyone enjoyed the food social.

The work trip numbers were impressive:

- ◆ 291 volunteer hours
- ◆ 35 members and guests
- ◆ 31 miles hiked
- ◆ 28 blowdowns removed
- ◆ 20 swingblades used
- ◆ 9 visiting Troop 675 Scouts
- ◆ 1 new member attending
- ◆ 0 injuries

Our next GA maintenance trip will be Saturday, December 9. It will be a joint GA / TN/NC trip. Please watch for the maintenance trip emails for more details.



Gravesite Scenes from Hickory Flatts

by Ralph Collison



Meet Steve Dennison BMTA Trail Worker of the Year

by Joy Forehand



Jasper resident Steve Dennison was named Trail Worker of the Year at the Benton MacKaye Trail Association's (BMTA) Annual Meeting and Hike Fest held November 2-5, 2023, in Telli-co Plains, Tennessee. Dennison grew up in the mountains of West Virginia. He contracted polio at a young age but that didn't stop him from enjoying the woodland countryside.

"There weren't a lot of cars, so we entertained ourselves by playing in the woods," said Dennison. "Since I didn't have a car, I had to walk ... to school, to college ... never relied on a car 'til I got a job."

During his work years, he still found time to get outdoors and explore some of the famous canyons in the West. After he retired, Dennison attended the AT Kickoff where former BMTA President David Blount gave a presentation on trail maintenance – the allure of keeping the trail in shape was appealing and Dennison became a trail worker as well as a hike leader with Mountain High Hikers. He soon was proficient at lopping, digging water diversions and swamping (assisting the sawyers as they remove blowdowns from the trail).

"Trail maintenance exposes you to areas you otherwise might not venture off to. And I get new ideas for hikes," said Dennison. "I like to have an idea where I'm going especially when people are following me. Rick Harris' Hiking Project summaries (for the BMT) are fantastic for figuring out the route for a hike."

In 2015, Ken Cissna, BMTA's Hiking Director at the time, recruited Dennison to be a hike leader for BMTA. In March 2020, Dennison saw a notice for a BMT maintenance trip on Rhodes >> Wallalah. It was an area with which he was unfamiliar, so he signed up for the trip.

Dennison has become a valuable addition to BMTA's maintenance team. He now is the section maintainer for three sections: 10b (Jacks River Trail » Hemp Top Trail), 14b (TN Hwy 68 » Buck Bald Road) and 14c (Buck Bald Road » Unicoi Gap). With 326.5 hours of trail maintenance, he is a member of BMTA's 2023 100-Hour Club. He also does advanced reconnaissance before work trips and/or checks out the trail issues hikers report on the BMT. His reports provide valuable insight about the exact number and location of blowdowns as well as the diameter of blowdowns with a recommendation for the type saw required to remove them (crosscut, regular chainsaw or BMTA's heavy duty chainsaw). Dennison checks out water issues and either reports the seriousness of a brush/briar issue or brushes/lops out the section. Of course, swamper duties are on his docket as well.

"Thanks to volunteer work, I've lost 20 pounds since retiring from my computer desk and travel job," said Dennison. "I'm fortunate compared to many folks who had polio – trail work and hiking really help keep me in shape. My main reasons for working on the trails are clean oxygen versus carbon monoxide in the city, the solitude ... kinda like Henry David Thoreau ... clearing my head of daily stresses and the Atlanta Braves playoff woes. Former BMTA Hike Director Tom Sewell said it best: You can temporarily put all the other stuff aside and enjoy the woods. Big-time stress reliever."

Clare Sullivan - BMTA Volunteer of the Year

by Joy Forehand



Copperhill, Tennessee resident Clare Sullivan was named Volunteer of the Year at the Benton MacKaye Trail Association's (BMTA) Annual Meeting and Hike Fest held November 2-5, 2023, in Tellico Plains, Tennessee.

"I fell in love with the mountains as a child," said Sullivan. "I grew up in central Kentucky and visited relatives in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. I used to play in the creeks and I remember every Decoration Day we would climb the mountains to pick flowers."

Her interest in outdoor recreation grew during the years she attended the YWCA's Camp Otonka. By the age of 17, she was a counselor in training, then a counselor at the camp.

"I had a cousin who had Down Syndrome. That gave me a special interest in special education," said Sullivan whose first job was as a teacher at the Florida School for the Deaf.

When her husband, Ed, was transferred to Atlanta, Clare became a teacher at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf. She later moved over to administration. She spent the final 11 years of her career as a Director at Georgia PINES (Parent Infant Network for Education Services). When the Sullivans' thoughts turned to retirement, their goal was to live in a place their grandchildren would like to visit. They had instilled a love for the outdoors, hiking and camping in their children so the Southern Appalachians seemed like the perfect choice. The Sullivans became "part-timers" in the North Georgia Mountains from 2009 – 2015 and joined the Over the Hill Hiking Group. They learned about the BMT when attending a Blue Ridge' Arts in the Park Festival. The more Clare hiked, the more she saw the need for more trail maintenance.

"My expertise level was ... I knew how to pick up sticks but I was scared to death I would be the only woman on a work trip," Clare said as she described her apprehension about going on a BMTA maintenance trip. It turned out she wasn't the only woman on the trip. Margaret Meadows and Debbie Tuten, each of whom had a wealth of trail work experience, took her under their wings. Trip leader George Owen's personal instruction for each worker fostered Clare's confidence for doing more trail work in the future.

Becoming section maintainers was next on the docket for the couple. Section 11e (USFS Rd 221 » US Hwy 64) was available. As avid hikers in the Ocoee area, the Sullivans were familiar with the section.

"The section was perfect for us," said Clare. It's a stunning section and just 15 minutes from our home ... unfortunately, parts of it were in need of attention."

As Hike Leaders, Ed and Clare were certified in first aid/CPR. For maintenance, Ed added crosscut and chain-saw certifications while Clare added a crosscut certification. As BMTA's Secretary for several years, Clare learned the acronyms and lingo of the Forest Service, the history of BMTA, National Forest policies, etc. While Vice President, Clare has coordinated two of BMTA's Annual Meeting and Hike Fests and is looking forward to coordinating next year's meeting at Unicoi Lodge in Georgia.

A member of the National Scenic Trail (NST) Committee, Clare believes the designation will boost the economies of communities near the trail. It also will raise awareness of the trail and its outstanding qualities – the natural splendor of the forests, creeks and mountain views offer hikers a unique wilderness experience.

"The BMT imparts a peaceful serenity that is good for the heart and good for the soul," Clare concluded.

Things We Should Carry - Trash Bag

by Bob Cowdrick

You will never find me on a BMT maintenance trip or a hike without a trash bag in my pack. Carrying a trash bag while hiking on all trails is a responsible practice that can have several benefits:

- ◆ **Leave No Trace Principle:** Hikers often adhere to the "Leave No Trace" principles, which encourage leaving nature as you found it. Carrying a trash bag helps you pick up any litter or trash you may encounter on the trail, thus preventing the environment from being polluted and preserving the beauty of the natural surroundings.
- ◆ **Environmental Conservation:** Littering can harm the environment and wildlife. Animals may ingest or become entangled in trash and litter can take a long time to decompose. By picking up litter and carrying it out you help protect the local ecosystem.
- ◆ **Aesthetic Appeal:** Hiking trails are enjoyed for their natural beauty. Litter and trash can detract from the overall experience. By cleaning up after yourself and others you contribute to a more visually appealing and enjoyable hiking experience for all.
- ◆ **Legal Compliance:** Many hiking areas and parks have strict regulations against littering and fines may be imposed for violations. Carrying a trash bag ensures you stay in compliance with these rules.
- ◆ **Emergency Use:** In addition to picking up litter a trash bag can serve as a makeshift rain poncho, shelter or as a liner to keep your backpack and gear dry in case of sudden rain.
- ◆ **Convenient for Your Own Waste:** If you generate trash during your hike such as food wrappers or tissue paper, having a trash bag makes it easy to contain and carry out your own waste leaving minimal impact on the trail.

In summary, carrying a trash bag while hiking is a simple and effective way to contribute to environmental conservation, maintain the pristine beauty of trails and set a positive example for fellow hikers. It's a responsible practice.

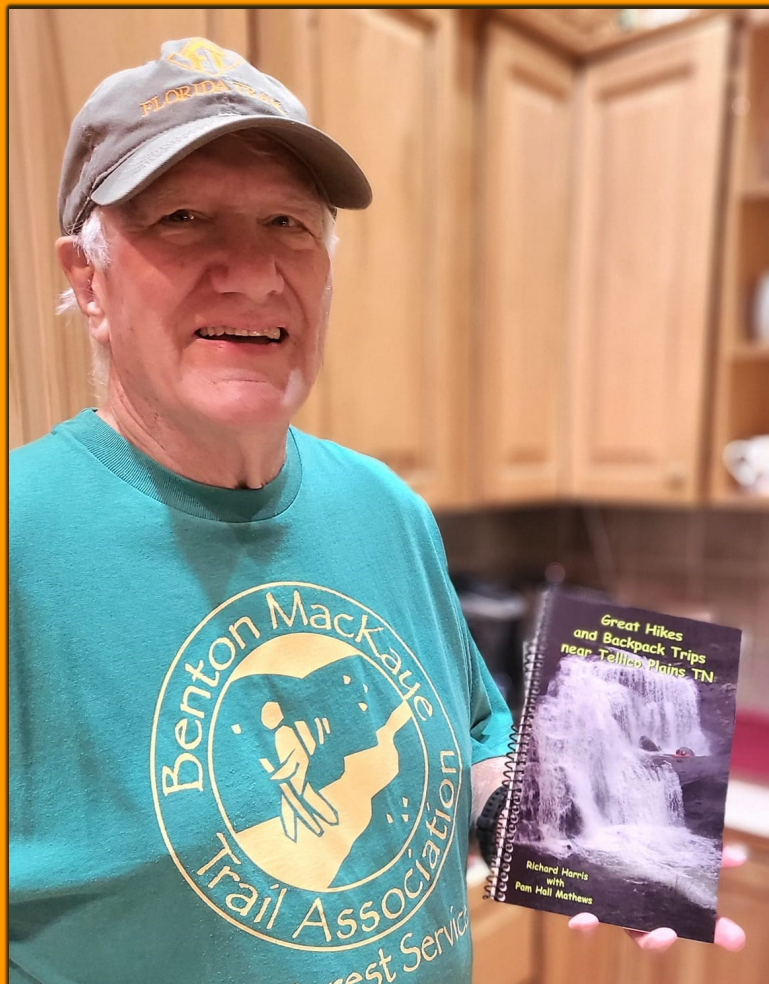


Cherohala Skyway Festival

by Rick Harris

The BMTA had a booth at the Cherohala Skyway Festival in Tellico Plains on a beautiful October Saturday. As usual, we had an interactive crosscut saw area next to the booth. I would guess more than 50 kids enjoyed cutting their segments of a log with a real crosscut saw. Several adults tested their skills as well. Some of the kids really learned quickly under the tutelage of Ed and Clare Sullivan. Besides Ed and Clare, Rick Harris and Brenda Harris and their neighbors Gary and Barb Lewinski answered a continuous barrage of questions about our trail as well as other trails in the Tellico Area.

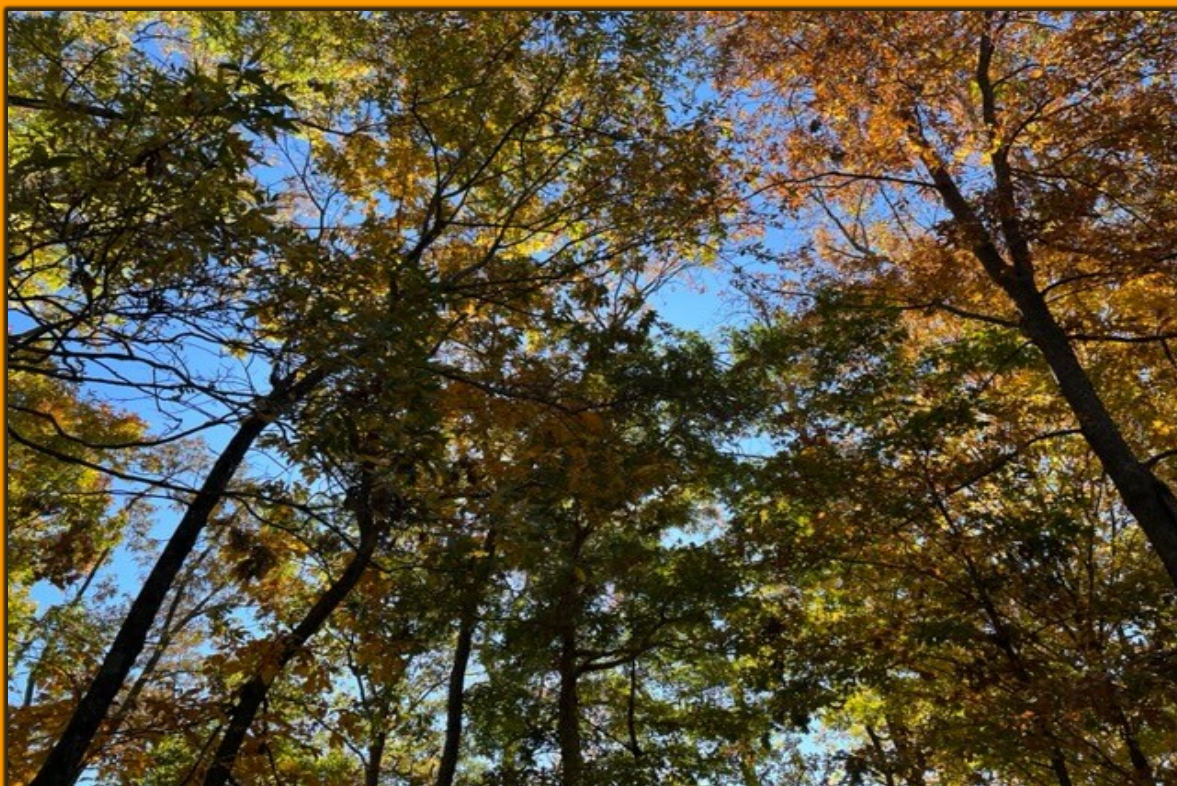




Rick Harris had his new trail guide for trails in the Tellico and Ocoee area for sale at the booth and the response was overwhelming. He ended up selling over 50 guides during the festival. One would say they sold like hot-cakes! There were several questions about our other guides and we directed them to the Cherokee Skyway Visitor Center and the Charles Hall Museum to pick up their copies. We also received many queries about the Cherokee Hiking Club and the Tellico/Ocoee Trail Crews

Our booth was right next to the USFS booth. This worked well because they sent several folks over to us to answer questions about the trails. We had fun interacting with the USFS folks as well.

The festival was well attended, and we guessed there were several thousand in attendance. It seems like this festival has doubled in size every year it has been held. There were maybe twice as many booths as last year and several food booths as well. We partook of pizza at one of the booths, which was really excellent, coming from a festival booth. We were amazed!



Trail Crew Work Trip on Unicoi Turnpike Trail

by Rick Harris

Thirteen volunteers came together from four organizations to log and brushout this long-neglected historic trail. Members from the Tellico/Ocoee Trail Crew, the Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen, the Cherokee Hiking Club and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association joined together in this effort.

Since this trail is in the Trail of Tears corridor, first we had to obtain permission from the various Indian tribes. This was accomplished by our Tellico Ranger District Trails Tech Robert Alwood. Once we received permission, we set a date and advertised the work trip.

We met at the Coker Creek Welcome Center at 8:30 AM. After plans were outlined for the day, we divided into four saw crews, two brushing crews, and one blaze painting crew. The saw crews removed 63 trees from the trail and the brushing crews cleared the entire corridor with gas-powered brushcutters and loppers. The blaze painting crew refreshed all the blazes along the trail.



The trail is now completely logged and brushed out with fresh blazes thanks to the efforts of 13 volunteer trail workers.

At the Benton MacKaye Trail Association Annual Meeting in Tellico Plains November 2-5, there was a hike on this trail, which is open to members and non-members alike.

Continued next page

The Unicoi Turnpike Trail has a long history. It was first a Cherokee Indian route over the mountains through one of the lowest gaps in the Appalachian Mountain chain. Later, in 1756 this became a route for military forces to cross the mountains to build Fort Loudoun at the junction of the Tellico and Little Tennessee Rivers. Heavy cannons were dragged over the Turnpike. Settlers to the Tennessee River Valley used this route to cross the mountains, then to take their cows, pigs, chickens and produce to markets along the East Coast. There was a Turnpike Toll House at Unicoi Gap where travelers had to pay for every person, wagon, chicken, turkey, deer hide, pig and cow crossing the gap. The monies were used to maintain the roadway. During the Trail of Tears, Cherokee families were brought from the east across the gap to Fort Armistead at Coker Creek. From there they were taken to Fort Cass on the Hiwassee River and on to Chattanooga, then west to Oklahoma. Of the thousands brought across the Unicoi Turnpike about a quarter of them died before reaching Oklahoma. Fort Armistead was also used as a fort during the Civil War. Today, a more modern Forest Service Road crosses the gap, the Joe Brown Highway. The original route is now the trail and in places is 10 feet below the level of the surrounding land due to thousands of Indians, carts, horses, livestock and soldiers who travelled this road. The trail also goes by a gold mine from the days of the Coker Creek Gold Rush as well as the gravesite of a soldier from the Civil War killed by Bushwhackers. There was a CCC camp, Camp Rolling Stone, about halfway along the trail.

The USFS, in cooperation with the tribal leaders and the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, are in the process of deciding on plans for the Fort Armistead area, now on USFS property.



BMTA Annual Hike Fest 2023

by Rick Harris

Photos courtesy of Ray Laws, Kathy Anderson, Judy Price, Brenda Harris, Bob Cowdrick, Clare Sullivan and Kathy Williams

It is finally in the books. A year of contacting numerous potential hike and special event leaders, organizing the hikes/events with a leader and co-leader, advertising the hikes/events, getting sign-ups in advance and then carrying out the hikes/events at the BMTA Annual Meeting and Hike Fest. Every hike and event went off as planned. We ordered beautiful weather, and we got it. It was a little chilly in the mornings, but the mountains warmed up quickly under the influence of sunny skies. Several members of the Cherokee Hiking Club participating as well and some local Tellico Plains area folks who just heard about our event one way or another.

We had hikes and various side options for non-hikers each day. Over the four days we had 18 offerings with a total attendance of 225 folks. The hikes included:

- Conasauga Falls
- Coker Creek Falls
- Rocky Flats Hollinghead Homesite (with special requests to repeat this hike)
- John Muir/BMT Trail along the Hiwassee River
- Bob Bald on the BMT
- Indian Boundary Loop Trail
- Lost Creek section of the BMT
- Whigg Meadow on the BMT
- Falls Branch Falls
- Mason Evans Cave
- Three Bald Hike (Whigg Meadow, Huckleberry Knob and Hooper Bald)
- Turtletown Creek Falls
- Unicoi Turnpike Trail

Special Non-Hiking Opportunities included:

- Fly Fishing Class by Trout Unlimited
- Sequoyah Museum / Fort Loudoun State Historic Park
- Charles Hall Museum
- Hiker Dinner at the Iron Works Grille (30 attended this)



Conasauga Falls

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Coker Creek Falls



Author and teacher Chris Hollinghead led a hike to his family's old homestead at Rocky Flats where a chimney still stands today.



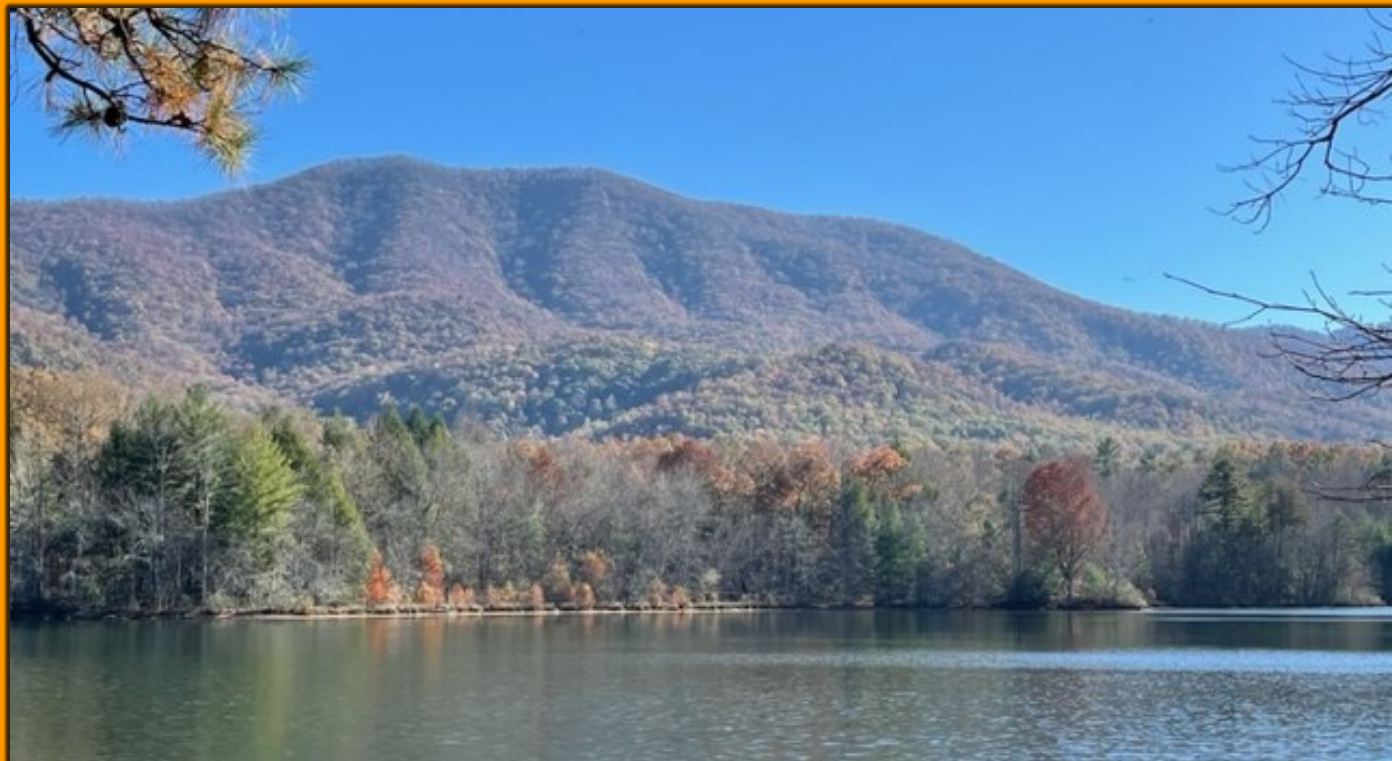
Bob Bald



John Muir Trail



John Muir Trail



Indian Boundary Loop Trail



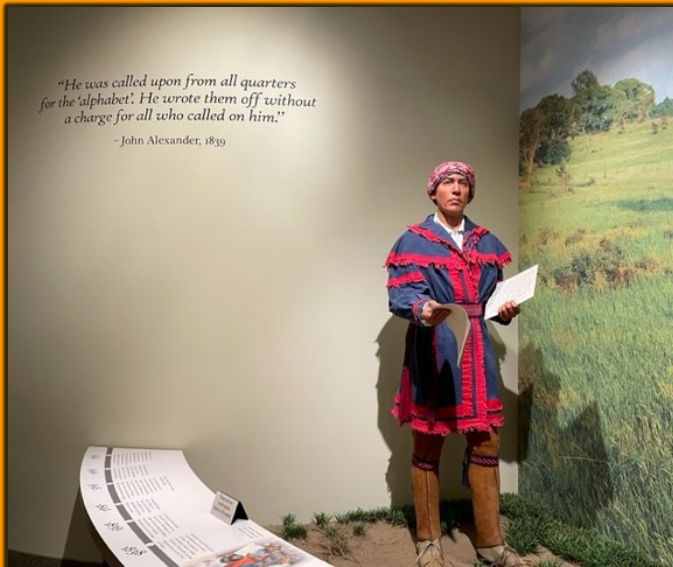
Lost Creek



Mason Evans' Cave
Home of the Starr Mountain Hermit.



Turtletown Creek Falls



Sequoyah Birthplace Museum



Fort Loudon State Park

Out of the Woods But Still Having Fun!



The Stunning Retreat Cabin!



The Set Up Crew Ready to go!



Our Goodie Bags!



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.

November

November 17 (Friday) BMT - GA 60 to Skeenah Gap and back. Strenuous 11.2 miles. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at bmtahikeleadersd@bmta.org.



November 18 (Saturday) TN/NC Maintenance Trip. Sections 16c – Brookshire Creek Section. Contact Rick Harris at rharris@bmta.org.

November 20 (Monday) Boyd's Gap to Old Copper Road to Thunder Road Campground. This is an easy hike, mostly downhill in the Ocoee area, approximately 5 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org.

November 24 (Friday) Amadahy Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Five-mile easy to easy/moderate. Good hike for the day after Thanksgiving. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org.

December

December 4 (Monday) Unicoi State Park to Helen and return. This is a 5.5 to 6-mile moderate hike to enjoy the wonderful town of Helen. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org.

December 7 (Thursday) BMT. Dally Gap to Jack's River and back to cars. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org.

December 8 (Friday) Wilscot Gap GA 60 to Ledford Gap and return then slingshot from Wilscot Gap to Payne Gap. Moderately strenuous 11 miles. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at bmtahikeleadersd@bmta.org.



December 9 (Saturday) Joint GA / TN/NC Maintenance Trip This is the only trip for all states for December.

Sections 12a-b-c-d - US 64 >> White Oak Flats, FS 103

Contact Joe Cantwell at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.

December 18 (Monday) Rhododendron Trail to Chestnut Mountain Trail to Bear Paw Loop and return. This is a 5-mile moderate hike in the Ocoee area.

Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org.

January

January 1 (Monday) Upper Springer Mountain Loop. This 5-mile loop provides visits to the southern terminus of both the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye trails. Two lovely vistas add to a great start for the new year! Contact Hike Leader Mike Pilvinsky at bmtahikeleadermp@bmta.org.



January 13 (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. TBA

Contact Joe Cantwell at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.

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



Yes. There is a cave around here somewhere!

[MEMBERSHIP](#)

[DONATE](#)

[DONATE](#)
Land Acquisition Fund

[STORE](#)

The deadline for the December Newsletter is Wednesday, November 29, 2023.
Thank You!