



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

Points of Interest

Click the title to go directly to the page.

[Board Meeting](#)

[Passing the Baton](#)

[Become a Section Maintainer](#)

[Getting There](#)

[Rapid Response Team](#)

[Outdoor Expo](#)

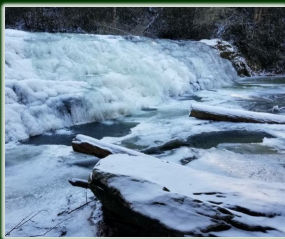
[Condolences](#)

[After the Storms](#)

[Wonderful Places](#)

[Freezing at Three Forks](#)

[Upcoming](#)



BMTA Officers 2023-2024

President: Bob Cowdrick
Vice President: Clare Sullivan
Secretary: Jessie 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: James Anderson



BMTA Headquarters



Benton MacKaye Trail Association

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2024

BMTA January Board Meeting Update

by Bob Cowdrick

We held our January BMTA Board Meeting on Saturday, January 20, and I thought I would give you an update on a few topics.

We began the board meeting by asking each board member to share what they believed should be our top BMTA priority (besides the National Scenic Trail (NST)) and where the BMTA should focus our efforts in 2024. The responses were varied:

- ◆ ADA accessible trails
- ◆ Unicoi reroute and kiosk
- ◆ Youth group outreach
- ◆ Amicalola Falls kiosk
- ◆ Quarterly backpacking trips
- ◆ Swinging Bridge accessible trail
- ◆ Expand Visitor Center information
- ◆ Beginning backpacking class
- ◆ REI outreach
- ◆ 5-year strategic plan
- ◆ ADA trails
- ◆ Suspension Bridge kiosk
- ◆ Watson Gap kiosk
- ◆ Trail maintenance



The board approved having an Event Coordinator for each festival we attend. Proposed festivals with coordinator status are:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| ◆ A.T. Gateways | Clare Sullivan | March 1-3, 2024 |
| ◆ Project Chimps | Kelly Motter | March 23, 2024 |
| ◆ GA Mountain Trail Fest | Steve Dennison | April 20, 2024 |
| ◆ Trout Fest | Tom Atcheson | April 27, 2024 |
| ◆ Blue Ridge Arts in the Park | Needs Coordinator | May 25-26, 2024 |
| ◆ Dahlonega Trail Fest | Needs Coordinator | September 21, 2024 |
| ◆ Cherochala Skyway | Rick Harris | October 26, 2024 |

The purpose of our attendance at these festivals is to promote the BMTA, inform the public about hiking and trail maintenance opportunities with the BMTA, and garner new members and trail workers. Five teams of individuals have volunteered to coordinate, organize and staff the festivals. If you are interested in assisting with any of these ... or if you'd like to be the Event Coordinator for Arts in the Park or the Dahlenega Trail Fest ... please feel free to contact me.

One change we are planning for 2024 is to have just one monthly scheduled maintenance trip. It will be the second Saturday of the month and may be held in Georgia, Tennessee or North Carolina. When necessary, especially in the summer, we may need a small crew to go into one section while the big crew works simultaneously in another section. We will try this for a year and see how it works. Our two Maintenance Directors, Joe Cantwell and Nelson Ashbrook agree this make sense.

We also reviewed the BMTA 2024 budget. The BMTA is on a solid financial foundation. Your annual dues and donations support our efforts to maintain the BMT, making it a wonderful trail to hike and enjoy.

It will be an exciting year and I am fortunate to have wonderful BMTA members, like yourselves, to work alongside in 2024!

Bob

Be Aware of the Symptoms of Hypothermia

- ◆ Shivering
- ◆ Slurred speech
- ◆ Slow, shallow breathing
- ◆ Weak pulse
- ◆ Lack of coordination
- ◆ Drowsiness/low energy

Hypothermia occurs when your body loses heat faster than it can produce heat. This is a medical emergency that can cause total failure of your cardiovascular and respiratory systems. Seek help immediately.



BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Join or Renew Now!

"...leave a footpath for generations to follow"

Passing the Baton

by Joy Forehand

When someone thinks of a section maintainer for the trail, they frequently picture a muscular “lumberjack” sawing blowdowns or digging trail in a remote area. Although fitting for some, section maintainers can be short or tall, strapping or petite, male or female, 20-years-old or 90 plus. They come from all walks of life ... attorneys, professors, aeronautical engineers, computer techs, store owners, marketing specialists, CEOs and more.

As they walk back over their section at the end of a workday, the maintainers see firsthand the results of the work they did. They return home knowing their section is safe and open for hikers and backpackers to enjoy. Long-time BMTA member Tom Keene has been the section maintainer for several BMT sections. He’s now passing the baton to Ian Guttridge.

Keene spent his childhood on a dairy farm in southeastern Pennsylvania. He enjoyed working in the fields ... but going into the woods to get firewood was the closest he came to hiking.

After getting his PHD in History, Keene joined the faculty of Kennesaw State University as a history professor. Fifteen years later, he became the Director of the Office of International Programs, a position that required worldwide travel. In fact, he spent a year in China working on a faculty/student exchange program. They rode bicycles almost everywhere, but hiking up a couple of sacred mountains was the extent of his hiking. For their 25th wedding anniversary, Tom and his wife Jane, vacationed in Greece and explored the islands of a small, circular archipelago in the southern Aegean Sea.

“The views off the ridge of Santorini were spectacular,” said Tom. “That’s when Jane and I decided hiking is for us ... we were hooked on hiking.”

When he returned home, Tom perused books about hiking trails in the North Georgia Mountains. The BMT intrigued him.



Tom leading the way on construction of the Fall Branch Falls Reroute.

Walt Cook was his first contact with BMTA. Ironically, the first maintenance trip was constructing trail on Section 7 (in the Sisson development), a subsection of which he would eventually maintain.

Participating in work trips peaked Tom’s interest in adopting a section. Lawrence Jump maintained 7b and 7c at the time and took Tom on as his protégé.

Tom later adopted the Stanley Gap to Rocky Mountain section.

“We can see Rocky Mountain from our cabin in Cherry Log,” said Tom. “When we see “hoarfrost on the mountain, we know it’s time to drive over to Stanley Gap and hike through the wintery landscape.”

Continued next page

Tom moved over to 7b when Jump retired from maintaining the section.

“When it comes to maintaining a section, it’s mainly a matter of getting out there often enough to keep the water diversions clear and the vegetation cut back from the trail,” said Tom. “The best part is you get to spend time in the woods. You have something to do and after you do it, you walk back over it and feel like you accomplished something.”

Although retired from maintaining the BMT and living in Athens, Georgia, Tom still helps to maintain the forest trails in the Georgia State Botanical Gardens located nearby along the Oconee River. Walt Cook, Tom’s trail maintenance mentor of almost 30 years, sometimes joins him on the work trips in the gardens – Cook is now 92 years old!

After being a Section Maintainer for almost 25 years, Tom has passed 7b on to Ian Guttridge.

Originally from England, Guttridge served in the British Army’s Transport Division.

“I played a lot of sports as I grew up,” said Guttridge. “I did a lot of hiking in the Army ... well ... walking in the Falklands with a pack on my back.”

When his daughter was born in 1992 ... little did he know just how much she would change his life. She was diagnosed with failure to thrive syndrome. The doctors said if her parents would get her to a warmer climate, she may survive for five years.

While perusing their options, Guttridge saw information on immigrating to the United States. He completed the form and to his surprise, he and his family were approved to move to America. The family settled in Florida and became American citizens in 2003. However, they found that 98% humidity was not conducive to the active outdoor lifestyle that the Guttridge family enjoyed.

After moving to North Georgia, he met BMTA Section Maintainer Andy Meeks.

“Andy invited me to become an associate member of the local Marine Corps League and to help him work on his section, 7c of the BMT,” said Guttridge. “And now I have section 7b to maintain!”



Ian hard at work on the trail.

“Having a section to maintain gets me out and I get to meet some nice folks ... people should just get out and do it. They’ll feel a lot better,” said Guttridge. “I started off borrowing equipment from BMTA but that didn’t last long. I went ahead and bought all the equipment I need to do the work.”

When it comes to life away from the trail, the Guttridge family has chickens, ducks, turkeys, goats, a mini horse, a mini donkey and an Australian Shepherd/Pyrenean cross – all on 3.5 acres surrounded by 40 acres of land owned by conservation foundations.

And the best news ... his daughter is now 31 and is able to enjoy the outdoor life offered by the North Georgia Mountains!

Become a Section Maintainer!



Mr. Bones and his friend Tiny Sasquatch are reviewing the sections available for adoption.

If you are interested in becoming a section maintainer go to:
[Trail Maintenance - Benton MacKaye Trail Association \(bmta.org\)](http://bmta.org)

To see the Sections Available List go to:
[BMTASectionsAvailable.pdf \(bmta.org\)](http://bmta.org/BMTASectionsAvailable.pdf)

Getting There Was Half the Fun!

by Joe Cantwell with photos courtesy of Bob Cowdrick

On a crisp Saturday morning, 27 BMTA Maintainers gathered at Thunder Rock Campground to continue improvements to Sections 12a, b and d.

Joe Cantwell pointed out that the monthly maintenance trips are truly a team effort. He asked the group to think of a memorable team each had been associated with. Eleven volunteers definitively cited the BMTA. Other teams mentioned included the Marines, Army and Navy. Sports teams cited were an undefeated Babe Ruth team, the Black Bears hockey team and a water polo team. Two educators picked teaching 7th and 8th graders for 30 years as well as teaching in the United Arab Emirates. Joe noted that all our work is not as exciting as cutting a big blowdown but is equally important to keeping the trail in tip-top shape. He also asked the group to take pride in their work and take a moment to enjoy the hike and the day.



Safety briefing led by Joe Cantwell.

Five crews were deployed covering eight miles of trail. Those making the long drive up Kimsey Highway to their work sites encountered four blowdowns delaying their progress until Patrick Ward and Barry Allen, along with 17 swampers arrived. They safely opened the way for the caravan.



Patrick Ward and Barry Allen sawing blowdowns on Kimsey highway for access to the trailhead. Getting there is half the fun!

One crew, led by Ken Cissna, was comprised of David Blount, Kenneth Andrews, Brian Trinkle, Andy Meeks, Steve Pruett and Niles Kirchoffer. They brushed and worked on tread repair from Hwy 64 to the Rock Creek Trail intersection.

The second team, led by Bob Cowdrick, worked from the end of Dry Pond Lead at Kimsey back to the Rock Creek Intersection. This is a Wilderness Area requiring swing blades, loppers and crosscut saws. Team members included Ken and Phyllis Jones, Johnny Emberson, Steve Hayden, Steve Dennison, Bob Nelson and Greg Trotnic.

The third crew, supervised by Barry Allen, installed nine steps on Section 12b at the Kimsey Hwy crossing. Step builders were Patrick Ward, Shane Morrison, Ian Guttridge and Bryon Coker. Their efforts started early at the work center to cut the 6x6's and rebar as well as to predrill each step.



This 26-inch blowdown was removed by Ken Jones, Phyllis Jones and Johnny Emberson in the Little Frog Wilderness.

The fourth crew, the Martin Family, included Daphne, Kenny and Madison. They tackled brushing Section 12d for two miles and reported that one tree will require a future saw team. They were able to make the trail passable with hand saws.

The fifth team repaired tread at Deep Gap and at a major hog damage area at the north end of Section 12b. Joe Cantwell led this team of Art Kolberg and Raymond Laws.

Future hikers will certainly benefit from the efforts of the January 13 BMTA Maintainers. The work completed with 227 volunteer hours included:

- ◆ 8 trees removed with crosscuts
- ◆ 4 trees removed with chainsaws
- ◆ 5.3 miles of brushing
- ◆ 700 feet of tread repair
- ◆ 9 steps installed

The day ended with all participants safely returning to the campground for a delicious meal of steaming hot chili, hot chocolate and brownies provided by our wonderful Chef Patty Masters. Patty thinks this was the coldest day she has ever served a meal. From the BMTA, we thank you Patty, for your efforts and for waiting until all the crews had arrived at your table!



BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Support the Trail You Love - Donate Now!

"...leave a footpath for generations to follow"

Rapid Response Team

by Kathy Williams

A January storm wrecked havoc on Section 7a (Weaver Creek >> Hwy 515). The BMTA was notified and the very next day Ian Guttridge, Gilbert Treadwell, Steve Hayden and Joe Cantwell mobilized and cleared the trail of 16 blowdowns! You guys are the BEST!! Thank you!



The Behemoth! Before and after!

Continued next page

Before

After



Outdoor Expo in Cleveland, Tennessee

by Clare Sullivan with photos courtesy of Judy Price



The Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) had a booth at the Outdoor Expo at the Westmore Church of God in Cleveland, Tennessee. This is the third year for the Expo that celebrates the abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities in Southeast Tennessee.

Over 550 tickets were sold for the evening of exhibits, a wild game dinner, a speaker and fantastic door prizes.

The primary goal for the BMTA was to share information about our beautiful trail and to recruit volunteers to assist with BMTA trail maintenance in the Cherokee National Forest. We had 15 signups for our monthly newsletter emails, including maintenance trip notifications.

Expo participants perused 25 booths ranging from falconry, whitewater rafting, biking, fishing, hunting, hiking and more. Also on the docket was a delectable dinner of chicken, pork, venison meatballs and venison chili as well as vegetables.

Clare and Ed Sullivan staffed the booth.



Condolences



Condolences to long-time BMTA member and Board Member, Darcy Douglas, whose sister Patricia unexpectedly passed away in San Antonio.

We encourage Darcy's friends and acquaintances to reach out to offer support.



After the Storms



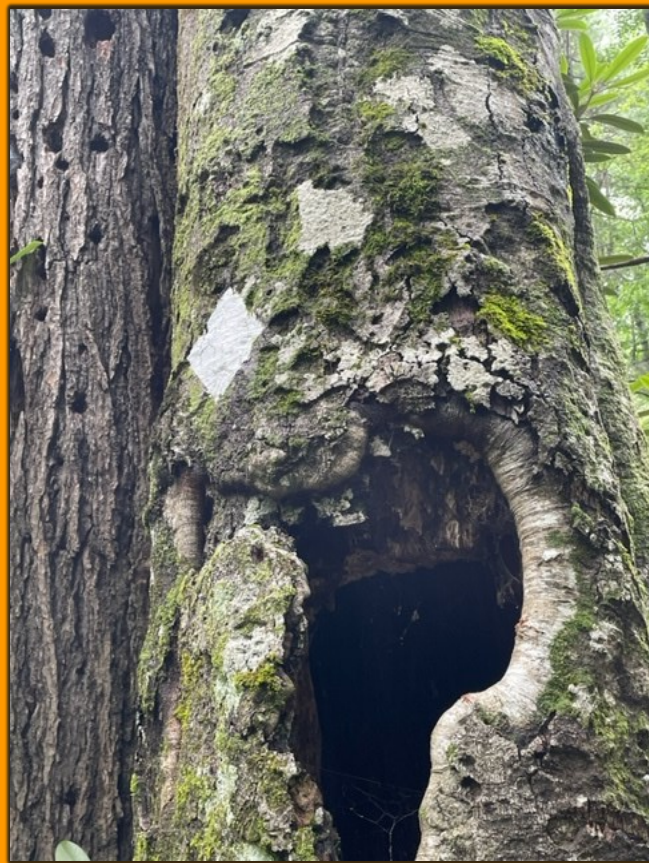
“Stabbing Tree” on the road part of Section 7a (Weaver Creek >> Hwy 515) seems ready to release Mother Nature’s wrath for those who do not adhere to Leave No Trace. Stab. Stab. Stab! Ha!



Iced, but flowing in eight degrees!

Sometimes the way to go is found in wonderful places.

by Kathy Williams



Continued next page



Freezing Three Forks to No Name Bald

by Clayton Webster

On a frigid January 19, 2024, BMTA Past President Ken Cissna led twelve hardy hikers on a truly beautiful 4.3-mile hike on the Benton MacKaye Trail from Three Forks to No Name Bald and back. The first mile of the hike was on a shared part of the trail with the Appalachian Trail.

The name Three Forks comes from the merging of three beautiful mountain trout streams into one rushing creek. The three streams are Stover Creek, Chester Creek and Long Creek.



Bundled up and ready to head to No Name Bald. From the left are: Doreen Sasso, Kerry Whalen, Hike Leader Ken Cissna, Tim Swan, Debbie Estes, Paula and Ray Laws, Karyn Ellwood, Fred Elias, and Sage and Tim Elmore. Note the two different blazes on the tree at the left. That shows we are on both the Appalachian Trail (rectangle blaze) and the Benton MacKaye Trail (diamond blaze). Trail dogs Artie and Coco are checking out the rhododendron thicket behind us.

The first mile of our hike was almost entirely alongside, or within sight of beautiful crystal-clear Long Creek. The stream bottom was covered with pretty yellow and orange-colored pebbles. There were many cascades and smaller waterfalls as the stream rushed down towards Three Forks. Both sides of the trail and the creek banks, were covered with sometimes giant-sized rhododendron and mountain laurel vines. We saw lots of galax, rattlesnake plantain, wild ginger, Christmas ferns, partridge berry plants and ground pine or running cedar. The dominant trees had been the stately hemlocks, but very sadly most were dead or dying from the invasive wooly adelgids. The biggest and healthiest hemlock had a metal tag affixed to it to indicate that it was being treated.

Once we were just on the Benton MacKaye Trail, Long Creek became a little smaller, but just as beautiful as it cascaded through the rhododendron thickets. Our trail also became pretty much all uphill as we approached No Name Bald.



Here, at one of the many unimproved camp sites, we were taking a break. There are numerous trail shelters along the Appalachian Trail, but during the spring Thru Hiker Rush they are overwhelmed. Many hikers prefer to pitch their tent away from the thundering herd anyway, so campsites near a rushing stream were a common site. Trail dogs Artie and Coco became good friends. They both liked to be the "Lead Dog."

Throughout the Southern Appalachian Mountains are numerous mountain balds. There is not a consensus as to how they developed. Some theories are that they are natural. Others think that the Indians cleared them for hunting grounds. Then the mountaineers cleared them to graze cattle to preserve the lowlands for gardens and raising hay. At any rate, we have found in hiking in this region that the balds will revert back to forest land if they are not mowed at least on an every few years cycle. Some balds are mowed by the USFS or the NPS every year. Others are mowed periodically. No Name Bald was freshly mowed, probably in the late fall.

When we reached No Name Bald, our original plan had been to eat lunch there, but with the continual temperature drop, plus increasing winds, it was much too cold on the bald. Ken pointed out that our hike back would be all downhill, so we decided to bypass lunch.



We gathered on No Name Bald as Ken Cissna, partially hidden, tells everyone about this bald and why it is maintained as it is. A number of trails that we hike on in North Georgia are used by the US Army Rangers to train. No Name Bald happens to be one of them. The bald is kept in good shape and the US Army helicopters often land there, or the Rangers are dropped in for their maneuvers.

Continued next page



With the trail all downhill on our return, we did set a quicker pace. Ken had told us that we would take the blue blazed side trail over to see Long Creek Falls on our way back. As we approached, we could get a few glances through the rhododendron vines of white water crashing down cascades, so we were anxious to see the actual waterfall.



Long Creek Falls is multi-tiered, so it is kind of hard to say where the cascades leave off and the actual waterfall begins. What is considered the actual waterfall is about a 50' drop. There is a nice pool at the base of the falls that is very popular in the summertime. We had to be careful around the falls as the rocks and surrounding area were covered in ice.

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.

February

February 5 (Monday) Two Loops of BMT/AT from Three Forks Southbound. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy/moderate 5 miles.
Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org.



February 10 (Saturday) BMTA Monthly Maintenance Trip.
Section 2—Three Forks << Hwy 6
Contact Joe Cantwell at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.
josephcantwell@gmail.com

Contact Nelson Ashbrook at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org.

February 11 (Sunday) Woody to Gooch Gap on the AT and return. Moderate 7.2 miles.
Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at bmtahikeleaderkm@bmta.org.

February 12 (Monday) BMT TN 68 Unicoi Mountain Trail to Coker Creek bridge and return. Moderately strenuous 8 miles.
Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at bmtahikeleadersd@bmta.org.

February 18 (Sunday) Unicoi Gap to Indian Grave Gap on the AT and return on the Rocky Mountain Trail. Moderately strenuous 5.5 miles.
Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at bmtahikeleaderkm@bmta.org.

February 19 (Monday) BMT Hemp Top Trail to Double Springs Gap and return. Moderately/strenuous 11.8 miles. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at bmtahikeleadersd@bmta.org.

February 23 (Friday) Talking Rock. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy/moderate 5 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org.

March

March 4 (Monday) Hike the Rock Creek Trail in Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee. Begin at Hwy 64 at Thunder Rock Trail Parking and hike across the Ocoee and up the BMT 2.2 miles to the Rock Creek Trail. Hike 5.6 miles on the Rock Creek Trail. Total mileage will be 7.8. The climbs and descents are moderate. Rating for the entire hike is strenuous. There are a few minor creek crossings, one could be fairly deep. We will shuttle from the other end of the Rock Creek Trail on Hwy 64, a very easy shuttle. Contact Hike Leaders Clare Sullivan and Judy Price at bmtahikeleadercs2@bmta.org.

March 5 (Tuesday) Brush Creek Loop. Moderate/easy 7 miles.
Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org.

March 8 (Friday) BMT/AT Upper two loops on Springer Mountain from Big Stamp Gap. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog) About 5 moderate miles. See all the sights, Springer Mountain an AT shelter, the beginning of the BMT, the plaque honoring Benton MacKaye and Owen Vista! Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org.



March 9 (Saturday) BMTA Monthly Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact Joe Cantwell at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.
Contact Nelson Ashbrook at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org.

March 10 (Sunday) Byron Reece to Blood Mountain and return. Moderate/strenuous 4 + miles round-trip up to the top of Blood Mountain for absolutely beautiful views. We'll take this hike slow and easy so that all can enjoy it. Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at bmtahikeleaderkm@bmta.org.

March 12 (Tuesday) Tour of Project Chimps along with a Lunch Launch! We will be using their extra-large mounted sling shots to shoot their cabbage, peppers, lettuce etc., into the air into their habitat area. Following the Chimps lunch (and ours), we will hike the 4-mile trail at Project Chimps. \$25.00 donation to Project Chimps (cash/check) minimum.
Contact Hike Leaders Clare Sullivan and Kathy Williams at bmtahikeleadercs2@bmta.org.

March 17 (Sunday) Special Event! BMTA and GATC (Georgia Appalachian Trail Club) will join together for a group hike. This hike starts at Wilscot Gap (GA Hwy 60) and proceeds southbound to Payne Gap and then on to Skeenah Gap on Skeenah Gap Road. This moderately strenuous hike is about 5.3 miles long, has about 1,300 vertical feet of ascents and requires a short shuttle.
Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at bmtahikeleaderkm@bmta.org.

March 18 (Monday) Hike to the remains of Caney Creek Village, Tennessee, in the Cherokee National Forest. Begin at 1,604 feet elevation and hike down to 840 feet elevation to see the remains of Caney Creek Village, then hike back up. This village existed from 1912-1941. It had electricity, indoor plumbing, mass transit, a lighted tennis court and a hotel. It's known as the only community in America that never had a vehicle or horse in the community. The remains are visible because the concrete foundations were made of the same grade of concrete as the dams on the Ocoee. Members of the community built the flume along the Ocoee. Moderate 6 miles. Contact Hike Leaders Clare Sullivan and Ed Sullivan at bmtahikeleadercs2@bmta.org.

March 22 (Friday). Fightingtown Creek #2. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog) Easy/moderate 3.8 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org.

March 24 (Sunday) Standing Indian Mountain. Moderate/strenuous 5 miles round trip. Fantastic views at the top of Standing Indian. Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at bmtahikeleaderkm@bmta.org.

March 26 (Tuesday) Quartz Loop and BMT to Thunder Rock. Easy/moderate 5 plus miles.
Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org.

March 30 The Georgia Death Race from Vogel to Amicalola Falls. Racers will be on some BMTA Trails.

April

April 3 (Wednesday) Trails of Jack Rabbit. TR 750, 756, 757 and 754. This creates a loop. The hike is moderate and approximately 5 miles.
Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at bmtahikeleaderrc@bmta.org.

April 7 (Sunday) Upper Springer Mountain Loop. This is a 5-mile moderate hike which will stop at both the BMT and the AT Southern Terminus. Beautiful views.

Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at bmtahikeleaderkm@bmta.org.

April 10 (Wednesday) Tobacco Pouch Trail to Buice Falls to Fall Creek Falls and return on Fall Creek Trail. Moderate/strenuous approximately 8 miles with views of the cascades. GA WMA license required.

Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at bmtahikeleadersd@bmta.org.

April 12 (Friday) Flat Creek Loop. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5.6-mile loop hike featuring Flat Creek.

Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org.



April 13 (Saturday) BMTA Monthly Maintenance Trip. TBA

Contact Joe Cantwell at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.

Contact Nelson Ashbrook at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org.

April 14 (Sunday) BMT Hwy 60 to Suspension Bridge and return. Moderate/strenuous. Approximately 8 miles long with 1800 ft elevation gain.

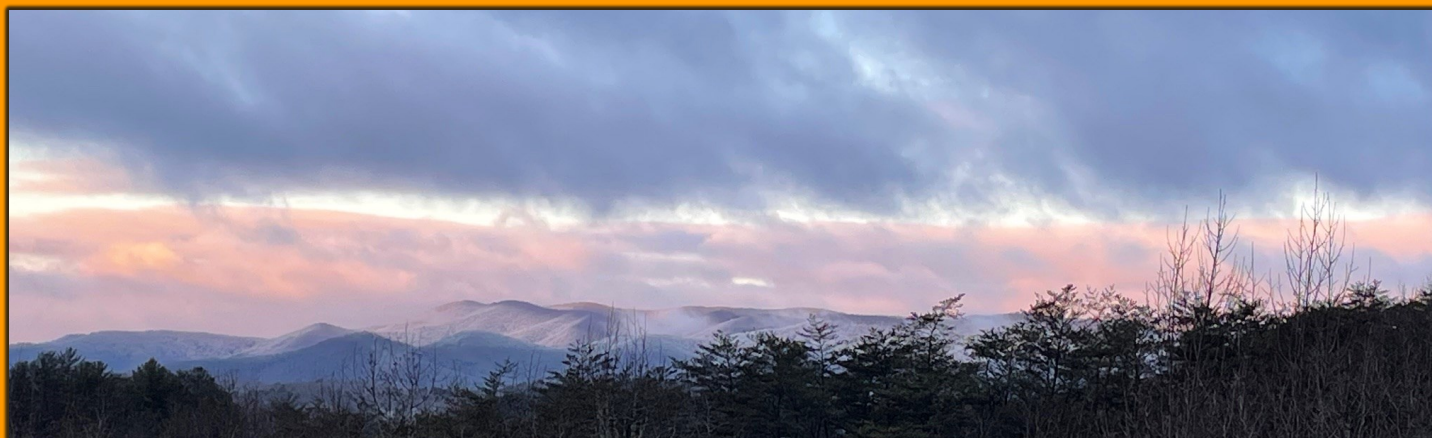
Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at bmtahikeleaderkm@bmta.org.

April 17(Wednesday) Brasstown Bald in and out 4-mile moderate hike on the Wagon Train Trail.

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

April 19 (Friday) BMT - Hudson Gap, out and back. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 4-5 miles Come out to see spring wildflowers.

Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at bmtahikeleaderkc@bmta.org.



**The deadline for the March Newsletter is Wednesday, February 28.
Thank you!**