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President: David Blount  
 Vice President: Darcy Douglas  
 Secretary: Sara Bland  
 GA Maintenance: Tom Keene  
 TN/NC Maint: Ernie Engman  
 Smokies Coord: Bob Ruby  
 Trail Construction: Bill Hodge  
 Hiking: Ralph Heller  
 Membership: Vic Fredlund  
 Treasurer: Margaret Evans  
 Publicity: Marge Heller  
 Newsletter Editor: Gene Nix  
 Conservation: George Owen  
 Past President: Dick Evans  
 State Rep GA: Steve Bayliss  
 State Rep TN: Rick Harris  
 State Rep NC: **Vacant**



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

# BMTA ANNUAL MEETING

## November 2, 2013

### By Darcy Douglas

Please join us in Ellijay, Georgia on Saturday November 2 for the Benton MacKaye Trail Association Annual Meeting at the North



North Georgia Community Center

Georgia Conference Center (822 Industrial Blvd). Each year we take this opportunity to gather (without tools) to elect our new Board, hear reports on the state of the trail, share a meal, and enjoy a speaker. We also have hikes scheduled for Friday, Sunday, and Saturday prior to the 4:30 meeting. This year we have a bylaw change vote, too. Please see the article for more information.

Our speaker this year will be Mr. Gilbert Treadwell, on the topic of The Geology of the Benton MacKaye Trail. Gilbert earned his Bachelor's degree in Geology, and he's been a member of the BMTA for several years, so he is uniquely able to offer us this presentation. Come join us as we share in Gilbert's enthusiasm on this topic.

Suspension Bridge over the Toccoa River:  
By Ralph Heller

### BMTA Headquarters



Log In To [bmta.org](http://bmta.org) For More Information

We also have the opportunity to help a member who serves our trail and others in another unique way. Bill Hodge chairs SAWS, an agency under the auspices of The Wilderness Society, which provides trail construction and maintenance to trails within wilderness. He focuses on training young people to do this work, and often those young people do not have the means to outfit themselves adequately and safely. You have an opportunity to support this non-profit group (i.e. tax deductions!) with donations! SAWS needs sleeping bags, sleeping pads, tents for 2 or 3 persons, and backpacks to carry the gear to the worksites. This was my idea, after hearing Bill give a talk at the ATC Biennial Conference in July – his work is phenomenal, serving the youth of southeastern America, our trail, and the forests we all love. If you can provide one or more of these items, please bring them to the meeting!

The specific hikes available will be published closer to time, set up by our Hike Coordinator, Ralph Heller.



**You do need to register in advance for the meal, before Oct. 27, since we have to order food. Please click on the link below to do so, mail a check to the Post Office Box (6, Ellijay, 30522), or use Paypal through the website. The lasagna (meat or vegetarian) meal last year was lauded by all, so we are having it again. There will be salad, bread, drinks, and dessert in addition.**

[Conference Registration](#)  
**[Click Here](#)**

**See you there!!!! (contact Darcy Douglas, 404-497-0818 ... [bmtadarcy@yahoo.com](mailto:bmtadarcy@yahoo.com) for answers to questions) ...**





## Presidents Message

### *Walk With Me a Moment.....*

Fall is upon us and it is a great time to get outside and enjoy the cooler temperatures and the colorful displays of foliage the Southeast is famous for. I hope you will seek out one of the upcoming fun hikes or maintenance work days to participate in and take full advantage of the season.

I would like to bring up the issue of safety, a topic we must remain diligent in pursuing. First Aid and CPR training is required of anyone operating a chainsaw or cross cut saw in the National Forest. It is highly recommended and encouraged for leaders of work trips and fun hikes. Anyone may complete a sanctioned class for sawyers but their certification is not complete unless their First Aid training is current. The training takes most of a day and is good for two years at which time it must be renewed.

Now that I have you thinking about First Aid, let me mention some of the ways you can participate in the training. The various Districts of the USFS offer resource training, including First Aid / CPR on a revolving basis. Their own employees must have this same training to carry out their day to day responsibilities and to be prepared for emergency response duty when called upon. Some of the training put on by the Districts is for employees only with some availability, if space allows, for volunteers. Other training is scheduled for Saturdays and is geared primarily for the various volunteer groups that work in the forests. Efforts are made to post the dates and locations of available training offered by the USFS on the Activities Page of the BMTA web site. You can also call or stop by the District nearest you and inquire about upcoming sessions. First Aid / CPR training may also be offered at your place of employment and at your local county or city administration facilities. There may be a fee associated with training offered by your county but the expense is more than offset by the convenience of getting the training close to home. The point I am trying to make is that safety is everyone's responsibility and we all need to be proactive in seeking the proper training and ensuring that it is renewed every two years.

In closing, let me recognize a few folks regarding safety. It recently became apparent we had a group of volunteer sawyers and trip leaders whose safety training would soon expire at the same time. On very short notice, BMTA member and Certified First Aid / CPR Instructor Jim Holland, BMTA Hiking Director Ralph Heller, and Valencia Morris, Recreation Program Manager for the Blue Ridge Ranger District answered the call and arranged for the time and resources necessary to put on a class in which ten BMTA members were able to obtain or renew their required training. Kudos and much thanks to each of you!

**David Blount**  
**President, BMTA**

## UPCOMING HIKES---Ralph Heller: Hiking Director

October is arguably the best month of the year for hiking. Leaves are putting on their annual colorful show. Fall temperatures have arrived; the chance of rain is lower than other times of the year and, consequently, humidity is low. We have three hikes scheduled this month which should fit everyone's liking. In between times, get out and enjoy this beautiful time of the year with your family or on your own. A possible option is a drive out on the Cherohala Skyway and hike to Whigg Meadow.

### Wednesday, [October 9](#)

Easy Trek hike to the Amadayh Trail at Carter's Lake near Ellijay: This is an easy 3.5 mile trail along the shore of the lake with little elevation change. Bring a lunch and water. We will picnic at the Woodring Branch Picnic Area on the lake. Optionally, there will be a short 1.5 mile hike after the lunch. For further information, including meeting place and time and to register for the hike, contact Hike Leader Sara Bland at 678-493-2649 or jsbland (at) [windstream.net](mailto:jsbland@windstream.net)

### Saturday, [October 19](#)

Fun Hike – Peak Color in the Smokies! Join BMTA Past President Dick Evans on a beautiful hike of the Twentymile Loop Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for what should be the peak of the Fall colors. This 7.6 mile hike, despite the misleading name, has an elevation gain of 1200 feet. If that is too much, you can just follow the old railroad bed in and out from the ranger station at your leisure for whatever length hike you desire. We'll meet at 9 AM on [Saturday](#) at the Twentymile Ranger Station in the Park. Bring lunch, water, raingear, and the usual for a day hike in the mountains. For further information and to register for the hike contact Dick at 828-479-2503 or dick.evans (at) [frontier.com](mailto:dick.evans@frontier.com).

### Wednesday, [October 23](#)

Save the Date! This will probably be a moderate 5-mile hike, location still to be decided. In any case, it will be at a higher elevation for views to take in the spectacular Fall colors. Contact Hike leader Sara Bland at 678-493-2649 or jsbland (at) [windstream.net](mailto:jsbland@windstream.net) for meeting place/time and to register for hike.

### Annual Meeting [November 1, 2 & 3](#)

As is the tradition, we will be having hikes on [Friday](#), [Saturday](#), and [Sunday](#) for the Annual Meeting Weekend. We are working on the locations for the hikes which will be in the Ellijay area. There will be one hike on [Friday](#), two on [Saturday](#), and one on [Sunday](#). One of the [Saturday](#) hikes will be a repeat of last year's Easy Trek in Amicalola from the top of the falls to the visitor center to the lodge with the option of eating lunch at the lodge. More details on these hikes will be available on the BMTA web site soon. Make plans to attend the meeting and register for your meal on line.

# Fall Hike Week At Fontana Village

By Dick Evans

The Fall Hike Week program at Fontana Village is about to start. This is the 40th Anniversary, so they are expecting a pretty good turnout. As before, we have an easy and a moderate hike scheduled each day, with me leading the moderate hikes. The dates are [October 13](#) thru 17th for the "official" part, but I have scheduled other activities for the early and late comers. Fontana Village does offer "Hike Week Discounts" for folks staying there, but you do not have to stay there to participate. As usual, the dates coincide with the start of Bear Hunting Season in North Carolina, and we have decided to avoid the heavily hunted areas, like the Slickrock Wilderness, this year. Due to a law enforcement action earlier this year, many local hunters have become pretty "anti-hiker", and we want to give those feelings a chance to subside, so avoiding any possible confrontations is the best course. As usual, we MAY rearrange or reschedule hikes due to weather, so make sure you either contact me or the Village to night prior to avoid missed connections. Programs and activities scheduled every evening.

## Schedule

Sunday - [October 13th](#) - 7PM General Welcoming Meeting. For those of you arriving early, I can set up a hike on [Sunday](#), probably up to Hangover, since that is a non-hunt day. Let me know if you want to join that.

Monday - [October 14th](#) - Twentymile Area, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Easy hike is up the old railroad bed, moderates will hike up to Shuckstack and down to Fontana Dam.

Tuesday - [October 15th](#) - Travel to Mount Pisgah along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Moderates will hike to the top. Supper at Pisgah Inn.

Wednesday - [October 16th](#) - Boat trip (nominal charge) to Hazel Creek/Proctor and visit Proctor Cemetery. Easy hikers return to boat, and moderates hike thru to Lost Cove and rejoin the boat there.

Thursday - [October 17th](#) - Boat trip (nominal charge) to Lost Cove and hike out to Fontana Dam, past many relics of the 1920's.

Friday - [October 18th](#) - No formal hike planned, but I can put together something for any folks still left in the area.

Saturday - [October 19th](#) - Benton MacKaye Trail Association Fun Hike Series. We will hike the Twentymile Loop Trail from Twentymile Ranger Station, moderates only on the loop, but others can just follow the old railroad bed as they wish. Should be peak color. Might do a Full Moon Viewing Trip depending on weather.

If you are interested, let me know.

**Dick Evans: 828-479-2503**

## CPR/First Aid Training Completed

**By Ralph Heller**

On September 21st, a total of 10 BMTA folks completed CPR/First Aid training at the Chattahoochee National Forest Blue Ridge District Office in Blairsville. The very interesting and informative course was taught by Jim Holland, a BMTA member and 2012 BMTA Maintainer of the Year. Jim always supplements the course material with his personal experiences and knowledge of first aid including applicable procedures he uses on his horses. Pictured are Jim who is standing and, clockwise, Tom Keene, Vic Fredlund, Gilbert Treadwell, Mike Pilvinski, Dick Evans, Mark Yost, Gene Nix, Joy Forehand and Sara Bland. Not shown is photographer Ralph Heller.



## Dick Evans shows his talent off the trail...and in his woodshop

**By: Marge Heller, Publicity Chair**

Dick Evans, Past President, recently completed a new merchandise display for the BMTA. The two sided case closes while in transit and is a much need addition when our display booth is being used for various events.

While helping at two BMTA booths this spring, Dick noticed an issue with the wind and our maps and guidebooks. This wonderful display solves our problem! I, for one, am most appreciative!

Dick has also donated his time to be the go-to person for the BMTA Store and is in charge of mailing out items purchased. No small task.

Thanks, Dick!

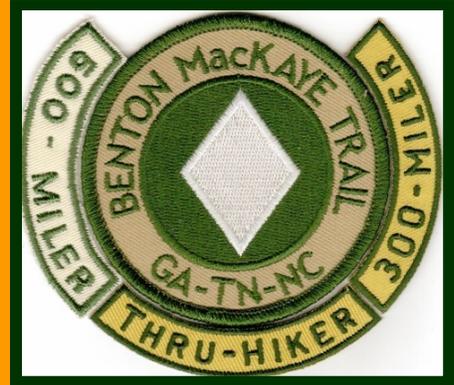


# BMTA New Members ...

## By Vic Fredlund

BMTA welcomes its new members...

- Estes Pack
  - Richard Beamish
  - Erich Schwerd
  - Carolyn Sewell
  - Carol Donaldson
  - Alan Roddy
  - Greg McKelvey
- |               |
|---------------|
| Maryville, TN |
| Atlanta, GA   |
| Marietta, GA  |
| Ellijay, GA   |
| Morganton, GA |
| Sarasota, FL  |
| Atlanta, GA   |

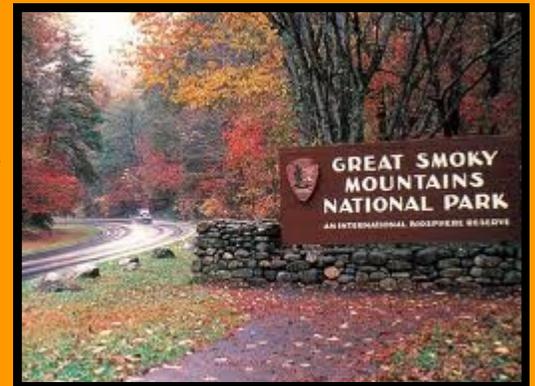


## Fun Hike-Peak Color ...

### In The Smokies ... By Dick Evans

#### Fun Hike-Peak Color in the Smokies!

On [October 19th](#), join BMTA Past President Dick Evans on a Fun Hike of the Twentymile Loop Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for what should be the peak of the Fall Colors. This hike is 7.6 miles long, despite the misleading name, and has an elevation gain of 1200 feet. If that is a bit too much, you can just follow the old railroad bed in and out from the Ranger Station at your leisure for whatever length hike you desire.



We'll meet at 9 AM on Saturday, [October 19th](#) at the Twentymile Ranger Station in the Park. Bring lunch, water, raingear, and the usual stuff for a day hike in the mountains.

For further information, contact **Dick Evans** at 828-479-2503 or [dick.evans \(at\) frontier.com](mailto:dick.evans@frontier.com).

# Glorious Fall Day for September 14 Worktrip on Sisson Property

By Tom Keene

**“This is the best weather since April”**

Thus spake one of the participants on our September Georgia worktrip. It was indeed a beautiful day in the woods. Though sunny, the temperature never reached 70 degrees; the breeze was dry and crisp. Great weather for sidehill refreshment and for digging water diversions, which is what we did.

Even though several of our regulars were off hiking in Yellowstone, we had fine, hard-working group of 16. That number was bolstered by three first-timers, Angela Wildemen, Chuck Wildemen, and Jerry Newcomer. Special thanks to those first-timers.

OK, “Newcomer” is not Jerry’s last name. We didn’t get Jerry to sign-in, and so never got his actual name. Great worker, good guy; no last name. Jerry, who are you? Come again; next time we’ll get your name!

Special kudos also to Ralph Heller, who brought the post-work watermelon!

Altogether the group logged 96 hours of work and just short of 30 hours of travel. The sensational sixteen are identified in the caption to the group photo. **Thanks to all who made it happen.**



Caption: L to R - Tom Keene, Angela Wildemen, Hank Baudet, Chuck Wildemen, Shelly Stubbs, Jerry "Newcomer", Mark Yost, Joy Forehand, Hank Forehand, Debbie Tuten, Jack Kennedy, Jay Dement, Margaret Meadows. Not shown Art Meyer. Photo by Ralph Heller.



*Trails users united for sustainable trails on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests*

CoTrails and the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest continues to offer training leading to certification of volunteer trail crew leaders. This is a great opportunity to increase one's knowledge of all aspects of trail maintenance projects and become a more effective crew leader.

This is the last class planned until recertification of crew leaders begins in 2015 and class size is limited so interested volunteers should sign up soon, but please RSVP no later than COB on October 16th.

Saturday, October 19, at 9:00 AM – Chattooga River Ranger District Office  
9975 Hwy 441 South  
Lakemont, GA 30552

Volunteers who want more information or wish to register for one of these courses should contact Larry Thomas at [lrthomas68@gmail.com](mailto:lrthomas68@gmail.com). The course will offer training in planning and leading volunteer trail crews, and address the administrative requirements of crew leadership that will be of importance to organized volunteer groups and individuals in their ongoing trail maintenance projects.

One certification requirement is that crews leaders must be have First Aid/CPR certification. The Forest Service is offering its last First Aid/CPR training session for 2013 on the Chattooga River Ranger District on October 12. Registration is required. To sign up or for more information, contact Janice Miller at [janicemiller@fs.fed.us](mailto:janicemiller@fs.fed.us). More First Aid/CPR classes will be planned in 2014.

# The Revised Bylaws Of The Benton MacKaye Trail Association, Inc...

<<<That Follows >>>

## Will Be Amended November 2, 2013 At The Annual Meeting If Approved

**BMTA Annual Conference**



November 2013						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**Bylaws of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, Inc.  
To be Amended November 2, 2013 if approved**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME, PURPOSE, STATUS**

### **Section 1. NAME.**

The name of this Association shall be BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION, INC., hereinafter "the Association."

### **Section 2. PURPOSE.**

The Association was organized for the following charitable and educational purposes: to construct, maintain and protect the proposed Benton MacKaye Trail; to inform (by printed newsletter, brochure, correspondence, guidebook, map, and other means) its members and the general public of opportunities for outdoor recreation and public service; to conduct workshops, seminars and work trips to foster skills in trail construction and maintenance; to promote hiking, camping and a wilderness experience in the Southern Appalachian Mountains; to instill in its members and the general public a conservation ethic.

### **Section 3. TAX EXEMPT STATUS.**

The Association is organized as a non-profit tax exempt charitable and educational organization intended to qualify as such under the applicable provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code, Section 26-501c(3) and related sections.

### **Section 4. MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION.**

The Board of Directors, hereinafter the "Board," shall be the managing board of the Association as set forth in Article IV.

## **ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP.**

### **Section 1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.**

Any person who agrees with the purpose and objectives of this Association may become a member by completing an application and paying the dues required for the desired category of membership.

### **Section 2. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP.**

Membership in the Benton MacKaye Trail Association shall consist of the following classes:

- a. Individual members shall be those persons who have made application and paid membership dues for the current year.
- b. Family members shall be those who qualify for individual membership and who pay total membership dues of an amount less than that for two individual members. A family unit will receive one newsletter.
- c. Student members shall be those persons who qualify for individual membership who are also full time students in an accredited institution. Student dues shall be set by the Board at an amount less than an individual member's dues.
- d. Retired members shall be those persons, age 60 or older, who qualify for individual membership and who have retired from full-time employment. Dues for retired members shall be set by the Board at an amount less than an individual member's dues.
- e. Life members shall be those persons who qualify for individual membership and who pay a one-time fee as set by the Board.
- f. Corporate members shall be businesses or other organizations which support the purpose and objectives of the Association. Corporate dues shall be set by the Board.
- g. Honorary members shall be those persons who have preeminently distinguished themselves in furthering the work of the Association and who have been selected by the Board, provided that the total number of honorary members shall never exceed 2% of the number of the voting members and provided further that not more than one honorary member shall be elected in any one fiscal year. Honorary members shall pay no dues.
- h. Other. Other categories of membership shall be established as deemed appropriate by the Board.

**Section 3. DUES.**

All members of the Association with the exception of Honorary and Life Members shall be liable for payment of annual dues, as fixed and established by the Board.

**Section 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.**

Termination of membership shall occur in any of the following circumstances:

- a. Resignation. Any member may resign at any time. No reimbursement for the remainder of any fiscal year's dues shall be made upon such resignation. Any member who resigns may be reinstated by reapplying pursuant to the provisions of this Article.
- b. Failure to pay dues. Any member who fails to pay dues within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year shall be automatically terminated as a member of the Association. Membership may again become available by complying with the other provisions of Article II, Section 1.
- c. Violation of Bylaws and rules. Violations of the Bylaws and rules of the Association may subject a member to expulsion. The member will be furnished a written statement of charges not less than two weeks prior to a meeting of the Board at which the expulsion is to be considered. The member may show cause in person or in writing as to why he/she should not be expelled. A two-thirds vote of the Board is required for expulsion.

**Section 5. VOTING PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS.**

There shall be one vote for each Individual, Life, Student, Retired and Honorary Membership. There shall be one vote for each adult member of a Family Membership. There shall be no vote for a Corporate Membership.

## ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**Section 1. ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Association shall be held at a time during the months of October or November as determined by the Board. The date, location, and selection of the meeting facility shall be made at least ninety (90) days prior to the meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be sent to all members ninety (90) days prior to such meeting. A notice in the Association's newsletter shall constitute valid notice, provided the newsletter is mailed at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting. There shall be no proxy voting at annual meetings.

**Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS.**

A special meeting of the membership may be called by the President, a majority of the Board or 20% of the voting membership by written notice to the membership mailed not less than fifteen (15) days in advance of such meeting. A notice in the Association's newsletter shall constitute valid notice. Such notices shall be furnished to all members, shall state the purpose or purposes of the proposed meeting and shall state the time and place of the meeting. The agenda for such meetings shall be limited to the purpose(s) for which the meeting was called. There shall be no proxy voting at special meetings.

**Section 3. QUORUM.**

Twenty-five (25) members or 10% of the voting membership (whichever is smaller) shall constitute a quorum. The presence of a quorum is required for the adoption of any motion or an amendment to the Bylaws.

## ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Section 1. MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION.**

The Board (aka Board of Directors, see Article I, Section 4) shall be the managing board of the Association; it shall control all expenditures and property of the Association, fill vacancies in the Board until an election is held, and act for its interests in any way consistent with these Bylaws; but shall have no power to subject the Association to any liability beyond the amount of the corporate funds.

**Section 2. BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

The Board shall consist of fourteen (14) members, eleven (11) of whom shall be elected by the membership at its annual meeting, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the President, and one (1) Immediate Past President. The elected Directors are as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, C Georgia Maintenance and Construction Director, Tennessee-North Carolina Maintenance and Construction Director, Smokies Director, Membership Director, Publicity Director, Conservation Director, and Hiking Director. The three two appointed members are Georgia State Representative and Tennessee-North Carolina State Representatives. The Immediate Past President is the person who served in that office immediately prior to the current President. All members of the Board, either elected or appointed, must be members of the Association. In addition, the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster shall be non-voting members of the Board.

**Section 3. THE BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Board Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President, shall act on behalf of the Board between meetings when time does not permit a consultation with the full Board. The President plus two members of the Executive Committee must support an action for it to pass. Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be placed before the full board for approval or reversal at the next meeting of the Board or by email vote. Reversal of an Executive Committee decision requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Board.

**Section 4. TENURE IN OFFICE.**

Directors are elected or appointed for terms of one (1) year and may be re-elected or re-appointed. However, Directors, either elected or appointed, who are serving their fifth consecutive term in the same position at the time of election, may not be either elected or appointed for a sixth consecutive term in that position. Elected directors shall take office at the close of the annual meeting.

**Section 5. DUTIES OF DIRECTORS**

Specific Directors shall have the following duties:

- a. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall be responsible for the administration of the Association including general supervision of the policies and programs adopted by the Board. The President shall act as spokesperson for the Association, shall preside at all Board and General Membership meetings and shall appoint committees of the Association as necessary or appropriate. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees. The President shall initiate an annual audit as specified in Article VII, Section 6 of these Bylaws. The President shall have additional powers as may be conferred by the Board and shall have all other powers as ordinarily accompany the office of President.
- b. The Vice President shall succeed the President for the duration of the President's un-expired term in office in case of the President's disability, resignation or death. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall chair the Board meetings, and special membership meetings. The Vice President shall assist the President in the administration of the Association and shall carry out such other duties as assigned by the President. The Vice President, in consultation with the President and Board, shall be responsible for initial action to meet the deadlines for the Annual Meeting. Subsequently the Vice President may choose another person to carry out the details and to chair the Annual Meeting planning.
- c. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping all records, minutes and correspondence of the general and special membership meetings and meetings of the Board.
- d. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the Association, shall be accountable to the President and Board, and shall make disbursements as authorized by the President or Board. The Treasurer shall submit written reports of the finances at the annual meeting of the Association, at each of the regular quarterly meetings of the Board, and as requested by the President and Board.
- e. The Trail Construction Director shall have oversight responsibilities for new trail design and construction including obtaining Forest Service review and approval prior to trail construction, preparing and updating a five year plan for trail construction, educating the general membership by workshops and demonstrations, and implementing the Association's trail construction outings by working with the assigned trip leaders.

- f. The Georgia Maintenance and Construction Director shall have oversight responsibilities for maintenance of existing trail, and for construction of new or relocated trail in the state of Georgia. The Georgia Director is expected to recruit and train a Maintenance and Construction Committee composed of active members who will assist in carrying out the responsibilities enumerated below. Maintenance responsibilities shall include the existing Benton MacKaye Trail in the state of Georgia, including springs, shelters and other structures. Maintenance These duties shall include developing and implementing a system for trail monitoring; assistance with any plans to provide for adequate signing of the trail, managing the assigned trail section maintainers, and planning, in conjunction with the assigned monthly trip leaders, those trips designated for trail maintenance. Construction oversight responsibilities shall include new trail design and construction including obtaining reviews and approval of the appropriate federal, state, or other land agency prior to trail construction, preparing and updating a five year plan for trail construction, and implementing the Association's trail construction outings by working with the assigned trip leaders. Where maintenance or construction work involves volunteer activity in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest the Georgia Director, or designee, is expected to report volunteer hours to the appropriate district office per that office's expectations. Finally, the Georgia Director is expected to coordinate with the Tennessee-North Carolina Director to assure optimal uniformity in trail construction, signage and maintenance standards, as well as to coordinate the Annual Walk-thru to audit trail conditions.
- g. The Tennessee-North Carolina (TN/NC) Maintenance and Construction Director shall have oversight responsibilities for maintenance of existing trail, and for construction of new or relocated trail between the Georgia State line and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Tennessee-North Carolina Director is expected to recruit, train and coordinate a Maintenance and Construction Committee composed of active members who will assist in carrying out the responsibilities enumerated below. Maintenance responsibilities shall include springs, shelters and other structures. Maintenance duties shall include developing and implementing a system for trail monitoring, assistance with any plans to provide for adequate signing of the trail, managing the assigned trail section maintainers, and planning, in conjunction with the assigned monthly trip leaders, those trips designated for trail maintenance. Construction oversight responsibilities shall include new trail design and construction including obtaining review and approval of the appropriate federal, state, or other land agency prior to trail construction, preparing and updating a five year plan for trail construction, and implementing the Association's trail construction outings by working with the assigned trip leaders. Where maintenance or construction work involves volunteer activity in the Cherokee or Nantahala National Forests the Tennessee-North Carolina Director, or designee, is expected to report volunteer hours to the appropriate district office per that office's expectations. Finally, the Tennessee-North Carolina Director is expected to coordinate with the Georgia Director to assure optimal uniformity in trail construction, signage and maintenance standards, as well as to coordinate the Annual Walk-thru to audit trail conditions.
- h. The Smokies Director Coordinator shall work closely with the Backcountry Coordinator of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, or other designated official, to determine appropriate maintenance work for the BMTA and coordinate BMTA members' efforts to complete that work.
- i. The Membership Director shall answer inquiries regarding membership information, shall advise and assist new members, and shall maintain records of membership. The Membership Director shall remain in good communication with the Newsletter Editor and the Webmaster as needed.
- j. The Publicity Director shall work with the media and other organizations on publicity for the Association and, with Board approval, shall coordinate design and production of general publications (flyers, brochures, etc.) and displays.
- k. The Conservation Director shall monitor conservation issues, including, but not limited to Forest Service and National Park Service special use permits, scoping notices and similar publications that have bearing on the Benton MacKaye Trail, shall report such issues to the Board, shall inform the membership of such issues, and shall assist the Board in forming policy responses to these issues.

- l. The Hiking Director shall promote the healthful and responsible use of trails and chair the Hiking Committee, which shall organize and maintain an outings schedule, including the identification of hike leaders and destinations, hike announcements and write-ups.
- m. The two State Representatives, appointed by the President, shall carry out those duties and responsibilities as assigned by the President.
- n. The Immediate Past President shall provide assistance and information to the Board concerning on-going activities of the Association, shall, if requested, provide advice to the incoming President, and shall assist in such committees and activities as requested by the Board.
- o. The Newsletter Editor shall edit, publish and mail the Association's monthly newsletter. Before any issue of the newsletter is sent to the printer, the proposed publication must be reviewed and approved by at least two of the following: President, Vice President, a past President designated by the current President. The Newsletter Editor is named by majority vote of the Board. The Newsletter Editor reports directly to the President, and is not a voting member of the Board, though he/she is welcome to attend and participate in Board meetings. The Newsletter Editor's term has no fixed limit. The Newsletter Editor may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the Board.

#### **Section 6. VOTING AND QUORUM.**

- a. Each member of the Board except Newsletter Editor and Webmaster shall have one vote, and unless otherwise indicated in other sections of these Bylaws, resolutions and motions shall be adopted by a simple majority vote of the members in attendance. Fifty percent (50%) of current Board members shall constitute a quorum, which must include 3 of the 5 members of the Executive Committee.
- b. The Board may at the discretion of the President, vote on a proposal or proposals by email or other electronic means, provided no member of the Board objects to such a vote and provided the proposal(s) has (have) been circulated for consideration and discussion at least 48 hours in advance of the vote. The President shall report the results of such votes to the entire Board as soon as practical. Minutes of such meetings and votes must be maintained and submitted for approval at the next Board meeting.

#### **Section 7. MEETINGS.**

- a. The Board shall have a minimum of one meeting each quarter of the calendar year to consider the business of the Association. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President at any time upon five (5) days advance notice or upon shorter notice with the consent of all Board members. Special meetings may also be called upon written request of a majority of the Board. The purpose of specially called meetings shall be stated. No business shall be transacted other than that set forth in the notice.
- b. The Board and any of its committees may meet by telephone conference or other electronic media so long as a two-third majority agree to do so and a quorum of Board or committee members participate. Minutes must be kept and circulated for review and approval as with regular meetings.

#### **Section 8. RESIGNATION AND VACANCIES.**

Any member of the Board may resign by submitting written intent of resignation to the President and to the Secretary. Vacancies created for any reason shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board convened.

#### **Section 9. ELECTION PROCEDURE.**

At least 90 days before the Annual Meeting, the President shall present to the Executive Committee for approval nominees for a Nominating Committee, consisting of at least three members of the Association and including a resident from at least two of the three states through which the trail passes. The President shall designate the Chair of the Nominating Committee. At least 60 days before the annual meeting the Nominating Committee shall publish a list of nominees. The Nominating Committee shall present a list of nominees for election to the membership at the Annual Meeting; such nominations shall not preclude nominations from the floor at the time of the election with the prior consent of the nominees. Election may be by secret or voice vote. The order of balloting shall be for the positions of 1) President, 2) Vice President, 3) Secretary, 4) Treasurer, 5) Georgia Maintenance and Construction Director, 6) TN-NC Maintenance and Construction Director, 7) Smokies Director, 8) Membership Director, 9) Publicity Director, 10) Conservation Director and 11) Hiking Director. A candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast for an office shall be declared the winner for the office. In the event of a tie, re-balloting shall occur.

**Section 10. EXPULSION.**

Any member of the Board may be removed by a majority vote of the entire Board. Board members shall be expected to attend all regular and called meetings of the Board. Should any member of the Board fail to attend three (3) consecutive meetings, a vacancy may be declared by a majority vote of the entire Board, and a successor may be appointed as provided in these Bylaws.

**Section 11. ORIENTATION**

Each year the Immediate Past President, or another person appointed by the President, shall organize and conduct, or have conducted, an orientation session for new Board members and those chosen since the last orientation to fill any unexpired terms. When feasible the orientation shall take place between the fall election and the conclusion of the day of the new year's first Board meeting. Association goals, history, bylaws, calendar, duties, management partners, etc., shall be presented.

## ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES.

**Section 1. ORGANIZATION.**

Special committees may be appointed at the discretion of the President or the Board and shall carry out such work as designated. Special committees are intended to be temporary, for a specific purpose, and shall cease to exist once the purpose has been fulfilled.

**Section 2. DUTIES.**

The duties of all committees will be defined by the President or the Board. Committees shall report to the Board upon request and shall make annual reports as requested by the President or the Board.

**Section 3. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.**

Members of special committees shall be appointed by the respective committee chair subject to approval by the President.

## ARTICLE VI. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS

**Section 1. ADOPTION.**

These Bylaws shall become effective on the date of their ratification by a majority vote of the active members of the Association in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting.

**Section 2. NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP.**

A copy of these Bylaws shall be distributed to the membership thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting at which the vote shall be taken. They shall be accompanied by a recommendation from the Board. In the event any Director disagrees with the Board recommendation, that Director shall have the right to write a minority report which shall also be distributed to the membership.

**Section 3. AMENDMENT.**

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the membership present at any annual meeting or any a meeting called for the purpose of amending the Bylaws. Amendments may be proposed by any four members of the Board or by 10% of the dues paying members of the Association. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Board who shall in turn submit them, with the recommendations of the Board, to the membership. The membership shall be informed of any proposed amendment no less than thirty (30) days prior to the vote to amend the Bylaws.

**Section 4. DISTRIBUTION.**

Within 10 days of ratification and thereafter, a copy of these Bylaws shall be made available on the Association's website.

# ARTICLE VII. MISCELLANEOUS

## **Section 1. RULES OF ORDER.**

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the rules of order for the transaction of all business before any body of this Association.

## **Section 2. POLITICS.**

This Association shall make no public statement or pronouncement of political endorsement of any candidate for any political office, and shall not engage itself, either as a result of any member, officer or representative of the Association, in any activities which would in any way affect or otherwise subject the Association to loss of non-profit tax exempt charitable and educational status enjoyed by the Association under the Internal Revenue Code.

## **Section 3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

- a. No individual Board member shall make any statement of policy in the name of the Association unless specifically authorized to do so by the President or the Board.
- b. Before any issue of the newsletter is sent to the printer or major alteration is posted to the website, the proposed publication must be reviewed and approved by at least two of the following: President, Vice President, a past President designated by the current President.

## **Section 4. SEAL.**

The seal of the Association shall be in such form as adopted by the Board.

## **Section 5. FISCAL YEAR.**

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

## **Section 6. ANNUAL AUDIT**

The President shall initiate an annual audit of the financial records after year's end. The auditing may be done by either an individual or a group, and the auditor(s) should have no familial or close personal relation with the Treasurer. Auditors are appointed by the Board Executive Committee. Where needed, an unannounced audit may be performed.

## **Section 7. THE WEBSITE AND WEBMASTER**

The Association's website is a vital means of communication to our members, to users of our trail and to our partner organizations. The Webmaster is responsible for the design and maintenance of the website, including keeping it up-to-date. The Webmaster is named by majority vote of the Board. The Webmaster reports directly to the President, and is not a voting member of the Board, though he/she is welcome to attend and participate in Board meetings. The Webmaster may make routine changes to the website at his/her discretion, though the Webmaster should inform the President of such changes. The Webmaster should seek the President's prior approval for significant changes. The President, in turn, should seek the approval of the Board by majority vote if he/she is not confident that the proposed changes will have the consensus support of the Board. Any two Board members may question a President's decision to approve a major change without a vote, and may demand a vote on the issue. The Webmaster's term has no fixed limit. The Webmaster may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the Board.