



Points of Interest

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President's Column

“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.”

W. H. Auden

Rain. And more rain.

The other day, as I squished through my yard thinking about the work I needed to do, I decided there had to be some *positives* about all the rain we are seeing. My baby sister had just sent a picture taken from her home in Alabama: Lake Weiss was up to her porch steps and her dock was somewhere under the lake. But she was **positive** that the goose poop would be washed off of her dock – once it re-emerged from the lake. Positives are important in daily life, so I decided to look for as many as I could find – even as I saw a sinkhole starting to form beside my driveway.

The quote in this month's message is from a poem entitled 'First Things First' written in the 1950's by W.H Auden. In the poem, Auden talks about the blessings of a winter storm leaving a cistern full of water before the onset of a hot Texas summer. 'Putting first things first' is what Auden called it and I decided that he just might be right – I mean, having a cistern full of water before the start of a hot summer IS very important. Of course, I later heard a rumor that ol' W.H. tied one on and drowned in his hotel bathtub. Hmm. Maybe some of us CAN live without all that water.....

First things first. Thanks to Nelson Ashbrook for the help and dedication during his 2019-2020 winter internship. I had the pleasure of working with Nelson on several occasions and I can't say enough about this young man. Please join me in wishing him a great transition to civilian life after a 20 plus year military career. Thanks for choosing us Nelson!

First things first. Thanks to Bob Cowdrick's continued outreach to scouts and colleges. We have several boy scouts, scout leaders and a few college students who will be joining us to work Section 3 on the March outing. We also have a prospective Eagle Scout who is working on a proposal to replace a board walk on Section 2. Positives all the way around. (Be sure to check out Bob's book, *Trail Tails, a Collection of Entertaining Trail Stories*, available from Amazon)!



BMTA Officers 2019-2020

President:	Barry Allen
Vice President:	Joy Forehand
Secretary:	Clare Sullivan
Treasurer:	Margaret Meadows
GA M/C:	Phil Guhl
TN/NC M/C:	Rick Harris
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Hiking Director:	Ken Cissna
Store:	Ken Cissna
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Publicity:	Jeff DePaola
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Newsletter:	Kathy Williams
State Rep GA:	Bob Cowdrick
State Rep TN/NC:	Larry Van Dyke



BMTA Headquarters

First things first. Thanks to Bob Cowdrick, Steve Bayliss, Shane Morrison, Patrick Ward, Andy Meeks and Nelson Ashbrook for going above and beyond the call of duty on February 7 and 8. These men logged out the BMT through the Little Frog Wilderness on Friday and then just for the heck of it, they logged out much of the BMT through the Big Frog Wilderness on the next day – February 8. And by the way, they did it with six inches of snow on the ground.



First things first. Thanks to Clare Sullivan for her outreach at our annual Hike Inn gathering. I hear the PowerPoint presentation and Clare's naturally persuasive demeanor may just bring us a couple of new members!

First things first. Frank Forehand tells me that every new member to the BMTA is setting a new high in membership totals. By February, we had already surpassed our goal of 5% growth, year over year. This is just an outstanding accomplishment and with March numbers, Frank now reports membership of 433 in all categories! Even more exciting is the report that family memberships are now approaching 100. Counting the names of all people we have on our family roles, we have 523 living, breathing people in our membership. Exciting!

You see, there are positives everywhere we look. Waterfalls are nicer when the streams are full. Flowers seem more abundant after a wet spring. Mushrooms are everywhere you look when the weather is wet! And speaking of mushrooms, don't forget to sign up for the mushroom hike and dinner on Tuesday, April 14. See the article in the Newsletter on page [three](#). While you are at it, go ahead and sign up for the North Carolina Work-Walk-Week, May 19 through May 22 at Fontana – if you can spare the time.

Till next month – remember to look for the positives.....

Hikers and Wild Mushroom Lovers

by Kim Hainge

Hikers and wild mushroom lovers, make your reservation and mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 14, 2020, for a very special experience!

Drive over to Robbinsville, North Carolina, and learn about foraging for wild mushrooms along the Benton MacKaye Trail. In the morning, BMTA members Jim Kriner (botanist) and Kim Hainge (Entomologist and Naturalist) will lead a hike of approximately four miles starting at 10:00am at the Tapoco Lodge. We will head up to Yellowhammer Gap, then along Ike Branch and return on the Slickrock Trail leading back to the Lodge.

Whether you go on the hike or decide to explore some of the other wonderful trails in Graham County during the day, plan to attend this unique event in the evening. A gourmet treat awaits BMTA members. Chef Shea Blalock from Willow Tree Restaurant located in downtown Robbinsville will prepare a special dinner just for us. Each of the five courses will contain one species of choice edible mushroom. The dinner will be casual dress and information about the mushroom and how it is used will precede each course.

There are forty seats available for this culinary experience of a lifetime. The price of the dinner is \$40 each, not including gratuity. Take the opportunity to socialize with friends and sample gourmet dishes created with choice varieties of mushrooms. The dinner will be moderated by Kim Hainge, award-winning columnist and naturalist.

Call (828) 260-8158 for a reservation as soon as you can! It is recommended that you plan to spend the night in Graham County. **Reservations need to be made by March 15 after which they open to the public.**



APRIL 14

A Walk in the Woods Gourmet Delight!

Moderated by local naturalist and award-winning columnist Kim Hainge. Enjoy a five-course dinner, each course using a different type of mushroom, all prepared by Chef Shea Blalock.

Willow Tree Catering and Baking

302 Ford Street, Robbinsville, North Carolina 28771. Phone (828) 260-8158.

Benton MacKaye Work-Walk-Week

By Dick Evans

Mark your calendar now! Tuesday, May 19th thru Friday May 22nd.

Here is your chance to visit the northern reaches of the Benton MacKaye Trail during spring. Enjoy nice temperatures! See Fontana Lake when it has water in it! Meet local folk in their quaint native garb! Meet your BMTA Friends! Tolerate other BMTA Members! We will have boat trips (some with a fee) to the north shore of Fontana Lake, doing our semi-annual cleanup trip, and allowing folks to hike parts of the BMT in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in addition to other hikes on Yellow Creek Mountain and in the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness.

Fontana Village has set special rates for us. To make reservations, call Fontana Village at 1-800-849-2258 and choose Option 1 for Reservations. Tell the Reservation Desk you are part of the "**Benton MacKaye Work-Walk-Week**" to get the special rates. Sample rates -Tent Campsite - \$12; Lodge Room - \$89; 2 Bedroom Cabin - \$119 (all rates plus 12.75% Sales Tax). The Village has multi-room cabins, RV sites, etc., available for the BMTA during this time.

Meals are "on-your-own" except we plan a group get together supper for Thursday evening with a big campfire at the Camping Area under Fontana Dam. We will have a full schedule of hikes, etc., closer to the dates. Hope we see you there!
For more information, email "BMTA@Frontier.com".



Membership and Outreach Go Hand in Hand

by Frank Forehand, Membership Director

BMTA's membership continues to grow. As we move into springtime our efforts at festivals will continue to bring in new members – last year, we gained 21 members from publicity events!

Our membership has increased to 429. This includes:

Individual Memberships	195
Family Memberships	97
Student/ Retired Memberships	64
Life Memberships	62
Corporate Memberships	11

To Join US, use this link, [MEMBERSHIP](#).

Every member is a BMTA ambassador and I would like to thank everyone for helping us grow — a special thanks to all who have agreed to assist with Publicity efforts at festivals in 2020. This is one of our most successful venues for recruiting new members — and it's a great opportunity to spread the word about hiking, backpacking and the work we do to maintain and protect the Benton MacKaye Trail!

Be sure to stop by BMTA's event tent at the festivals — better yet, be a part of spreading the word about the BMTA. Volunteer to help with our outreach and recruitment projects.

We definitely appreciate our Corporate Members and urge you to visit them – be sure to thank them and mention you're a member of BMTA!

This month's new & renewing Corporate Members are:

[The Black Sheep](#)



Blue Ridge, GA



[Korean Alpine Club of Georgia](#)

Atlanta, GA

Volunteer Now to Help Us Spread the Word

Be a BMTA Ambassador

Trout Fest (April 25) / 7 Trails Fest (April 25-26). Tell our guests about:

- ♦ The great opportunities for hiking & backpacking the BMT.
- ♦ The work we do to maintain & protect the BMT.

To Volunteer, Contact

[Joy, \[jwfbga@gmail.com\]\(mailto:Joy_jwfbga@gmail.com\)](mailto:Joy_jwfbga@gmail.com)

About the BMT



Trail of Tears Unicoi Turnpike Remediation Project

January 29-February 3, 2020

by Richard Harris

This massive project was completed in half the time expected, six days instead of the planned 10 days. It was accomplished with volunteers from the Benton MacKaye Trail Association and the Cherokee Hiking Club. Numerous folks volunteered their time to right a wrong done about five years ago. A little history is in order.

It has been known from long ago that the Trail of Tears (TOT) for many of the Cherokee and Creek Indians in the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina followed the Unicoi Turnpike route across the mountains through Unicoi Gap, then through Tellico, Charleston and Blythe Ferry down to Ross's Landing (Chattanooga). Probably 3000-4000 Cherokee and Creek started their journey to Oklahoma on this TOT route in 1838 and 1839. The Cherokee National Forest (CNF) purchased 400+ acres adjacent to the Doc Rogers Fields area through which the Unicoi Turnpike ran about five years ago. It was first purchased by the Conservation Fund, then turned over to the USFS.

While it was under ownership of the Conservation Fund, the CNF put in numerous tank traps (50 or so) to stop motorcycle and ATV use on the old trail, not requiring NEPA since the property was not owned by the CNF at the time. They did this without notifying the Cherokee, the Tennessee Heritage folks, the TOT Association, or any other groups. It was only discovered by the Cherokee and the CNF archeologist Quinton Bass, by accident when they went on a walk on the old route and out to Fort Armistead (also owned by the CNF). Through numerous meetings in Tellico Plains with all the involved parties, a plan was created to remove the tank traps and to develop a hiking trail on the old route as well as to develop plans for interpretative signs and possibly a visitor center.

So now over the past four years the CNF has been trying to right the wrong done. This several day project was to fill in all the tank traps, put in netting, straw bales, wattles and to plant grass in the repaired areas. Also, numerous wildflowers were planted along Peels Branch and a cedar split rail fence in the area where the TVA high tension lines cross the trail. On this project were representatives from the Cherokee, USFS, Benton MacKaye Trail Association, Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen, SAWS, Tellico/Ocoee Volunteer Trail Crew, the Coker Creek Ruritan Club and others who heard about the project and volunteered from as far away as Atlanta and Johnson City.



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The area will sit fallow for two to three years until it has recovered. Then the Unicoi Turnpike Trail will be extended from its current terminus along Joe Brown Highway through Doc Rogers Fields, this newly rehabbed area and on to the Fort Armistead site. There may even be a museum/visitor center built along with interpretive signs. That is down the road a few years.



The route of the Unicoi Turnpike through Unicoi Gap, to Tellico and to Charleston is being added to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and will receive signage similar to what is currently in the Charleston area. And this route will be added to the TOT brochures, website, etc. It will be administered by the National Park Service as part of the National Historic Trails program.



Join Now!

Use this link to become a BMTA member:

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

East Lakeshore Trail Canal Branch and Baker Hollow Segments

by Richard Harris

Rick and Brenda Harris, along with Jake (their golden retriever), led this 4.7 mile joint BMTA and Cherokee Hiking Club hike on the East Lakeshore Trail along the edge of Tellico Lake. This was the first of several section hikes on this trail planned for the next few months. All will occur on Mondays and these hikes are dog friendly (leashed).

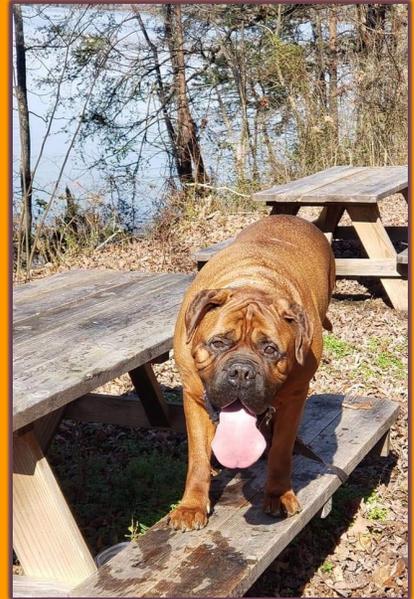


Twenty three hikers and seven dogs showed up at Sloans in Vonore. We left some cars at Pizzaria Venti across the highway, then carpooled to the trailhead near Fort Loudon Dam and the canal which joins Tellico and Fort Loudon Lakes. We left some cars at the finishing point.



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We hiked this easy, very well constructed and maintained trail along the edge of the lake, eating lunch on the way. The weather could not have been better, sunny and warm. The dogs got to play in the lake while we ate lunch sitting on driftwood. What a great hike!



Afterwards several of us ate pizza or calzones at Pizzeria Venti. The next two hikes on the East Lakeshore Trail are scheduled for Monday, March 30, and Monday, April 13.



***Time to Renew
Your Membership!***

Use this link to Renew Now:

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

Thank You Nelson Ashbrook!

by Darcy Douglas

We would like to say thank you to Nelson Ashbrook, a member of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, for dedicating his internship to our organization! The U.S. Army, his employer, has a new program to provide an internship to soldiers leaving service to encourage employment after severance.

Since Nelson is actually retiring he chose to use his time to volunteer on our trail. He will be moving to Tennessee. Consequently, he will be able to continue volunteering.

During his December 4 – March 4 internship, Nelson blazed the three longest road walks with a special new blaze that is easier to install than painting, and hopefully longer lasting. He also worked with crews in all three states on both regular and special work trips. He wasn't able to complete signage in the GSMNP due to military obligations, but has assured me he will be able to do that after his formal retirement.

Nelson and I began planning this three month service program last summer when he first asked if it would be workable. Once we had the beginnings of a plan, we communicated with the President and others with whom he might work. His training in both blazing and maintenance took place in November illustrating his commitment. He intended to do more, but discovered retiring has its own set of requirements which kept him near Ft. Benning more than he had hoped.

Thanks to his positive experiences Nelson is planning on being an active volunteer on the Benton MacKaye Trail in the future!! Hurray!! Thank you again Nelson, for choosing us!!!

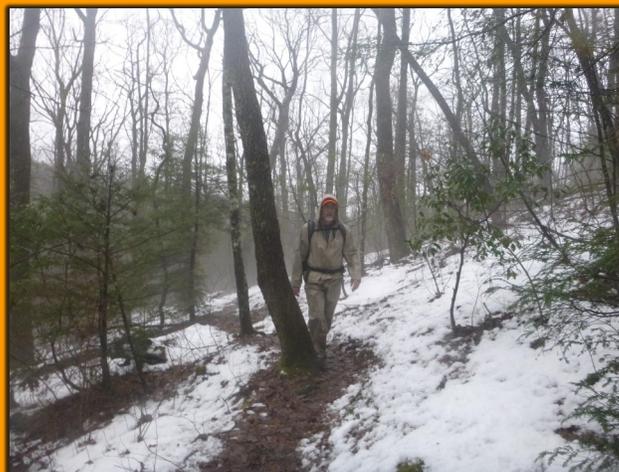
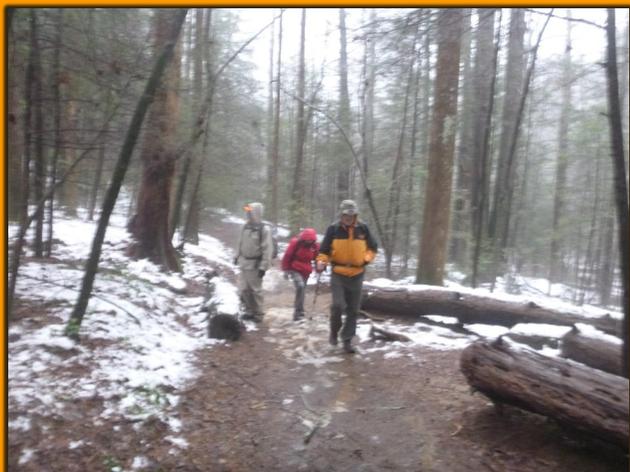
BMT from Three Forks to No Name Bald

by Ken Cissna

In order to try and beat the rain, BMTA members Tom Atcheson, Jan Minor and Steve Pruett along with hike leader Ken Cissna, got an early start on their northbound Monday, February 10, hike on the BMT from Three Forks. Unfortunately, it didn't quite work.

Luckily it wasn't really much rain and the hike was very nice. Once we got above Long Creek Falls we started seeing snow on the ground—eventually quite a lot of snow.

We side-tracked to Long Creek Falls on the way back. A lot of water was coming over those rocks. We completed our 4.6 miles in slightly over two hours. A little wet but none the worse for wear.



Dally Gap, Spanish Oaks and Big Frog Mountain

by Tom Sewell

After days and days of rain we finally had a beautiful but chilly day for a hike!

Carolyn Sewell led the group of 10 from Dally Gap to Spanish Oaks where we joined the BMT. We even did some trail maintenance clearing a few of the winter blowdowns and continued on to Hemp Top for a lunch break at the site of the old fire tower. We had fantastic views both east and west along the ridges and gaps of the trail. After the lunch break we split into two groups. Carolyn led a group of four hikers returning back down the trail but took a two mile side trip to check out the Penitentiary Trail. They found the trail well maintained but were stopped about a mile into the trail by very large blowdowns. Maybe this was to keep them from finding any stray inmates. Their trip of 10 miles got them back to Dally Gap and then they did the shuttle trip to pick up the second group of hikers.



Hikers left to right: Scott Jones, Francis Burdick, Carolyn Sewell, Paul Black, Daisey Jones, Ken Cissna, Fred Woodward, Joyce Woodward and Jane Trentin.



Tom Sewell led the balance of the group further along the BMT, crossing into Tennessee at Double Spring Gap.

Now the hiking fun started with an 800 foot elevation climb over 0.7 mile. We made it and once we got to the BMT Intersection with the Licklog Trail, we were rewarded with an easy ascent to Big Frog Mountain. Upon reaching our high point at 4,224 feet it was a great feeling to know it was all downhill from there!

We continued on the BMT to the junction of the Big Frog Trail which we then followed to the trailhead where we were met by Carolyn Sewell and Joyce Woodward. It was great to see them after our 12.5 mile hike for our ride out.

To celebrate the event with a great group of hikers we stopped in at the Buck Bald Brewery in Copperhill.

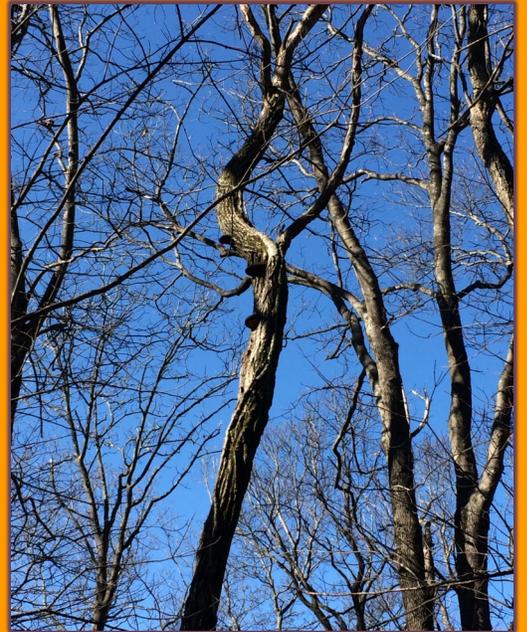
Next Time is Now

by Kathy Williams

Ever since I moved to Blue Ridge I have wanted to go on the BMTA Hike Inn overnight hike. For four years it was always “next time.” Next time was now!



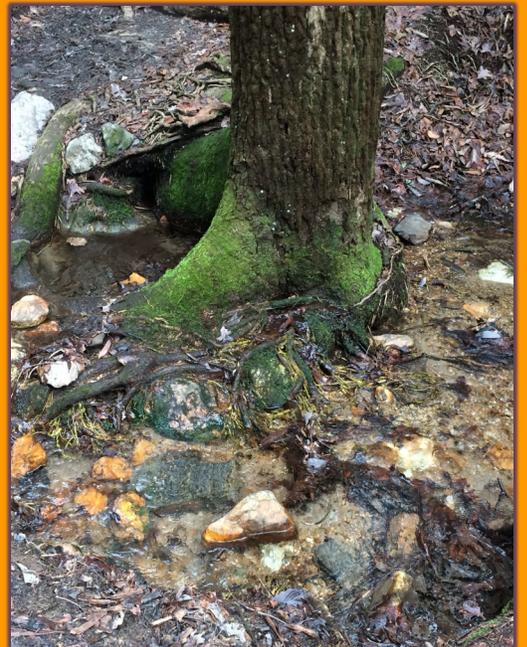
We left early enough to stay ahead of the weather that was on its way. We were rewarded with some incredible views!



I noticed some interesting fungi at the top of this tree. Looked like steps for Leprechauns!



“It ain’t heavy. It’s my brother!”



It’s almost like the tree is going to walk out of the stream!

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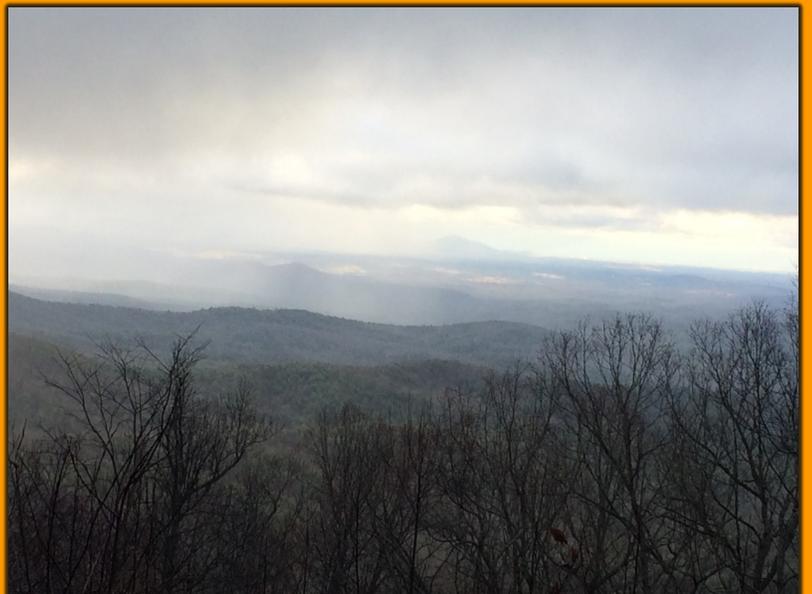
The weather was starting to catch us as Ken and Paul paused beside a tree that will be 300 years old in 2023!



A rich burgundy beauty.



Maybe a relative of Charlie Brown's kite eating tree?



Peace.

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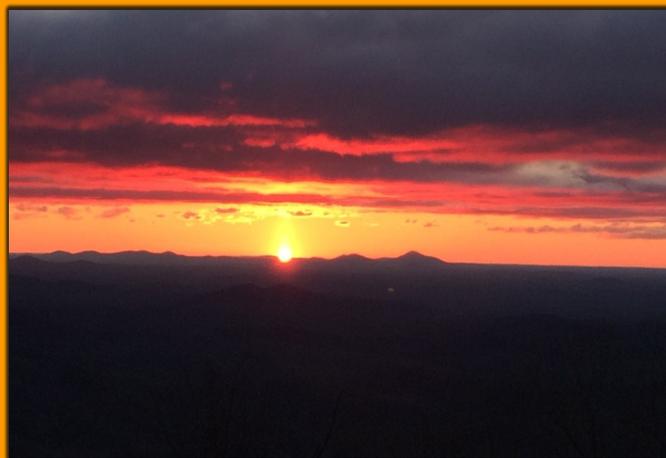
Star Base Celestial Calendar. The Len Foote Inn's Stonehenge.



Our five o'clock tour included the worm beds and toilet composting facility. The Hike Inn achieved LEED Platinum status level in 2019.



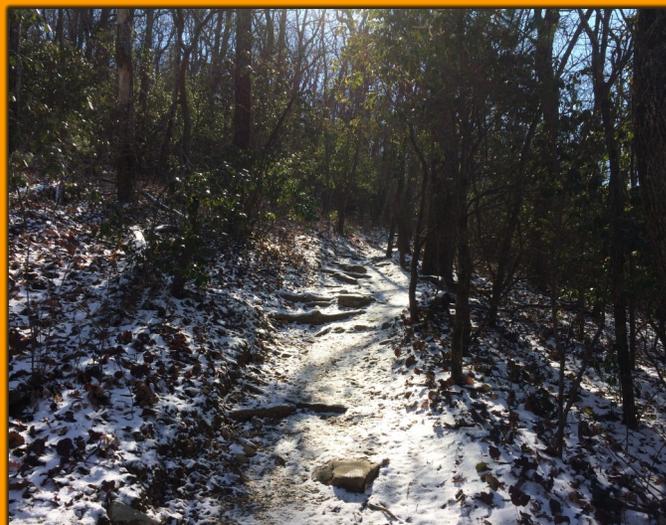
The evolution of the backpack is visualized upon the Lodge wall beginning with a basket model and ending with the minimalist one in use today.



Sunrise as only the mountains can do!



Some of our BMTA hikers with Ken and Mike demonstrating their janitorial skills! They both volunteer at the Hike Inn as well as with the BMTA.



Snow during the night left the trail dusted like the inside of a snow globe.

Upcoming Hikes

by Ken Cissna, Hiking Director

BMTA normally schedules four or five hikes per month, some “leisure” hikes that are shorter and easier and some five to eight miles and of moderate difficulty. In addition, we have occasional backpacking hikes and more difficult ones that might be called “hardy hikes.” Occasionally we co-sponsor hikes with other organizations. Some, but not all of our hikes are “dog friendly.” Although more hikes are in Georgia than the other states, you will find hikes in all three BMT states: Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. If you are interested in leading a hike or have a hike you’d like to see us offer with someone else leading, please contact me at hikeleader@bmta.org.

The hikes for the next few months are listed below. We’re moving into spring with the chance to view fabulous wildflower displays. More hikes will be forthcoming, so check the Activities Calendar of the website, BMTA’s Facebook page, our various email alerts and next month’s newsletter for updates. Enjoy.

March

March 10 (Tuesday) Leisure Hike: Bear Creek Trail. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate. Hike leader: Martha Fowler. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

March 11 (Wednesday) Gahuti Loop Trail at Fort Mountain State Park. 8.2 moderate to strenuous miles. Beginning and ending at the Cool Springs Overlook, the trail follows high ground to the park entrance, then descends to the lake and Rock Creek. A long ascent begins and continues back to the overlook. Hiking poles are recommended.

Hike leader Mike Pilvinsky. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

March 12 (Thursday) Four Trails Loop at Fort Mountain State Park. About 5 moderate miles. Beginning near the main entrance along GA Highway 52, we will follow the Gahuti Trail clockwise to the Goldmine Creek Trail, then the Lakeside Nature Trail to Big Rock Nature Trail, and then back on the Lakeside and Gahuti trail to the start point. Highlights are cascading creeks, a lakeside walk and ends with a moderate uphill walk.

Hike leader Mike Pilvinsky. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

March 20 (Friday) Wagon Train Trail – Brasstown Bald. Co-sponsored with Georgia Forest Watch. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). 5 miles, easy-moderate. Two miles of gentle downhill to the overlook and back, plus up to the tower if we’re feeling like that. Besides the views, we’ll be hoping for the spectacular ice formations on the trailside cliffs (if temperatures cooperate). BMTA and GFW members only.

Contact hike leaders Sue Harmon of GFW at suepharmon@gmail.com or 770-540-3672 or Ken Cissna of BMTA at hikeleader@bmtamail.org or 706-636-1741.

March 21 (Saturday) BMT: Three Forks across the Swinging Bridge over the Toccoa River to Highway 60. 12.4 miles, moderate difficulty—about 1465’ elevation change (Note: Some of us may stop at the Swinging Bridge, 8.7 miles). Significant shuttle.

Hike leader Tom Sewell. For further information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

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March 30 (Monday) East Lakeshore Trail – Glendale Bridge and Coytee. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).
5.2 miles, easy.

Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris. For more information, contact harrisri@aol.com.



April

April 3 (Friday) Selected Trails of Boling Park (Canton). DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).
About 5 miles, easy-moderate.

Hike leaders Ken Cissna and Howard Baggett. For further information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

April 4 (Saturday) BMT: Highway 60 to the scenic Swinging Bridge over the Toccoa River and back.
7.4 miles, moderate.

Hike leader Steve Dennison. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

April 14 (Tuesday) Identifying Wild Mushrooms along the BMT in the Robbinsville NC area.
4 miles, easy to moderate. Mark your calendar for this one—it's sure to be a very special experience!
BMTA members Jim Kriner (botanist) and Kim Hainge (Entomologist and Naturalist) will lead a hike of approximately 4 miles starting at 10:00am at the Tapoco Lodge. We will head up to Yellowhammer Gap, then along Ike Branch and return on the Slickrock Trail leading back to the Lodge. See details on page three.

Hike leaders Jim Kriner, Kim Hainge, and Clare Sullivan. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

April 18 (Saturday) BMT Kimsey Hwy to Thunder Rock Campground in TN.
5.7 miles, moderate. Starting with a ¾ mile stretch with 500' uphill elevation change, then it's downhill all the way to the Ocoee River. This is just a spectacular hike along mostly a ridge. The shuttle is 15 miles (45 minutes). Kimsey "Hwy" is a historic Indian Trail. Views of the Hiwassee River Watershed from the top of the Kimsey Hwy are just breath taking.

Hike leader Tom Sewell. For further information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

April 25 (Saturday) Wildcat Creek Loop.
5 miles, moderate. Beginning at Wildcat Creek Campground, much of the trail runs near Wildcat Creek.

Hike Leader Steve Dennison. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

April 27 (Monday) BMT: Trillium extravaganza northbound from Hudson Gap.
About 6 moderate miles on the BMT from Hudson Gap to McKinney Gap toward Fowler Mountain. Magnificent fields of trillium and other spring flowers along the way. Bring your flower ID guides and cameras. High clearance vehicles are recommended from Bushy Head Gap to the trailhead.

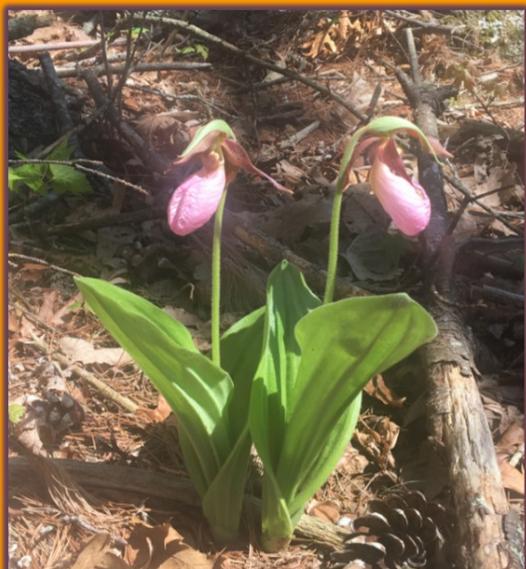
Hike leader: Mike Pilvinsky. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

April 28 (Tuesday) BMT Towee Creek to Childers Creek (Reliance TN area).
4.2 miles, moderate. An absolutely gorgeous hike! The highest point 1,089' down the side of a ridge to 744' elevation paralleling the beautiful Hiwassee River. Hiking sticks recommended. Short shuttle.

Hike leader: Clare Sullivan. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

April 29 (Wednesday) Wildflower Stroll and a Picnic Lunch at Mulky Gap.
1.5 miles, easy to moderate. The first stop on our itinerary is just across from the trailhead where you'll see huge gardens of the delicate Pink Lady Slippers orchids. We'll then depart from the trailhead in the opposite direction for a leisurely stroll among Trillium, Wild Geranium, Wild Iris and Showy Orchis -- just a few of the spring beauties to be seen. After lunch in a forest clearing, we'll return via the Duncan Ridge Trail to pass by vibrant Flame Azaleas as well as some huge Pink Lady Slippers.

For further information, contact hike leader Joy Forehand at jgeftwitter@gmail.com.



Continued next page

May

May 2 (Saturday) Bald River Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog) 9 miles, moderate.

Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris. For more information, contact harrisri@aol.com.

May 6 (Wednesday) Lady Slipper Hike: Fall Branch Falls to Weaver Creek on BMT. 6.2 miles, moderate to strenuous (1300' up, 1400' down). We'll pause to watch the water cascade down Fall Branch Falls and later enjoy a leisurely lunch atop Rocky Mountain. Along the way, Trillium and Lady Slipper gardens will provide the perfect backdrop for the hike. Shuttle.

For further information, contact hike leader Joy Forehand at jgeftwitter@gmail.com.

May 8 (Friday) Jarrard Gap Trail.

6.8 miles, moderate. A loop hike from Lake Winfield Scott up Jarrard Gap Trail to Bird Gap and then back down to Slaughter Creek Trail.

Hike leader: Larry Dumas. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

May 16 (Saturday) BMT: Northbound from Bushy Head Gap. Approximately 6 miles, moderate.

Hike leader Steve Dennison. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

May 18 (Monday) East Lakeshore Trail – Jackson Bend. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). 5.1 miles, easy.

Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris. For more information, contact harrisri@aol.com.



Save the Dates!

November 13-15, 2020

BMTA Hike Fest and Annual Meeting

Unicoi Lodge - Helen, GA

For reservations call (800) 573-9659.

To receive your discount -

Mention the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, Use Code 08174!

**The deadline for the April Newsletter is Monday, March 30.
Thank you!**