



2022 Annual Meeting & Hike Fest Last Minute Notes

The 2022 Benton MacKaye Trail Association Annual Meeting will take place on November 3-6 centered at Fontana Village. All the activities are open to the public, although only Members can vote during the election of officers. The info below is specifically for local folks who might wish to participate, but are not staying at Fontana Village, so it does vary a bit from the schedule to be handed out at the actual event.

Thursday - November 3rd. Hike from Fontana Dam to Route 28 via Paint and Orr Cemeteries. This is a shuttle hike, so please meet me at the Fontana Gas Station, "The Pitstop" at 1:30 PM so that we can spot a couple of vehicles at the end point and get back to the Lodge at 2 PM. From there, we will drive to the Fontana Dam Visitors' Center and park (Dam is closed to vehicular traffic currently). We will hike across the Dam and up the Appalachian Trail to Paint Cemetery, then follow an old gravel road to the Orr Cemetery, then down to Route 28, where Margaret will be waiting with a "special surprise" for the hikers. This is an easy 3.- mile hike in a very seldom visited park of the National Park. Probably finish up about 4:30 PM.

Friday - November 4th. We have two great hikes, both starting from Big Fat Gap. Randy Bullock is leading a group up the Hangover and back, while I am leading a group on the BMT down Windy Gap Trail to Nichols Cove, then follow the Yellow Hammer Trail and end up at Tapoco Lodge, so a vehicle shuttle will be necessary. Folks will be leaving the Village at 9 AM, but local folks can just meet at Big Fat Gap or Tapoco Lodge, so let me know so I can arrange shuttles. These are both good, but difficult hikes, rated Moderate for Nichols Cove and Difficult for the Hangover Trip.

After the hikes, there will be a Social Hour and Cash Bar at the Events Hall at Fontana, starting at 5 PM and running until 7 PM, and the Wildwood Grill will be open for Dinner. This is open to all.

Saturday - November 5th. Although there are a couple of easy hikes planned, the featured hike is a Boat Trip to Proctor. We plan on an early Boat departing the Marina at 8:30 with a bit more hiking, and a later boat departing at 9:30. Both groups will meet at the Proctor Bridge at 10 AM and visit the Proctor Cemetery, then the early group will hike another 3.5 miles on the BMT to Lost Cove for a 3:30 pickup, with the others returning to Proctor for a 2:30 pickup.

For local folks, just go to the Marina about 15-20 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time rather than going to the Village. There is a \$25 fee payable at Departure to the Marina, but please let me know if you plan on going, as the capacity of the boat is limited!!!! If you don't tell me by Friday 6 PM, I can't guarantee space.

After return, there will be a Cash Bar at the Events Hall, followed by the Annual Meeting at 5 PM with election of Officers, then the Awards Banquet at 6:30 PM. Please let me know if you want to attend the Banquet. There is a charge for the meal.

Following the Banquet, our featured speaker will be Angelina Jumper, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Cultural Resource Supervisor.

Sunday - November 6th. I am leading a late-morning hike on the Bear Pen Gap Section of the BMT between Old Field Gap Road and Tapoco Lodge. Since this will require a shuttle, please let me know so I can arrange vehicles.

Thursday – November 3, 2022

Thursday Hike Fest – sign-up in Fontana Lodge Lobby

Hike begins from Fontana Lodge Lobby at 2:00

Get your name tag and the schedule.

Friday – November 4, 2022

Friday Hike Fest – sign-ups moved to Events Building Lobby

Hikes begin from Events Building Porch at 9:00

3:30 – 7:00 – BMTA Store Open, Raffle Tickets for sale, Event Hall

4:00-5:00 PM – BMTA Board Meeting – Events Building, Card Room

4:30 – 7:00 – Cash Bar open, Events Building, Event Hall

5:00 PM – Friday Night Social – Events Building – Event Hall

Cash Bar till 7:00 PM

Hike Fest sign-up sheets in Event Hall

Wildwood Grill and Bar open for dinner next to Events Building

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS regarding the Featured Hike to be made at the Friday Night Social

Saturday – November 5, 2022

Saturday Hike Fest – sign-ups in Event Hall

Hikes begin from Events Building Porch

4:30 BMTA Store Open and raffle tickets/items available
Events Building – Event Hall

4:30 – 8:00 Cash Bar – Events Building, Event Hall

5:00 – 6:00 Annual Meeting – all members please sign-in

6:30 – Awards Banquet

8:00 – Introduction of Featured Speaker, Dick Evans

Featured Speaker, Angelina Jumper, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian’s Cultural Resources
Supervisor, Junaluska Museum

8:30 – BMTA Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony & Raffle

Sunday, November 8, 2022

Sunday Hike Fest – hike starts from Fontana Lodge Lobby at 9:30