



BMTA OCTOBER HIKE FEST TO CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENTON MACKAYE'S TREATISE PROPOSING THE AT

BMTA Recently Updated Hiking Guidelines

Because hiking in the outdoors is good for one's mental and physical health, we encouraged BMTA members and others to continue hiking during the COVID-19 health crisis *and to do so safely*. Thus, we continued our hiking program during 2020 and 2021.

Due to the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, we have further modified our hiking program:

- 1) We have resumed allowing shuttle hikes but caution that (a) no hikers should ride with another or have another ride with them if they are concerned about their safety and (b) unvaccinated hikers should not assume that others will want to ride in vehicles with them.
- 2) Carpooling is permitted but not required.
- 3) Any potential hiker who is feeling ill or has been exposed recently to a person with an active case of COVID-19 must not come on a hike.
- 4) Hikes are limited to a maximum of 10 participants in Tennessee and North Carolina and 12 participants in Georgia. Hike leaders may impose lower limits.
- 5) Masks are optional, but hikers should maintain an appropriate distance from one another.

GEORGIA HIKES

BMT/AT Loop from Big Stamp Gap – 5 Miles, moderate hike (600' elevation change), 3 minor creek crossings. Trip will include Springer Mtn. (the southern start of the AT), the Benton MacKaye memorial placard at the start of the BMT, and Owen Vista; a beautiful open view of the southeastern Appalachian Mountains.

- ◆ October 1 (Friday) – Contact Hike Leader: Darcy Douglas, HikeLeaderDD@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 4 (Monday) – Contact Hike Leader: Steve Dennison, HikeLeaderSD@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 5 (Tuesday) – Contact Hike Leader: Gilbert Tredwell, HikeLeaderGT@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 18 (Monday) – Contact Hike Leader: Steve Dennison, HikeLeaderSD@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 24 (Sunday) – Contact Hike Leader: Ken Cissna, HikeLeaderKC@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 30 (Saturday) – Contact Hike Leader: Barry Allen, HikeLeaderBA@bmtamail.org

BMT/AT Double Loop Hike West from Three Forks – This moderate 6-mile hike (650' elevation change) covers the lower north flank and top of Rich Mountain.

- ◆ October 1 (Friday) – Contact Hike Leader: Steve Dennison, HikeLeaderSD@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 4 (Monday) – Contact Hike Leader: Darcy Douglas, HikeLeaderDD@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 12 (Tuesday) – Contact Hike Leader: Gilbert Tredwell, HikeLeaderGT@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 27 (Wednesday) – Contact Hike Leader: Ken Cissna, HikeLeaderKC@bmtamail.org

BMT/AT Loop Three Forks to Long Creek Falls to Hickory Flats, then FS Road to No Name Bald & Rejoining the BMT Back to Three Forks – 7.5 moderate miles. 1,000' elevation gain.

- ◆ October 5 (Tuesday) – Contact Hike Leader: Darcy Douglas, HikeLeaderDD@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 8 (Friday) – Contact Hike Leader: Gilbert Tredwell, HikeLeaderGT@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 29 (Friday) – Contact Hike Leader: Ken Cissna, HikeLeaderKC@bmtamail.org

TENNESSEE HIKES

BMT Trail from Hwy 68 to Buck Bald and Return – 4 Miles round trip. Incomparable 360° view of the Appalachian Mountains. Parking area limited to ~8 vehicles. Buck Bald is ½ mile off the BMT.

- ◆ October 4 (Monday) – Contact Hike Leader: Clare Sullivan, HikeLeaderCC2@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 15 (Friday) – Contact Hike Leader: Steve Dennison, HikeLeaderSD@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 20 (Wednesday) – Contact Hike Leader: Steve Dennison, HikeLeaderSD@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 26 (Tuesday) – Contact Hike Leader: Ann Anderson, HikeLeaderAA@bmtamail.org

Unicoi Gap on the Benton MacKaye Trail to the Doc Rogers' House – It is an 9 strenuous mile section 1,000' elevation change, with a beautiful ridge line walk along the NC/TN state line, and the added attractions of seeing an old engraved stone marker on the ridge marking the state line, and the “old” Doc Rogers' house, in ruins, with rock walls over 3 stories high still standing. Beginning and ending at the historic Unicoi Gap in TN: meetup location is Coker Creek Welcome Center, TN.

- ◆ **October 30 (Saturday)** – Contact Hike Leader: Phyllis Jones, HikeLeaderPJ@bmtamail.org

NORTH CAROLINA/SMOKEY MOUNTAIN HIKES

End of the BMT at Big Creek to the End of AT Smokey Mountain Section at Davenport Gap – 5-mile moderate/strenuous hike. 1 mile road walk on GSNP road to Chestnut Branch trail up to AT then down to Davenport Gap. 4 miles 1800' gain and 1300' loss. Requires a short shuttle if not done as in-and-out for 10 miles.

- ◆ October 23 (Friday) – Contact Hike Leader: Tom and Carolyn Sewell, HikeLeaderTS@bmtamail.org

BMT Road to Nowhere, “Tunnel to Nowhere” to Campsite #74 – 6.5 moderate miles, Bryson City.

- ◆ October 19 (Tuesday) – Contact Hike Leader: Mike Pilvinsky, HikeLeaderMP@bmtamail.org

Fontana Dam Area. BMT/AT divergence near the end of Fontana Dam to same on the south side near the Marina. 3 easy miles. Could be done as a shuttle or start at multiple access points and done as round trips of up to 6 miles. Parking is abundant, great views of the lake and possibly visit the Dam Visitor center.

- ◆ October 18 (Monday) -- Contact Hike Leader: Tom and Carolyn Sewell, HikeLeaderTS@bmtamail.org
- ◆ October 29 (Friday) – Contact Hike Leader: Steve Dennison HikeLeaderSD@bmtamail.org