



The Benton MacKaye Plaque

A bronze plaque honoring visionary forester, Benton MacKaye, for whom the trail is named, is a tenth of a mile northbound from the southern terminus of the Benton MacKaye Trail. Known for his advocacy for the Appalachian Trail (AT), the route for the BMT closely resembles MacKaye's proposed southern spur route that would have extended the AT into north-central Georgia. The plaque was installed in 1997.

"Former member Tom Wright of DeKalb County and a friend of mine, wrote the words," said George Owen, one of six founding members of the BMTA. "Two or three of us edited it a bit and cut down the length of the wording ... but basically it is Tom Wright's content."

Wright remembered the day the plaque was installed well. "Another member who was retired military and I carried the plaque to where it is today," said Wright during an interview last year. "We used hand tools to flatten the stone and drill the holes ... also used a special glue to hold it in place."

Wright passed away in February - BMTAers have many fond memories of working with Wright, including Ted Reissing, BMTA's President in 1990.

"I knew Tom well," said Reissing. "My best recollection of him is that when he built trail, it was like a 'super highway'. He had great construction skills."

A memorial hike was held on the BMT near the Thunder Rock Campground – Wright had installed many of the original wooden and rock steps near the beginning of that trail.



Benton MacKaye Trail Association

PO Box 6

Cherry Log, GA 30522