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BMTA Headquarters



VOLUME 33, ISSUE 7

JULY 2016

President's Column

July 2016 by Bob Ruby

BMTA Annual Meeting: Time to Act !

Have you made your reservations for the annual meeting at the beautiful Tapoco Lodge on the weekend of November 4-6?

We have a block of rooms reserved at the lodge for the weekend, at a reduced rate. But the unclaimed rooms will be released September 9. Look for details in this newsletter. Make sure to ask for the BMTA meeting rate. **Don't miss out on this great weekend!**

Repair on Sisson Bridge

On June 22 Tom Keene and Ken Cissna, while scouting for the July work trip, reported: *"The bridge between the Sisson shelter and Indian Rock Lake is in bad shape and pretty hazardous. It needs attention as soon as someone can manage it."*

After a flurry of emails, Marty Dominy, long time BMTA engineer/maintainer, undertook the repair and reported: *"As of 6:40 PM on Wednesday, June 29, 2016, the bridge below Indian Lake in Section 7 is repaired. It is not a thing of beauty, but the bridge is functional. The load carrying capacity of the bridge is slightly less than before, so I wouldn't line up for a group picture on the bridge. I walked across it after finishing the work, and no excessive movement was detected."*

Thanks to Marty for his skills, hard work and continuing dedication to the BMT!



Greening Youth Foundation Crew

During July the Blue Ridge Ranger District arranged to have the services of a six person crew from the Greening Youth Foundation to work on trails in the North Georgia area. This diverse crew included a mix of young men and women from the Morganton area as well as the Atlanta area. They spent three weeks working on both the BMT and the AT. During their time on the BMT they maintained Section 2c with Barry Allen, Section 2a & 2b with George Owen and Darcy Douglas, and Sections 1a & 8a with me. They also helped Barry carry a load of heavy 6x6 lumber up to Fall Branch Falls for the cribbing on the ramp which will be the final phase of that reroute.



Greening Youth Foundation Workers at the Owen Overlook

New FS National Saw Policy

On July 19 the Forest Service published a final directive revising Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2350 to establish training, evaluation, and certification requirements for the use of chain saws and crosscut saws on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The new policy is intended to increase consistency and reciprocity of certifications across Forest Service units.

It is anticipated that next year a National Sawyer Database will be implemented to document the status of sawyer certifications for NFS staff and volunteers. In the interim a newly reformatted saw card will be issued when sawyers successfully complete certification training. Current certifications will be good for the remainder of their existing three-year periods. There is no change in the requirement for current CPR/First Aid certification. See the following page for the new card.



United States Department of Agriculture

National Sawyer Certification Card

(Ref. FSM 2358)

Sawyer Name: <input type="text"/>	Date Issued: <input type="text"/>	Sawyer Address: <input type="text"/>
Agency: US Forest Service <input type="text"/>	Region: Region 9 <input type="text"/>	
Cooperator: N/A <input type="text"/>	Forest: <input type="text"/>	Unit: <input type="text"/>



Forest Service

FS-2300-53 (v09/2016)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Chain Saw Expiration	Crosscut Saw Expiration	Skill Level	Evaluator
		A Sawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Felling	
		B Sawyer — Bucking Only	
		B Sawyer — Felling and Bucking	
		C Sawyer — Bucking Only	
		C Sawyer — Felling and Bucking	
		C Sawyer — Evaluator	

Certifying Official Signature:	Title:	Date:
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BOOK BY SEPT 9 TO ENSURE YOUR ROOM!

BMTA Annual Meeting November 4-6 at Historic Tapoco Lodge

by Tom Keene



This year's BMTA annual meeting will be at the Historic Tapoco Lodge near Robbinsville, North Carolina.

A Weekend of Activities: We will have hikes of various lengths and difficulty beginning Friday after lunch, during the day Saturday, and again Sunday morning. Friday evening will see an informal social evening in the Tapoco River Grill and, for those who wish, a feature film in the lodge's Tin Can Theatre. Saturday evening brings the annual meeting and banquet in the lodge's Jasper Event Space.

Lodging Reservations: Lodging reservations and payment must be made **directly** with the Tapoco Lodge or other location. **Be sure to ask for the BMTA meeting rate.**

Meeting Registration/Payment for Saturday Dinner: Meeting registration and payment for the dinner (\$25 per person) will become available on line via the BMTA website, or by mail as we get closer to the date.

- **The Tapoco Lodge Website:** <http://tapocolodge.com/>
- **Annual Meeting Discount Prices at Tapoco Lodge:** Lodge or cabin rooms regularly start at \$119 per night, as shown on the website. Prices start at \$99 with the Annual Meeting Weekend discount. **Be sure to ask for BMTA meeting rates when you call to reserve a room. We have a block of rooms saved until September 9 so don't delay! Book NOW!**
- **Camping Options:** Both of these sites are **first come, first served**. Neither will have drinking water after October 31. So BYO or filter.
Calderwood Campground: Located about a mile north of the lodge on US129 at Lake Calderwood.
NSF'S Horse Cove Campground: Near the entrance to Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest; 12.7 miles and 23 minutes from the lodge.
- **Other lodging options:** The **Phillips Motel** and the **Microtel Inn and Suites** both in Robbinsville, NC (15 miles and 21 minutes) have rooms starting about \$65.

40th Annual Spring Arts in the Park Festival

by Marcia Lehman

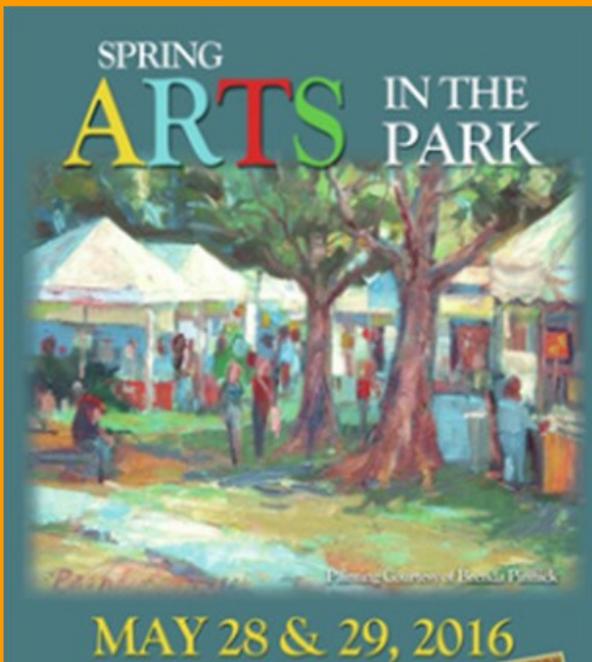
BMTA was a big hit at the Spring Arts in the Park Festival held in Blue Ridge, GA on May 28-29! According to the Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association, the sponsor of Arts in the Park, this year's festival was estimated to have had over 11,000 visitors. The event is always held over the Memorial Day holiday weekend when the Blue Ridge area enjoys a large influx of tourists and this year's sunny weather also enticed people to come and spend time at the festival.

A big **'THANK YOU'** to all the members who helped staff our tent during these two days as well as the setup and take down of our tent: Larry Dumas, Hank Baudet, Ken Cissna, Mike Pilvinsky, Sherry Petraroli, Jim & Mary Tidwell, Joy & Frank Forehand, Howard Baggett, Jane Olds, Lina Prince. Without these volunteers, we wouldn't have been so successful.

We estimate that we had over 125 people stop by and talk with us about BMTA and hiking in general; 20 of whom expressed interest in trail maintenance. A mark of success to be sure!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FALL EVENTS!!!!

We'll be back for the Fall Arts in the Park Festival on October 8-9 in Blue Ridge and the Apple Festival, October 15-16 in Ellijay. We would greatly appreciate your help in staffing our tent, promoting BMTA and hiking in general. In other words, just talk to people and answer questions on what you know and are passionate about. If you are interested and available for a 3-hour shift any of these days, we would welcome your involvement. Contact Marcia Lehman, Co-Chair of Publicity, [mlehman10 AT yahoo.com](mailto:mlehman10@ yahoo.com) and she will gladly put you on the schedule. Thanks!!!



We later received this email that testifies to the effectiveness of increasing awareness of the BMTA and its importance to the hiking community.

Marcia-Good Day

My wife and I have recently purchased land in the Cashes Valley area. On our way up to our property we ride on Bushyhead Rd and have noticed the Benton MacKaye trail signs are in rough shape. At this point in our lives we don't have a lot of money to donate to the trail however we do have some talent. I own a computerized CNC Mill Router and would like to offer my services to make a new sign for the trail that would replace the sign on Bushyhead. I have recently signed your guest book at the Blue Ridge Arts and craft show.

Let me know if you're interested. Bob Miceli

TN/NC Monthly Work Trip - June 25, 2016

by Ken Jones

The work day turned out to be the typical hot and humid weather that we can expect for this time of year with temperatures in the mid-90s. Nevertheless, seven hardy trail workers showed up to tackle the southern portion of Section 12a, the Dry Pond Lead Trail. We started up the trail from Highway 64 with a crosscut saw crew, and another crew working on brushing out the annual growth. The crosscut crew got to tackle a total of 10 trees for the day, with the largest being an 18" oak that had recently come down across the trail.



Ken and Barry getting serious!!

The brush out crew got to tackle the infamous under power line growth. This 150 yard stretch of trail is always in the sun, and is home to some vicious vegetation. The entire work crew was careful to drink lots of fluids and take frequent breaks to work safely in the hot conditions. The crosscut team completed logging out the blow downs for the first 1.5 miles of the section to the Rock Creek Trail intersection. The brush out crew was able to clear the first 3/4 mile of the trail. We also were glad to welcome a first time trail worker, Alan Peebles, and hope that he can make many more trips with us in the future. A special thanks goes out to Barry Allen who came up to work with us, and also to Phyllis Jones who served watermelon and cold drinks when we came off the trail.

Thank you to the following volunteers who made this a safe and productive work trip: Phyllis Jones, Ken Jones, Bobby Mitchell, Barry Allen, John Rowland, Ralph Van Pelt, and Allen Peebles.



Real men clear trails!!

OCOEE RIVER HIKE

By Claire Sullivan and Clayton Webster

Scrumptious wild raspberries, delicious blackberries, wild hydrangeas, sumac, lots of maidenhair fern, and beautiful rosebay rhododendron in bloom were some of the beautiful plants we enjoyed along our 5.76 mile hike!



We began our hike with a visit to a bridge over the Ocoee River a short distance downstream from the Ocoee Whitewater Center. When we got there, the river was just a small trickle. This gave us a great view of the kayak course from the 1996 Olympics. On Saturdays water is let out of the dam at 8:30 a.m. It takes 1.5 hours for the water to reach this part of the river. After a loud siren warned of the impending water release the riverbed filled in a matter of minutes with rafters and kayakers following shortly. Sixty thousand tons of rocks were added to the riverbed to construct the Olympic course with 14 artificial rock formations contributing to the challenge of the course. It is an impressive sight to watch the river change from a docile stream into a raging torrent!

The full 11e BMT Section is within the Cherokee National Forest, and is an easy downhill stroll from 1,900 feet to the low point of 1,120 feet along the southern bank of the Ocoee River. The BMT is shared with the national forest's Chestnut Loop, West Fork and Thunder Rock Trails. After crossing FS Road 45 it descends steeply through a rhododendron-lined ravine to Thunder Rock Campground. This day the Fireman's Water Rescue Academy was holding classes for TN firemen in the river at the campground.



Here is the water as it comes down the dry riverbed. Not too much later than when this picture was taken, all the rocks shown were under water.

Ocoee is the English-tongue for the Cherokee word for "Apricot Place," meaning the passionflower of today. A Cherokee settlement near the Ocoee's confluence with the Hiwassee was named "Ocoee". There is the upper (Olympic) section and the lower section which is sometimes called the middle section. Some outfitters have an all day trip with lunch served between the two sections. For the most part, they are only permitted to run trips on weekends and holidays or on some long weekends. This is because there are about four dams that control the river flow so they can generate electricity. All rafters have to pay a fee that is added to each trip to make up for lost power revenue. The fee goes to TVA.

After seeing the exciting water release, we set up a car shuttle to take us up the mountain to start our hike. The section of trail we were on is also a mountain bike trail. We did see a couple of bikers but only one other hiker before reaching the Rhododendron Trail from the campground to the picnic area where the rest of our cars were.



A treat we rarely ever find is ripe wild red raspberries. They were in several places and enabled everyone to eat their fill.



Clare points out one of the few spots on this part of the trail that standing water collects.

In addition to finding lots of wild red raspberries, we also found quite a few ripe blackberries too. Clare told us that the trail had actually been at one point a main highway between Copper Hill and Cleveland. At this point it looked very similar to an old logging road. One reason Clare and Ed are so knowledgeable about this area is that they both volunteer every week for the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Clare works in the Visitors Center every Wednesday while Ed volunteers with trail maintenance. This section of the BMT is also one that they maintain. Clare showed us two different trees where she has, while hiking alone to monitor the trail conditions, been startled to find black bears up in the trees. On both occasions the bears have climbed swiftly down the tree and run off into the forest.

Our hike took us down to a campground that was almost completely full. At the edge of the campground we picked up the Rhododendron Trail that followed the river upstream to our vehicles. This trail was well named as we passed many Rosebay Rhododendrons in peak bloom.

While walking along the river we got to see many rafts and kayaks bouncing downstream through the churning waters. One raft capsized! All the rafters and their paddles spilled out! The guide miraculously got on top of the raft as it careened down the river upside down and spinning around! He could not guide it, but finally grabbed a tree limb that extended out over the water and pulled himself and the raft to safety. Trailing rafts were picking up the floating rafters.

When we reached our vehicles, several long picnic tables were available right by the river. Everyone was ready for lunch. We enjoyed watching the rafts come through the rapids as we ate. Several of our hikers took a short walk up to the Visitors Center. They have a great shop on the lower level and lots of maps, rafting, and trail information on the upper level.



This raft made it without capsizing!!

After the hike Tom took his carpoolers to an amazing sight of a large military helicopter suspended high in a tree canopy near the Ocoee River. It is staged to look as if it crashed there, but it is said to have been moved in there. It must've taken lots of big equipment to get it high into the trees. One would not normally notice it this time of year. Tom first saw it in the winter time when the leaves were off the trees.



Nothing like water, woods and hiking friends!!

A Diverting Day on Section Seven

by Tom Keene

Georgia Work trip – July 9, 2016

Section Seven of the BMT passes through the Sisson's Cherry Log Mountain development just west of Highway 515. This area may not have the romantic appeal of a trail through remote areas, but it has some very pretty areas where it runs up stream coves lined on both sides by thick bands of rhododendron. Our July Georgia work trip involved building and refreshing water diversions up one of these coves, the pretty cove just trailnorth of Indian Rock Lake.



Ralph Heller and Ken Cissna preside over a fine specimen of a water diversion.

Major thanks to the members of our excellent crew, who showed up despite a weather report that predicted high heat and possible thundershowers. In this event their faith was rewarded. The weather could not have been better:

- ◆ a couple of good overnight showers softened the ground for our digging,
- ◆ it did not rain at all while we worked, the temperature barely cracked 80 degrees
- ◆ we worked almost entirely in deep shade

Our crew of eight got a tremendous amount done, over 20 water diversions refreshed or built from scratch, some of them very large projects that required moving quite a bit of dirt.



Our group seen here at lunch amidst the ferns. Left to right: Paul Brame, Howard Baggett, Clare Sullivan, Barry Allen, Bob Ruby, Ken Cissna & Ralph Heller. Photo by TK.

Special thanks: to Howard Blaggett a first-timer who did a super job. Great to see Paul back in action after surgery. Also to Ken Cissna who helped scout, and flag the trip and served as co-leader. And... we appreciate Clare joining us all the way from the great state of Tennessee!

Thanks again, everybody. Well done!



TN/NC Monthly Work Trip - July 23, 2016

By Ken Jones

We had a small but dedicated crew of four that worked on brushing out BMT Section 17d in the Cheoah Ranger District. This section is a favorite location for the summer work trips, since it parallels the Cherohala Skyway at high elevation. It is always good to look for the cooler spots for a July work trip. We were able to brush out the trail from the Unicoi Crest Overlook to the North River Road, a distance of a little over a mile. There were several spots where the briars were 10-12' high, with stems that were 3/4" in diameter. We were glad to welcome another first time maintainer, Amy Cass. Amy is the owner of Starr Mountain Outfitters located in Etowah, TN. Amy and I met at the BMT Exhibit at the July 4th Celebration in Etowah. Starr Mountain Outfitters is a corporate sponsor of the BMTA, and Amy was excited to be able to help on maintenance trips. We also had Allen Peebles return to work with us again, after his first maintenance trip last month.

Thank you to the following volunteers who made this another safe and productive work trip: Steve Cartwright, Amy Cass, Allen Peebles, and Ken Jones.

Remembering Duff Sutton

By Darcy Douglas



Many of the long time members of BMTA will remember Duff Sutton. He was active in the BMTA about the same time as he joined GATC in 1988. He was almost 92, born on July 31, 1924 and passed away on July 18, 2016. He was a resident of Lithonia, Georgia at the time of his passing. Darcy Douglas remembers:

"I always liked Duff and his participation in work trips was legend, back in the day. He was a hard worker and a very bright, articulate man."

Shirts Benefiting BMTA Make Great Gifts!

by Marge Heller

It's not too early to be thinking about holiday gifts and what better way to combine giving to friends and family while also benefitting the BMTA!?

Please check out these great new Benton MacKaye Trail shirts available at Terra Outfitters, in Blue Ridge, GA or available on-line at: <http://terra.atayne.com/> Atayne

The performance tops are made from a lightweight 100% recycled polyester micro mesh fabric that wicks moisture and dries quickly. The photographs are real pictures of the Benton MacKaye Trail in Blue Ridge! Three scenic designs and one solid green, with logo, are available in men and women's sizes including sleeveless, short sleeves and long sleeves.

Proceeds benefit the BMTA to continue trail conservation efforts thanks to the generosity of Corporate Member, Terra Outfitters, and the manufacturer, Atayne. Stop by Terra Outfitters to order yours or shop online and support your trail today!



Hiking Flat Creek Loop Trail

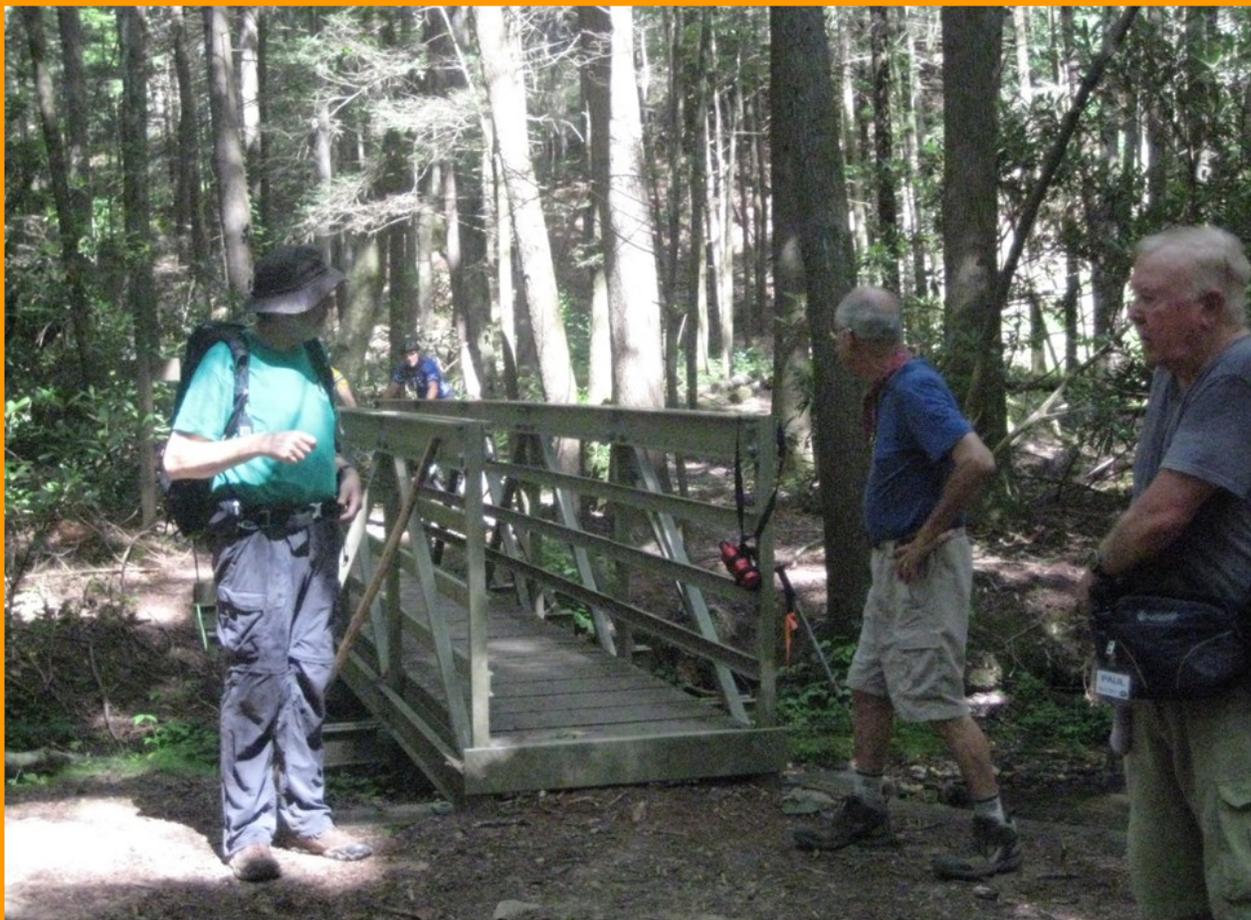
by Clayton Webster



Thirteen hardy hikers met on July 14, 2016, for a 5.7 mile hike on the Flat Creek Loop Trail off of Aska Road near Blue Ridge. The trip was led by Ken Cissna. Flat Creek Loop Trail is also a mountain biking trail that gets lots of use. We did see a couple of bikers while taking a break at the bridge over Flat Creek. It was a very hot and humid day, but everyone did fine on the trail. The Aska Trails system contains 17.2 miles of trails. Most all double as hiking and biking trails. They are in very good shape although there were some very recent blow downs that we had to maneuver over, under, or around. We chose to hike the loop counter clockwise. The bikers we met were going clock wise. Our route did involve some uphill on the last half. The trail has some pretty significant elevation gain and loss in the 5.7 miles. There are two ways that one can connect over to the Benton MacKaye Trail section that goes from Rock Creek Road to Weaver Creek Road.

The trail has a wide variety of vegetation throughout the hike. It varied from lots of white pines and hemlocks to lush mountain laurel and blooming Rosebay Rhododendrons to acres of ferns up and down the mountainsides. We rock hopped several small streams that were low because of the dry weather. Ken had been on the trail a while back and saw a work crew that turned out to be from Idaho. They had a small bobcat and were rerouting the trail near the bridge over Flat Creek. We saw other work they had done on the first part of the trail. The trail is in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Continued next page



More than half way through the hike we came to the only flat part of the Flat Creek Loop Trail. It is the bridge that crosses Flat Creek. While we were taking a break here, the two mountain bikers came across the bridge.



Uh, I thought you said it was all downhill from here!



Ah! How sweet is the chair of nature!!

Canoe/Kayak the Hiwassee & Hike the Gorge

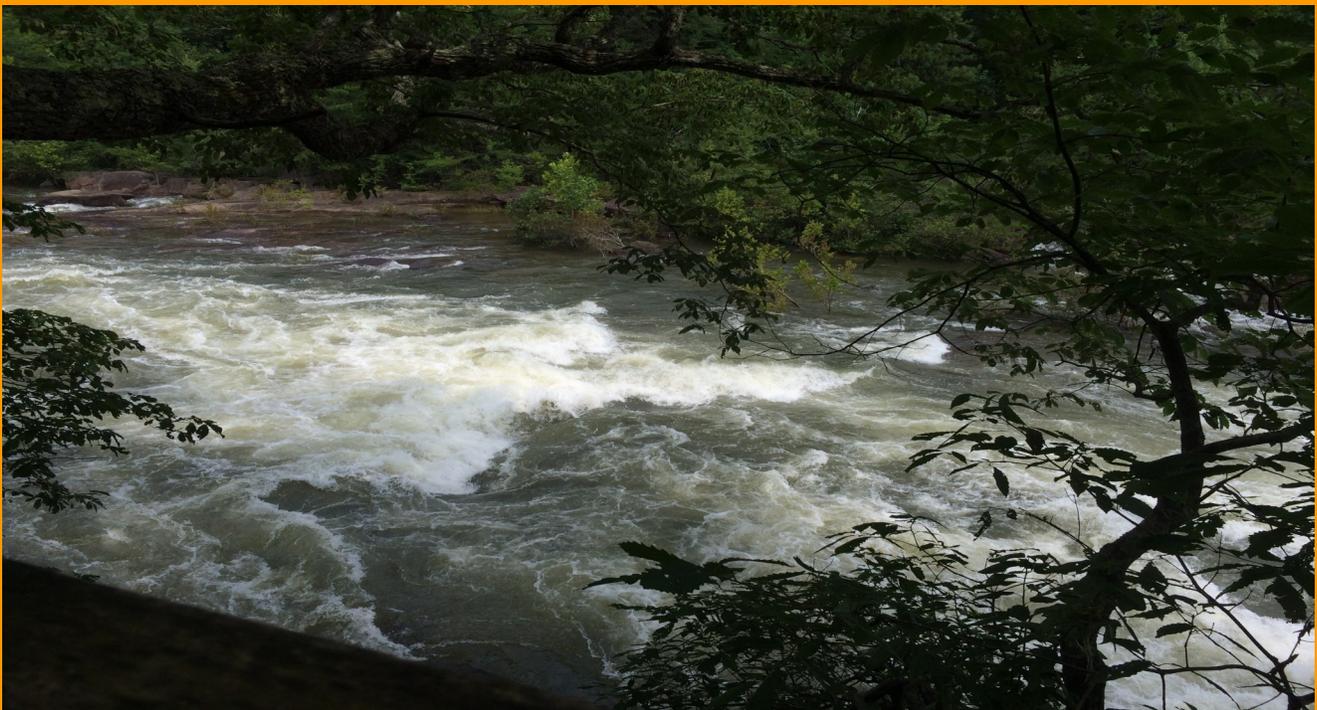
Sat & Sun August 20-21

by Rick Harris

Saturday, Aug 21 we will offer a canoe/kayak trip on the Hiwassee River from the put-in at the Apalachia Powerhouse downstream to the take out by the railroad bridge at Reliance. You can bring your own canoe/kayak or rent one at Webb Bros or Hiwassee Outfitters. We will put in on the river Saturday at 11 am, when TVA opens up the turbines. We will meet at the State Canoe/Kayak Put-In by the railroad bridge in Reliance at 10:30 am, then carpool from there to the put-in by the powerhouse. This is a solid class II section of river. You should have some experience in a canoe or kayak to run this section. This is the section which many groups such as the Sierra Club use to teach kayaking and whitewater canoeing.

Saturday night you could camp out at Parksville Lake Campground or elsewhere, then join in on the hike on Sunday am. For the hike, we will meet at the Childers Creek Trailhead of the BMT/John Muir Trail at 10 am, then carpool back up to the powerhouse. We will hike upstream along the river for a mile then join the BMT/JMT and head south back to Childers Creek TH. The distance is about eight miles. Much of this route is along the edge of the beautiful Hiwassee River.

Come either Saturday or Sunday or both days. Let me know if you plan on coming. Contact me at [513-260-1184](tel:513-260-1184) or [423-253-6358](tel:423-253-6358) or HarrisRi AT aol.com.



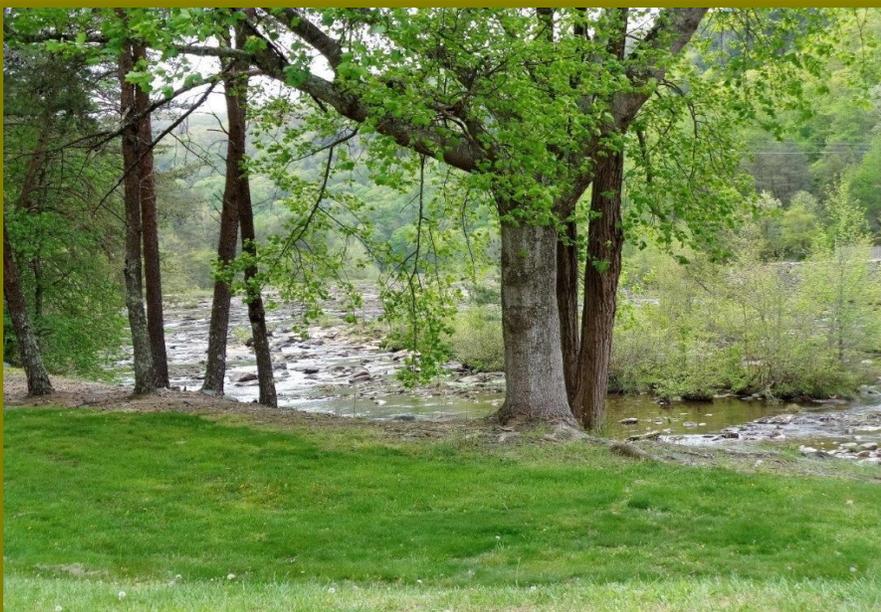
Hiker Eli Shares BMT Experience

by Hiker Eli

Hello Kathy, we met last fall when I hiked the section of the BMT through northern Georgia to the Thunder Rock campground in Tennessee. Early this spring (mid-April) I hiked a section of the BMT in Tennessee from Beech Gap on the Skyway south to the Thunder Rock Camp Ground on the Ocoee River. Here's a short report and a few pictures of this trip.



A Family Outing!



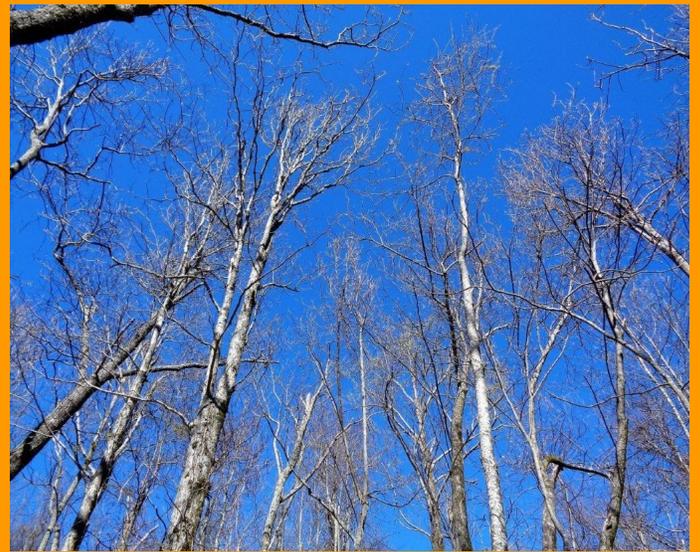
Around Ocoee Three

I really enjoyed this trip. The weather was warm and sunny during the day and cooled as the sun went down. Water was plentiful. The cascades along the Big Lost Creek were worth the trip by themselves. Saw lots of animals and signs - bear scat, big cat prints, deer, and a passel of hog. I met lots of very generous campers at Coker Creek and the Hiwassee campground at Ellis Creek - I was beginning to feel a little like Yogi with all the offers to join them for meals. The views of the Hiwassee River, with wading fly fishing persons on a sparkling afternoon, were grand. Despite folklore about the difficulty staying on the BMT trail in Tennessee due to the lack of trail markers, I found the trail markings to be excellent - and maybe better than those on the AT. Trail markers were there when needed and absent when not needed. However, and even with of the good trail markings, I did take a wrong turn or two or three times - totally due to hiker's error.

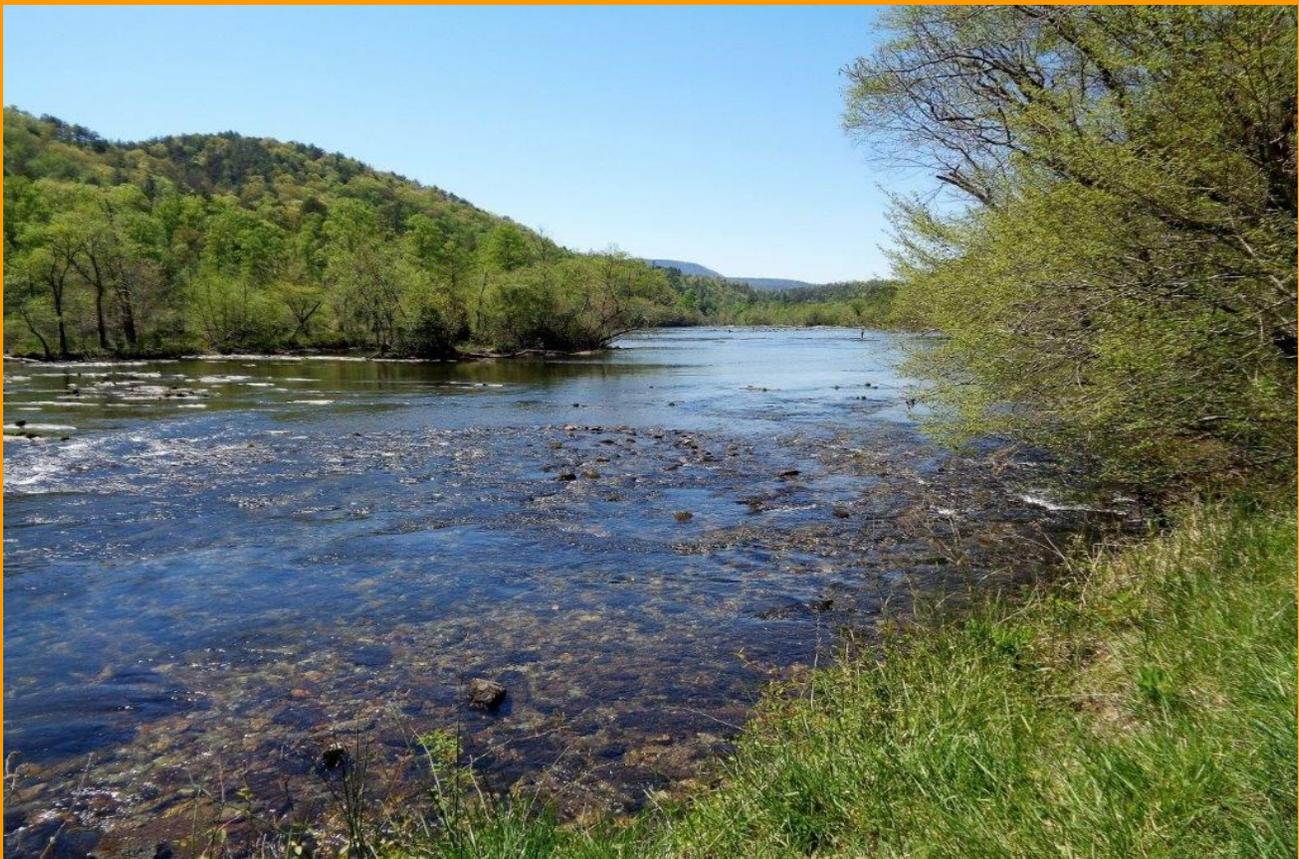
It was early in the season and I encountered a good bit of blow down on the trail but that just added some spice to a good hike. The clearing work around the Little Lost Creek and Brookshire Creek campsites was much appreciated. Over all a wonderful hike. **Thanks to all of people involved in trail maintenance and the leadership at the BMT for making this possible!**



Cascade Along Long Creek



Early Season and Clear Skies



Hiawasse River on a Sunday Afternoon

Yikes! Hiking for Yellow Jacket Enthusiasts!

by Mike Pilvinsky

We are right in the middle of Yellow Jacket season...and we are not talking about the Georgia Tech football team. Yellow Jackets seem to be a little more prevalent this year. At least all my friends who are in the landscaping, weed wacking, tree trimming, trail walking and trail maintaining business tell me so.

Yellow Jackets seem to build their underground nests just off of the trail, but can be found anywhere. Yesterday, while turning my compost pile I dug into a nest. I ran fast enough to only get two stings, but the bug community made up for it later in the morning when some wasps and I competed for the same space in my boat. For the next two months keep a close lookout for their presence on, and along the trail.

Often while hiking, the person directly behind the hike leader is the first to find the Yellow Jackets. Running seems to be the only means of escape once they decide to attack. Afterward, we pass the word back to leave the trail and bypass the angry nest. Trail maintainers are full of stories of encounters with squadrons of the little dive bombers. I don't think I have ever heard anyone say, "Gosh that was fun!" after a Yellow Jacket encounter.

So what do we do when bad things happen to good trail stewards? Hopefully, those with insect allergies are prepared with an EpiPen and know how to use it. For the rest of us, consider a highly rated product called "StingKill." My children swear by it. The active ingredient is Benzocaine which masks the pain very quickly. Check it out and read some of the reviews on Amazon.com. There are plenty of other commercial preparations and home remedies including treating the sting with vinegar and then covering it with a baking soda paste. Whatever method you choose, it won't do any good when it remains in the medicine closet while you are on the trail.

At this time we only have one hike scheduled in August. I try to plan either a wet hike or a shaded hike during the summer, and my choice for one of the wettest is not currently available. The Emery Creek Falls Trail includes about 20 or more wet stream crossings. This is a really cooling hike on a hot day. However, until the Forest Service is able to repair the forest service road which was damaged in heavy rains, it's just too hard to get to the trail head. This hike is so much fun, and I will continue to check on the road repair, until we can schedule a hike. So please keep watching the Activity page and I will post the details of this hike as soon as I can.

The hike on August 20 will be led by our old BMTA friend and the "Trail Boss" of the "Over The Hill Hikers," Clayton Webster. We will travel south for this hike which is a new trek for BMTA. The Pine Log Creek Loop Trail is a short hike thru the rolling forest north of Allatoona Lake near Waleska. As always, Clayton will make this trek memorable.

Finally, in August, carry one more liter of water than you think you will need.

Happy Trails!

Upcoming Hikes

by Mike Pilvinsky Hiking Director

NOTICE: There will NOT be a hike to Emery Creek Falls this month.

August 20-21: Canoe/Kayak the Hiwassee and Hike through the gorge

- ◆ **Meet:** 10:30am at State Canoe/Kayak Put-In (railroad bridge) in Reliance, TN
- ◆ **Saturday Night:** Camp at Parkesville Lake Campground or elsewhere
- ◆ **Sunday Morning:** 10:30 am meet at Childers Creek Trailhead of the BMT/ John Muir Trail; Distance approximately 8 miles

Contact Rick Harris 513 260-1184, 423 253-6358 or HarrisRi At aol.com
More details see article in this newsletter page 16

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 2: Hike Mt. Yonah near Cleveland, GA. This is a moderately strenuous hike 2 1/2 miles uphill to the summit of Yonah Mountain, and 2 1/2 miles back down. The climb is over 1400 feet in elevation but you will be rewarded with a magnificent view where we will eat our lunch/snack. Always bring more water than you think you will need. There is no water source on the mountain. Mt. Yonah is also the mountain training ground for the US Army Ranger School and we may see some military activity there. After completing the hike some of us may visit one or more local wineries before returning home. For information contact Mike Pilvinsky at mikepilvinsky AT hotmail.com

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 12: Benton Falls Hikes. We will return for a couple of easy hikes in the Benton Falls Area of Tennessee lead by Sara Bland followed by a pot luck picnic. For information, contact Sara at jsbland AT windstream.net

**The deadline for articles for the August Newsletter is Wednesday August 24, 2016
Thanks for your support!!!!**