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### 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
Smokies Coord:	Larry Dumas
Hiking Director:	Ken Cissna
Store:	Ken Cissna
Membership:	Frank Forehand
Publicity:	Jeff DePaola
Conservation:	Dave Ricker
Past President:	Tom Keene
Newsletter:	Kathy Williams
State Rep GA:	Bob Cowdrick
State Rep TN/NC:	Larry Van Dyke



**BMTA Headquarters**



## President's Column

The Ties that Bind. Blood, Sweat and Tears. These two phrases really are inseparable. Ties that bind become stronger with hard work, mutual respect and the occasional shared loss – blood, sweat and tears are these ties. When it comes right down to it, a successful organization only becomes a successful organization because of its membership and the pursuit of a common goal. The membership of an organization must have a common passion that molds, that ties the membership into an organization. The ties that bind.....

I have watched as some very good organizations have become casualties of this virus. I have watched as many charities and 501(c) (3)s are forced to lay off workers and tell volunteers to stay home. Many, quite literally, are begging for their existence during this pandemic. I have watched as businesses that rely on close contact with customers and clients are forced to shutter their doors. On a more personal level, I have watched as my elderly mother has had to shut herself away, avoiding contact with friends, contacts that have added so much enjoyment to her life for many years. I have watched as organizations that were a part of my own youth are now closed and have a doubtful future existence.

I say all of this for a reason: this damned virus is forcing many organizations to do things which will make their organizations weaker for many years to come. As an organization, the BMTA has been blessed: we have been able to continue our work events and continue our hike schedules with only a few missed beats. Without trail work especially, it becomes ever so easy to drift apart, losing the continuity and purpose that an organization must have.

### *Candidate for Treasurer Needed!*

We have a tremendous need for an individual who has some accounting experience to help the organization. Margaret Meadows, who has served as our Treasurer for several years, is retiring. If you have some of that experience and would like to serve the BMTA in this capacity, we need your help.

Please contact Bob Ruby at [bmtabob@gmail.com](mailto:bmtabob@gmail.com) to see if you can help!

***What can we all do to keep events safe and the organization healthy?*** I want to thank Ken Cissna for his leadership and determination to maintain a quality hiking program. Since well before the beginning of this virus threat, Ken has kept safety as a foremost concern. In March, as things began to shut down, Ken recognized the need of both our members and guest hikers for enjoyment and recreation, especially in today's threatening environment. He immediately put together new guidelines to keep our hikes safe for all participants. Thanks Ken. And while work events were shut down for a couple of months, it is important to note that our Maintenance Directors and work trip leaders also deserve a big 'Well done' for helping keep these events safe and well attended.

As I mentioned a couple of months ago, we have cancelled our Annual Meeting and celebration of BMTA's 40th Anniversary. We are trying to put together a smaller, safer event, now set for November 7 at Vogel. We will be able to take care of annual business in a safe setting – annual business that allows us to install a new Board and vote on several changes to our Bylaws that will allow us to better handle unforeseen circumstances. For those who would like to spend a couple of hours hiking, Vogel is a great venue for this as well. Please watch for details on this event, and join us if you feel your circumstances and health will allow you to attend this type of event.

I had the pleasure of working the Heart of Darkness in Tennessee during July, and hope to join another work event in August on the northern half of this section. This is a beautiful and remote section of trail, following the old State Line Trail along the border of Tennessee and North Carolina from Sandy Gap to Sledrunner Gap – roughly seven miles of meanness. On the event in July, I had my closest encounter ever with one of the hazards of the trail – a healthy, mature timber rattler. While we have worked the area hard for several years, it grows fast and heavy in many places. As I was hiking toward Round Top with brushcutter in hand and passing over Hazelnut Knob on an invisible trail, I very nearly stepped on a rattler crossing the trail a couple of feet in front of me. Quite an experience. The Association has always done a good job of talking about emergencies. This situation illustrates the need to have a plan – something we need to perhaps talk more about in our tailgate safety sessions.

Please help the BMTA purchase several sets of snake chaps for our volunteers. Like our trauma kits, we hope this is gear we need never to use. To contribute to this and other BMTA projects, go to <https://bmta.org/donate/>.

One final comment: a note of thanks to Steve Cartwright for a great job of leadership on a very difficult section of trail worked in July. Well done. Till next month.....



**Looks like Larry Dumas has discovered "The Trail of Youth" !!**

**Just look at what hiking the BMT does for you!**

**Happy Birthday Larry!!**

## Encounters in the "Heart of Darkness"

by Steve Cartwright

The July work trip was the first foray of the year into the fabled "Heart of Darkness," a remote six mile section of the BMT that is difficult to maintain in the best of circumstances. Held on the third Saturday, instead of the usual fourth Saturday (both Steve and Rick were unavailable to lead on the 25th), 10 volunteers split into two groups of five to cover the first 3.5 miles - Sandy Gap to Round Top.

Barry Allen led the first group to begin working at Moss Gap (the approximate middle point) and then continue toward Round Top. Steve Cartwright led the second group from Sandy Gap to Moss Gap. On what was a hot, humid day, the work focused on brushing out the trail corridor and a light clearing of downed trees with hand saws. The goal was to make the trail passable in preparation for the chainsaw crews who would follow up on the fourth Saturday work trip in August (hopefully to log the entire section from Sledrunner Gap to Sandy Gap).

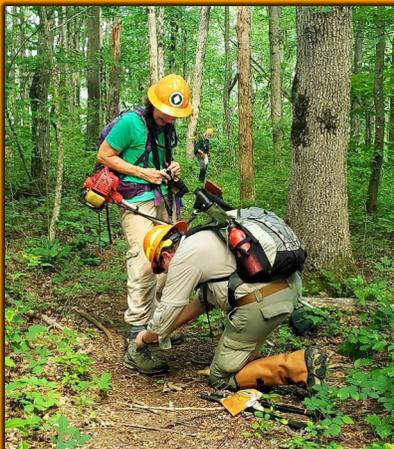
We encountered two 'beings' on the trail during our successful trip. First, was a young man from Gwinnett County, GA, who was hiking from Unicoi Gap to Fontana. Then Barry encountered "Charlie," a timber rattler. Fortunately, Barry's encounter did not include stepping on "Charlie." Given that this was not Barry's first encounter with these notorious, venomous serpents on this section of the trail, Barry is recommending the association purchase several pairs of snake chaps for volunteers to wear when working that particular section. I would encourage all our volunteers to invest in a pair, as I have - they are well worth the money. A special thanks is due Brenda Harris for bringing the Tennessee tools and PPE in her husband's stead.



Thomas, hiking into "Darkness."



Headed into "Close encounters of the Heart of Darkness."



## Former Conservation Director Denny Rhodes Dies

by George Owen



Denny Starr Rhodes, the conservation director for the BMTA in 2009-10, died July 10 after a short illness. He was 76.

Well-known for many years among the older BMTA members, Denny had a strong reputation for the conservation stands he fervently promoted. In the midst of any conservation issue he loved to "get out on the ground" with concerned trail conservationists in the midst of any conservation issue. For many years he also served as the conservation chair for the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC). Until his death, he was a strong voice on the Advisory Subcommittee of the Conservation Committee of the GATC. Before his recent health issues, he and his wife Lois enjoyed participating in BMTA activities as well as other trail organizations' events.

Denny graduated from Georgia Tech with a B.S. in Mathematics in 1967. There he served in the ROTC, graduating with a U.S. Army second lieutenant commission. In the army he served first in Panama. From there he went to Vietnam in 1969 (in field artillery) where he rose to the rank of captain and was awarded the Bronze Star. Following his army service, Denny worked for many years in sales engineering for custom designed power plant equipment.

Over many years Denny and his wife, Lois Fowler Rhodes, were active in hiking and outdoor activities including BMTA and GATC outings and events. Denny was on the Stewardship Council of the National Appalachian Trail Conservancy and involved with Georgia ForestWatch.

Survived by his wife of 42 years, Lois, two daughters from a previous marriage, and other relatives, Denny was buried in a private ceremony (coronavirus restrictions applied) on July 14 at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton. He will especially be missed for his extensive knowledge of issues and data on any conservation issue as well as his ability to share it with others. We will definitely miss his breadth of knowledge concerning conservation issues.





# BMTA's 2020 Annual Meeting

## The Lake Pavilion at Vogel State Park

Blairsville, Georgia  
November 7, 2020

Event to be governed by

[BMTA's COVID-19 Hiking Guidelines](#)

More Details to Come in the September Newsletter

### Awards Ceremony

30-Hour T- Shirts

100 Hour Club

Trail Worker of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

### Hikes

Swinging Bridge

Wonderful Waterfalls

Bear Hair Trail

Wagon Train Trail—Brass Town Bald

### 40th Anniversary of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association

*2020 is indeed the 40th Anniversary of the BMTA. Sadly, due to COVID-19, we had to postpone the celebration until next year. To accommodate social distancing requirements, this year's meeting will be a scaled down version. In addition to the Awards Ceremony and Hikes, there will be the Annual Membership Meeting, including the election of officers and a vote on revision of the Bylaws.*

## Attention Trail Workers - Did You Know?



Trail Workers now can download the Hours Report Form, fill it out on your computer, save to your computer & email to: [bmtahours@bmtamail.org](mailto:bmtahours@bmtamail.org).

To get the form, go to [bmtamail.org](http://bmtamail.org). Scroll down to "MAINTENANCE DOCUMENTS" and choose: [Maintainer's Report Form \(PDF Format\)](#).

When the form comes up, in the upper right corner, click on "Fill & Sign in Acrobat." The form will open in a new window. You now can place your cursor in each field and type.

When you are finished filling out the form, save it to your computer and email to [bmtahours@bmtamail.org](mailto:bmtahours@bmtamail.org).

## Would You Have Seen “Charlie the Rattler”?



"If I hadn't seen the grass move and paused to take a look, my next step would have right on top of that rattlesnake," said BMTA President Barry Allen. "I made up my mind then and there -- BMTA needs to get snake chaps to protect our volunteers!"

Please give \$30 or more today!

**These Snake Chaps could save a life!**

To support BMTA for this and other projects, [DONATE HERE](#).

## Meet BMTA's 500<sup>th</sup> Member!



July 15, 2020, was a milestone for the Benton MacKaye Trail Association – Jesse DeFrance became our 500th member for 2020! To commemorate the milestone, DeFrance was given a BMTA hat.

DeFrance and his wife, Sandy, reside in Lexington, South Carolina, where they own the Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop-- a specialty bird feeding and nature products shop.

An avid hiking and fishing enthusiast, DeFrance has been hiking and camping since his high school days in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

“We could have our fire going and tent set up a couple of hours after getting out of school,” DeFrance said. “The foothills up there were great for hiking and camping.”

Twice a year DeFrance and his friends have been going fishing in the Smokies / Western North Carolina. He’s especially enjoyed fishing along the creeks from Hyatt Ridge, Smokmont and Hazel Creek.

Until now DeFrance’s treks into the woods have revolved around fishing. He now is planning to thru hike the BMT! This will be the sixty-three-year-old’s first long-distance hike.

“When I go out, I really enjoy the peaceful solitude of the pristine forests,” DeFrance said. “The Benton MacKaye has a reputation as a wilderness trail and the more I learn about the Benton MacKaye, the more I look forward to hiking the trail.”

## Big Volunteers for Big Frog!

by Phil Guhl

On June 19, three folks were determined to clear the Benton MacKaye Trail from FS221 to Big Frog in order to make it a more pleasurable and safer hike for trail users.

Steve Davis contacted me and wanted to know of any certified crosscut sawyers that would be available to go out and do some clearing. Bob Cowdrick and Brian Trinkle stepped up without hesitation! Steve coordinated it and the three of them rendezvoused to embark on their mission.

Each of them spent over three hours driving to the trailhead and then worked seven arduous hours cutting out 18 challenging blowdowns. Additionally, they cleared many little trees with handsaws and threw a huge amount of debris off the trail. At the end of the day, they felt every bit of it and were especially rewarded knowing their efforts made the trail passable again.

Thank you, Steve, Bob and Brian!



## Parking, Parking, Parking at Buck Bald

by Clare Sullivan

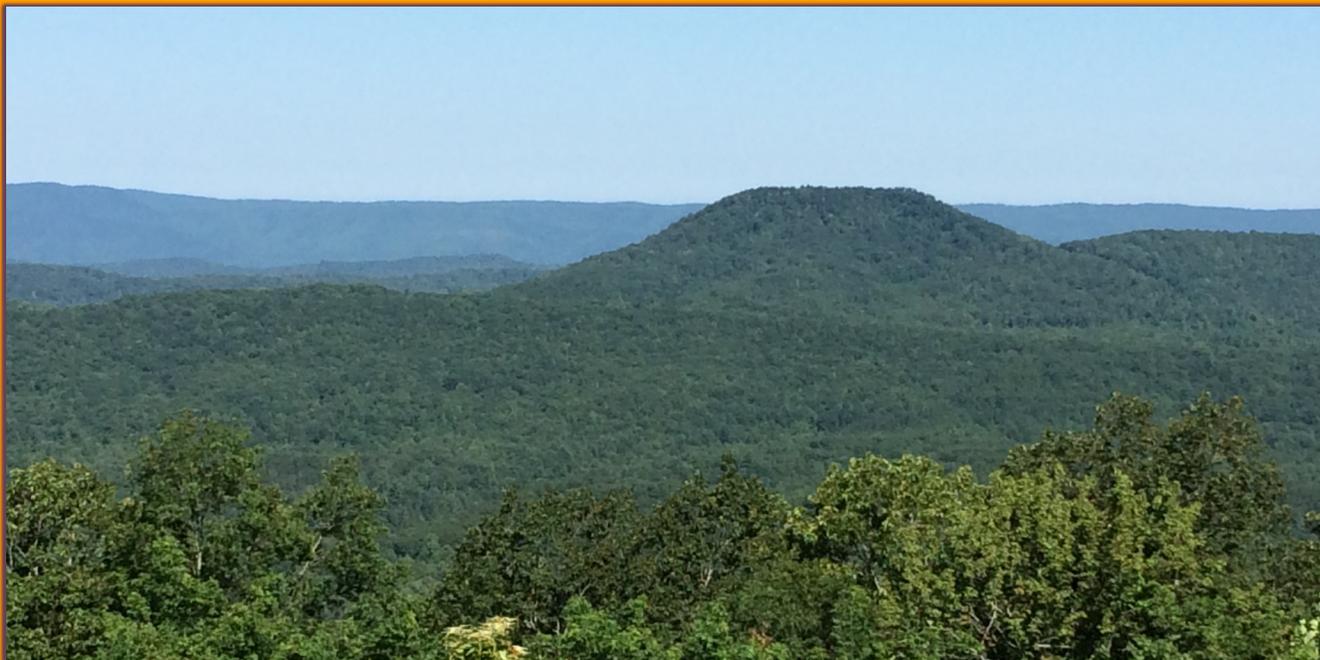
Parking was our main concern for the BMTA Buck Bald hike on July 14, 2020. The small parking area on TN 68 could only hold seven vehicles. Disappointingly, we had to turn interested hikers away — due to Covid-19 we are no longer carpooling to trailheads. However, the night prior to the hike, two hikers cancelled. This meant we didn't need to park any cars on the side of a busy road. But, one minute after arriving at the parking area, two men in a white truck arrived telling us we had to move. They were contractors for the Cherokee National Forest and said they were bringing in a bush hog to mow around noon. We agreed that we could all move our cars to the right about two feet and the big machine would have space to enter the gate.

After moving the vehicles, up the side of the mountain towards Buck Bald we went. It was the first BMTA hike for Diane Bond and Diane Downey. As we hiked Downey told us about growing up two miles from the home of Benton MacKaye in Maine. We followed the BMT until the trail intersected with the forest service road to the top. The side-trip to Buck Bald is only .8 mile roundtrip from the BMT.



Hikers from left to right:  
Clare Sullivan, Kathy Williams, Diane Bond, Jerry Bland, Sara Bland, Stephanie Hodgins, Martha Fowler, Diane Downey and Service Dog Patty.

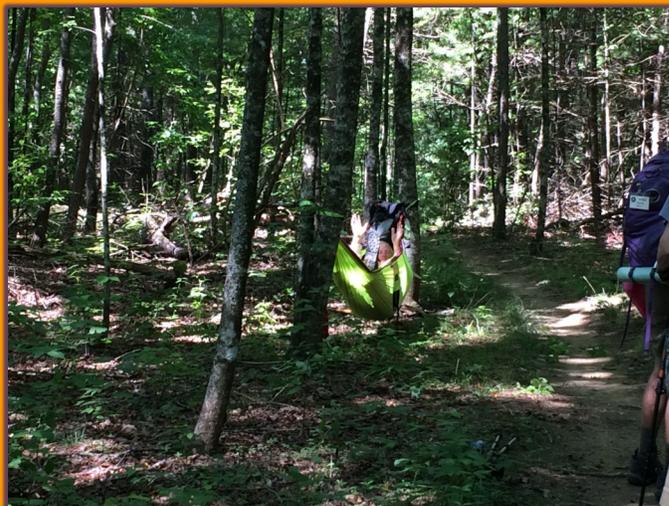
Once at Buck Bald there were “Oohs and aahs”, and other exclamations as the hikers took in the breathtaking 360 degree panoramic vistas of the surrounding Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina mountains. The sky was absolutely clear! We basked in the splendor as we ate our snacks at the picnic table and on the lawn.



**Stunning!**



**Spot where Forest Service Fire Tower C-15 once stood.**



**Hmm. Found on the trail. Do we have to carry it out? Leave no trace.**

The bald was once the home of the Forest Service Fire Tower C-15. The reason why some mountains are bald can be a mystery. One speculation is that balds were ceremonial sites for Native Americans. Large herbivores such as elk and deer may have grazed on them.

As we hiked back down the mountain we encountered Ed Sullivan who had decided to do some trail clearing and snoozing while we went to the top. We arrived at our cars just as the bush hog pulled up! We had hiked four miles.

## Georgia July Maintenance Trip

by Phil Guhl

Great weather, great people, outstanding time...the summary of another super maintenance trip!

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the precautions some folks are taking, attendance is down a little, but just a little. Additionally, a Georgia contingent has been heading to Tennessee to help work down a sizeable backlog of issues due to several storms that passed through while the forest was closed. So rather than the typical 30 to 35 volunteers, we are seeing 15 to 20 volunteers show up to work on the Georgia sections. We will take 'em all!



Six feet apart and working!



Lunch in the shade of the shack.



Many were confused as to whether it was a real work day since there was no rain...

On this second Saturday in July, 16 volunteers came out to help clean up pieces of the trail on the Sisson property (Section 7b). One team started at the railroad tracks and worked toward the shelter while the second team started at the shelter and worked toward the first team. There were over 10 diversions cleaned, 180 feet of side hilling and tread reshaping, 140 feet of cribbing installed, 60 feet of trail rerouted and several mud bogs that had stones placed in them to give hikers something to walk on.

This was a productive and fun group of workers. I am seeing an increasing number of newcomers turning permanent!

Thank you to all who come out and help maintain the trail we love.

## Five-Trail Loop Hike at Fort Mountain State Park

by Ken Cissna

July 9 was a nice day for the hike—not too hot and no rain. The short five-trail loop at Fort Mountain State Park begins going clockwise on the Gahuti Trail, beginning near the front. It diverts onto the Goldmine Creek Trail, then the Creek Connector Trail and the first part of the Lake Trail. We turned away from the lake, crossed the road and got on the Big Rock Trail where we stopped for lunch on the large boulders.

After lunch, we finished the Big Rock Trail loop, re-crossed the road and finished the loop on the Lake Trail. We took the Creek Connector back to the Goldmine Creek Trail, this time going the other way so we came into the Gahuti further from our starting point. Then we walked counter clockwise on the Gahuti Trail back to our cars.

Hikers included: Martha Fowler, Tom Johnson, Cindy Minick, Steve Mullen, Mike Pilvinsky, Tom Sewell and hike leader Ken Cissna. The hike was about 4.5 miles.



Nature provided “The Patio Furniture.”

# Rainbow Falls Hike

by Clare and Ed Sullivan

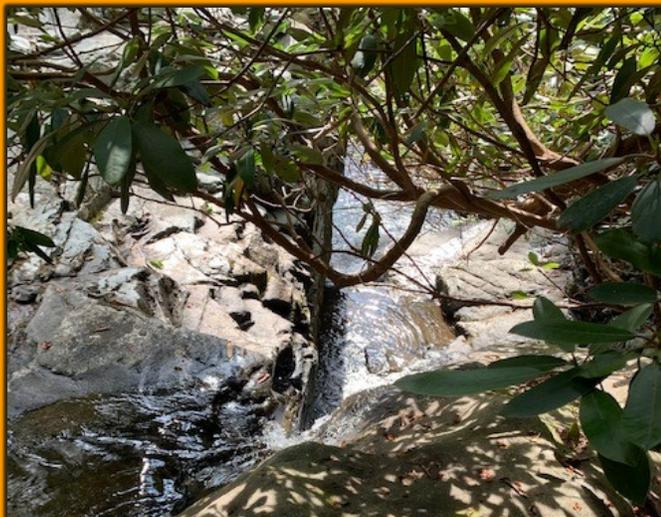
There were 15 hikers participating in the Rainbow Falls hike in the Ocoee District of the Cherokee National Forest on July 28, 2020. In order to follow the BMTA Covid-19 requirement of groups of 10 or less, Ed Sullivan led nine hikers and Clare Sullivan led six.



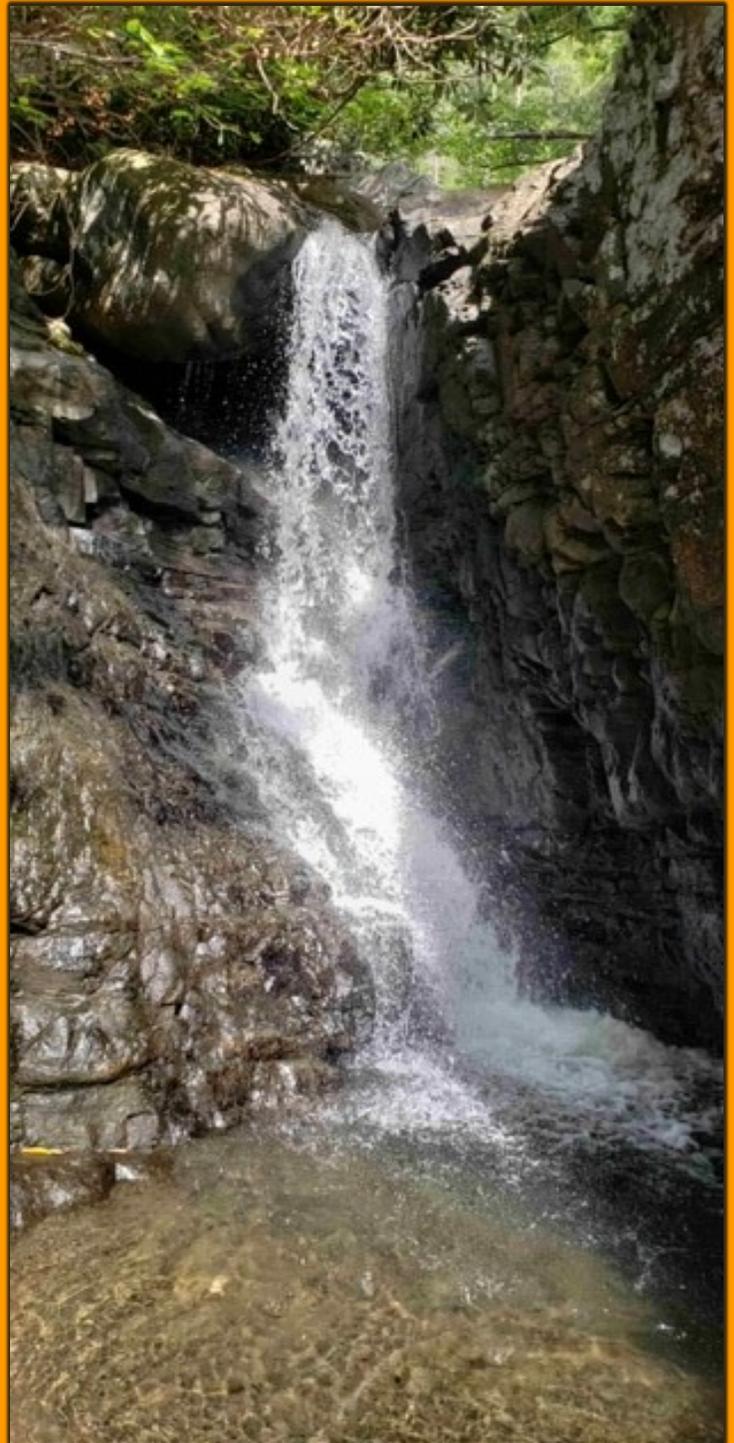
Clare's group ready to go!



Ed's group socially distancing.



Sparkling and stunning!  
Photos courtesy of Steve Tarr.



Continued next page

We were delighted to have three first time BMTA hikers, Bruce Rosenblum, Karen Kameron and Robert Bremm. The adventurous hikers in Clare's group went off-trail on steep and rocky terrain to explore the Chestnut Mountain Falls above Rainbow Falls. Ed's first timers experienced a first; rock-hopping across the creek crossings. Robert, Karen and Ed enjoyed cooling off in the pools beneath the falls. Black-eyed Susan wildflowers painted the trail along the way. It seems the menu of choice was peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.



Martha Fowler and Susan Klevansky pause and wonder.  
Photo courtesy of Bruce Rosenblum.



Hopping the rocks!  
Photo courtesy of Ken Cissna

## Sisson Property Big Signs Installed

by George Owen with photo assistance courtesy of Richard Sullivan

Signs Committee co-chair Ralph Heller is on a kick. Last month mammoth new signs were installed on either side of Highway 60 at Little Skeenah Creek to indicate distances to prominent Benton MacKaye Trail features each way. Now he's done the same on each end of the Sisson property over which the BMT traverses 3.8 miles. Now during the July GA work trip, three of us put up two more new huge signs in "old wood style." Both signs state that private property is being traversed and that camping and fires are only allowed at the Sisson Shelter.



Ralph Heller and Tom Sewell with the sign on Hwy 515. It features key points westward to Bushy Head Gap.



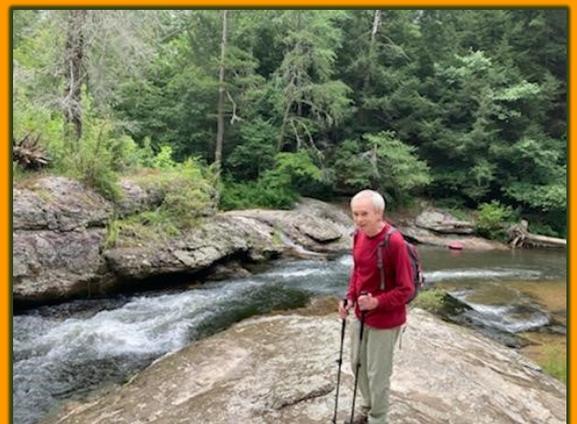
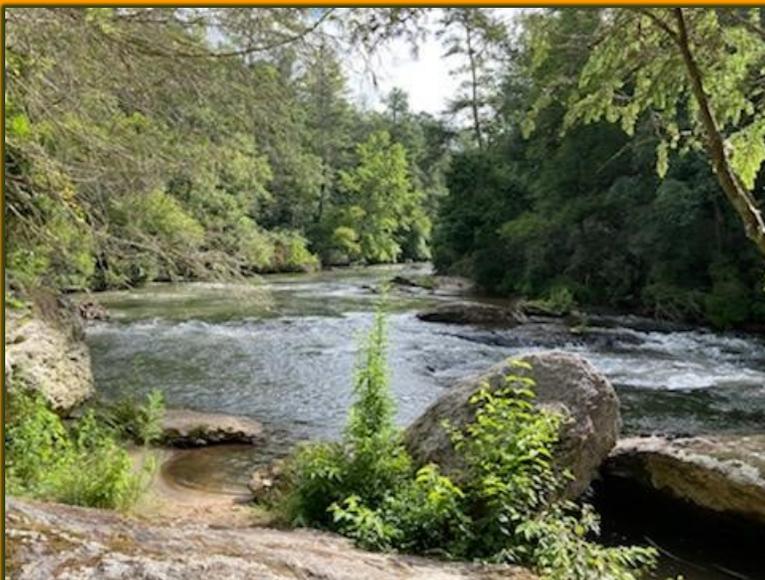
The sign is just inside the thick forest where the Sisson property on its western border meets Boardtown Road. It shows points going eastward as far as the Weaver Creek trailhead.

## 40 Feet of Distance Required 40 Minutes

by Steve Dennison with photos courtesy of Beth Rothermel and Rod Jude

Five members hiked six miles. If we had waders or water shoes we could have crossed the 40-foot wide Clear Creek in one minute to access the Clear Creek Shoals Trail from the Cartecay River Loop Trail. Instead we completed the return loop on the Cartecay River Loop Trail, got in our cars, drove 15 minutes, and then hiked about 25 minutes on the Blackberry Mountain segment of Rich Mountain Wildlife Management Area to the location just 40 feet across the creek from where we were 40 minutes earlier.

Mike Pilvinsky introduced my wife Nancy and me to these scenic, hiking gems earlier this year. BMTA Hike Director Ken Cissna did a great job sweeping on the hike and leading us to the confluence of Clear Creek and the Cartecay River. During the hike we saw about eight people who were tubing and swimming, but only the five of us were hiking.



# Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho It's Off to Work We Go!

by Clare Sullivan



July 11 Work Trip to Section 12a.

Eight volunteers used the Georgia work date to clear trail from Thunder Rock Campground to the Rock Creek Trail intersection.



**Join Now!**

Use this link to become a BMTA member:

[Membership](#)

## New Maps for BMTA's Event Tent

Thanks to an anonymous donor, BMTA has a great addition to our display items for Publicity's Event tent at festivals -- four new large maps (a map of each state as well as the entire BMT)!

When guests visit BMTA's event tent, the first place they go is to the map. Now our volunteers will be able to point out the BMT, the AT, landmarks, roads and nearby towns. The maps also include way points, elevations and much more.

The maps were created by GATC's cartographer, Stewart Holt, without whose knowledge and expertise, this project would not have been possible. Thank you Stewart!

The Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina state maps are 3' x 5'. The map of the entire trail is 4' x 5'. Below is the map of the BMT. The maps will be used judiciously with only the most pertinent map(s) displayed at each event.



## Upcoming Hikes and Work Trips

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.

These, however, are not normal times. Because hiking in the out-of-doors is good for one’s mental and physical health, we encourage BMTA members and others to continue hiking as much as possible during this national health crisis *and to do so safely*. To that end, we are continuing our hiking program and welcome people to hike with us. In the interests of safety, we have instituted some modifications that you need to know about:

1. **Only hikes that do not require shuttles are allowed** under the auspices of BMTA.
2. All hikers must drive to the meeting place and trailhead in their own cars -- no carpooling except among family members.
3. Any potential hiker who is feeling ill, has traveled within the past 14 days to a location with a significant number of cases of the novel corona virus (COVID-19) or has been exposed within the past 14 days to a person who has been confirmed as or is even suspected of having COVID-19 must not come on a hike.
4. All hikes are limited to 10 participants —hike leaders may impose even lower limits.
5. Before, during and after a hike, participants must maintain an appropriate social distance from one another (an absolute minimum of six feet—but ten, fifteen or twenty is much better).

We have had to make more adjustments than usual to our hike schedule—dropping some hikes, substituting others, revising hikes to avoid shuttles, etc. Please forgive the inconvenience.

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@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

The hikes for the next couple of months are listed below. 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!

### August

**August 3** (Monday) Rock Town Trail (near Lafayette, GA, in Wilderness Management Area). 4.2 miles, moderate. Big boulders are pretty neat.

Hike leader Steve Dennison. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).



**August 8 (Saturday) GA Work Trip Section 8.**  
To RSVP, contact Bob Cowdrick [bcowdrick@comcast.net](mailto:bcowdrick@comcast.net) or 404-431-5353.

**August 12 (Wednesday) BMT: Loop from Dyer Gap.**  
5 miles, moderate. Elevation change of 700' up and then down. Follows USFS road 64a up to Flat Top Mountain, then BMT back to Dyer Gap. Includes the headwaters of the Jacks River.

Hike leader Tom Sewell. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

**August 14 (Friday) Old Copper Road Trail.**  
4.5 miles, easy.

Hike leader Larry Dumas. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

**August 17 (Monday) BMT/AT Loop from Big Stamp Parking lot.**  
4.6 miles, moderate. This loop hike includes 1.2 miles on the Appalachian Trail and 3.4 on the Benton MacKaye Trail as well as the southern termini of both trails and two great vistas, one on each trail.

Hike leader Mike Pilvinsky. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

**August 21 (Friday) Cartecay River Loop Trails. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE** (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).  
About 6.5 miles, moderate.

Hike leader Ken Cissna. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).



**August 22 TN/NC Work Trip Section 16b – Roundtop to Sledrunner Gap.**  
To RSVP, contact Rick Harris, [harrisri@aol.com](mailto:harrisri@aol.com).

**August 24 (Monday) Bear Creek Trail.**  
6 miles, moderate. Bring water shoes—two stream crossings, second one likely to get you wet.

Hike leader Steve Dennison. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

**August 31 (Monday) 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](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

## September

**September 10 (Thursday) BMT: Mud Gap to Whigg Meadow.**  
5.8 miles, moderate. In recent years, we have seen professional birders catching, measuring and banding birds at Whigg Meadow in September. We hope they are there again this year.

Hike leader Tom Sewell. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

**September 11** (Friday) Stanley Gap Trail from Fall Branch Falls to where Stanley Gap and BMT diverge, and back. About 6 miles, moderate.

Hike Leader Steve Dennison. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).



**September 12** (Saturday) GA Work Trip Section 9.  
To RSVP, contact Phil Guhl, [bmtaphil@gmail.com](mailto:bmtaphil@gmail.com).

**September 22** (Tuesday) Oglethorpe Mountain Trails.  
3 miles, easy.

Hike leader: Martha Fowler. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

**September 25** (Friday) BMT: Highway 515 to Weaver Creek and return. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog) 5 miles, easy. Mostly along dirt roads. Two “rock hopping” stream crossings that could get your feet wet depending on stream levels and recent rainfall.

Hike leader Ken Cissna. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).



**September 26** (Saturday) TN/NC Work Trip Section 16e – Loss Creek to Coker Creek CS.  
To RSVP, contact Crew Leader Steve Cartwright, [scdcmc@comcast.net](mailto:scdcmc@comcast.net).

## October

**October 3** (Saturday) Bob Bald. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).  
8 miles, moderate.

Hike leaders: Rick and Brenda Harris. For more information, contact [harrisri@aol.com](mailto:harrisri@aol.com).

**October 9** (Friday) BMT: John Muir Trail to the Narrows.  
5 miles, moderate.

We'll start with a beautiful view from the swinging bridge that crosses the Hiwassee River at the Appalachian Powerhouse. The hike will be to a treasure, The Narrows, a deep narrow gorge through which the old riverbed flows. It's full of fascinating rock formations and Ruth's Golden Asters (in the fall). You'll want to drop your pack and explore! Be prepared for water crossings. Hiking sticks recommended. Bring snack/lunch and water.

Hike Leader: Clare Sullivan. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

**October 12** (Monday) AT: Tesnatee Gap to Levelland Mountain and return.  
7.6 miles, moderate with some steep climbing. Spectacular views from Cowrock, Wolf Laurel Top, and Levelland Mountains.

Hike Leader Steve Dennison. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).

**October 16** (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](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org).**October 17** (Saturday) Hangover . DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).

7 miles, difficult.

Hike leaders Rick and Brenda Harris. For more information, contact [harrisri@aol.com](mailto:harrisri@aol.com).**October 26** (Monday) Four Season Hike Series – Fall: BMT - Bushy Head Gap to Hudson Gap. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).

4 miles, moderate. We're going to offer this relatively short and fairly easy hike during each season for the next year. Come out and see fall colors this time, great views in winter, wild flowers in spring, and who knows—just get hot in the summer.

Hike leader: Ken Cissna. For more information, contact [hikeleader@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleader@bmtamail.org)

Scenes from The Hangin Dog Hike! Yikes!

**The deadline for the September Newsletter is Wednesday, September 2. Thank you!**