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### BMTA Officers 2022-2023

- President: Ken Cissna
- Vice President: Clare Sullivan
- Secretary: Judy Price
- Treasurer: Lydia Burns
- GA M/D: Bob Cowdrick
- TN/NC M/D: Nelson Ashbrook
- Smokies Coord: David Watkins
- Hiking Director: Kelly Motter
- Membership: Frank Forehand
- Communications: Joy Forehand
- Conservation: Patrick Ward
- Past President: Barry Allen
- Store: Sue Ricker
- Newsletter: Kathy Williams
- State Rep GA: Darcy Douglas
- State Rep TN/NC: Steve Barnes



**BMTA Headquarters**



# Benton MacKaye Trail Association

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## 2022 Annual Meeting

by Clare Sullivan with photos courtesy of Clare Sullivan and Rick Harris

The Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) Annual Meeting was held November 3-6 at the lovely Fontana Village Resort in North Carolina. Colorful autumn leaves were falling all weekend as we hiked and enjoyed socializing.

We viewed a wide array of enticing items for BMTA's Raffle during the Friday Nite Social. Members enjoyed complimentary hors d'oeuvres as they sipped their favorite drinks and dropped their raffle tickets into jars next to their desired items.



Among the unique items in the raffle were three bear-ravaged BMTA signs!  
What a great way to recycle and create a wonderful memento of the trail!

The attendance for the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet was 66. BMTA President Ken Cissna recognized past presidents Barry Allen, Dick Evans, David Blount, George Owen and Bob Ruby. Claire Broadwell, Chuck Logan and George Owen were recognized as early builders of the trail.

Larry Dumas and Dave Ricker received plaques for five years of continuous service on the Board of Directors. Keith Mertz and Tom Sewell received certificates in recognition of their tenures on the Board.

With regards to the quest for designation of the Benton MacKaye Trail as a National Scenic Trail, Cissna said we hope HB #7884, the “Benton MacKaye Scenic Trail Act”, will become a mark-up as part of an omnibus bill by the end of the year.

The next item on the agenda was the election of new officers – those elected were:

- President: Ken Cissna
- Vice President: Clare Sullivan
- Secretary: Judy Price
- Treasurer: Lydia Burns
- GA Maintenance Director: Bob Cowdrick
- TN/NC Maintenance Director: Nelson Ashbrook
- Smokies Coordinator: David Watkins
- Conservation Director: Patrick Ward
- Communications Director: Joy Forehand
- Membership Director: Frank Forehand
- Hiking Director: Kelly Motter



**BMTA President Ken Cissna**

The GA Representative and TN/NC Representatives will be appointed by the President. The Newsletter Editor, Electronic Communications Coordinator and Store Manager are appointed by the Board.

The audience was mesmerized as they listened to featured speaker Angelina Jumper. She recounted the protracted resistance of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians to move to Oklahoma.



**Keynote Speaker, Angelina Jumper, a descendent of Junaluska, gave a compelling account of her people’s struggles.**



**The high point of the evening was the presentation of awards. In between the award announcements, winning tickets for the raffle were drawn with the winners enthusiastically claiming their prizes. This year's Raffle Manager, Kathy Anderson, announced each prize winner.**



This year's raffle was highly successful, bringing in over \$2,200 for BMTA's Land Acquisition Fund. Ralph Van Pelt took home one of the most sought after items, the "Hoo's in the Woods" quilt. Our treasurer, Lydia Burns, handcrafted the stunning artistic design!



Cindy Ward and Sue Ricker offered bargains in our BMTA Store!!



The Goody Bags did not disappoint!

Joe Cantwell was awarded the much-coveted Trail Worker of the Year Pulaski. With 252 hours of trail maintenance hours in Georgia and Tennessee, Cantwell became a member of the 2022 100-Hours Club.

He adopted his first sections to maintain in July 2021. Today, the 76-year-old maintains four sections – 10c-d (Hemp Top Trail >> Double Spring Gap) and 12a-b (US 64 >> Kimsey Highway).

Always an enthusiastic ambassador for BMTA, Cantwell was the sawyer in charge of the popular Inter-Active Crosscut at the Georgia Mountain Trail Fest and at Trout Fest. He also assisted with a presentation to Fannin Middle Schoolers.



Joy Forehand was named Volunteer of the Year. Forehand was unable to attend, and Cissna relayed this information to her over the phone. She handles the Mail Chimp communications for subscribers to our monthly emails. She and Kathy Williams work together to keep the website in tip top shape. Forehand also manages the festival schedule and organization for BMTA's Information Tent.



The centerpiece for each table was incredible and the work of Kathy Anderson's husband, Jaime Lozano. Patty Master's fall leaf assortment completed the fall motif. One lucky person at each table went home with one.

Seventy-three trail workers who turned in a minimum of 30 hours of trail work were awarded the prized 2022 30-Hour Maintainer T-Shirt.

Eighteen trail workers garnered 100 hours or more to become members of the 2022 100-Hours Club. This year's award was an orange safety vest with an embroidered Maintainer's logo.

Nine hike leaders who led five or more hikes during the year received a 2022 Hike Leader T-Shirt.



Thank you!!! You are the nuts and bolts of the BMTA!!



Keith Mertz and Bob Cowdrick paid homage to their maintenance teams.



This was the second year for Patrick Ward's Trail Maintainer's Idiosyncrasy Award which recognizes a person for their ... "especially unwavering" personal preferences for how trail maintenance is to be done (or not done). Darcy Douglas was the recipient of this year's Idiosyncrasy Award for her numerous regulations on what not to blaze on the BMT. Patrick Ward gave a very dramatic rendition of Darcy's "Six-Page Never to be Questioned Instructions."

To see the complete list of winners, go to:

[30-Hour Maintainer T-Shirts](#)

[2022 100-Hour Club](#)

[2022 Hike Leader T-Shirts](#)



— It's Time —

## Join or Renew Your Membership Now!



- ◆ Membership fees & donations are the primary source of funds for preserving, protecting and maintaining the BMT.
- ◆ **Become a Member by Donation**—For a donation of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or more, you will receive an Individual or Family Membership for 2023.
- ◆ **Donate to BMTA's Land Acquisition Fund (LAF)** so we will be ready to act when a parcel that would be valuable for the trail corridor comes on the market.

[DONATE](#)

[JOIN/RENEW](#)

[DONATE—LAF](#)

*Memberships purchased between October 1 and December 31, 2022 will be good thru December 31, 2023.*

## Sights and Meeting Fun!



Chef Patty Masters creates artistic gourds!

## Trail Worker of the Year Joe Cantwell

by Joy Forehand



Joe Cantwell was awarded the prestigious Trail Worker of the Year Pulaski. And with 252 maintenance hours to his credit, he became a member of the 2022 100-Hour Club.

It was Cantwell's father, Kermit Cantwell, who fueled Joe's love for the outdoors and the need to protect it.

Joe watched his father navigate the political landscape to help protect some of America's most treasured wilderness areas – the New York State Adirondack and Catskill preserves that in 1895 were the first to be designated Forever Wild.

Joe graduated from the New York State College of Forestry, and later earned a degree as a Civil Engineer at Syracuse University.

“This was in ‘64 - ‘68 (1964-1968) when environmental issues were just starting to become important in construction. It wasn't at the forefront yet. Now everything has to be environmentally friendly,” said Joe.

His forestry and engineering background were an invaluable asset for many of the projects that would highlight Joe's career as a civil engineer – the construction of I-20 from Douglasville to the Alabama state line; the successful protection of the Chattahoochee River when a sewer line was constructed next to it; the reconstruction of a bridge destroyed by fire on I-85 as well as all five runways at the Atlanta Airport – especially the fifth runway which he considers a “pinnacle project” utilizing 4-1/2 miles of conveyors rather than conventional dump trucks, thus protecting the environment and the traveling public.

Once retired, his attention turned towards opportunities to volunteer. Hiking and trail maintenance were high on his list. He adopted his first sections in 2021.

Now 76-years-old, Joe is a regular participant on Georgia and Tennessee work trips. In addition, Joe maintains 10c-d (Hemp Top Trail >> Double Spring Gap) and 12a-b (US 64 >> Kimsey Highway). Overall, the sections are in the Cohutta and Little Frog Wilderness Areas where no mechanized equipment may be used for maintenance.

“The biggest challenge on 10c and 10d is the sections are prone to blowdowns, but it's the diameter of the blowdowns that's the real problem,” said Joe. “It can take hours to cut just one tree. The latest was a 32” red oak that took three or four hours.”

Another special event was on the agenda for Joe this fall when he and fellow BMTAer Patti O'Dell exchanged wedding vows on October 15. Their first date was a hike on the Appalachian Trail. Shortly thereafter they trekked on the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) to see Owen Vista and the plaque honoring Benton MacKaye. Hiking and the BMT soon became a staple for their weekend activities.

Congratulations to Joe!

## Volunteer of the Year Joy Forehand



Blue Ridge resident, Joy Forehand, was named the Benton MacKaye Trail Association 2022 Volunteer of the Year.

A former magazine editor, office manager and horse show architect/manager, Forehand's office and planning skills were soon put to work for the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA).

Forehand has served as Secretary and Vice President. In 2022, she was elected Communications Director and is the Electronic Media Coordinator.

Forehand also is a member of BMTA's National Scenic Trail Committee which is spear-heading the quest for the Benton MacKaye Trail to be designated a National Scenic Trail.

Her love for the outdoors was peaked while living in Ohio and California where she exercised racehorses on the track and also was active on the horse show circuit.

"My favorite was riding cross country," said Forehand. "I fell in love with the Pacific Crest Trail –probably because every section I rode offered new challenges for me and my horse. And because the incredible vistas made you feel like you were on top of the world."

When Joy and her husband, Frank, moved to Blue Ridge in 2011, hiking was at the top of their list for activities. It was BMTA's hiking program that first drew the couple to the association.

"When you're new to the area, it's great to have someone leading you on a hike. You won't get lost trying to find the trailhead and you get to try hikes you may otherwise not have known about ... and of course there's the friendly camaraderie as you get to know other hikers," said Forehand. "But it's not just hiking, the BMTA has something for everyone."

For the Forehands, that niche is maintaining their BMT section in the Aska Adventure Area (in Blue Ridge) that runs past Rocky Mountain. They're also hike leaders for the Pink Lady Slipper hikes.

"The 'ladies' actually are a wild orchid," said Joy. "This spring was a particularly good season for them. And ... we spotted an extremely rare white slipper."

"Whether it's riding a horse, hiking or maintaining the trail, there's no better place to be than in the woods," Joy concluded.

# Snippets from the Annual Meeting



**Wish Your Hiker Friends & Family a Very Merry Christmas with a Gift from the BMTA Trail Store**



**Shop the Trail Store Now!**



Dick Evans introducing the keynote speaker Angelina Jumper. Evans was instrumental in finding her.



Clare Sullivan greeted everyone with a welcoming smile and a name tag!



Debra Guhl donated a handmade Christmas wreath. Such wonderful creativity!!

## Halloween Fun at Hickory Flats Cemetery and Long Creek Falls

by Mike Pilvinsky

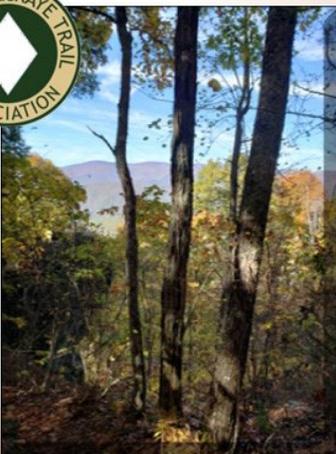
On Halloween, Tom and Carolyn Sewell, Kelly Motter, Tam Ashwood and I were treated to a great hike. We trekked almost five miles on this pleasant out and back trail. Although the weather prediction called for rain on Halloween, we weren't scared. We hiked from Three Forks, north along the Benton MacKaye Trail and the Appalachian Trail (AT) to Long Creek Falls. There we enjoyed the beautiful cascade under a cloudy and cool sky. After backtracking a very short distance we continued on the AT to Hickory Flats Cemetery. There, at the well-maintained pavilion, we stopped for a snack and a ghost story. Afterward we returned to Three Forks to finish the hike.



Tom Sewell and Tam Ashwood on the merry-go-round at Hickory Flats Cemetery. Perhaps a friendly ghost gave them a push!?



Tom and Caroline Sewell and Tam Ashwood at Long Creek Falls.



### Quest for National Scenic Trail

#### Our Continued Success Depends on YOU!

– If You Love the BMT and You Live in the United States –

Please ask your Senators/Representative to support our quest.

Ask your friends and family to contact their

Congressional representatives as well.

Use the links below to find your Senators/Representative.

[Senator](#)

[Representative](#)

## Sisson Shelter Re-staining

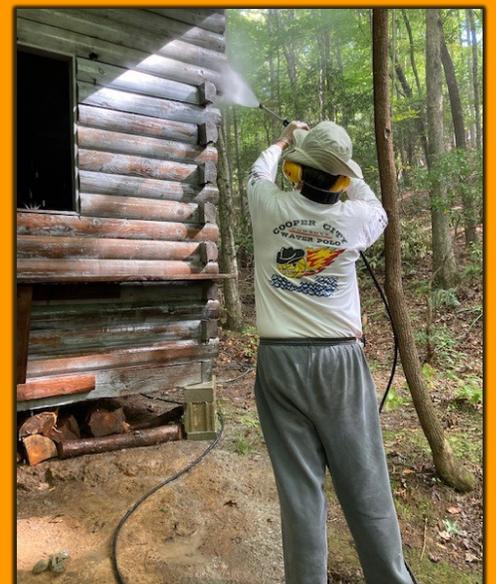
by Mike Pilvinsky

I have visited the Indian Rock Road shelter on the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) many times. It sits about halfway between Highway 515 and Boardtown Road on the BMT in Georgia. It's the halfway point that divides section 7b from 7c. For many years I've noticed it was badly in need of re-staining. I recently found out that it had been built and stained 25 years ago. The last time I visited it on a hike I made up my mind that it had to be refurbished. So, I spoke to the Georgia Maintenance Director, Bob Cowdrick, and told him I was willing to take the lead on a project to spruce it up a bit. Bob readily said, "Go for it."



Gilbert Treadwell, Ken Cissna, Darcy Douglas and I walked out to the shelter and made an assessment of the work that would be required. It looked like there were three inches of composted leaves plus another scattering of sticks and small limbs on the roof. A few days later Gilbert, Ken and I returned with an extension ladder, rakes and a leaf blower. Gilbert cleaned the debris off the roof. While doing so he discovered that the 25-year-old fiberglass panel roof had several holes and his weight caused another couple of holes. We determined a new roof was needed but the underlying plywood may not have to be replaced.

In mid-September, Darcy, Ken, Steve Pruett and I returned to rinse, wash, scrub and pressure wash the exterior of the shelter in preparation for staining. Four days later we returned and covered the shelter in a nice new coat of Sherwin Williams Cabin Brown solid stain. At this point it doesn't appear that a second coat of stain will be required, but if it is, our happy band of painters will be ready and willing to go back and finish the job.



Continued next page

We really appreciated homeowner Mike Clemons allowing us to use his water for the pressure washing. A Boy Scout, from Kennesaw, Georgia, has plans to replace the roof, build real steps and a wood rack at the shelter for his Eagle Scout Project. I will keep you informed on the progress of this project which is expected to last until after the first of the year.



## Clean Trails Day and More

by Bob Cowdrick

### ‘Success’

Oxford’s Dictionary defines **success** as: *the accomplishment of an aim or purpose*. On Saturday, October 8, the GA Work Trip was a **success** on many levels.

We had many goals to accomplish and we exceeded our expectations.

Crew #1, led by Ken Cissna and assisted by Darcy Douglas, Mike Pilvinsky, Bobby Fuller, Steve Hayden and Bob Nelson **successfully** cleaned out badly needed water diversions on Section 6b at Fall Branch Falls. The hike back to the trail head required extreme diligence navigating the hikers headed to the falls.

Barry Allen’s, Crew #2, with Matt Gallagher, Irene Hall, Daphne Martin, Madison Martin, Shane Morrison, Art Kolberg, Bob McLarty and Patrick Ward **successfully** transported some bridge bulkhead lumber, improved five diversions, lopped one mile of trail, swing bladed another mile and reinforced the beaver dam crossing on Section 10a from Watson Gap to the Jacks River Trail.

A recent trail report by a thru hiker on Section 2d (the Suspension bridge to Hwy 60) stated it needed some help. Phil Guhl, Debra Guhl, Dave Ricker and Sue Ricker responded and **successfully** cleared that section. After brushing two miles of trail and cutting out 13 trees, hikers will not be complaining any more.

This past summer the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) applied for a grant. We were **successfully** awarded a Clean Trails Grant from Extreme Terra. Local BMTAers donated funds for the project. We purchased disposable trash bags, bio-degradable gloves, info cards and carabiners. Joy and Frank Forehand pre-packaged the bags and attached the info cards. Whitney June along with Steve Pruett and Kelly Motter staffed the table at the Suspension Bridge. David Watkins, Penny Strickland, Tom Atcheson and Bob Cowdrick did the same at Fall Branch Falls. The message was “don’t leave trash on the trail and if you see some, pick it up.” The reward was full bags of trash returned to the trailheads.



Excited to help!! Thank you all so very much!!!!



Early lessons in “Leave No Trace!”

Continued next page



David Watkins, Tom Atcheson and Bob Cowdrick get the message out.



This couple came all the way from the United Kingdom!



Whitney June and her assistant Blossom.



Crew 1: Bob Nelson, Ken Cissna, Mike Pilvinsky, Bobby Fuller and Steve Hayden aka "The Rowdies."



The work on Section 10a. Not for sissies!

Continued next page

The stats speak **success**:

- 0 injuries to trail maintenance volunteers
- 1 reinforced beaver dam crossing
- 2 miles of lopping
- 2 Clean Trails Fall Branch Falls Hikers from the UK
- 3 miles of brushing
- 11 water diversions
- 13 trees removed
- 26 BMTA members and guests attending
- 201 hours of volunteer effort
- 624 visitors to the Clean Trails Day info tables

= A very **successful** day!



Thanks again to each one of you for participating. We accomplished many goals by working together. Our next GA Work Trip will be Saturday, November 12. Please consider joining us!

## Run From the Hills! Yellow Jackets Rule the Day!

by Dick Evans

Randy and Sunaree Bullock and I managed to clear a big blockage and several smaller ones along the Stairway to Heaven. We also managed to irritate a nest of yellow jackets and I was stung more than a dozen times under my helmet. Good Times! This necessitated an early retreat from Section 19c.



## Gahuti “Lite” Loop

by Clayton Webster and Ken Cissna

On Friday, September 30, 2022, nine Benton MacKaye Trail Association members walked five miles on a combination of five trails labeled as the “Gahuti Lite” by Hike Leader Ken Cissna. Other trails included on our hike were the Goldmine Creek Trail, the Creek Connector Trail, the Lake Trail and the Big Rock Trail.



Howard Baggett, Darcy Douglas, Tom Sewell, Sue Ford, Mike Pilvinsky, Ken Cissna, Carolyn Sewell, and Clayton Webster. Trail dogs Erin and Artie were also a big part of the hike. Photo was taken by Gloria Harmon.



Shortly into the hike, we came to our best overlook of the day. A very nice new metal bench had just recently been installed here. It appears most of the park benches that we saw have been replaced with the new maintenance-free ones.

Once we turned off the Gahuti Trail onto the Goldmine Creek Trail and then the Creek Connector Trail, we headed downhill towards the Lake Trail. Fort Mountain has a beautiful lake with a nice sand beach and swimming area. The campground and picnic areas are adjacent to the lake. Our lunch destination was beside some big boulders alongside the usually fast-flowing stream on the Big Rock Trail. But with our recent dry spell the stream was just a trickle. All who had been here before said they had never seen it this dry.



For such a beautiful autumn day we saw very few hikers except for BMTA members Steve Dennison and Vickie Yunker. Shortly after that we returned to the Gahuti Trail for the uphill trek to our cars. Suddenly trail dog Artie alerted us by growling and barking. An adult bear had crossed the trail ahead of us heading up the slope to our right. Ken kept a tight grip on the leash and soon we were safely on our way.

## Perfect Buck Bald

by Anne Anderson



Gary Harmon, Marlene and David Stover and Paul McCord

We had perfect October blue weather with temperatures in the 50's. We were unable to park our vehicles at the trailhead on Hwy 68 because hunters had parked in all the available spaces. Instead, we backtracked and parked at the trailhead for USFS 82 and the dirt bike trail 0.3 mile south on Hwy 68. We trekked up the road to the trailhead and then headed to Buck Bald. We had clear 360-degree views of the surrounding mountains. The picnic table at the bald is collapsed (vandalism?) as shown in our photo. On our return trip we opted to take USFS 82 at its intersection with the BMT since our cars were there. Because it was so dry we didn't encounter mud in the ruts, but the ruts and rocks made us appreciate the much better treadway on the BMT.

## Deep in the Forest



Shadow Falls courtesy of Steve Dennison



Unicoi Crest to Tellico Fish Hatchery by Greg Redman

## Overnight Work Trip

by Barry Allen



The overnight work trip was challenging with plenty of trees to be removed. We started a cut on the left side of a locust tree and discovered a yellow jacket nest under the log on the right side. A few stings were encountered but nothing severe. We removed, I think, 68 trees from the Penitentiary and six from the Benton MacKaye Trail. There were some very large and difficult trees on the Penitentiary. It took all day Saturday for our seven-man crew and then a couple of more hours on Sunday morning finishing the last half mile of Penitentiary into the Campground.

## Cherohala Festival Sights



Steve Barnes, Bob Cowdrick, Judy Norton, Barb and Gary Lewinsky and Rick Harris manned the booth.



Mother and son working together!

## Abrams Creek Falls

by Mike Pilvinsky

On Monday, October 18, we assembled at the Abrams Creek Campground in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park (GSMNP) where we camped for four nights. Our group included five Benton MacKaye Trail Association members and one guest, Susan Faidley, a former AT thru hiker and GSMNP 800-miler from Chattanooga. After setting up in this bare bones campground we began exploring the terrain along the Cooper Road Trail which was once the only road between Happy Valley and Cades Cove. The next morning, we were going to hike upstream to Abrams Creek Falls, one of the most popular destinations in the park. Our chosen route was far less traveled than the hike from the Cades Cove trailhead. Our trailhead was actually in the campground. We connected to the Little Bottoms Trail, Hanna Mountain Trail and then the Abrams Falls Trail. The typical route is known as an easy to moderate five-mile round trip. Our route was a challenging trek of almost 11 miles. Although the mornings were cold for mid-October, we were blessed by fair weather and magnificent colors. At times we thought we were walking on a path lined with gold. We all slept well that night.

The next day we navigated the “Tail of the Dragon,” to Twentymile Ranger Station and hiked the Twentymile loop. This was a very beautiful trail and considerably more moderate hiking than the Little Bottoms Trail of the previous day. After our hike, we rewarded ourselves with dinner at Tapoco Lodge. Thursday morning, we set out on the Rabbit Creek Trail only to find a wet river crossing soon after beginning the hike. We changed plans and hiked several miles out and back on the Cooper Road Trails. Although we could have done without the cold mornings, these were a couple of great hikes with absolutely beautiful scenery. I would definitely return to Abrams Creek Campground in warmer weather.



Worth the trek!!!



Bear Poop!!

# Upcoming Hikes and Work Trips

Thanks to Tom Sewell, our Hiking Director the past two years, for putting these together.

## Guidelines for Our Hikes

### COVID-19 Concerns

If you believe you are in a high-risk group, please evaluate whether going on this hike is worth the potential risk.

## November

**November 14** (Monday) BMT: Three Forks to Hickory Flat on AT, along FS road to No Name Bald and back on BMT. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog) 7 miles, moderate. Hoping we'll get some nice fall colors, plus Long Creek and Long Creek Falls. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org).



**November 19** TN/NC Work Trip Section 13c – Big Bend >> Towee Creek Register online <https://bmta.org/events/november-19-tn-nc-work-trip/> or contact Keith Mertz at [keithmertz@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmertz@hotmail.com).

**November 25** (Friday) Amadahy Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog) 5 miles, easy to easy-moderate. Good hike for the day after Thanksgiving. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org).

**November 28** (Monday) BMT Skeenah Gap to Wilscot Gap and return. Hikers have two options, out and back 10.6 miles or shorter hike 5.3 miles. Hike is moderate/strenuous with over 1500 feet of elevation gain. The views will be good with most of the leaves off the trees. Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at [hikeleaderKM@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderKM@bmtamail.org).

**November 30** (Wednesday) Big Frog Wilderness in Tennessee. Moderate 6.5-mile loop hike. Yellow Stand Lead Trail #73 to Grassy Gap Trail to Big Creek Trail #89 off USFS road #221. Meet up at Thunder Rock Campground. Contact Hike Leaders Clare and Ed Sullivan at [hikeleaderCS2@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderCS2@bmtamail.org).

## December

**December 7** (Wednesday) Nantahala Forest in South Carolina. Bad Creek Trailhead to Lower Whitewater Falls. Easy to moderate 4.2 miles with a possible side trip to Upper Whitewater Falls which at over 800 feet of drop is the highest waterfall east of the Rockies. Meet up location is Oconee State Park, South Carolina. Contact Hike Leader Mike Pilvinsky at [hikeleaderMP@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderMP@bmtamail.org).

**December 9** (Friday) Hemp Top/BMT to Double Springs Gap and return. Moderately strenuous 10 miles. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at [hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org](mailto:hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org).



**December 10** (Saturday) GA Work Trip. Section 3b - Wallalah-Licklog Saddle » Licklog-Rhodes Saddle. Register online at <https://bmta.org/events/december-10-ga-work-trip/> or contact Bob Cowdrick at [bcowdrick@comcast.net](mailto:bcowdrick@comcast.net).

**December 12 (Monday) BMT:** Dally Gap to Jack’s River and back. **DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE** (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at [hikeleaderKCbmt@mail.org](mailto:hikeleaderKCbmt@mail.org).

**December 14 (Wednesday) BMT:** Watson Gap to Jack’s River Trail intersection to Hemp Top to Dally Gap and return. Moderate 8 miles. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at [hikeleaderSD@bmt@mail.org](mailto:hikeleaderSD@bmt@mail.org).

To access our website calendar go [HERE](#).

## Have a wonderful Thanksgiving! Happy Hiking!



The deadline for the December Newsletter is Wednesday, November 30.  
Thank you!