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BMTA Headquarters



Benton MacKaye Trail Association

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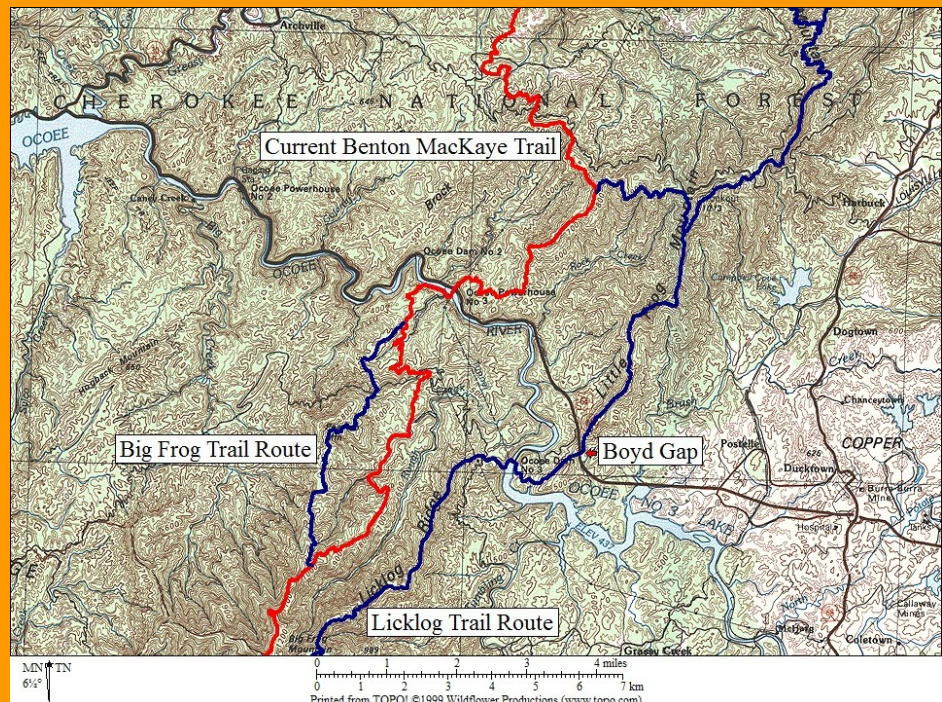
Trail Routes That Didn't Make The Cut

Part 1

by Marty Dominy

Over the years, various routes have been proposed for particular segments of the Benton MacKaye Trail. Many are part of the trail as we know it today while others never made it beyond a line marked on a map. A few proposed trail routes actually were scouted and flagged before being rejected.

For those unfamiliar with the original concept plan, the proposed route between Springer Mountain and Rocky Mountain in what is now Section 6 was drastically different from the Benton MacKaye Trail of today. As proposed, the trail would have run parallel to Forest Road 42 to Doublehead Gap, then along the Tennessee Valley Divide to Rich Mountain, over Big Bald and Little Bald, down to Stanley Gap, then along the old Rich Mountain Trail to where the trail now intersects the Stanley Gap Trail. The biggest problem was the private property west of Doublehead Gap. The proximity of Forest Road 42 to the trail for the first seven miles was not a mark in the plus column either. This route would have required substantial rehabilitation of parts of the now abandoned Rich Mountain Trail south of Stanley Gap. The Forest Service proposed the current route from the Duncan Ridge Trail on Rhodes Mountain so that is where construction started in 1980.



In the late 1980s, a route was scouted through the eastern part of the Cohutta Wilderness. Keep in mind that the Forest Service had a policy at that time that new long trails had no business in a designated Wilderness. Going around the Wilderness to the east would have been a daunting task and would have bypassed the great high elevation features we know and love today. In the early 1980s, a road was open all the way to the old fire tower on Hemp Top. In time this road was closed back to the Penitentiary Branch Trailhead. Scouting and flagging took place to get the trail off the road as soon as was practicable north of Watson Gap. The objective was to have a trail that had no contact with an active road until it exited the Big Frog Wilderness in Tennessee. The Forest Service eventually approved the route from Watson Gap to the Jacks River Trail. They rejected a route that continued north along the west slope to a point north of the Penitentiary Branch Trailhead where the Benton MacKaye Trail would have joined the closed segment of the road to Hemp Top. The rejected route stayed about a quarter-mile west of the road to preserve the perception of a trail in the wilds. What wasn't known by those scouting the trail at the time was that the closure of the road from Dally Gap to Penitentiary Branch Trailhead was imminent. The Forest Service directed the BMTA to design a more direct route from the Jacks River Trail to the now closed road at a point one mile north of Dally Gap. That is where the trail is located today.



January 8, 1989.

There was a brief scouting trip that started on the east side of Haw Knob, just into North Carolina and about a mile from Mud Gap where the Benton MacKaye Trail is now located. This picture shows the construction of the Cherokee Skyway. There was an existing trail, the Hooper Bald Trail, that ran from Mud Gap over Haw Knob and Big Junction to Hooper Bald, well east of the current Benton MacKaye Trail route. The Skyway was superimposed on parts of this old trail.

Just across the line in Tennessee, there was a great debate about where to cross the Ocoee River. Some influence on this crossing was made by a similar debate of where to cross the Hiwassee River. The concept plan had the trail crossing the Hiwassee at the Highway 68 bridge just outside of Farner. In the meantime, while a crossing of the Ocoee at Ocoee #3 Powerhouse and the use of the Dry Pond Lead Trail was favored, other options were explored. Some suggested that the route could follow the Licklog Trail after leaving Georgia, cross Ocoee #3 Dam, cross Highway 64 at Boyd Gap, then follow the ridge leading directly north to Sassafras Knob at the north edge of the Little Frog Wilderness. This suggestion was taken so seriously that one Saturday, most of the BMTA Board of Directors toured Ocoee #3 Dam. In addition, the abandoned trail between Boyd Gap and Sassafras Gap was scouted and measured so that an accurate evaluation could be made. But the Ocoee #3 Powerhouse crossing with the Dry Pond Lead directly across the highway was hard to beat, so that is where the trail would be located.



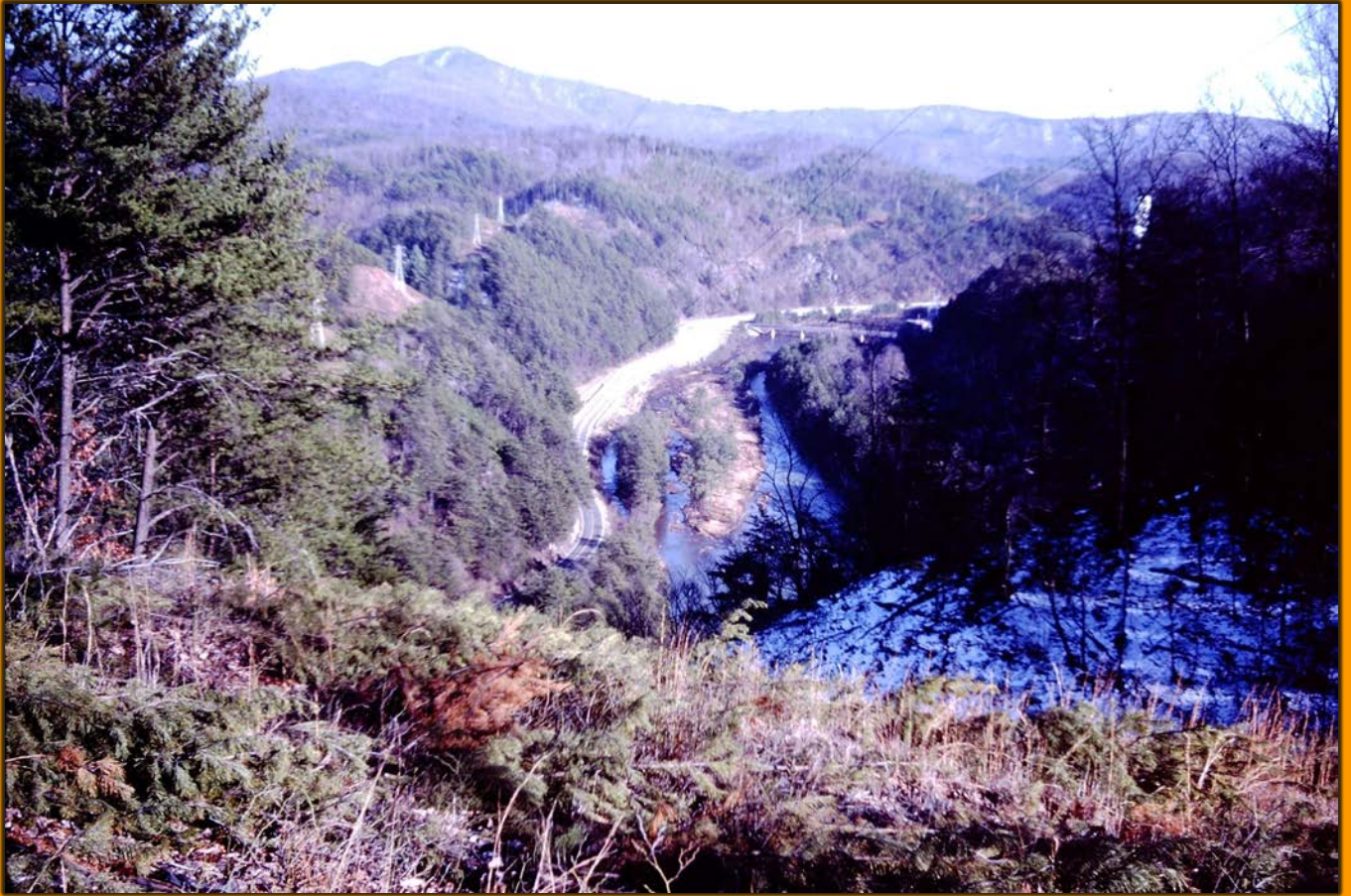
Up on Forest Road 221 south of the Ocoee River Gorge. Dominy believes this is looking northwest toward Chilhowee Mountain.



On the sharp ridge south of Ocoee #2 Dam looking west or downstream over the Ocoee River Gorge. It's doubtful you actually can see the river due to the shadows, but the highway is on the right and the flume is on the left. This was the ridge Clayton Pannell and Dominy descended.

If one thinks that the selection of the Ocoee River crossing made things simple between the north end of the Big Frog Wilderness and the Ocoee River, one would be wrong. The initial thought was to follow the Big Frog Trail all the way to its north end at the Sheeds Creek – Peavine Road (Forest Road 221). A route was scouted and flagged to build new trail west of the existing Forest Road 45 all the way to the river. Lo and behold, the Forest Service determined that most of that route would be the ideal location for a relocated and much improved upper half of Forest Road 45. So, it was back to the drawing board. Plan “B” was to depart the Big Frog Trail at the Fork Ridge Trail, descend to the west on the Rough Creek Trail, follow the abandoned roadbed down and build new trail to Forest Road 221 opposite where old Forest Road 45 intersected.

North of Forest Road 221, the Benton MacKaye Trail would follow the roadbed of old Forest Road 45 and cross to the west side of the current Forest Road 45. A short section of very old, graded trail would be used to approach the rim of the gorge. This is where a big challenge started. Clayton Pannell and Marty Dominy waded through briars to scout the ridge leading directly to Ocoee #2 Dam and the rafting put-in. The idea was to descend along the west slope of this ridge above the flume before circling the ridge near the dam and coming out into the flats near Thunder Rock Campground. In retrospect, it was decided that kicking loose rock down the steep slope into the river would not improve hiker – rafter relations. Others got in on the act. At one point in time, there were at least five different lines of flagging ribbon with various colors extending from the rim of the gorge to the banks of the river. Eventually, a route down the cove where the trail currently resides was approved by the Forest Service.



In this picture, you can see the powerlines, the highway, the river, the bridge over the river at Ocoee #3 Powerhouse, and if you look carefully, the surge tank above the powerhouse. The ridge in the background should be the south end of Little Frog Mountain with the high point on the left being Panther Knob.

One of the most controversial and drama filled events in the history of the BMTA occurred on the workday advertised as the first day of building trail into the gorge. Participants for the workday arrived on the site to be informed that construction would be postponed in hopes of getting the Benton MacKaye Trail routed to a yet-to-be-built bridge at the proposed Olympic whitewater venue. While maintenance on other trail sections took place that day, it was expressed in no uncertain terms that the effort taken over months and months to get the trail route into the gorge approved would not go wasted. Trail construction into the gorge proceeded in the following months.



Ocoee
Whitewater Center to
Be Rebuilt!



2023 BMTA Annual Meeting & Hike Fest

Tellico Plains, Tennessee

November 2 – 5, 2023



Whigg Meadow from Mud Gap

3.2 miles round-trip, 500' elevation climb, 5000' peak elevation

At 5000' with expansive views in all directions, Whigg Meadow is a large, open bald near the state line between TN and NC. From the meadow, one can see the TN River Valley and the Cumberland Plateau beyond on a clear day. A great place for a picnic. The hike to the bald features a 1.6 mile 500' climb up an old roadbed which now is the BMT, returning the same route.

Bald River Trail

9.5 miles round-trip, 500' elevation climb

The Bald River Trail is a heavily travelled, almost five-mile long trail through the Bald River Gorge Wilderness. The trail follows along the river with numerous cascades and waterfalls. We will start at Bald River Road and go downstream to the main falls where the bridge is being replaced and return by the same route. You will be able to see the bridge construction as well as the main falls itself

Bob Bald from State Line on Cherohala Skyway

7 miles round-trip, 900' elevation climb. Peak elevation 5280'

Bob Bald is one of the iconic Southern Appalachian balds, a mile-high in the sky with expansive views into NC and the Cherohala Skyway. The trek is almost a 1000' climb on the BMT, but is well worth the views. Numerous campsites on the bald beckon backpackers and thru hikers alike.

Coker Creek Falls

Short 1-mile hike with only a few hundred feet climb

Coker Creek Falls is just a short distance from the trailhead on a well-maintained trail. The falls are more of a series of cascades than a single waterfall, each of the cascades drops 20-30 feet over ledges.

Falls Branch Falls

2.6 miles round-trip

This hike to a 90' waterfall off the Cherohala Skyway involves going down/up a 500' steep trail to the base of the falls. Compared to the Bald River Falls, it is smaller but about the same height. And you are alone in the pristine Citico Wilderness — a very different experience from the hordes who visit the better-known Bald River Falls near Tellico.

Hiwassee River along the John Muir Trail

About 4 miles — maybe a 200' climb

This segment of the BMT and John Muir Trail is the prettiest along the banks of the Hiwassee River — a rather large mountain river coming out of NC on its journey to the Tennessee River. The Hiwassee is famous for trout fishing and kayaking/canoeing. This three-mile fairly flat trail showcases the incredible cascades popular with trout fly fishermen and kayakers. The trail is named for John Muir who traversed this segment on his first travels from Indiana to Florida. The treks led to his love of all things natural — and all the rest is history.

Lost Creek on the BMT

5 miles along a beautiful tumbling creek in a rocky ravine

Lost Creek is a tributary of the Hiwassee River which runs through a narrow, steep canyon with numerous stunning cascades. We will hike from the Lost Creek Campground on the BMT for about 2.5 miles. We will return the way we came on this fairly flat trail with one significant but safe crossing of Little Lost Creek (bring creek shoes). There are several popular swimming holes along the way that you or your kids might want to check out.

East Ellijay, Ellijay and Gilmer County Designated a BMT Trail Town Community

by Joy Forehand with photos courtesy of Robert Ferguson

A forecast for inclement weather forced a last-minute venue change for the second annual Georgia Mountain Trail Fest. Originally set for April 22, 2023, at Harrison Park in Ellijay, GA, the festival location was moved to the Reece's Cider Company on Highway 52 East.

A steady stream of speakers throughout the day as well as a number of tents and tables from various groups offered a wide variety of information on outdoor recreational opportunities available in the area. Oh, and there was that hard cider to enjoy...

The highlight of the Trail Fest was the Benton MacKaye Trail Association's (BMTA) Announcement and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony welcoming East Ellijay, Ellijay and Gilmer County as an official Benton MacKaye Trail Town Community. BMTA member David Watkins presented certificates to Ellijay Police Chief Edward Lacy and Gilmer County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlie Paris. Karlene Ferguson, Georgia Mountain Trails Partnership's (GMTP) festival manager, also received a certificate as a thanks for her help to make this BMTA Trail Town Community a reality. Using mega-sized scissors supplied by Ron Cheslock of the Gilmer County Chamber of Commerce, BMTAer Kathy Anderson did the official ribbon cutting.



BMTA's speaker, Kathy Anderson gave a presentation on the great hiking opportunities available in the Gilmer County area. The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club's speaker gave a presentation on Benton MacKaye – his life as well as his ideas and visions for trails and outdoor activities.

The BMTA Event Tent was a popular stop where visitors learned about the Benton MacKaye Trail and what we do to maintain it.

We tip our hat to GMPT's Karleen Ferguson who did a phenomenal job putting on a very successful festival under far from desirable circumstances.

A big thanks to all our BMTA volunteers – without your help we wouldn't be able to spread the word about the BMT.

Thank you to: Kathy Anderson, Betty Ann Archer, Steve Barnes, Bob Cowdrick, Frank Forehand, Tom Sewell and David Watkins.



Bob Cowdrick and Steve Barnes manned BMTA's Inter-Active Crosscut – Commissioner Paris couldn't resist trying it out.



2023 BMTA Annual Meeting & Hike Fest

Tellico Plains, Tennessee

November 2 – 5, 2023

[Rooms](#)

[Cabins](#)

[Campsites](#)

BOOK NOW!

Go to [Accommodations](#) for Details.

Things We Should Carry - First Aid Kits

by Bob Cowdrick

Hiking is a great way to get exercise, enjoy the outdoors and spend time with friends and family. It is important to be prepared for any unexpected injuries or illnesses that may occur while you're on the trail. That's why I always pack a first aid kit with me on every hike and maintenance trip.

The type of first aid kit you need will depend on the length and difficulty of your hike. For a day hike, a small, lightweight kit may be all you need. However, if you're planning on an overnight or multi-day hike, you'll need a larger, more comprehensive kit.

Here are some essential items to include in your first aid kit:

- Bandages of various sizes
- Gauze pads
- Antiseptic wipes or ointment
- Pain relievers (such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen)
- Antihistamine (for allergic reactions)
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Benadryl (for insect bites)
- Moleskin (for blisters)
- Tweezers (for removing splinters)
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- First aid manual



Continued next page

By packing a first aid kit with you on every hike you can be prepared for anything that comes your way. And you can rest assured knowing that you're taking the necessary precautions to stay safe and healthy on the trail. Some additional tips for packing a first aid kit include:

- Make sure your kit is waterproof and durable.
- Update your kit regularly as needed.
- Practice using the items in your kit so you know how to use them in an emergency.
- Take a first aid course so you can learn how to treat common injuries and illnesses.

By following these tips, you can be sure that you have a well-stocked and up to date first aid kit that will be ready for any emergency on the trail.



Do You Have Old BMTA T-Shirts or Bandanas You Don't Wear Anymore?

Trail Store Shirts • Maintainer T-Shirts • BMTA Bandanas



Your old items can be used to raise funds for
BMTA's Land Acquisition Fund!

BMTAer Lydia Burns will use the material to create a beautiful BMT quilt for the 2023 Annual Meeting Raffle.

'Quilts by Lydia' are very popular with the bidders!

To donate your old T-Shirts or bandanas, contact [Lydia Burns](#).

The quilt will be an item in the 2023 Annual Meeting Raffle!

Tennessee Maintenance - Living the Life!!!

by Nelson Ashbrook



Wilderness Monitoring Coordinator Needed

by Bob Cowdrick

The BMTA Board has learned that volunteers are allowed to monitor and collect foot traffic data in designated Wilderness Areas.

Georgia Forest Watch, SAWS and the GATC have been collecting visitor data. They have used a simple, repeatable process for measuring both the volume and variety of visitor use on wilderness trails. This monitoring program is an effort to complete a five-year wilderness-wide survey for solitude.

Would this be an effort that could be beneficial for the BMT? Possibly yes! Therefore, we are looking for a BMTA member who would be interested in researching, investigating and developing such a program in conjunction with the USFS on the BMT.

For more information about this project, please contact Bob Cowdrick bcowdrick@comcast.net 678-215-5276 for details.

Craddock Center to Weaver Creek Trailhead

by Darcy Douglas with photo courtesy of Laurie Music

This hike was from the Craddock Center where we parked, to the Weaver Creek Trailhead and back. Participants were Crystal Allan, Betty Ann Archer, Dave Brown, Denise Brown, Ken Cissna, Jan Jeffcoat, Laurie Music, Martha Payne, Penny Strickland, Gilbert Treadwell and Evelin Yarns.



We were treated to tadpoles, many spring flowers and some lovely streams glistening in the sun. We saw the earthen dam with its high dike! Too bad the water was too low to take a dive.

Someone has designed and built a side trail to avoid some of the mudholes near Weaver Creek Trailhead. Since we saw the walkaround, we took it.

It has gotten a lot of use from the looks of things. Lovely day with lovely company!!!!

After the hike a few of us went to Ellijay for lunch.

If we were to continue Scroggin Knob is "That away!"

The Best Trail Shelter in Georgia

by Mike Pilvinsky with photos courtesy of Leah Briick

As a short refresher, the Boy Scouts of America have a system of ranks which begin with Tenderfoot and culminate with Eagle Scout. Generally, becoming an Eagle Scout is about a three-year journey of learning skills, demonstrating leadership and maturing. A scout is required to complete a significant community service project in order to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

A few months ago, we offered a future Eagle Scout the opportunity to help the BMTA while completing the community service requirement. We are thrilled he stepped up to the challenge and now we have the best trail shelter in Georgia!

Garrett Briick is a Life Scout in Troop 540 which is sponsored by Due West United Methodist Church in Marietta, Georgia. Greg Becker is the Scoutmaster of the troop and there are approximately 80 scouts in the troop. Briick is 15 years old and a sophomore at Altoona High School. Briick has been involved in the Boy Scouts since the first grade. Conservation projects are a passion of his and he has earned many conservation-related merit badges. Due to his interests, his choice to complete a conservation-related project for his Eagle Scout project was a natural fit. In the future, Briick hopes to pursue a professional career in the field of aviation.

For this project, Briick was required to develop a plan, obtain funding or donations to cover the cost of the project, obtain the supplies, solicit volunteers to help with the work as well as schedule and supervise the work. The BMTA provided volunteers to do those tasks that were restricted to adults - the boys were prohibited from working on the roof and operating dangerous machinery.

After two weather delays and one site visit, Briick brought his team to the shelter on Sunday, April 23. There was a lot of work ahead and barely enough volunteers to accomplish it. After nine hours on Cherry Log Mountain, the shelter had a new roof, new steps at the entrance, three beautiful benches around the fire pit and a new covered firewood storage rack. It was a job we can all be proud of and Briick now has something to one day show his children.







Darcy Douglas, Bob Cowdrick, Garrett Briick, Mike Pilvinsky and Ken Cissna.

BMTA members included Mike Pilvinsky, Andy Meeks, Darcy Douglas, Bob Cowdrick, Ken Cissna and Leah Briick. Scouts and their leaders included Dave Briick, Garrett Briick, Michael Bleichner and Lucas Bleichner.

A special thanks to Chip Phillips of New Image Roofs, and Beacon Building Products who donated the roofing materials and to Home Depot Store #0156, Acworth, GA, who donated \$200 worth of building supplies.

Garrett is currently raising money to help pay for his trip to South Korea this summer for the Boy Scouts World Jamboree. Donations are appreciated. Checks made out to Garrett Briick should be mailed to Mike Pilvinsky, 77 Creekview Drive, Ellijay, GA 30536.

A Thrilling and Educational Day Hiking at the Project Chimps Sanctuary

by Clare Sullivan with photos courtesy of Cindy Mellvaine, Rick Harris and Kathy Williams

On a gorgeous Spring day, 20 BMTA hikers enjoyed a trek along the Yellow Trail at Project Chimps. Our BMTA Hike Leader, Kathy Williams, has been volunteering at Project Chimps for four years. In fact, Williams won the Volunteer Down and Dirty Award in 2022!

The 2.5-mile Yellow Trail is rated moderate and provides a beautiful overlook where we first heard sounds of the chimps. Project Chimps provides habitats for 96 chimpanzees retired from the New Iberia Research Center in Louisiana. Eventually, over 200 chimps will be able to forage, climb and explore on the 25-acres as their cousins do in the wild.

The hikers' donations of \$525 made them eligible for a private tour by Williams who also serves as a tour guide for Project Chimps. By the end of our hike, we had acquired a lot of chimp knowledge. Did you know chimps make 30 different communication sounds? They eat between five and seven pounds of fruit and vegetables a day. Their emotional development is similar to a 2–3-year-old human, and their intelligence is similar to a 12-year-old human.

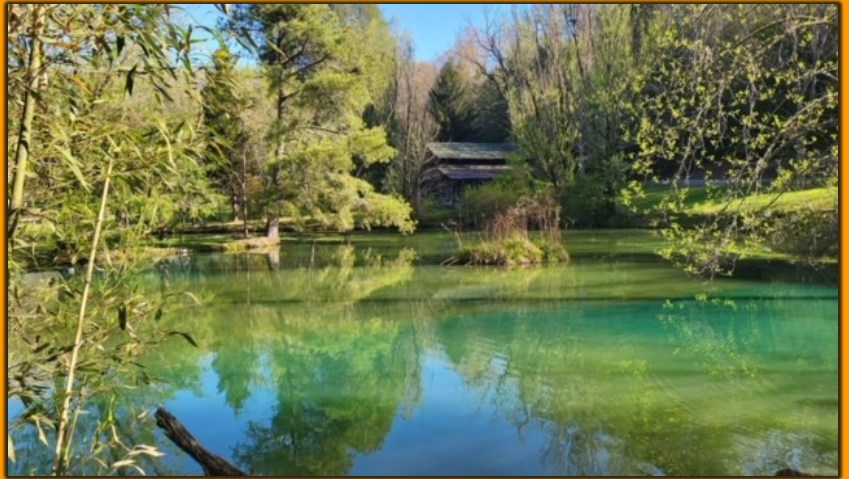
Our final stop was to peruse the chimp literature and collectibles at their great gift shop. For more information on hiking the trails at Project Chimps go to [Hiking Trails - Project Chimps](#).



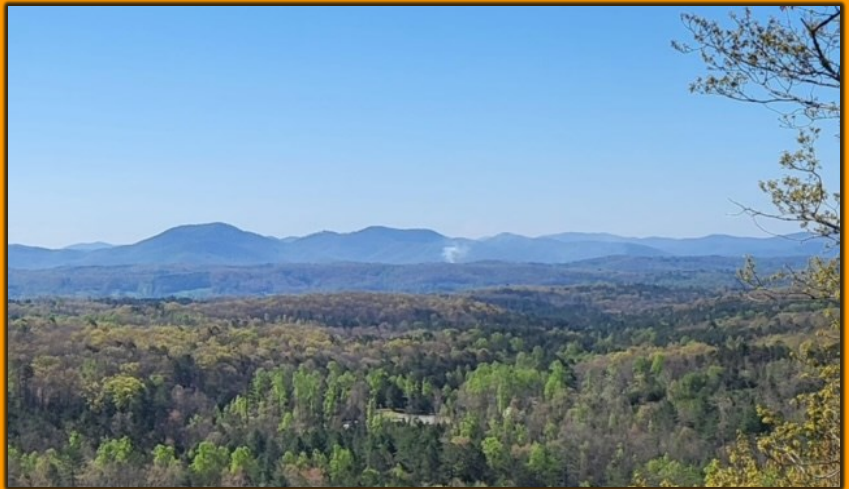
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We were greeted by a local saw artist sculpture just outside the historic cabin that serves as quarters for interns and houses the gift shop.



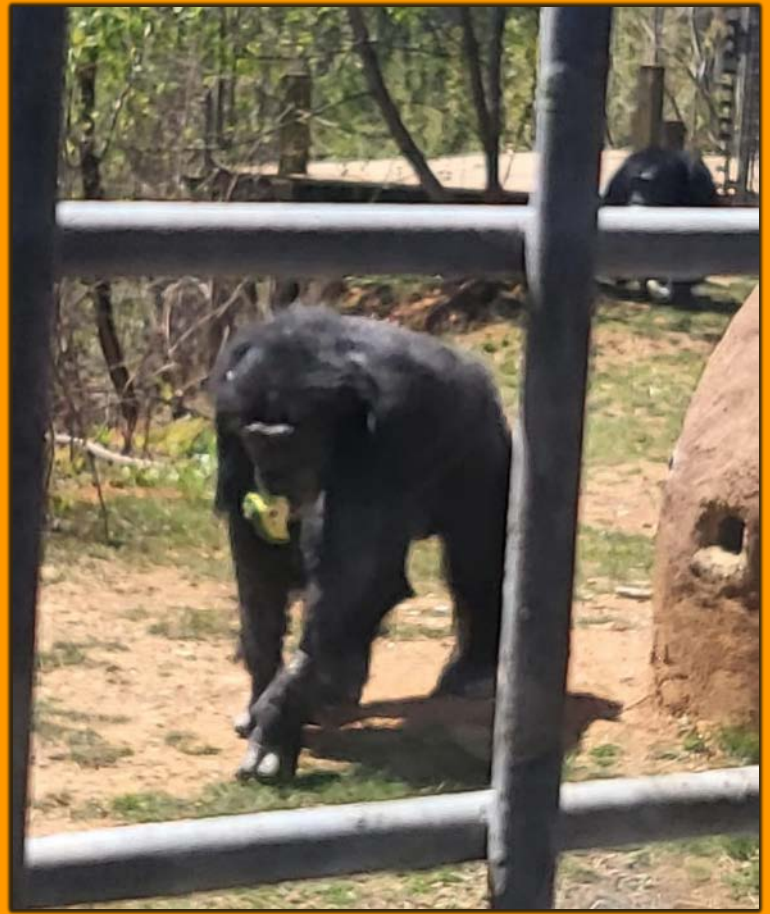
The koi pond where rescued koi can be found.



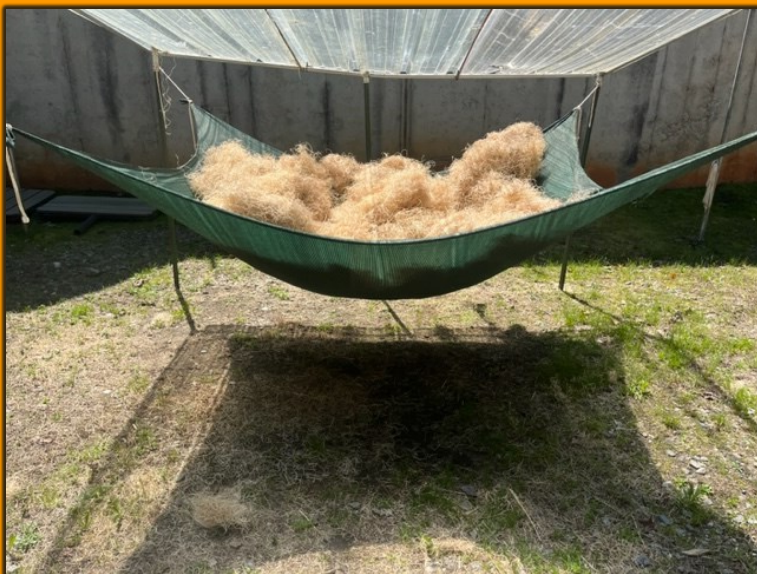
View from the overlook on Paris Mountain above the Peachtree Habitat.



Each Chimp Villa has photos of the Chimps who live there. The Alpha male is at the top left. The Villas are climate controlled with access to large porches.



The Peachtree Habitat has viewing windows and we were lucky that some of the Chimps found us interesting enough to come over for a visit!



This is a woodwool drying hammock where this bedding is washed and dried to use in the Chimp Villas. Many of the Chimps have learned to build nests after coming to the sanctuary. This is a behavior they do in the wild. They also have clean blankets and toys given to them every day. Many Chimps have favorite stuffed toys as well. The Grinch is one of them.



Brenda Harris had fun in the gift shop!

Update on Mulky Gap Lady Slippers

by Joy Forehand with photo courtesy of Joy Forehand

Frank and Joy Forehand did a pre-hike a couple of days before this year's scheduled hike at Mulky Gap in Blairsville, Georgia. There used to be thousands of the pink lady slippers on Aiken Mountain which is adjacent to the trailhead.



Many of you will remember that the Forest Service did a controlled burn on April 19, 2021— while the ladies were blooming.

Last year the crop of lady slippers was far smaller than in previous years. The number of ladies that were blooming barely made it into double digits -- just 10 solitary blooms. This year, there was no noticeable increase in the number of plants but 97-98% were blooming! And not just blooming. There were many bouquets of three, four, five and even six blossoms. Unfortunately, no new babies were coming up.

The Forest Service has been following how the lady slippers responded to the controlled burn.

Last week, representatives of the Forest Service, the Georgia Botanical Society, UGA Mountain Farm Experimental and Over the Hill Hiking Group met to evaluate this year's crop.

The Forest Service admitted their error – they should not have done a controlled burn when the lady slippers were in bloom.

The USFS has taken steps to prevent this from happening again. The agency's computer system has flagged this area as well as 12 others (including the Weaver Creek section of the Benton MacKaye Trail). Controlled burns in these areas are never to be done during the lady slippers' growing season.

Pickens Nose on the AT



**Your Membership Dues Help Us
Preserve, Protect and Maintain the BMT**

Please Join or Renew Your Membership Now!

[MEMBERSHIP](#)

...leave a footpath for generations to follow!

Upcoming Hikes and Maintenance Trips

by Kelly Motter, Hiking Director

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.

May

May 11 (Thursday) Cohuttas - Dally Gap Hemp Top Trail, joining the BMT at Spanish Oaks, then on to the remains of the old fire tower at Hemp Top Mountain. Moderate 8 miles round-trip with about 1,000 feet of elevation change each way. Contact Hike Leaders Tom and Carolyn Sewell at hikeleaderTS@bmtamail.org.



May 13 (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. Section 3c - Rhodes Mountain. Contact Bob Cowdrick at gamaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

May 19 (Friday) Amadahy Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy/moderate 5 miles along the shore of Carters Lake. Lunch at the marine campground. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

May 22 (Monday) BMT- Bushy Head to McKenny Gap and return. Moderate/strenuous 8.2 miles. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.



May 27 (Saturday) TN/NC Maintenance Trip. Section 12d – McFarland >> Lost Creek Campground. Contact Nelson Ashbrook at tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

June

June 2 (Friday) Brush Creek Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy/moderate 7 miles with a shuttle. Almost all gently downhill. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Vogel State Park

Blairsville, GA

Leave No Trace Presentation

BMTA's Inter-Active Crosscut

Family Friendly Hike

For Details, Go to [Vogel](#)

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June 3 (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. Celebrate National Trails Day – Sections 11e USFS Rd 221 » US Hwy 64 & 12a-b US 64 >> Kimsey Highway
 Contact Bob Cowdrick at gaintdirector@bmtamail.org.
 If you're not going on the Maintenance Trip, celebrate National Trails Day at Vogel State Park. **Go to [Vogel](#) for details.**

June 9 (Friday) Standing Indian on the AT. Five-mile round-trip hike to the best views in North Carolina! This trip is rated moderate, although we will take a slow easy pace up to Standing Indian to enjoy lunch on the summit. Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at hikeleaderKM@bmtamail.org.

June 17 (Saturday) Watch the water arrive! Start at the Ocoee Whitewater Center and then hike the BMTA from FS Road 221 to Thunder Rock and see the rhododendrons in bloom. Easy 3.4 miles. Contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan at hikeleaderCS2@bmtamail.org.

June 23 (Friday) Turtletown Creek Falls. **DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE** (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5 miles. Turtletown Creek plus two of the most beautiful falls you'll ever see on a short hike. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.



June 24 (Saturday) TN/NC Maintenance Trip. TBA
 Contact Nelson Ashbrook at tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

July



July 8 (Saturday) GA Maintenance Trip. TBA
 Contact Bob Cowdrick at gaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

July 10 (Monday) BMT: Lost Creek section. **DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE** (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy 6 miles. Beautiful walk along Big Lost Creek. One stream crossing will probably get your feet a little wet so come prepared. **Help Ken celebrate his 75th!**
 Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

July 17 (Monday) Wildcat Management: Monument Road to Falls Creek Falls, short side trip to Buice Falls, uphill side trip to Rocky Ford Trail Cascades, Turner Trail, Campground with 1/2 mile road walk to cars. Shuttle required. Hikers need GA DNR pass to hike in this state Wildlife Management Area and can obtain it online and print. Approximately 8 moderately/strenuous miles.
 Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.

July 21 (Friday) Cartecay River Loop Trails. **DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE** (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5-6 miles, much of it along the beautiful Cartecay River.
 Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

August

August 4 (Friday) Bear Creek Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 7 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

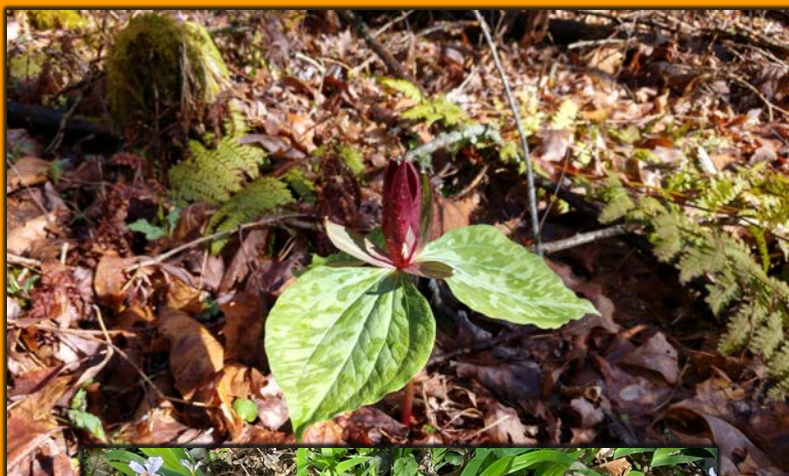
August 18 (Friday) Emery Creek. Moderate 5 miles. The trail for this in-and-out hike is fairly easy, but 26 stream crossings (a number up to your ankles and two around your knees) and a section of potentially slippery rock toward the beginning and again at the end make it more difficult than it otherwise would be. Holly and Emery Creeks, two lovely waterfalls and a beautiful trail make it worth the trouble. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

August 28 (Monday) BMT Dyer Gap to Flat Top Mountain and return, then Dyer Gap to South Fork Trail briefly for Upper and Lower Shadow Falls then to the Pinhoti Trail intersection. About 7.3 moderately/strenuous miles. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org

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



BMTA Hiker, Penny Strickland, is very stylish in her hiker pearls with a hiking boot trinket!



**The deadline for the June Newsletter is Wednesday, May 31.
Thank you!**