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BMTA Headquarters

Benton MacKaye Trail Association

VOLUME 42, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2025

The BMT Offers Something for Everyone The Cherokee Ultra: CAN YOU ENDURE?

Photos courtesy of Nick Morgan Photography

Benton MacKaye advised hikers "... to walk, to see, and to see what you see." The vast majority of day hikers, backpackers, thru hikers ... and some who are just out for a Sunday stroll heed his advice.

There are an elite few – the trail runners – who also view the BMT as a highly valued destination. They are seeking a competitive challenge -- an endurance race that challenges a runner's physical strength, navigational skills and mental acuity. Such a race is the Cherokee Ultra.

The event is managed by East Coast Adventures (ECA), a 501c3 non-profit based in Monroe County, Tennessee. They bring ultra events to East Tennessee and also support other local nonprofits through community events.

In 2022, ECA envisioned bringing a true mountain ultra to the Cherokee National Forest. The event would provide a unique challenging terrain with the backdrop of the beauty of the Tennessee mountains. A course was pieced together, section by section, starting with the John Muir National Recreation Trail in Reliance, Tennessee, following the Benton MacKaye Trail to Tate Gap and then incorporating Smithfield Road and the Warriors Passage National Recreation Trail in Tellico, while bypassing the Upper Bald River Wilderness. Tellico High School was chosen as the event's start, finish and home base.



This vision materialized into The Cherokee Ultra, featuring 130K and 70K ultra marathons. The 70K (45 miles) begins in Reliance and finishes at Tellico Plains High School. The 130K (85 miles) is an out-and-back, beginning at Tellico Plains High School, running to Reliance (Childers Creek), and returning to the high school. The name was chosen to honor and incorporate the history of the Cherokee people and to signify the Cherokee National Forest.



The slogan for the event, #Waucheesiainteasy, was born during a tough climb up Waucheesi during a training run. It truly describes the challenge -- many 70K participants call it the hardest climb they've ever done.

The 130K boasts almost 19,000 feet of elevation gain with a strict 26-hour cutoff. In its inaugural year, 2024, just five of 19 participants finished. In 2025, 17 of 28 individuals earned their buckle. The 70K has roughly 9,500 feet of elevation gain and a soft 16-hour cutoff. In 2024, 30 of 37 participants finished, and in 2025, 43 of 48 crossed the finish line.

ECA representative Matt Williams said, "The Cherokee Ultra is a true labor of love, driven by our desire to share our home mountains and beloved training trails."

This year, at the Buck Bald aid station, a participant remarked, "I've run a bunch of these over the years, and this may be the prettiest trail I've ever been on." He was referring to the BMT/John Muir section. That is the goal of ECA, to bring people here and to showcase the beauty. A frequent statement at the finish line is, "Why have I never been here and run on these trails? They're absolutely beautiful...and hard."

ECA asks participants, "Can you endure? Endure the heat, the climbs, the descents and the miles?"

Another attractive feature of The Cherokee Ultra is the rich history woven into the course. Participants are captivated by the stories of John Muir walking the Hiwassee, crossing Joe Brown Highway (a part of the Trail of Tears), learning about the Old Doc Rogers place and running the Warriors Passage Trail (which originally was a Cherokee footpath). The stunning views from Buck Bald and Waucheesi combined with the rugged trails ensure participants will return.



Luke Bollschweiler 130k winner.

The 2025 event attracted some elite talent and course records were broken. The overall 130k was won by a Maryville Tennessee, local Luke Bollschweiler who set a new course record of 17:23:19. Chattanooga local Shannon Wheeler Deboef set the new Female Course Record of 19:01:06.

The course record for the 70k was turned in by North Carolina native Katti Jackson. Her time was 8:18:38. Noticeable finishes included 15-year-old Toby Vogt and 67-year-old Michael Mattison. Twelve states were represented.



Katti Jackson, 70k winner, crossing Wildcat Creek.

“This event wouldn't be possible without the continued help of the BMTA, USFS, Tellico Plains, all the local Emergency agencies including Fire and Rescue, EMA, EMS, MCARES, Sheriff's Dept as well as all the volunteers who have spent their time in the Tennessee Mountains,” said Williams. “Thank you and see you guys next year!”





BMTA's 2025 Hike Fest

Bryson City, NC

October 30 — November 2

Non-Hiking Activities

Shop Bryson City, NC!

Explore the shops of downtown Bryson City, NC. It's an enjoyable stroll through the town with local bookstores, arts and crafts galleries with working artisans, bike shops, fly fishing shops, family friendly museums, an aquarium, two breweries and brew pubs as well as a wide array of restaurants.

Bryson City Visitors Center

Located in the 1908 Court House, it is a great place to start your visit. This also is the gift shop for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Heritage Museum in the Courthouse - Free

The museum is upstairs in the 1908 Courthouse.

Fly Fishing Museum!

17 Island Street, Bryson City NC

Through exhibits and videos visitors will learn about the evolution of rods and reels, basic knots, fly fishing types of gear, types of gamefish, regional fishing waters as well as the history of fly fishing in western North Carolina.

Smoky Mountains Train Museum

Bryson City NC

A collection of 7,000 Lionel engines, cars, and accessories, impressive operating layouts, and a toy gift shop. Ticket cost varies by age.

Native American Craft Shop

Hwy 441 N & 1847 Tsalali Blvd. Cherokee NC

The craft shop features pottery, baskets, jewelry, beadwork, wood and stone carvings.

Smokemont Stables

(828) 497-2373

You'll ride on beautiful trails winding through wooded forests passing by mountain streams and waterfalls. The stable is located within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cherokee NC.

Oconaluftee Indian Village – Take an Immersive Journey

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

This provides an interactive journey through Cherokee Lifestyle and is highly recommended. Explore historical buildings, witness captivating shows such as "Time of War," and be enchanted by traditional Cherokee dancing. Takes 1-2 hours. Cherokee, NC.

Check your lodging options [HERE.](#)

Section 8: Bushy Head Gap to Dyer Gap Clearing for Summer Hikers

by Joe Cantwell with photos courtesy of Kathy Gushwa and Clare Sullivan

On July 12th, a team of twenty devoted trail maintainers gathered for the monthly maintenance trip on Georgia's Section 8, a scenic and challenging 12-mile stretch between Bushy Head Gap and Dyer Gap. The objective for this trip was clear: to tackle the vibrant surge of spring growth and ensure the trail remains accessible, safe, and enjoyable for the many hikers and nature enthusiasts who traverse its winding path.

Preparations began several weeks in advance. The route from Bushy Head Gap to Dyer Gap was surveyed for trouble spots, and maintainers coordinated logistics for transporting tools, fuel, food and safety gear. Safety briefings emphasized proper handling of string trimmers and saws, awareness of ticks and snakes, hydration and teamwork on the rugged terrain.



Darcy Douglas using her Silky Pocket Boy.

On a humid but clear morning, the team assembled at Bushy Head Gap, Dyer Gap and the Mt View Road short cut to McKinney Gap.

Andy Meeks, accompanied by Art Kolberg and Bill Cox, worked from Bushy Head Gap to Hudson Gap.

Joe Cantwell assisted by Will Stanley, June Whitney and Steve Pruett tackled medium to heavy growth between McKinney Gap and Hudson Gap. Joe and June removed four blowdowns and lopped behind the trimmers.

The third crew lead by Patrick Ward along with Cindy Ward, Kathy Gushwa and Barry Allen made the long up-hill hike between McKinney Gap and Fowler Mountain. Due to their "never leave a blockage" attitude they spent an hour at one blowdown, finally opening the trail.

Shane Morrison and Daniela Diefenbach camped on Friday, working that afternoon and again on Saturday morning between Double Hogpen and Halloway Gap.

Dispersing from the Dyer Gap rendezvous point long-range hiker's Daphne Martin and Laurie Shatz started at Flat Top Mountain and trimmed almost to the top of Fowler Mountain before returning after encountering a thunderstorm. The final section from Double Hogpen to Flat Top Mountain to Dyer Gap was assigned to Dave Ricker along with Darcy Douglas, Byron Coker and Ed and Clare Sullivan.



Dave Ricker cleaning off the base of an old fire tower.



Tired but making progress!



Five notable blowdowns were encountered during the day. One blowdown proved too formidable for hand tools. The team marked its location and made a note to return with a chainsaw. By the end of the day, the results were dramatic: a neatly defined, spacious trail corridor stretched from Bushy Head Gap all the way to Dyer Gap. A big thank you to the twenty maintainers who gave 183 hours of their time and dedication to keeping the BMT in pristine condition!

BMTA's 2025 Annual Meeting Raffle

Saturday, November 1, 2025



HIKE INN



Barn
Quilt by Jessie
Jessie Hayden



Etowah Gear
Backpack
Jess Morgan



Paintings of the
BMT by Joanna
Joanna McNally



Framed
Photograph
Suzy Downing

Proceeds go to BMTA's Land Acquisition Fund

Tickets available
at the meeting!
\$10 each or 3 for \$25
7 for \$50
16 for \$100



Handmade
Quilt by Adrie
Adrie Herman



Handmade
Wooden Item by
Patrick
Patrick Ward



Mystique
Backpacking Tent
David Watkins

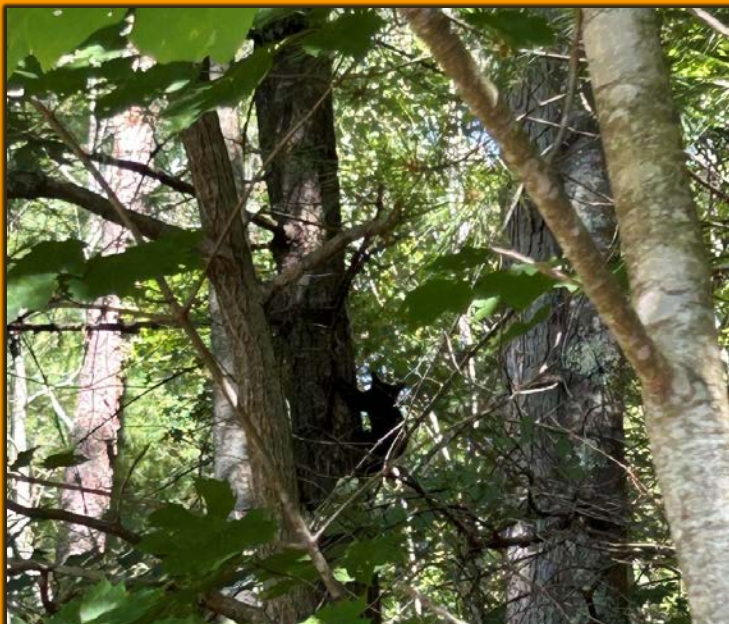
Celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association

BMTA's Annual Meeting & Hike Fest

October 30-November 2 in Bryson City, North Carolina



Donated or created by BMTA Member.



Alone? Maybe Not!

By Clare Sullivan

I had a very exciting day on the BMT today. I was doing trail maintenance on our section and stopped to take a photo. Thus, all was quiet. I heard some scattering and turned to see four frisky bear cubs scattering up two trees. The fourth cub was a little slower and so I got to get my camera aimed. Then I asked, "Where's your mama?" None of them responded so I proceeded to sing a song. All four of them quietly came down the trees on the back side of the tree trunk so I couldn't see them very well. Then they quietly disappeared. Alone? Maybe not!

BMT/Brookshire Creek Section TN Maintenance

by Rick Harris



Sixteen maintainers showed up for our maintenance trip on the Brookshire Creek Section, also known as the Heart of Darkness (HOD) Annex. It is the section immediately northbound from the Heart of Darkness and follows Brookshire Creek from Sled Runner Gap to the junction of Brookshire Creek with the Bald River. All of the trail is in the Upper Bald River Wilderness.

The Georgia and Tennessee crews met at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. They then proceeded to the work sites.



Six folks were in Crew 1, led by Barry Allen and Joe Cantwell. They started from Campsite 11 along Bald River Road. After hiking two miles up the Brookshire Creek Trail to the BMT crossing, Crew 1 had the major job of clearing a mess of four large trees which came down together as well as another very large, suspended tree about a half mile further up the trail.

Also, in this crew was Steve Bayliss and his wife who cleared several other small trees. They used Steve's newly sharpened crosscut saw (thanks to Josh Burt). The others in this crew did a great job of lopping and brushing out this lower section.

Crew 2, led by Rick and Brenda Harris and consisting of 10 maintainers, drove to Beaverdam Bald and entered via the upper end of the Brookshire Creek Trail. Two saw crews cleared a total of about 30 trees off the upper three miles of the trail, running into Barry and his crew while they were still working on the large tree mentioned above. Their saw was stuck very firmly. Rick Harris pulled out his saw and subsequently got it stuck as well.

Finally, using Steve Hayden's saw, we were able to finish the job and rescue the two other stuck saws. This tree was very big with a lot of end and top bind suspended above the trail on a steep slope. In addition, it was slabbing off about in the middle, which was the cause of the stuck saws. To say the least, this was the most difficult tree of the day. The others in Crew 2 did a fine job of lopping and brushing out, but we do need to go back at some point and do more of this. The middle section had very heavy brush to deal with.

In all, we cleared about 40 trees and brushed out most of the trail. We did not get back to our cars until about 6 PM. It was a long, but very fruitful day. Thanks to everyone who helped with this HOD Annex.

Continued next page





Vets for BMTA

A Celebration to Honor Their Service

October 31, 2025 at

BMTA's Annual Meeting & Hike Fest

Deep Creek entrance to the
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Bryson City, NC

An anonymous donor will donate \$10 for every veteran who is a BMTA member and a \$25 donation for every BMTA member who attends the Annual Meeting and Hike Fest to a veterans' 501c3. The veterans are to decide which 501c3 will receive the donation.

*If you are a veteran, please complete the
[Veteran's Survey](#).*

Adopt a Piece of Paradise



One of the most rewarding ways you can help to preserve and maintain the BMT is to become a Section Maintainer and adopt a section.

Section 18 has several portions of it looking for that special someone to adopt it.

To learn about becoming a Section Maintainer click [HERE](#).

For more information on what sections are available click [HERE](#).

One of the views from Section 18.

Exploring the Impact of Budget Cuts: A Visit from Miami University of Ohio

by Bob Cowdrick

This past month, the Benton MacKaye Trail and Fontana Dam welcomed two curious and committed students, Reid and Luke from Miami University of Ohio. Their journey south wasn't for the scenery alone (though they certainly appreciated the views); they came with purpose — to better understand how federal budget cuts are affecting our National Parks and, more specifically, the hiking trails that rely on public land management partnerships, like the Benton MacKaye Trail.

As part of a larger academic project focused on the ripple effects of reduced funding for the National Park Service, Reid and Luke sought firsthand perspectives. One of their key interviews was with long-time BMTA member and trail advocate Dick Evans. With characteristic passion and depth, Dick shared a sweeping history of the Benton MacKaye Trail, its close relationship with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and how critical volunteer efforts have become in preserving trail access and safety as federal resources become increasingly stretched.



Reid and Luke interview BMTAer Dick Evans.

Reid and Luke learned how, through years of partnership and stewardship, the BMTA has helped support the work of NPS crews and filled vital gaps in trail maintenance, signage, and access improvements.

They were particularly interested in how trails like the BMT serve not only as recreational corridors but also as gateways to understanding environmental conservation, heritage, and public land advocacy.

As budget pressures continue to challenge the resources of our public lands, these types of educational projects—and the young leaders behind them—play an important role in raising awareness and inspiring future stewardship.

We thank Reid and Luke for their thoughtful visit, and we thank Dick Evans, Patti Barrows and Bob Cowdrick for representing the BMTA so well with their deep knowledge and commitment to the trail.

Their visit is a reminder: our collective effort matters. Whether through education, advocacy, trail maintenance, or simply hiking with respect and curiosity, we all have a role in protecting the public spaces we love. “Leave a footprint for generations to follow.”

Wander Here, Wander There

Photos courtesy of Ray Laws



The Cartecay River Loop Trails offer refreshing riverside views before winding into the cool forest.



Continued next page



Boyd's Gap, the Old Copper Road and Thunder Rock Camp found hikers sheltering from the sun within the forest green.



Yearly Campsite Cleanup on Fontana Lakeside Trail

by Steve Pruett

The BMTA Smokies yearly campsite cleanup on Fontana Lakeside Trail is an adventure on the high seas! Well, sort of, the seas being Fontana Lake, but adventure, nonetheless! Dick Evans led an elite group of BMTA trainees to explore and conquer the campsites at the edge of Lake Fontana at the foot of the Smokies— a yearly cleanup for these eight BMTA backcountry campsites. After 30 years on the job, Dick is passing the Smokies role to a new board member.



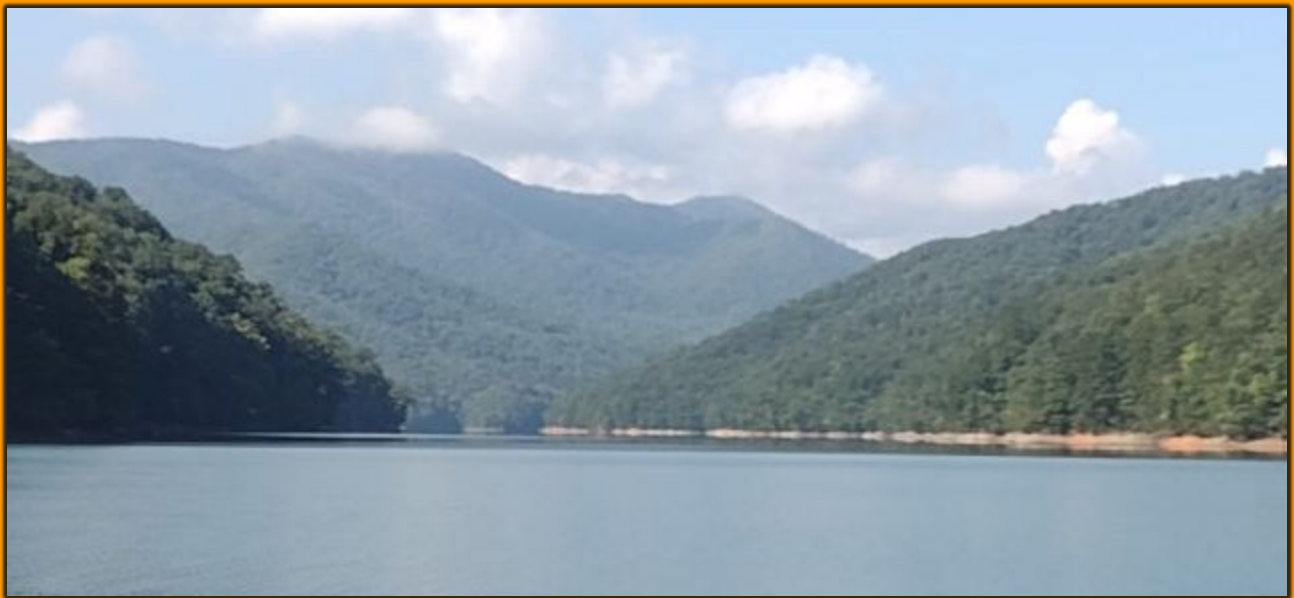
Dick Evans ,Tammie Smith and Gilbert Treadwell





The day began gray and foggy but soon cleared to blue sky and high, white thunderheads. The heat was eased by a steady breeze and cool walks by creeks at the camp trails. There were old roads leading into the water, left by flooding when the dam was built.

He shared all the details of camp cleanup - map use for navigating and practice-driving a pontoon boat for lakeside access to the sites. Along the boat route, there were park stories, local personalities and legends to navigate. On the trails, there were several large metal traps for feral pigs, hints of mother bears with cubs and rumors of young male panthers on roam.

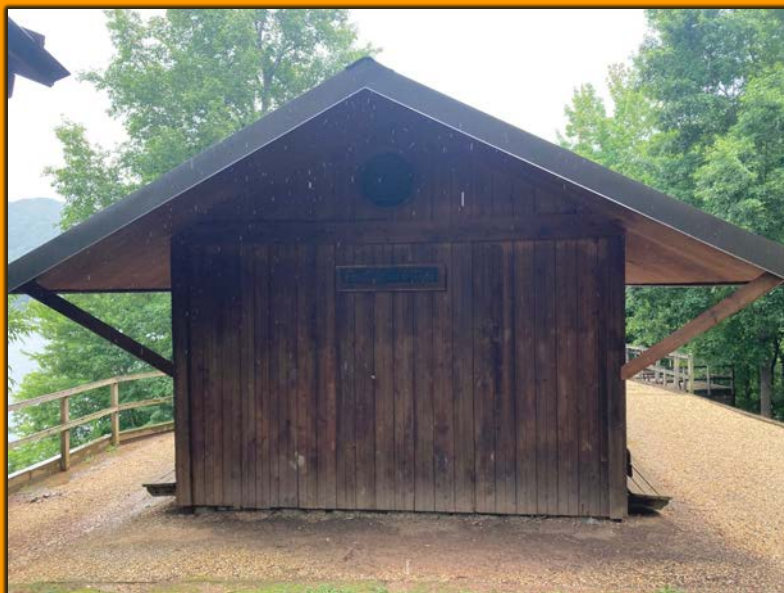


Dick pointed to paths leading to old burial grounds, some formal with 30 or more graves and some informal with two or three in the woods at an old chimney. Yearly celebration events are held by locals who bring boatloads of people to decorate graves, preach, pray aloud and have “dinner on the ground,” as in the days of primitive brushy arbors.

At a local Italian restaurant that evening, the crew toasted their captain, praising his development of this long-term annual project of the BMTA in the Smokies. The new Board Member said these are “big shoes to fill,” but Dick said, “only a size 9”.

BMT Trivia

What restroom on the BMT has been blazed? *



*See page 20

BMTA to the Len Foote Hike Inn for Half-Price

by Clare Sullivan

The beautiful Len Foote Hike Inn has reserved rooms for BMTA members on Monday, February 23, 2026. All rooms will be half-price. Members can call 706-344-1547, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM, to make a reservation. Let them know you want a room transferred from Clare Sullivan's name to your name.

The cost for two hikers is \$124.70, which includes dinner and breakfast. One person in a room is \$92.80. These prices include taxes. While there, you can enjoy a history and tour of the inn at 5:00 PM. Following dinner, there will be an interesting, optional presentation. The Inn holds a Platinum Level Leed Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The scenic 5-mile hike gradually goes uphill. The rooms are heated and have electricity. You receive a cloth bag with sheets and a towel at check-in. Extra-long bunk beds are in each room. The meals include fresh food. The bathhouse is just steps from your room and has hot showers. Lights line the covered walkway to the bathhouse. Puzzles, books, games and a few guitars are available in the lovely sunroom. Relaxing chairs are on the deck. Feel free to visit the Len Foote Hike Inn website at [The Hike Inn](#).



Let's Help Protect the Beautiful Hemlock Trees Along the Benton MacKaye Trail

by Ken Cissna with photos from Save Georgia's Hemlocks

We all know the beauty of the majestic eastern hemlocks, which are now the dominant tree along the Appalachian Mountains. Most of us have seen the devastation being wrought on the hemlocks by the hemlock wooly adelgid, a nasty imported pest that has already killed millions of hemlocks in the Eastern United States, including along our beloved Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT). We can't save the whole forest, but on August 30, in cooperation with Save Georgia's Hemlocks (SGH), we will have the chance to save hundreds of the beautiful trees—large and small—along the Three Forks Section of the BMT.

Yes, these trees can be treated successfully and thus saved, and that's what we are going to do. You don't have to be a BMTA maintainer or know how to identify a hemlock much less know anything about how to treat them. Just turn out, and we'll all learn together under the guidance of the SGH organization.

We will each be assigned to work as part of a small team with volunteers from SGH. Nothing we will do is especially strenuous and there are jobs for everyone. So come out and SAVE BMT's HEMLOCKS. And, please, bring a friend!

- ♦ **When: August 30, 2025 at 9:00 AM until 3 PM.**
- ♦ **Where: Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church, 5850 Doublehead Gap Road, Blue Ridge, Georgia.**
- ♦ **What to Bring: Sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, lunch and water.**
- ♦ **Contact Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org to sign up.**

Wooly Adelgid Facts*



- ♦ A small aphid-like insect that feeds on hemlocks.
- ♦ Infects hemlocks from Maine to northern Alabama.
- ♦ Will kill every hemlock if left untreated.
- ♦ Detected by presence of a dry, white woolly substance on the hemlock branches.
- ♦ Spread by wind, birds, deer and humans.
- ♦ Can be treated with cultural, chemical and biological means.
- ♦ Presently, the most economical and effective treatment is chemical application.
- ♦ Chemical application is safe for the environment, ground water, wildlife and humans.

Eastern Hemlock Facts*



- ♦ Ranges from Maine to northern Alabama.
- ♦ Prefers moist areas due to shallow roots and susceptibility to drought.
- ♦ Is most often found in ravines and along rivers and streams.
- ♦ Is the most shade tolerant tree in North America, capable of thriving in only 5% sunlight.
- ♦ Can rise up to 175 feet and live for 900 years.
- ♦ Is a keystone species and plays a unique role in providing food and habitat for about 120 species of vertebrates and over 90 species of birds, shade for native plants, cool temperatures for trout streams, and protection for watersheds and water quality.

“The Fontana Hilton”

By Bob Cowdrick



The restrooms at Fontana Lake, affectionately known as “The Fontana Hilton”, are blazed! One of nicest shelters on the trail, it features restrooms, filtered water and cell phone chargers! And what a view!



BMTA PARTNERSHIPS

Help BMTA preserve, protect and maintain the Benton MacKaye Trail.

Become a BMTA Business, Silver, Gold, Platinum or Diamond Partner today!

Go to [Partnerships](#) to view the details.

Employer Identification #58-1428009.

**If you receive a benefit as a result of making a contribution to a qualified organization, you can deduct only the amount of your contribution that is more than the value of the benefit you receive.*

Upcoming

by Kelly Motter, Hiking Director

August



August 9 (Saturday) BMTA GA Maintenance Trip. Section 10a and Jacks River Trail. Contact the Georgia Maintenance Director at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.

August 10 (Sunday) BMT Series: Weaver Creek to Boardtown Road.

This series is part of the BMTA/GATC series. The hike starts at Weaver Creek. In 2.5 miles, the trail crosses US 76/515 and enters Cherry Log Mountain subdivision. We will cross the lowest point on the BMT in Georgia (1540'), pass the Indian Rock Shelter (at 4.2 miles), climb Patterson Mountain (2300') and finish at Boardtown Road. Moderate 6.4 miles. Shuttle required.

Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.



Indian Rock Shelter

August 11 (Monday) Bear Creek Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate seven miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.

August 15 (Friday) Emery Creek. Moderate five 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 rocks 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 kcissna@bmta.org.



August 23 (Saturday) BMTA TN/NC Maintenance Trip. Section 18a – Beech Gap » Haeo Lead intersection (SW). Contact: BMTA TN-NC Maintenance Director at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org

August 25 (Monday) Ducktown, Tennessee. Rhododendron Trail to Chestnut Ridge Trail to BearPaw Loop and return. Approximately 5-mile moderate hike with some elevation gain on the Chestnut Ridge Trail. In and out hike from Thunder Rock Campground.

Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at rcollinson@bmta.org.

August 30 Save Georgia's Hemlocks Treatment. We will have the chance to save hundreds of the beautiful trees—large and small—along the Three Forks Section of the BMT. See page [19](#) for details.

- ♦ **When:** August 30, 2025, from 9:00 AM until 3 PM.
- ♦ **Where:** Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church, 5850 Doublehead Gap Road, Blue Ridge, Georgia.
- ♦ **What to Bring:** Sturdy shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, lunch and water.
- ♦ **Contact Ken Cissna** at kcissna@bmta.org to sign up.

September

September 7 (Sunday) BMT Series. Joint hike with BMT and GATC! This hike is from Bushy Head to Dyer Gap. The hike is 12.4 miles long and is very strenuous.
Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at kmotter@bmta.org.



September 13 (Saturday) BMTA GA Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact the Georgia Maintenance Director at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.

September 22 (Monday) Gahuti Lite. Five Intersecting Trails Loop at Fort Mountain State Park. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).
About 5 moderate miles. Highlights include cascading creeks, a long-distance view and a lakeside walk. Ends with a moderate uphill walk. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.

September 26 (Friday) BMT: From Highway 60 to the Swinging Bridge and back. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog).
Moderate 7.4 miles. Lunch by the Toccoa River and the BMT's iconic Suspension Bridge.
Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.



September 27 (Saturday) BMTA TN/NC Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact:
BMTA TN-NC Maintenance Director at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org

September 29 (Monday) Hike to the "Old Dutch Settlement" of the 1840s on 70,000 acres in the Sylco Mountains in the Ocoee District of the Cherokee National Forest. Moderate 5 miles. Contact Hike Leaders Ken Jones and Clare Sullivan at csullivan@bmta.org.

October

October 10 (Friday) Shady Falls Trailhead to Lake Blue Ridge and back. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 8 miles. Views of Lake Blue Ridge, including one very close up during mid-hike lunch. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.



October 11 (Saturday) BMTA GA Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact the Georgia Maintenance Director at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.

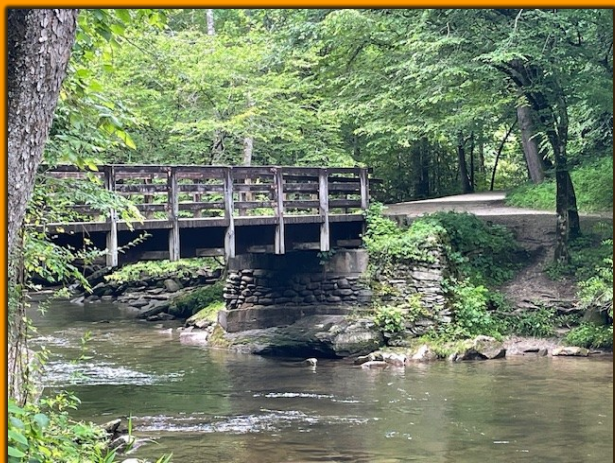
October 24 (Friday) BMT: Highway 515 to Weaver Creek and return. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy 5 miles. Mostly along dirt roads. One “rock hopping” stream crossing could get your feet wet depending on stream levels and recent rainfall.
Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.



October 25 (Saturday) BMTA TN/NC Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact:
BMTA TN-NC Maintenance Director at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org

October 26 (Sunday) BMT Series: Dyer Gap to Spanish Oak Gap. BMTA – GATC joint hike. This strenuous hike is a total of about 9.6-miles and requires a shuttle.
Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at kmotter@bmta.org.

Annual Meeting & Hike Fest **October 31 – November 2, 2025!**



The deadline for the September Newsletter is Wednesday, September 3.
Thank you!

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