



<http://www.bmta.org/>

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BMTA Officers 2024-2025

President:	Bob Cowdrick
Vice President:	Clare Sullivan
Secretary:	Jessie Hayden
Treasurer:	Lydia Burns
GA M/D:	Joe Cantwell
TN/NC M/D:	Patrick Ward
Smokies Coord:	Steve Pruett
Hiking Director:	Kelly Motter
Membership:	Steve Hayden
Communications:	Joy Forehand
Conservation:	Barry Allen
Past President:	Ken Cissna
Store:	Sue Ricker
Newsletter:	Kathy Williams
State Rep GA:	Darcy Douglas
State Rep TN/NC:	James Anderson



BMTA Headquarters

Benton MacKaye Trail Association

VOLUME 42, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2025

A Weekend Filled with Fun and Camaraderie

by Clare Sullivan and Patti Barrows

Make this fall season one to remember by attending the Benton MacKaye Trail Association's (BMTA) Annual Meeting and Hike Fest, set for October 30-November 2, 2025, at Lands Creek Log Cabins in Bryson City, North Carolina. Experience the brilliant fall colors while enjoying hikes and /or non-hiking activities. Bryson City is a vibrant town filled with unique shops and eateries.

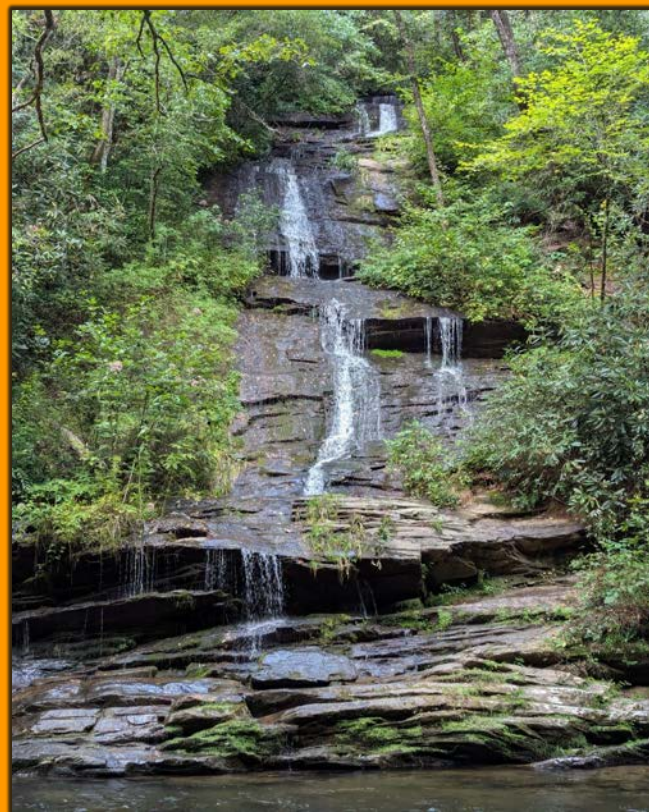
The event also is a celebration – 2025 is the 45th Anniversary of the BMTA! Ken Jones will share some interesting history from the early days of the BMT.

The annual meeting and hike fest is an opportunity for fun and camaraderie with new friends and old. It is a relaxing time ... far removed from the physical demands of logging out, brushing out or digging water diversions.

It's also a time for rewarding BMTAers for their long hours and hard work to keep the BMT safe and open for all to enjoy.

BMTA's Hike Fest Committee is excited to announce a wide array of hikes that will appeal to a variety of hikers' interests including photography, history, panoramic views, waterfalls and of course, the opportunity to hike on the BMT in North Carolina! **Sign Up for Annual Meeting Hikes [HERE!](#)**

If you're interested in photography, take one of the photography-focused hikes on the docket for Friday at Deep Creek and for Saturday, a hike departing from the Tunnel to Nowhere. Both hikes will be led by Suzy Downing!



Tom Branch Falls at Deep Creek

Are you intrigued by local history? Then Thursday's Mingus Mill hike is the hike for you. Learn about the role of enslaved individuals during the settlement of the United States. You'll also visit a couple of cemeteries and have the opportunity to walk around the Mingus Mill! Two hikes will traverse the undulating terrain of the Tsali Recreation Area. Hike leaders will share the tragic, yet inspiring history of the Cherokee leader, Tsali, who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of Cherokee members. Friday's Lonesome Pine Overlook hike, which requires ascending 2300 feet of elevation gain, is perfect if you enjoy a strenuous challenge. Your reward is a phenomenal 280° panoramic view reaching across four states. If you want to hike on some of the North Carolina sections of the BMT, there are several treks on Saturday that include the BMT!



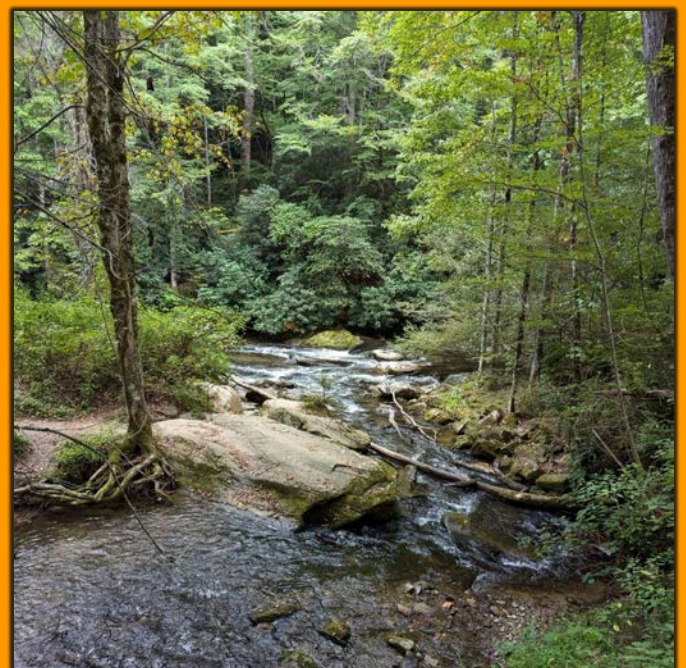
Lonesome Pine Overlook

The BMTA also is excited to hold the First Annual BMTA Veterans Event on Friday evening at Harmony Hall. We are fortunate to have amongst our membership a multitude of Veterans who have served in various branches of the military – who have served with US Forces or Allied Forces.

Veterans took on a mission to support and fight for freedom for our country as well as for our allies through commitment, courage, discipline and sacrifice. Veterans who are part of the BMTA now utilize these same characteristics to fulfill the mission of the BMTA.

The evening will include a scrumptious supper, great conversations, a fun “contest” (which hopefully will include some laughs) and an inspired talk (*BMT Trail Tales*) by one of BMTA's founding members ... and a Veteran himself ... George Owen!

Let's all join together and celebrate our Veterans!



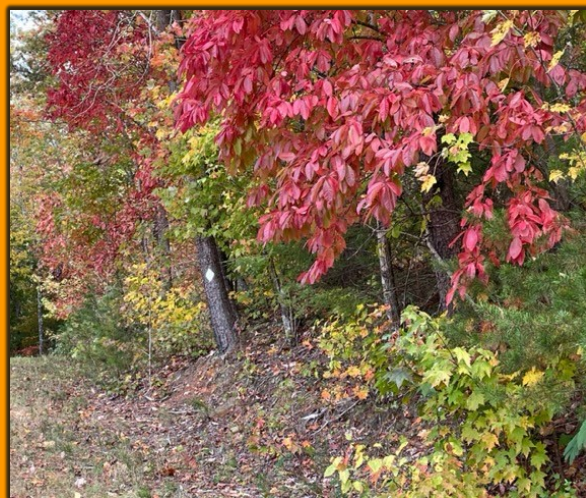
Indian Creek Falls

In addition to the Annual Meeting of the Members and election of officers Saturday's guests will be captivated by the items that have been donated for the raffle -- dining and lodging gift certificates, adventure items, as well as beautiful craft items. All proceeds go to BMTA's Land Acquisition Fund.

The keynote speaker for the evening, author and BMTAer Marci Spencer, will share highlights of her newest book, *Cherokee National Forest: A History* -- you'll find several BMTA members mentioned in her book.

Long-time BMTA member Ken Jones will reminisce about the hopes and dreams, the challenging terrain, the physical toil and the diplomatic efforts that came together to make the BMT one of the preeminent mid-distance trails in the Southeast.

The final event of the evening will be the well-deserved recognition of our members -- the presentation of awards, including the 30- and 100-Hour Maintainer and Volunteer awards, Hike Leader and 50-Miler Hike Leader awards and the Trail Worker of the Year and the Volunteer of the Year. Make your [accommodation reservations](#) and RSVP for the [Awards Banquet](#) today.



Be a part of our 45th Anniversary ... Come join the fun!

Nominating Committee Report for Next Year's Board of Directors

Reported by Ken Cissna

This year's Nominating Committee, charged with proposing a slate of BMTA officers for the year 2026, consisted of Clare Sullivan, Steve Cartwright, Bob Cowdrick (*ex officio*) and Ken Cissna as chairperson.

We are fortunate to continue to have dedicated volunteers who make it possible for the BMTA to fulfill its mission: *"To preserve, protect and maintain the Benton MacKaye Trail"*.

The proposed slate of officers is:

President: Bob Cowdrick
 Vice President: Kelly Wentworth
 Secretary: Jessie Hayden
 Treasurer: Suzie Mays
 Georgia Maintenance Director: Joe Cantwell
 TN/NC Maintenance Director: Patrick Ward
 Smokies Coordinator: Steve Pruett
 Membership Director: Byron Coker
 Communications Director: Joy Forehand
 Conservation Director: Darcy Douglas
 Hiking Director: Ray Laws

Two other Board positions are filled by the President:

Georgia State Representative
 Tennessee/North Carolina State Representative

Three Board positions are filled by a vote of the Board of Directors:

Newsletter Editor
 Store Manager
 Coordinator of Electronic Media

Thank you to each of you and to the volunteers who assisted in this process.

Voting takes place at the Annual Meeting on November 1, 2025. Nominations may also be made from the floor.



BMTA's 2025 Annual Meeting Awards Banquet

*Harmony Hall at Lands Creek Log Cabins, Bryson City, NC
Saturday, November 1, 2025*

Buffet Menu

Entrees

*Fried Trout
Baked Chicken
Veggie Lasagna for Vegetarians Only
New Potatoes
Green Beans or Fried Okra (if available)
Salad
Rolls*

Dessert

Fruit Pies

Beverages

*Tea / Water / Coffee
BYOB*

\$35

Deadline for Dinner Reservations is October 17, 2025!

You can pay **ONLINE** or by check. Checks should be made payable to the
Benton MacKaye Trail Association and mailed to:

Benton MacKaye Trail Association
PO Box 6
Cherry Log, GA 30522

For complete information on the Annual Meeting & Hike Fest, go [HERE](#).

Invest in the Best!

Join or Renew Your Membership!

YOUR investment in the BMT helps to ensure the BMT is the pre-eminent mid-distance trail in the southeast!

- ◆ Invest in a Membership and/or Donation to provide the much-needed funds to protect, maintain and preserve the BMT.
- ◆ Invest in the BMT to *leave a footprint for generations to follow.*
- ◆ Invest in the Land Acquisition Fund (LAF) to ensure the BMTA will be prepared to act when a property valuable to the trail's corridor comes on the market.

New Members—Join in October and get 3 months *FREE!*

[Membership](#)

[Donate](#)

[Donate to LAF](#)



Don't Wait — Invest in the BMT Today!



Boy Scouts participating in maintenance repair as they learn skills that last a lifetime!

Boyd's Gap to Thunder Rock

Photos courtesy of Ray Laws



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.*

BMTA's 2025 Annual Meeting Raffle

Saturday, November 1, 2025



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



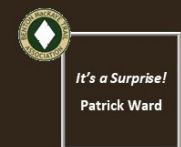
Jessie Hayden



Jess Morgan



Adrie Herman



It's a Surprise!
Patrick Ward



Joanna McNally



Suzy Downing



David Watkins



Brenda & Rick Harris



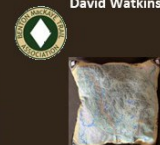
One Nite Stay
for 2 at the
Hike Inn
The Wards



Six Ponds Farm



BMTA



Darcy Douglas



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.

BMTA Presents to PEAKS at UNG

by Steve Pruett

Steve Hayden, our Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) Membership Chair, delivered this year's first lecture in the PEAKS adult education series at the UNG campus in Blue Ridge. His message was "Sell Your Couch and Thrive."

He presented the history, traditions, and benefits of the association to 67 retirees--many of whom signed up for the monthly newsletter and hike notices. This interactive talk is his 12th community presentation this year.



Sell Your Couch and Thrive

Local Hikes on the BMT

Invest in the Best The Benton MacKaye Trail

by Steve Hayden

Invest in your Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) membership today at [MEMBERSHIP](#).

October starts our 2026 annual membership drive for both new and renewal memberships.

- ♦ Why not invest for the long term?
- ♦ Why not invest for the benefit not only of yourself, but for others as well.
- ♦ Why not create a legacy for others to follow and enjoy for generations.

The answers are simple:

Investing in the BMTA is to “*Leave a Footpath for Generations to Follow*”.

Investing in the BMTA helps ensure it is the pre-eminent mid-distance trail in the southeast.

Investing in a membership or a donation provides the much-needed funds to protect, maintain and preserve the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT).

Investing in the BMT Land Acquisition Fund helps the BMTA to be prepared to act when property on the trail’s corridor becomes available.

The 2026 annual membership renewal drive has started – with new pricing – the first increase in over 10 years! Thank you for continuing your efforts to support the BMTA and the great work we are doing.

\$30 Individual — one person

\$40 Family — Two Adults / children under 21

\$25 Student — Full-time at an accredited institution

\$25 Retired—60 and over, retired from full-time employment

\$25 Veteran

\$50 Business/Corporate Partner

(Learn more about Partnerships [HERE](#)).

\$400 Life — One person

\$600 Family Life — Two adults

But there is MORE!

The BMTA is a non-profit 501c3 corporation and your membership dues and any donations are tax deductible as allowed.

Please consult your tax professional for specific guidance.





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](#).

Hanging on by the chaps!

by Joe Cantwell and Ian Gutteridge



It took eight cuts to release the side bind on this very difficult tree at Bushy Head Gap. This is Beth Miller on the saw with Ian Gutteridge holding her chaps. Another major tree is suspended so they could only work on this side. Well done!



Check Out BMTA's [October Blog](#)

'Benton MacKaye Trail Fall Color Guide: When & Where to Go (Smokies to Springer)'



Forests and Fun!

Photos courtesy of Ray Laws



Pull up a rock and sit a spell! Hikers on the Gahuti Trail in Ft. Mountain State Park.



On the Sycamore Creek Trail at Tellico Plains.

Getting Lost in Your Work

by Joe Cantwell with photos courtesy of Clare Sullivan



Hey, which way do we go?!

On Sep 13, 2025, twenty-one volunteers were deployed to four sections of the BMT in response to reported maintenance issues. After scouting Section 9 from Dyer Gap to Dally Gap, Steve Dennison organized the crew of Ed and Clare Sullivan, Laurie Schatz, Daphne and Kenny Martin and Bill Cox. Their major focus was cleaning 94 water diversions, especially improving their outfalls. Weed eaters and loppers addressed several areas of heavy summer growth. At the end of a productive day, Steve reports the trail is in excellent condition.

Ian Guttridge, joined by Andy Meeks and Beth Miller, were directed to Bushy Head Gap, Section 8a, to remove two recently reported blowdowns. The trail was completely blocked just 600 feet from the road. A massive oak wedged between standing timber appeared to require two cuts to clear the trail. The first impression turned into an eight cut, multiple bind situation taking three hours to safely remove. A second blowdown 1.9 miles up the trail was a routine operation for a tired crew. Thanks to Beth Miller, an experienced certified sawyer, for joining us on her first BMTA trip.

Continued next page

Barry Allen along with Shane Morrison, Daniela Diefenbach, Byron Coker, Steve Pruett, Steve Hayden and Joe Cantwell worked on Section 3b and c from Wahalla Mountain to Skennah Gap. Many sections required heavy weed eating and lopping. The 10 blowdowns encountered, up to 12-inch diameter, were removed with silky saws.

Four blowdowns were reported on Section 4a between Skennah Gap and Payne Gap. Gilbert Treadwell, chain sawyer, accompanied by Darrell Sheffield, Sam Sly and Kelly Wentworth logged, lopped and brushed the two-mile section.

The decision to send crews to four different sections resulted in an outstanding effort to clear all reported issues. The final totals included 18 trees logged, 94 water diversions cleaned and refurbished and seven miles of brushing. The effort is the result of 164 volunteer hours by dedicated maintainers.

Thank you all!



Daphne Martin cleaning out one of 94 water diversions!



Who are these people? Why, Steve Dennison's crew of course!



Hiking is an Adventure

by Clare Sullivan

Chicken of the woods mushrooms, ripe juicy muscadine grapes, a dam, survey markers and an animal skeleton are a few of the exciting items hikers saw on The Old Copper Road Trail on September 29, 2025.

We were hiking a trail the Cherokee were paid to build during 1851-1855. Mules carrying wagonloads of copper transported the ore to Cleveland, Tennessee. The day was warm and beautiful. So warm that Anne Anderson and Ed Sullivan jumped in the popular Blue Hole to cool off. What an adventurous day!



Survey marker



Chicken of the woods mushrooms



Much of the trail parallels the Ocoee River.



Clean Trail Days

October 18, 2025

Fall Branch Falls Trailhead Swinging Bridge Parking Area

Event staff will acquaint our guests with hiking and maintenance opportunities with BMTA as well as the importance of using Leave No Trace (LNT) principles when hiking or camping.



*If you'd like to volunteer to be a BMTA Ambassador at the event,
Contact Bob Cowdrick, bcowdrick@bmta.org.*

Stop by to say "Hi!" while you enjoy a great fall hike!

Register Now for North Georgia Crosscut Course

The USDA USFS, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) are hosting a crosscut A/B bucking course October 27-30, 2025.

There are 25 available spaces.

♦ **Location:**

Chattooga River Ranger Station Classroom session: Monday, October 27, 9 AM - 5 PM.

Field Sessions: Tuesday October 28 and Wednesday October 29: 9 AM - 5 PM Location: TBD.

♦ **Registration Link:** [North Georgia Crosscut Course](#).

♦ **All participants must have current First Aid and CPR certifications.**

Fall Branch Falls and Shallowford Bridge

by Steve Hayden

BMTAers Steve and Jessie Hayden participated in a trek that included Amelia Reynolds (the hike organizer), JT Jackson, Joellyn Ferguson, Andrew Harper and Kelly Cooper from REI in Kennesaw, Georgia.



Many hikers helped themselves to the crate of hiking sticks at the trailhead. Steve told many stories of the early settlers, the trail, its history and outstanding features along the way. We discussed Benton MacKaye, his vision for the AT and the building of the BMT.



We proceeded onward to the falls and enjoyed a nice break and photo opportunity.



Everyone enjoyed the history and construction features of the Shallowford bridge as well as the beautiful view of the Toccoa River.

BMTA Outreach at REI

by Greg Trotnic



The Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) had a customer booth at the REI outdoor store in Knoxville, Tennessee, on September 14, 2025.

This was the Sunday of the REI Annual Membership Week. The table offered materials full of information on the BMTA giving REI members ready access to learn more about hiking the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT).

Greg Trotnic greeted guests and answered questions about the trail as well as the organization. Later he gave an in-depth PowerPoint presentation on the BMT in the REI community room.

The event was a very productive day for the BMTA. REI members received information for both the BMT and the status of the BMTA's progress towards having the BMT designated a National Scenic Trail.



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.](#)

Ocoee State Park Becomes Tennessee's 61st State Park

by Clare Sullivan with photos courtesy of Judy Norton, Judy Price and Clare Sullivan

Renowned for its thrilling whitewater rapids, the Ocoee River State Park has become Tennessee's newest state park. A dedication was held at the Sugarloaf Mountain Recreation Area just below Ocoee Number 1 Dam on Highway 64, Saturday, September 20. There were a variety of officials who gathered for its ceremony.



Ocoee River State Park was created by dividing the Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park into two parks. The park offers access to over 17 miles of the Ocoee River. Saturday afternoon featured a public celebration for the community with nonprofit displays, food trucks, fun activities for children and four Tennessee bands. The Benton MacKaye Trail Association booth hosted numerous participants at our Inter-Active Crosscut. Our booth volunteers responded to many questions about the BMT as well as hiking and camping in the Southern Appalachians. Thank you to Anne Anderson, Steve Hayden, Judy Price and Ed and Clare Sullivan for sharing their BMTA knowledge with the public on a very hot day.

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.

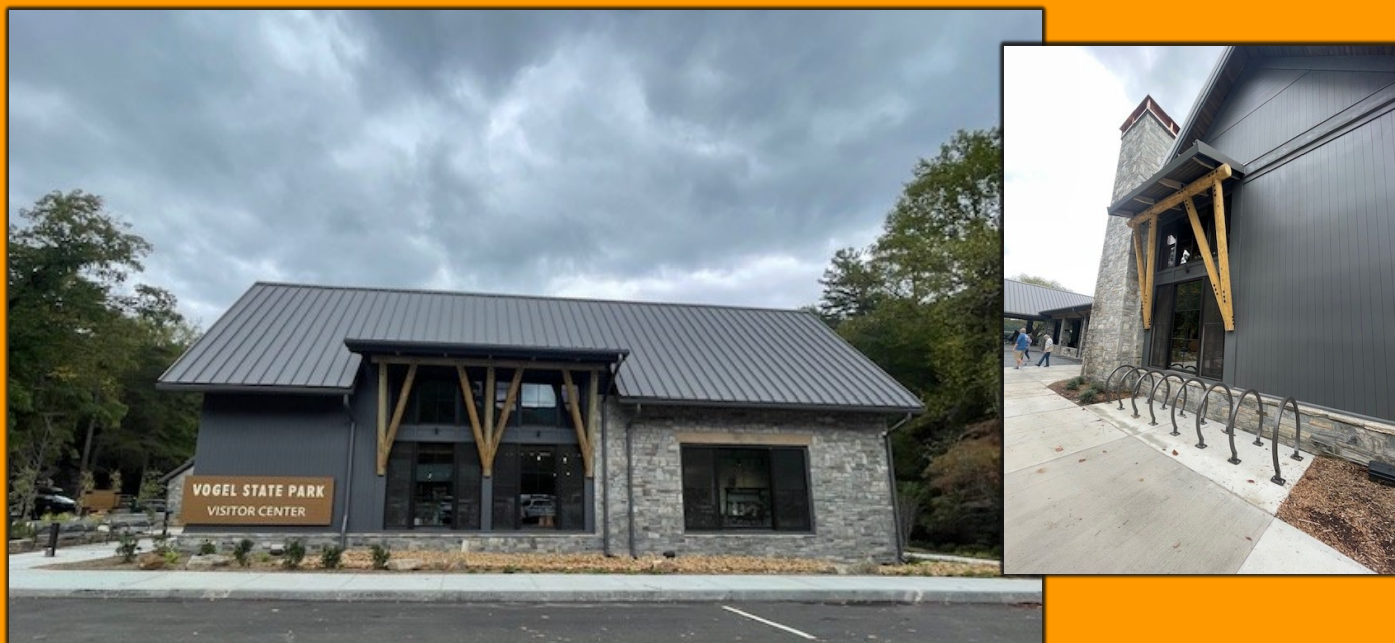
The scenic 5-mile hike gradually goes uphill. The rooms are heated and have electricity. You receive a cloth bag with sheets and a towel at check-in. Extra-long bunk beds are in each room. The meals include fresh food. The bathhouse is just steps from your room and has hot showers. Lights line the covered 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](#).



New Visitor Center at Vogel State Park Opens

by Kathy Williams

Vogel State Park has opened its brand new Visitor Center just in time for the brilliant colors of the fall season.



The Visitor Center is most impressive and features bike racks at the side of one of the entrances.



Continued next page



A spacious courtyard leads to the view of Lake Trahlyta.



The lake viewed from the covered pavilion at the Center.



A massive fireplace graces the covered pavilion.



A second massive fireplace greets you inside the gift shop.



The view from the lake side.
There is a large event room with information about the park and its history in the hallways.



The new visitor center as viewed from the dam on Lake Trahlyta.

Upcoming

by Kelly Motter, Hiking Director

Maintenance trips contingent upon government shutdown. October



October 11 (Saturday) BMTA GA Maintenance Trip. Section 2 from No Name Bald to Swinging Bridge.
Contact the Georgia Maintenance Director at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.

October 13 (Monday) 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 18 (Saturday) Clean Trails Day at Two Locations:

Fall Branch Falls Trail Head and the Swinging Bridge Parking Area

To be a Trail Ambassador for this event contact Bob Cowdrick at bcowdrick@bmta.org.

For more information see page [15](#).

October 22 (Wednesday) Trails of Jack Rabbit. Moderate 5 miles an island and return. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at rcollinson@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.

Where: Portions of Section 19a – Tapoco Lodge » Old Field Gap Road

Where: Section 19b – Old Field Gap Road » FS 251C (East End)

Where: Section 18e – Yellowhammer Gap » Tapoco Lodge

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.

October 27-29 North Georgia Crosscut Saw Course.
See page [15](#) for details.

Annual Meeting & Hike Fest
October 30 – November 2, 2025!



The Road to Nowhere

Continued next page

November

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



November 8 (Saturday) BMTA GA Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact the Georgia Maintenance Director at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.



November 22 (Saturday) BMTA TN/NC Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact:
BMTA TN-NC Maintenance Director at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org

November 28 (Friday) Amadahy Trail. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy/moderate 5 miles. Good hike for the day after Thanksgiving. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.

November 30 (Sunday) BMT Series: Spanish Oak Gap to Double Spring Joint GATC-BMTA Series. Last section of the BMT in GA! Very strenuous section 10.8 miles out and back. Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at kmotter@bmta.org.

December

December 5 (Friday) 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 kcissna@bmta.org.



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

December 19 (Friday) Fightingtown Creek #3. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy/moderate 4 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.



December 20 (Saturday) BMTA TN/NC Maintenance Trip. TBA
Contact:
BMTA TN-NC Maintenance Director at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org

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



Trail art photographed by Steve Pruett on a workday on the BMTA/Duncan Ridge Trail.

**The deadline for the November Newsletter is Thursday, November 6.
Thank you!**

[MEMBERSHIP](#)

[DONATE](#)

[DONATE LAF](#)

[PARTNERSHIPS](#)

[TRAIL STORE](#)

Welcome BMTA 2025 Partners!

The Benton MacKaye Trail Association is grateful for the help and support provided by our Partners. When you visit one of these businesses, please identify yourself as a BMTA member and be sure to thank them for their support!

BUSINESS PARTNERS



ROBERT CRAWFORD
HIXSON, TN



GoWith®
QUALITY • DURABILITY • ELEGANCE



STILL WATERS
COUNSELING
GAINESVILLE, GA

GEORGE STUART
CHAPEL HILL, NC



PETER VAN
BEST
NETHERLANDS



GOLD PARTNERS



For complete information on the Annual Meeting & Hike Fest, go [HERE](#).