



<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 9

SEPTEMBER 2025

Big Changes Coming for Snickers Bars

by Steve Hayden

Last week, I was returning from a hike on the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) and felt the afternoon drags. I stopped in a store and bought a Snickers Bar that I so richly deserved. Richly is correct. I paid \$2.50 for a candy bar that made me feel better for about an hour.

I began to think about the wisdom of the “once a month” Snickers Bar. Nutritional value (?) aside, I realized that it was a short-sighted move to buy a Snickers Bar and that there are many other “Higher and Better” uses for \$2.50 each month. I cringe to think of the money spent on Snickers Bars over a lifetime! More on that in a minute.

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.

Then I remembered:

- ♦ Investing in the BMT is to “Leave a Footpath for Generations to Follow.”
- ♦ Investing in the BMT 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 BMT.
- ♦ Investing in the BMT Land Acquisition Fund helps the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) to be prepared to act when property on the trail’s corridor becomes available.

For the same \$2.50 that bought the Snickers Bar that month, an ANNUAL Individual Membership is the same price of \$30. Clearly the benefits of the ANNUAL BMTA Membership outweighs a Snickers bar each month.

A family of unlimited members under the age of 21 can enjoy the membership for just \$10 more each year- \$40.



Snickers bars do not offer discounts to Students, Veterans or Retirees, but the BMTA does. We recognize the value of your educational efforts, your military service or your lifetime of working and offer individual memberships for \$25.

Are you a business and would like to support the efforts of the BMTA and take advantage of promotional opportunities? Contact us for partner memberships starting at \$50 per year.

Still thinking about a LIFETIME of Snickers Bars? You can become an individual lifetime member of the BMTA for \$400. The entire family can enjoy lifetime benefits for only \$600. Wait! It gets even better!

If you are thinking about joining the BMTA, **if you join in October 2025, your new membership is good for 15 months- until the end of December 2026. That's 3 Months FREE.**



The Membership Drive Begins October 1, 2025

We want YOU to become a member - BUT WAIT TIL OCTOBER - Joining then gets you 3 extra months. Your new membership will be good til December 31, 2026!

We'll remind you again in October!

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.

Annual Meeting Featured Speaker Marci Spencer



BMTA member and renowned author Marci Spencer is the Featured Speaker at this year's Annual Meeting and Hike Fest.

A Master of Science degree from East Tennessee State University prepared Marci for a career as a nurse practitioner in the fields of cardiology, family medicine and overseas medical missionary service.

Weekends found her piloting a private airplane or climbing a mountain somewhere.

After retirement, and thousands of hiking miles later, Marci volunteered for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as a Clingmans Dome Rover, providing natural, cultural and recreational information to park visitors.

After thirty years of independent nature study, she earned a Blue Ridge Naturalist certificate at the North Carolina Arboretum, a Southern Appalachian Naturalist certificate at Tremont in GSMNP and a North Carolina Environmental Educator certificate from the NC Department of Environmental Education and Public Affairs.

Her published books include *Pisgah National Forest: a History*; *Nantahala National Forest: a History*; *Cherokee National Forest: a History*; *Clingmans Dome, Highest Mountain in the Great Smokies*; *Pisgah Inn, Images in America*; and *Potluck, Message Delivered: "The Great Smoky Mountains are Saved!"* Yosemite Conservancy and the Personal Story Publishing Project have published several of her essays.

—Published in updated *Clingmans Dome*, now *Kuwohi* book

—Picture is Marci Spencer at Clingmans Dome



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 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 25, 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](#).

The Magic of Emery Creek

Photos courtesy of Ray Laws



Continued next page



What Brings Me Joy?

by Bob Cowdrick

Last week I participated in some medical research and the young Med Tech Researcher interviewing me asked questions about my career, hobbies, family, etc. A question that stopped me in my tracks:

“Bob, what brings you joy in your current phase of life?”

There are many answers, but one of the most significant is my involvement with the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA). And it’s not just the association itself—it’s the people who make it what it is.

Together, we’re building a community. Sharing joy. We share stories while hiking and working. We form new friendships. We lend a hand when someone needs it. Yes, our mission is “to preserve, protect and maintain the Benton MacKaye Trail.” Yes, our goal is to care for all 288 miles of trail. But what makes it truly meaningful is the spirit of connection—all 824 members united by a common interest and a shared love of the trail.

The joy doesn’t stop with us. The BMTA also exists for every hiker, camper, runner, dog walker and adventurer who sets foot on the trail. When they leave with positive, lasting memories, we’ve accomplished something important. It brings them joy. That is a goal we strive for each day.

On a recent Saturday work trip, our crew were cutting blowdowns along the Jacks River Trail. It was in the wilderness, so we were using crosscut saws. Two of our crew members had never used a crosscut saw before. With a little encouragement and coaching, they worked together and cut through the large white oak. The smiles on their faces, the sense of accomplishment and the joy in their hearts said it all.

I was proudly able to tell that researcher what brings me joy—being part of a community where we care for the trail, care for each other and create memories that last a lifetime.





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 Tsali 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](#).

Trail Work and a Birthday Celebration for Smokey Bear

by Bob Cowdrick with photo courtesy of Kelly Wentworth

On August 9, the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) marked a special occasion in a way that would make Smokey Bear proud—by rolling up our sleeves and getting to work.

While Smokey celebrated his 81st birthday, two crews of six BMTA members each set out on the Jacks River Trail from Dally Gap to the second river crossing, determined to give this beautiful stretch of trail some much-needed attention.

The day's mission was clear: cut out blowdowns and lop back encroaching vegetation. We were able to clear over 40 blowdowns along the Jacks River Trail! Along the trail, we met one hiker, six campers and a lone fly fisherman—all of whom expressed their appreciation for the work being done.



Can you spot Smokey?

By the end of the day, the Jacks River Trail was once again in fine shape, ready to welcome more visitors. Smokey Bear's message, "Only you can prevent wildfires," reminds us that caring for our wild places is a responsibility we all share. Happy Birthday, Smokey! Here's to many more years of keeping our trail open, safe and inviting.

River and Trees

by Joe Cantwell with photos courtesy of Kelly Wentworth and Bob Cowdrick

On Saturday, August 9, a hearty crew of 13 Maintainers cleared two wilderness segments of the Jacks River Trail near Dally Gap. A verbal agreement exists between the BMTA and the Forest Service that our crews would periodically clear up to the second river crossing. The objective of the day was to clear as many of the 46 blowdowns as possible and to brush the trail of extremely dense undergrowth that was obliterating the trail in many sections. After the monthly safety briefing at Dally Gap, the crews were dispatched with spirited enthusiasm.



Barry Allen, Steve Bayliss, Steve Hayden, Will Stanley, Byron Coker, Joe Cantwell and Charlie Snow accepted the challenge of making the slippery river crossing in about two feet of rushing water. A human chain was established to successfully pass the crosscut saws, axes and bank blades across the river.

Almost immediately the first set of blowdowns were encountered, and the heavy nature of the undergrowth became a reality.

To conserve energy after an hour of strenuous work, Joe Cantwell, Barry Allen, Steve Hayden and Charlie Snow moved ahead to the second river crossing to address the largest tree, a 36-inch perched on a steep slope.

Through careful analysis the cut plan worked to perfection and a four-foot chunk rolled off the trail.

Steve Bayliss, Will Stanley and Byron Coker had the unfortunate incident of breaking one handle on their two-man crosscut. With ingenuity and skill, the team was able to retrofit a branch for the handle. At 3 PM, the weary but triumphant crews reunited. The cold river water was refreshing on the return crossing. Steve Hayden took a planned swim to cool off, while Charlie Snow took an unintended spill, both to the laughter of their comrades.

Bob Cowdrick, Bill Cox, Mike Pilvinsky, Sam Sly, Kelley Wentworth and Ian Guttridge tackled the segment from Dally Gap to the first Jacks River crossing. Their work safely cleared multiple complex blowdowns and widened the corridor along 2.4 miles of trail. On their return trip, three trees reported on Section 10a were removed.

During the safety briefing, Joe Cantwell noted that the beaver dam that has caused concerns to hikers over the past four years has blown out with no signs of repair by the beavers. Future work will be planned to improve this crossing.



Steve Hayden cooling off. Joe Cantwell is gingerly walking by after a long hard day



Making second cut with Joe Cantwell on saw, Steve Hayden with wedges, and Charlie Snow on the other end.



Blowdowns, blowdowns and more blowdowns!



The day was a resounding success with 46 trees removed, opening the trail to a more enjoyable hike, free of difficult obstacles. The collective effort represented 144 hours of volunteer labor. Once again, the dedication, ingenuity and love of the outdoors all came together for the enjoyment of all future hikers.

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.



So, Why Do They Do It?

by Patrick Ward with photos courtesy of David Blount

Have you ever wondered why a group of folks would rise before daylight, drive for hours, carry tools into the woods and work a full day to clear a very overgrown section of the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT)? Wonder no more and come join us sometime to witness firsthand the tenacity, vigor and satisfaction of a work well done!

This is exactly what I saw firsthand on Saturday, 8/23/2025, in the mountains of North Carolina along the precipitous climb from Cold Spring Gap over Bob Bald and just to the edge of the Slickrock Wilderness. Seven eager volunteers of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) set out and accomplished a glorious feat by clearing 2.3 miles of trail. The work entailed three brush-cutting masters (David Blount, Barry Allen and Joe Cantwell), three meticulous loppers (Steve Dennison, Kathy Gushwa and "Cindy Lopper" Ward) and one crazy sawyer (Patrick Ward) working eight hours together sweating, pushing and enjoying it all the way.

Undergrowth which had completely blocked the trail to near nonexistence "pruned" back (way back), rhododendron and mountain laurel tunnels vastly improved, and 20 blowdowns disappeared into the dense vegetation. A very important additional thanks goes out to Dick Evans for ensuring the crew had a key and access to the USFS road from Beech Gap to Cold Spring Gap saving us an extra four miles of hiking round trip.





Is Steve Dennison in there?



The joy and camaraderie of the BMTA!

Along the way the crew was treated to the smiles and thank-yous from 20 hikers (day and backpacker alike). These encounters with those we work so hard to provide a pleasant hike for are beyond measure in terms of making the work meaningful. Toward the end of the workday, we were given an additional opportunity to be of service on the BMT—a very weary, and somewhat overwhelmed backpacker "happened" along our way. The crew offered words of encouragement, hiked along with our new friend and shared refreshments when arriving back at Cold Spring Gap. The backpacker was working toward a SOBO thru-hike of the BMT and expressed that our kindness and help certainly put fuel back in the tank to continue in the quest. Many who read this will surely relate to the benefits mentioned from the investment in making the Benton MacKaye Trail a premium hiking trail as we are "leaving a footpath for generations to follow."

With deep appreciation to all who help keep the BMTA strong - Patrick



Check Out This Month's [BMT Blog](#)

*'Chasing Waterfalls on and near the
Benton MacKaye Trail'*



Trail Bites!



Hikers on the Rhododendron Trail along the Ocoee River adjacent to the Whitewater Center.
Photo courtesy of Ray Laws.



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

Hunting Season is Starting! Get Out Your Orange!!!

Click on the following websites for more detailed information:

Georgia: [Georgia Hunting & Fishing Seasons & Rules | eRegulations](#)

Tennessee: [Tennessee Deer Season Dates, Regulations and Other Information \(tn.gov\)](#)

North Carolina: [Hunting in North Carolina \(ncwildlife.org\)](#)



Mr Bones always wears his orange! He doesn't need any more holes!



Stay safe, wear your orange and support the BMTA with this hat from our online store. You can order [HERE](#).

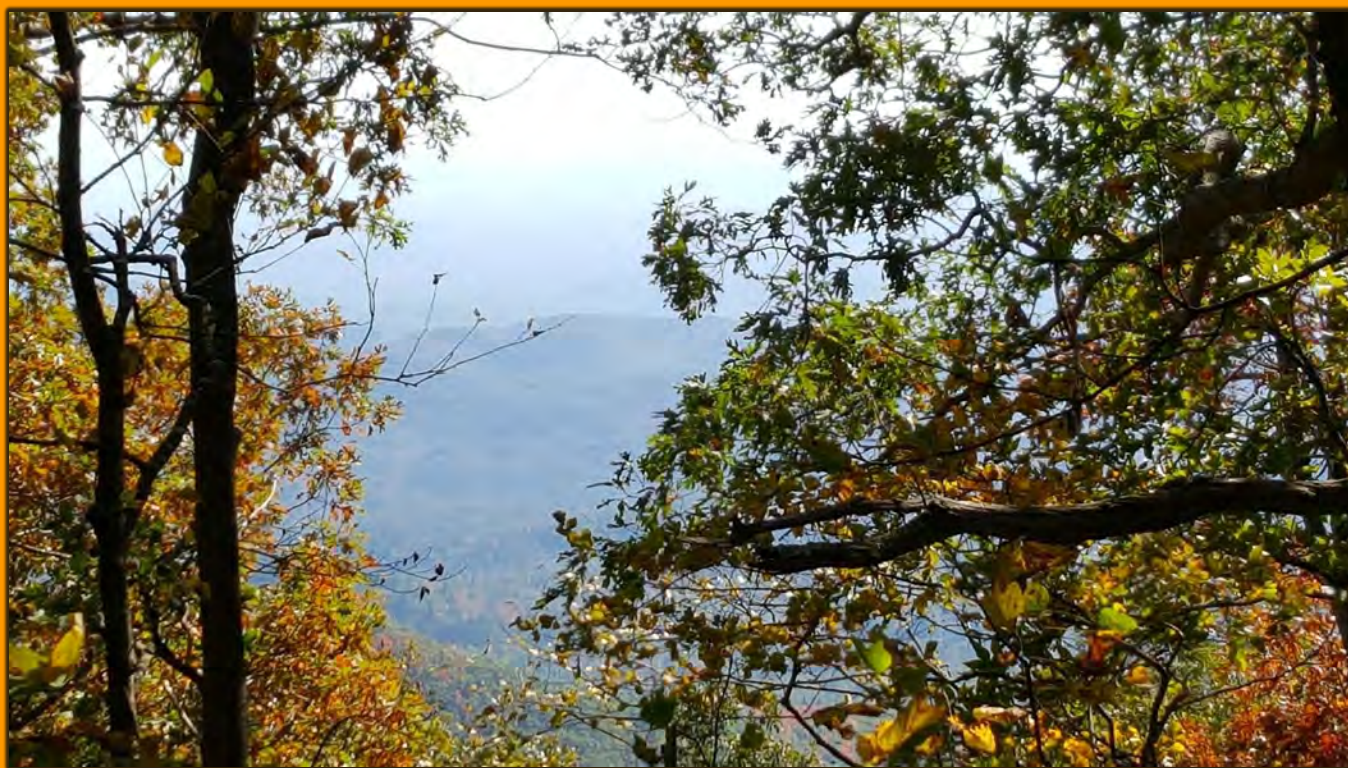


The Membership Drive Begins October 1, 2025

We want YOU to become a member - BUT WAIT TIL OCTOBER - Joining then gets you 3 extra months. Your new membership will be good til December 31, 2026!

We'll remind you again in October!

Fall into Fall by Adopting BMT Section 16a Round Top » Sled Runner Gap



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. To learn about becoming a Section Maintainer click [HERE](#). For more information on what sections are available click [HERE](#).



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](#).

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](#).



Toccoa Suspension Bridge Tree Removed

by Joe Cantwell with photos from Steve Pruett

The Suspension Bridge over the Toccoa River is an important tourist and hiker destination on the Benton Mckaye Trail (BMT). About 18 months ago, a lone oak tree, taller than the bridge, began to slowly lean towards the north end of the bridge. Finally, in March of this year it finally came to rest on the upper support cable.

After inspecting it, Myranda Hagerman, our trail tech with the Forest Service (FS), suggested to Joe Cantwell, GA Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) Maintenance Director, that the FS would remove the tree as part of a rigging class. Due to staffing changes, the class was cancelled while the tree continued to deteriorate, finally shifting along the cable until it wedged against the wooden support posts.



On August 19, 2025, during a periodic inspection by Steve Pruett, Laurie Schatz and Steve Hayden, a report with photographs was forwarded to the Blue Ridge District office and to Joe Cantwell.

Jesse Lumsden, our current trail tech, immediately took exploratory action and agreed it was a complicated removal situation, requiring their most expert sawyer from the fire crew to help in rigging and cutting. Meetings were held at the district office to decide on a course of action.

An official order closing the Bridge to all hikers was published as well as an alert on the FS website. Joe Cantwell reminded them of the hundreds of people that visit the bridge on weekends and asked if it could be elevated to an emergency response situation.

Early Thursday morning, the fire crew, along with Jesse Lumsden, arrived on site, formulated a cut plan, attached rope rigging and safely removed the tree with no damage to the handrails, decking or multiple support cables.

Joe Cantwell arrived at the bridge about noon to document the progress, only to find four hiking groups thoroughly enjoying the galloping sways as they crossed the river. John Stevens, Blue Ridge District Ranger, Jesse Lumsden, trail tech, and the fire crew personnel all did a yeoman's job in addressing this issue in record time. Well done!

BMTA Members Help Save the Hemlocks

by Ken Cissna

...or at least some of them.

The eastern hemlock is under attack by the hemlock woolly adelgid, a pest imported here from Japan that is killing the hemlocks all up and down the Appalachian Mountains. Save Georgia's Hemlocks (SGH) is a non-profit organization dedicated to limiting that destruction by educating the public and treating the hemlocks.

On Saturday August 30, 2025, 14 BMTA members joined 25 or so SGH members to treat over 200 hemlocks along Long Creek and the BMT in the Three Forks area. BMTA member/maintainer and SGH Board member and experienced hemlock treatment leader, Darrell Sheffield, led one of the six treatment teams. BMTA participants included Fred Allen, Charlotte Bremseth, Cindy Caciacoio, Ken Cissna, Robert Collins, Brian Crabtree, Gloria Harmon, Liz Henderson, Jode Mull, Tracy Piel, Darrell Sheffield, Talitha Smith, Penny Strickland and Pam Wendel.



Darrel Sheffield operates an injector.



Penny Strickland logging treatment activities.

Continued next page



Brian Crabtree measures the diameter of the tree. This is important for many reasons including the amount of material used to treat the tree.



Ken Cissna is removing an old tag that is close to being absorbed into the tree. Each treated tree is given a unique numbered tag that lets us keep track of both treatment efforts and tree growth. This tree will get a new tag and number.



Teams were assigned specific tasks for the day.



To learn more about what you can do to save Georgia's Hemlocks, including on your own property, go to:

www.SaveGeorgiasHemlocks.org

Trip to BMTA Backcountry Campsites Along the Lakeshore Trail

Photos courtesy of Debbie Hayes and Kathy Gushwa

Remote backcountry campsites in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) are accessed by pontoon boat for a yearly inspection and cleanup. This was the second cleanup for the year and was led by Dick Evans and Steve Pruett. This trip included Steve and Jesse Hayden, Kathy Gushwa, Debbie Hayes, and Bob Cowdick.



Upcoming

by Kelly Motter, Hiking Director

September



September 13 (Saturday) BMTA GA Maintenance Trip. Multiple Sections
 Section 3b< Skennah Gap to Licklog
 Section 4a<Skennah Gap to Payne Gap
 Section 9 <Watson Gap to Dyer Gap

Contact the Georgia Maintenance Director at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.

September 15 (Monday) Boyd's Gap to Thunder Rock at Ocoee, Tennessee. Easy/moderate 5 miles mostly downhill or flat. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at rcollinson@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. Portions of Sections 19a - Tapoco Lodge » Old Field Gap Road and/or 19b - Old Field Gap Road » FS 251C (East End), and/or 19c FS 251C (east end) » Fontana Lodge
 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 Leader Clare Sullivan at csullivan@bmta.org.

September 30 (Tuesday) Park Creek Trail at Standing Indian Campground in Franklin, North Carolina area. Easy/moderate 4 miles in-and-out and mostly flat. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at rcollinson@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.

October 27-29 North Georgia Crosscut Saw Course See page [13](#) for details.

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



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.



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We'll remind you again in October!

The deadline for the October Newsletter is Wednesday, October 1.
Thank you!

[MEMBERSHIP](#)[DONATE](#)[DONATE LAF](#)[PARTNERSHIPS](#)[TRAIL STORE](#)