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BMTA Headquarters

Benton MacKaye Trail Association

VOLUME 42, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2025

National Scenic Trail Designation: Update

by Ken Cissna, Immediate Past President

This year, we made enormous progress in our quest to have Congress designate the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) as a National Scenic Trail (NST). Unfortunately, we came up short. Again.

Rather than retrace our steps over the previous four years, I will focus on what happened during the last year and a half and allow those who are especially curious to review my earlier reports from [April 2021](#), [June 2022](#), and [March 2023](#).

As you probably know, Congress operates in two-year time frames. The 2023-2024 session was the 118th Congress; the 119th Congress began on January 3, 2025.

In 2023, the [*Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Act*](#) was again introduced in the House of Representatives.

By early 2024, it was apparent the legislation was stalled. Staff of the House Natural Resources Committee made clear that a bill to directly designate the BMT as a NST was not going to pass the Committee, and they encouraged us to pursue a bill to require the United States Forest Service to conduct a feasibility study. (A feasibility study looks at a trail's qualifications for being designated a NST.) BMTA's NST Committee, the staff at Monument Advocacy and our Congressional supporters decided to move forward with a feasibility study bill.

On May 15, 2024, bipartisan bills were introduced in both houses of Congress. [*H.R. 8403*](#), the Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act (BMNSTFSA), was introduced in the House by Representatives Steve Cohen (Democrat from Tennessee) and Chuck Fleischmann (Republican from Tennessee). A companion bill, [*S. 4352*](#) was introduced in the Senate by Senators Raphael Warnock (Democrat from Georgia) and Thom Tillis (Republican from North Carolina). We now had three bills before Congress—a designation bill in the House and feasibility study bills in the House and the Senate. The feasibility study bills became our sole focus.

Our hopes for success were heightened when BMTA was invited to send a representative to testify at a hearing of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee (NRC). On very short notice, I traveled to Washington DC to give that testimony on July 24, 2024. That was a first for us and certainly was for me as well. You can hear my allotted five minutes of testimony [here](#).

At this point, we thought it was a no-brainer—we were just asking for a *study* and bills authorizing the feasibility study had been submitted in *both* the House and the Senate.

Continued next page

We were ready for our bill(s) to be included in any omnibus bill dealing with public lands, natural resources, outdoor recreation, etc.

That didn't happen. No such omnibus bill was submitted and Congress did not have a chance to vote on our feasibility study bills.

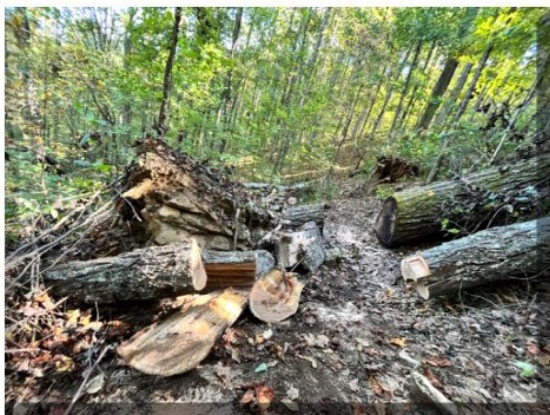
Getting legislation through Congress takes time. We already are making preparations to be back at it during the new, 119th Congress in 2025.

We continue to be grateful for our Congressional supporters (especially Representatives Cohen and Fleischman and Senators Warnock and Tillis as well as all of the bills' cosponsors) and we want to extend our thanks to Stewart Verdery, Nick Miner, and all of the Monument Advocacy staff who have worked closely with us and without whose untiring efforts on our behalf we would not have gotten as far as we have.

We also appreciate ALL OF YOU for your support for the Benton MacKaye Trail. If you would like to contribute to our NST quest for this year, please go [HERE](#). After you've made your donation, send an email to BMTA President Bob Cowdric, bcowdric@bmta.org to let him know you want your donation to go to BMTA's NST Quest. I promise we'll keep you informed as things progress.



Benton MacKaye Trail Association



A clear, sustainable BMT depends on the physical labor of our volunteers as well as YOUR financial support through

Memberships, Donations & Partnerships

We can't do it without YOUR help!

Join or Renew Your Membership Today!

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President's Column

by Bob Cowdrick



Happy New Year, Benton MacKaye Trail Association members and supporters!

As we welcome 2025, I'm inspired by the progress we've made and the journey that lies ahead. This year, our shared commitment to the trail and its legacy will be reflected in three key goals that will guide our efforts.

Let me share our vision for 2025 and how each of you plays a vital role in bringing it to life.

1. Continuing the Push for National Scenic Trail Designation

Securing National Scenic Trail designation for the Benton MacKaye Trail remains a priority for our association. This prestigious status would not only elevate the trail's visibility but also ensure that it receives lasting protections and resources for generations to come. Achieving this goal is a complex process that requires collaboration with lawmakers, federal agencies and outdoor advocacy groups. This year we'll focus on strengthening these partnerships and rallying support at every level. From letter-writing campaigns to personal meetings with decision-makers, your involvement will be critical. Together, we can ensure that the Benton MacKaye Trail is recognized as one of America's most treasured hiking experiences.

2. Prioritizing Safety and Training

The safety of our volunteers and hikers is at the heart of everything we do. Our trail maintainers work hard in challenging conditions to keep the BMT accessible and enjoyable and it's our responsibility to ensure they are equipped to stay safe. In 2025, we'll continue providing comprehensive training programs that cover everything from tool safety to first aid. For our hikers, we'll work to enhance trail signage and communication, so everyone feels confident and prepared as they explore the trail. Whether you're blazing a new section of trail or simply enjoying a weekend hike, safety will always be our top priority. Equally important is our partnership with the agencies that manage the lands our trail crosses, including the US Forest Service (USFS) and National Park Service (NPS). We're committed to being good stewards of these lands and supporting our land managers in their conservation efforts. By working together, we can preserve the natural beauty of the BMT corridor.

3. Honoring and Utilizing Our Members' Time and Talents

One of the greatest strengths of the BMTA is our membership. Our volunteers bring a wealth of experience, energy and passion to every aspect of our mission. In 2025, we aim to ensure that your time and talents are put to their best use. Whether you're passionate about trail work, advocacy, festivals or administration, we want to match you with opportunities that align with your interests. Together, we can continue to grow as an organization while making your contributions meaningful and rewarding.

Looking Ahead

As we embark on a new year, I am filled with gratitude for this community. Your dedication to the Benton MacKaye Trail ensures that we live up to our motto: *leaving a footprint for generations to follow*.

Let's continue to build on our successes, tackle new challenges and keep the trail a place of adventure, beauty and connection.

Warm regards, Bob

BMTA at Len Foote Hike Inn February 25 Reserve by January 25

The Len Foote Hike Inn has been reserved for the BMTA on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

Hikers will need to call the Hike Inn Reservation number to reserve a room in their own name and inform them they are with the BMTA. For information about the Len Foote Hike Inn go [HERE](#).

The reservation fee includes a fine dinner, a big breakfast and a tour of the Platinum LEED Certified Inn. The evening program, ‘Hiking the Foothills Trail Solo’, will be presented by BMTA member Kathy Anderson.

Reservations cannot be made online for the BMTA held rooms. Rooms will be half-price.

Reservations must be made by January 25, 2025. After January 24, 2025, unreserved rooms will be available to anyone. There are only 20 rooms at the Len Foote Hike Inn.

- ♦ Total for two people in a room is \$120.75.
- ♦ Total for one person in a room is \$89.13.
- ♦ Phone number to call is 706-344-1547 Mon- Friday 8:30 AM-2:30 PM.



Hiking Traditions

by Mike Pilvinsky with photos courtesy of Kelly Motter

For the past several years, it has been a tradition for me to lead a hike on the BMT/AT Loop at Springer Mountain on New Year's Day. This year I was joined by Ken Cissna, Gilbert Treadwell, Martha Fowler, Howard Baggett, Kelly Motter and Steve Pruett. It was a cold, crisp, breezy day. We flirted with snowflakes at first but soon they disappeared. We hiked the loop from the Springer Mountain parking lot in a clockwise direction. We hopped across the three streams which were flowing a bit heavier than we are accustomed to seeing in the summer months. It was a great day for hiking and a great beginning for 2025! Happy New Year everyone!!



Mike Pilvinsky, Gilbert Treadwell, Kelly Motter, Martha Fowler, Ken Cissna and Howard Baggett.



New Venue in Bryson City, NC BMTA's 2025 Annual Meeting & Hike Fest



Celebrate the BMTA's 45th Anniversary!

October 30—November 2, 2025

Lands Creek Log Cabins



- ◆ 4 Days of Great New Hikes
- ◆ Friday Nite Supper
- ◆ Annual Meeting Raffle
- ◆ Featured Speaker
- ◆ Awards Banquet

Room Block Expires 6/1/25

Book Your Room Today!



For reservations, contact:

Lands Creek Log Cabins

(888) 346-9793

Be sure to mention BMTA!

BMTA Brings the Trail to REI Alpharetta

by Bob Cowdrick

On Saturday, December 7, 2024, the Benton MacKaye Trail Association set up an information table at the REI store in Alpharetta. Representing the BMTA were dedicated volunteers Whitney June, Bob Cowdrick and Bob Ruby. Their enthusiasm and expertise created a welcoming space for outdoor enthusiasts to learn about the Benton MacKaye Trail.



Throughout the day, a steady stream of REI customers stopped by the table. Many were intrigued to learn about the 288-mile-long BMT, its scenic beauty and its opportunities for adventure. Several expressed interest in hiking the trail, while others inquired about joining our trail maintenance efforts. These interactions were invaluable in spreading awareness and growing our community of hikers and volunteers.

We also had the pleasure of connecting with the store's employees and managers. This incredible group of outdoor champions shared their passion for nature and their support for organizations like ours. Their enthusiasm for outdoor exploration mirrored our mission and we're grateful for their hospitality and partnership.

Events like these strengthen the connection between the trail and its supporters.

Thank you to REI Alpharetta and everyone who stopped by for helping us leave a footprint worth following!



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.*

New Discoveries on a Popular Hike

by Clare Sullivan with photos by Ray Laws, Tim Swan and Clare Sullivan



**Our group was delighted with the road to the trailhead ... a much-improved Forest Service road!
YAY Forest Service!**

All the hikers had hiked this trail in the past ... but they hiked clockwise around the loop. On this extremely cold day, we decided to hike the loop counterclockwise, going first to the Lower Turtletown Falls and then to the Upper Turtletown Falls.

In addition to the falls, our agenda included a search for two gravesites.

We Googled the names and learned that Jasper Stuart was born in Macon County, North Carolina. Census records indicated he was a farmer and married at the age of 23-26 in Polk County, Tennessee, between 1860-1863. Stuart appeared in the 1870 census but not in the 1880 census.

John Jack was born March 4, 1948. He passed away May 27, 2013. He was buried in the National Forest just 11 years ago.

Although burials in a National Forest/National Park are illegal, scattering a loved one's ashes is not. Doing so usually requires a permit and other regulations may apply.



The gravesite of Jasper Stuart.



The gravesite of John Jack.

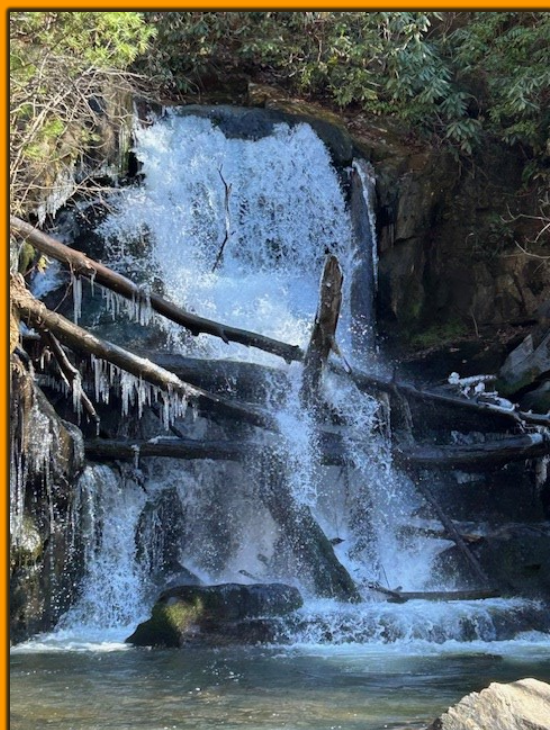
Our hike to the falls offered epic views of Turtletown Creek and its 'mini' falls.

The stunning Upper Turtletown Falls greeted us with a winter wonderland of icicles and iced branches.

The trek back up was a breeze thanks to SAWS' new switchbacks. Once the roadwork is finished, SAWS plans to return to complete the trail work.

This hike to two major waterfalls will be awesome when the refurbished road and new trail are completed!





Nothing like a handy "long-log bench" to take a load off!
Ray Laws, Ed Sullivan and Tim Swan enjoying the respite!

Attaboy Katanaboy!

by Steve Dennison

My friend Jen hikes numerous BMT segments and notifies me of significant trail concerns. This photo and GPS coordinates not only show the location of the trail obstruction but also some snow and frost on December 21. I forwarded the photo to BMT 6d Section Maintainer and Hiking Director Kelly Motter who was in Ohio. She was fine with me trying to clear the obstruction. Fellow maintainer Bill Cox and I had removed a few trees last summer on this section with his chainsaw after Jen had also reported those obstructions.



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The Christmas Eve forecast looked good, so I obtained a Katanaboy saw from BMTA headquarters. Surprisingly the temperature dropped from 29 degrees in Jasper to 22 degrees in Cherry Log! I was glad about that third layer of clothing! The icy frost made it easy to slide several downed limbs from the hillside across the trail and down the hill rather than picking them up later in hot and humid weather. I met a thru hiker about two miles in and asked her if there was still an obstruction waiting for me. She replied yes. I asked her if she had seen any other obstructions, and she said the trail was clear from Springer Mountain and what great work BMTA Maintainers do clearing the trail!

Upon arrival, the reported obstruction looked like a much larger and a longer job than the two hours I had anticipated from the photo. It took two hours just to remove the numerous small limbs with many pinned down by the larger limb. Then the large limb wouldn't budge so I took a picture for the benefit of a chainsaw certified maintainer.

Then I decided I needed to at least try the Katanaboy on the large limb blocking the trail. It cut surprisingly well but I still needed to cut through about 90 percent more to separate *both* large limbs with one cut. I spent about 60 minutes on numerous recuperating intervals and 40 minutes actual sawing. Unfortunately, my 145 pounds could barely budge the cut tree. Two maintainers could have moved it. I couldn't just leave it there blocking the trail so I cut about a 12-foot section hoping I could push the now lighter-weight limb. It moved slightly. I grabbed another branch and moved it a bit more. I then positioned it into the center area and pushed harder, clearing the large blowdown from the trail. My Christmas wish granted! And I saved a certified chain sawyer a 4.2-mile walk with steep uphill grades from Weaver Creek in the winter.

Would I have done things differently after this experience? Oh yeah, estimate additional time working solo and when in doubt bring another maintainer, preferably chainsaw certified!



This photo shows the remains of the blowdown and the trail clearance.

Hiking Class Offered at Young Harris College Classes Begin January 24

George Owen is conducting a hiking class at Young Harris College through the Institute of Continued Learning (ICL) Program. The classes are five sessions beginning January 24 and ending February 21. Each session is on Friday, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in the ICL classroom. The cost for the course is \$25.00.

George will offer information on the Florida outdoors as well as focusing on the Ocala/Gainesville area and the Florida panhandle. For more information and to register go to [ICL](#).



You might even learn the difference between a 'gaiter' and a "gator!"
Gator on the trail photo by NPS

In addition to learning about hiking in Florida, George shares valuable information on hiking in general including safety, equipment and history. Perhaps a getaway to some warmer trails might be just what you need!

It's Finally Official!



It came as a surprise to many when the bald eagle was officially named the national bird of the United States.

For over two hundred years, the bald eagle has been on the seal of the United States as well as numerous official documents but it was not the official bird until December 24, 2024.

The founding fathers could not come to an agreement on a national bird with Benjamin Franklin, even writing in a letter to his daughter that the bird was "a bird of bad moral character."

USDA Forest Service photo by Todd Johnson

Next Time is Now!! Adopt a BMT Section!

Are you looking for a resolution that will give you meaning, purpose and help you get rid of those holiday pounds? Then consider becoming a Benton MacKaye Section Maintainer. There are a few sections available for adoption that you can choose from [HERE](#). Below are photos from Section 18a that is available.



Bob Bald on Section 18a.



The view from Naked Ground Section 18a.

So, take up a challenge in 2025 to better your life and help us “leave a footprint for generations to follow.”

New Book by Marci Spencer



Marci Spencer was the Featured speaker at BMTA's 2018 Annual Meeting.

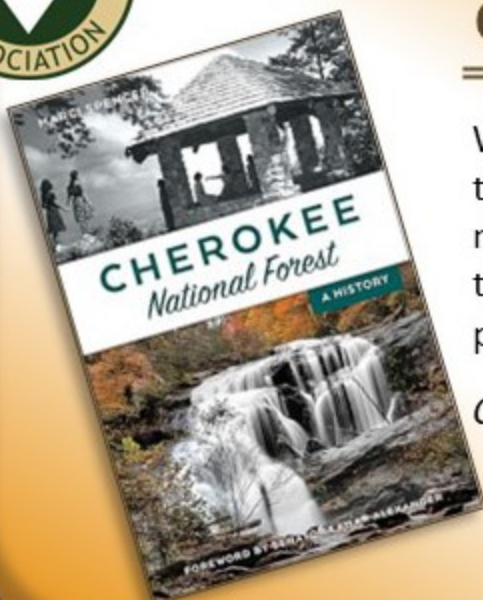
A native of Asheville, NC, Marci Spencer's outdoor resume is impressive.

She earned a naturalist's certificate through the Blue Ridge Naturalist's Program (UNCA-NC Arboretum). She completed the NC Environmental Educator Certification Program as well as the Southern Appalachian Naturalist's program at the Great Smoky Mountain Institute (UT-Knoxville).

Spencer volunteered for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Appalachian Bear Rescue for several years. She now offers educational sessions at special events as well as nature/environmental presentations for classrooms and community events.

A prolific writer, her works include: *Nantahala National Forest: A History*, *Pisgah National Forest: A History*, *Clingman's Dome - Highest Mountain in the Great Smokies* and *Pisgah Inn*.

Since joining BMTA in 2015, Spencer has been a strong supporter of BMTA. She graciously donated 44 copies of her latest work, the *Cherokee National Forest* to BMTA to be sold in BMTA's Online Store. All proceeds go to the BMTA!



CHEROKEE National Forest

Written by BMTA member Marci Spencer, the author vividly describes the incredible natural beauty of the land while paying tribute to the early settlers & indigenous people who lived in the area.

Courtesy of Marci, all proceeds go to BMTA!

BMTA Trail Store

**Items usually ship within a week.*

Hello All You Tough and Tremendous Volunteers!

From Patrick Ward and Joe Cantwell—Photos courtesy of Daphne Martin

Thank you for the tremendous effort on Saturday to open up 102 drainage diversions and clear one blowdown. We had a beautiful, cool day improving Section 9a.
Joe Cantwell

Adding my thanks to Joe's for the work accomplished by GA Crews. To our fine folks in TN - thank you for the extraordinary efforts on 11d and 12d. Combined, our 10 volunteers cleared 23 blowdowns both in wilderness with crosscut and in non-wilderness with chainsaws, hand saws and axes. One of those blowdowns was a 30" red oak that Barry and his swamper (Kenny Martin, Ken Cissna and Patrick Ward) worked at mightily and cleared...the gift that keeps on giving. That oak also provided for taking about four other trees when it fell down. In all the two saw crews cleared 11 (more depending on how you count them) blowdowns. Johnny Emberson, Darcy Douglas and Steve Dennison worked the crosscut making 11d a much more pleasant hiking experience. Bob Cowdrick, Daphne Martin and Brian Trinkle did an amazing job of brushing out over two miles of undergrowth while covering 3.5 miles (that's seven miles round trip!) of Section 12d. Well done everyone! Be well.

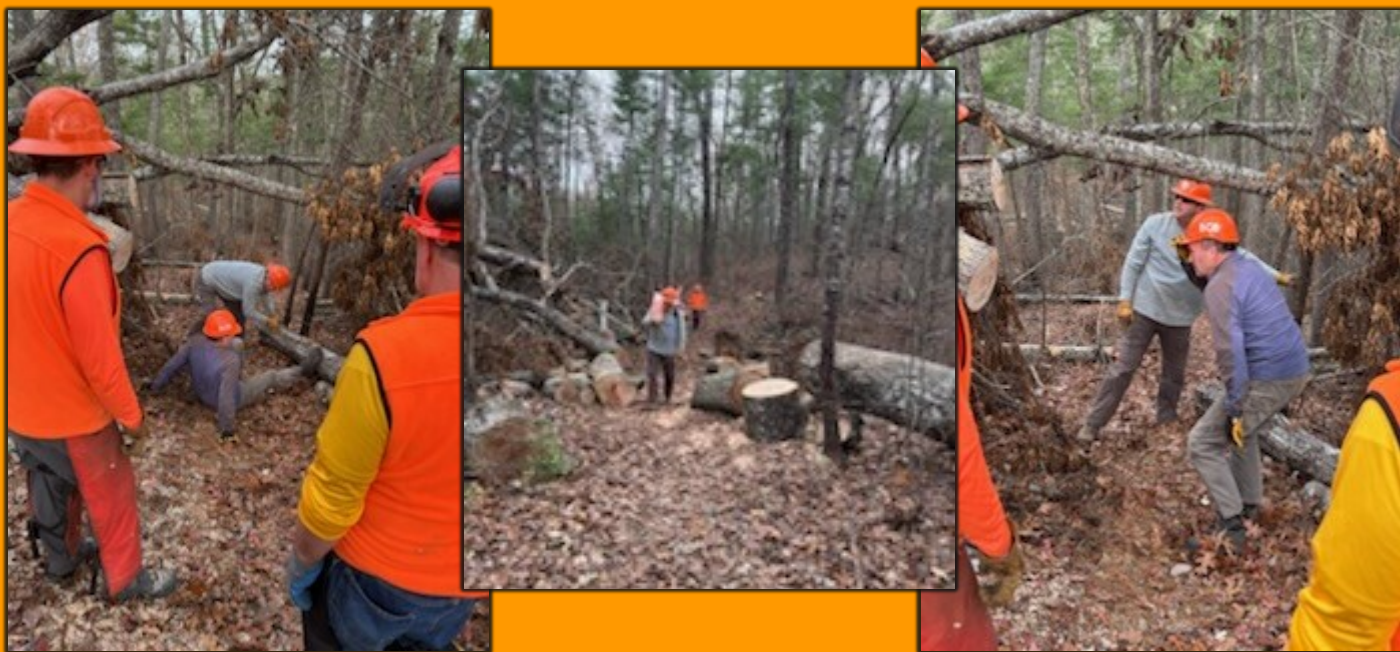
Patrick Ward



Patrick Ward focuses on the job.



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Explore the Wild "Real Florida" in Late Winter with George Owen

by George Owen

Still active BMTA co-founder and former president George Owen is again leading an eight-day hiking and exploration tour of Northern Florida from Gainesville to Wakulla Springs. Included is a visit to a Gulf of Mexico beach state park below Tallahassee. Three nights will be spent at the Gainesville Hilton Garden Inn and four in the wonderful historic Wakulla Springs State Park Lodge located in the Florida panhandle. The dates for this exciting adventure are February 28 to March 7! You'll have modest, beautiful hikes with general touring of the very scenic and wilder part of the Sunshine State. Florida is George's native state, and he enjoys returning in the winter months to revisit his favorite hiking trails.

Included in the Gainesville area:

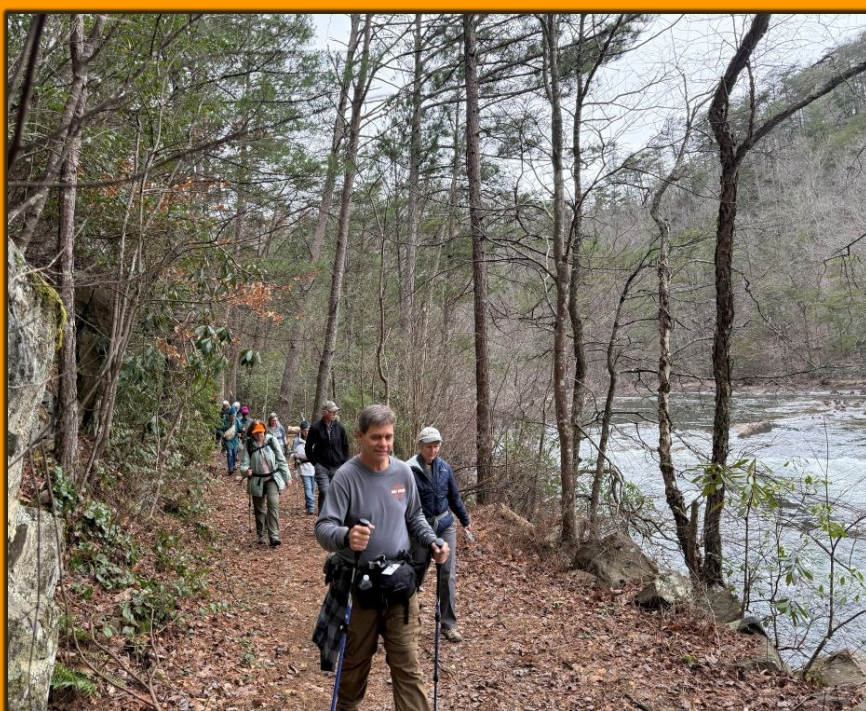
- ♦ Hiking on a typical Florida National Scenic Trail Loop.
- ♦ Paynes Prairie State Park (gators, bison - really, bison - etc.).
- ♦ A visit to a large spring often full of manatees up-close.
- ♦ In Wakulla Springs, you'll have the Wakulla Springs River boat tour one morning and spend most of the day in St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf with the Florida Trail and other short walks.
- ♦ Walk parts of the Florida Trail elsewhere in the area and spend a day at St. George Island State Park on the Gulf with inland hiking and beach walking (wading or swimming available).
- ♦ And there's more! Our two inns have wonderful sleeping and dining facilities.



Half of the 11 rooms are now taken for this tour, but five remain. So, hurry and don't miss out! Contact George at gowen2@tds.net or (706) 897-3366 for more information or to register.

Boyd's Gap to Thunder Rock Campground

Photos courtesy of Paula Laws



Upcoming

by Kelly Motter, Hiking Director

January

January 8 (Wednesday) Piney Knob Rhodo-Coaster Trail. Moderate 5 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at rcollinson@bmta.org.



January 11 (Saturday) BMTA GA Maintenance Trip.
Section 1 - Springer Mountain to Three Forks Section.
Contact the Georgia Maintenance Director at bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org.

January 20 (Monday) Brush Creek Loop. Moderate 5 miles.
Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at rcollinson@bmta.org.

January 22 (Monday) BMT: Three Forks to No Name Gap and back. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog) Moderate 4.7 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.

January 24 (Friday) BMT Wilscot Gap Old Dial Road. Strenuous 11.2 miles. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at sdennison@bmta.org.

January 25 (Tuesday) **Deadline for Reservations for the BMTA at The Len Foote Hike Inn.** Reservations cannot be made online for the BMTA held rooms. Rooms will be half-price.
Call 706-344-1547 Monday- Friday 8:30 AM-2:30 PM.



January 25 (Saturday) BMTA TN/NC Maintenance Trip.
Section 19c – FS 251C (east end) » Fontana Lodge
Section 19b – Old Field Gap Road » FS 251C (East End)
Section 19a – Tapoco Lodge » Old Field Gap Road

Contact the BMTA TN-NC Maintenance Director at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org.

February

February 1 (Saturday) Toccoa River Bridge to Skeenah Gap on the BMT.
This joint club hike (BMTA and the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club) begins at the iconic Suspension Bridge and continues for 10.2 miles to Skeenah Gap. This very strenuous hike begins by going over Tooni Mountain then Wallalah and finally Rhodes Mountain to Skeenah Gap. The hike requires a shuttle.
Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at kmotter@bmta.org.

February 3 (Monday) Hike to Buck Bald. Enjoy this short uphill hike on the BMT to a 360-degree view of Buck Bald. Hike starts at Hwy 68. Total hike length is 1.8 miles.
Contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan at csullivan@bmta.org

February 3 (Monday) Two Loops of BMT/AT from Three Forks southbound. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy/moderate 5 miles.

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

February 5 (Wednesday) Trails of Jack Rabbit. Hike is 5-6 miles of moderate trails outside Hayesville, NC.

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



February 8 (Saturday) BMTA GA Maintenance Trip. TBA

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

February 12 (Wednesday) Thunder Rock Express to BMT to Thunder Rock Campground. This moderate hike of 5 miles is located in the Ocoee area of TN. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at rcollinson@bmta.org.

February 12 (Wednesday) GA 60 Wilscot Gap to GA 60 across from Swinging Bridge FS Road. Strenuous 10.9 miles. Hike requires a shuttle. Contact Hike Leader Steve Dennison at sdennison@bmta.org.



February 22 (Saturday) BMTA TN/NC Maintenance Trip. TBA

Contact the BMTA TN-NC Maintenance Director at bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org

February 25 (Tuesday) BMTA at the Len Foote Hike Inn. From Amicalola Falls State Park this is a moderate 5-mile hike taking from two to four hours. Hikers are treated to dinner and breakfast. You have to reserve your room by January 25. See [page 4](#).

March

March 5 (Wednesday) Miller Trek Trail at Brasstown Resort, Young Harris. Hike the Blue Trail and the lower section of Miller Trek Trail for approximately 5 miles. Hike is easy/moderate. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at rcollinson@bmta.org.

March 7 (Friday) Talking Rock. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy/moderate 5 miles. Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.



March 8 (Saturday) BMTA GA Maintenance Trip. TBA

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

March 21 (Friday) BMT/AT: Upper two loops on Springer Mountain from Big Stamp Gap. DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5 miles. See all the sights! Springer Mountain, an AT shelter, the beginning of BMT, the plaque honoring Benton MacKaye and Owen Vista! Contact Hike Leader Ken Cissna at kcissna@bmta.org.

March 22 (Saturday) Skeenah Gap to Wilscot Gap on the BMT. This joint club hike (BMTA and GATC – Georgia Appalachian Trail Club) begins at Skeenah Gap and proceeds northbound to Payne Gap ending at Wilscot Gap. Moderately/strenuous 5.3 miles. The hike requires a shuttle. Contact Hike Leader Kelly Motter at kmotter@bmta.org.



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

March 26 (Wednesday) Hike the iconic Pickens's Nose Trail outside of Franklin, NC. This 1.4-mile out and back trail has stunning views of the Nantahala Forest. Contact Hike Leader Ralph Collinson at rcollinson@bmta.org

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

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The deadline for the February Newsletter is Wednesday, January 29.
Thank you!

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



GREGORY SMITH
GAINESVILLE, GA



PETER VAN BEST
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GOLD PARTNERS

