

The Pine Mountain Trail



Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc.

41st Year 1975-2016

Fall 2016

Number 113

“Service is the Rent We Pay for Our Space on Earth”

The Pine Mountain Trail...conceptualized, planned, constructed and maintained by dedicated volunteers.
No tax money is used to support the Pine Mountain Trail.

PIG OUT 2016 is coming up October 22nd. See inside this newsletter, Page 3, for information about the Pig Out..

NEAL'S REST

Since our last newsletter in early summer, the PMTA has received quite a few generous contributions in memory of D. Neal Wickham our Pine Mountain Trail founder. The PMTA board voted to use some of those contributions to not only do something in honor and memory of Neal, but to enhance the trail in some way. That something is being completed as this newsletter is being printed. We have long needed a new map display kiosk at the WJSP TV Tower Trailhead (Mile 23.) We have put the new kiosk right beside the Neal Wickham rock as the trail starts into the woods.

On **Saturday October 15 at 11 am** we will have a "vine /ribbon cuttin" dedication/opening of the new kiosk at the WJSP TV Tower/Mile 23 Trailhead. You are welcome to join us as Malon Wickham (Neal's son) and Judith Wickham (Neal's widow) and families do the honors of cutting the ribbon. We will also be putting up a small engraved plate naming the area **NEAL'S REST**. A name that just has a ring to it we think. Neal was most concerned in late April of 2011 after the tornado struck that the trail was closed from Mile 23 all the way back to Mollyhugger Hill Parking Lot (Mile 11.) He asked that we please try to get the Wolfden Loop opened back up first. That first Saturday after the tornado we had over 150 volunteers show up to help on two days notice! We got the Wolfden Loop opened back up that weekend. Neal was all smiles. So with his love for especially this end of the trail we wanted to do something to honor his memory and legacy of service to the PMTA for over 41 years.

Thanks to Joe D. Skinner for the idea of putting large rocks around the kiosk for hikers to rest on before or after a hike as well the bench on the north side of the kiosk. Thanks too, for those who have spent many hours working on this project so far, including Kerry White from the FDR Maintenance staff for his awesome tractor work clearing the area and positioning the rocks. We have had a lot of fun working on the area so far. Hopefully end of the week of September 10 will have it completed including a map case installed, shingles on, bench stained, along with spreading of ground cover (mulch.) The new kiosk display will feature a 60" wide copy of our PMT map (map is being made for installation soon) and beside it will be descriptions of hikes to Cascade Falls and back, Wolfden Loop and East End Loop as well as some basic information hopefully hikers will read. October 15, we will have someone at the entrance to the parking area off GA Alt 85 to help guide you where to park. So arrive a few minutes early on October 15 and join us for the dedication of **NEAL'S REST**.



If you misplace your membership card or just need a replacement, let us know via email from our website . Numerous volunteers from our membership have helped the PMTA grow and flourish for more than 41 years. We continue to grow. The scope and reach of our association in promoting and maintaining the **Pine Mountain Trail** will always be determined by our membership. Let's all do our part to keep the association vibrant and to spread the word about our trail.

The **Pine Mountain Trail Newsletter** is a publication by the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc. The editor and board members of PMTA retain the right to accept and /or edit any material submitted for publication or posting on the website or the PMTA Facebook pages . : Jim Hall- PMTA Newsletter Editor – 6743 Audubon Drive –Columbus, Ga. 31909.

NOTE: This is a short, brief newsletter mainly to get the word out about the PIG OUT. A full newsletter will be sent out before the end of the year.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

From Jerry Brown

We will publish a complete membership report in our next full newsletter, including all new members.

As of JulyMembership-: 265 annual members with 46 organizational, 139 families and 80 individual members.. LIFE members we have 17 organizations, 112 families and 77 individuals (206).

About the new kiosk , NEAL'S REST

from Jim Hall

I want to thank the volunteers who have been of much help so far on the project. As mentioned on Page 1, Joe Skinner has been a real help in keeping us straight as we work and for his idea of having the large rocks for sittin'. Joe has worked on this project most every time I've been there as has Mike Riffle. FDR Kerry White was most helpful doing the initial clearing, then helping Joe and I pick out and get rocks moved in and taking out stumps and moving several LARGE trees we had to remove. As I said, Mike Riffle has been "on the job" site several times including the mixing and pouring the 41 bags of concrete for the foundation with Joe and I which was one long hot day. Mike took a day off from work one day to work on the rafters. Mark Hughes has been with us a couple days so far and thankfully he was not injured on a fall he took Saturday the 27th. Ronnie & Traci Heard brought us lunch on August 27th and Ronnie came back Saturday the 4th and brought us lunch again and stayed several more hours to help. Then he brought his nephew Bradley Cline and helped Joe and I get the shingles on September 8th. Tracy came and helped too. Ronnie also loaned us his much needed generator. Michael Wade, John Cecil also joined us on the 4th and we greatly appreciate their being patient handing us stuff, holding ladders etc. My wife Helen Hall worked with me two full days doing the rafter supports and then Labor Day 8+hours as we built the bench and map holder. My brother Eddie joined us after lunch that day helping much.

Several folks have asked where we get the materials for the kiosk. Well, Larry , Trip and others at **Valley Fir and Redwood** in Columbus worked with me letting me pick out boards and ordering others and then delivering what I needed. All the wood for our bridges and walkways and signs for at least 10 years have come from Valley Fir. Their wood is dry! **Diverse Mechanical** on Andrews Road here in Columbus made our metal pieces. Vince was easy to work with on the making of the steel plates and angles as well as the very large "H" shaped main supports for the uprights. They punched the needed holes just right. Even though this was a small job, Vince and crew were helpful and friendly and took the job to heart. **Columbus Screen and Aluminum** I went to for the map display case. Frankie there listened and took time to help me come up with something affordable yet attractive to hold the large map. Turned out great! The bolts and screws we got from **Fastenal** here in Columbus and the friendly folks there ordered what we needed quickly. We bought the heavy architectural grade shingles from David Hooten at **ABC Supply** here in Columbus. Thanks to David for working with me on ordering the shingles and ice-shield coating and holding the order till we needed it. **Sims Bark** in Woodbury worked with us on selling us the ground cover bark chips.

Oh, some folks ask where we get our **STIHL power equipment** we use on the trail. That would be **Home Ace Hardware** just off the St. Marys' Road exit off I-185 in Columbus. They have sold equipment to us for over 10 years and even folks like Mark Hughes from LaGrange bought a Stihl saw from them. Owners Gary and Seth Johnson are great folks and they have a great parts crew including Bill Jenkins whom Jenkins Springs on the PMT is named after!

First day of actual construction August 27th crew-Jim, Mark, Joe and Mike



(Renew early to avoid missing a newsletter issue)

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Work number _____ E-mail address _____

Membership Category: ☐renewing member ☐new member

12-month

Lifetime

☐Individual \$25.00☐\$200.00

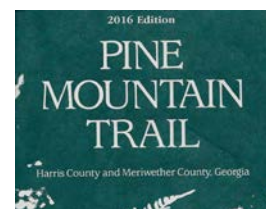
* for families and organizations, list names that cards should be issued to

☐Family* \$35.00☐\$300.00☐Organization* \$50.00☐\$400.00I wish to volunteer with the following: ☐membership ☐public relations ☐board membership ☐assist with monthly hike☐help with monthly workdays ☐newsletter contributions ☐Adopt-a-Trail section**PINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL LOGO STUFF**Map prices are higher at FDR park office, Outside World and Big Dog Running in Columbus. Photos of the items are on the website at PMTA STORE.

| | Member | Non-member |
|---|--------|------------|
| Maps-- (new 2016 edition) | \$4.00 | \$5.00 |
| Kids Map (2015 40th Anniversary edition) | \$2.00 | \$3.00 |
| Patches --The Pine Mountain Trail logo patch | \$2.00 | \$3.00 |
| Medallion--Brass PMT logo hiking staff medallion. Photo of this item is on a | \$3.00 | \$4.00 |
| hiking staff in the <u>photo gallery section of the website</u> . | | |
| PMT Pin - Brass with acrylic coating with a pin for your hat or vest | \$3.50 | \$4.50 |
| PMTA Car Tag—white, plastic tag with full color PMT logo (reduced; were \$5) | \$4.00 | \$4.00 |

If ordering from the PMTA cost is as shown (includes shipping/mailling for maps, patches, and medallions.) Live in/near Columbus? Call Jim Hall at 706-569-0497.

Arrangements can be made to pick up items from his home.

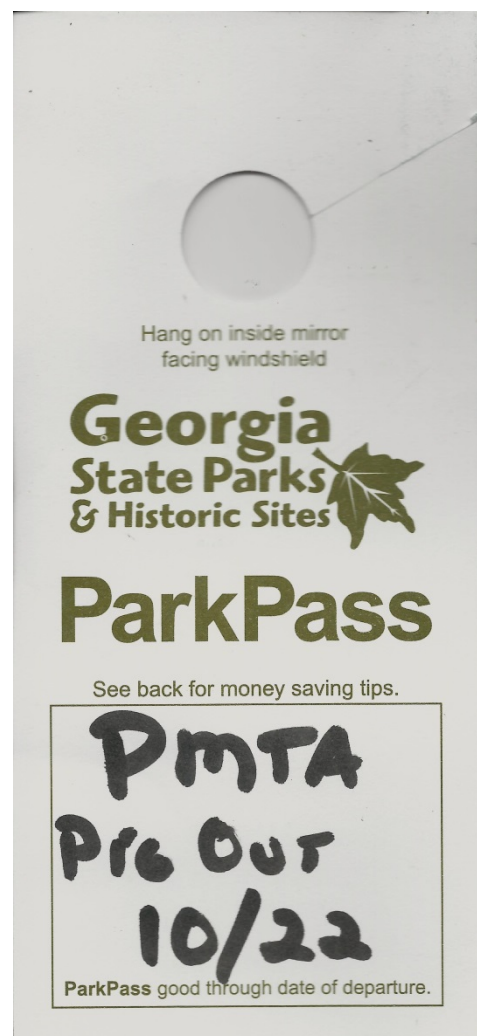
NOTE: The 2015 map, we sold nearly 5,000 copies. The 2016 printing has a couple minor changes (one is labeling **Combs's Crossing** near Old Sawmill Campsite.)**UNPREPARED HIKERS**

Over the last few months I have sat at the tower end/Mile 23 WJSP TV Tower Trailhead several times waiting on work crews doing work along the trails and talked to hundreds of hikers headed in. Why was I sitting instead of working? I had a total knee replacement in late March (which is doing great.) While recently working on the new kiosk several of us have talked to literally hundreds of hikers those workdays to those headed out onto the trail. Just Labor Day my wife Helen kept a tally of hikers coming back off the trails she had talked to and during 8 hours she counted over 200. There were still 8 vehicles and likely another 25-30 hikers still out. That's a lot of folks. Of the nearly 230 hikers we talked to Labor Day, very few knew where actually they were headed ("don't know, just going out hiking" "just down to some falls and back"...that's just a short ways right?" or thinking about "doing the Wolfden Loop which is about 8 miles?").. 99% of the hikers did not have a map or know what color blazed trail the PMT is or what a blaze is and didn't know the park emergency numbers for sure. Only about 5% had what we'd consider equipment and water/snacks for a 4 mile hike. So we talked it up with many hikers, gave away some water, encouraged some to buy a map or take a photo of the back of a map (the FAQ section.) A few disregarded our help (saying things like "oh we've hiked in Alaska" or "we don't need water for a 4 mile hike") and some wouldn't even stop to say hi. Many however were thankful for the info and guidance and stopped by after their hike and told us they had a good hike. Several whom we gave water to came back by and sincerely thanked us! Many who didn't have water and such literally came dragging back off the trail worn out and sweaty looking and didn't say a word. Those folks are the ones we worried about most. However, they were adults and made a choice to not seek out info about our trails before hiking, were prepared or knew about hiking in general. One young couple who only had a cell phone in their hands we asked where they were hiking and they didn't know, we helped them with map and info and asked about water. The girl said "Oh, we had some but drank it all driving here. We thought there would be a vending machine here at the trailhead." Really? Hopefully the new info kiosk at Mile 23/WJSP TV Tower Trailhead, the info and map posted there will be read and the suggested things like to take like WATER will be taken to heart. As we encourage other PMTA members, if you meet up with hiker, talk it up to them. Ask where they've been and headed and if they don't know where they are headed for sure, help them. If you need to give them your trail map, let me have yours and let me know and we'll replace it. Oh, if a hiker you talk to is at the trailhead and says they don't have anything (snacks and water etc.) you could relate there is a Dollar General down the mountain before you get to Shiloh only about 2.5 miles away. Hey, they even sell ice cream!

Pig Out 2016 is coming Saturday, October 22th!

The 41st Pine Mountain Trail Association annual dinner (Pig Out) will again be held at the rock shelter at the Liberty Bell Pool on GA. 354. If you are new to the PMTA, you will not want to miss this event. The Liberty Bell Pool is shown on your Pine Mountain Trail map. If you come east on GA 354 out of Pine Mountain, the pool area is on your left about 2.5 miles. If you come to the park office area from the west on GA 190, go past the park office .4 of a mile and turn left onto the off ramp by the stone bridge. Take a left at the stop sign at the end of the ramp onto GA 354 and go about .3 of a mile downhill to the pool area on your right. Meet and eat with other PMTA members at the 2016 Pig Out. There will be a moderate rated 3.2 mile pre-Pig-Out hike from the Park RV Campground Trading Post Lot on the Mountain Creek Trail starting at 1 p.m. (so arrive earlier than that to sign the roster). Help us celebrate another great year and our 41st anniversary! Hikers who come to the 1 p.m. hike are welcome at the Liberty Bell Pool area just after the hike. The sign-in table will be set up by 4 p.m. Relax and visit with other PMTA members and guests. Please go to the sign in table first. If you have paid reservations (or need to pay upon arrival and made reservations) we will have pre-printed name-tags. Those at the sign-in table will hand out or make the name-tags. Each person (adults and children) will receive a ticket to hold for door prizes. Having a name-tag lets us know you have signed in/paid for dinner. In order to avoid a wait to check in, please arrive and check in between 4 and no later than around 5:15. We will have a brief flag ceremony at 5:40 p.m., followed by the blessing. Dinner will begin serving at 5:50 p.m on 2 lines under a large tent outside the rock shelter. We of the PMTA will serve Country's Barbecue items including pork and chicken, hot dogs (upon request on your reservation form,) coleslaw, potato salad, beans, stew, corn bread and light bread and their great iced tea. We will also have soft drinks (some diet), fruit flavored drinks and bottled water. Back for the 16th year will be ice cream treats for all. What program /speaker? We'll honor some long time volunteers, show some interesting time lapse photos of a couple PMTA projects and tell some about the last 41 years of the Trail in relation to this past year. We will have some door prizes starting with kids prizes. As always, you are welcome to bring non-member guests. We will have some PMTA items for you to purchase (medallions, patches, and both the new 2016 topo and 2015 Kids maps.) Please pay for these separate from dinner.

The price of the Pig Out dinner is \$15.00 for adults , and still \$5.00 for children 3-12. Please go ahead and make your reservations soon. **We have to hold reservations to about 140 due to space.** Send in the form with your check by US mail. You may mail the form even if you do not mail your payment and plan to pay when you arrive. You can also EMAIL us your intent to attend with names to PineMtTrailAssoc. Jim@msn.com (there is an underscore between the period and Jim IE: .Jim) Having reservations helps us determine how much food we will need. We don't want to run short and we will not be able to take late reservations after we reach 140. Jerry Brown will check the PMTA PO box for the last time on Tuesday October 17th..., so help us by having your reservations mailed/called or emailed to arrive before then. Any questions, call Jim Hall at 706-569-0497 to get directions if the trail map is not clear to you. **IMPORTANT.....unless you have an annual GA Park Pass, cut out the daily one shown here and put it on your dash when you arrive for the afternoon hike and or the Pig Out dinner!** Please make checks payable to: Pine Mountain Trail Association Mail to: PMTA, PO BOX 5, Columbus, GA. 31902 . On the outside of the envelope and on the check put : "PIG OUT RESERVATIONS".



2016 PIG OUT RESERVATION FORM:

Please make a reservation for _____adults _____children.

of hot dogs* _____

The reservations name is: _____

List the first and last names of all those coming with you so we can make a name tag for them ahead of time _____

-Enclosed is \$_____._____ or We will be paying upon arrival. _____

Number of non-PMTA MEMBERS (guests) in total above _____



July 8th workday from Hines Gap to Dowdell Knob Road



August 13 crew installing walkway near Mile 8



July 2nd hikers on group led hike



Larry Day, Ed Jones and Joe D. Skinner



Ed, Genny, Shipla, Helen, Mike and Larry

Suggested HIKE/Backpacking trip from BootTop Trail/Dowdell Knob Road Parking Area

Back in June of 2012 we added this parking area. Many do not realize it is there. This is a good starting point to do a longer out and back 'lollipop loop' backpacking trip or hike. That route being start at the BootTop Trail Parking Lot and hike west on the BootTop Trail to the main PMT (that is .6 of a mile.) The hike east on the Pine Mountain Trail on to near Mile 23 (6.5 miles) , turn and take the Beaver Pond Trail west back to the PMT (1.7 miles) and then back to BootTop Trail and this parking area (another 2.1 miles) for a round trip of about 10.9 miles. Like all parking areas in FDR State Park, you must have an annual or daily pass on your vehicle to park here. As for obtaining a backcountry permit, you have 5 backcountry campsites to pick from along this route. One option is hiking/backpacking to say Big Oak Springs or Sparks Creek Campsite, dropping your backpacking gear and doing the loop and come back for the evening at one of those sites.



Pine Mountain Trail Association Newsletter

P.O. Box 5

Columbus, Georgia 31902



Check the **RENEWAL DATE** on the address label (above your name). Don't miss a newsletter--**RENEW** early. Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS for the PINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

HIKES*

LEADER

MEET AT:

HIKING:

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------|--|-------------------------|---|
| 2016 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| Oct 15 | 1 pm. | Jim Hall & Mark Hughes | FDR Park Office | OVERNIGHT backpacking trip to Turtle Hollow Campsite* |
| | | (email Jim for reservations at Pinemtntrailassoc._jim@msn.com) | | |
| Oct. 22 Sat | 1p.m. | __PMTA Board | RV Trading Post | Mountain Creek Trail 3.2 miles |
| | 5 p.m. | PIG OUT at Liberty Bell Pool rock shelter | | |
| Nov. 12 | 5 p.m. | PMTA board | WSJP TV Tower Trailhead | East End Loop 3.4 miles |
| | | We will start out in daylight <u>promptly</u> at 5 p.m. and hike to Odie Overlook and eat a "bring your own picnic" as we watch the 5:45 sunset, then hike rest of the loop in dark (so bring a small flashlight.) | | |
| Dec. 10 | 10 a.m. | PMTA board | Fox Den Cove PL | PMT from Fox Den to Mollyhugger Hill PL 5 miles |
| Jan. 1 2017 | 1 p.m. | PMTA board | Dowdell Knob Trailhead | Dowdell Knob Loop 4.3 miles |
| | | Our 5 th annual FIRST DAY HIKE note: crossing Dowdell Knob Rd. hikers can be shuttled back to start after 2.5 miles | | |
| Jan. 16 2017 | 1p.m. | PMTA board | WJSP TV Tower Trailhead | Tower/Mile 23 to Rocky Point PL 5 miles |

WORKDAYS* (Bring work gloves. water and your snacks. We furnish all tools and fun.)

| Date | Time | Meet up with other PMTA volunteers at: |
|------------|---------|--|
| Oct. 8 Sat | 10 a.m. | FDR State Park Office Parking Lot |
| Nov. 19 | 10 a.m. | FDR State Park Office Parking Lot |
| Dec. 17 | 10 a.m. | FDR State Park Office Parking Lot |
| Jan. 14 | 10 a.m. | FDR State Park Office Parking Lot |

(All workday meeting places start at Park Office.....Dates subject to change—especially if bad weather....Keep checking the website each month prior to a workday)*For all hikes and workdays, it is a good idea to bring water and a snack (a lunch if the hike or workday starts at 10 a.m.) FOR INFORMATION ON WORKDAYS, CALL Jim Hall at 706-569-0497