

The Pine Mountain Trail

Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc.

37th Year 1975-2012

Spring 2012

Number 107

“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.

Despite the tornado damage along 24,500' of trail last year, we still have a great trail

Pig Out 2011

We had a great Pig Out dinner last October. Due to tornado damage to the Large Group Camp, the Pig Out was held at the rock shelter and under a huge tent at the end of the parking lot of the FDR Liberty Bell Pool on Ga. 354. We had a great turn out.

Thanks to the Warm Springs/Little White House folks for loaning us their grand tent where we had Country's BBQ serve food.

It was a slightly cool day but having a fire in the fireplace starting around 2 p.m. helped. Gus & Molly, Mary Beth and Matt Callaway did a great job decorating the tables. Everyone who attended said the food was good, appreciated us having hot cocoa available, and despite being sorta cool outside, it was comfortable. Craig Myers and Barbara Day got us some great prizes to give out. Craig got contribution from Cabella's, McDonalds' and others. Barbara got us some gift packs with hats, shirts and DVD all bearing her employers company name REALTREE. Course everyone loved those too. Now we did a "drawing" for kids as usual with kid type things. We wanted to thank those who had put in many hours during the tornado cleanup and so for adults we mainly handed them out a certificate saying thanks for their specific amount of hours they put in and a prize. We presented a certificate and gift to outgoing FDR Assistant Manager Clint Rouse. So, will we be able to hold the 2012 Pig Out back at the Large Group Camp? Not sure at this time. See photos from Pig Out on Page 6

Northface Endurance Challenge events October 15, 2011.....and coming again Oct 2012!

Northface for the second year held their SE Endurance Challenge events in FDR State Park using our Pine Mountain Trail. The event director Nick Moore provided a pizza supper for all the PMTA tornado cleanup volunteers on October 11th at Callaway Gardens. Nick had been in close contact with us about the trail ever since the tornado hit. Our goal to get the trail back open quickly was based a lot on providing not only hikers a complete trail to do, but back open so the planned Northface events could take place. Nick was sent photos and updates as we cleared the trails, but of course photos only show part of the story and he and the other Northface folks were shocked at the damage extent. Of course he was pleased we had gotten the trail back open as good as we had. PMTA volunteers worked right up to October 8th doing some final "dressing up" work along the trails to make them safer.

On October 15 at 5:00 a.m. the 2011 Northface Endurance Challenge 50 mile event runners left the starting point down across from the Liberty Bell Pool. Shortly after that, some seventeen PMTA volunteers gathered at Rocky Point Parking Lot and set up an "aid station" for runners. This being the second year the PMTA had handled Rocky Point Aid Station, we had our plan more together this year as volunteers. With a generator providing lights, we set up tents and tables, set out food and signs before the first runner arrived just after 8 a.m. Rocky Point Aid Station had 50 mile runners, 50K runners and Marathon runners come by it (something along the lines of 600 runners!) The Georgia DNR parks division had two medical people on hand at Rocky Point and they treated many runners for scrapes, cuts, sprains and other running through the woods injuries. There were aid stations at all the other named PMT parking areas and down near the first of the trail on GA 190. These were manned by other volunteer groups.



The big thing is that again the Pine Mountain Trail and FDR State Park saw a lot of new faces viewing and participating in the Northface Events. Hopefully some of these folks will come back at other times. Better still, is that from what we understand Northface will be back this October for another Northface Endurance Challenge on our trail. The events on our trail are the only events Northface does in the southeast U.S. By the way, the winning time on the 50 mile run was about 7 hours and 40 minutes!

Numerous volunteers from our membership have helped the PMTA grow and flourish for more than 36 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. People are encouraged to contribute articles, comments, questions and photos to newsletter editor JIM HALL. The editor and board members of PMTA retain the right to accept and /or edit any material submitted for publication. Mail items to: Jim Hall- PMTA Newsletter Editor – 6743 Audubon Drive –Columbus, Ga. 31909. You also may email items to the PMTA website.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

From Jerry Brown

Current total Life members are 113 Families, 94 Individual, 16 organizations. We mail out 20 complimentary newsletters.

Annual members 131 families, 31 organizations, 109 individuals. That is 398 active memberships
We had 4 new organizations, 47 families and 23 individuals join the PMTA last year (course we lost a few too.)

We welcome the following new members to the Pine Mountain Trail Association

Family Life Membership:

Jim and Brinkley Pound, Columbus GA

Organization Life Member

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Columbus Georgia Stake

Annual Family Memberships:

Joseph and Stacey Argenziano and Rachel, Columbus GA

Kyle and Betsy Beach, Columbus GA

Cindy and Jeff Clough, Sharpsburg GA

Larry and Barbara and Shannon Day, Talbotton GA

Jeffery, Ada, Jacob, and Sara Demlow, Newnan GA

Cherry Ivey and Marilyn Dryden, Thomaston GA

David and Pam Jordan, Pine Mountain GA

James R, Jennifer A, Mackenzie, and Tucker Melton, Macon GA

Wendi and Jason Raley, Woodland GA

Jack Reece, Powder Springs GA

Tom, Amy, Wesley, Luke, Tanner, and Zach Wells, Athens GA

Brannon, Jessica, Abigail, and Natalie Williamson, Juliette GA

Jose, Blanca and Alberto L Barros, Columbus GA



New PMTA Board Member Jim Pound

Annual Individual Memberships:

Joanna Baxter, LaGrange GA

Jack Combs, West Point GA

Scott Pruchnicki, Tampa FL

Laurent Guillou, Savannah GA

Joe Skinner, Columbus GA

Mark Doroh, Auburn AL

Michael Riffle, Cataula GA

Buddy Baldwin, Columbus GA

Michael Weeks, Columbus GA

John Matthews, Columbus, GA

Amy Smith, Macon GA

Annual Organization Members:

BSA Troop 109 – Cataula

BSA Troop 105 - Tallahassee FL

BSA Troop 118- Tallahassee, FL

BSA Troop 218- Auburn/Opelika

BSA Troop 1143 - Roswell GA

BSA Troop 638 - Woodstock GA

University of South Florida Outdoor Recreation Department- Tampa FL (note: this college group is coming 425 miles to use our trails for backpacking.) This make three organizations new to the PMTA this year from Florida.

New Signs:

from Jim Hall

FDR State Park Assistant Manager David Jordan noted to the PMTA that there were not any TRAIL CROSSING warning signs at the BootTop Trail Crossing on Dowdell Knob Road, Kings Gap Road and GA 354. Dowdell Knob Crossing of the BootTop Trail I have almost missed many a time, so these places we needed signs not only to warn folks of hikers crossing but for hikers to see where the trail crossing is in order to park nearby.

A request was made by the PMTA to the Georgia D.O.T. who in just a couple weeks had us three new pairs of signs made. Only one set has been installed as of now but the rest will be soon. Pictured is one of the signs about 75' from the BootTop Trail Crossing, that on January 28th Joe Skinner and I installed. So thanks goes out to our contact with the D.O.T. (PMTA member Sam Wellborn) and the D.O.T. guys in Thomaston for working with us once again.



(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 _____ \$400.00

I 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**

The following is a list of some logo PMT items we offer. Prices are higher at retail locations (FDR State Park office which sells maps as does Outside World in Columbus.) Photos of the items are on the website at PMTA STORE.

	Member	Non-member
DECALS--(regular, Life Member, Association Member)	\$1.50	\$2.00
Maps-- (new 2011 edition)	\$2.25	\$4.00
Kids Map (2007 edition)	SPECIAL PRICE! Were \$1.50 ----- \$1.00	\$1.00
Caps Structured: --cardinal/camel - Mossy Oak camo		\$10.00
\$12.00		

Full embroidered logo on front/ **FDR State Park** on back

Shirts-- Embroidered PMT logo with FDR STATE PARK, PINE MOUNTAIN, \$12.00 \$15.00
GA. on front left side (light tan and olive green...only a few left).

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 photo gallery section of the website.**PMT Pin-** Brass with acrylic coating with a pin for your hat or vest on back \$3.50 \$4.50**PMTA Car Tag**—white, heavy plastic tag with full color PMT logo (reduced; were \$5) \$2.00 \$2.00

If ordering from the PMTA cost is 50 cents shipping for maps, patches, decals and medallions. shipping fee for **each** of the other items (US mail shipments). Will be what ever cost is at time of mailing. Live in/near Columbus? Call Jim Hall at 706-569-0497. Arrangements can be made to pick up items.

Bethel Creek Campsitedestroyed by the April 2011 tornado.....lives to be camped in again!

The section of trail that Bethel Creek Campsite was located was hit hard. From Mile 12 east almost to the BootTop Trail intersection was wiped out. All the trees in and near Bethel Creek Campsite were literally flattened to the ground. There was nowhere near the camp (even further east along the trail) to relocate it. D. Neal Wickham even agreed that maybe we could clear out the camp and reopen it. So the idea was kicked around. Scout leader and PMTA member Bill Storey approached the PMTA about clearing the camp back open by one of his scouts as an Eagle project. Scout Andrew Slembariski of Troop 169 met with us and proceeded with the project. Cutting up of many downed trees was done (some 20+ manhours of cutting) prior to his big workday on January 28th. That day he organized a long workday with other scouts, parents, leaders and PMTA volunteers. We did a bunch of chainsaw cutting that day as most of the volunteers moved stuff for Andrew. Andrew got donations for several different things for lunch for all. Andrew went back in twice after the 28th and did some “dressing up” work. The camp is clear as it can be. Bill Storey said Andrew will present \$200 he raised over his materials cost to the PMTA. Thanks to Andrew for his work to get Bethel Creek Campsite back open.

Volunteers on January 28

Just after tornado...

Clearing the camp January 28th.

2012 PMTA Board of Directors

Malon Wickham President	706-563-5160	Columbus
Richard Ramey , Vice President	706-323-3925	Columbus
D. Neal Wickham, Member Emeritus....	706-507-4230	Columbus
Sam Burke, Finance	706-563-1635	Midland
Jim Hall, Secretary	706-569-0497	Columbus
Tom Berry, Treasurer.....	334-291-9568	Phenix City
Carl Carlson, Trail Maintenance.....	706-628-5336	Pine Mtn. Valley
Jerry Brown, Membership Chairman . . .	706-323-9422	Columbus
Gus Callaway	706-668-0187	LaGrange
Jack Combs.....	706-643-5549	West Point
Tom Flournoy	706-324-4000	Columbus
Tommy Hadaway	334-705-6595	Opelika
Eddie Hall.....	706-327-3697	Columbus
Mark Hughes.....	706-302-0118	LaGrange
Craig Myers	706-882-3886	LaGrange
Jim Pound	706-323-1783	Columbus
Harry Pruitt.....	334-297-5673	Phenix City
Bill Vang.....	706-568-0611	Columbus
Joe Wade	706-324-7296	Columbus



Hanna, Mary Bailey, Laura and Malon Wickham on a night hike.

A Message from Malon Wickham

It has been a busy fall/ winter already for the Pine Mountain Trail Association. Our organization is doing well. We have over 500 members. We have strengthened our relationships with DNR and the new Park Staff. We have a good reputation as a very proactive organization for protecting the environment, the FDR State Park and our Pine Mountain Trail. Our finances are in good order and we are continuing to work to make our member's experiences even better. We are constantly working on the trail not only maintaining it but continuing to refine and develop new trails, improve signage, campsites, etc. that will only improve everyone's experience.

It is hard to believe but Winter is here and Spring only a few weeks away now. The weather has been terrific unless you like cold temperatures, rain and snow. Please take advantage of this spring-like winter and get out on the trail. I always enjoy hiking this time of year because the leaves are off the trees and you can see views from the trail along the mountain ridges that you don't see in the spring and summer.

There is plenty to do. Look at our website often and keep up with the hikes and workdays. We have several events occurring in the next couple of months that you can help out/have fun with. As I said before, come on out, the weather is great. See you on the mountain.

Malon Wickham, President- Pine Mountain Trail Association

PMTA Board

from Jim Hall

If you read the list above you'll see a couple new names (new to some, familiar to many.) Back on the board after a year off is Mark Hughes of LaGrange. Mark is greatly appreciated for his years of work and we are glad to have him back on the board. Another addition is PMTA LIFE member **Eddie Hall**. Eddie is my younger brother and lives in Columbus. An active hiker and backpacker who had been not only enjoying the trail the last few years, but working hard with our workdays and alone many times (especially during the tornado cleanup and continues to do things nearly weekly). You will notice that **Richard Ramey** (a long time board member) is now vice-president. Another addition to our board mid last year is **Jim Pound** of Columbus, and we've enjoyed having him help on workdays and hikes the last few months. Jim said Neal worked him hard during the tornado cleanup workdays and we appreciate him joining us. Jim is also on the board of TREES Columbus.

See some small clothes pins with colored ribbons attached along the trails?

These were markers for the Northface event. Northface had these about every 100' for the whole race course, and hard as they tried on two sweeps, they missed a few. If you see one, take them with you (trash.)

See clear wire ties with yellow tape attached on trees down near Mile 15 east? DO NOT remove these as they are markers noting locations for American Chestnut trees and sprouts.

Hiking and Backpacking along the trails....

We have had a bunch of request for maps along with calls and email request for information about our trail from individuals and scout groups wanting to come use our trails and go backpacking overnight. For 2011 the number of backpacking permits issued were down somewhat due to the tornado damage resulting in the closing of some trail sections and campsites for a short time late last spring. Of course we totally lost the use of Bethel Creek Campsite from the end of April till now. Bethel Creek is in the middle of the trail. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, that camp will hopefully be back open soon.

Water (on the trail) at some campsites that had been none or little, has been better lately. Carl reports Whiskey Still water source is ok. There has been some water east of Sassafras Hill Campsite lately, and some pretty much of the time at Grindstone Gap. All others have good water all year long.



Treatment for wounds and blisters.....

On any hike one should carry a first aid kit (a larger kit with more items of course for backpacking.) One item I learned to put in my kit was saline spray in a small squeeze spray bottle (sold as nasal saline) for irrigating wounds (instead of using peroxide) and it can be used to irrigate an eye if you get trash in one. Course being sterile once opened and used, trash it and put in a new one. A while back I read an article about the use of Betadine and AB ointment and asked my doctor his thoughts on the article (which covered wound and blister treatment.) His take on the subject (being an outdoor guy too) is: Betadine is available as a soap, a solution, and an ointment. Its basic purpose is to kill germs. It can be used for cleansing as a solution or soap in the same way any other water or soap could be. The fact it has betadine in it makes it antiseptic as well. It is useful anytime you have a portal of entry for germs. Regarding specific suggestions, on the "Cuts" topic, AB ointment and betadine obviously do not bring the edges of a cut together. The edges of a cleaned/irrigated cut should be brought together to prevent entry of infection, decrease bleeding, and minimize scarring. If the wound is dirty, the edges should not be brought together **unless it can be thoroughly irrigated and cleansed**, or it is absolutely necessary in order to decrease bleeding. Closing a dirty wound is a guarantee for infection. It will form a puss pocket and force the wound open later. **For blisters**, it (betadine) can be used as an antiseptic to prevent infection. As for blisters, **the best treatment is prevention**. First, **DO NOT WEAR COTTON SOCKS**. **Hiking socks that wick moisture away** instead of holding it next to the skin are essential. Second, act as soon as a hot spot or rub is felt. Do not wait. Mole skin is fine, but duct tape works as well or better, and it should be part of your kit. Blisters are caused by abrasion. Duct tape sticks tightly to the skin, but has a slippery surface next to the socks and boots, so the sliding and abrading occurs there instead of on the skin. The skin should be dried thoroughly before applying the tape so that it sticks well. If it can slip off the skin, it becomes part of the problem instead of the solution. More of the tape is better than less. Don't cut a small piece that barely covers the area. Don't take it off at the end of the day if it is a multiday hike. Leave it there as long as it is adherent. Once a definite white area is seen where there is pus under the skin, it must be opened across the full length of the abscess. A puncture of the abscess with a needle is insufficient as drainage will be insufficient. A sterilized sharp pointed knife or a needle will do the job. Just insert it in the abscess and then lift upward with it under the skin to the opposite edge of the abscess. Lift until it tears or cuts the skin open across the top of the abscess. This will not hurt. The skin over the abscess has no sensation. Extrude all the pus you can, then soak in salty water to draw what remains out. An abscess will not heal unless it is opened. All the topical or oral antiseptic or antibiotic in the world will not help, **so betadine at this point is not the answer**. Drainage is. Once the abscess is opened, it is OK to use betadine before applying a dressing to the wound.

Duct tape can be bought in small rolls now (or you can wrap some around a ball point pen to carry on the trail.) Saline spray in small bottles can be bought at stores like CVS and Walgreens. Walmart only sells a larger bottle now.

Another item to carry in your pack is a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Use this of course not only before you eat meals on the trail, but **BEFORE** you do any type of first aid on yourself or someone else.

Map of the Pine Mountain Trail

from Jim Hall

Several Pine Mountain Trail Association members who have met other hikers on the trail have told about being asked directions and such. Most cases, the hikers they meet don't have map. We have also come up on hikers along GA 190 and we stop and ask if they are ok. Most of them do not have a map and came off the trail at a trailhead and are looking for their vehicle (turned around as we say.) So we offer them a ride. We nicely encourage them next time to buy and carry a map (we have given a few away in these cases.) Late in a day we've come up on hikers as we are heading off the trail (who are heading in) who we encourage to head back to a trailhead, as they have likely "planned more hike than daylight" and won't be off the trail before dark. An example is we met a couple at 4:30 p.m. one day (and it would be dark by 6) that were heading to Cascade Falls and back (and we met up with them near the Beaver Pond area and encouraged them to try the hike another day.) So if you meet a hiker along the way, say hi and if you can ask if they are new to the trail (tell you hike it often and are a PMTA member) and likely you'll find some folks who need help/directions or encouragement and most importantly **don't have a map**. If you feel the need to do so, **give them your map and we'll replace it**. Just let me know. Also, tell hikers you meet about the PMTA if they say they've hiked it before, encourage them to join the association. We are coming into the warmer months, and I usually carry an extra bottle of water. I have come up on more and more hikers who just go hiking without carrying anything, including water.



Pig Out 2011 at the shelter near Liberty Bell Pool



Joe Skinner with his Country's BBQ



Craig Myers manned the sign in table (shown here with Mary Beth Callaway)



Spencer & Cindy Garrard, Malon Wickham & Jo Myers

Eddie Hall, new PMTA board member...Doing what he likes ...cuttin' He bought a new saw since this was taken. Eddie spent a bunch of time cutting in the Bethel Creek Campsite area and continues to spruce up nearby on the PMT. He's had a chainsaw since he was about 12 years old too!



Mark Hughes is back on the PMTA board



Scout Andrew Slembariski of Troop 169 whose Eagle Project was re-establishing Bethel Creek Campsite



Email addresses & phone numbers for PMTA members

Many email addresses and phone numbers we have for you members are not the correct ones. So, those of you who are not receiving email info about the trail and the PMTA, PLEASE go to the PMTA website and email us back a message with your current email address and phone numbers. Change email address, let us know!

1ST Day hike January 1, 2012 WE HAD 113 HIKERS

from Jim Hall

FDR Assistant Manager David Jordan contacted the PMTA back late year and asked us about doing a hike on January 1. Seems all state parks with trails were encouraged to do so. So we set up a route using the Overlook Loop for New Years Day. We really thought maybe we'd have about 30-40 folks show up. Boy was I wrong! The Country Store parking lot was getting full when we arrived. Helen, Jo Myers and I went on down to Little Bridges Campsite and got ready a campfire and heated water for cocoa and cider (along with some of Jo Myers treats.) We had enough for about 50 hikers. Hike Leader Mark Hughes called me on the way down from the Gardens Overlook and said he had lots of hikers, something like 113! Hikers enjoyed the rest around the fire then Mark led the group on up the Chestnut Oak Trail back to the Country Store Parking Lot. Needless to say it was a shock to have that many folks come out on a Sunday afternoon on New Years Day. We had hikers from not only Columbus and Pine Mountain area, but Cordele, Milner, West Point, Atlanta, Gay, Newnan, Peachtree City, Leesburg and Griffin, Georgia. Others came from Opelika, Phenix City, Montgomery, Auburn and Lanett, Alabama.....Along with one family from Tallahassee, Florida.

Thanks to all the PMTA members who helped out on the hike. Several folks like Eddie Jones, Joe Skinner, and the Heard family enjoyed finally hiking on the trail after working so hard with the PMTA during the tornado cleanup. A great way to start off 2012 was hiking on the Pine Mountain Trail in FDR State Park. The First Day Hike was a great idea and we'll plan another one next year.



Mark leading the group into camp.....



Jim, Helen and Jo serving

113
Hikers!



Happy hikers!



Ronnie & Traci Heard

Jim Hall

New FDR State Park managers

Back in November we reported that Assistant Manager Clint Rouse was leaving FDR and would become manager of Seminole State park in South Georgia. **David Jordan** came from Seminole to FDR as Assistant Manager at the same time. David went to Gordon College, is from the Thomaston area and is now "closer to home." He has been with the DNR about ten years.

Then the first of January **Desmond Timmons** came on board as manager. Desmond is from the Leesburg, Georgia area. He went to Columbus State and played basketball there. He previously worked professionally with Boy Scouts of America so he has experience working with volunteers, especially Scouts. Desmond has been in training much of January and February but will be through with basic courses soon.

Both Desmond and David are easy-going guys and really friendly. We had our early January PMTA board meeting at the park office and they sat in and told some about themselves and provided input to our meeting. This was important as it is their park. Since that meeting, several key issues they heard about they have acted on. One project we discussed with them was a road-side trash pickup which they worked with us on. We welcome them and look forward to working with them.



Desmond

David

Special Workday February 25- ROAD SIDE TRASH PICKUP!

What can 103 volunteers do in about 2 hours? Pick up trash all along most all of Ga 190 throughout FDR State Park, plus Dowdell Knob Road, Hine Gap Road from the trail crossing back to Ga 190 and from Large Group Camp Road back to Ga 190! Hundreds of bags of trash of all sorts. Thanks so much to all who came and helped. We had great groups of students helping from the West Point area (Springwood School), Harris County High, Troop High in LaGrange, St Annes/Pacelli and Brookstone School in Columbus, plus a lot of other volunteers from all around including PMTA members. Thanks to the Georgia State Patrol for having two units riding the roads make sure traffic went slow near our volunteers. The PMTA provided BBQ sandwiches, pizza, fruit and some of Jo Myers great muffins and brownies for lunch. We gave out some prizes for some goofy things found, like a smoke bomb, HUGE tire, and DVD's we won't talk about!

Joe & Claudette

Lou Ann

Larry



Helen and Jo serving...Joe Skinner head of the line



L-Craig Myers and his tire! Below FDR Manager Desmond and GSP officers



What's been happening on the PMT

New edition of the Pine Mountain Trail Map

If you do not have a newer 2011 printing of our trail map let us know and we can sell you one. Give Jim Hall a call at 706-569-0497 or email him through the PMTA website to order a new map. PMTA member price is \$3.25...BE SURE AND GIVE YOUR US MAIL MAILING ADDRESS. We still give maps FREE to scout units, school & church groups.

Projects for 2012

The Pine Mountain Trail Association board as noted in the last newsletter had a list of things we wanted to do along the trails starting in 2011 for sure, but the tornado really set us back so those are now 2012 plans.

Over the next few months the PMTA board will be revisiting plans for new trailhead entrance ways at the first of the trail, and at the end at the WJSP-TV Tower Parking Lot, a bulletin board at Rocky Point Parking Lot (along with the park putting a self-pay pass box there and at Fox Den Cove Parking Lot), reworking the self-guided nature trail routes on the Mountain Creek Trail and Dowdell Knob Loop. We also need to place some steps near Big Rock Falls.

New Backcountry Campsites

The Pine Mountain Trail Association Board has given a proposal to the FDR managers for **two new campsite** locations along the trail. Review of the sites by the managers and DNR folks will hopefully take place soon (March). If approved, the two new sites will allow temporary closing of two other sites for part of a year for "restoration." This means, allowing the sites to be closed during a fall and on into spring so that leaves can fall on the camp and reduce the compacted look of the sites. One of the sites proposed is near Sparks Creek Campsite and the other west of Big Knot Campsite. The site near Big Knot is proposed to be larger than most sites are now and we asked that this "Boy Scout Troop" size site which can hold say 25+ backpackers be a site that can be reserved by name. A PMT first (all sites now are "first come" basis on first day of a backpacking trip.) The site being able to be reserved will help say a large scout troop from out of town know they will have a specific backcountry site large enough for the whole group (not have to split up and use two sites) if they arrive say mid-day on a Saturday.

Workdays since October....

Thanks to all the folks who came out so many times after the tornado struck. Now we still will need help on each and every work day to get task done. So don't relax if you have been helping. Still come and join me each month for the fun on workdays. Bring friends and co-workers to help. Can't physically do trail work? You can still show up on workdays and offer to keep the roster, bring snacks or drinks (or arrange for donation food from your favorite eating place and bring it.) If you can, hike along with the workers and just take photos of the work being done.

Workdays since October have mainly been going back in to several places that were hit and doing some re-leveling and further cutting back protruding limbs, stumps and such. A couple more "bridge" sections were added on the west side of Hines Gap Road to the ones we placed there in July. The big challenge will come this spring when all the plants start to turn green and sprout in the tornado struck areas. Late last year along near Mile 15.5 there was a lot of new growth of muscadine vines trying to cross the trails. On a positive note, in the same area some of the crushed American Chestnut trees have lots of new "stump sprouts" that seemed to like the sunshine they got after the tornado.

Here is a summary of regular and special workdays:

November 19th: We had 5 volunteers working about 4 hours re-leveling along the Beaver Pond Trail and building some rock steps near the GA 190 crossing.

December 17th: We had 6 volunteers working 4 hours re-leveling and chain saw cutting more tornado damage along the PMT west of Hines Gap Road.

January 7th: We had 12 volunteers working east of Hines Gap Road, building steps, cutting back more protruding limbs/logs and felling "leaners", along with re-leveling in some places.

January 13: Was a special workday with **Brookstone School** students that Friday. They did re-leveling along the PMT from Mile 4 to GA 354.

February 11th: We had 10 volunteers working at Whiskey Still Campsite to clean the fire-rings, do re-leveling of the water trail and access trail.

So far this year we are again way ahead of most years for volunteer service hours from the PMTA for FDR State Park. Just the February 25th special roadside trash pickup day we logged **309 volunteer hours (103 volunteers!)** In 2011 we logged over 2475 hours! Thanks again for those who have come out to help on workdays....See Page 10 for upcoming dates.

From Carl Carlson

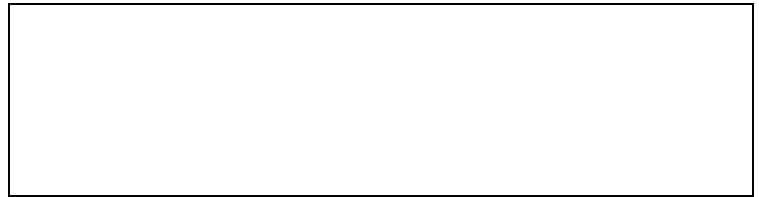


February 25....Harry Pruitt, Carl Carlson, Larry Durham

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:

Mar 24 Sat 10 a.m. ___Harry Pruitt _____ Fox Den Cove PL PMT to Mollyhugger Hill PL 5 mod miles

Mar 31 Sat 2 p.m. ___Jim Hall _____ FDR Park Office PL Overnight Backpacking Trip to
(Sorry, no more reservations, trip roster is full as of 3/1) Sparks Creek Campsite

April 28 Sat. 10 a.m. ___Jack Combs _____ WJSP TV Tower PL PMT to Rocky Point PL 5 mod miles

May 5 Sat 7 p.m. ___Jim Pound _____ WJSP TV Tower PL East End Loop 4 easy miles

DAY/NIGHT HIKE!



Hike in at 7 p.m. (daylight), then picnic supper/snack at Odie Overlook. For supper, bring snack or picnic supper whatever you want to bring. We'll watch the sun go down then hike on (with moon hopefully.) Bring a small flashlight. PMTA will provide "glow-sticks."

June 2 10 a.m. ___PMTA Board _____ FDR Trading Post PL Mountain Creek Trail 3.2 easy miles

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE ...for more about what NTD is about see www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day

July 14 10 a.m. ___Jerry Brown _____ Mollyhugger Hill PL PMT & Sawtooth Trail to 3 mod miles
Fox Den Cove PL

Aug 11 Sat 10 a.m. ___Bill Vang _____ Dowdell Knob Trailhead PMT to Rocky Point PL 3.5 mod miles

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

Date	Time	Meet Carl Carlson at:
Mar 17 Sat	10 a.m.	Rocky Point Parking Lot
April 14 Sat	10 a.m.	Fox Den Cove Parking Lot
May 19 Sat	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office- Large parking lot on left of building
June 16 Sat	10 a.m.	WJSP TV Tower Parking Lot
July 28 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Trading Post Parking Lot
Aug 25 Sat.	10 a.m.	"No Name" Parking Lot

(all workday meeting places subject to change, 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 **CARL CARLSON** at 706-628-5336 or Jim Hall at 706-569-0497