

# The Pine Mountain Trail

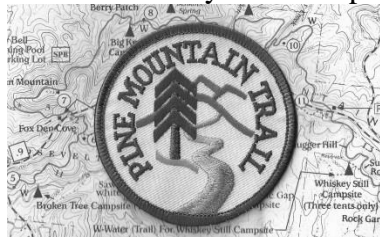
Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc.

39<sup>th</sup> Year 1975-2014

Summer 2014

Number 110

“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 2014

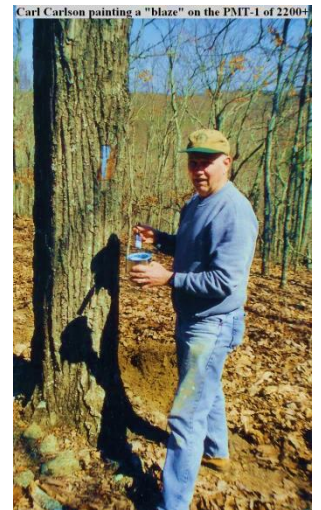
Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> the 2014 Pig Out will be at the same place as last year. That is the rock shelter at the end of the parking lot of the FDR Liberty Bell Pool on Ga. 354. See reservation form and notice in this newsletter (Page 5) for details.

## 2015 will be the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pine Mountain Trail

As we approach 2015 it is hard to believe that this will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pine Mountain Trail. Thinking back it seems just a few years ago we were at 25 years! Lots of changes and additions to the Pine Mountain Trail system in 40 years and hard to believe in the last 15 years we've added the White Candle Trail section (2006), added the parking area and Trailhead at Dowdell Knob (2007), the parking areas along Ga. 190 got paved (last two were Overlook and Buzzard Roost) and warning and named marker signs added, Boot Top Trail Parking Area was added (2012), “No Name Parking Lot” got it's official name and sign, Brown Dog Campsite was new in 1999, Little Bridges and Broken Tree added two years later, 2008 we added Jenkins Springs Campsite, 2012 Turtle Hollow and Big Oak Springs added giving us 16 Backcountry Campsites. Bethel Creek Campsite was relocated in January of 2014(see article in this newsletter.) The DNR added Self Pay Parking Pass boxes at Fox Den Cove and Rocky Point Parking Lot in 2013. We've had several Eagle Scouts do projects along the trails, and these have been highlighted with signs like the now cleared CCC Hatchery Ponds. The FDR office was given a huge copy of the PMT map to display (for use by hikers and backpackers in planning their routes.) In 2010 we worked with the Northface promotion folks to help support their *Northface Endurance Challenge* events using just about all our trails. They (runners and Northface) liked our trails so much they held the events again for the next three years on the PMT, attracting thousands of runners and spectators. Trail running on the PMT has become a big thing. In 2012 we were honored to have held the dedication of the plane crash memorial near Dowdell Knob (to honor the survivor and in memory of the crash victims.) Last but not least, we survived the 2011 tornado. All these physical changes, well we've reprinted and changed the map eight times (about every two years.) The map will be reprinted again later this year as a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition.

**But the main thing is that the Pine Mountain Trail exists because of volunteers** who love to not only use the trail but give back many volunteer hours a year to maintain and improve it, and those who give to the PMTA to help fund projects we do. We've had numerous Scout, Army and other groups join up with us to do special projects that have only been possible with a large group of folks working together one day. Thank you to all those who started out with **D. Neal Wickham** 40 years ago to build the trail, and for **Carl Carlson** to carry on with the maintaining it. As for Neal and Carl, their legacy of service continues as they encourage all us volunteers to help make the PMT the best hiking trail around. Carl is still leading workdays and at most every hike!

What does the PMTA have planned special to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary? We'll let you know closer to the end of this year.



Numerous volunteers from our membership have helped the PMTA grow and flourish for more than 39 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 and website. 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. : Jim Hall- PMTA Newsletter Editor – 6743 Audubon Drive –Columbus, Ga. 31909. You also may email items via the PMTA website.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*From Jerry Brown*

We currently have **206** Current total Life members. They are 113 Families, 76 Individual, 17 organizations.

Annual members: 296 which is 153 families, 51 organizations, 92 individuals. That is 359 active memberships and we mail out 20 complimentary newsletters.

We had 10 new organizations, 24 families, 7 organizations and 10 individuals join the PMTA this year so far (course we lost a few too.) If you misplace your membership card or just need a replacement, let us know via email from our website .

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

### Family Life

Jack & Deanna Bartholet- Columbus \*

Ron & Kathy Cogburn- Jax Florida

Harry & Kathy Pruitt- Smiths Station AL

### Individual Life

Silverene Kindle- Newnan

### Family Annual

Jason & Becki Alford- Rome

Martin & Darlene Bink- Fortson

Craig & Sue Dowling- Pine Mountain

Jon & Jessica Ezzell- Cusseta

Chad & Jennifer Jernigan- Salem, AL

Thomas & Debi Knowles- Byron, GA

Ross McDuffie- Fortson

Robert Moore-Carrollton, GA

Jonathan & Soleil Smith- Austell, GA

Nolan & Charlotte Williams- Newton, AL

Dean Jackson- Newnan

Ann & Janet Rackley- Forsyth

Robert & Stephanie Benson- Dallas, GA

Craig Bush- Columbus

Eugene & Cissy DuRant- Midland

John Hagan- Dacula, GA

Wayne & Shannon Johnson- McDonough, GA

Loren Lankford- Auburn

Richard & Lori Monroe- Loxley, AL

Joseph Murphy- Fleming Island, FL

Fred & Jo Ann Sutter- Panama City, FL

Terry & LuAnne Worley- Pine Mountain

Rodney and Kim Porter- Columbus

### Individual Annual

David Alley-Savannah

Victor Edmonds- Bremen, GA

David Bergerron-LaGrange

David Myers-Villa Rica, GA

Moye Walker-Forsyth

Thad Harvey-Columbus

Jon Labie- Tallahassee, FL

Organizations who joined as annual members:

BSA Troop 158 – Jefferson, GA

BSA Troop 57- Savannah

BSA Troop 911- Gray, GA

BSA Venture Crew 10- Tallahassee

BSA Troop 936- Lyons, GA

BSA Troop 1776- Marietta

BSA Troop 77- Enterprise, AL

BSA Troop 955- Marietta

Georgia Royal Rangers



\*renewed as LIFE members- Jack & Deanna Bartholet

(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
Maps-- (new <b>2013</b> edition)	\$4.00	\$5.00
Kids Map ( <b>2012</b> edition)	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
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 hiking staff in the <u>photo gallery section of the website</u> .	\$3.00	\$4.00
<b>PMT Pin-</b> Brass with acrylic coating with a pin for your hat or vest .....	\$3.50	\$4.50
PMTA Car Tag—white, heavy 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.

### **What you need to know new or as a reminder on the Pine Mountain Trail**

On our current (2013) Pine Mountain Trail map we show locations of self-pay parking pass boxes noted in a square as SPB. It is very important if not hiking with a PMTA group, to purchase and have a Daily Pass displayed on your vehicle anytime you are parked anywhere in FDR State Park (our PMT trailheads along Ga. 190, at the WJSP-TV Tower, pool area or any of the roadside viewing points. ) Passes are \$5 per day, but you can go to the park office and buy an annual pass good at any Georgia State Park for twelve months from purchase date. At led hikes and workdays we provide a FREE pass.

As a reminder, the road to Dowdell Knob is NOT open all the time. The Dowdell's Knob Road gate down near GA 190 is closed at 8:00 p.m. from April 1-October 1, from October 2- March 31 the gate closes at 5:00 p.m. If you are backpacking and start your trip from the Dowdell Knob Trailhead or BootTop Trail Parking Area you can leave a vehicle at the trailheads overnight (with a copy of your backcountry permit visible as required). Gate is re-opened by 8 a.m. each day.

We have on our new map the 24 hour emergency/urgent FDR number. We urge folks to call the park number instead of 911. All the 911 folks (either in Harris or Meriwether County) are going to do is turn around and call FDR! So save response time and call the FDR 24 hour urgent/emergency number: 706-663-4256. On the map also is a new GOOGLE VOICE FDR ranger urgent/emergency contact number for FDR. If you do NOT reach the rangers on 706-663-4256 (a voice only number), call by voice OR TEXT the new "**GOOGLE VOICE**" FDR ranger urgent/emergency number **706-801-5006** . By voice you can leave a short message (include your return phone number) and it transmits/sends the message as a TEXT message to the ranger on duty. There is limited cell service in some areas of FDR. Often you can get/send a text message and not a voice call. Carry a map and know where you are when you seek help. If lost, try to relay where you started on the trail or your last known location. So put BOTH FDR numbers in you cell phone. What is urgent? If you are lost, turned around have a safety concern, running out of daylight on your hike and need help. If you have non-urgent, non-emergency questions (ie: want information on something) call the park office at 706-663-4858 during business hours 8-5 Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. on Friday, and 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

As you hike along the Pine Mountain Trail system, and pass a backcountry campsite, take a minute and check the fire-rings to make sure there are no smoldering/warm campfires left by some careless backpacker. If you find one not drowned with water, please drown it and report the location to the FDR park office. If you find a campsite/fire-ring with trash, call the park office and report that right away. Please carry a trash bag, and if you find trash at a campsite please take that with you. As always, if you see a blown down tree, let me or Carl know or email us via the website with exact location as you can. Photos are good too, as they help us determine if a chainsaw is needed.

NOTE: Several PMTA members have given their maps away to hikers they meet to help them out. If you give your map away to help a hiker, let us know and we'll gladly replace it free. Just email me at PineMtTrailAssoc.\_Jim@ msn.com Jim Hall



## 2014 PMTA Board of Directors

Richard Ramey - President .....	706-323-3925	Columbus
Craig Myers .....	706-882-3886	LaGrange
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
Malon Wickham .....	706-563-5160	Columbus
Gus Callaway .....	706-668-0187	LaGrange
Jack Combs.....	706-643-5549	West Point
Tom Fournoy .....	706-324-4000	Columbus
Tommy Hadaway .....	334-705-6595	Opelika
Eddie Hall.....	706-327-3697	Columbus
Mark Hughes.....	706-302-0118	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
Chris Largent.....	706-580-9549	Columbus



Craig Myers

As this newsletter goes to press, Craig is hiking on the Appalachian Trail completing the AT hiking his way north. We wish him well and pray for no injuries this time! Craig will write up a story of this and his whole sections hike of the AT hike later this year.

---

### A MESSAGE FROM PMTA PRESIDENT RICHARD RAMEY

Summertime is here. July with its hot temperatures means we're all heading for the mountains. Ronda and I had a great hiking adventure to the Balkan and Rhodope Mountains of Bulgaria earlier this summer. It was a fabulous trip to an out of the way destination but you don't have to go around the world to do some great hiking. Our own Pine Mountain Trail offers many cool spots to escape the heat, even in the middle of a hot summer day. A quick trip to the Wolfden/ Cascade Falls is guaranteed to offer that perfect day hike for a blistering day, a great alternative to a trip to the beach. And don't forget the awesome Big Poplar Loop (my favorite) with its deep coves and creeks like Beech Branch, Big Poplar and Jenkins Spring. Perfect for summertime hiking!

The association has been busy so far this summer with well attended guided hikes and numerous projects from bridge building to campsite relocations. Every time I travel and see the conditions of other trails I am truly appreciative of the excellent condition of our Pine Mountain Trail. It takes a lot of effort but results are spectacular. Watch the website for upcoming events and plan accordingly. Help is always appreciated! *Richard*



the

Richard and wife Ronda

### NORTHFACE Endurance Challenge

2010 to 2013 the Northface company used the PMT and FDR State Park those four years for their SE events location. Due to Northface wanting more participants than 2012 and 2013, they have decided to not come back this year. Hopefully they will use the PMT again in 2015.

## Pig Out 2014 is coming Saturday, November 8th!

The 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, 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 and go about .3 of a mile downhill to the pool area on your right. Meet and eat with other PMTA members at the

2014 Pig Out on November 8th. There will be a moderate rated 3.5 mile pre-Pig-Out hike from the Park Office Parking Lot on the

PMT and Pool Trail to the Liberty Bell Pool area starting at 1:30 p.m. (so arrive earlier than that to sign the roster). Help us celebrate another great year and our 39th anniversary. **We need your early reservations!** Hikers who come to the 1:30 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. In order to avoid a wait to check in, please arrive and check in between 4 and no later than around 5:15. Help us out and arrive early. Scouts will again have a brief flag ceremony for us 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. Country's Barbecue again will cater the meal with 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 14th year will be Blue Bell ice cream treats for all. What program /speaker? Well we are still working on that. 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, 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 will 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](mailto: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. Late reservations, additions or changes to your mailed reservations can be called in to Jim Hall. Jerry Brown will check the PMTA post office for the last time on Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> ..., so help us by having your reservations mailed to arrive before then. Any questions, call Jim Hall at 706-569-0497 or other PMTA board members to learn about the fun 140-150 hikers can have and 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". NOTE: The reason for the increased cost is to at least break even on the dinner. We have to rent chairs and tables, pay for increased cost of the food cater, table covers and such and the ice cream. The increase to \$15 is closer to actual cost per adult for the dinner. Even though we charge \$5 for children, we still have to pay full cater price for all.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2014 PIG OUT RESERVATION FORM:

Please make a reservation for \_\_\_\_\_adults \_\_\_\_\_children.

# of hot dogs\*\_\_\_\_\_

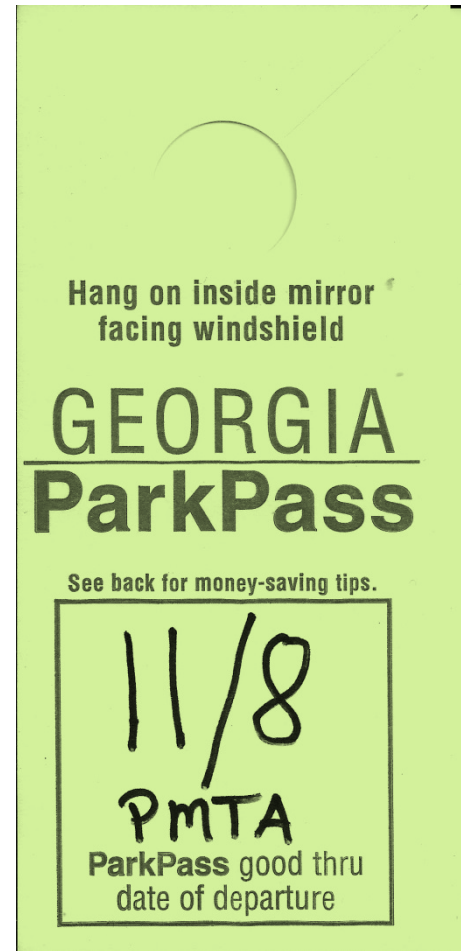
The reservations name is:\_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_





## Volunteer Fun.....years ago and now....

from Jim Hall

Back when Neal Wickham was first building the PMT, he had a group of young men who helped him on a regular basis. They became known as the RED HAT gang. They had fun working with Neal building the trail. If you look at the PMT map you will see several named places along the trails like BERRY PATCH, JENKINS SPRING (and in 2008 added a campsite there), BEATTIE BRANCH, BROWN DOG BLUFF, and SCHWAN HOLLOW. Those places were named after some of the Red Hat Gang guys. In this old



photo (R) are Barry Berry, Bill Jenkins, Chris Beattie, Brown Dog, and John Schwan. The hats had an old PMT patch and some UGA patches. Neal and Malon's dog Csonka, is where the name Csonka Falls came from. There were many more young "volunteers" who helped Neal over the years. Some are still active PMTA members.



**Bill Jenkins** in 2008. We presented him this copy of the campsite sign.

Back when the tornado hit our trails in 2011, during cleanup work days we would work hard all morning then have lunch together. Who all helped varied from week to week. Sometimes we'd leave after lunch (that we brought or someone furnished like Country's) and sometimes we would work on longer. Over the past year some of us volunteers have not brought lunch but brought a clean skirt to put on when we get back to our vehicles, then meet up for lunch in Pine Mountain at the Whistling Pig BBQ. Now most of us still like Country's in Columbus, but the Whistling Pig is right there in Pine Mountain when we get off the trail and we are hungry. They serve all sorts of things. Mary Ann and her crew have come to know us and always welcome us (no matter how grubby we look!) Working together is fun and part of the fun is relaxing afterwards and talking and getting to know each other better. Groups of hikers after a group led hike have met up there for lunch too. So I suppose you could say we have become the **"PMTA Whistling Pig bunch"**. Below left was taken just as we finished relocating Old Sawmill Campsite. Everyone but Mike headed on to eat lunch together. That week marked the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday in a row we had done some trail work and then some of us eating together.

LEFT: Carl Carlson, Jim Hall, Larry Day, Mark Hughes, Charlie & Brent Grimes, Matthew & Ronnie Heard, Bill Story, Gene Wells, Mike Riffle, Joe Skinner  
RIGHT: Eating on the porch of the Whistling Pig Cafe



By the way, **Carl needs more folks to join him on monthly workdays**. Some folks call him and ask what they can do alone during the week. So if you can't come on a scheduled workday and still want to do something on the trail, give him a call (706-626-5336) and I'm sure he can direct you to something that needs doing or checking on.

## 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.)

### Who does all our PMT signs now and where do we get the wood?

from Jim Hall

**Curtis Signs** here in Columbus has done the last couple of sets of wooden engraved signs. **Danny Curtis** has been great to work with on getting the signs engraved just right. Now the wood we used is seasoned oak we buy at **Valley Fir and Redwood**. In fact the wood for our PMT Dowdell Knob Trailhead, all the cedar and such for bridges and all the oak for the last 15 years for our signs has come from Valley Fir & Redwood. Thanks to Trip and Larry and crew for working with me to pick out specific pieces.

### Why do most of us volunteers with chainsaws use STIHL brand saws?

We have just found they work. They start and run and hold up. The PMTA owns a couple saws, brushcutters and a blower. All are Stihl. Even the ones FDR crews use are Stihls. One thing we do to make sure they run good is use mid-grade NON ethanol gas (we find at the Liberty station on Macon Road across from the Winn Dixie or the one up between Ellersie and Waverly Hall.)

### Where do we buy other stuff?

When we need replacement chains and such we go back to where we bought the Stihl equipment and that is the PMTA friendly folks at **Home Ace Hardware on St. Mary's Road in Columbus**. Me, and several other have been buying things from Seth Johnson and his Dad Gary for nine years plus now. **Who sharpens our chains?** **Outdoor Products** on Veterans Parkway near Williams/Moon Road intersection. Back when we were doing the tornado cleanup I was taking about 5 a week to Larry and crew to sharpen. All the above businesses I enjoy going in to as they appreciate your business.

### New signs on the PMT

On July 17<sup>th</sup> new signs for the waterfalls on the east end will be installed along with placing out some six board walkways over some mushy areas. These walkways are similar to the ones we placed out near Hines Gap Road and down at Little Bridges area.

If you come upon some red colored carsonite strip signs that say URGENT ACCESS ROUTE- PARK USE ONLY and have **NO HIKING** symbols on them, this is what this is about... The PMTA has been working with the FDR State Park managers to keep clear and establish a couple new routes to distant places along and near the trail and some 7 backcountry campsites in case they (rangers) need to get an injured hiker/backpacker out, fight a fire or for us with the PMTA to get to that area quickly to do work. Some of these routes are old "logging" roads. They are not on the PMT map.



**FDR Assistant Manager David Jordan** has accepted the position of park manager at Sweetwater Creek State Park west of Atlanta. Thankfully his wife Pam was able to secure a job nearby right away. David came to FDR in November of 2011 and hit the ground running while newly appointed park manager Desmond Timmons was right behind him. Desmond and David made a great team. Like former assistant manager Clint Rouse, we will miss David but know he'll keep on running and be back to visit us often. David joined the PMTA as a LIFE member. I mentioned running twice in this paragraph on purpose. See, David was not overweight, but decided to take up trail running a couple years ago and lost about 40 lbs. Thanks David for all you did for FDR State Park and with us and for us of the PMTA. David says to tell all you PMTA folks if you come up his way (Sweetwater Creek SP), stop by and say hey.





Beside regular workdays (whatever "regular" is) PMTA volunteers have been busy on several projects this year so far, including the relocation of four campsites. Bethel Creek was moved as the old site was out in the open and weeds took over again. Beech Bottom, Sparks Creek and Old Sawmill were down to bare dirt all over. All three had "grown"/spread out and in need of restoration (allowing the leaves to fall on the site a season or two to recover the ground.) Beech Bottom was relocated a couple years back and the old site had totally recovered, but the new one was bare already (so we had to move it back again.) . What will help? Backpackers need to learn that if they FLUFF UP THE LEAVES where their tents were placed BEFORE they leave a camp it will help a lot. Also backpackers need to really look around and take every single scrap of trash with them. Many good backpackers carry a small shovel, and haul off ashes out of the fire-ring and not let them mound up like we keep finding them.

### **Bethel Creek Campsite- relocated January 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Bethel Creek Campsite as most know was hit hard by the 2011 tornado. It was cleared in early 2012 but weeds and no tree cover made the site quite unusable. So it was moved "in name" 2310 feet or about .45 of a mile east of the old location (east of Mile 13 marker 600 feet.) This is 737 feet west of the BootTop Trail/Pine Mountain Trail intersection. The new campsite location is somewhat smaller than the old one and will accommodate at most 5 tents. The site is located in sight of the Pine Mountain Trail a short distance off the trail, south side. Great little site. Note: there is only **one** fire-ring authorized here (so like all PMT backcountry campsites please don't add fire-rings or move them.) The one grand fire ring/pit is the best of all the PMT campsites (thanks to Joe Skinner building it.) There is a lot of downed wood near the site, and with water nearby campfires are permitted at present time. Directions: From the west once you pass Molly Hugger Hill Parking Lot (Mile 11.2) continue to travel east on the trail past Mile 12, through the tornado damage areas to just 600' past Mile 13 to the site. Coming from Dowdell Knob Trailhead (Mile 14.5) come west past Mile 14 downhill on the trail, past the BootTop Trail intersection 737 feet on west to the site. There is a new wooden sign by the trail leading off PMT to camp, and a carsonite sign on the opposite side of trail.

### **Beech Bottom Campsite-relocated April 26, 2014**

Just to the east of the Mile 9 marker the trail runs alongside a stream and makes a slight turn uphill (east) and the campsite location sign is now on the north side (left) of the trail. **Be aware the old location is not to be used** (there are signs noting which is the current authorized site and old site area closed). There is a new 12 foot bridge over the water on the path leading off the PMT to the current site on west side of the creek. If you leave Molly Hugger Hill Parking Lot and go west on the trail, you have about a two mile hike in. Be aware of the signs at the back (north side) of the site that mark the boundary of FDR State Park, the pines there are private property. There are **two** established fire rings at the camp. The water source for the site can be counted on all year long.

### **Sparks Creek Campsite-relocated May 17, 2014**

Is now located in a bottom on the west side of Sparks Creek just across the creek from the previous site (just west of Mile 17 about .2 mile.) The hike from Rocky Point in is the best (about 1.3 miles) Just west of Mile 17 the trail turns left and you cross Sparks Creek on stepping stones and the trail continues along the stream a short ways.. There is a sign noting closing the old site location. NOTE: there was a bridge you crossed at this point to get to the old site that has been removed and "repurposed" into a bench. New access trail is 217 feet west of the old bridge location. Take the short access trail downhill from there to the site. The new site location only has two fire rings and is somewhat smaller than the old location. Watch for signs showing boundary of this site and noting the closure of the old site across the creek.

### **Old Sawmill Campsite-relocated 21 June, 2014**

For many years this site has been a favorite of Boy Scout groups and individuals wanting a site a couple miles in for a first night place to stay. The site was a large site that had grown larger with use over the years, and had become quite bare and compacted. The only way for the original site to get some leaf cover/restoration was close it and move the location. **So on June 21, 2014 the site was relocated just west of its original location.** The new site area is less than half the size of the original site and now has two designated fire rings and the site will only hold about 7-8 tents (or some 15-18 backpackers.) Most people hike in to this site area from the WJSP-TV tower parking lot trailhead (about 2.7 miles.) Again there are two designated fire rings (please don't move or add fire-rings.) The site has ample water from a good sized stream and the access point to the stream is noted with a sign just 75 feet east past the entrance to the new camp. The new campsite entrance is just over 100 feet west past the old site entrance. Note: the old location of the campsite is not to be used at all and sign at the old location entrance (now blocked) tells this.

### **Jenkins Springs Campsite- new bridge**

The six year old 8 foot bridge on the trail leading to the camp was found to be rotten and had to be replaced with a larger 10' cedar bridge on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Thanks to all who have stepped up and attended the workdays and call ones for special things like campsite relocations and bridges.



## What's been happening on the PMT .....

Our 2014 PMTA ROADSIDE TRASH Pickup Workday was a huge success! February 22, we had 90 volunteers who worked to clean up ALL of Ga 190 through the park, down GA 354 to the RV Campground entrance back south to the trail crossing, Kings Gap Road back to GA 190, Hines Gap Road down to the PMT crossing, and 1.3 miles of Dowdell Knob Road and the overlook there. This was about 17 road miles. How long did this take? Just at 2 1/2 hours (then it was time to eat lunch provided by the PMTA!) Beside PMTA volunteers, FDR maintenance guys **Peter Antonith** and **Kerry White** (shown below left) went around and picked up all the trash and bags volunteers had collected.

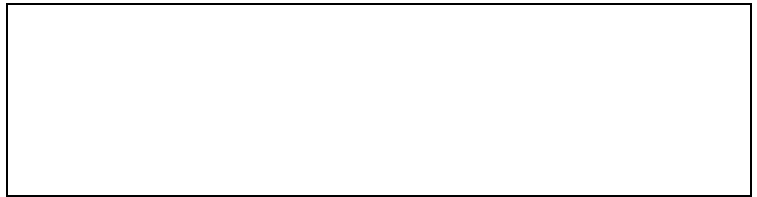


The Jenkins Springs bridge crew May 31<sup>st</sup>. By the way, this wood for this bridge is rough cut cedar, as is the one at Beech Bottom and over near Mile 21.8. Bridge pieces hauled are in pre-cut with holes pre-drilled for screws, and pre-coated with deck seal.

## 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:
Aug 9 Sat 10 a.m.	Jim Pound	Dowdell Knob Trailhead	Dowdell Knob Loop 4.3 mod Miles
Sept 6 Sat 7:30 p.m.	Chris Largent/Outside World	Country Store PL	NIGHT HIKE- Overlook Loop 3.4 mod. Miles
Oct. 4 Sat 10 a.m.	Chris Largent __	Fox Den Cove PL	PMT to Molly Hugger Hill PL 5 mod. Miles
Oct. 11 1 p.m.	Jim Hall & Mark Hughes	FDR Park Office	OVERNIGHT backpacking trip to Old Sawmill Campsite
Please call (706-569-0497) or email Jim (via PMTA website) for reservations			5 moderate miles total
Nov 8 1:30 p.m.	_____	FDR Office PL	PMT to Pool Trail to pool PL (pre- Pig Out hike) 3.5 mod miles
Nov 8 5:30 p.m. PIG OUT Dinner activities start, so please arrive around <b>5 pm at latest</b> to pay/sign in (see article in newsletter or on website) The Pig Out Dinner will be at rock shelter by the Liberty Bell Pool again.			

Dec 6 Sat 10 a.m.	_____	Dowdell Knob Trailhead	Dowdell Knob Loop	4.3 mod Miles
-------------------	-------	------------------------	-------------------	---------------

### 2015

Jan. 1 Thursday 1 p.m.	_____	RV Campground Trading Post	Mountain Creek Trail on this <b>"FIRST DAY"</b> hike
			3.2 easy miles

Jan. 19 Mon. 1 p.m.	_____	Mollyhugger Hill PL	PMT & Sawtooth Trail to Fox Den Cove	3 mod Miles
---------------------	-------	---------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------

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

Date	Time	Meet Carl Carlson at:
July 26 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Aug 23 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Sept 20 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Oct. 18 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Nov 22 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Dec 20 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office 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