2015 is the 40th Anniversary of the Pine Mountain Trail

Jack started hiking and working with us on workdays several years ago and we voted him onto the PMTA Board. Jack was on many a hike smiling and enjoying the day (sometimes his wife Linda joined him on hikes and PMTA overnight backpacking trips.) On May 2nd we learned that Jack passed away. To those who had been around Jack, you learned little about him. He asked questions about you and your interest. He was a quiet man. He did talk some of family, his love for God and his church, especially his interest in a garden planted next to his church to provide vegetables for those in need and share with those who worked in it. On May 1st he was working in that garden when he became ill (due to a preexisting condition we didn’t know about.) He was taken to the hospital in LaGrange that day and died the next morning. At his memorial service graveside in Valley, Alabama that several of us PMTA folks attended, we heard more about that garden and how important it was to Jack. He was a quiet but smart hardworking man we shall all miss. There was always a smile on his face.

In early summer we saw a need for a bridge to cross a difficult area east of Old Sawmill Campsite, but knew it would take a lot of manpower to get the pieces in to the bridge site. About that time I got a call from a US Army officer, wondering if we had a one day project a group of about 15 could do on the trail. His group was part of a “Captains Career Course” class. Yes we had a project. So I worked out a time for his group to help with the bridge. As materials were bought, I began to think about how this bridge and creek crossing could be named to honor Jack, and so I got with the PMTA board guys and our park manager at FDR to ok the project and naming the crossing to honor Jack. As Joe Skinner and I were cutting out the pieces of the bridge, we thought of how much fun we had had on previous bridge installs and how Jack came to help us then and the hard work he put in on other projects, especially in 2011 on the tornado cleanup workdays. So on July 8th, Joe Skinner, Eddie Hall, Mike Riffle, Larry Day and I headed out at 7:30 a.m. to direct these guys in putting together an awesome 16’ bridge, and do some other work at Old Sawmill Campsite area. The last thing we did that day was put up two sign post and signs near the new bridge for what is now known as “COMBS’S CROSSING.” A couple weeks later, Larry Day took Linda Combs and her daughter to the bridge. Jack would have been pleased with it.

Now for an interesting story how Combs’s Crossing helped a hiker. On August 3rd a couple of hikers purchased a new KIDS map and set off for a hike from the WJSP-TV Tower end. Coming down the hill west away from Cascade Falls one young lady fell and cut her knee. Due to lack of water mainly, she felt ill. They were able to text a request for help to the park assistant manager (who was two days into her new position.) The text message requested to be taken out and they were sitting at “Combs’s Crossing.” I got a call and met Assistant Manager Jennifer Craig and Maintenance Supervisor Chris Ward at Rocky Point. I drove the parks’ RTV and Jennifer and I were able to be at Old Sawmill in about 10 minutes. The young ladies “did good” by staying put and waiting for help. The one young lady with the minor knee injury was better once we got an ice pack on it, and some water in her. Back at Rocky Point they both were feeling much better. The main thing here was by having a map, having the emergency contact numbers, and having a known named point of reference, we were able to locate them quite quickly. So I called Linda Combs later that day and told her the story and how the girls said they felt comfortable sitting and waiting by the bridge at Combs’s Crossing. I told Linda, that Jack was still helping folks I felt. It is stories like these that have come up over the 40 years of the PMT that make and keep things interesting. So thanks to all volunteers who have and continue to help on the trails. Jim Hall

www.pinemountaintrail.org
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 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 201 Current total Life members. They are 110 families, 74 individuals and 17 organizations. Annual members: 226 which is 114 families, 41 organizations, 71 individuals. That is 428 active memberships and we mail out some complimentary newsletters.

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

Individual Life
Pasley Gordon, Cautaula

Individual Annual
Bruce Bowers- Opelika, AL
Patrick O’Brien- Moreland, GA
David Hendrix- Valley, AL
Jay Coull- Midland

Family Annual
Becky and Jeff Woody - Hogansville
David and Lexi Cole-Baxley

Organization Annual
BSA Troop 127- Warner Robins, GA
BSA Troop 25- Prattville, AL

Recent Hikes:

Hikers on September 5th

Carl Carlson hiking out to meet hikers on September 5th.

May 2nd hike
PMTA APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM  Mail to: PMTA Inc., P.O. Box 5 Columbus, Ga., 31902
(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
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.

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

If ordering from the PMTA cost is as shown (includes shipping/mailing 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.

New bridge and crossing on PMT just east of Old Sawmill Campsite- COMBS’S CROSSING from Jim Hall

As you read on the first page we had to put in a bridge at the creek crossing just east of Old Sawmill Campsite and “Fatman Squeeze”. Now if you haven’t hiked this section and you do, you will see why the name “Fat Man Squeeze”, for a set of close rocks you literally have to turn sideways and go through. The creek crossing just east of it kept being flooded and larger steppin’ stones just would not work. So as noted, we decided to put in a bridge. This 16’ bridge like others recently is made of cedar. We cut out the pieces, pre-drill holes and test assemble, then coat all the pieces with deck-seal. On July 7th, Joe Skinner and I hauled in the pieces to the Old Sawmill Campsite area.
The next morning the 15 US Army officers led by Capt. Patrick A. Smith, met us at Rocky Point Parking Lot and we were able to ride by RTVs down the Urgent Access Route to the Old Sawmill Campsite area with tools, new signs and such. After the bridge and signs were in place, and part of the crew finished work at Old Sawmill Campsite area cleaning and redoing signs there we were out of the woods by 11 a.m. The PMTA treated the soldiers to lunch in Pine Mountain at the Whistlin Pig BBQ. Thanks to Mary Ann of Whistlin’ Pig for the peach cobbler for dessert she brought out free to the whole bunch of us. Thanks again to Larry Day for taking Linda Combs and daughter Suzette to see the bridge on July 24th.
A MESSAGE FROM PMTA PRESIDENT Jim Pound

This year, I am helping to coordinate my 40th High School reunion – it is hard to remember those days very clearly as the details fade ever more quickly into the past. It is coincidental that we are also completing the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Pine Mountain Trail which is continuing to evolve and thrive. This is a time to reflect on how grateful we should be to Neal Wickham for his great foresight in 1975 to begin slowly and tediously building this trail. If he knew how much time and effort it would take over the next 40 years, he might not have ever started! We are certainly glad that he had the vision to only see the enjoyment that this trail would bring to all who use it. The volunteers who have helped to build and maintain the trail over the last 40 years have spent thousands of hours every year to provide a great resource to the hikers and campers who use the trail every day. We are also indebted to those select volunteers who are always working on the trail – whether planning workdays, coordinating projects, setting up the Pig Out, sending out these newsletters, or any of the myriad other details that make the PMTA run effectively. A special thanks from me to each one of them.

As we head into the fall, it is the most beautiful time on the trail. Leaves are changing, there is a coolness in the mornings, and the crowds are generally gone. Work days are more pleasant and there are fewer weeds and brambles to clear. Whether it is group hikes, work days, the Pig Out, a solitary hike or camping with friends, I hope that everyone will have a chance to enjoy the trail this fall.

Jim

How did all the places along the Trail get their names?

We are in the process of putting together a complete list of how all the things/places along the trails got the names you see on the PMTA map. We will post on our PMTA website a note and have a separate tab for a link to the list once completed. Thing like Csonka Falls, was named for Malon Wickham’s dog who was named after NFL football player Larry Csonka.

PMTA member hikers and backpackers:

If you meet someone on the trail, take a minute to say hi and make sure those you greet know where they are headed. If they don’t have a map and are really turned around, offer them your map and let me know and we’ll replace it. Several of us are carrying at least one extra water bottle and when we see a family hiking with children (and no pack or water) we offer the water to the children. Don’t forget also to report specific locations of problems along the trail (smoldering campfires, blown down trees, places where someone has built a fire or camped in an area that is not a named campsite.) Speaking of what we call “unauthorized” camping, if you see a fire ring not in a named campsite, take some photos if you can, report it to us of the PMTA and the park office later. Main thing, when you see it take a minute to do away with it. Toss rocks away and scatter some leaves over the area to hide it.

National Trails Day hikers- June 6th
Email addresses & phone numbers for PMTA members and FACEBOOK

Many email addresses and phone numbers we have for 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.) You may also keep up with the PMTA on our Facebook page. If you lose this newsletter or want to share it with a friend go to our website where we post a copy of this and several past newsletters.

Hiking is not just “a walk in the woods”.

This past weekend our family went to see the movie “A Walk in the Woods” based loosely on the book A Walk in the Woods- Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by author Bill Bryson.

Though quite funny, I personally just wish the language would have not been so bad. Anyway, it was funny and tells a story quite well and we laughed a lot. The movie reminded me a lot about preparedness.

So on a serious note concerning hiking, a hike is not just a walk in the woods or should not be treated so casually. What I mean by that is I like to enjoy each and every time I venture out on our trail or other one, but take stuff. For me and some others too, we prepare for a hike (to help us have a good time) before we leave home taking into consideration temperature (which affects what to wear), length of hike (planning how much water and for me how many Cherry Pepsis and a snack or lunch to take) and several other things. My rule on several other things to take is “same things: 5 minutes or 5 miles. We (our family) got into a habit of pre-hydration before a hike long ago (meaning on the way say to FDR State Park we drink at least 16oz of water and or juice and eat a small snack.) Sometimes I down another 8-16 oz once parked at a trailhead. If you drink some BEFORE a hike you tend not to get as thirsty as soon. Female hikers tend to not want to do this pre-hydration because “then I’ll have to go along the hike”. So what? You bring TP and find a dry tree off the trail. Simple? Yes, but not to some women or men even.

We of the Pine Mountain Trail Association board, several years ago, started requiring hikers and workday volunteers to sign our register. On the top of it is a sentence reminding folks that by signing the register you also have read and accept the attached release form for yourself (and as a parent or guardian any minor children with you.) But we feel now we must take it one step further.

So we will be revising our sign in sheet, and telling more about what the release form means to us. One addition to the sign in sheet will be a space for an emergency contact and number. This will be especially helpful with single folks (one individual) who comes on a hike or workday. We will continue encouraging hikers and volunteers to drink water and have some extras to give out.

Our concern is for those persons coming on PMTA group led hikes, or the hikers we meet along the trail who refuse or just not smart enough to carry anything except maybe their cell phone. We can encourage them if they are with a PMTA group led hike or workday to stay hydrated, but we can’t force them to drink water or take some with them. Hopefully they won’t fall out!

With the change in daylight savings time coming up soon, the length of time for hiking each day will get shorter. The old saying goes, “Don’t plan more hike than light”, meaning plan your hike so you will be off the trail way before dark. Folks who carry nothing with them (besides not carrying any water they certainly don’t carry a flashlight) that are of concern. Then you have the folks who don’t buy much less use/carry a map and get turned around hiking even say on the Dowdell Knob Loop.

Earlier this year we had a Mom with children hiking that loop. They started out just after noon. I got a call from her husband asking for help about 5 p.m.. She called him instead of park emergency numbers. Now the Mom and kids did as asked once we realized where they were lost (they listened and sat still at Beech Bottom Campsite bridge and let help come to them.) Assistant FDR Park Manager Jeff Bryant rode on the parks’ Polaris RTV to Beech Bottom Campsite. They had been walking the Dowdell Knob Loop and didn’t make the turn off the west end of the BootTop Trail and kept going straight on the PMT (another 3.5 miles+) off course! No they didn’t have a map. They do now. Jeff got them out of the woods just before dark.

So as we have said several times, talk to folks you meet along the trails. If they are turned around (or just not sure where they are headed) offer them your map and let me know and I’ll replace it free. If you see a family with children and no water, offer the kids water if you have extra (with parents’ permission.) If for instance you are coming out from Cascade Falls 30 minutes to hour before dark and meet someone going in to the falls, encourage them to turn around and try another day. If they refuse and go on, call the park office and report this so park managers can be aware of a potential situation.

NEW FDR State Park Assistant Manager

FDR Assistant Manager Jeff Bryant was promoted to manager at Kolomoki Mounds State Park effective July 1. Jeff had been at FDR State Park barely one year. His assistant manager is former intern at FDR, Lauren Lambert. On August 3rd, Jennifer Craig started work at FDR State Park as the new assistant manager. Jennifer hit the ground running with her first in the woods experience on the PMT two days later. Two young women text a request for help via the Google Text emergency number to Jennifer who was on duty. Jennifer and Jim Hall rode in to Old Sawmill Campsite and hiked a short ways to “Combs’s Crossing” where the injured hiker and her friend were. Next time you are in the park office, introduce yourself to Jennifer.

The Pine Mountain Trail map was updated and reprinted in May and the KIDS map version reprinted in June. The KIDS map now has a section on the back with basic hiking info and emergency numbers just like we have on the regular topo style map. A large 7’ blow up of the new map (shown to the right) is now on display at the park office.
Pig Out 2015 is coming Saturday, October 24th!

The 40th 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 2015 Pig Out on October 24th.

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 40th 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 15th year will be ice cream treats for all (not Blue Bell as they are still not making treat items.) What program /speaker? We’ll honor some long time volunteers and tell some about the last 40 years of the Trail. 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 2015 topo and 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 20th…, so help us by having your reservations mailed/called or emailed to arrive before then. Any questions, call Jim Hall at 706-569-0497 or other PMTA board members to learn about the fun 140 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”.

******************************************************************************************************************
2015 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 _____
Been to Dowdell Knob recently?

If you have not been to the Dowdell Knob Scenic Area and the PMT Trailhead at the end of Dowdell Knob Road, next time you get out there you will see several things you may not have seen.

There is a new sign holder on the rock entry way at GA 190 and Dowdell Knob Road.

Back in the spring PMTA volunteers devoted a workday to sanding, filling bee holes and recoating the trailhead shelter.

A Boy Scout completed a project to install a new solar lit flag pole. The flag on the pole is a 48 star one of the design used in 1945 (the year FDR passed away.)

The PMTA installed another new sign at the trail head shelter area noting the B-25 crash site memorial rock. Someone stole first one!

On June 19 we installed a revised PMT regular topo style map some 44” wide on the inside display case at the trailhead shelter. It has a description of the Dowdell Knob Loop. On July 16th we installed a 44” wide KIDS map with photos and about the Dowdell Knob Loop on the outer panel display.

At the Dowdell Knob Scenic Area, the park maintenance folks pressure washed the concrete picnic tables and pads.

So overall, Dowdell Knob area is looking great. This is a nice spot for a post hike picnic, or as Helen and I have done, bring a picnic supper, some chairs and stay till the place closes and enjoy the view.
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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Meet At:</th>
<th>Hiking:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Jim Hall/Mark Hughes</td>
<td>FDR Park Office – for overnight backpacking trip to Big Knot Campsite (about 1.5 miles in) - contact Jim for reservations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Sat 1 p.m.</td>
<td>PMTA Board</td>
<td>FDR RV Camp Trading Post PL</td>
<td>Pre PIG OUT hike Mountain Creek Trail 3.2 easy miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Sat 5 p.m.</td>
<td>PMTA PIG OUT!</td>
<td>FDR Liberty Bell Pool shelter</td>
<td>(sign in around 5, dinner starts at 5:45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Sat 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Mark Hughes</td>
<td>Dowdell Knob Trailhead PL</td>
<td>Dowdell Knob Loop 4.3 mod miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Sat 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Gus Callaway</td>
<td>Mollyhugger Hill PL</td>
<td>PMT to Fox Den Cove PL 4.9 mod miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2016</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Fri 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Jim Pound</td>
<td>Country Store PL</td>
<td>Overlook Loop 3.4 easy miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Mon 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Bill Vang</td>
<td>WJSP-TV Tower Trailhead PL</td>
<td>East End Loop 4 mod miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WORKDAYS*

**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.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meet Carl Carlson at:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>FDR State Park Trading Post Parking Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>FDR State Park Trading Post Parking Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>FDR State Park Trading Post Parking Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>FDR State Park Trading Post Parking Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>FDR State Park Trading Post Parking Lot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(all workday meeting places subject to change, keep checking the website each month prior to a workday)*

For INFORMATION ON WORKDAYS, CALL CARL CARLSON at 706-628-5336 or Jim Hall at 706-569-0497; or email to pinemtrailassoc.jim@msn.com (underscore between . and jim)