

The Pine Mountain Trail



Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc.

40th Year 1975-2015

Spring 2015

Number 111

“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.

2015 is the 40th Anniversary of the Pine Mountain Trail

2015- It is hard to believe that this is the 40th 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 have happened in 40 years and it's 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 all 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. The FDR State Park folks 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. 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. With all these physical changes, we've reprinted and changed the map eight times in 15 years (about every two years.) The map will be reprinted this year as a 40th 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. We get great support from the FDR staff. Thanks to 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 in just one day. Thanks to all those who started out with **D. Neal Wickham** 40 years ago to build the trail, and for **Carl Carlson** who has carried on maintaining it. Thanks too for the PMTA board of directors, both past and present members. Photo to left is most of the 2015 board along with our FDR managers. The photo to the right: 2015 PMTA Board President Jim Pound and Vice President Chris Largent.



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 **209** Current total Life members. They are 115 families, 77 individuals and 17 organizations. Annual members: 328 which is 168 families, 59 organizations, 101 individuals. That is 384 active memberships and we mail out 20 complimentary newsletters.

We had 4 organizations, 12 families, 3 individuals join the PMTA this year so far as annual members (course we lost a few too.) We had 1 family and 1 individual renew to LIFE members.

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

Doug and Emily Nanez- Fort Valley

Individual Life

Mike Riffle- Cataula (renewed as LIFE member)

Family Annual

Don & Pat Carman- Peachtree City

Allen, Lalena, Tripp & Camille Tyler- Hamilton

Scott, Kennth A. & Laura S Couture and Lauri E. Morris
Columbus

Benjamin, Jennifer A, and Anastasia G Richards
Reynolds

Becky, Jeff, Eric & Cheyenne Woody, and Elexus Spradlin
Hogansville

Donald, Julia, Jonathan, Katherine, Cecilia, and Carolyn Bates
Warner Robins

Steve and Sally Waldorf – Macon

Douglas, Mary & Chris West- Peachtree City

Sarah, Forest, Ethan and Whyatt Davies- Midland

John Cecil- Griffin

Travis and Brooke Miller - Elko

Gerald, Julie, and Adam Mekosh - Warner Robins

Individual Annual

Lee McLendon – Woodbury

Richard Moore, Sr - Birmingham, AL

Layland Massie - Pine Mountain Valley

Organization Annual

BSA Troop 51 - Forsyth GA

BSA Troop 23 - Leesburg GA

Central Baptist Church - Warner Robins

BSA Troop 1 - Albany GA



Mike Riffle

(Renew early to avoid missing a newsletter issue)

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Work number _____ E-mail address _____

Membership Category: ☐ renewing member ☐ new member

12-month

Lifetime

☐ Individual \$25.00☐ \$200.00

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

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

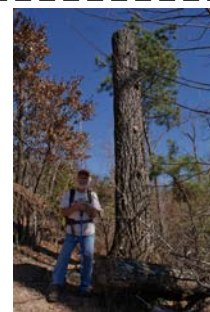
	Member	Non-member
Maps-- (new 2013 edition)	\$4.00	\$5.00
Kids Map (2012 edition)	\$2.00	\$3.00
Patches --The Pine Mountain Trail logo patch	\$2.00	\$3.00
Medallion--Brass PMT logo hiking staff medallion. Photo of this item is on a hiking staff in the photo gallery section of the website .	\$3.00	\$4.00
PMT Pin - 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.

Looking back on what tornado did to trees along the PMT...

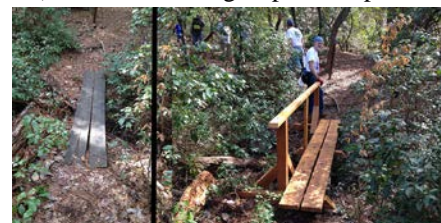
As you head west on the trail just past Dry Falls area there is a 20' or so "stump" just off the trail on the left just before some large rocks you have to step down through. What's this all about? Well back in 2011 when the tornado hit I was cuttin' and clearing along this area and came upon a large hickory tree about chest high across the trail. Carefully I cut the tree in three places (in order to try and not get bound up and get a couple sections out of the tree as it was under tremendous pressure.) Well, just as soon as I got the first cut through the log, the stump end flew back up straight! Got my attention. So that's the reason you see this 20' stump. You can hardly tell the tree had ever been bent over. Another tree that was pushed over during the tornado was down near the intersection of the PMT and west end of the BootTop Trail. It barely missed the trail intersection signs. That tree stump when cut loose also rolled back in place and today you can't tell that tree was pushed over! Photos: L -of giant root-ball of tree- R recently of stump and tree when it barely missed our trail signs.

**New bridge on Mountain Creek Trail and replacement walkways/bridge at Little Bridges Area**

On Sunday March 15 at great group of folks met up and installed a much needed 12' bridge on the Mountain Creek Trail then 3 replacement walkways and one new bridge near Little Bridges Campsite area. Those helping included Jo Myers (who brought us all some of her great mini-muffins), Mark & Daniel Hughes, Malon Wickham (who still does not mind getting down in a creek and getting dirty), Jim Pound, Mike Riffle (thank him for the great photos too), Joe Skinner, Ed Jones, Ronnie & Traci Heard, Jack Combs, Jim & Helen Hall, Ron Golden (and his grandson Austin) and new to our group and hope he keeps coming back- Robert Daugherty.



Jim Pound, Malon, Daniel, Ronnie,
Jim Hall on bridge. R-Mark Hughes



2015 PMTA Board of Directors

Jim Pound	706-323-1783	Columbus
Chris Largent.....	706-580-9549	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
Richard Ramey	706-323-3925	Columbus
Craig Myers	706-882-3886	LaGrange
Malon Wickham	706-563-5160	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
Bill Vang.....	706-568-0611	Columbus
Joe Wade	706-324-7296	Columbus



Jim & Brinkley Pound

A MESSAGE FROM PMTA PRESIDENT Jim Pound

I am very honored to be elected as President of such a great organization. The Pine Mountain Trail Association is one of those groups that is a joy to work with. There are so many dedicated individuals on the Board and so many volunteers that are always at the ready to help on the trail. There is nothing better than a good work day on the trail – in good weather or in bad, with a large group or just a couple of folks, picking up trash or picking up a rake (or helping saw up a blown down tree.)

Over the next few years, we are looking to make the trail more accessible for everyone, in particular those with physical disabilities. This will involve a separate trail loop not connected to the PMT.

We would also like to continue to promote and put emphasis on the ***Leave No Trace*** principles and encourage all of those using the trail to embrace those concepts.. Everyone benefits when these principles are followed.

The Principles of Leave No Trace

- 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare**
- 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**
- 4. Leave What You Find**
- 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts**
- 6. Respect Wildlife**
- 7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

Sadly we are hearing and seeing more hikers unprepared, lost, and unaware of the rules of the park. There have been an increased number of “lost hiker” situations, mainly as a result from poor planning (planning more hike than light) and not having a map.

I have enjoyed the trail over the years from when I was a Boy Scout in Troop 1 (with Neal Wickham as Scoutmaster) to taking my boys camping in 20 degree weather to leading night hikes on the trail with the PMTA. I am indebted to those who have gone before me and I am excited to be able to pay it forward.

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 (like blown down trees, places where someone has built a fire or camped not in 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.

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.)

PIG OUT 2014

Our November Pig Out was another good one. Thanks for all who helped pull it off (including Gus & Molly Callaway doing the decorations again). All enjoyed the food, fun talking with others and hearing and seeing what all Craig Myers did on his journey along the AT (finishing up last year.) We plan to have another Pig Out dinner, so we'll be setting the date soon for sure (tentative date is Saturday October 24th.)



Gus & Molly



Pig Out Hikers



Richard Ramey



Jim Hall, Dan Ginter, Charles Cox



Cassie & Bradley with Mark Hughes

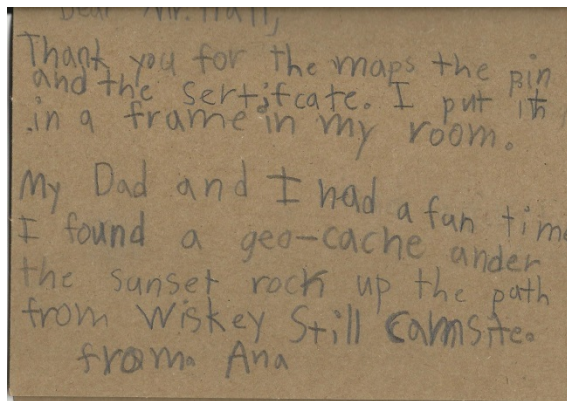


Joe Skinner and Larry Day

PS.....Molly and Gus will be celebrating their 8th wedding anniversary on May 26th...

? Our youngest “Through Backpacker” Ana Richard

A while back Ben Richard from Reynolds got in touch with me about taking his daughter backpacking on the PMT. He told me she had been camping, but not backpacking and this was to be her first real backpacking trip. His goal was to camp out three nights and cover the whole PMT. Really? A first time backpacker, a girl, in the winter! Well folks, she made it proudly and photos show her smiling despite the cold they endured for four days and three nights. Here is what they covered: First day Mile 23/WJSP-TV Tower trailhead to Sparks Creek Campsite (6 miles). Second day on over to Whiskey Still Campsite (another about 6 miles), then next night at Broken Tree Campsite (another 6+ miles day), then ending up from Broken Tree on to Mile 1/Country Store (just over 5 miles.) We sent her a certificate, a new map and a PMT logo pen. To my knowledge, this is the youngest backpacker to have completed the whole trail in one backpacking trip. Congratulations Ana and Dad Ben!



Walkways on PMT east end

Last July and then again in December, we added some cedar walkways near Mile 21.5 area to cover some rather muddy-sloppy-wet areas that just would not dry up. Mud in one place was 4-5” deep. These walkways were cut and predrilled then taken in pieces from the WJSP-TV Trailhead. Both times US Army guys helped carry the pieces in and then PMTA volunteers put them together. This last group was an officer advance class group. By the time you read this, we will have replaced three and added one more walkway in the Little Bridges area, and installed a much needed 12’ cedar bridge on a section of the Mountain Creek Trail where folks had been putting logs in the water to step on (which held back water and made matters worse.)



What's been happening on the PMT

Our fourth annual First Day Hike (January 1) was another good one with lots of happy hikers.



Many hikers have said they missed/walked by **FERNEY** the big pine over near Old Sawmill Campsite on the main PMT. Well there is a sign by it now. Sadly, some person a few months ago carved their initials on it. That has been covered up, and hopefully no damage was done to the tree.

Hikers on the February 7 hike from Dowdell Knob to Rocky Point.



Malon Wickham and his Red Hat Gang hat



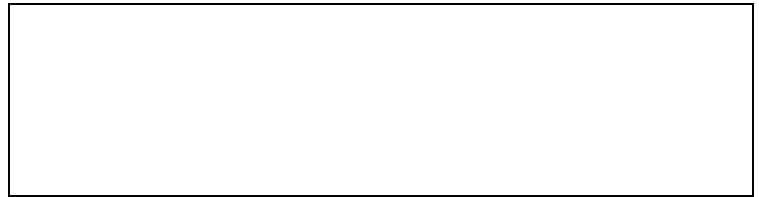
2014 PMTA Board President Richard Ramey and FDR Manager Desmond Timmons At a Georgia Recreation and Park Association convention at Jekyll Island last fall, the PMTA was awarded the Volunteer Organization of the Year Award for a group doing things for Georgia State Parks, namely FDR State Park.



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. 28 Sat 1 p.m. (email Jim for reservations at Pinemttrailassoc._jim@msn.com)	Jim Hall & Mark Hughes	FDR Park Office	OVERNIGHT backpacking trip to Big Oak Springs Campsite
April 4 Sat. 10 a.m.	Malon Wickham	WJSP-TV Trailhead	East End Loop 4 mod. miles
May 2 Sat. 10 a.m.	Chris Largent	WJSP-TV Trailhead	PMT to Rocky Point PL 5 mod. miles
June 6 Sat. 10 a.m.	PMTA Board <i>NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE</i>	Dowdell Knob Trailhead	PMT to Mollyhugger Hill PL 3.5 mod. miles
July 11 Sat. 10 a.m.	Jack Combs	Country Store	PMT to FDR Office 3.8 mod. miles
Aug 8 Sat 10 a.m.	_____	FDR Office	PMT & Pool Trail to Pool 3 mod miles

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

Date	Time	Meet Carl Carlson at:
March 21 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
April 18 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
May 16 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
June 20 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
July 25 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
August 22 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot

(All workday meeting places start at Park Office.....Dates subject to change—especially if bad weather....Keep checking the website each month prior to a workday)*For all hikes and workdays, it is a good idea to bring water and a snack (a lunch if the hike or workday starts at 10 a.m.) FOR INFORMATION ON WORKDAYS, CALL **CARL CARLSON** at 706-628-5336 or Jim Hall at 706-569-0497