

# The Pine Mountain Trail



## Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc.

41st Year 1975-2016

Summer 2016

Number 113

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

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

### D. Neal Wickham

December 12, 1929-May 18, 2016

Just a few months ago we got word that Neal had cancer that was likely going to take his life in about six months. We had hoped to have a gathering of trail folks to all say hi to Neal and present him with a proclamation from the DNR that Tom Flournoy had requested. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Joe Skinner and I went to see Neal and we along with a couple more had a nice visit talking about trail stuff and showing him some old photos I found in storage. A planned reception to present the proclamation the next week was cancelled. His condition declined rapidly and he passed away at home on the evening of May 18. As most know, Chuck Williams of the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer “did good” with the article he wrote about Neal. Monday May 23<sup>rd</sup> hundreds gathered at St. Paul UMC here in Columbus to celebrate the life he lived, to truly live out our motto above. Neal thus paid his rent here on earth for his service in many ways. I dare say there was a dry eye when the singing of “GEORGIA” was played and sang. It was a wonderful service to reflect on Neal’s life. The most fitting tribute came from the words written by Col. Ralph Pucket.

The day before on Sunday May 22, there was a visitation time at Malon & Laura Wickhams home. It was a time to tell Malon and family and Neal’s wife Judith not only how sorry we were for his quick passing, but talk about things Neal had done with each of us and how he influenced our lives to continue to work on the PMT that he founded. He had put in thousands of hours over the years since 1975. Three members of the original “RED HAT GANG” had visited Neal the last week of April and they were at the visitation, looking over all the photos and trail things that Malon & Laura had displayed. The Red Hat Gangs legacy lives on with Neal inspiring them and others as volunteers to do trail work.



Neal and Carl at the 2015 Pig Out

Jim Morpeth of Country’s BBQ posted a note on Country’s Facebook page May 19<sup>th</sup> saying that he was offering a “Neal Wickham pork rib sandwich” on his menu at his locations and that he was donating \$2 from the sale of each to the PMTA in memory of Neal. Friday night the 20<sup>th</sup>, Helen and I went to Macon Road Country’s and Jim told us we were the 41<sup>st</sup> & 42<sup>nd</sup> persons to order a Neal’s sandwich THAT DAY! He ended up selling a couple hundred. This is just part of the proof, many loved and appreciated Neal for his legacy of founding the Pine Mountain Trail. We will miss him at the Pig Out this year, but when the Blue Bell ice cream is served, well we will all raise our Crunchy Cones as a toast of thanks to Neal. Oh, by the way I was concerned Neal would object to serving ice cream at the Pig Out back in 2000 when I first suggested it. Not only did he not object Neal ate four. He loved ice cream, he loved his family and he gave us the PMT.



Three of the Red Hat Gang

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 40 years. We continue to grow. The scope and reach of our association in promoting and maintaining the **Pine Mountain Trail** will always be determined by our membership. Let's all do our part to keep the association vibrant and to spread the word about our trail.

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

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*From Jerry Brown*

We currently have **212** Current total Life members. They are 115 families, 80 individuals and 17 organizations.  
Annual members: 263 which is 136 families, 46 organizations, 80 individuals. That is 474 active memberships and we mail out some complimentary newsletters.

## We welcome the following new members to the Pine Mountain Trail Association since last 11/20/15

### Family Life

Ronnie & Tracy Heard- Gay GA  
Lee & Brandy L'oste-Brown- Waverly Hall GA  
Mary Lorenz-Halling & Jim Halling- Pine Mountain

Arthur Sumner- Montgomery AL  
Howard Johnson- Catuala GA

### Individual Life

Dan Godowns- Woodbury GA  
John Mathews- Columbus

Ronald Golden- LaGrange GA  
Robert Liner- LaGrange GA

### Family Annual

Glenn and Diana Anderson- Mineola FL  
Robert Casteel- Columbus  
Anthony & Shannon Ferguson- Merritt Island FL  
Brian Banks- Zebulon GA  
Chuck & Jane Hecht- Columbus  
Todd and Shanda Wheeler- Griffin GA  
Scott Burgess- Pavo GA  
Robie Simmons- Griffin GA  
Bobby Matthews- LaGrange GA  
Timothee' E & Erin Concor- Griffin

Jason & Cindi Boyd- Pine Mountain  
Brian J Curry SR- Columbus  
Jennifer & Traven Craig- Pine Mountain  
John P Andreson- Columbus  
Glenn & Abigail Looper- Covington GA  
Steven & Alisa Harris- Savannah  
Myron Bennett- Milledgeville GA  
Teresa & Tracy Moorfe- Fayetteville GA  
Melissa Panaerese- Stone Mountain GA  
Brad Waddell- Columbus

### Individual Annual

Steve Bode- Grantville GA  
Trenton Cannon- Newnan GA  
Sandy Thomas- Columbus  
Keith Bissell- Fortson GA  
Pete McGuire- Columbus

Laura Mansour- Pine Mountain  
John Wolff- Jackson GA  
D Mark Graydon- Columbus  
Kevin Ball – Lilburn GA  
Robert Daughtery- Columbus

### Organization Annual

BSA Troop 858-Opelika AL  
Iron Braid Adventures- Midland GA

BSA Troop 98- Phenix City  
BSA Troop 400- Centerville GA



The Heard Family

## National Trails Day Hike June 4, 2016

Our NTD hike went well. Not as many hikers as expected, but there was rain coming in reported that likely kept folks away. Chris Largent led the group on the Dowdell Knob Loop. As hikers came off the trail we had a treat for them. Larry Day, Mark Hughes and I had prepared homemade orange sherbet.





(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

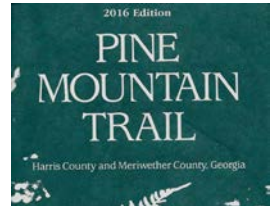
### PINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL LOGO STUFF

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.

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

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

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



NOTE: The 2015 map, we sold nearly 5,000 copies. The 2016 printing has a couple minor changes (one is labeling **Combs's Crossing** near Old Sawmill Campsite.) See "Map Changes" in this newsletter for more.

### New bridges and crossings on PMT just east of Mile 21 and Slippery Rock Falls

As you may know, back in December the flooding rains widened the stream beds and washed away use of "steppin stones" for crossings in several places on the trail from Mile 22 to Cascade Falls. So on January 20, a group of 24 carried in over a mile the pre-cut and pre-stained parts of a 12' bridge to just before Slippery Rock Falls along with pieces for a couple new walkways over muddy areas.

from Jim Hall



Ronnie Heard and Mark Hughes carrying 4x6



group photo and our "load testing" of the bridge



Then on March 16 we installed another new bridge just east of Mile 21 at another widened creek crossing. A group of Georgia Tech Students helped with PMTA volunteers. That group after helping carry in bridge pieces went with a couple of our PMT folks (Mike, Ed and Joe) to the January 20<sup>th</sup> bridge and put in more support beams due to stream bank erosion.





## 2016 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  
 Mike Riffle .....706-464-3136 Cataula/Columbus  
 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



Mike Riffle is the newest member of our PMTA board.

**\*\* NOTE: D. Neal Wickham's name will remain on the board list in his honor and memory for the rest of 2016.**

### A MESSAGE FROM PMTA PRESIDENT Jim Pound

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. We are certainly glad that he had the vision 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 41 years have spent thousands of hours every year to provide a great resource to the hikers and campers who use the trail every day. Think about coming on a workday in the next few months too. 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, or any of the myriad other details that make the PMTA run effectively. A special thanks from me to each one of them.

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 year and as we do, remember Neal for making it happen.

*Jim*

### Volunteers on the trail....

**We need more volunteers to come out on regular workdays.** We have been blessed with the large groups of folks showing up on short notice to help with flood damage to bridges and installing new bridges and walkways over the last year. However, monthly we have something to be done and the more we have the easier and more we can do. Last year we had a young lady show up for a workday who said her husband was in the US Army (recent West Point grad) and she wanted to get out and do something on our trail while he was “working”. Lindsay Pell is a joy to have around and has helped us several times. Joe Skinner has even encouraged her to use the power tools. Then our neighbors Capt. Stephen and Bryana Bruner we introduced to the trail on a hike. Stephen is deployed and Bry came with me twice this year to help with bridge projects and once on a hike. Bry is now in Maryland with family awaiting Stephens return from deployment and they will be stationed at Ft. Carson, Colorado for about a year and hopefully coming back here in late 2017. Thanks too for help from Nikki Coull, Tamara Hughes, Genny Altman, my wife Helen and others. We look forward to having Bry come back and we invite other ladies to help.



Lindsay and Bry



Bry



Nikki



Lindsay using driver, guided by Joe



## Email addresses & phone numbers for PMTA members and FACEBOOK

Many email addresses and phone numbers we have for members are not the correct ones. 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. We post a copy, and past issues.

## Hiking is not just “a walk in the woods”. YOU NEED A MAP.....

from Jim Hall

With daylight savings time the days may be long but time for hiking each day can slip up on you. As 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) they are of concern. Then you have the folks who don’t buy much less use/carry a map and get turned around hiking even on the Dowdell Knob Loop. 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), show or 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 an 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 who can be aware of a potential situation.....Our **2016 map edition** is available. There were just a few changes to the map. On the FAQ section we put a link to a website that you can go to see when sunset is along the trail (and we suggest to be OFF THE TRAIL 30 minutes before sunset.) Also we refer to the legend on the map a lot. The **LEGEND** is the box on the bottom right of the map that explains things on the map. Lastly we put **COMBS’S CROSSING**

### Pine Mountain Trail/FAQ

The Trail is open for hiking most all year round during daylight hours only. Call the park office prior to arrival to make sure of no closures. There is no charge to just hike on trails, only a charge for backcountry permits. To park anywhere in FDR State Park anytime, you must purchase a Daily Park Pass and display it (or have a GA annual pass displayed.) Self-Pay parking pass boxes noted on this map with **SPB**.

**LOST/TURNED AROUND OR HURT?** Call the FDR State Park rangers 24/7 at **706-663-4256 (voice number)**. Then stay put and let help come to you! They also have a Google Voice number **706-801-5006**. Leave a short voice message and it transmit/sends the message via text to the ranger on duty (or just text to that number.) Due to limited cell service in FDR State Park you can often get/send a text message when voice calls do not go through. **If you still cannot get a message through only then call 911.**

For map or general information (non-emergency) questions call the FDR park office. (Mon-Thur. 8-5, Friday 8-10, Sat & Sun 8-6 EST) **706-663-4858**

**BEFORE GOING HIKING:** Study this map, especially the legend on bottom right. Ask questions about trail sections before heading out. Some horse trails cross the hiking trails and are marked with signs. Horse trails are not marked/shown on this map. Plan your hike with enough daylight to complete hike. Go to the link here and see sunset time. Plan to be OFF the trail 30 minutes BEFORE sunset time as it gets dark in the woods quickly SEE: <http://sunrise-sunset.org/us/pine-mountain-ga>

Carry this map, water, snacks, small first aid kit, flashlight, cell phone and other basic hiking needs on all hikes.



**BACKPACKING** along the PMT is by permit only in named designated campsites. Permits must be obtained at the park office prior to hitting the trail. The blue copy of the permit is your overnight parking pass and must be on dash of vehicle. Campfires (when and where allowed) are to be only in designated fire rings, using dead wood found on the ground. “Drown” fires before leaving camp. No cutting/sawing of standing trees of any size dead or living for any purpose. **Axes, large knives and machetes are not permitted along the trails.** Leave no trace where you camp (including fluffing up leaves where tents are set up). All water in streams on Trail must be treated, filtered or boiled.

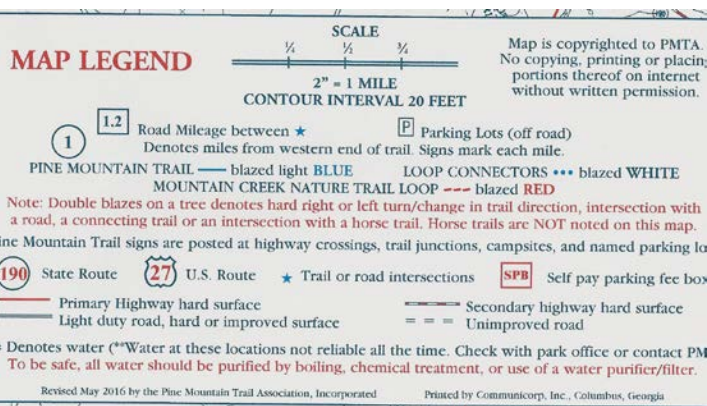


**DOGS:** are allowed in the park/along trails but must be kept on 6' max. length leash at all times. Bring water and snacks on your hike for your dog.

**RESTROOMS:** There are no restrooms/outhouses along the trails after you leave the FDR Park Office, or the RV Campground area.

**SMOKING:** While not against park rules, is a fire danger along the trails. Please don't. If you do, take any cigarette butts and all trash out and home with you. There are no trash containers on the trail, only at three trailheads (Dowdell Knob, WJSP-TV Tower and at the FDR office.) **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are allowed at picnic/parking areas or on the trails at any time.

The Pine Mountain Trail was built and is maintained by volunteers working with the Pine Mountain Trail Association. For information about the PMTA or more about the trail go to [www.pinemountaintrail.org](http://www.pinemountaintrail.org)



on the map.

## TRAIL REBLAZING

Re-blazing along the trails is a slow process, but we are working on it. It takes 3 volunteers about 2 hours to reblaze one mile of trail. We are over to Mile 16.5 now and have the Beaver Pond and White Candle Trails redone. Here is one “blazing crew”.....Ed Jones, Jim Hall and Joe D. Skinner. Others who have helped are Larry Day, Mike Riffle, Helen Hall & Lindsay Pell.





**Pig Out 2016 is coming Saturday, October 22th!** The 41<sup>st</sup> 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. Meet and eat with other PMTA members at the 2016 Pig Out on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a moderately 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 41<sup>st</sup> 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. The price of the Pig Out dinner is \$15.00 for adults , and still \$5.00 for children 3-12. We will mail out another newsletter with reservation form the first of September . Put the date on your calendar. Photos below are from last years (2015) Pig Out



Mark and Emma



Jim and Mary Beth



Larry, Barb and Shannon



D. Neal Wickhams' last Pig Out.....



Joe D. Skinner and Mike Riffle

**MAY 6 FLOWER HIKE!** We had a great May hike from Mile 23 back to Rocky Point PL. 32 hikers. Flowers were awesome!

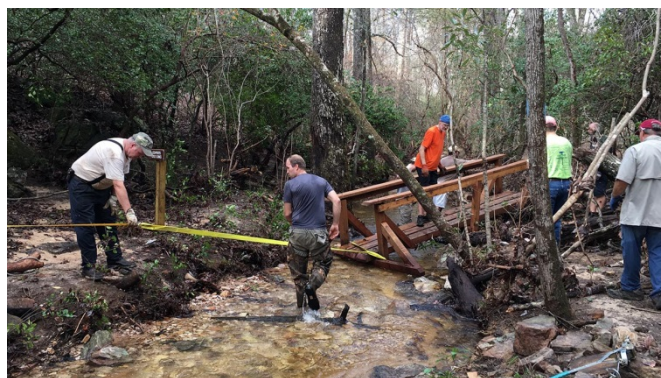


Helen, Bry, Shilpa and Genny at Cascade Falls



## FLOOD along trail December 2015

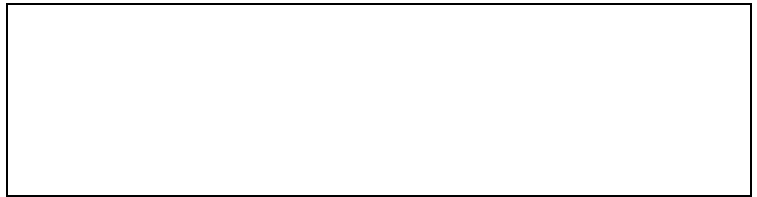
For those of you who haven't been on the trail from Mile 23 to Old Sawmill Campsite this year, the creek beds look entirely different. The flooding rains early last December dumped a bunch of water. We had the trail sections checked and found that ALL the bridges from Combs's Crossing east to the large one near Mile 22 had been displaced/washed downstream somewhat. On Wednesday December 23<sup>rd</sup> I put out the word for HELP and thankfully on the following Sunday afternoon some 24 folks showed up to help. We used come-alongs, straps and some big ole' boys to move the bridges back in place. None were damaged much, just pushed downstream by the estimated 5 FEET of rushing water. Cascade Falls had about the same amount going over it and it washed all the leaves out of the pool below, washed away the sign and several feet of dirt along the edge then swept down the stream beyond the falls depositing new rocks and lots of sand (as it did up stream about half a mile). The flooding washed lots of limbs and such from along the creek banks, "pressure washed" the rocks clean and left the creek banks more open. The flooding also washed deeper and wider two creek crossing that required bridges to be installed. With the added water flow, we also had to add some 12 more walkways to keep hikers out of new muddy areas. Below are before and after photos of several locations



## Pine Mountain Trail Association Newsletter

P.O. Box 5

Columbus, Georgia 31902



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

UPCOMING EVENTS for the PINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL ASSOCIATION				
HIKES*	LEADER	MEET AT:	HIKING:	
2016				
July 2 Sat. 10 a.m.	___PMTA Board	Country Store	PMT to FDR Office	3.8 mod. miles
Aug 6 Sat 10 a.m.	__PMTA Board	FDR Office	PMT & Pool Trail to Pool	3 mod miles
Sept. 3 Sat 10 a.m.	_ PMTA Board	Molly Hugger Hill	Sawtooth Trail to Fox Den Cove	2.9
Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> . 1 pm.	Jim Hall & Mark Hughes	FDR Park Office	OVERNIGHT backpacking trip to Turtle Hollow Campsite*	
(email Jim for reservations at Pinemtrailassoc._jim@msn.com)				
Oct. 22 Sat 1p.m.	__PMTA Board	RV Trading Post	Mountain Creek Trail	3.2
5 pm.	PIG OUT at Liberty Bell	Pool rock shelter		

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

Date	Time	Meet Carl Carlson at:
July 9 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
August 13 Sat.	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Sept 10 Sat	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Oct 8 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