

The Pine Mountain Trail



Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc.

42nd Year 1975-2017 Fall 2107 Number 115

“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 2017 is coming up October 21st. Mark your calendars. See insert in this newsletter...

HURRICANE winds from IRMA hit the PMT

but not as hard as expected thankfully!



There was a lot of sweating it out wondering what the damage would be starting Sunday the 10th when the winds picked up till the winds died down Monday evening September 11th. Sunday afternoon the 10th as a precaution I helped the park folks put signs up at all trailheads telling the trails were CLOSED due to likely downed trees and limbs blocking them. Ronnie, Matthew and Traci Heard helped secure Neal's Rest Kiosk and remove the map (they came back the following week to help put the map back up and take down supports.) On the 10th we put out the word asking for volunteers to call me and then check starting Wednesday assigned sections for damage (blow downs.) No, thankfully, it was not OPAL class winds that hit our trails, but from the downed trees along GA 190 we knew there had to be blowdowns along the trails. By Wednesday volunteers began hiking the trails and reporting. By Saturday there were more than 39 miles of trail

surveyed and over 60 reported trees and large limbs found that needed chainsaw cutting. Mike Riffle checked nearly 14 miles of trail alone! Michele Eisenzopf did 8. That Thursday and Friday chain saw cuttin' began too. By late on the 15th the Wolf Den Loop was clear and signs removed noting that. On the 16th three crews headed out to clear from Mile 18 to 13 and the Boot Top Trail, along with a fourth crew with Jay & Nicki Coull and Michele Eisenzopf working the White Candle Trail. That opened the Dowdell's Knob Loop and Mile 18-13. Later on the 16th, Mike Riffle and I cleared blow-downs near Little Bridges to open up the Overlook Loop and PMT to Mile 4. The rest of the trails remained CLOSED. The following week on 21st-22nd several folks worked on isolated blowdowns and Mark Hughes and I hiked/cleared with Mark and Jean Swann the whole Mountain Creek Trail on the 21st. Then on the 23rd another two crews hit the woods on the Mile 8.3 to 9.3 section, and later to the west leg of the Pool & Delano Trail. **That opened up the whole trail system by mid afternoon the 23rd.**

Thanks much to the following who helped (some more than one day beside their names!) Eddie Hall (4 days), Mark Hughes (3), Mike Riffle (5), Jim Hall (6), Jonathan Hall (2), Jerry Brown (2), Malon Wickham, Michael Wade (2), Jim Pound (2), Michael Karbarz, Matthew Seyfert, Victoria Leggett-Adams, Sandy Thomas, Jill Jaqua, Aiden Weaver, Jay & Nikki Coull, Michele Eisenzopf (2) Mark Shumake, Helen Hall, Mark & Jean Swann (from Warner Robins). We likely missed naming a couple folks who surveyed trail sections and helped with cutting and thank them too! It was an outstanding effort to get all the trails surveyed then **cleared/back open in 12 days!** Oh, thanks Eddie Hall for great chainsaw crew hats you gave several of us and thanks to Jo Myers for her awesome muffins (she has been baking us muffins for workdays for over 10 years!) *JH*



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 42 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

As of September 19th: 338 annual members with 49 organizational, 177 families and 112 individual members.. **214 LIFE** members: 116 families and 80 individuals and 18 organizations.

We have a lot of new members since last November. 31 new annual families, 4 organizations and 29 individuals, along with 3 families, 1 organization, and 1 individual joining/renewing as LIFE members. 123 membership transactions were done via our website via E-renewal. All maps ordered via our website are now done via the internet from our website.

Welcome these new members and those who renewed their memberships!

Elizabeth Albright- Columbus
Russell Humbert- Newnan
Chaille Sullivan- Midland
Mark Dawson-Fort Valley
Tim Thorton-Phenix City
Tim Pippin- Zebulon

Mike Park- Jonesboro
Alva Shirley- Columbus
Jack Nelson- Barnesville
Julia Ashley- Columbus
David Stokes- Valdosta
Jimmy Camp-Marietta

Jim & Pat Bell- Midland
Robert Miller- Ft. Benning
Justin Vaughn- Upatoi
Jeremy Cook- Columbus
BSA Troop 919- Forest Park
Michael Clendenning- Sharpsurg

Backpacking and the “revised” reservation system

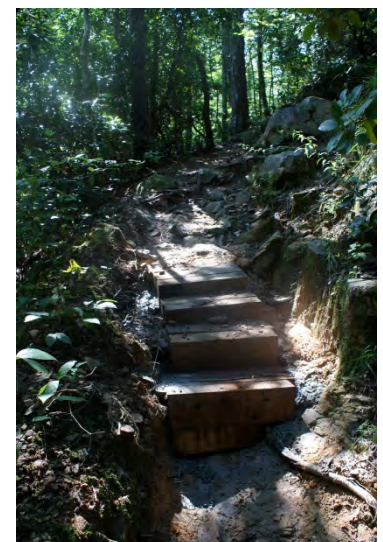
We reported in the Spring newsletter of a new reservation system that was to be up and running by August 1st. This system would allow the best use of the 16 backcountry campsites (6 of which are single fire ring-single permitted sites and 10 are two-fire ring two permit sites for individuals-couples and groups of 6 or less to share.) The idea for the system will be for individuals and groups to obtain site and fire ring specific reservations and the new system would allow up to 26 reservations per night. Well we got the 10 dual fire ring sites marked (Fire Ring #1 and #2), but the persons redoing the system have yet to get it together and get the new system up and running! So the park is stuck with allowing only 16 permits per night (vs 26).



Will let you know via our Facebook page and website when the new system is up. If you seek a backcountry permit and are told the backcountry sites are all permitted out for a night, complain to the park manager who can pass along your complaint! The fire ring markers are 8” pieces of fiberglass “Carsonite” sign with a campsite symbol and number 1 or 2 on them.

Cascade Falls area improvements

Several years ago we place a bench at the falls area. Hikers suggested more. Back on July 4th we took in two more benches like the one below (mainly made from reclaimed old signs). Hopefully hikers will enjoy these three benches. Also, there was a severe wash-out in front of the Wolf Den cave/cliff area and some steps were installed there. Some have asked are you going to move that displaced rock back by the cave. We shall try when we get a bunch of folks to help one day.



Pig Out 2017 is coming Saturday, October 21st!

The 42nd Pine Mountain Trail Association annual dinner (Pig Out) will be held at the Large Group Campground Dining Hall. There will be a moderate rated 4 mile pre-Pig-Out hike from the Country Store Parking Lot (starting actually at Mile 0) to the Park Office Parking Lot starting at 1 p.m. (so arrive earlier than that to sign the roster). Help us celebrate another great year and our 42nd anniversary! Hikers who come to the 1 p.m. hike are welcome at the dining hall 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. 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. The pledge to the US Flag and blessing will be about 5:40. Dinner will begin serving at 5:50 p.m in 2 lines 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 17th year will be Blue Bell ice cream treats for all. What program /speaker? To be announced . 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 2017 topo and 2015 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 5-12. Under 5 free. Please go ahead and make your reservations soon. **We have to hold reservations to about 130 due to space. FOR THE FIRST TIME** you can also make and pay for reservations from our website (see link from the homepage at www.pinemountaintrail.org.) Otherwise, send in the form below 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 and we will not be able to take late reservations after we reach 130. Jerry Brown will check the PMTA PO box for the last time on Tuesday October 17th . So help us by having your reservations done online, mailed/called or emailed to arrive before then. Any questions, call Jim Hall at 706-569-0497 and 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 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".

Directions: From the park office travel east .4 mile then turn left onto off ramp BEFORE the stone bridge. Bottom of ramp turn RIGHT onto GA 354 under the bridge and follow the road down .4 of a mile to the GROUP CAMP ROAD on your left. Follow the road back nearly two miles to the dining hall. There will be signs along GA 190, 354 and Kings Gap Road directing you. **From Pine Mountain** (Ga 354), just stay on 354 for 2.9 miles till you go under the bridge and follow directions above..



2017 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 _____

(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 our website.

	Member	Non-member
Maps-- (new 2017 revised edition)	\$4.00	\$5.00
Kids Map (2015 40 th Anniversary edition)	\$2.00	\$3.00
Patches --The Pine Mountain Trail logo patch	\$2.00	\$3.00
Medallion--Brass PMT logo hiking staff medallion	\$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, 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/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.



Thanks to Communicorp for working with us on the map reprinting revisions. Bob Klema has been our graphic artist working on the map revisions/reprinting since 1999 and really did an outstanding job on the 2017 edition! As always, maps are printed on waterproof Tyvek (yep if you leave the map in your pocket and wash it in the washing machine, it won't hurt it!) FREE map will be sent to the first 2 who email me and tell me what **BM** stands for near Dowdell's Knob. Jim at pinemountaintrailassoc._jim@msn.com

Photos from along the trail.....

Our first annual LABOR DAY HIKE around Dowdell's Knob Loop ended with hike leader Mark Hughes and I dishing out homemade Muscadine/peach ice cream to the hikers as a surprise treat! Muscadines came from the trail!



Jonathan Hall over a 5 month period sanded nearly ALL the wooden signs along the trails (they were recoated with deck seal too.) They look like new!



Many of the dead trees near Neal's Rest/Mile 23 Trailhead were cut down in early July with JB and Steve of the FDR Maintenance staff working with us. They also had help cut 6 large dead pines at Bumble Bee Ridge Campsite.



The National Trail Day hike first Saturday in June was well attended for such a warm day. Photos : middle Susan and Bill Vang with hike leader Mark Hughes. Right: Shilpa !

Pig Out 2017 is set for October 21st!

The 42nd Pine Mountain Trail Association annual dinner (Pig Out) will be held this year at the Large Group Camp dining hall where Pig Out dinners were held till 2011.

2017 PMTA Board of Directors

Chris Largent, President.....	706-580-9549	Columbus
Mike Riffle, Vice President	706-464-3136	Cataula
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 Maint. Chairman Emeritus ...	706-628-5336	Pine Mtn.Valley
Jerry Brown, Membership Chairman .	706-323-9422	Columbus
Richard Ramey	706-323-3925	Columbus
Jim Pound	706-323-1783	Columbus
Malon Wickham	706-563-5160	Columbus
Tom Flournoy	706-324-4000	Columbus
Eddie Hall.....	706-327-3697	Columbus
Mark Hughes.....	706-302-0118	LaGrange
Bill Vang.....	706-568-0611	Columbus
Joe Wade	706-324-7296	Columbus

****D. Neal Wickham**, Member Emeritus who passed away May 18,2016.



Jim Hall, Mark Hughes and Mike Riffle 9/23 after long day of doing final Hurricane Cleanup!

Vice Presidents Message

from Mike Riffle

On Monday, September 11, 2017 Tropical Storm Irma paid an unwelcome visit to the Pine Mountain Trail. The result was nearly 60 downed trees blocking not only the PMT but every side trail as well. Within four days of Irma's passage a small group of volunteers had already checked over 38 miles of the trails for downed trees. By Friday evening the Wolf Den Loop was opened back up after another small group of volunteers cleared all the downed trees. A called work day on Saturday, September 16th brought 15 volunteers together to clear another 8 miles of trails in one section and 2.1 in another. Over the next six days several more downed trees were cleared by individuals and small groups. A final called work day on Saturday, September 23rd brought 10 more volunteers together to clear the remaining downed trees, including a HUGE finale on the Delano Trail. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped with this clean-up project. Thanks to your efforts 42 miles of trails and 16 backcountry campsites were checked and cleared within 12 days! That is an impressive accomplishment for an all- volunteer organization. It is efforts like this that make me proud to say the Pine Mountain Trail is the best maintained trail in the State of Georgia. *Mike Riffle*



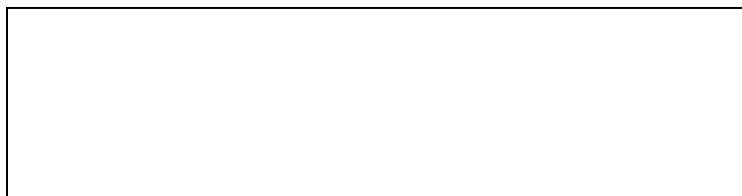
LEFT: Mark Hughes cutting on Delano Trail on that "finale" Mike spoke of and RIGHT is what Mike found at the Beaver Pond/ PMT intersection and cleared by himself! Notice the sign was NOT hurt.



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!

HIKES*	LEADER	MEET AT:	HIKING:	DISTANCE:
Oct 14	Jim Hall & Mark Hughes	Park Office PL	Overnight Backpacking Trip to Big Oak Springs	
Contact Jim at pinemtrailassoc.com , jim@msn.com for reservations for this free trip (parking and backcountry permit provided.)				
October 21 1 PM	PMTA Board	Country Store PL	PMT to Park Office	4 miles
	5 pm PIG OUT DINNER (at the Large Group	Camp Dining Hall)		
Nov 18 10 a.m.	Jerry Brown	Dowdell's Knob TH	PMT to Rocky Point PL	3.4 miles
Dec 2 7 p.m.	PMTA Board	WJSP TV Tower PL	East End Loop	3.4 miles
Jan 1 1 p.m.	FIRST DAY HIKE led by PMTA Board	Country Store PL	Overlook Loop	3.4 miles
Jan 15 1 p.m.	MLK Holiday Hike led by PMTA board	Rocky Point PL	PMT to WJSP TV Tower PL	5.0 miles

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

Date	Time	Meet up with other PMTA volunteers at:
Oct 28	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Nov 11	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Dec 9	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Jan 13	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 and our Facebook page 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 Mike Riffle at 706-464-3136 or Chris Largent at 706-580-9549