

# The Pine Mountain Trail



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

42nd Year 1975-2017 Spring 2107 Number 114

“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. More on this in Summer/Fall newsletter...

### NEAL'S REST Dedication

Last September we completed the new kiosk at the WJSP TV Tower and named it NEAL'S REST. October 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 we had the dedication of the kiosk with Neal's family, interested PMTA folks and most of the volunteers who worked on it. Judith Wickham and Malon Wickham unveiled the engraved plate. A few weeks later we added an engraved wooden board to the end of the kiosk above the engraved plate on the upright. The large map and information has been read by many heading out on the trail since installed. Again, thanks to all who gave in memory of Neal that allowed us to build the kiosk.



**PMTA Backpackers:** We have heard some complaints from folks wanting to backpack and told sites are “all reserved out”.....SOMETHING NEW!!! Come August 1 a new reservation system should be in place for reserving backcountry sites from the DNR/Reserve America. Reservations will become “site specific” for the first time. There will be 6 sites noted as single fire-ring and single permit only (for use by one person/couple or group depending on site), and the 11 other sites with two fire-rings (shared sites) and will by then have numbers by the fire rings ( 1& 2) and you can make reservations for not only a specific site but a specific fire ring area. As we put out the numbered post by fire-rings we will take photos and they will be posted on our website SITE DESCRIPTION page. Those without reservations will still be able to come to the park office and choose an available campsite day of arrival and thus a specific available fire-ring area. The reservation system had been only allowing 16 permits per night and come August 1 will allow 28. This should help with those having been turned away in recent months. There will be time limits to check in for reserved sites. More closer to August. PMTA members will still get permits free (show membership card.) However, if you make on-line/800# reservations you will have to initially make a “deposit” that will be backed out upon arrival at the park office to obtain your permit.

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 41 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 March 10: 299** annual members with 47 organizational, 161 families and 91 individual members.. **210 LIFE** members: 114 families and 79 individuals.

We have a lot of new members since last November. 9 new annual families and 7 individuals, along with 3 families joining/renewing as LIFE members. 51 memberships were done via our website via Erenual. All maps ordered via our website are now done via the internet from our website.

Welcome new members and those who renewed their memberships!

Jeff Russel- McDonough  
Richard Dervan- Atlanta  
Charlie Spalding- Athens  
Cathy Dunton- Chamblee  
Deborah Cooper- Pine Mountain  
Gerald and Lisa Madler- Columbus  
Andrew Kessler- West Point  
Edzard Santen- Auburn, AL  
Wade Johnson- Opelika, AL  
Drew Evans- Griffin  
James Bronson- Cataula  
Seven Johnson- Thomaston  
Jeff Demlow- Newnan  
Michael Ward- Newnan  
Milton Smith- Pine Mountain  
BSA Troop 730- Acworth, GA  
Sina Millikin- Peachtree City  
Brenda & Ted Theus- Midland, GA  
Stephen Carter- Mableton, GA  
BSA Troop 125- LaGrange  
Neal & Alison Gentry- Phenix City, AL

Vincent Altobellow- Lake Park, GA  
Davis and Carol Tyler- Moultrie  
Terri Bailey- Dothan, AL  
Terry Owens- Thomaston  
Lynn Lee- Montgomery- AL  
Don Bryan- Richmond Hill  
Sharon Hattaway- Vidalia  
Richard Parrish- Valley, AL  
Robert Lewis- Cataula  
Tamara Walker- Columbus  
Francis Coleman-Atlanta  
Trail Life Troop 1517- Marietta  
Larry Roger- LaGrange  
Mike Gunnells- Brooks, GA  
Chris Popp- Fortson  
Cheryl Whitlock- Opelika, AL  
Joel Woosley- Cataula  
Elizabeth Miller- Columbus  
Thomas Faulkner- Fortson  
Marie Massey- Midland  
Dwayne Gaston- Warner Robins, GA



Hikers from February hike including new member Tamara Walker (second from right)



(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

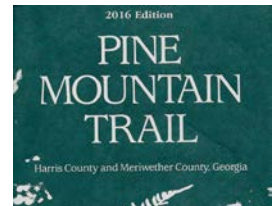
☐help with monthly workdays ☐newsletter contributions ☐Adopt-a-Trail section

### 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 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	\$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, 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.



### UNPREPARED HIKERS

Over the last few months, the FDR State Park managers/rangers have been getting more calls late in the day asking for help from hikers. Some have called with medical reasons, asking to be picked up if possible along the trail which is ok. The other ones usually have several things in common: They don't have a map (#1 cause of lost hikers.) Since they didn't have a map some took a wrong turn at trail intersection (got off a loop), or they didn't pay attention to what time they started out in relation to what time it got dark that day and ended up on the trail after dark (without a real flashlight.) Many don't have water either. If I meet 20 hikers on the trail I ask each if they have a map (and some have heard me ask hikers and have t-shirts so I won't them ask again) ....see photo. About 80% don't have map (don't really know where they are headed), don't have water and don't have a clue to which phone numbers to call if lost or hurt. Over the last few months, we have put out white with red letter stickers on sign post all over the trails. These stickers have the park emergency numbers and reminder to call them first (not 911.) If you meet a hiker and they don't have a map and not sure of where they are hiking, give them your map and set them straight on route. Contact the PMTA via our website, and we will gladly mail you a new replacement map. *Jim*



### MLK Holiday Hike.

We had a good group of hikers back in January for our MLK Holiday Hike. The best thing about the hike was our PMTA board member and friend Bill Vang and his wife Susan went on the hike. What's the big deal about Bill on the hike? Well late last September, Bill had a pretty serious heart bypass surgery. He is doing well recovery wise and did the whole 5 mile hike! Glad to see him back on the trail, along with longtime PMTA member Diana Helms.



Bill & Susan



Helen Hall out front



Robert & Joe

## Pig Out 2017 is set for October 21st!

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Pine Mountain Trail Association annual dinner (Pig Out) may be able to be held this year at the Large Group Camp dining hall where Pig Out dinners were held till 2011. Will let you know in a couple months in another newsletter notice.

### 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.



Chris Largent and Marie Massey on 1<sup>st</sup> Day Hike

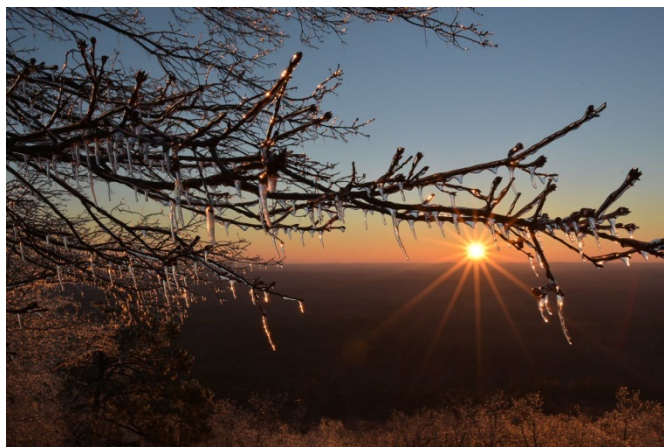
### Presidents Message

Going into year 42 of the existence of our beloved trail, I'd like to take the time to personally thank each and every one of our PMTA members. Past, present, and future, we depend on you to help us maintain the 40+ miles of trails in our system. Without you our workdays would be longer and harder, and our group hikes not as much fun. We enjoy the company and fellowship of all members, new and old alike.

This year, as you attend our work days and hikes, I challenge you to bring along someone new. I encourage you to show someone else what the trail has to offer, as they too may fall in love with the great outdoors. Happy trails, and remember to practice Leave No Trace. *Chris Largent*

### Along the trail.....

January 8 was a FROZEN day on the trails, but that day and day before made for some good photo opportunities. Chris Largent and Mike Riffle took these two! To get the real appreciation of these two photos in color, see Newsletter on our website.





## PMTA Road Side Trash Pickup Day – February 28<sup>th</sup>

The Pine Mountain Trail Association has done several road side trash pickup days in recent years, the latest before this years' was in 2014. Over the last three years the trash along the roads has eased up some. But visible day to day, trash just makes the park unsightly. Still can't understand how folks throw stuff out of their vehicles instead of holding it till they get home. Obviously they don't care and have no pride or concern about how a road looks. So the PMTA will do another pick up day as needed. This is just one way we can say thanks to FDR State Park for allowing us to help them support the Pine Mountain Trail and the park as a whole. So what did the volunteers do? Some 48 volunteers came to the park office parking lot by 9:30 a.m. where we gave them assigned sections of GA 190, Dowdell's Knob Road and GA 354 from the Liberty Bell Pool to the stone brige/GA 190. By 11:45 all the volunteers were done and back at the parking lot to show off some of the goofy things along the way they had found. We gave out prizes to the best goofy things. Chris Largent won top prize for his nasty toilet! Then we all enjoyed lunch provided by the PMTA. Even though we had 48 volunteers, last time we did this project we had 80+ and in 2012 we had well over 100. But thankful for those who did help and we got it done. Thanks to the FDR Maintenance guys (especially Kerry White) for helping by picking up the bags left roadside by our volunteers. Now, Joe D. Skinner gets a special thank you for coming up the day before and spending 4 hours and filling up 8 bags of stuff from just below the parking lot/overlook at Dowdell's Knob. India Pierce and her son along with Harry Rogers filled a BUNCH of bags in just that short .4 of a mile section from the pool back to the bridge. So next time we have a road side trash pickup day, think about helping. We work just about 3 hours then have a fun lunch together. The idea is not to just enjoy hiking on the trail but to give back to the park some service time. Remember the motto D. Neal Wickham used to remind us of "Service is the Rent We Pay for Our Space on Earth."



Mark Hughes, Malon Wickham, Ronnie Heard



Jerry Brown with ? he found



Jim Pound



Chris Largent-PMTA Pres.



Mike Riffle-PMTA VP



India & Pierce & son Zaine with Malon Wickham



Helen Hall with grandsons Whit and Hudson



Stephen Dumas, Linda Combs, Larry Day, Ed Jones



Bill Vang, Malon Wickham and Carl Carlson



Jo Myers and Bill Vang

### NEW BRIDGE for Turtle Hollow/Turtle Bluff Campsite

A large poplar fell right across the bridge leading to Turtle Bluff back in March. Mark Hughes and I cut away the tree and tried to save bridge but it needed replacing along with the sign post. So April 1, thanks to a great bunch of volunteers on a call workday, we hauled in and installed the new longer cedar bridge, reblazed the access trail, and put in a new sign and post. JH



## 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!

<b>HIKES*</b>	<b>LEADER</b>	<b>MEET AT:</b>	<b>HIKING:</b>	<b>DISTANCE:</b>
<u>May 6</u> 10 am (arrive by 9:30*) (This is our "flower hike")	Chris Largent	Rocky Point PL	Hiking Rocky Point PL to Mile 23	5 miles
<u>June 3</u> 10 am (National Trails Day hike)	Chris Largent & PMTA board	RV Trading Post	Mtn. Creek Trail	3.2 miles
<u>July 15</u> 10 am.	Jim Pound	Molly Hugger Hill PL	PMT to Fox Den Cove PL	5 miles
<u>Aug. 19</u> , 10 am	Chris Largent	Molly Hugger Hill PL	Sawtooth Trail to Fox Den Cove PL	2.8 miles
<u>Sept 4</u> 1 pm (First Annual Labor Day Hike)	Mark Hughes	Dowdell Knob TH	Dowdell Knob Loop	4.3 miles
October 21 1 PM	PMTA Board	Country Store PL	PMT to Park Office	4 miles
5 pm	PIG OUT DINNER (location to be announced)			

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meet up with other PMTA volunteers at:</b>
April 22	10 am	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
May 13	10 am	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
June 10	9 am	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
July 8	9 am	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Aug. 12	9 am	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Sept 9	9 am	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 Jim Hall at 706-569-0497