

The Pine Mountain Trail



Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc.

43rd Year 1975-2018

Spring 2018 Number 116

“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.

Volunteers needed to help on the PMT

Each month we have a work day on the PMT (if weather permits.) Some volunteers, who can, also do work on the trail during the week or on other weekends when there is not a scheduled workday. Folks like my brother Eddie, Mike Riffle and Mark & Daniel Hughes and I respond to downed trees reported along the trails and take care of them alone or with help. Small things like replacing Carsonite signs (the brown fiberglass ones) and wooden signs, and cleaning backcountry campsites need to be done, but don't require a whole workday group.

We have had over the years a handful of “Adopt-A-Trail” volunteers who prune and take responsibility for certain sections of the trails. For those of you who have served taking on a section in the past, we thank you. Recently most responded they will continue with their section. Some I didn't get a response from. Thanks to Donnie Lupo for taking on the Sawtooth Trail, and Michele Eisenzoph, for taking Mile 4-6.2. We also have a couple openings for those interested. PMTA members just hiking, like D. Neal Wickham taught me are encouraged to carry a small folding saw and pruners and take care of things **you** come upon (if possible.) Some take care of small blowdowns, some folks report things and others mentioned above take care of them with chainsaws (NOTE: See article in this newsletter about helpful accurate reporting of blowdowns.)

Over the past year we have had some good workdays where enough volunteers showed up to help carry in and install a couple new bridges, take care of some areas where erosion is taking its' hold on sections (and we've installed steps and water bars there.) A couple places still need re-leveling and more water-bars are needed. Thankfully we had enough help with scouting and clearing of the hurricane damage last September in just over two weeks.

There have been times however, when there were just not enough volunteers to actually tackle a project, nor someone willing to step up and lead a workday. Those workdays had to be cancelled. We miss Carl taking charge and planning out something each month.

So here is the request. Each and every one of you ask yourself, when was the last time you actually helped on a PMTA workday? **Or have you ever?** Helping on a workday is physically not possible for some folks who can walk but are not able to do “manual labor.” However, you could carry in some tool or even volunteer to bring water and snacks to others on a workday (either before or during a workday.) Ms. Jo Myers over the years has provided many a muffin for workdays! Some of you may even be wondering, should I take a Trail section? Well try....or ask to help someone if you have a favorite section of the trails you'd like to help with. .

There are several projects we need to tackle on the trails in coming months, but need enough monthly help to do them. If any of you have any ideas on how to get more folks to workdays, we'd sure like to hear them. We have hundreds of folks follow us on Facebook and “like” the efforts of a few volunteers, but honestly only a handful of those have helped/worked on a workday. It would be nice if we had a steady 15+ on workdays again.

We also need some folks to lead a PMTA hike. No you don't have to be a PMTA board member to lead a hike, just get up with me, Mike Riffle, Chris Largent, Eddie Hall or Mark Hughes and ask “what do I need to do to lead a hike!”. We don't want to cancel another hike because we don't have a leader. So starting as you read this, ask yourself “how can I help with the ways mentioned.”. Remember how hard Neal worked and stressed the motto.saying :
“Service is the Rent We Pay for Our Space on Earth.”

photo:Neal years ago



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 43 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 April 23, 2018..... 380 annual members with 56 organizations, 199 families and 125 individual members.
216 LIFE members: 117 families and 81 individuals and 18 organizations.

Most all membership transactions (new and renewal) were done via our website. All maps ordered came from our website MAPS OF THE TRAIL section.

Welcome to these new members and those who renewed/reinstated their memberships!

Carla Anderson- Smiths, AL	Jim Ball- Leesburg, Ga	BSA Troop 118- Brook, GA
Chip Chaffin- Pendergrass, GA	Francis Coleman- Atlanta	Jayne Daily- Clarkrange, TN
Aaron Evard- Upatoi, GA	Mike Flynn- Columbus	Dexter Jennings- Cusseta, GA
Donnie Lupo-Hamilton, Ga	Tony Narcisse- Johns Creek, GA	Jed Smith- Peachtree City, GA
Lamar Weaver- Columbus	Lance Whitley- Leesburg, GA	Douglas Morris- Fortson, GA
Annette Ballard- St. Petersburg, FL	Scott Peavey- Perry, GA	Al Robertson III- Moreland, GA
BSA Troop 47- Newnan, GA	Bo Mallory-Montgomery, AL	Hans Holland-Tallahassee, FL
BSA Troop 631-Oviedo, FL	David Holt- Columbus	Marc Bass- Auburn
Steve Smith- Luthersville, GA	Jimmy Lee- Newnan, GA	Danny Maynard-Senoia, GA
BSA Troop 454- Gainesville, FL	Chris Gray- Fayetteville, GA	Adam Toney- Columbus
Jennifer Boyd- Columbus	Bryan & Michelle Carrier- Warner Robins	
Joe & Sheri Johnson- Phenix City, AL	Royal Rangers Outpost- Newnan, GA	Duke Walsh- Columbus
David Branon- Moreland, GA	Everette Graydon- Macon, GA	Virginia Hudson- Molena, GA

Backpacking and the “revised” reservation system

We reported in the Spring 2017 newsletter about a new reservation system that we were told would be up and running by August 1st of last year. 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 person redoing the system has yet to get the new system up and running! So reservations for FDR State Park are still stuck for now with allowing only 16 permits per night (vs possible 26). The new system we are told should now be in place by December of this year. On our website we will have new photos of each site, and show photos of the overall site and those with two fire-rings will be lettered A & B. Boy Scout units/church and college groups, when obtaining a permit will still have an entire site to themselves if there are 7 or more in their group.

You will be informed via our Facebook page and website when the new system is up/active. In the meantime, if you as an individual, couple or family are a PMTA member and seek a backcountry permit and are told the backcountry sites are all permitted out for a particular night, have the clerk at the park office, contact the park manager on duty who will help you get an override to “share” a two fire ring site. Scouts and groups can continue to obtain named site reservations as explained on the SCOUTS AND GROUPS section of our website. Got questions? Call me (Jim at 706-569-0497)

FOUND ON THE TRAIL- a wife & husband!

A couple years ago on a night hike we met a great guy named Robert Daugherty. Robert's wife had passed away due to struggle with cancer and he was now a single Dad to two college age daughters. Robert, on his off days from Total Systems, hiked more with us and started to help on workdays. Then along comes Tam Walker. Similar story. Great, quiet person who is a parapro at Britt David school in Columbus and has a grown daughter. Her husband had passed away few years back also from cancer. Well they began showing up for hikes and workdays together. Humm. By fall of last year we learned they got married! So congratulations to Robert and Tam. This is the first married couple we know of who actually “met on the trail”.



Pig Out 2018 is coming Saturday, November 17th...

The 43rd Pine Mountain Trail Association annual dinner (Pig Out) will again be held at the Large Group Campground Dining Hall (now known also as the FDR Event Center down off the Group Camp Road) on Saturday November 17th. Yes this is about 2+ weeks later than we usually have a Pig Out, but there were several factors in choosing this date. Mainly availability of the dining hall. There have been lots of weddings and such and place is booked. As for Pig Out day, there will be a moderate rated 3.4 mile pre-Pig-Out hike on the East End Loop from the WJSP-TV Tower Trailhead starting at 1 p.m. Help us celebrate another great year and our 43rd anniversary! More details to follow.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Our annual NTD is coming up June 2nd. National Trails Day is a nationwide hiking event started by the American Hiking Association in 1993 and is always the first Saturday in June. We will have a 10 a.m. hike around the Mountain Creek Trail starting out from the group shelter picnic area below the dam in the RV Campground. At the same time as the hike, those not wanting to hike but learn about basic of backpack camping can stick around and hear a presentation about that. About 12:30 for hikers and those at the presentation, we will serve pizza, some BBQ sandwiches, water/soft drinks and fruit to all. FREE. The hike is free too but you still will need to purchase a \$5 GA DNR Daily Park Pass. After lunch, we will again offer a talk about backpacking basics and a discussion talk about hiking basics (what to take/bring and basic map information reading.) NTD: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/national-trails-day-history/>

Eagle Scout Project near Dowdell's Knob

Jim Hall

Last year PMTA member and scout leader Bill Storey, contacted Chris Largent about a scout who needed an Eagle project. Scouts earning their Eagle rank have to do a project as part of their final requirements. Bill told of Cody Knight and what a "great scout" he is. So we gave Cody the idea of replicating an old Scout Trail sign that used to be on the access trail off the PMT leading up to the Dowdell Knob Trailhead. Bill had researched about 6 years ago and found about the old trail (that predated the Pine Mountain Trail) and was actually an Eagle project for Mark Schultz from Pine Mountain Valley in 1973. Mark and volunteers worked long and hard to complete a trail from Dowdell's Knob over to the Warm Springs Foundation area. When D. Neal Wickham began the Pine Mountain Trail in 1975, he ended up using about 2 miles of the Scout trail on the way to the Cascade Falls area. We will be posting a complete write up on our website about the history Bill found of the old Scout Trail that includes Mark's original notes. The sign Mark installed for the trail stood from 1974 till about 14 years ago when it "disappeared". Cody's Eagle project involved working with us on the site, purchasing the new post and sign board, having it engraved and coated, along with totally clearing the nearby trails of dead trees and limbs. On Saturday April 28th, the new sign went up under Cody's direction (his Dad was there to help too) and plaques were installed noting what the sign is about, then it was left for the concrete to dry. On Sunday the 29th, Cody with help from Bill and myself concrete rocked the base of each post. Shortly after we finished the rock work, a group of Codys' family, friends, other scouts and leaders but most importantly Mark Shultz and his Dad Dr. Schultz gathered to dedicate the new gateway sign. This is a great historical project to enhance the PMT and the Dowdell's Knob area.



Cody Knight- BSA Troop 169



(Renew early to avoid missing a newsletter issue)

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Work number _____ E-mail address _____

Membership Category: ☐ renewing member ☐ new member

24-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 in Columbus. See photos and how to order the below at the STORE on the PMTA website.

Maps-- (new **2017 revised** edition) \$4.00

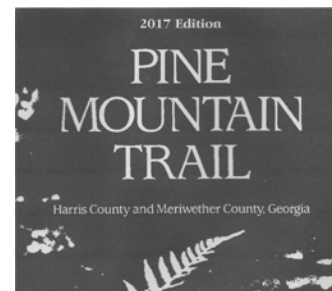
Kids Map (**2015 40th Anniversary** edition) CLOSEOUT priced \$1.00

Patches --The Pine Mountain Trail logo patch \$2.00

Medallion--Brass PMT logo hiking staff medallion \$3.00

PMT Pin- Brass with acrylic coating with a pin for your hat or vest \$3.50

PMTA Car Tag—white, plastic tag with full color PMT logo (reduced; were \$5) \$4.00



Photos from along the trail.....



In the early summer of 2011 we installed a temporary bridge near Dry Falls to cross a hole where a tree was blown over. That bridge was replaced on January 11th with a better one. There was a small bridge near Slippery Rock Falls and it was damaged in the 2015 flood



and had started to rot, so due to bank erosion also, that bridge was replaced with a 10' one. We had 25 volunteers show up that day help carry in all the pieces and install these two.



April 14 hike



MLK Hike January 15



October 14, 2017 backpacking trip

Pine Mountain Trail re-route west of Bumble Bee Ridge..

In coming weeks the PMT will be re-routed as you go downhill off Bumble Bee Ridge. Somehow, years ago the trail got changed via a short-cut and the trail got marked as such going nearly straight downhill. The real trail path will be outlined with stone and have one switch back with steps. The grade of the original path is a lot less steep than the current path being used. So if you are coming east away from Cascade Falls and past that last creek crossing before coming uphill, just as you start uphill the re-route (original path) is slightly off to the right, then makes a left turn and levels out. The current path is quite steep and worn and actually a pain to get up. We hope to get this re-route done on the next workday coming up May 19th. It shouldn't take that long. We just need about 15 folks for about 1.5 hours once in to the location. **HELP!** Workday group will meet at the park office and head out promptly at 10 a.m. so arrive a few minutes before then and be ready to head out with us.

2018 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 Wade706-324-7296 Columbus

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



Mark & Tamara Hughes enjoying the MLK hike.

Vice Presidents Message

from Mike Riffle

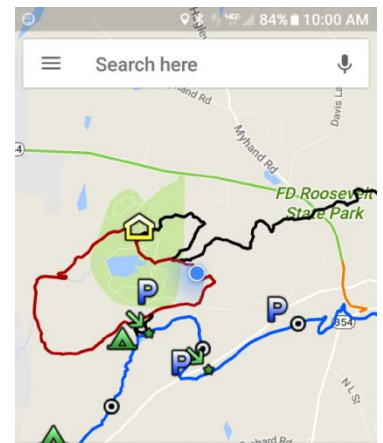
Spring has returned to the trail! The barren views of winter have been replaced with lush green foliage and the sweet aroma of wildflowers. As you are out enjoying the views remember that we, the members of the PMTA, are the caretakers of the trail. If you see something that needs worked on that you cannot fix yourself, please let myself, Chris, or Jim know about it. Better yet, let us know that you would like to lead the next workday to fix the problem. We will give you all the support you need! Some things to look for include:

- trail erosion/gullies
- shortcuts at switchbacks
- overgrown or muddy sections of trail
- blowdowns higher than a stepover (*see in this newsletter where Jim describes how to report blown down trees*)
- damaged or broken footbridges

Mike

Reporting blowdowns and reporting lost or hurt hikers you meet or help for yourself.

Reporting accurately a blown down tree blocking the trail is important. Accurately saves volunteers a lot of time, and lets them know better not only where the tree is but which size chain saw if any is needed to clear it. **So what is best way to report a blowdown?** Take a couple photos (from the trail on each side of it) then if you have cell service on a smart phone you can go to our website www.pinemountaintrail.org and click on the first tab, LOST ON THE TRAIL. With Google maps it will show an interactive character map and a circle noting where you are. "Screen shot" that map. Then go back to our website and down at the bottom of the first page is "contact us".....Send an email and give your name and phone number (in case we have a question) and the photos of the tree and the map. This way we can see accurately the location of the blowdown. Many have reported blowdowns as being "just a few minutes from" and GPS coordinate, and that is not as helpful/accurate description as the map and tree photos. **Seeking help on the trail for yourself or someone you meet?** Get the map up on your phone as noted above, screen shot it and when you call the park rangers emergency numbers on the back of the map (NOT 911), tell them you are going to text them a screen shot of the map showing where you or another hiker is. You can also use the map and photos to help report other things (such as yellow-jacket nest, smoldering fires, other possible unsafe conditions.) The map to right, is one Mike Riffle sent noting a tree down on Mountain Creek Trail just east of the Pool Trail intersection.



Pine Mountain Trail in...
Pine Mountain Trail including loops and connecting trails-courtesy of Mike Riffle
Created: February 17, 2016
[VIEW MAP LEGEND](#)

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:
June 2 10 a.m.	Mark/Malon/Mike & Jim Hall	Group Shelter below	Mountain Creek Trail (clockwise)	3.2
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE		the dam in RV Campground		

Those who attend be given chance to attend one of two "classes"- Backpacking Intro- Hiking Intro Lunch served at 12:30 FREE.

July 7 10 a.m.	TBA_____	Country Store Parking Lot	Overlook Loop (clockwise)	3.4
Aug 4 10 a.m.	TBA_____	WJSP TV Tower /Mile 23	East End Loop	3.4
Sept. 8 10 a.m.	TBA_____	Rocky Point Parking Lot	Hiking PMT to Dowdell's Knob	3.4
Oct. 6 10 a.m.	TBA_____	Dowdell's Knob Trailhead	West on PMT to Molly Hugger PL	3.3
Nov 3 1:30 PM	Jim-Mark	FDR Park Office	to Big Knot Campsite	

OVERNIGHT BACKPACKING TRIP

November 17__	Pre Pig Out Hike _1:30 PM	FDR PARK Office	Office to Country Store	3.9
Pig Out dinner at Large Group Camp Dining Hall/Event Center starting at 4:30 Dinner at 5:40				
December _8	TBA _____	FDR Office	Hiking PMT to Mt Creek to Pool Trail to Fox Den Cove PL	4.4

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

Date	Time	Meet up with other PMTA volunteers at:	Workday leader:
Apr 21	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot _____	
May 19	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot _____	
June 9	9 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot _____	
July 14	9 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot _____	
Aug_11	9 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot _____	
September 15	9 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot _____	
October 13_	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot _____	
November 10	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot _____	
December 1	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