

The Pine Mountain Trail



Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, Inc.

44th Year 1975-2019

Summer 2019 Number 118

“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 STILL needed to help on the PMT

Volunteers still need for our ADOPT A TRAIL sections.

In the last 2 newsletters we used the whole first page talking about the need for more volunteers to work on workdays. Well we still haven't had any change in the number of volunteers showing up for workdays the last 12 months. Out of 53 new members since last November, only a couple of you new folks have come helped on a workday. We get emails and postings/"Likes" on Facebook telling of problem sections on the trail and reporting blown down trees, and "LIKES" as thank you for work on the trails, but very few come help. So, I encourage those reporting or commenting to come help out on a upcoming workday. On the recent workday we had six volunteers show up.....Six folks and we needed 16 so we could split into two teams. We ask folks to email us they coming, so we can plan task and have tools to do the task.

We still have a few sections in our Adopt a Trail section list that needs someone to check/prune them. Call me for details if you wish to help with a section (Jim 706-569-0497.)

It is our sincere hope that each of you reading this newsletter will try to come not only hike some on the trail but come for just ONE workday at least in the coming months. Now I know many of you are of the age and lack ability to come physically do work, but some could walk and carry water or a tool. Then others can't even hike any more. BUT you could meet the workday group as we meet up at the park office and show your support for those who can work by bringing fruit, donuts/sausage biscuits/juice or chocolate milk. Want to do that? Let me or Mike Riffle know and we'll tell ya how many to bring for.

PMTA Pig Out is not going to happen this year. See details on Page 5.

PMTA Group Led theme Hikes and 45 Mile Club

Thanks to PMTA President Mike Riffle! Call Mike for details.

Odd trees along the PMT

Over the next couple months, email me your photos of the oddest trees you see along the Pine Mountain Trails along with your US mail mailing address. Each person who sends odd tree photos, we will send you a new 2019 KIDS and regular PMT map. The best photos, I'll put in next newsletter. Here are couple I have made:



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 44 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. pinemtrailassoc_jm@msn.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

From Jerry Brown

As of July 2019..... 336 2-year members with 46 organizations, 169 families and 121 individual members. **221** LIFE members: 117 families and 84 individuals and 20 organizations. We have 194 lapsed memberships.

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

Note: all new memberships are two year ones not just for one year. Welcome the following new members joining since last October.

Columbus: Kathryn Anderson-Dale Wolfe-Andrea Richardson-Christy Lemieux-Karen Smith-Oluseyi Olubadewo & Gene Stewart

LaGrange: Michelle Gillaspay- Maria Stroud-Donald Johnson**McDonough:** Ron Eckert

Fairburn: Richard Jernigan

Albany: Paul Johnson

Peachtree City: BSA Troop 181-Lisa Mathews

Fayetteville: BSA Troop 176

McDonough GA: Jason Brooks

Pine Mountain: Mike Stewart

Shiloh: Terry Rumph

Waverly Hall: Cori Gondek

Warm Springs: Cody Nickel

Cataula: Bethanie Hagues

Powder Spring GA: John Phillips

Decatur: Brent Hayslett

Eatonton: BSA Troop 130

Meansville: Jay Napoletano

Griffin GA; Kevin Haulk

Forsyth: Charles Claybaugh

Newnan: David Poteet

Macon: Frank Valtierra

Savannah: Brooke Steele-David Alley

Jonesboro: Raymond Herbst

Hamilton: John Bunn

Alpharetta: BSA Troop 9622

Augusta -BSA Troop 45 –Mary Curry

Thomaston: Ron Anglin

Villa Rica GA: Jonathan King

Opelika Alabama: Greg Weaver

Phenix City: Robert Bias-Anita Adams

Auburn AL: Eden Scott

Lafayette AL: Seth House

Lanett AL; Walter Douglas

Panama City FL: Martha Atkinson

Tallahassee Florida: Dawn Griffin-David Rohe-Joe Gabovitz

Davenport Florida: Maria Hemminger

NOTE: *Again we welcome you , and hope you will not only enjoy hiking and backpacking the Pine Mountain but give back at least a few hours of trail work on a workday during the coming months.....*

Hikers on 8/3 “Watermelon” hike on East End Loop



OR go to www.pinemountaintrail.org and renew under the JOIN THE PMTA section

(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 ... Not all these items are for sale at the park office. See photos and how to order the stuff below at the STORE on the PMTA website www.pinemountaintrail.org

Maps-- (new **2019 revised** edition)

\$ 4.00

Kids Map (**2019**)

\$ 2 .50

Patches --The Pine Mountain Trail logo patch

\$2.00

Medallion--Brass PMT logo hiking staff medallion

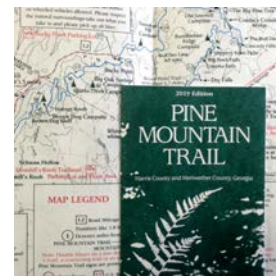
\$3.00

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) \$2.00

36" Pine Mountain Trail map (call Jim @ 706-569-0497 for how to purchase) 35.00



What's with all the dead trees along/near the trails?

During the summer till late fall of 2016 there was an extended period of time that it did not rain. This drought and its effect started showing up by the spring of 2017. Many 6-8" mainly oak trees died first and then larger trees. The most affected areas are near Fox Den Cove Parking Lot on the PMT, all along the Sawtooth Trail, from Mile 14 east to about Mile 15 (some 30-40 % plus of the trees near Dowdell's Knob are dead/dying), all along the White Candle Trail and part of the Beaver Pond Trail south of GA 190 west to the PMT and around Rocky Point down west to about Mile 17.7. The dying trees (those without leaves and some with) exhibit a grayish streak bark. This is not just a few trees but hundreds. Help by reporting downed trees as correctly as possible. Take photos, screen shot photo of location (using Google maps) and email them to the PMTA or text them to Jim at 706-325-4113. Come upon a dead limb across the trail? Please try to move it yourself (or carry small handsaw and try) Logs that are totally on ground and easy to step over are just that, "step overs." If off the ground or larger than 12-14" that is something to report that we need to remove.

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

Back on May 19th 2018, the trail was re-routed as you go downhill off Bumble Bee Ridge west. The re-route took it back to the original planned route.

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 new re-route (original path) now is a hard right, then up a ways makes a left turn and levels out.

The old path was quite steep and worn and actually a pain to get up. Well back in April this year we had to install signs noting the reroute as folks kept using the old path, tossing aside the limbs and logs we put to block off the old path! Use the new marked/blazed path please.



What's New along the Trails and in FDR State Park and what to watch for.....

The Georgia D.O.T. sign crews have been over last few months changing out many of the trail signs and warning signs along GA. 190. At Fox Den Cove Parking Lot area, you will notice that the new big brown Pine Mountain Trail signs now says "Mile 6.2" on the bottom. We used to have wooden signs noting this. All the wooden sign post have been replaced with metal "break-away" post also.

GIFT TO PMTA: There are a few running groups that use our trails. One group back in March, donated a new Stihl blower to the PMTA with funds they had left over from a run. Thanks to ladies of Ga. Single Track runners for gift.



NO WHEELED

ANYTHING: We have had more instances with "backpackers" bringing wheeled carts/coolers and wagons on the trails to campsites. Per park rules for years is rule that nothing with wheels allowed (see PMTA map and website.) If you see an individual with something with a wheel (cart, wagon, cooler, stroller, bike) kindly inform them they are not allowed and good idea to exit trail, then call the park emergency

numbers and report them. We have found over last few years broken wheels from wheeled coolers and the coolers abandoned. In June, one two-family group was confronted leaving a mess of trash at Grindstone Gap Campsite. They had to make THREE trips out with large, non-backpacking gear. They had brought in 4 coolers, a large stroller with gear like a large tent and Coleman stove on it, and a small wheel wagon (partially shown in photo here.) They stayed two nights and thus created 25-35 gallon trash bag of trash and were about to leave a pile of cardboard in smoldering HOT fire-ring.

45 Mile Club and Themed hikes.....

Thanks to PMTA President Mike Riffle for laying out the new 45 Mile Club. Each group led hike this year counts toward hiking the entire trail system. Hikes also have a "theme." In March you see below Mike in his Irish kilt, and then in May it was *Star Wars* Day hike. Call Mike (706-464-3136) for details on how to become a member of the 45 Mile Club and rewards. See on our website under calendar of events, for rest of this year hikes.



There will NOT be a 2019 Pig Out

In 2017 we had the first Pig Out since 2010 back in the newly remodeled Large Group Camp Dining Hall (now called the FDR Event Center.) Attendance however was way less than 100.

In November of 2018, the Pig Out planned for then, we had only 54 reservations and proceeded to have the Pig Out and ordered food, bought water/soft drinks and ice cream treats for 50 (figuring we'd have more than enough food even with a couple folks who may show up without reservations or some cancel.) Guess what? We only had **37** of those 54, show up. Thus it cost the PMTA over \$220.00 for the no-shows. The Pig Out always cost more to put on than we bring in from cost of meals charged, but 2018 cost over meal charge per person exceeded \$12.00.

Some said that attendance may have been down in past due to conflicting time/dates with college football games, not enough advance notice (3 months +)... etc. Whatever the reason, the PMTA board decided not to have a Pig Out this fall. We will wait and see about having one in the fall next year.

Photos from 2018 Pig Out. Thanks to Danny Rock for several things he did, Tamara Hughes decorated. Jonathan, Tamara, Jim, Mike and Mark served the food. Shown below waiting for food is Bill Vang. Group photo is of Joe Wade and the Barretts and Mark. JB on the maintenance staff has since moved to Hard Labor Creek state park as lead ranger.



Pine Mountain Trail Association Volunteer Appreciation Dinner November 9th.

This will be a **free/no cost**, by invitation only BBQ dinner on November 9th and the PMTA will be contacting/inviting those volunteers who have worked on the trails on workdays, and alone doing Adopt A Trail work this year. Those with a certain number of hours will be contacted/invited to attend this dinner on November 9th at Large Group Camp Dining Hall/FDR Event Center as guest of the PMTA. If you are an Adopt a Trail/Campsite Volunteer, make sure you report your hours to Jim Hall [pinemtrailassoc. jim@msn.com](mailto:jim@msn.com)

2019 PMTA Board of Directors

Mike Riffle, President	706-464-3136	Cataula
Chris Largent, VicePresident.....	706-580-9549	Columbus
Sam Burke, Finance	706-563-1635	Midland
Jim Hall, Secretary	706-569-0497	Columbus
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



Mike Riffle and Mark Hughes- National Trails Day

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

Presidents Message

Mike Riffle

Greetings everyone. It's hard to believe that summer is nearly halfway over. Soon we will be enjoying the cooler days of fall. Speaking of fall, we have some outstanding monthly hikes lined up. On September 14 we have the perennial favorite night hike. Then on October 5 we will have our first ever sunrise hike. Then from November 1-3 we will have our first group led thru hike of the PMT. We have 11 slots left for that hike so if you are interested send an email to myself or Jim Hall (pinemttrailassoc._jim@msn.com there is an underscore between the period and jim) to reserve your slot. Additional information about all the hikes can be found on the website.

We have completed six of the ten group hikes required to obtain the coveted 45 Mile Club patch. We have two hikers who have completed all six hikes, and several in the three to five hike range. In case you haven't heard, anybody who completes ten group hikes over a two year period will receive a patch. We also have plans for a separate rocker patch for those who have hiked on their own. If you want more information come on out to one of the group hikes and get your name on the roster.

Imagine what would happen if you stopped taking care of your residence. It soon would not be very desirable. Now imagine what would happen if we stopped taking care of the trails. Participation in maintaining the trails has dwindled to just a handful of dedicated volunteers. We need more help! To that end you will notice elsewhere in this newsletter that we are suspending the Pig Out dinner this year to honor those volunteers who maintain the trail. There is still time to get enough hours worked to be invited to this appreciation dinner. Will you get the invite?

See you on the trail!

Mike Riffle
President, PMTA

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

Reporting accurately a blown down tree blocking the trail is important. Accuracy saves volunteers a lot of time, and lets them know better not only where the tree is but what size chain saw if any is needed to clear it. **So what is the 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 should show an interactive character map and a blue 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....Or, text it to Jim Hall at 706-325-4113. This way we can see accurately the location of the blowdown. Many have reported blowdowns as being "just a few minutes from" and GPS coordinates, and that is not as helpful or accurate a 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 are or another hiker is.

Bill Jenkins - One of the Original "Red Hat Gang"

Bill Jenkins was born and grew up in Columbus, Georgia the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Jenkins and attended Columbus College.

Bill first started helping on the Pine Mountain Trail in the Spring of 1978. He assisted in Scouting and Flagging the route of the Trail in the vicinity of the Beaver Ponds down to Cascade Falls. At that time he was only 11 years old.

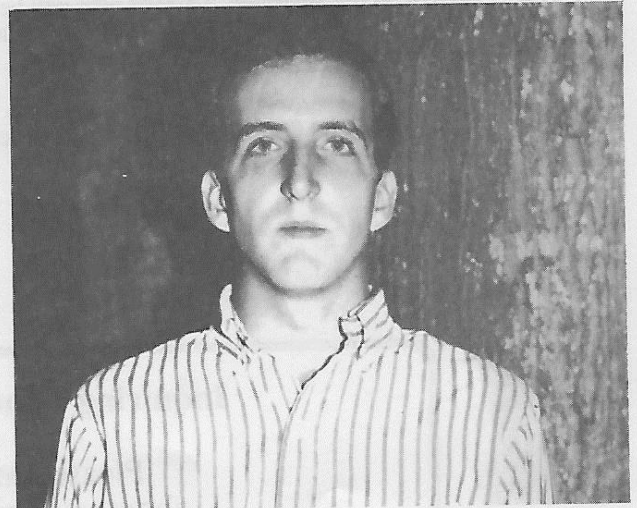
In the Fall of '78, when work on this section of trail progressed on a weekly basis, Bill was one of the regulars, working weekly on through the winter until this section was completed - and for the next several years working on the rerouting at the Buzzard Roost, Hogback Mountain, Rocky Point, Dowdell Knob, Big Poplar section, and early reroutings undertaken.

After a while, along with several of his buddies that he had recruited to help, the "Red Hat Gang" was established with each workers being given a red wool hat, after they had proven themselves working on the Trail and had the sufficient number of days work to be so honored. Jenkins Spring was named in Bill's honor. These young men would not "sign their name" to their "work" until they were satisfied that the Trail was "right".

Bill also helped erect each of the mile marker cairnes and has helped maintain the Trail since.

Presently Bill is the manager of Southern Saw and Equipment Co. in Columbus. His brother Jack is a Trail hiker and volunteer as well as his sister Margaret Schley, who assisted many Trail hikers with maps and information. Older brother Mack has donated equipment for work on the Trail.

We are all indebted to Bill Jenkins for his efforts and dedication to the Pine Mountain Trail.



In 2008, I got up with Bill and gave him a copy of the wooden sign which we were placing on new (Fall of 2008) Jenkins Springs Campsite. Near of course Jenkins Springs named after Bill. Middle: Barry Berry, Bill Jenkins, Chris Beattie (deceased), Brown Dog and John Swann. R: Gang in May of 2016



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:
Sept 14 th 7:30 PM.	_____	Country Store Parking Lot	Overlook Loop	3.4
NIGHT HIKE under a FULL Harvest Moon				
October 5 6:00 AM \	_____	Boot Top Parking Lot	Dowdell Knob Loop	4.3
SUNRISE HIKE ..Sun comes up at 7:36 so bring flashlight....6 am too early? You can also meet us with group at Dowdell's Knob about sun up and finish loop from there.				
Nov 1-3 9 a.m Friday	Mike Riffle	Country Store PL	23 miles of the PMT	
OVERNIGHT BACKPACKING TRIP (FREE except parking pass - Limited to 15 so contact us if interested. Reservations request to Jim at pinemtrailassoc.jim@msn.com). First night at Beech Bottom and night of 2 nd at Brown Dog				
Nov 9 1 PM	_____	Dowdell's Knob PL	Dowdell Knob Loop	4.3
This is alternate hike for those who couldn't make sunrise hike in October..Bring picnic lunch, eat then we'll hike.				
Dec 7 th 10:00 AM	_____	FDR Office	Long Leaf Loop	(strenuous) 6.9
Jan 1st 10 :00AM	_____	Dowdell's Knob Trailhead	Dowdell's Knob Loop	4.3
FIRST DAY HIKE 2020				

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

Date	Time	Meet up with other PMTA volunteers at:
Sept 7 th	9 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
Oct 12 th	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
November 16 th	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
December 14	10 a.m.	FDR State Park Office Parking Lot
January 11	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