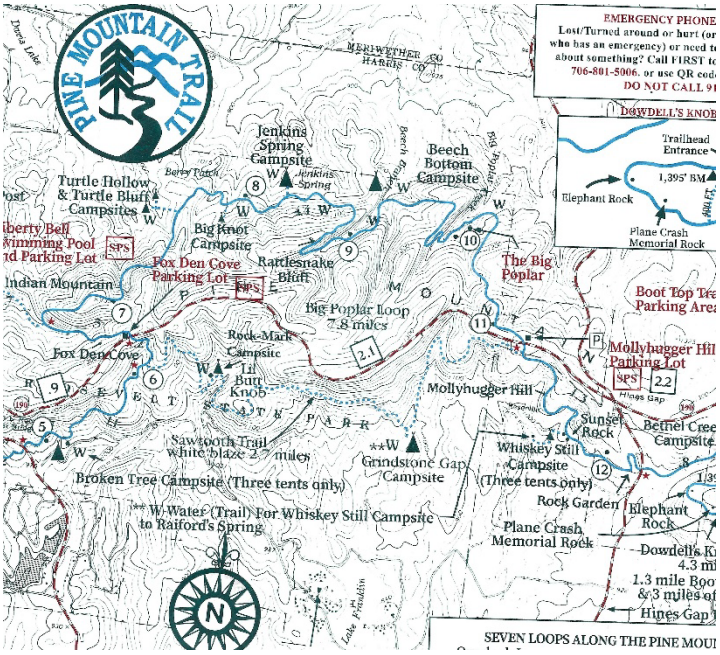
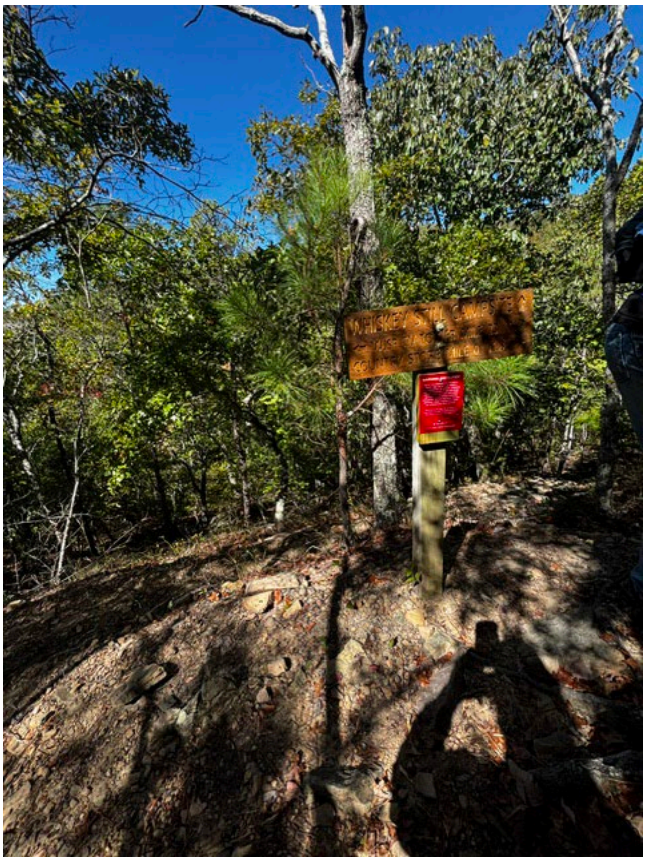


If you park at Mollyhugger Hill Parking Lot, and cross the road (south of GA Hwy 190) you are going east down the Pine Mountain Trail. About .8 mile in you come to large rock (Sunset Rock) and just before it on the right a wooden campsite sign. There is a brown Carsonite site on the left of the trail with arrow pointing down the white blazed site trail. Hiking west, say from Dowdell's Knob area? Hike west on the PMT, cross Hines Gap Road and pass Mile 12. Just beyond Mile 12 on the left is the wooden sign and right the Carsonite sign. Site trail is 317' long downhill to west. Follow the white blazed site trail to the three designated tent spots on the hillside. This site was first established in 1978 as one of the first campsites on the PMT. Redone in 1998 and water source trail added. In October of 2026 the site got a metal fire ring (and other improvements) down below the tent spots. There are log seats around the metal fire ring and at the middle tent spot is wooden bench. NOTE: Use the metal fire ring….Especially DO NOT build another fire ring near the 3 tent spots or anywhere. **Water**: There is a sign near the fire ring pointing to a 1/4 mile white blazed/marked water trail to a small spring southwest of the site. Sign at the spring reads ***"Raiford's Spring"***, named after Raiford Story, the scout who reworked the site and built the spring trail in 1998.. His parents (Bill and Lynn Story) still help clean/maintain the campsite. There room for only **3 tents.** This means only one person or small group of about 6 using max **three** tents will be issued a permit for this site. There are NO trees at the tent sites for hammocks. NOTE: As noted it is ¼ mile to water. **DO NOT build a campfire unless you first go for about 2 gallons of water to drown your campfire before leaving**. For a complete history of the campsite, go to the end of this description or see it on our ***"How things along the PMT got their names***" on this website. Read about Whiskey Still Campsite and other interesting points along the trails



Helen Hall with new bench 10/17/2026

Whiskey Still Camp
NO camp fires or
fire rings on tent sites
Only use established
fire ring below

1/4
MILE

Crop
Today
12:03 PM
Boy Scouts of America
Eagle Project
Refurbish Campsite
Added Water Trail & Sign
$500 in Trail Maintenance Tools
Troop 169
Midland, Georgia
1998
Matt Lowe
Boy Scouts of America
Eagle Project

RAIFORD'S
SPRING

Crop
RAIFORD'S
SPRING

October 17, 2026 work at campsite.

Volunteers Mark Hughes, Jerry, Jim and Helen Hall carried in the metal fire ring and bench. When near the campsite, two backpackers carried the fire ring down the steep trail. , and worked on doing away with the rock fire ring on October 17, 2026. The fire ring was like a “volcano”. Many of the rocks were removed that day, but was decided more had to go.

On October 20, 2026…Mark Hughes and Jim Hall came back and redid all the signs, removed more fire ring rocks, reblazed the site and water trails.

Next couple pages are about the history of the campsite.

This is Lynn Storey with the old campsite sign.

What's left of "whiskey still" at the campsite.

Carl Carlson and Raiford Story in 1998

Here is the history of Whiskey Still Campsite:

In 1978, St. Paul UMC Troop 1 in Columbus, Scoutmaster D. Neil Wickham (who founded the PMT) wanted to establish a needed campsite in the area of ***Sunset Rock*** along the route of the Pine Mountain Trail near Mile 11.5 He got one of his scouts, **Matt Lowe**, of Columbus to take it on as an Eagle Project. This proved to be quite the undertaking with first cutting a trail down to an area where three large tent areas were dug out of a steep rocky hillside. Much rock was removed from above the hill to build high retaining walls for each tent spot. The campsite was properly named **Whiskey Still Campsite**, since there were the remains of an old whiskey still operation just below the camp. One of the hillside rocky outcrops would have made the perfect outlook post overlooking the valley floor. There are ax marks on the old rusty 55 gallon drums that showed the revenuers had gotten to it.

By 1998, because of erosion and little maintenance, Whiskey Still campsite had fallen out of frequent use with only one tent spot that was usable, and there was no water source at the campsite. So Raiford Storey of Troop 169 of Midland, Ga took as his Eagle Project to refurbish the Whiskey Still and cut/mark a 1/4 mile trail to a springhead to establish a water source for the campsite SW of the camp at a small spring. This proved a worthy project that took 4 work weekends to complete. It involved much rock rolled off the hillside to shore up the backside of the tent spots, digging out the tent spots, and rebuilding their retaining walls and cutting the trail to the water source. PMTA Trail Maintenance Supervisor **Carl Carlson** did a wonderful job assisting those that worked the project. As part of his Eagle Project, Raiford donated $500 of trail maintenance tools to the PMTA.

As a lifetime member of the Pine Mountain Trail Association, , Raiford's dad Bill, has helped maintain the Whiskey Still campsite and a mile of the nearby Pine Mountain Trail. He was honored that in 2017 PMTA named the springhead, **Raiford's Spring**. Putting Raiford's Spring on the trail map beginning that year. A sign is posted with the name at the spring.

Many years ago, Bill Storey had asked D. Neal Wickham about the scout who originally did Whiskey Still, hoping to join him up with Raiford, but didn't have any luck with it. So in Aug 2020, Jim Hall of the PMTA forwarded Bill an email from Gary Steier about a family in Maryland looking for information on an old Eagle Project done in 1978 on the Pine Mountain Trail. It wasn't a project that they were able to identify. Immediately Bill realized that it was the Eagle Project that Raiford had built on. Sadly, Matt Lowe had passed away six years before in Maryland, and his wife Stephenie and twin sons, Thomas and Peter wanted to visit Matt's Eagle Project. Both Matt's sons were Life Scouts with their eye on earning their Eagle. So, on Easter Sunday , which would have been Matt's 59th birthday, Bill met the family at Molly Hugger Hill parking lot. They walked in to visit Matt Lowe's 1978 Eagle Project. While there, they re-rocked the retaining walls, cleaned up around the campsites, redid the firepit, visited Raiford's Spring and posted a Eagle Project plaque for Matt Lowe. Around the firepit, they Facetimed with Raiford in Woodinville, Washington. D. Neal Wickham would have been pleased.

Account of Whiskey Still Campsite from Bill Storey 10/17/2026

Sunset Rock on the PMT, right at entrance to Whiskey Still Campsite.