



BMTA ACTIVITY CALENDAR

May - July

May

May 3 (Monday) Four Season Hike Series – Spring: BMT - Hudson Gap, out and back. Dog friendly hike (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 4-5 miles. We're going to offer this relatively short and fairly easy hike during each season this year. Come out to see spring wildflowers this time. Hike Leader Ken Cissna. For more information contact hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

May 3 (Monday) Bald River Falls Trail off the Cherohala Parkway in Tellico Plains, TN. Moderate 9.8 miles round trip. We will hike this incredibly beautiful trail to the last waterfall a short distance from Bald River and eat lunch there, then return to our vehicles. There are numerous impressive waterfalls in the first 2 miles of the trail, then the trail flattens out somewhat with some great campsites and swimming holes. This trip is listed as moderate due to its length and the rockiness of the trail. Hike Leaders Brenda and Rick Harris. For more information contact hikeleaderBH@bmtamail.org or hikeleaderRH@bmtamail.org.

May 5 (Wednesday) Lady Slipper Hike: BMT at Weaver Creek, Blue Ridge. Moderate to strenuous 3.8 miles. This will be a SLOW, LEISURELY hike to enjoy the wildflowers. Initially we'll pass by beautiful Mountain Laurel groves peppered with Flame Azaleas. Stop for a leisurely lunch at the water cutoff beside some of the largest Lady Slippers on this section. As we stroll back to the trailhead, we'll pass numerous gardens of the pink beauties. Hike Leaders Joy and Frank Forehand. For more information contact hikeleaderJF@bmtamail.org.

May 8 (Saturday) GA Work Trip Wilscot Gap >Dial Road. Logout, brushout and tread repair. For more information contact David Watkins david.watkins2112@yahoo.com

May 10 (Monday) Naked Ground, Haeo and Hangover via the BMT and back with possible side trip to Bob Bald off the Cherohala Skyway. Difficult 7 to 9 miles. We meet at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center in Tellico Plains, TN, then drive to the Wolf Laurel Trailhead, about an hour drive. We will hike up the Stratton Ridge Trail 2 miles to the intersection with the BMT, then go

north to Naked Ground, Haeo and the Hangover with its 360-degree views of the Smokies and the surrounding mountains in TN and NC National Forests. After eating lunch at the Hangover, we will return with a possible 2-mile side round trip to Bob Bald. Hike Leaders Brenda and Rick Harris. For more information contact hikeleaderBH@bmtamail.org or hikeleaderRH@bmtamail.org.

May 12 (Wednesday) Fires Creek Trails near Hayesville, NC. Moderate/strenuous 7 miles. Phillips Ridge to Rim and return via Phillips Ridge. Beautiful Laurel Creek and along the Rim Trail are Rhododendron and spring wildflowers, such as Trillium, Lady Slipper and Solomon's Seal. Grouse, warblers, deer, bear, Russian boar and hawks roam the area. It's a beautiful wilderness not frequently visited. Hike Leader Steve Dennison.

For more information contact hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org

May 14 (Friday) Rocktown Trail near Lafayette, GA – Moderate 4 miles. Maze of large, oddly shaped sandstone-conglomerate boulders atop Pigeon Mountain and a short waterfall trail enroute. Rocktown Trail is located within a GA Wildlife Management Area. Involves carrying a free GA Lifetime Sportsman license for Georgia residents over 65 or obtain a permit through the GA Department of Natural Resources. Approximately 4 miles total depending on how many boulders you want to climb. Hike Leader Steve Dennison.

For more information contact hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.

May 19 (Wednesday) Talking Rock Nature Preserve utilizing the various loops in the Talking Rock Nature Preserve. We plan 5 easy miles, but you may decide to add more if you wish after the hike. Hike Leader Howard Baggett.

For more information contact hikeleaderHB@bmtamail.org.

May 21 (Friday) Amadahy Trail. Dog friendly hike (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy to moderate 5 miles along the shore of Carter's Lake. Lunch at the marine campground. Hike Leader Ken Cissna. For more information contact hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

May 22 (Saturday) TN Work Trip Sycamore Creek Trail. Section 17a-b. Annual logout and refresh blazes. For more information contact Pam and Kent Mathews pamelahallmathews@yahoo.com.

May 24 (Monday) Turtletown Creek Falls near Farner, TN. Moderate 4.5-mile round-trip hike to two of the prettiest waterfalls in the area. Hiking poles recommended. Hike Leader Steve Dennison.

For more information contact hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.

May 29 (Saturday) Upper Springer Mountain Loop. With two lovely vistas this 4.6-mile loop provides visits to the southern terminus of both the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye trails. Some history of these two trails is included with this moderate trek. Hike Leader George Owen.

For more information contact hikeleaderGO@bmtamail.org.

June

June 7 (Monday) Quartz Loop at the Whitewater Center in Ducktown, TN. Moderate 4.7 miles. Hike Leader Evelin Yarns.

For more information contact hikeleaderEY@bmtamail.org.

June 9 (Wednesday) Bolling Park Trails Canton, GA. Easy 5-6 miles in this great preserve. Hike Leader Howard Baggett.

For more information contact hikeleaderHB@bmtamail.org.

June 12 (Saturday) GA Work Trip Fall Branch > Weaver Creek Sections 6 b,c,d and 7a. Logout, brushout and tread repair. For more information contact Bob Cowdrick GAMaintDirector@bmtamail.org.

June 13 (Sunday) Easy to moderate 4 miles at the Ocoee Whitewater Center to see the water release arrive from two miles upriver. See rafters and kayakers on the raging rapids. Learn about the 1996 Olympic competition for kayaks and canoes. Hike one of the trails past the tasty wild raspberries and through the lovely Rhododendrons back to the Thunder Rock parking lot. Hike Leader Clare Sullivan. For more information contact hikeleaderCS2@bmtamail.org.

June 14 (Monday) BMT: Lost Creek Section. Dog friendly hike (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Easy 6 miles. Beautiful walk along Big Lost Creek. One stream crossing will probably get your feet a little wet so come prepared. Hike Leader Ken Cissna. For more information contact hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

June 19 (Saturday) AT/BMT double loop hike west from Three Forks. This moderate 6-mile hike covers the lower north flank and top of Rich Mountain. Hike Leader George Owen.

For more information contact hikeleaderGO@bmtamail.org.

June 23 (Wednesday) Gorges State Park near Sapphire, NC for Rainbow Falls and Whitewater Falls. Spectacular falls. One is a 411 foot fall. Moderate 5-mile hike with good possibility of seeing one of the closest rainbows ever. Two hour drive each way from Blairsville, GA. Leader will provide link to Google Maps directions from Blairsville, GA to Gorges State Park. Date subject to change if cloudy skies forecast in vicinity of falls. Leader has hiked it twice both times seeing huge rainbow around noon to 12:30 PM on sunny days with large waterfall in background during return portion of the hike. Good canopy on this trail and fairly high elevation so heat shouldn't be a major issue. Hike Leader Steve Dennison. For more information contact hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.

June 26 (Saturday) TN Work Trip Section 16a Heart of Darkness. Annual log out and refresh blazes. Crew Leaders Keith Mertz and Ellie Doughty. For more information contact Rick Harris tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

July

July 7 (Wednesday) Wildcat Creek Trail near Ellijay, GA. Approximately 7.5 miles with stream crossing to Fall Branch Falls Trail to Ammons Falls and return. Some brief strenuous segments. Hiking poles recommended. Trail located in GA Wildlife Management Area and requires a free GA Lifetime Sportsman license for Georgia residents over 65 or obtaining a permit thru GA Department of Natural Resources. Hike Leader Steve Dennison.

For more information hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.

July 10 (Saturday) GA Work Trip Weaver Creek > Boardtown Road. Sections 7b,c,d. Logout, brushout and tread repair. For more information contact Bob Cowdrick GAMaintDirector@bmtamail.org.

July 12 (Monday) Cartecay River Loop Trails. Dog friendly hike (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 5-6 miles, much of it along the beautiful Cartecay River. Hike Leader Ken Cissna.

For more information contact hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

July 14 (Wednesday) Laurel-Snow Trail to Laurel Falls 6.1 mile moderate trail out and back in Laurel-Snow State Natural Area near Dayton, TN. Two-hour drive each way from Blue Ridge. Leader will provide link to Google Maps directions from Blairsville, GA to trailhead. Hike Leader Steve Dennison. For more information contact hikeleaderSD@bmtamail.org.

July 17 (Saturday) Big Frog, Rough Creek, Benton MacKaye Trail loop of FS 221 in TN. This moderately strenuous hike has one significant climb in the morning with three creek crossings after lunch - over 6-mi. with brief gravel road walk to complete the loop. Hike Leader George Owen.

For more information contact hikeleaderGO@bmtamail.org.

July 24 (Saturday) TN Work Trip Section 16b Heart of Darkness. Annual logout and refresh blazes. Crew Leaders Keith Mertz and Ellie Doughty. For more information contact Rick Harris tn-ncmaintdirector@bmtamail.org.

July 26 (Monday) Four Season Hike Series – Summer: BMT - Hudson Gap, out and back. Dog friendly hike (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Moderate 4-5 miles. We're going to offer this relatively short and fairly easy hike during each season this year. Best I can offer this season may be heat and humidity, but a good hike for all is guaranteed. Hike Leader Ken Cissna. For more information contact hikeleaderKC@bmtamail.org.

***Before embarking on your hike, please read:**

[BMTA COVID-19 Hiker Guidelines](#)

[Hiker Guidelines](#)

[Guidelines for Bringing Your Dog on a Sponsored Hike](#) (if applicable)