

# THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINEER

Vol. 79, No.4

The Bulletin of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club

April 2005

## Trail Maintenance: Then and Now

By Margaret Drummond

The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) has seen many changes in the past 75 years, in number and diversity of hikes and other outings, in membership, which has steadily grown, in depth of club leadership, to mention the obvious. But perhaps no change has been more dramatic than the club's work on the trail, work that has seen ups and downs, but has progressively morphed from "Trail Work", renamed "Trail Maintenance" to "Trail Management".



Actually, trail work predates the founding of the GATC in 1930. The southern end of the Appalachian Trail (AT) (already in place in other regions) was mostly a dream until two energetic men decided to put it on the ground. No more dreaming or dillydallying. Roy Ozmer bushwhacked the route followed by Eddie Stone, who hiked and marked it.

The 40's brought Pearl Harbor and the war; club activities came to a halt. Gas was rationed, rubber for tires was unavailable, many GATC men were in the service and GATC women were busy in war-related services. After the war, all returned to a badly overgrown trail and the problems of reactivating the club. The 60's saw the trail restored but threatened by road and clear cutting, both of which took a toll on the club, its leaders, and their available time and energies.

Then came the 70's and a tremendous increase in public interest and participation in the out of doors. However, by the mid to late 70's, interest in GATC trail work, for unknown reasons, had lagged. At one point, the club turnout was so low that one Trail Supervisor opened what was called in the genre of the times, "Alice's Restaurant", which served hamburgers and spaghetti to weary trail workers as they came off the trail. This "carrot" to some extent relieved the problem.



In the late 70's, several events occurred that helped rekindle club interest in trail work and resulted in increased activity by the membership. The 60's had seen the passage of the National Trails System Act (NTSA) by which Congress, spurred by the growing demands for more outdoor recreation, set up a nationwide system of long distance trails, the AT being the first. The act delegated primary responsibility for the AT to the Department of the Interior (NPS) but specified that they should work with the Department of Agriculture (USFA) when and where appropriate.

It was soon apparent to planners that agencies, facing the formidable task of permanently securing the lands over which the AT transverse, would need considerable help in its maintenance, namely the work that volunteer clubs, despite their individual traditions, policies and methods had already been doing. Hence the growing awareness that if the "government" (NPS, USFS, states) worked to secure the route of the trail and its corridor on private lands, clubs would be needed for maintenance and management, and the ATC for strengthening all clubs and for making palatable to volunteers the regulatory aspects of the Act.

The late 70's and 80's were an exciting and sometimes bewildering time because of the many uncertainties in the emerging government - volunteer partnership. In 1983, the lines of responsibility were firmly defined when the NPS delegated its responsibilities for management of the trail to ATC and in sequence from ATC to the 31 clubs. One of the first steps ATC took to assist clubs was the establishment of Trail Skills Workshops. For a number of fortuitous reasons, the GATC was selected to host the first, and Blood Mountain, then in serious condition, was chosen as the site. Planned by Rima Farmer, then ATC's Southern Field Representative, in conjunction with the GATC, instruction was offered by Bob Proudman along with other ATC personnel and various agency partners. At this workshop, GATC members not only learned new trail skills and tools but perhaps more importantly were re-energized and became aware of their previously untapped capabilities.

Working off the enthusiasm generated at that first workshop: 1) work trips were renamed "Trail Maintenance" trips; 2) the Board

*Continued on page 2*



*Henry Morris*

Seventy Five Years Of Stewardship & Friendship

# Highlands Fling May 7 - 8 Registration



The time has come to register for the kick-off event of the GATC's 75th Anniversary celebration. This event will be held on the Quin's farm in Highlands, North Carolina. The fun starts at 2pm with a BBQ lunch. "Happy Time" will begin around 5pm with dinner at 6:30pm and entertainment following dinner. In-between there will be plenty of time for hiking, shopping, visiting and just relaxing. Overnights will be treated to breakfast the next morning. They may choose to stay at the farm (either tent camp or bring a sleeping bag and sleep in the barn) or stay in an area motel. Once you send your registration information (see below), you will receive a confirmation packet which will include an agenda, directions, area motels and all other information needed to have a great time. What should you bring? A smile and an attitude for having a good time. What should you leave home? All of your worries. **Please register by April 24!** Your information may be either called-in, emailed or "snail-mailed" to the addresses below:

**Rosalind Vanlandingham**

(770) 938-5686 2622 Ball Park Drive, Tucker, GA 30084 Vanlandingham@computermart.com

**Beverly Batchelor**

(770) 271-3325 2332 Ironwood Hill Ct, Dacula, GA 30019 bevbatch@bellsouth.net

**Highlands Fling Registration, May 7 - 8**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Will you be staying overnight? \_\_\_\_ (Y/N) If yes, camping or motel? \_\_\_\_\_

## Trail Maintenance: Then and Now

*Continued from page 1*

voted to allow the scheduling of one Trail Maintenance trip per month, a significant increase over the one or two per year previously scheduled; 3) prospective members were allotted membership points for work on the trail; and 4) the "Trail Worker of the Year" award was established.

Besides work on the trail, clubs were now being asked: 1) to establish the best location for their assigned trail section (a process called the Optimal Location Review), a decision necessary before land acquisition could proceed, and 2) to identify key features of their trail section (called Trail Assessments). All this information was later used by agencies for land acquisition and the clubs for the writing of their individual Local Management Plans. Although writing documents is often an anathema to Trail volunteers, they are essential to fulfill the obligations agreed to in the delegation agreements. These were times of dramatic change and clubs were asked to do far more than their usual trail "work". The task of trail work had again morphed, this time into "Trail Management".

Although the delegation agreements passed on to volunteers actual trail management, clubs have enjoyed substantial assistance from their agency partners and ATC. Particularly since the 70's, ATC has been essential, providing a liaison between volunteers and agencies in

regard to communication between ATC and clubs has been strengthened thru the ATC regional offices, collaborative meetings (Presidents Meetings and SRMC Meetings (renamed Partnership Meetings, to mention only two) and through its Konnarock program designed to strengthen the trail skills of all clubs.

During the 80's, the GATC undertook several innovative projects, namely bridges over Justus and Blackwell creeks, the Club's first caretaker program (volunteer) and construction of a first post and beam shelter. Members attended workshops, one region-wide in Knoxville and another, a Visual Management Workshop designed to keep the club, ATC and the Forest Service in agreement on corridor width and hence protection.

Throughout the 90's and to the present, the GATC has been favored by a growing membership of enthusiastic trail workers. Large numbers have made possible a reduction of assigned trail sections to one mile and have tripled the number of section overseers. At present, there is a goal of a moldering privy at every shelter, several already installed. Assistance of the Konnarock crews has shortened the competition of several lengthy re-routes.

In recent years, the GATC has gone on to earn a reputation as a "can do" club as its assigned trail sections now praised by hikers, ATC and agency partners. No more testy letters or lost hikers.

## Clearance Sale

**GATC T-Shirts**

**Cotton T-shirts:** Navy, Ash, or Red  
Short-Sleeve \$ 6.00  
Long-Sleeve \$ 8.00

**Dri-Release Microblend:**

Navy or Dark Gray  
Short Sleeve \$ 18.00  
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Limited quantities, Limited sizes.

**Friendships of the Trail -**

**Volume I \$6.00**

Free Shipping on all orders received prior to April 30, 2005.

Mail your order to: GATC Treasurer  
P O Box 2093, Cartersville, GA 30120

## April Fun

*Submitted by Herb Daniel*

An article in this month's Easy To Do Trail Work Stuff, by April Loof, tells us that if we clean waterbars located on the north side of a mountain on the day of the spring equinox they will begin to drain so well that they won't need cleaning again until the same time next year. The same is true for those on the south side being cleaned on the day of the autumn equinox. Even better, if the waterbar is actually installed on one of those days it will never need cleaning. Amazing!

We probably won't hear from April Loof again until this month next year but keep tuned.

## Prospective Member Orientation

**February 8**

*Reported by Ginny Smith*

Twenty two prospective members along with twelve GATC Board Members and Membership Committee Members participated in the February orientation held at Fernbank Science Center. We welcome all the new folks to the ranks!

Members: Sherry Bryant, Herb Daniel, Craig Keyworth, Denny Rhodes, Barbara Routt, Larry Routt, Jerry Seabolt, Lester Sharpton, Marianne Skeen, Ginny Smith, Larry Walker, Frank Wright.

Guests: Rhonda Bridges, Darren Cox, Jennifer Cox., Ken Estes, George Fenn, Stacy Funderburke, David Halenkamp, Patty Halenkamp, Jerry Hobbs, Chris Hughes, Robin Hughes, Richard Johnson, Bob King, Bill Lobe, Joe Macke, Will McRae, Cynthia Macke, Greg Salloum, David Scruggs, Cindy Styles, Margaret Walters.

# Presidential Ponderings

A few weeks ago someone asked me about kids taking part in Club activities. I began thinking back and remembered a time when a fair number of youngsters accompanied their parents on hikes. My son began backpacking with me at age eight. The annual Multi-Club meet brought out even more who became friends and looked forward to that event to renew friendships and play and learn together. I can think of no better way to teach young people a love and respect of the outdoors than to have them accompany their parents, grandparents or other adults on Georgia Appalachian Trail Club outings. I hope those of you with children or grandchildren will look for suitable outings and start including them in the fun.

I'm making this an abbreviated message so I can include an essay on this subject from Jerry Wilber's Wit and Wisdom of the Great Outdoors.

Herb

The nitty—no nonsense—gritty is this. If we truly wish to preserve the wild places we will take our kids camping.

If we are sincere in our efforts to make and keep the rivers and lakes clean, we will take the kids paddling and fishing upon them. If we want to keep the wild animals forever bountiful, we will take our sons and daughters hunting. If we want the memories to roll on, the traditions to continue past our generation—our humiliating, me-first, selfish generation—we cannot rely upon the fickle nature of politics and politicians.

We cannot lay the responsibility of conservation entirely at the feet of the schools. In the great American tradition of rugged individualism, the duty is ours. The hope, the salvation of our children—all children, wherever they live, from whatever background they come—lies with us.

We much teach them, lead them. For the hope, the salvation of the wildlife, the trees, the waters, the sky-blue skies, lies with our kids, our greatest, after all, renewable resource.

We cannot fail them. We cannot fail the universe.

Jerry Wilber

## Condolences

The GATC extends condolences to Pat and Jerry Seabolt for the loss of her father and the loss of their son-in-law.

# Nominating Committee for 2006 Appointed

The Board of Directors has selected the following club members for the 2006 Nominating Committee:

Laurie Corbin ..... 770-886-7963  
 Larry Routt ..... 770-493-8447  
 Don Gedeon ..... 404-873-4401  
 Jerry Seabolt (chair) ..... 770-992-1750  
 Gennie Justus ..... 770-645-1112  
 Rich Sepmeyer ..... 770-448-5152  
 Lyn Ollif ..... 770-385-9195  
 Jordan Shenefield ..... 770-921-2580  
 Rayne Rasty ..... 404-471-9988  
 Marianne Skeen ..... 404-633-1486

If you have suggestions for the composition of the 2006 Board of Directors, please contact any of the above members.

## Membership Applications

GATC Membership Applications have been received from Kenneth Estes, Sara Klucking, Beth Rothermel, and David Scruggs. One member has applied for reinstatement: John Shutts. Membership qualification issues should be communicated to the Membership Director, Ginny Smith, before April 15. Contact information will be published in the next issue of the bulletin.

## GATC Welcomes New Members:

Celeste Ellerbe  
 6915 Silver Fox Trail  
 Cumming, GA 30040  
 678 462-4041

## Correction:

The first paragraph of A Great Organization Is Born by Nancy Shofner in the February, 2005 Georgia Mountaineer stated that the only A.T. clubs existing in the South in 1930 were the Smoky Mountains Club and the PATC. It has been brought to our attention the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) was formed in 1920.

## Note:

In the January edition, the article titled Happy 75th Anniversary was written by Nancy Shofner.

In the March edition, the article titled Protecting the Trail was written by Jerry Seabolt.

# THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINEER

PUBLISHER / The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club

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 1203 Waters Edge Trail, Roswell, GA 30075  
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 E-mail: gatceditor@bellsouth.net

### Change of Mailing Address:

Please send your address changes to:  
 Sandi Still, GATC Data Base Manager  
 2850 Faraday Court, Decatur, GA 30033  
 e-mail: sandi2850@yahoo.com

Changes received by the 1st of the month ensure that the next month's bulletin will be sent to your new address.

### Deadline for Publication:

The first day of the month prior to the month of publication.

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# April

## April 2 (Sat)

### Prospective Member Orientation and Hike

Leader: Ginny Smith

Co-Leaders: Membership Committee

Prospective members: hike while you learn more about the history and mission of GATC. Get the scoop on current happenings and find out ways you can become involved. Meet GATC members, new and old. We'll do moderate day hike on the AT and then have our orientation session at a nearby mountain cabin. To learn more and to register, contact Ginny at 770-889-4672 or ginsmith@mindspring.com.

## April 2 (Sat)

### Table Rock Dayhike

Rated: B3B

Leader: Melanie Spamer

Co-Leader: Dawn Collinge

This 7 mile strenuous hike is on the Foothills Trail in South Carolina. We will begin at Table Rock State Park and continue an ascent of 2,000 feet to our final destination Table Rock Mountain. There is a fabulous view from Governor's Rock (at about 2.5 miles); our lunch break will have spectacular views of Table Rock Lake, Caesars Head, and the surrounding area. Our reward at the end of the day is a scrumptious Italian meal at a restaurant in Seneca, SC. To register, please contact Melanie Spamer at 770-426-8927, melanie.spamer@jeffersonwells.com or Dawn Collinge at 404-874-7017, dmcoll@bellsouth.net

## April 2-3 (Sat-Sun)

### Bartram Trail Backpack

Rated: B3B (both days)

Leader: Shirley Andrews

Co-Leader: Tony Jenkins

We plan to start north of Rabun Bald and take our time getting to Warwoman Dell. Rabun Bald offers outstanding views and the Bartram Trail in this area is not heavily used. This should be an easy spring backpack with lots of wildflowers. Register with Shirley at 770-548-6234, sandrews@academicbookservices.com or Tony at 770-748-7805, trjenkins108@aol.com.

## April 3 (Sun)

### Dick's Creek to Deep Gap Shelter

Rated: A3C

Leader: Craig Keyworth

Co-Leader: Pat Decker

Concept Hike: Take a typical section of the GA AT and visit it several times through the year in different seasons. Observe how it changes over the year in terms of views, vegetation, climate, but most importantly, the hiking experience. We'll cover a comfortable 7-mile round trip from Dick's Creek Gap to the Deep Gap Shelter where we'll enjoy a relaxed lunch and a possible side trip. Sign up today, but also mark your calendar for September 18th and December 18th. Contact Craig or Pat at 404-252-6504 or keyworth@bellsouth.net

## April 3 (Sun)

### Bear Hair Gap Trail Dayhike

Leader: Lawson Herron

Co-Leader: Kitty Pupedis

This is a moderate steady climb in Vogel State Park with a breathtaking 3,280 foot overlook of Lake Trahlya and the surrounding mountains. To register, contact Lawson at 770-993-5231 or e-mail lawson14@bellsouth.net. (This hike was rescheduled from January 30 due to the ice storm)

## April 6 (Wed)

### Midweek Trail Maintenance

Rated: Fun and Fellowship

Leader: Frank Wright

It's springtime, and we will join the thru-hikers as we work along the AT in Georgia. This is a good excuse to postpone your taxes for yet another day. To sign up, call Frank Wright at 706-579-2253 (local from Atlanta) or e-mail at fwwright@earthlink.net

## April 9 (Sat)

### BMT Series: Section 3 & 4, GA 60 to

### Wilscot Gap

Rated: A2B

Leader: Gary Monk

Co-Leader: John Harris

This is a good chance to stretch out those winter muscles with an eleven mile hike on the Benton MacKaye Trail. We start at GA 60 climbing several mountains, including Wallalah (3,100 ft), Licklog (3,470 ft), and Rhodes (3,420 ft). After moderate roller-coastering, we end up at Wilscot Gap. Section three is the steepest stretch of the BMT with the most altitude gain/loss per mile of the whole trail. IT WILL BE AN ADVENTURE! Give it a try. To register, contact Gary at 770-993-0391, gmonk@bellsouth.net or John at 770-993-6581, jharris@theimf.com. Savage Gulf, TN Backpack

## April 9-10th

### Trip A:

Leader: Mark Justus

Co-Leader: Gennie Justus

### Trip B:

Leader: Rick Hartline

Co-Leader: Shirley Andrews

Rated: Trip A: Day 1 A2B; Day 2 A2D Trip B: A2D both days.

It's two, two, two trips in one. If you've never been to Savage Gulf State Natural Area (part of the South Cumberland Recreation Area), now is your chance. For those of you who don't already know, a gulf is the local name for a narrow gorge. This hidden treasure is just a short drive northwest from Chattanooga and offers spectacular views and scenic beauty. Trip A: The A team will start out by passing through the Great Stone Door, which is 10 foot wide, 100 foot deep crack that offers a passageway down into the gulf. We will traverse through the gulf and come out at Hobbs Cabin on the other side where we will camp with team B. Trip B: The B team will have an easier walk, but the scenery

will be just as spectacular. You'll start out with a trip to Savage Falls. From there you'll take the North Rim Trail, which has scenic overlooks all along the way. Team B will meet team A at Hobbs Cabin for a combined group camp. The next day, we'll all hike out on the North Rim Trail back to the Savage Ranger Station. To register for Trip A, call Mark or Gennie at 770-645-1112 or e-mail markjustus@bellsouth.net. To register for Trip B, call Rick at 770-924-3503 or e-mail rhartline@mindspring.com or call Shirley Andrews at 770-548-6234 or e-mail sandrews@academicbookservices.com

## April 10 (Sun)

### Flat Creek Loop Trail Dayhike

Rated: B3C

Leader: Larry Hutto

Co-Leader: Barbara Hutto

Come join us for this easy to moderate 6 mile loop hike in the Rich Mountain area near Blue Ridge. The loop follows the southeastern slopes of Davenport Mountain to the headwaters of Flat Creek. We will have several creek and stream crossings. Hopefully, we will be treated to some spring wildflowers. To register, contact Larry or Barbara at 770-943-7185 or huttolk@aol.com.

## April 16 (Sat)

### Third Saturday Trail Maintenance

Leader: Herb Daniel

Co-Leader: Ginny Smith

Plan to join us on this early spring trail maintenance outing. We'll be working in District 2, south of Gooch Gap. We'll be building steps, waterbars, and check dams. Register with Herb at 770-451-4181 or hdan@juno.com; or Ginny at 770-889-4672 or ginsmith@mindspring.com.

## April 17 (Sun)

### Miller Trek Dayhike

Rated: B3B

Leader: Don Schneider

Co-Leader: TBD

Come join us for a beautiful early spring hike on the Miller Trek Trail. This six mile loop trail begins and ends at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, GA, and is named after former Governor and Senator Zell Miller, whose home is in Young Harris.

## Hike Rating Codes

### Distance

AA over 13 miles

A 9-13 miles

B 5-9 miles

C under 5 miles

### Pace

1 very fast (over 2.5 mph)

2 fast (2 - 2.5 mph)

3 moderate (1.5 - 2 mph)

4 leisurely (under 1.5 mph)

### Terrain

A very strenuous

B strenuous

C average

D easy

The first half is a 1400 foot elevation gain, thus earning the strenuous rating. The second half is gradual downhill. Last year, we ID'd over 20 different wildflowers on this hike. If the day is nice, we may relax on the deck at the Resort afterwards. And, the good news is: No Shuttle! To sign up, call Don at 706-745-6967 or e-mail snidley1225@alltel.net.

**April 23 (Sat)**  
**Upper Whitewater Falls to Lower Whitewater Falls Dayhike**

Rated: B3B

Leader: Bruce Aldridge

Co-Leader: Jerome Roberts

This 7 mile hike, besides seeing two 400' plus waterfalls, is full of wildflowers this time of year; including many trillium, wild dwarf iris among many others, making this hike quite a spectacle, let alone a good workout coming out of the Whitewater Gorge on the way out. All of the trail treads the well maintained Foothills Trail which starts in North Carolina, and travels into South Carolina to Lower Whitewater Falls. To register, call Bruce Aldridge at 770-435-9752 or e-mail at bulwink@bellsouth.net or Jerome Roberts at 770-475-5763 or jeromebts@worldnet.att.net.

**April 23 (Sat)**  
**Sweetwater Creek Dayhike**

Rated: B3C

Leader: Pat Johnston

Co-Leader: Cathy Rogers

We will hike three of the four Sweetwater Creek Trails. First, we take the Red Trail to the New Manchester Manufacturing Company ruins, a textile mill that burned during the Civil War. The park naturalist will take us inside the fence of the ruins for an up-close view of this historic site. Since this will be mid-morning, it will be a good time for photos. We will then continue on the Red Trail, past the falls area, to the White Trail. The White Trail follows the Jack's Hill Lake Stream, which has the most concentrated area of wildflowers in the park. This loop brings us back to the trailhead for the last trail, the Yellow Trail. We will hike a total of 7 miles, learn some Georgia history, and hopefully see some beautiful wildflowers. To register, contact Pat at 770-459-5034, patricia.johnston@library.gatech.edu or Cathy at 770-513-8930.

**April 23-24 (Sat-Sun)**  
**Big Scaly Backpack**

Rated: Day B2B (Each Day)

Leader: Ginny Smith

Co-Leaders: Jerry Seabolt, Stewart Holt

We'll backpack up the Beech Creek Trail and set up camp midday near Beech Creek Spring. Then it's time for exploring. During the course of the weekend we can check out Chimney Rock and the cliffs on Big Scaly. We may bushwhack up to Beech Gap and walk the AT to Standing Indian. We'll also have an opportunity to visit three waterfalls and an old corundum mine. If that's not

enough, the area is absolutely terrific for spring wildflowers! To register contact Ginny (770 889-4672 or ginsmith@mind.spring.com), Jerry (770 992 1750 or jseab@bellsouth.net) or Stewart (770 971-5848 or StewartHolt@earthlink.net). Limit 10.

**April 24 (Sun)**  
**Marathon Dayhike**

Rated: AA1B

Hike Coordinator: Ginny Slack

It's time for that ever popular challenge dayhike. We're starting at Amicalola Falls this year headed for Woody Gap. Those who make it that far will have put in 28 miles, but join us just to see how far you can go. Volunteers are especially necessary this year as the car shuttle is extremely long and time consuming. It should be a nice Sunday, so come on out and help! Same contact information as for hikers; I promise hot coffee and breakfast goodies. For details call me at 404-636-0577 or send a note to vaslack@hotmail.com. Registration will close on April 19th.

**April 24 (Sun)**  
**AT Series: Woody to Neels Gap**

Rated: A3C Leader: Jerome Roberts

Co-Leader: Tony Jenkins

We will hike north from Woody Gap with a brief stop after one mile at Preaching Rock to take in the view. Late in the hike, we will go up and over Blood Mountain, the highest point on the AT in Georgia at 4458 feet with spectacular views in all directions. We should have warm weather with an abundance of early spring wildflowers. Please join us on this 11.5 mile moderate hike. This is a wilderness area, so we are limited to 12 hikers. To register, contact Jerome at 770-475-5763, jeromerbts@worldnet.att.net, or Tony at 770-684-6924, trjenkins108@aol.com.

**April 30 (Sat)**  
**Rabun Bald, Sky Valley Dayhike**

Rated: B3B

Leader: Susan Cowan

Co-leader: Jane Robertson

This hike combines a spectacular view of distant mountains from the observation tower on Rabun Bald with a close-up view of wildflowers. Rabun Bald, at 4,696 ft, is the second highest peak in Georgia and sits in an area known for an exceptional display of spring wildflowers. We will start at the beginning of the Bartram Trail and follow it to the bald. After descending from Rabun Bald we will take the Alex Mountain-Flint Knob Trail to Sky Valley. On the drive home from this wildflower adventure, we will make an optional small detour to walk a short trail on the loveliest hillside of wildflowers to be found in North Georgia. To register, contact Susan at 770-483-6523, work 770-483-9086 s\_cowan@yahoo.com or contact Jane at 770-978-1839.

## May

**May 1 (Sun)**

**Athens Botanical Gardens**

Leader: Steve Boyette

Co-Leader: Jim Schultz

The White Trail wanders the grounds of the UGA Botanical Garden for about 5 miles and follows the Oconee River for part of the distance. Easy hike. Enjoy the Rose Garden and the Conservatory after the hike. (Preview taken from the yearbook)

**May 4 (Wed)**

**Mid-Week Dayhike: Thompson Mills Forest**

Rated: C4D

Leader: Bob Almand

Co-Leader: Lawson Herron

One of the best kept secrets in Georgia, Thompson Mills Forest, has some 330 acres of woodland containing 90% of the native trees of Georgia. This State Arboretum has had about 100 species added to the 80 native species already present in the forest. The Pinetum includes all the native conifers of Georgia and another 100 species from 27 countries. Several miles of trails wind through the forest in which the trees are marked with identifying plaques. Want to learn the identity of the trees native to Georgia? Then come join us for this informative hike. And there are no shuttles! Contact Bob at (770) 886 9526 bobalmand@mindspring.com or contact Lawson at (770) 993 5231 lawson14@bellsouth.net or

**May 7 (Sat)**

**Coosa Backcountry Trail Dayhike**

Rated: A3B

Leader: Melanie Spamer

Co-Leader: Jane Robertson

Join us on this 12+ mile strenuous hike in Vogel State Park. This is definitely a hike for the hearty, as we will gain (and lose) approximately 3,500 feet of elevation. Parts of this hike share the Duncan Ridge Trail. Our two high points will be Coosa Bald (4,160 ft) and Slaughter Mountain (4,140 ft); for those interested in climbing even higher, there is a spur trail that takes you to 4,271 ft. We will definitely be ready for dinner after this long day!!! To register, contact Melanie Spamer at (770) 426-8927, melanie.spamer@jeffersonwells.com or Jane Robertson at (770) 978-1839, janetrentin@yahoo.com.

**May 8 (Sun)**

**Rabun Bald Dayhike**

Rated: B3B

Leader: Cappy Calhoun

Co-Leader: Rayne Rasty

We will hike about 4.3 miles on the Bartram Trail to reach the tip of Rabun Bald, where we will have lunch and enjoy the rare opportunity to see Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina from the same peak. The 360 degree view from Rabun Bald is the perfect reward after the steep climb on the last mile or so of the approach to the Bald.

Early spring is one of the best times to be at Rabun Bald, so come join the fun! Limit 10. To register, contact Cappy at 404-815-3757 or ccalhoun@sgrlaw.com; or contact Rayne at 404-652-4972 or raynebow@comcast.net.

#### **May 10 (Tues)**

##### **GATC Board Meeting**

Leader: Herb Daniel

The bi-monthly meeting of the GATC Board of Directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. Contact any Board member for the location or for further details.

#### **May 14 (Sat)**

##### **BMT Series: Section 5 Dayhike (Wilscot Gap to Shallowford Bridge)**

Rated: B3B

Leader: Rick Hartline

Co-Leader: Mark Justus

Come join us for a beautiful and moderate 7 mile hike from Wilscot Gap over Tipton Mountain to the Brawley Mountain Fire Tower. Then we will cross Garland Mountain and descend to walk parallel to the Toccoa River to the old Shallowford Bridge. To register, please call Rick at 770-924-3503 or e-mail at rhartline@mindspring.com; or call Mark at 770-645-1112 or e-mail at markjustus@bellsouth.net.

#### **May 14-15 (Sat-Sun)**

##### **Cheaha Wilderness Backpack**

Rated: Day 1: B3B

Day 2: B3C

Leader: Bobby Goldstein

Co-Leader: Pat Johnston

Located in the upland forests of Eastern Alabama, off the Talladega Scenic Drive, this is a 17 mile loop backpack with early switchbacks softened by a "slack-pack" the first day. Day One is through the primitive Cheaha Wilderness in the Talladega National Forest. We take the Chinnabee Silent Trail to the junction of the Pinhoti Trail then on to its terminus at Adams Gap. The first 6 miles, up and down, we will be carrying only day packs, as our backpacks will be waiting at Adams Gap. Here we take the primitive Skyway Trail to our campsite. Day Two, we continue on the Skyway Trail to the Chinnabee Silent Trail, past Lake Chinnabee and two waterfalls. This hike offers a good mix of terrain and trails in a beautiful area. Some may want to join us Friday night (food and floor) at a special place closer to the trailhead. Wilderness Area: Limit 10. To register, contact Bobby at 770-955-2432 or hawkeye9@att.net; or contact Pat Johnston at 770-459-5034 or patricia.johnston@library.gatech.edu.

#### **May 15 (Sun)**

##### **Wildflower Dayhike**

Rated: B3C

Leader: Patty Lowe

Co-Leader: Darrell Maret

The Arkaquah Trail, starting at Brasstown Bald, and descending 1,400 feet in 5.5 miles, is our favorite area for wildflowers. The trail is a wilderness area

so we are limited to 12 participants. To register, contact Patty at 706-754-0701 or rocketroy@alltel.net; or contact Darrell at 770-579-5413 or maret dg@inpo.org.

#### **May 21 (Sat)**

##### **Trail Maintenance**

Leader: Janet Jolly

For the May worktrip, we will be working on the Approach Trail. May is a good time to work on this section because of the wear and tear from the thru-hikers leaving for Maine. There will be work for all levels. The weather is usually great in May and I look forward to seeing you all! To register, contact Janet at jjolly1224@aol.com or by phone at 770-748-7424.

#### **May 22 (Sun)**

##### **Chattooga River Trail**

Rated: A3C

Leader: Rich Sepmeyer

Co-Leader: Paul Kiel

We will hike from the Bartram Trail junction off Sandy Ford Road to Ga 28 at Russell Bridge. The two trails share the same treadway for the entire 9.5 mi distance. Dicks Creek Falls-one of the most glorious sights in Georgia is at .4 mile. The 60-foot drop is the creek's final run; its catch basin is the Chattooga. From there a great view of a class 4 rapid known as Dicks Creek Ledge is putting kayakers to the test. A horse trail at mile 3.5 often gives a glimpse of horseback riders splashing through Warwoman Creek. After crossing a number of streams and rivelets we'll come to the remains of the Holden homestead. There will be lots of beautiful and interesting scenery. To sign up, contact Rich at sepmeyer@aol.com or 770-448-5152; or contact Paul at paulkiel@charter.net.

#### **May 28 (Sat)**

##### **AT Series: Neels Gap to Hogpen Gap Dayhike**

Rated: B3C

Leader: Olin Batchelor

Co-Leader: Beverly Batchelor

We have done this hike several times and still enjoy doing it. It's a moderate 6.4 mile hike that starts at Neels Gap, up Leverland Mtn to Wolf Laurel Top, Cowrock and Wildcat Mountains, all with great views. You can count on seeing many wild flowers. To register call Olin or Beverly at 770-271-3325 or E-mail 'obatchel@bellsouth.net' or 'bevbatch@bellsouth.net'. (note: This hike is in a Wilderness Area, the number of hiker is limited to twelve, register early)

#### **May 28-30 (Sat-Mon)**

##### **Pine Mountain Trail (KY) Backpack**

Rated: A2B, B2C, B2C

Leader: Marianne Skeen

Co-Leader: Van Hill

This hike features interesting historic and geologic sites connected by a roller-coaster ridge trail with outstanding views. We'll walk in the footsteps of Daniel Boone through Cumberland Gap on Day 1, visit a well-preserved early 20th century mountain

settlement on Day 2, and take a side trip to Sand Cave on Day 3. Wildflowers should abound. For more information and to register, contact Marianne (404-633-1486, or skeen@microbio.emory.edu) or Van (770-339-7748, or vhill@mindspring.com). Group size will be limited.

#### **May 29 (Sun)**

##### **Cooper Furnace: Wild Edibles Dayhike**

Rated: C4D

Leader: Guy Fairchild

Co-Leader: Rita Fairchild

A leisurely stroll on the bank of the Etowah River. Searching for edible plants, flowers and traces of the town that once stood here. A trip to the Corps of Engineers Museum and a lunch (bring your own!) follows. A great outing suitable for all ages; so: come one, come all! To register, contact Guy at 770-971-3451.

## **CPR/First Aid Training**

*Reported by Frank Wright*

Twenty-four GATC members met at Alpharetta on February 11-12 to receive training in CPR and first aid. The course was arranged by the ATC Southern Region Office in Asheville, and served to certify chain and crosscut sawyers and trip leaders.

The session was divided into three phases. Friday evening, the attendees were instructed and tested in the latest CPR techniques. The Saturday morning session reviewed the emergency treatment for heart attack, stroke, choking, burns, and other critical situations. On Saturday afternoon, the class moved outside for a primer on backcountry first aid, everything from fractures, sprains, stings, bites, hypothermia, heat stroke to dehydration. The day ended with a real world exercise on wilderness responses.

GATC is indebted to Blane Goss for reserving the outstanding training facility of the Alpharetta fire department, and to Matt Davis at ATC Southern Region for setting up the training and arranging for scholarships for sawyer attendees. Kudos also to David Stelts for a superb performance as the "victim", and to Mary Ann Millsagle for out-of-this-world brownies.

Members: Charles Aiken, Jo Allmond, Virgil Allmond, John Cavender, Herb Daniel, Bill Dunford, Geoff Gros Guth, Lawson Herron, Van Hill, Tony Jenkins, Bob Layson, Mary Ann Millsagle, Keith Moses, Pat New, Ward New, Don Norton, Pete Parsonson, Denny Rhodes, Jerry Sebolt, Marianne Skeen, Ginny Smith, David Stelts, John Tatara, Frank Wright.

# Spotlight on Whit Benson

By Christopher Benson

I'd like to thank several key members of the GATC who helped me significantly. In 2000, I met with former President Rosalind Van Landingham, former President Joe Boyd (whose recent passing was a great loss to the Club), Helen Boyd, and Gale Benson. Recently, I met again with Rosalind Van Landingham and Gale Benson. All of their insights and contributions were invaluable to this article.

Whit Benson has been a member of the GATC for 3/4 of the club's total history. Only Charlie and Mary Gafnea and Arline Slack have been members longer. Some of his closest friends, including Rosalind Van Landingham and Joe Boyd have told me that Whit has had as much impact on the GATC as anyone since he joined in January 1950.

Born in Atlanta on May 1, 1932 during the depression and raised during World War II, Whit's family moved to the mountainous countryside just outside Asheville, North Carolina just after the War. At the age of 13, Whit fell in love with the outdoors and spent as much time as possible hiking through the backcountry. He lived there for less than a year, but when he left to return to Atlanta, he took with him a newfound passion that would last a lifetime.

Whit joined the Boy Scouts, taking every opportunity to hike and camp, and eventually earned the highest rank of Eagle Scout. Along the way, he finished high school and began his undergraduate studies in Electrical Engineering at Georgia Tech. In the Explorer Scouts, he began hiking with his friends Frank Gordon and Norman Batho. The three Explorer Scouts were finishing up an 80-mile hike in September



Whit on Tray Mountain



Whit and Gale at Hike Inn

1949 from Wesser Bald in North Carolina to Tray Gap in Georgia, when they met up with a hiking party from the GATC led by Jim Proctor that was hiking from Dick's Creek Gap to Tray Gap. The Explorer Scouts were a perfect fit for the GATC, and soon thereafter Jim Proctor asked Whit Benson to join the GATC. Whit was only 17 years old, but he said that nobody ever asked him his age. Whit quickly acquired a reputation as a hard-worker and a tough hiker.

1950 started off with a bang as Whit and the others that were known within the Club as "the younger contingent" rebuilt the Tray Mountain shelter over a period of weeks. This was followed in June 1950 by a work party that lasted nearly a full week. The work party, consisting of Whit Benson, Norman Batho, Jim Proctor, and two guests, left Lake Winfield Scott and hiked up into Slaughter Gap. From there they headed north on the AT doing trail maintenance the entire way. They eventually made it to Addis Gap where they decided that they'd had enough and ceased operations, hiking out to Dick's Creek Gap.

Larry Freeman had been GATC President from 1947-1948, and was credited with rebuilding the Club after its near-demise during World War II. Today he is best known as the namesake of the Freeman Trail around Blood Mountain, an honor he richly deserved as one of the giants in our Club's history. In 1951, Larry asked Whit to join him on a hike in the Smokies from Davenport Gap to Newfound Gap. During that excursion, Larry and Whit became the best of friends and remained so for 19 years until Larry's death in September 1970. In the years since, when asked to recount his experiences with Larry through the 1950s and 1960s, a curious half-smile comes across Whit's face and he begins by noting that, "Larry was a bit eccentric..." He goes on to recall that Larry was an extraordinary secretive person who never let anyone know where he lived, and was only reachable via a post office box; no telephone number or home address. They would arrange by mail to meet each other at various locations to depart for their excursions. Once complete, Larry would have Whit drive him into Atlanta and drop him off on an apparently random street corner - each time a different place. This was simply the normal modus operandi with Larry.

In 1953, Whit and Larry produced the first GATC yearbook in the basement of Whit's parent's home.

Whit graduated from Georgia Tech with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and entered the U.S. Navy as an officer in February 1954. In the Navy, he had the opportunity to work with several of the first computers ever built. These experiences would lead to an entire career working with and programming computers as an engineer.

During his time in the U.S. Navy, Whit was stationed at various locations outside of Georgia, and was therefore unable to participate in GATC activities. However, he and Larry would arrange excursions to various places while Whit was on leave.



Whit on Smokies

In 1954, Whit and Larry went to Mexico and climbed Popocatepetl, a 17,887 foot high volcano in central Mexico west of Puebla, which became active again in January 1994 after being dormant for decades. During the long drive through Mexico on their way to the mountain, their car continuously coughed and sputtered and threatened to die. They determined that the fuel pump was going bad and purchased a replacement, but decided to climb the mountain before tackling the job of changing it out. Two weeks later, after achieving the summit while suffering from altitude sickness, they returned to their car utterly exhausted and Whit collapsed into the back seat and fell fast asleep. He awoke to discover that Larry had managed to remove the old fuel pump, but was too exhausted to get the new one installed. About that time a Volkswagon Bug came along, and an immaculately dressed Mexican fellow in a coat and tie hopped out to offer help. He didn't speak English and neither Whit nor Larry spoke Spanish. Despite the language barrier, the Mexican gentleman quickly realized the problem

Continued on page 8

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## Spotlight on Whit Benson

*Continued from page 7*

with the fuel pump, and proceeded to install the replacement. The car was fixed and the immaculately dressed Mexican gentleman departed with Whit and Larry's sincere gratitude.

In 1955, Whit and Larry embarked on another week-long trip to the Sangre de Cristos, north of Santa Fe, New Mexico to summit Truches Peak. While they did successfully bag the peak, they spent most of their time lost because neither one of them thought to bring a map. On their second night out, they camped by a beautiful stream with the most delicious water. They drank their fill. The next morning, they broke camp and started upstream. About a hundred yards upstream from camp, they were shocked to discover a dead, bloated cow lying in the middle of the stream, with the water running over and through it.

About this time, Whit met Dorothy McCaleb, a mathematician, and they were married in October 1955. A year later, their first daughter Julia was born. Whit was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant in June 1957 and moved back to Atlanta. He started a career with Lockheed Georgia Company as an aeronautical engineer that would span over four decades. He programmed computer simulations of the C-5 Galaxy, the C-130 Hercules, and eventually the brand new F-22 Raptor that will be introduced into active duty in the U.S. Air Force in 2005-2006 as the most advanced air superiority stealth fighter in the world.

At the same time he started his career at Lockheed, he began his graduate studies in Electrical Engineering at Georgia Tech in the fall of 1957. He resumed his active participation in GATC activities, and quickly reestablished his credentials as a hard working outdoorsman with good instincts and a tough hiker who frequently participated in or led backpacking trips and work trips. Over the next five years, he had two more daughters - Kathy and Holley, and earned his M.S. in Electrical Engineering. From 1964-1965 he held his first officer position in the GATC as the Club's second Trails Supervisor.

The next few years were a roller coaster ride. Lockheed began building the largest airplane in the world - the C-5 Galaxy, and the number of hours required for his job nearly doubled. Then his wife died of a heart attack in January 1967, leaving Whit alone to raise his three young girls. A year later, Whit began dating Gale Whiten, a physicist and engineer at Lockheed, and they married a few months later in April 1968. Gale would quickly become an active member of the GATC, and soon prove herself an excellent outdoors person in her own right. They remain married to this day, and had two children together - my

younger sister Alyssa and me.

After spending a year during 1971-1972 recovering from a major spinal fusion, a new side of Whit Benson began to emerge that would eventually rival his ironman image. He began holding offices on the Board of Directors, and his peers began regarding him as a knowledgeable, yet unassuming leader and an insightful administrator. He was the Membership Director in 1976, Vice President of Activities from 1977-1978, President from 1979-1980, and Trails Supervisor again from 1985-1986. He served for several years as a Director at Large. According to Joe Boyd and Rosalind Van Landingham, his 30 years of experience (by the late 70s) hiking and maintaining the Appalachian Trail in Georgia gave him a grasp of the pertinent issues that was exceptional by any standard. He knew what was on the ground - knew the entire Georgia AT so well that he was able to blend the nuances of policy with the realities of life on the Trail to the betterment of both.

During his two terms as President, Whit Benson would do two things that would positively impact the GATC forever afterwards. He and Bob Slater coauthored the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service which spelled out the responsibilities of the GATC and the U.S. Forest Service regarding the Appalachian Trail in Georgia - including trail maintenance, construction, and relocation. It also included provisions enabling the U.S. Forest Service to lend tools to the GATC for trail maintenance.

Whit and Joe Boyd were largely responsible for coauthoring the Plan for the Management of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia. This document spelled out every aspect of how the GATC would manage and maintain the Appalachian Trail in Georgia, and being the first document of its type, served as the model thereafter used by the other Appalachian Trail clubs. Joe noted afterwards the logical nature of Whit's thinking, and the fact that Whit always kept the big picture in mind. These two documents established the way the GATC would operate all the way to the present day.

When the threat arose that the Blue Ridge Parkway might be extended into Georgia across the crest of the Appalachians where the AT was located, Whit helped scout an alternate route for the Trail. Eventually the threat passed unrealized, and as the GATC's President, Whit appointed a task force to work with the U.S. Forest Service to determine which of the two routes would be official.

During the mid to late 70s and into the 80s, Whit worked with a talented group of peers in the GATC that the rest of the Benson family thought of as his closest friends. "The Oldtimers" as they came to be called were tight then, and those that survive continue to be so. One friend in particular stood out, at least from the perspective of

Whit's family. That person was Joe Boyd, who passed away a few months ago. Joe & Helen Boyd joined the GATC in July 1975. Whit and Joe became close friends very quickly. Both were engineers at Lockheed, seasoned outdoorsmen, and tough hikers. They seemed to be cut from the same cloth, often seeming to think alike when considering various issues and problems, and Whit seemed to enjoy hiking with Joe in the same way he enjoyed hiking with Larry Freeman. In addition, over the past 30 years the Bensons have come regard Rosalind Van Landingham as one of our family. She has always been there for us with her special brand of friendship.

Whit, Gale, and the other "Oldtimers" have been on too many incredible excursions over the decades to name. As Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, they were literally rappelling for their lives off of the Grand Teton during a terrible lightning storm. In Glacier National Park, their group was caught high on the continental divide in a surprise blizzard. Joe Boyd managed to assist Whit out of a glacial crevasse in the Austrian Alps after Whit broke through the ice. Later in the Cascades, the group actually practiced rappelling into crevasses. There were three trips to the Bridger Wilderness in Wyoming, two trips to the San Juan Mountains in Colorado with their 14K foot peaks, and a trip across the entire Sierra Nevada mountain range that was concluded at the top of Mount Whitney. As I became old enough, I began joining my parents on some of these long backpacking treks, and they were truly magical experiences.

On one trek in Wyoming, we were camping high above treeline when a horrific lightning storm swept down upon us. Whit realized what was about to happen and told everyone to get in their tents quickly. "We've got 5 minutes", he said. It was the worst storm any of us has ever experienced - before or since, and we learned later that it killed some people a few miles from us. After huddling atop our inflated Therm-A-Rests to stay insulated from the ground strikes occurring all around our tents, Rosalind remembers Whit coming around afterwards to everyone's tent to make sure each of us was OK.

Two examples of Whit's toughness and perseverance come to mind. Once while he was scouting a trip, he fell in a creek and cut his leg open. He was alone in the mountains, bleeding badly, dizzy, and fainting from shock, but made it the 5 miles to his car. Separately, during the annual marathon hike in 1992, Whit celebrated his 60th birthday by hiking 36 miles along the AT in Georgia, which his family felt was not bad for a senior citizen.

Both Rosalind and Joe have claimed that Whit has the best knowledge of the mountains of North Georgia and the Smokies of anyone, and that he seems to "have topo maps in his head". Joe claimed that he once heard Hillrie Quin comment

that Whit was the only person Hillrie knew that "dreams in topo maps". Rosalind noted that Whit's hikes are always challenging, interesting, usually unorthodox, and often include lots of cross country. She went on to say that in addition to being an excellent outdoors person in every regard who can hike just about anything, Whit makes it possible for others to do things they would never have thought they'd have been able to do.

Whit Benson has dedicated much of the past 55 years of his life to the GATC and hiking in general. His wife Gale and all five of his kids will tell you that it's not possible to be a Benson without feeling a close association with the GATC. Over the years, at least ten members of the Benson family have participated in Club activities, most as members themselves. As Whit approaches his 73rd birthday on May 1st, he remains strong and vibrant, and although his recently diagnosed pulmonary fibrosis is forcing him to slow down a little, he continues to hike three times a week. 60 years of hiking has made him an outdoorsman with knowledge and an instinct that most of us simply can't fathom. His efforts on behalf of the Club have left a lasting legacy that will be felt for years to come.

## Black Rock Mountain Dayhike

February 27

Reported by Cappy Calhoun

Well, we certainly lucked out on this one! With all the weather forecasts indicating an all day rain event, we were fully expecting to wear our ponchos all day, and to possibly miss the wonderful views at the overlooks due to the fog. The old rule did not fail us: EVERYONE brought a poncho, so NOBODY had to wear one. The visibility was great all day (a must on the James Edmond Trail with its overlooks) and not one drop of rain fell. Good company and moderately cool temps made this a perfect outing for late winter, with the trees still bare and many opportunities to see the distant mountains and valleys. Yes, the quaint little church in the valley is still a welcome site at lunchtime on the James Edmonds Trail. (Remember to always bring your poncho!)

Members: Cappy Calhoun, Bob Doloff, Rick Hartline, Teresa Middleton, Sue Pond  
Guest: Julia Rankin

## BMT Series: Section 1 Dayhike Springer to Three Forks

February 20

Reported by Rick Hartline

This hike was cancelled due to a lack of participation

## Midweek Trail Maintenance

February 9

Reported by Larry Routt

A funny thing about ice storms. They do not respect that GATC walked and cleared the Georgia AT the previous month. So it was back to work for the midweek maintenance folks, who endured steady drizzle to produce outstanding results. Larry Routt and Jerry Seabolt braved the limbs on the Forest Service road at Poplar Stomp and cleared the trail from Wide Gap northward, sections 5.4 through 5.6. Lawson Herron led a chain saw crew that cleared all debris between Hightower Gap and Cooper Gap in District Two. The highlight of their efforts was removing the incredible elusive 26-inch blowdown on Sassafras Mountain that resisted several attempts to be found. Frank Wright led a crew comprised principally of prospective members to take out over ten blowdowns from the Byron Reece parking lot to Blood Mountain. They discovered crosscut saw work can be fun and satisfying, although we did not receive the ibuprofen report from the day after. Whatever happened to vioxx? And speaking of the day after, in a separate worktrip, Andy Andresen led a team the next day to clear a cluster of downed trees and branches in the Three Forks area. Is it springtime yet?

Members: Tom Adams, Lawson Herron, Pete Parsonson, Larry Routt, Jerry Seabolt, Ginny Smith, Edward Thomas, Frank Wright.

Guests: Ken Estes, Beth Rothermel, David Scruggs.



## AT Series: Springer to Hightower Gap

February 5

Reported by Dick Adams

We met at the Wagon Wheel in Dahlonega, then proceeded to the Springer parking lot where we started out hike on a chilly morning. We hiked to Springer Mountain where we were treated to a great view. We were surprised to see ice still on the trail from the ice storm the previous week. After going further, we encountered a lot of blow downs but this didn't spoil the fun. It was an opportunity for Mark Justus and David Maddox to do trail maintenance. While we hiked, they cleared most of the blow downs. We made a brief side trip to view Long Creek Falls and finished up in time for everyone to get home to see the Super Bowl.

Members: Dick Adams, Julia Bridges, Mary Anne Buchheit, Aggie Calder, Gennie Justus, Mark Justus, David Maddox, Mary Ann Millsagle, Sue Pond, SaRita Royster, Ginny Smith, Jim Thompson, Dennis Wolfe  
Guest: Kathy Baker

## Smith Creek Trail Dayhike

February 5

Reported by: Melanie Spamer

After a quick breakfast/restroom stop at the Burger King in Cleveland (where we also met some of our group), we "caravanned" from there to Unicoi State Park. The trail has experienced serious erosion; there were sections that were so narrow, we had to be extremely cautious. We had some terrific winter views at various points along the way, and then we arrived at Anna Ruby Falls, our lunch spot. As you can imagine, the water volume was tremendous. We sat for a leisurely lunch and allowed the sound of water to soothe our bodies and minds. Following the hike, eleven of the group had a scrumptious dinner at the Oar House Restaurant; a well-deserved reward for a long day of hiking!!

Members: Diane Bray, Dawn Collinge, Noreen Gay, Bobby Goldstein, Roger Moss, Priscilla Padron, Judith Reavis, Cathy Rogers, Melanie Spamer, Connie Tibbitts, Jackie Young

Guests: Bob Glazer, Mary Murphy, Lynn Nelson, Kathie Paulo, David Scruggs

## Lake Winfield Scott Loop Dayhike

February 26

Reported by Don Schneider

Eight of us met at the parking lot at Lake Winfield Scott at 10:30 for our hike on what promised to be a beautiful day for hiking. In fact, this hike had previously been scheduled for January, but was postponed due to an approaching severe weather system. As it turned out, the postponement was the right thing to do, because it did turn out to be a perfect day for hiking in the woods. We set out on the Slaughter Creek Trail, took a left on the AT to the top of Blood Mountain where we enjoyed our lunch in the sunshine. You might be interested to know that a quick survey resulted in the fact that 37% of the hikers had PB & J for lunch. That makes a statement. After lunch, we headed back South on the AT, and took the Jarrard Gap Trail back to the lake, finishing up around 3:00. Thanks to Melanie Spamer for co-leading the hike.

Members: Darrel Borden, Maureen Donahue, Cathy Rogers, Don Schneider, Melanie Spamer, Sig Stenger.

Guests: Bob Glazer, Mary Murphy.



## Beasley Knob Dayhike

February 27

Reported by Pat Decker

We walked, we talked and we ate. What could make for a more wonderful Sunday winter activity? The winter weather was mild and dry. On the hike we saw two wild turkeys, a large deer and no other people. The conversation was memorable. The feast of hearty beef stew and specially requested orange jello that Helen prepared was delicious. It was a grand day.

Members: Helen Boyd, Pat Decker, Craig Keyworth, Patty Lowe.

## Arkaquah Trail

February 16

Reported by Ginny Smith

The preview in the Mountaineer promised us wonderful views in all directions and the views were, in fact, wonderful, if you like fog. Seriously, the trail from Brasstown Bald to Trackrock Gap was very beautiful and mysterious with gray clouds blowing in and out of twisted rhododendron and the damp enlivening the lichens on the boulders. We all enjoyed the walk and conversation. Congratulations to Ken who completed his membership requirements with this hike and thanks to Nancy Shofner for co-leading and making sure no one disappeared in the fog!

Members: Bob Batson, Mary Anne Buchheit, Patty Lowe, Nancy Shofner, Ginny Smith, Edward Thomas, Nancy Wylie. Guests: Jan Estes, Ken Estes.

## Kennesaw Mountain dayhike

February 12

Reported by: Bruce Aldridge

This was a beautiful day for a hike, and we had a good size group meet us at the visitor center. We all got to talk and get to know each other a bit better on the easy hike around the base of the mountain on the way to Little Kennesaw Mountain. Then came the right turn leading up the rocky slopes to Little Kennesaw Mountain and the nicely re-done trail, with switchbacks, up the back of Little Kennesaw. We met about thirty volunteers, led by rangers; who were cleaning up the trail, and thanked them for their labors. Once up on top we stopped at some lunch rocks and chatted some more on several subjects; when the subjects turned political, it was time to get going and re-warm our bodies on this nice but cool day. We were soon up on top of Big Kennesaw Mountain, and it was all downhill from there to the parking lot, where several of us braved congested traffic around Town Center Mall to dine at Ippolitos Italian restaurant, which we all enjoyed, especially those lovely, lowfat, garlic and cheese hot rolls, dripping with warm butter.

Members: Bruce Aldridge, Patrice Kohler, Richard Eidson, Connie Tibbitts, Mary Anne Buchheit, Nancy Wylie and Bob Ruby

Guest: Larry Kloet

## Chattooga River Dayhike

February 13

Reported by Mike McGee

We decided to do a different section so we would not have to do a shuttle. We started just past the Hwy 28 bridge and hiked to Licklog Falls and back. It was about a 9 mile hike. The trail has little elevation change and follows the Chattooga River for about two miles. The water was crystal clear and the trail is a pretty one. The falls are nice and there is an area that one could swim in warmer weather. It rained on the drive all the way to Clayton but we were fortunate that it stopped raining for the duration of the hike. Thanks to Melanie for co-leading the hike. It was a good group of hikers. I normally write a more exciting description but I have pink eye.

Members: Dick Adams, Susan Cowan, Ira Ferguson, Pat Johnston, Mike McGee, Cathy Rogers, and Melanie Spamer

Guests: Bob Glazer, Joe Macke, and David Scruggs.

I am not sure what S stands for but Katie Klemenchinch listed S under the M/G column

## How to join the GATC

Among the many advantages of membership in the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club is the savings you receive when ordering from "The Hiker's Shopper." Another advantage is the free subscription to *The Georgia Mountaineer*, the official bulletin of the GATC, published twelve times a year.

Membership is open to everyone who shares the Club's commitment to the Appalachian Trail and is interested in the Club's activities. There are two types of memberships: active membership for those 18 years of age or older, and junior membership for those 14-17 years of age.

To become a member of the GATC you must first participate in the Club's activities as a prospective member (guest). To qualify for membership, you must participate in three GATC-sponsored activities within a 12-month period. Of these activities one must be a trail maintenance and one must be a new member orientation. If you have not completed the requirements in twelve months, you may reapply by submitting a new application and the then current fee. You will not be able to carry over earned activities from one 12-month period to another. Your application for membership must be submitted within 30 days of completion of the requirements or will become void.

A prospective member application is available by calling Ginny Smith (770) 889-4672 or ginsmith@mindspring.com

### Membership Categories

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Junior (Ages 14-17) ..... | \$11.00  |
| Single .....              | \$25.00  |
| Joint .....               | \$30.00  |
| Lifetime Single .....     | \$500.00 |
| Lifetime Joint .....      | \$750.00 |

### Deadlines for Dues

[According to GATC Rules & Regulations]

**Dues not paid by March 31, results in name being removed from the bulletin's mailing list.**

**Dues not paid by August 31, results in membership being cancelled.**

## Hiker's Shopper

### The Georgia Mountaineer:

The best way to keep up with what's going on in the GATC. Free to members, **\$12.00** to non-members.

### The GATC Listserve:

**To subscribe:** From your email address to which you wish to receive GATC broadcast messages initiate a message to:

*Georgia-at-club-subscribe@yahoo.com*

It is not necessary to include any message in the body of this email. You will receive a confirmation indicating that you have joined the group.

### To send a broadcast message:

Compose your message and send it to:

*Georgia-at-club-subscribe@yahoo.com*

### Friendships of the Trail:

|                       |         |              |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------|
| Volume I (1930-1980)  | \$12.00 | Plus \$2 S&H |
| Volume II (1930-1980) | \$12.00 | Plus \$2 S&H |
| Both Volume I & II    | \$20.00 | Plus \$4 S&H |

**GATC T-shirts.** Support your favorite organization by wearing a GATC T-shirt with pride. All shirts are available in Medium, Large, and Extra Large.

Cotton - Navy, Ash and Red  
Short Sleeve \$ 12.00  
Long Sleeve \$ 16.00

New "Dri-Release" Microblend -  
Navy and Dark Gray  
Short Sleeve \$ 27.00  
Long Sleeve \$ 32.00

**GATC Note Stationery.** Live your personal correspondence with GATC Stationery. Package of 10, **\$8.00**; package of 25, **\$14.00**.

### For Members Only

**The E: Mountaineer** Subscribe to pdf version of this newsletter by sending email to the Editor at: gatceditor@bellsouth.net.

**GATC Shoulder Patch.** Colorful emblem of the GATC. Put one on your daypack, your backpack, your hat, your jacket...wherever you can find room for one, it'll look great. **\$4.00.**

**GATC Decal.** A high-quality decal. Put one on your car or truck. **\$3.00.**

**The Trip Leader's Guide: a Handbook for Trip Leaders.** All you newer members need this, because your day will come. When it does, you need to know what to do. Informative for anyone. **\$3.00.**

## ATC Membership Information

The GATC, as a trail maintaining organization, operates as a member club of the Appalachian Trail Conference, a nonprofit educational organization representing the citizen interest in the Appalachian Trail and dedicated to the preservation, maintenance, and enjoyment of the Appalachian Trailway.

Annual individual membership in ATC is \$30 and maintaining club members, seniors or youth can join for \$25/year. Membership benefits include a subscription to the *Appalachian Trailway News*, published five times a year, and discounts on a wide variety of publications and merchandise, including trail guides and maps.

If you are not already a member of ATC, please consider joining. Contact:

Appalachian Trail Conference, P.O.Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

[www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org)

## Appalachian Trail in Georgia Thru-Hiker

### Certificate and Patch Application

If you hiked the entire 78 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia since January 1, 1986 and would you like to receive a Georgia Appalachian Trail Club Thru-Hiker Certificate suitable for framing, application forms are available from the GATC website at: <http://www.georgia-atclub.org/form.html>.

If you send \$3.00 extra, we'll send you a embroidered patch identifying you as a Georgia Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker. You do not have to be a Georgia Appalachian Trail Club Member.

## Membership Renewal and Order Form

(Please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check if above is new information.

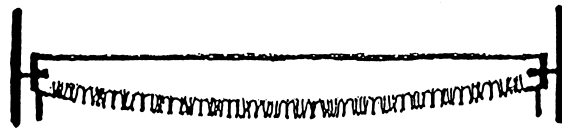
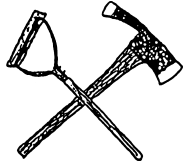
Junior  Single  Joint  Lifetime  Subscriber

| Qty.  | Item Name, Size, Color | Price* | Total |
|-------|------------------------|--------|-------|
| _____ | _____                  | _____  | _____ |
| _____ | _____                  | _____  | _____ |
| _____ | _____                  | _____  | _____ |

Mail with check to:

**Georgia** Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Appalachian Trail Club** Membership Dues: \_\_\_\_\_  
 c/o Shirley Andrews, Treasurer Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 P.O. Box 2093 Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cartersville, GA 30120

\*All prices include tax, shipping & handling.



## TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

### Third Saturday Trail Maintenance

February 19

Reported by: Nancy Shofner

I am constantly amazed at the willingness of all you great people not only to show up early on a Saturday, but to work so hard and get so much done! We "rehabilitated" water bars on 4 1/2 miles of the Hike Inn trail and in other ways improved the drainage on this heavily-used section. Seven crews spread out all the way from the end (or beginning) of the trail to within almost a mile of Amicalola State Park. Thanks very much to all of you, and a special thanks to crew leaders Lawson Herron, Tony Jenkins, Patrice Kohler, Jerry Seabolt, David Maddox, Ginny Smith, and Bob Almand.

Members: Dick Adams, Bob Almand, Shirley Andrews, Beverly Batchelor, Olin Batchelor, Maureen Donohue, Richard Eidson, Bobby Goldstein, Geoff Grosguth, Pafty Halenkamp, John Harris, Rick Hartline, Lawson Herron, Jerry Hobbs, Stewart Holt, Denise Houle, Tony Jenkins, Paul Kiel, Patrice Kohler, Franklin LaFond, Mary Louise MacNeil, David Maddox, Mary Ann Millslagle, Don Norton, Carole Perry, Denny Rhodes, Lois Rhodes, Jerry Seabolt, Richard Sepmeyer, Nancy Shofner, Ginny Smith, Tena Stanfield, Ray Stern, Angela Wagner, Bob Webber, Lisa Williams.



Guests: Kristin Cromie, Cailey Chase Fowler, Pat Klingseisen, Ben Manley, Tyler Porter, John Shutts, Ron Wallace, Margaret Walters.

**GEORGIA**  
APPALACHIAN TRAIL  
CLUB

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