

Georgia Appalachian Trail Club



***NEW MEMBER
INFORMATION***

MISSION

The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club manages, maintains and protects the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Georgia with volunteers from its membership and the interested public.

The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club promotes the appreciation of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and natural outdoor places through education and recreational activities, with an emphasis on conservation ethics and protection of the forests, their natural resources and wilderness areas.

PURPOSE

- Provide for the protection, management and maintenance of the Appalachian Trail and associated side trails in Georgia.
- Bring together those interested in hiking and camping and conduct outings for their recreation
- Foster an appreciation of the outdoors in our members and the public
- Teach and encourage observation of conservation ethics
- Encourage preservation of Wilderness areas
- Provide advice and assistance to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- Encourage and assist national and state governments in the preservation and conservation of our forests and natural resources.

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- GATC is one of 30 Trail Clubs that manage and maintain the trail
- There are 87 land managers along the Appalachian Trail
 - 45% of trail miles are in USFS, 8 National Forests
 - 23% is APPA National Park Land
 - 10% is in other National Parks
 - 20% on State Lands



COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The AT is managed by the 3-Legged Stool

1. The combined work of local trail clubs directly responsible for maintaining their sections.
2. Local, state & federal agency partners that manage the land the trail traverses. ANST is a unit of the NPS (APPA) who are responsible for oversight and administration of the Trail.
3. The ATC acts as the connection between the clubs, federal agencies and the public, setting policy direction, educating hikers and lobbying for the protection of the trail.



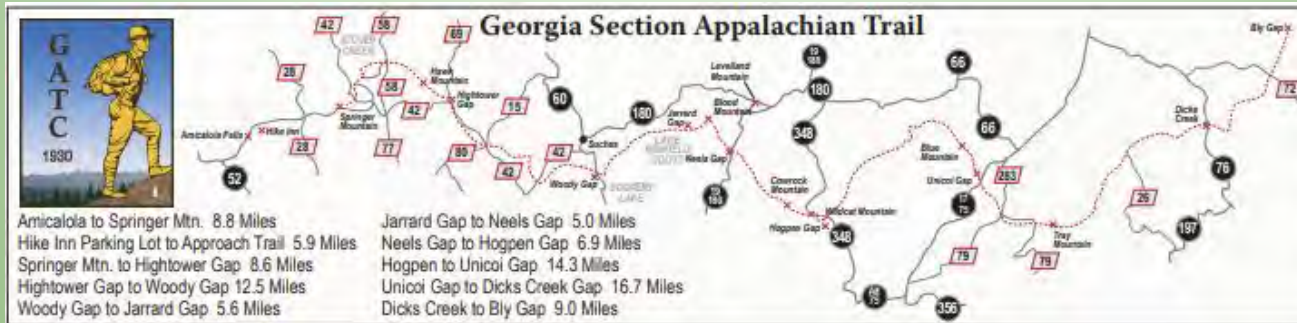
WILDERNESS WITH A CAPITAL W

- Georgia Trail is in the Chattahoochee National Forest with 6 Wilderness areas:
 - Blood Mountain
 - Raven Cliffs
 - Mark Trail
 - Tray Mountain
 - Southern Nantahala
 - Dockery Lake Trail
- Designated by Congress, these areas are maintained without the use of power tools.



MAINTENANCE OF THE TRAIL

- ~80 miles of Appalachian Trail
- ~40 miles of blue blaze trails and connectors
- Georgia section is divided into 11 Districts
 - District 1 - Approach Trail
 - District 2 - Hike Inn Trail
 - Districts 3-10 - AT
 - District 11 - Duncan Ridge Trail
- Each district is broken into sections, 115 in total.



Maintenance Activities

- **Third Saturday Group Trips**
- **Small Group Work Trips**
- **Sawyer Crew**
- **Georgia Rockers**
- **Structures Crew**

Maintenance:

Tom Lamb, Trails Supervisor

Trails_Supervisor@georgia-atclub.org

Sawyer Crew:

Mike Cordisco, Sawyer Lead

mac4rv@aol.com

Georgia Rockers:

Tom Lamb, Rock Crew Lead

tomlamb377@gmail.com

Structures Crew:

Bruce Kreitman, Structures Lead

tbklox@aol.com



SECTION MAINTAINERS

- Assigned mutually agreed section, generally with a co-maintainer(s)
- Commit to working on the section a minimum of 4 times per year
 - Weeding and lopping in late spring and late summer
 - Cleaning drainage structures in early spring and late fall
 - Remove trash and rehabilitate or remove fire rings and dispersed campsites
 - Close off social trails
 - Report larger repair needs to district leader
- Club provides training



ACTIVITIES

TAKE A HIKE!

- AT & BMT Hike Series
- 4000 Challenge Series
- Backpacking Trips
- Club Social Activities
- National Trails Day

Joyce Baker, Activities Director
act_dir@georgia-atclub.org



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BE AN EDUCATOR!

- AT Trail Communities
- Hike Inn Youth Hikes
- College Student Outreach
- Children's Forest Network
- Forest to Every Classroom
- Trail Ambassadors



CJ Bradbury, Outreach Director
Outreach@georgia-atclub.org

Outreach engages the public with a focus on youth and disadvantaged and underrepresented populations in the outdoors, providing experiential education classroom presentations and organizing hikes and backpacking trips.



TRAIL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

- **Educate hikers on Leave No Trace best practices.**
- Offer first aid and other assistance.
- Collect and report data about trail usage.
- Report maintenance issues.
- Pick up litter, dismantle fire rings and renaturalize areas.
- **Register thru hikers at Amicalola Falls State Park.**

Kelly Motter, Trail Ambassador Program Coordinator
[TA Admin@georgia-atclub.org](mailto:Admin@georgia-atclub.org)



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

REPRESENT THE CLUB!

- Community Festivals & Events
- Organize Training
- Web Page Hiker Information
- AT Gateways

Margaret Bryant, Information and Education Director
info_dir@georgia-atclub.org



CONSERVATION

PROTECT THE TRAIL CORRIDOR!

- Organizes invasive species pulls and insect treatment.
- Monitor activities of the USFS, DNR and private landowners that may impact the AT Corridor
- Monitor and report illegal or unacceptable uses of the trail
- Monitor sensitive environments (home to rare plants or endangered wildlife)

[Jason Gotch, Conservation Director](mailto:Conservation@georgia-atclub.org)
Conservation@georgia-atclub.org



MEMBERSHIP

RECRUIT AND WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Member Recruitment Events
- Member Orientation
- New Member Outreach and Engagement - **Community Gatherings**
- Member Data Management

Irene Hall, Membership Director
Membership@georgia-atclub.org



COMMUNICATIONS

WRITE ARTICLES OR SUPPORT OUR TECHNOLOGY!

- Georgia Mountaineer Monthly
- Georgia Mountaineer Quarterly
- Yearbook (online exclusively in 2024)
- Web/Tech Committee
- Website Content Management
- Social Media Content Creation
- Online newsletter articles and blog posts

Nancy LaChance, Communications Director
Comm_dir@georgia-atclub.org



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE CLUB!

- Graphic Design, Social Media Content - Nancy LaChance, comm_dir@georgia-atclub.org
- History and Archives - Jordan Shenefield, history@georgia-atclub.org
- Web Page and Technology, Ron Hamlin, webmaster@georgia-atclub.org
- Fundraising and Grant Writing - Ashley Luke, president@georgia-atclub.org
- Mapping and GIS - Stewart Holt, stewartbholt@gmail.com
- Accounting, Investing and Insurance - Hasan Smith, treasurer@georgia-atclub.org
- Legal Advising - Mike Banick, mbanick22@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

AT Gateways

February 27 - March 1

Amicalola Falls State Park

Banff Mountain Film Festival

March 28 at 2:00pm

**Union County Fine Arts Center,
Blairsville, GA**

Trail Skills Workshop

October 9-11

Vogel State Park



facebook

HOW DO I FIND INFORMATION?

- **WEB PAGE - EVENTS**
- E-MAIL
- GATC FACEBOOK GROUPS

facebook.com/groups/gatc.members

facebook.com/GaATClub

- MOUNTAINEER NEWSLETTER

For more information,
email the Membership Director
membership@georgia-atclub.org

