



EARTHWORKS



Volume 14, Issue 5

May, 2020

New Acting Superintendent Announced

The new Acting Superintendent, Ms. Lindsey Phillips, will begin her assignment on May 10, 2020 and go through September 5, 2020. Our Chief Ranger, Anthony Winegar has been filling the role for the last four months, since the park's former Superintendent, Nancy Walther retired at the end of 2019.

Ms. Phillips has been with the National Park Service for over 31 years. She has served as a principal advisor to four National Park Service Superintendents and provides professional, technical support, advice, and facilitation and brokering of services for projects and review a broad range of park and National Park Service functions and activities. During her career she has served as Chief of Administration & Business Services at Andersonville & Jimmy Carter National Historic Sites, Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas National Monuments, and currently is stationed at Gulf Islands National Seashore. She has also served as Acting Superintendent at Andersonville National Historic Site.

Park Status - 4/22/20

From the park staff, we wanted to send the public a thank you for your patience and assistance as we have worked through the COVID-19 changes in our standard operations. Like most of you, we also look forward to reopening the park. Rest assured that we will be continually working with our state and local partners in the coming days to determine the best reopening plan and the associated schedule. Please also bear in mind that as an executive federal agency we have additional standards and guidelines that we must meet prior to reopening. We have already started that process and look forward to completing it and re-opening at the first possible moment that is commensurate with current public health guidelines in order to keep our visitors and staff healthy.

Thoughts and Musings

Being confined to home for so long gets our minds thinking about life. For many of us, it's what can I do different to help make the world better. Let me suggest getting more involved in your community. It's one thing to volunteer at the park a few times per year. It's another to decide to become part of a volunteer organization and help it run. Yes, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP) has a staff paid for by our taxes. They keep the park running. But, they can't do it all. They rely heavily on local volunteers to make your visit to the park a great visitor experience. Some of those volunteers are doing things like public education in artillery, infantry, civil war life, civil war history, and how to explore the park safely. Others are doing things like trail safety patrols, assisting with planned events, repairing the trails, removing invasive plants, preventing erosion, and planning for future events. Behind the scenes there are also volunteers who work on fund raising, volunteer recruitment, records keeping, training, work planning, materials procurement and special projects. Most of these people are what we call "career volunteers".

So what does it take to be a career volunteer? First, it's more about the dedication than the hours. Retired people have more free time and tend to volunteer more hours. Full time working people tend to volunteer their time on the weekends and evenings. Most make their own hours. The only scheduled efforts are park events, event coordination

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Newsletter 1

<http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>



Ken Hale

Ken Hale, past Trails Director and current Crew Leader, was diagnosed earlier this month with an aggressive brain cancer. Eighty percent of the tumor was removed. In addition, he was laid off the week before his diagnosis.

Ken has been in physical therapy for the past week and is improving.

He was slated to go home on Monday, April 27th, however because of some medical complications, he

didn't make it home until the 29th.

He will start chemotherapy and radiation on May 5th; five times a week for six weeks. Because his form of brain cancer is so aggressive, his treatment will also be aggressive.

As of today, his family has raised over \$9,500 through their GoFundMe page. For those interested, the GoFundMe page is: https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-ken-battle-brain-cancer?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy-link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1

He and his family appreciate the cards and notes you are sending.

You can follow his progress on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/kenneth.hale.7>

Fred Feltmann



Left - Robert Willoughby; right - Ken Hale.
Photo by Fred Feltmann

TRAILS NON-WORKDAY

By Bill Gurry, Trail Boss

Because of the coronavirus closure of the Park, the May Trail Club workday has been cancelled.

It's been a slow year to say the least. The January workday was used for a trail skills workshop and crew leader training. The February workday was cancelled because of snow, although we did meet to clean out the tools shed. The March workday was cancelled because of forecasted rain and because of the uncertainty about the coronavirus, although in February some of us old guys worked with the Park staff to do an emergency repair on the Noses Creek Trail (see the March newsletter), and Geoff repaired a few more tools. April and now May workdays were closed because of the Park closure as a result of the coronavirus.

The June workday is uncertain but unlikely. The Park may open in stages, starting with the trails and parking lots, then the rest rooms, then the Visitor Center, and finally group activities, such as Trail Club workdays. Of course, when and how this happens will be entirely up to the NPS and the Park.

We have some exciting work ahead, including several trail work plans all over the Park, turnpikes, and a new bridge over John Ward Creek on the east side; a study of the Illinois Monument area is in the works, possibly SCA again, and, I understand, that sneaky privet is still growing in some remote places, and garlic mustard is active. Also, I can tell you firsthand after my last trail walk in March, poison ivy is doing very well.

But, don't despair. I promise that when the crisis subsides, the Mountain will still be there, we will still have lots of big rains, there will be millions of feet on the trails, and there will be erosion to repair. So please, stand by.



*Finished emergency project on Noses Creek Trail.
Photo by Fred Feltmann*

Thoughts and Musings Continued from Page 1

meetings, quarterly board meetings, occasional training sessions, and visitor center support. Other efforts are performed on the individual volunteer's schedule. And, not all volunteering occurs only at the park. A lot is done from home or work.

Bottom line, why not give career volunteering a try? Everyone has skills we can use and the reward of being part of something as great as our national parks is priceless. Why not give it a try for a few years? And, if volunteering is not for you, please consider a cash donation. Either way, you can make a difference.

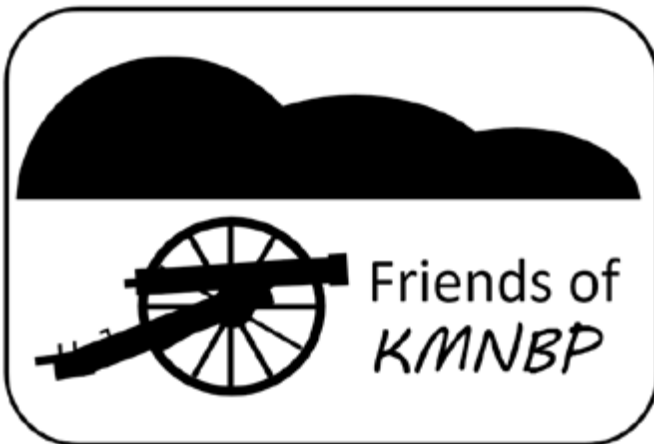
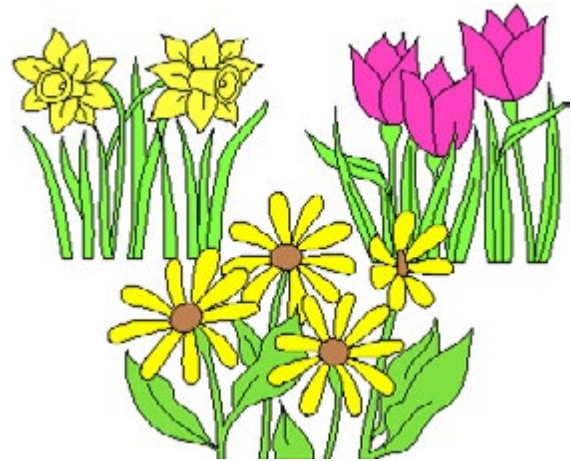
Scott Mackay

20 year Volunteer at KMNBP

KMNBP NPS Facebook Page

Get your KMNBP fix until it reopens at [https://www.facebook.com/pg/KMNBP/posts/!](https://www.facebook.com/pg/KMNBP/posts/) The staff is periodically posting videos about the Park, historical videos, and programs in association with Cobb County Libraries. A number of children's programs are available.

The Park staff will also post updates on the Park closure status there as well.



The Friends of KMNBP's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Your Membership helps to fund this mission.

Please join us.

Our website is FriendsOfKMNBP.org.

Visit to find out more info, to donate, or to sign up for one of our Board positions or to register as a member of the Friends organization.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Friends of KMNBP is to work in partnership with the National Park Service and the local community to raise annual funding for projects and activities in the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Programs supported: Outdoor Education
KEMO Trail Club
Living History
Trail Ambassadors

Open Positions: Membership Chair
Audio File Transcriber
1-Year Board Members

Contact Scott Mackay for info/details:
box2105@mindspring.com

What's Lost

Just last month we were worried about people walking too close together on the mountain road. Didn't have much time to worry about the road closed to vehicles when shortly there after the whole park was locked (along with many other places). So that was a surprise and I'm sure that the shutdowns were felt by many people to be a loss.

About the time the park closed I lost something that I cherished, my loyal cell phone deleted all pictures, gone in a flash. It was devastating to check my phone one moment and then again and gone- they're all gone! Over the years I've had several cell phones and when I updated the clerk, who knew how to do such things, would transfer the pictures from the old phone to a new one. Wonderful, I had all my old photos and I had a bunch. There were all kinds of pictures from many years of working with the Trail Club, lots of other events and of course family and friends. I really enjoyed looking at and showing the photos to others. It was so easy to turn on the phone and look at pictures, so easy for someone with the knowledge to transfer the pictures to another phone, all was well until they were 'lost'! Naturally, when I asked about what can I do to get them back first question was did you back them up; 'ugh' what's that was my answer. Then it's the inevitable - is it an 'I Phone'? Nope, just a pay monthly android that took really good pictures. I just never thought about back up, as the main reason for the phone was to call and get calls, the photos just happened to be a nice addition. So they're lost forever, didn't back them up (never took time to learn how)---- except my 'smart phone' is packed with undeleted text messages & a lot of those have pictures attached. And, now I've learned (on my own) how to move those pictures to my laptop.

Some years ago while working near the Mtn top, a young lady leader of the SCA group noticed that her cell phone was missing, she knew that she'd dropped it in the area where we were working. We stopped work and looked all over for the phone, after awhile she simply said forget about it indicating, "I'll get another one". In fact the phone was turned off, so we couldn't just call and find it. But what was amazing to me was that she'd traveled to other countries and had lots pictures and phone numbers (not backed up) and she just smiled and said; not a problem with new phone friends will call and I can remember what I saw and I'll save numbers



and just start over. She never said another word about the phone.

How I see it is that if something is gone, then it's gone. Of course one could also think that gone is also lost. But not lost is remembering the time and/or place. It may just be that taking the picture is enough because it causes one to stop and see. There's joy in that.

Now that our country has been inflicted with this vicious virus, the loss of a bunch of pictures is just not something that is awful. What's awful is loss of health and life. That's

something to think about when the park reopens, many come out to exercise to stay healthy and many come out to see where battles were fought. In any case always keep in mind that things can happen fast for both good and bad. Don't be like the Righteous Brothers song "You've lost that loving feeling". Sure we've lost spending time in the park, but don't lose the feeling that you get going there and especially the joy of helping out and being with others. The Trail Club 'T Shirts' had the slogan "# FIND YOUR PARK", well it's right here, not lost and I also didn't lose the memory of those photos.

During this time of a public health crisis it's given us time to think about what lost truly means. If there's a backup plan or action then something may be missing for awhile and replaced. What's an inconvenience is not a loss and you may discover another way to do it. If its gone then replace it and you'll have something new. You don't lose experiences and memories can be wonderful and by all means don't lose your loving feeling.

Stay strong, safe and be well,

Doug Tasse



"Earthworks" is published monthly by the Kennesaw Mountain Trails Club.

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Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

A Special Thanks!

Each year we have various groups who come out and help us. Henceforth, we will make every attempt to list your group here for the current/past fiscal year. If you are participating as a group, be sure to let us know when you are registering!

Following is a list, in alphabetical order, of the groups who participated during Fiscal 2018 (October 2017- September 2018 and Fiscal 2019 (October 2018- Present):

FY 2019

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC
ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB (AOC)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 008 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 144 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 200 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 277 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (3 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 287 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 433 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 442 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 445 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 540
BOY SCOUT TROOP 540 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (3 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 545 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 700 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 797
BOY SCOUT TROOP 797 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 1011 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUTS T 8880
BOY SCOUT TROOP 8880 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
CUB SCOUT PACK 204, MARIETTA
CUMBERLAND SCHOOL
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FLIGHTWORKS
FRIENDS TO THE FORLORN PITBULL RESCUE
GEORGIA TECH
HARRISON HS BETA CLUB
HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB
HARRISON NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
HILLGROVE HS NJROTC
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS HOPE
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS NJROTC
KSU
KSU BETA ALPHA PSI
MARIETTA HS
MT PARAN CHURCH
PACESETTER STEEL
SCA
SPRAYBERRY HS HOPE



TRUST

US ARMY

VOLUNTEER KSU

WHEELER HS

WOODSTOCK HS NJROTC



FY 2020

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC

BOY SCOUT TROOP 89

KING'S ACADEMY HS ARMY JROTC

HILLGROVE HS NJROTC

POPE HS - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

RIVER RIDGE HS

RIVER RIDGE HS ARMY JROTC

TRUST (KSU)

WALKER HS

Our April Work Days were cancelled because the coronavirus.

Wanted: Membership Chair!

"The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is looking for a personable, self-starting, take-charge volunteer to lead their membership team. [Contact Scott Mackay at box2105@mindspring.com.](mailto:box2105@mindspring.com)"

Park Visitation Outdistances That At Other Civil War Battlefield Parks!

Kennesaw Mountain again topped the charts in 2019 as the most-visited Civil War Battlefield Park in the country! In 2014, Kennesaw Mountain NB Park had 2,360,256 visitors and in 2019 we had 2,621,050 visitors far surpassing:

--Gettysburg 925,117

--Chickamauga/Chattanooga 977,158

--Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania 906,800

--Vicksburg 576,456

--Manassas 510,427

2019/2020 Fund Raising

Your volunteer hours help greatly for the many projects we do in the park and we greatly appreciate you contributing your “sweat equity” alongside our 80+ staff volunteers who routinely support each event. We are a non-profit all volunteer organization. However, like any business, we do have bills to pay.

Many of our projects are funded by the park or through grants we apply for. These funds are typically targeted for specific projects and do cover the big expenses such as rocks, stone dust, dirt, wood beams, bridges, fences, and such. But, after all the big stuff is paid for, we still have need to cover our day-to-day operating expenses for things like saw blade sharpening, fuel, tool repairs, equipment maintenance, work gloves, bug spray, drinking water, snacks, and porta-potties, along with basic business expenses - e.g. insurance. For these expenses, we rely on your donations.

Each year we kick off a new round of fund raising and this is the 2020 big “ask.” We need your help with this, even small donations help. We will conclude this drive at the end of FY 2020 (September, 2020).

As we approach our 18th year in operation, we ask you to please think ‘20’, like \$20.. \$40.. \$60..... \$200... \$2000. All donations to the Trail Club support our work at the park, and are tax deductible.

We are a nationally recognized club - having been presented the highest award in the National Park Service in 2014, “The Hartzog Award for Volunteer Group.”. There are several ways to donate:

- Use Guidestar on the bottom of our home page on the Trail Club website <http://www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>
- Subscribe to Amazon “Smile” where they will donate to us based on your purchases <https://smile.amazon.com/> - look for KEMO Trails Corps
- Send a tax deductible contribution to:

Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club*
Attn: Tom Okerberg
Whitlock Accounting Services
739 Kennesaw Avenue NW
Marietta, Ga. 30060

ALSO: Please check with employers about matching donations.

* Corporate name is KEMO Trail Corps, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization.



Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club Calendar

Date Time Location Event

All Work Days and events at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park are cancelled indefinitely at this point. In addition, all trails and facilities are closed at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

We will send out an email when events warrant a restart of work days and events and the Park reopens.

Register for Our Work Days!

Be sure to register online for our Work Days at [http://
signup.com/go/VvavYQj](http://signup.com/go/VvavYQj). By registering, we can be better prepared with the amount of tools, bottled water, gloves, etc. on hand.



Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Work Day Schedule:

All planned work days for the upcoming months have been cancelled until further notice.

If your school, church, business, or community organization would like to schedule a special work day as a team building or public service activity once we resume our work day schedules, e-mail us at kmtctrails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org at least 4 weeks in advance. Trail work can be performed any day of the week.

We work closely with the Park Service and assist the park staff by providing critically needed volunteer effort to install signs, build bridges, and maintain the 20+ miles of trails. Since our beginning in 2002, the Trail Club has donated over 45,000 volunteer hours to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Remember, park trails are closed at this time. The next trail workday will be announced once the park reopens.

We hope to see you at a work day as soon as we return to our normal scheduling!

NPS Staff Projects At Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

Following is a list of projects accomplished by the staff during the closure:

Highlights from Interpretation Division during COVID-19

- Completed one of the park's Museum plans and updated park's collection database
- Updated volunteer manuals (includes 5 volunteer manuals) and trainings
- Developed a KEMO Volunteer Orientation Training Class
- Preparing for 156th Battle of Kennesaw Mountain Anniversary and Memorial Day of Service events
- Assisting in a review of a volunteer training program out of the NPS Washington Office
- Virtual Ranger Program: Participated in Class Zoom Session on birding, environmental awareness, and the purpose of bark on trees.
- Completed Lesson plans for a summer camp: (orienteeing, birding, team building, overview, badges)
- Created various types of virtual content, including videos of interpretive programming and online activities for kids.
- Revised and cleaned up NPS website; ensured accessibility of online documents
- Planned virtual programming with the library system
- Updated older lesson plans
- Filled genealogy and research requests
- Continuation of presence on social media, to include themed daily posts about various natural, cultural, and historic topics
- Continued education on flora/ fauna of SE US, Native Americans of Cobb County and Civil War history through various means to include Open Yale; attended other online training courses.
- Volunteering and training with SE region's incident command team to aid in issues with Coronavirus - both from a safety and health aspect and from a communications standpoint
- Development of new formal programs, to include a Pigeon Hill Guided Hike
- Working on developing virtual park tours/ programs and ensuring they are accessibility compliant





Appalachian Trail Closed

As has been previously communicated, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the Chattahoochee National Forest (C-ONF) organizations have posted closures and requested hikers to stay off the Appalachian Trail. Trailheads and access points to the Trail have been closed and are being monitored by the Forest Service. All these actions have been taken to try to halt the spread of the COVID-19 virus by social distancing. The club has formal agreements with our partners that make it incumbent on us to respect and embrace their directives. We are bound by these arrangements to officially refrain from being on the trail. I hope our membership understands what this is about. I also believe it is a component of getting through this pandemic. To reopen prematurely could intensify the problem we are trying to mitigate.

Maintaining social distancing is vitally important. Unfortunately, some people think they are immune or above everything. Even wearing a mask might not protect us from a full-on virus assault, but it does demonstrate a desired behavior pattern of being personally, as well as socially, responsible.

Even though some government agencies have “open” facilities such as state parks and beaches in Georgia, it does not mean it is safe to go back to previous norms. It is hard to know what to do with conflicting information. Protecting yourself and not putting yourself near others is the responsible action to take. In light of how insidious this virus is, I think it is better to err on the side of caution. We need to think about a “new” normal to keep ourselves and those around us healthy.

As a part of the AT community, you know how beneficial the AT and our public lands are for improving physical and mental health, inspiring creativity, and increasing optimism. However, please hike responsibly and close to home to flatten the curve.

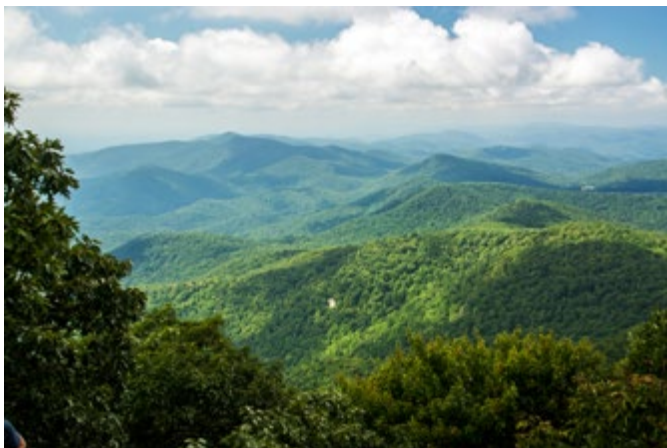
The Appalachian Trail is created, supported, and protected by a dedicated volunteer force, some of whom now find themselves in the front lines against COVID-19 as healthcare professionals and other essential service providers. We are grateful for the time, energy, and effort these individuals are expending in the effort to respond to and manage this pandemic. THANK YOU!

I am looking forward to getting back to maintaining and enjoying our trail and spending time with fellow club members. In the meantime, stay home, stay safe, and be healthy.

GEORGIA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Jay M Dement, President

Blood Mountain - photos by Fred Feltmann



Odds And Ends - Over The Years

Photos by Fred Feltmann

While hunkered down, I just randomly went over some of the last 5 years of photos. This set is from 2015.



Running on air! Neither runner in this photo is grounded!



It was a foggy day in March...



Ticket To Ride - 3/21/15



Ticket To Ride - 3/31/15



151st Anniversary - Cannon Crew Fires!

Lance Corporal "Skip" Wells, at the #1 position. Photo by Fred Feltmann, at the 151st Anniversary of the Battle Of Kennesaw Mtn.



KMTC earns the NPS Annual Volunteer Service Award - 2015





Completed Eagle Scout Project - Pigeon Hill



Park Resident? Park Visitor? You Decide!



Dave Skilling & Ken Hale



Cub Scout Pack learning about the charge at Cheatham Hill.



Right: The Horse Patrol - the Saturday before Christmas.

EVENT NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Jay M Dement

GEORGIA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

TRAIL SKILLS WORKSHOP

Lake Winfield Scott

September 26-27, 2020

The Trail Skills Workshop is a two day event September 26 & 27, 2020, at Lake Winfield Scott, hosted in cooperation by the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Chattahoochee-Oconee national Forest, and Appalachian Trail Conservancy. There is no charge for the program, camping and a cookout dinner on Saturday is included.

This workshop is focused on teaching the most current trail construction and maintenance methods applicable for Eastern landscapes. Courses are a mix of classroom instruction, field time, and social time. Previous experience is not necessary for the Essential Trail Skills class, The 215 Drainage Dip class is for more experienced trail workers. There are also classes for moving heavy logs and rocks. A more advanced course in rock shaping is also offered.

For more information contact jay@jayDphotos.com and to register go to <https://forms.gle/DgRjkGP9xB2vofXM6>.

* * *

Contact List - Updated 9/24/19

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
President	Donald Olds	president@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Vice President	Robert Willoughby*	vp@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Secretary	Robert Brier	secretary@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Treasurer	Tom Okerberg	treasurer@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Trails Director	Bill Gurry*	trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Community Volunteer Director	Rena Bailey	volunteerdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Communications Director	Fred Feltmann	comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Newsletter Editor	Fred Feltmann	comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Information/Technology Director	Jerry Givan	webmaster@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Trail Ambassador Director	Janie Brier	ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Plants Director	Danny Leigh	plants@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
Fundraising Director	Scott Mackay	fundraising@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Amazon Smile

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Website

<http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/>

Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/kmtcsocial>

Volunteer Sign-up website*

<http://signup.com/go/VvavYQj>

* updated

Sponsors/Partners Corner

Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!

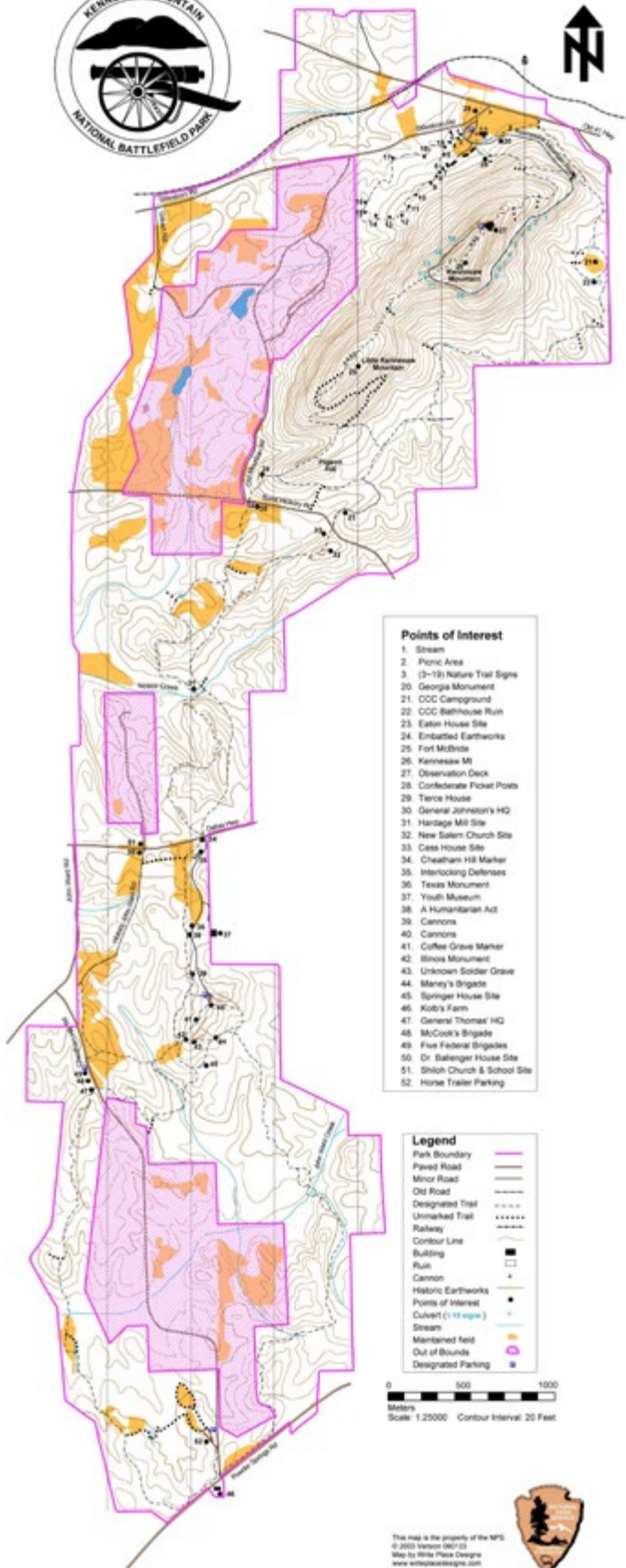


<http://americanhiking.org>



KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Trail Maintenance Map



June Newsletter Deadline

If you wish to have an article published in the June Newsletter, please submit it to Fred Feltmann at faf1948@bellsouth.net no later than May 20th!

PS Even if you're just a "volunteer," you can also present an article for publication - and you won't be the first!