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**ForestWatch Event**

## **Valentine's Day Wagon Train Trail Hike!**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2019**

January 23, 2019



Sunset from Brasstown Bald - Photo by Peter McIntosh

**Hike Leaders:** Sue Harmon, Georgia ForestWatch board president, and Ken Cissna, Benton MacKaye Trail Association

**Hike Location:** Wagon Train Trail - Brasstown Bald, GA

**Hike Date:** Thursday, February 14, 2019

**Outing Description:** Georgia ForestWatch and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association are teaming up to co-sponsor this hike in the Brasstown Wilderness on Brasstown Bald. Come join us and learn about our organizations.

After a short climb from Brasstown Bald Visitors Center, it is 2 miles of gentle downhill on the Wagon Train Trail to the overlook, and then we will return to the parking area. Hearty hikers in the crowd have the option to add another mile (0.5 mi up and 0.5 mi back) to the Observation Deck/Tower and the spectacular 360-degree views. Besides the views, we'll enjoy the golden sheen of the high elevation yellow birch trees and maybe even some dazzling ice formations along the steep roadsides of the trail.

**Meeting Time, Place and Directions:** Meet at 10:00 am in the center of the parking lot on top of Brasstown Bald. Park near the individual restroom facilities (vault toilets) that are in the parking lot, not the large ones up near the store/office, as they will be locked. See Google map [here](#) . Brasstown Bald requires a parking pass. There is a drop box to pay a day user fee of \$3 via an envelope, or you can display your Interagency/Golden Senior or Access Pass on the dash of your vehicle.

**Distance and Difficulty:** Hike is 4 to 5 miles, depending on whether you add the climb to the Tower. Typical rocks and roots on the Wagon Train Trail. Asphalt on the Tower trail. Moderate pace.

**Duration:** 3 to 5 hours depending upon your pace and hike choices

**Participant Limit:** 24 (12 from each organization)

**What to Bring and Wear:** Lunch, plenty of water, rain gear, and sturdy footwear. If allergic to bees/wasps, remember to bring your meds/epi-pen.

**Cancellation:** Hikers will be notified via email by 6 pm the evening before the hike, if outing is canceled due to forecast of severe weather, etc.

**Pet Policy:** Well-behaved trail dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.

**Family Safe Policy:** Georgia ForestWatch Outings are a smoke-, alcohol-, and drug-free setting.

**Sign up now!  
Space is limited.  
Reservations are required.**

Our outings are free of charge and open to everyone on a first-come, first-served basis, up to the limit. BUT DON'T FORGET, [Georgia ForestWatch members are always given priority on our hikes](#) . To learn how you can become a member, [click](#)

[here](#) .

### To Reserve Your Spot:

**A:** If you are a **Georgia ForestWatch** member, please register using [this link](#) (for the best chance of securing a spot).

**or B:** If you are a **Benton MacKaye Trail Association** member, please use [this link](#) .

**PLEASE READ:** By registering for this event, you certify that you have read and agreed to the ForestWatch [outing waiver of liability](#) .

For more information on the hike, OR if you need directions on the day of the hike, please contact Sue Harmon, [sueharmon@gmail.com](mailto:sueharmon@gmail.com) or 770-540-3672 OR Ken Cissna, [kcissna@usf.edu](mailto:kcissna@usf.edu), 706-636-1741.

## Upcoming Outings Mark Your Calendar & Watch for Alerts!

[Saturday, February 16](#) - Winter Tree ID Hike - *with Jess Riddle*

[Saturday, March 2](#) - Kelly Ridge Big Trees - *with Jess Riddle*

[Saturday, March 23](#) - Georgia Mountain Treasures Hike (location TBD) - *with Marie Dunkle*

[Saturday, April 6](#) - Camp Creek Wildflowers - *with Jess Riddle and SAPS*

[Saturday, April 20](#) - Johns Mountain/Blue Springs Branch - *with Jess Riddle*

[Saturday, April 27](#) - Ramp Cove Wildflower Hike - *with Jess Riddle*

*Georgia ForestWatch outings are advertised first to members, about three weeks in advance.  
A few days later, if spaces are still available, a notice goes out to all who are on our alert list.  
We do not take reservations in advance of the email alert.*



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