

**Mountain High Hikers
General Meeting
December 11, 2014**

Place and time of Meeting: Sharp Memorial Methodist Church, Young Harris, Georgia
Potluck dinner 6:00 PM

President Michael O'Brien opened the meeting at 6:35 PM

He thanked Candy Retter for the outstanding job of putting together the potluck dinner for the meeting.

Old Business

American Hiking Society (AHS) Project Miller Trek. Nominee Trail Maintenance-Bronco stated that the MHH board approved \$1,000 to be used for expenses when the crew is here for the project.

Committee Reports

Treasurer: Doug gave the treasurer's report.

Secretary: BJ reminded the membership that the notes from the General Meeting are on the MHH web site.

Conservation: National Forest Service in North Carolina--Comments Sought on Wilderness and Other Proposals by Jan. 5, 2015. Judie is reviewing information and will provide comments on behalf of the MHH. Both Tom and Richard attended the meeting for this project. Judie also mentioned that she will be developing conservation update that will be part of the MHH web site.

Hike Planner: Dave explained that there was a total of 846 miles of scheduled hikes for 2014. He also noted that approximately 50% of waivers are being returned to him. Due to liability issues this current trend is not acceptable. Also hike leaders are needed for the winter session.

Membership: Frank stated that the 1st notice for upcoming dues was recently sent and 62 members have already signed up. Approximately half of these people did use *PayPal*. Total membership at this time is currently 202 members.

Social Director: The next general meeting will be at the Sharp Memorial Church in Young Harris @ 6PM. March 19, 2015 has been set for the next general. Candy will send out notice again regarding Wilderness Wildlife Week.

Publicity: Pam will be sending a Newsletter soon and will incorporate the concept that MHH is more than a hiking club. Pam will incorporate wilderness, conservation, trail maintenance.

Pam will also incorporate information about Wildlife Wilderness Week into the Newsletter.

Trail Maintenance: Richard noted the following: 1,550 volunteer hrs. of maintenance during 2014 and 15,000 volunteer hrs. since 2008. Also in 2014 there were 42 trail maintenance visits representing 109 miles and 23 different club members.

Richard then recognized the following volunteers for their service:

Wes Potts, Bob Kampher, Bronco Burnsworth, Dave Richardson.

Richard Sullivan was recognized for five years as Trail Maintenance Director. He was thanked by President Michael O'Brien and given an award.

General Membership Voting: The nomination of **Bronco Burnsworth** for Trail Maintenance 2015 was approved by the membership.

All returning board members were approved by the general membership.

Dave Richardson was recognized with a **“Lifetime Service Award”**. He has volunteered for 20 years in trail maintenance

Forest Service Volunteer Agreements-Michael stated that previous work has been ongoing with the Forest Service and MHH and anticipates that the new revised agreement should be completed in 2015. There will be a teleconference between the forest service and MHH on December 15, 2014 to further discuss this agreement. This is an important agreement which will include liability protection for hike leaders and trail maintenance workers.

MHH shirts: MHH members may purchase shirts **directly** through *Coosa Creek Embroidery*. Richard will update the Web with the information.

Program – Micky Cummings spoke about Native Plants.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

BJ Foster

Secretary