

**Mountain High Hikers
General Meeting
December 8, 2015**

Place and time of meeting: Sharp Memorial Methodist Church, Young Harris Georgia.

Potluck Supper – 6:00 PM

General Meeting was opened by President Michael O'Brien at 6:40 PM

Committee Reports:

Vice President Tom Shope discussed the letter that he had written urging the Honorable Johnny Isakson of the United States Senate to support legislation that would change the budgeting strategy and process used to fund firefighting and fire suppression activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service (Forest Service) and the U.S. Department of Interior (Interior) on behalf of the Mountain High Hikers Club, Inc. (MHH)

Secretary BJ Foster – Nothing new to report

Treasurer Doug Yarns – Treasurer's report was given. He reported that a donation was made To the Hike Inn.

Social Director Candy Retter- Candy thanked everyone for bringing delicious side dishes and making the Potluck a success.
The MHH general meeting will be at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church in March. Notices will be sent out. Candy will discuss Wildlife Wilderness Week at the next MHH general meeting.

Hike Leader Dave Werkheiser – Jerry Carnes and Evelin Yarns were thanked by Dave for their great job in planning hikes.

Membership Frank Maloney- MHH has a total of 194 members.

Publicity Pam Sullivan- This is last newsflash from Pam.

Web Master Richard Sullivan – Nothing new with the web.

Trail Maintenance Bronco Burnsworth – Awards and patches were handed out. The American Hiking Club accepted MHH request to work again at Miller Trek along with various other trails.
Four workers from last year's crew are returning.

Conservation Judie Kean - National Forest Updates:

- Cooper's Creek Project – decision expected January 2016. Forest Service reviewed over 250 comments regarding the “mining” of old trees (greater than 100 years old).
- Hawk Mountain Improvement – AT improving dispersed camping and latrine area. ¾ mile of new side trail to 30 new tent sites. The goal is to reduce ecological impact on the AT.
- Astronomy Observation Site – to be located south of Clayton - south east portion of Rabun County, Georgia.
- Laurel Creek Property Owners – (50 acre holding in the Tusquittee Ranger District). Final decision due January 2016.
- Byron Herbert Reece Trail Connection – MHH working with Forest Service to make a new trail. This trail will link Vogel State Park with the Byron Herbert Reece cultural area.

Judie turned the Byron Reece Trail Connector project over to Dayton Miller. Dayton addressed the general membership on how it developed.

New Business:

George Owen and **Darcy Douglas** spoke about the South Eastern Foot Trails Hiking event the last four days in January. This will be held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

President Michael O'Brien took a quick count for those interested in purchasing a t-shirt or other items with the MHH logo.

Election of the MHH 2016 board members were named and approved.

The guest speaker was John Kay. He is the site manager at the Herbert Byron Reece Farm. His presentation was about Herbert Byron Reece. He also read some of Herbert Byron Reece's poetry.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 PM

**Respectfully Submitted by,
BJ Foster
Secretary**