Volume 18, Issue 12

December, 2024

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KMTC

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Articles to look for in this month's newsletter:

- NPS Events for the Month of December see page 6
- Bridge Project Fundraiser pages 7 & 12
- 2025 Fund Drive pages 11 & 12
- December 14th Work Day page 13





Season's Greetings!

Wishing you all a safe and happy Holiday Season!



January Newsletter Deadline

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

Calendar of Events - Friends/KMTC

<u>Date Time Location</u> <u>Event</u>

December, 2024

12/14 8 am - Noon Visitor Center Parking Field December, 2024 Work Day

January, 2025

01/11 TBD - dependent on weather! January, 2025 Work Day

February, 2025

02/08 TBD - dependent on weather February, 2025 Work Day

The Park staff is conducting Virtual Events on their Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/pg/KMNBP

Current Status Of Park

All NPS outdoor events at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park are being conducted.

All trails are open, except as noted, below. All parking lots are open. The Mountain Road parking lot is open when the Mountain Road is open.

Visitor Center is now open; masks are *optional*.

The Visitor Center theater is open - the movie is being shown.

The Mountain Rd. is open to motorized vehicles on weekdays only (excluding major holidays)

The shuttle bus is now transporting visitor to/from the Visitor Center/Kennesaw Mountain Top Parking Lot on weekends.

Trail closures

The horse trail crossing on John Ward Creek on the Kolb Farm East Trail is closed until further notice because of the treacherous creek crossing there.

See page 6 for a listing of NPS-sponsored events for the month of December.



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Guidebook

The Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Guidebook sponsored by the Friends of KMNBP is now available on Amazon.

"Earthworks" is published monthly jointly by the Friends of KMNPB & the Kennesaw Mountain Trails Club.

e Kennesaw Mountain Trails Club. **Editor:** Fred Feltmann

678-315-5888

E-mail: faf1948@bellsouth.net

Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

List of Abbreviations

FOKM - Friends of Kennesaw Mountain

KMNBP - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

KMTC - Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club

NPS/KEMO - National Park Service/Kennesaw Mountain

VHP - Veterans History Project

VC - Visitor Center

Newsletter Sign-up

Would you like to receive our newsletter? To sign up, click on the following link: http://eepurl.com/gKjX1n Complete and submit this form. You'll be added to our subscription list.

Wish to unsubscribe? Simply follow the instructions at the bottom of the email forwarding the newsletter link, and you'll be permanently removed from our mailing list. To re-subscribe, you will need to use a different email address removal is permanent for the original email address!



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive Kennesaw, GA 30152

> (770) 427-4686 phone www.nps.gov/kemo

National Park Service, U.S.Department of the Interior, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30152, (770) 427-4686 phone,

Kennesaw Mountain News Release

Release Date: Immediately

Contact: Marjorie Thomas, Marjorie thomas@nps.gov, 770-427-4686 x 231

John Ward Creek Crossing Closed to Horseback Riders

Kennesaw, GA – Effective immediately, the John Ward Creek crossing just south of the Illinois Monument is closed to horseback riders until further notice. This closure stems from a safety concern due to hazardous conditions relating to an unstable streambed. The closure affects the creek crossing between Milepost 3.5 and Milepost 4 of the Kolb's Farm East Trail.

Superintendent Patrick Gamman states, "We are concerned for the safety of all park users. Crossing John Ward Creek at this section of the trail poses a risk that we want to alert our horse community to, as it could potentially cause harm to both horse and rider. We will be working as quickly as possible to mitigate this problem."

Please contact the park at 770-427-4686 or visit the park's website at <u>www.nps.gov/kemo</u> for further information.

The National Park Service

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 423 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at the NPS website, and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The 2024 Share the Experience Employee Photo Contest

Do you have a favorite photo of your park site or another Federal land that you would like to share? The 2024 Share the Experience Employee Photo Contest launched in June and is accepting entries through December 31, 2024. The contest is a great way to share the photos you have taken while off duty or as a Volunteer and you have a chance to win a prize. Eleven winners will be selected to receive an America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass and outdoor gear. The grand prize winner will also receive a framed copy of the winning photo.

The 2023 grand prize-winning photo was taken by NPS intern Sophie Ulik while visiting Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. See the 2023 winning photos and enter the contest at https://employees.sharetheexperience.org/login.

To just see the gallery of photos - https://employees.sharetheexperience.org/

To be eligible for the contest, you must be employed by or volunteered for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at some time during the Submission Phase of the contest (June 13 - December 31, 2024). Photos must be taken while off-duty at lands managed by the above six agencies.

Enter up to 10 photos by December 31, 2024, to be eligible to win.

If you have any questions email waso interagency pass@nps.gov.

Park Moments













Newsletter 5
http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Interpretive Programs for December

*All outdoor programs are weather-dependent.
*Unless otherwise noted, all programs will be held at the Visitor Center

Museum Tours every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday @ 2:00 pm!

December 1 @ 2:00 pm - Cheatham Hill Battlefield Walk

Come on out and enjoy a casual, history-focused walk around one of the most significant sites of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Hear accounts from Union and Confederate survivors, and fully experience the area that would earn the nickname of the "Dead Angle".

*Parking is at the end of Cheatham Hill Drive (tour stop 5 on brochure). December 8 @ 11 am- Mountaintop Hike

This ranger-led hike will take you roughly 1 mile up to the peak of Big Kennesaw Mountain. Along the way, you'll learn about the flora and fauna of the area and the history that shapes us from pre-history, through the Civil War and on to today. The hike is semi-strenuous so bring water and good shoes!

December 14 @ 11 am - Atlanta Campaign Map Talk

"All that has come before has been mere skirmishing." The Atlanta Campaign is considered one of the most pivotal and influential set of battles during the Civil War. Join one of our rangers for a short discussion on these battles and the maps that tie them together.

December 15 @ 11 am - Assault Trail Hike

"How can a man die better, than by facing fearful odds?" Experience the Union assault against the Confederate high ground of Cheatham Hill, as it happened. Follow in the footsteps of the brave soldiers who fought at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain 160 years ago. This hike is somewhat strenuous. Please have plenty of water and good shoes.

*Parking is at the picnic area of Activity Area 3 (tour stop 6 on brochure).

December 15 @ 1 pm - Stay Safe Outdoors Training

Be prepared for emergencies during your outdoor adventures with essential first aid knowledge. Park staff and volunteers will teach critical first aid techniques that can help you manage injuries and keep everyone safe. This training is FREE and will take place in the park's Visitor Center.

December 21 @11 am- The Importance of Battlefields

After the Civil War, the places that were once the sites of extreme carnage and violence took on a different meaning. These former battlefields were gradually preserved and used to educate, inform, and remember. Join one of our rangers in a short talk on the importance of these sites in telling the story of the Civil War.

December 28 @ 11 am - Animals of Kennesaw Mountain

By preserving the landscape of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, the natural environment has been able to thrive. In addition to the abundance of natural resources, these 3,000 acres of green space have become an ideal habitat for lots of wildlife! Join this ranger program to learn about some of key species that call Kennesaw Mountain home. This program is ideal for adults and children alike.

December 29 @11 am- Sherman's March to the Sea

Following his two-month occupation of Atlanta, Major General William T. Sherman initiated his March to the Sea. In November of 1864, Sherman's 60,000-man army departed Atlanta and began campaigning to "make Georgia howl." Many have called him a war criminal, a dutyful soldier, a madman or a great tactician. Discover the history behind the maneuver that sealed the fate of two nations.





New Bridge Proposal

This request is for a pre-fab bridge that is 48' long and 8' wide going across a large creek on a proposed new trail, which will be made public once the funds are raised. The estimated bridge cost is ~\$52,000 and \$8,000 to complete the bridge

installation and approach trails. Superintendant Patrick Gamman's target installation date is the February 2025 workday Therefore, we need to raise the \$60,000 by midJanuary, 2025.

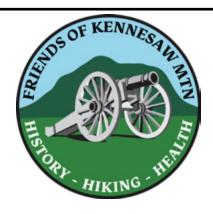
See page 12, <u>"Six Ways To Donate"</u> for ways to donate and Page 12, <u>"2024 Pledge Card"</u>. Be sure to designate that your donation is for the 2025 Bridge Project. More details to come in the location/name of trail if the grant is approved!!!

The good news is that \$5,000 has already been pledged!

Mike Collett

Trails Director





The Friends Of Kennesaw Mountain

The Friends of Kennesasw Mountain'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 Mission:

The mission of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is to work in partnership with the National Park Service and the local community to provide volunteers and raise funding to support activities such as:

- Visitor & Away Events
- Transportation, Housing, and Feeding of volunteer groups (example: Living History, Student Conservation Association, Invasive Plants Team)
- Museum Upgrades and Indoor and Outdoor Exhibit Additions (& the Wallis House)
- · Restrooms, Parking, and Picnic Area Facilities
- · Trails, Fire Roads, and Bridges Maintenance
- · Educational Day Trips and Vacation Camps
- Volunteer-In-Park Training Programs

The ultimate goal is to create endowments for the most significant expense items and move them toward a sustainable and perpetual self-funded status that reduces the need for these items to rely on federal budget support.

Help Wanted: Leadership Positions

As a result of the recent merger of the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club (KMTC) and Friends of Kennesaw Mountain NBP (Friends), as well as position resignations, the following positions are vacant.

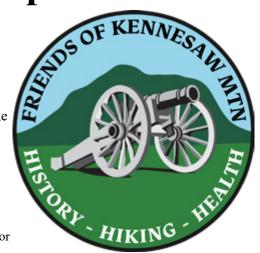
These positions are needed to advance the Friend's mission as the Philanthropic Partner of Kennesaw Mountain NBP, NPS.

As you volunteer with Friends' activities, please consider participating in one of the following leadership roles.

1. Secretary, Board of Directors, Friends

2-year term

"The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, accurate records of the deliberation, actions and resolutions of the Board and of the Executive Committee and of such other committees as may be determined by the Board or the Board Chair." By-laws Friends.



2. Community Affairs, Staff, Friends

1-year term

"Responsible for the planning and implementation of registration on scheduled Trail Workdays as well as for approving volunteer hours and volunteer performance certificates. The job requires on-going coordination with the various groups and individuals representing the NPS, KMTC and local volunteer community."

3. Grants, Staff, Friends

1-year term

Identifies grant opportunities to support Friends' efforts. Prepares grant applications. Administers approved grants.

4. Volunteer coordinator, Staff, Friends

1-year term

Coordinates assignment of Friends VIP (volunteers in parks) to support Friends events and requests for support from NPS. Helps develop and refine the volunteer management aspects of the Friends website.

5. Member, Fundraising Committee, Staff, Friends (several positions available)

1-year term

Reports to Board Fundraising Director

Participates in the development and implementation of the fundraising function of Friends.

6. Member Website Development Committee, Friends (several positions available)

1-year term

Reports to Board Social Media Director

Participates in the development and implementation of the Friends website.

7. Trail Ambassador Co-Director, Staff, Friends

1-year term

Coordinates Trail Ambassador support of monthly Trail Club workday.

Continued on Page 9

8. 161st Park Anniversary (2025) Coordinator

1-year term

This individual would head up a volunteer group to coordinate various activities with the NPS staff to conduct the 161st Anniversary of the Battle for Kennesaw Mountain.

Activities might be:

- Fundraising
- Parking
- · Food logistics for feeding the various volunteers
- General logistics
- Publicity
- Hospitality Services

9. Endowment Fund Chair

2-year term

Coordinate/lead the activities necessary to establish an Endowment Fund for the Friends:

- Policies
- Publicity
- · Establish a core group to manage it

For more details or to be considered for these positions please contact:

Jay Haney, (770) 313-4864, haney69jb@gmail.com

For the Governance/Nominating Committee

18 July 2024

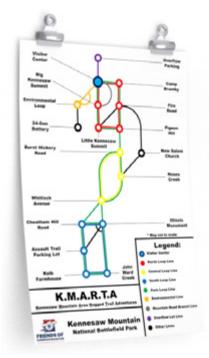


The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain Webstore

The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is excited to announce our new webstore! Our first product is a unisex T-shirt, which is 100% cotton. The design on the back of the shirt shows Kennesaw Mountain and the Visitor Center. It is inspired by the New Deal travel posters from the 1930's. The shirt can be purchased online for \$20 at https://friendsofkmnbp.org/shop/. Visit our website! *New items have been added!*

Andrew Bramlett





Some of the items for sale.





Friend's Brochure - 2025 Fund Drive



Become a supporting member of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP)

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

These include:

Hiking/Equestrian Trail improvements and Maintenance

Museum improvements and expansion

Living History Demonstrations

Additional parking and restrooms

Guest speakers

More

Our long term goal is to establish endowments to provide perpetual sources of funding for the programs that make the park special for all of us and generations to come.



Your annual membership will help us achieve our goals. We are a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization. 100% of all funds received are put to use for and at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Annual membership levels:

- □Hiker up \$249 □Trail Guide \$250
- ☐ Irail Guide \$250 ☐ Peak Performer \$500
- □Superintendent's Circle \$1,000
- □Canine Corps \$120
- □ Park Sustainer \$10/mo+

(\$120 Annually)

□Tribute Salute – Amount given in

honor/memory of someone



Six Ways To Donate

You can support the Friends in 6 ways:

- Directly through our website https://friendsofkmnbp.org/giving-membership/donate/
- 2. Through PayPal https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/3750205
- Through Guidestar (Network for Good) https://www.nfggive.com/donation/83-4627827
- 4. QR Code:



DipJar located in the Visitor CenterNew!

6. Or, by mailing to:

Friends of KMNBP 905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive Kennesaw, GA 30152

Thanks for your support!

Please Use the pledge card on the following page when mailing in a donation.

Please check with your company to see if they will match your gift.





2025 Pledge Card

Note: New category - 2025 Bridge Project!!!!

This is a \$60,000 Project - can you pledge \$50, \$100, \$500, or more? If so, please complete the Pledge Card, below, and send it to the address on the card - we've already raised \$5,000!



Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park		
2025 Pledge Card		One Payment Quarterly Payment Monthly Payment
	□Trail Guide \$250	Monthly Payment
Name	□Peak Performer \$500 □Superintendent's Circle \$1,000	Does your company match? Y N
Address	□Canine Corps \$120 □Park Sustainer \$10/mo+	Invoice me
City, State, Zip	(\$120 Annually) □Tribute Salute – Amount given in	(Monthly Quarterly)
PhoneEmail	honor/memory of someone	Check enclosed (Payable to " <i>Friends of KMNBP</i> ")
Complete and mail to:	Pledge: Amt General Fund - Friends Trail Club -	Credit Card Number:
Friends of Kennesaw Mountain Attn: 2023 Pledge 905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive	Living History -	Expiration date Security Code
Kennesaw, GA 30152	Check one or designate amount for each.	I wish to remain anonymous



EARTHWORKS

Workday 11-09-24

This work plan covered the removal and replacement of the bridge that Kolb's Farm Connector and annual maintenance from the Illinois Monument parking lot to about a quarter mile past the bridge including cleaning the area around the Illinois Monument and the trail by the Unknown Solider Memorial.

On Friday, November 8, Eric, Mark, Mike C, Tom, Bill, and I reviewed the work plan.

On November 9th we had 14 crew leaders for the workday. The Crew Leaders were Aashrith, Aaron O, Curt, Donald, Eric, Fred, Geoff, Kirsten, Mark, Robert, Tom Thomas G, Bill and I. We had 2 Crew Leaders under instruction, Donna and Mike C (we now have 2 Mike C's); and 4 Trail Ambassadors, Debbie, Karen, Laurie, and Yvonne, and 1 under instruction, Brendon. The Trail Ambassadors did registration, directed the volunteers to the parking area, and assisted with directing visitors around the work area. Of note is that Aashrith, Aaron O, and Kirsten became Crew leaders after completing the class on November 2. This was their first workday as Crew Leaders. We had 45 volunteers. The volunteers were from Hillgrove JROTC Unit (29), Allatoona

Continued on Page 14

"Other" Volunteers Needed!

Interested in being more active with the Trail Club (or the Friends), but don't want to do Crew Leader or Trail



Ambassador work? See pages 8 - 9 for a list of activities/ functions needed to maintain the organizations and contact the various department heads to volunteer!

Crew Leader & Trail Ambassador Positions Available!

Contact Mike Collett (regarding Crew Leader positions) or Kathy Van Valkenburg/Wendy Turner (Trail Ambassador positions) if interested.

A training class for prospective Trail Ambassadors will be announced shortly.

Mike Collett - <u>trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org</u>
Kathy Van Valkenburg/Wendy Turner -

ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

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 2024 (October 2023- September 2024 and Fiscal 2025 (October 2024- Present):

FY 2024

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC
ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB
ETOWAH HIGH SCHOOL EAGLE SERVICE CONNECTION CLUB
HILLGROVE HS NJROTC
KSU

FY 2025

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC ALLATOONA HS STUDENTS ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB HILLGROVE HS NJROTC

This Past Month's Volunteers

We had 45 volunteers for the November, 2024 Work Day, from the following organizations, along with several individuals:

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC ALLATOONA HS STUDENTS ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB HILLGROVE HS NJROTC

Work Day, 12/14/24

Our next workday is Saturday, December 14, 2024. We will be performing annual maintenance on the Kennesaw Mountain Trail starting at the Visitor Center, going up the mountain and parking at the Visitor Center.

Just a reminder that from November through February we will be working winter work hours from 8:30 to 12:30.

Mike Collett
Trails Director

11/9/24 Work Day Continued from Page 13

HS JROTC Unit (13), the Atlanta Outdoor Club (6, 4 of which Donna, Kirsten, Mark, and I are also Crew Leaders), and one individual.

On Saturday at 8:45, I welcomed the volunteers and conducted the safety briefing. We split into three groups.

Group 1, led by Tom with the individual, 2 Allatoona High School kids, and the 2 from the Atlanta Outdoor Club worked on drainage issues around the Illinois Monument. After completing this they performed annual maintenance on the Trail going by the Unknown Soldier Memorial and the Knob's Farm connector Trail.

Group 2, led by Donald with Kirsten, Donna, and Aashrith assisting and volunteers from Hillgrove HS JROTC Unit (10), Allatoona JROTC Unit (11), performed annual maintenance from the parking lot to the Knob's Farm connector Trail and working on the Knob's Farm connector Trail.

Group 3, led Eric with Mark, Mike C, Robert, Thomas G, Bill, Curt, Aaron O and volunteers from Hillgrove HS JROTC Unit (19) worked on the bridge replacement. Bill would take 8 of the high school kids and perform annual maintenance on the west end of the Knob's Farm connector Trail until it started up the hill by the homes.

We could not have asked for a better day to perform trail maintenance. The weather was neither too hot nor too cold; it was perfect for working. We performed much needed annual maintenance on the Trail going from the parking lot, by the Unknown Soldier Memorial and the Knob's Farm connector Trail. We addressed the drainage issues around the Illinois Monument and for a few hours cleared the leaves around the monument base.

Fred took pictures, Geoff monitored the parking lot, and I bounced between the three teams ensuring they were following the work plan and park regulations. I took the photos, below





Before, above.













During, above.

Continued on Page 15

11/9/24 Work Day **Continued from Page 14**







After, above Mike Collett Trails Director

11/23/24 Crew Leader Work Day
On Saturday, November 23rd, we had a Crew Leader only
workday. Bill, Donna, Eric, Mark, Mike C, Robert, Tom, I, and David (NPS) completed the hand rail supports and hand rails on the bridge.

Mike Collett

11/23/24 Work Day Photos

Photos by Mike Collett







Register for Our Work Days!

Be sure to register online for our Work Days at. By registering, we can be better prepared with the amount of tools, bottled water, gloves, etc. on hand.

Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club

December 14, 2024 Work Day -

Parking and registration is in the Field next to Visitor Center Parking Lot - https://friendsofkmnbp.org/get-involved/ volunteer-opportunities/

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Work Day Schedule:

We are back in the business of trail maintenance! See the sign-up links, above. We are still limiting our numbers, but anyone one is now welcome to sign-up.

The Trail Club will provide supervision and tools. Volunteers should wear work clothes (long pants are required) and closed toed shoes. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water, work gloves and masks. The NPS Volunteer Service Agreement and COVID forms are required, signed by a parent or guardian, if the student is under 18 years old. The forms are available on the trail club web site: http:// www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/volunteer.php

For December's work day, parking and registration will be in the field near the Visitor's Center. Vehicle Entrance Passes will issued at registration. Registration will open at 8:30 am and the work day will continue till 12:30 pm.

If your school, church, business, or community organization would like to schedule a special work day as a team building or public service activity, e-mail us at trails@ 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 281,000 volunteer hours to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

We hope to see you at a work day as soon as we return to our normal work days.

Cancellation policy

E-MAIL

If rain is forecast for the work day, we will issue a cancellation notice on our website at least 24 hours before hand. In addition, during the winter months, if the temperature is forecast to be below 40 degrees, we will also issue a cancellation at least 24 hours prior to the work day.

volunteerdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org webmaster@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

plants@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

KMTC Contact List - Updated 9/16/24 **POSITION** NAME

Trails Director

Community Volunteer Director

Newsletter Editor

Information/Technology Director Trail Ambassador Co-Director

Trail Ambassador Co-Director

Plants Director

KMTC Website

NPS Website

Facebook Page

* updated

Mike Collett Vacant* Fred Feltmann Jerry Givan

Kathy Van Valkenburg Lauri Poppel* Danny Leigh

http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/

https://www.nps.gov/KEMO

http://www.facebook.com/kmtcsocial

11/9/24 Work Day Photos Photos by Fred Feltmann















Newsletter 17 http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Sponsors/Partners Corner Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!







http://americanhiking.org























KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

