



**Smoky Mountains Hiking Club
Schedule for March 2007**
(Extracted from the published Newsletter*)

*The printed Newsletter sent to members and subscribers also contains reports of hikes done, info on new members, full names of leaders plus e-addresses, plus the Appalachian Trail Maintainers Newsletter. To subscribe: \$10 to SMHC, Box 1454, Knoxville, TN 37901. (If start after August issue, subscription is good through next year.) After one signs in on 3 Club hikes an application for membership is provided.

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Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

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**AT WORKTRIP – SPRING BLOWDOWN REMOVAL IN N.F.
March 3 - Saturday**

See ATMNews for how to help with the smaller stuff.

**AT HIKE: PUMP GAP LOOP VIA LOVERS LEAP
March 3 - Saturday**

This loop trail starts just east of Hot Springs, NC near the French Broad river bridge and follows the AT up past scenic Lovers Leap Rock and along Lovers Leap Ridge. Several good views of the French Broad river valley below are visible. We will continue along the AT past Pump Gap to a second intersection of the Pump Gap loop trail which we will follow back clockwise to Pump Gap and on to Hot Springs. If the weather is nice, a short side hike on the Silvermine trail can be taken at the end back to Lovers Leap rock to see an afternoon view.

Leave **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 140, hike 8. Rated moderate with 900' elevation gain.

Leaders: Tim 607-6781 bigelowt2@mindspring.com
Ron 966-0195 ronbeatty@aol.com

SPRING SLIDE SHOW

March 9 - Friday

The Photography committee would like to invite everyone to this year's spring photo show at the First Baptist Church of Oak Ridge, the location for the past two years. We welcome all photo images be they digital (on CD or flash drive), slides or prints in a photo album. The photo committee did not schedule an outside speaker this year, in the hopes of encouraging more participation from club members. Please, bring your pictures--the venue is wide open. In the past we have enjoyed pictures of the Southern Appalachians, other areas of the United States, and photos brought back from trips abroad. Don't be hesitant to show your photos. No one is doing any judging of the quality of the photos at this event, and we want this to be a fun and social evening. Please bring a two dollar donation per person and some snack, finger food or soft drink. We look forward to seeing everyone. Long-time members are particularly encouraged to bring their photos and stories of the earlier years of SMHC.

First Baptist Church of Oak Ridge: at SW corner of Lafayette Dr. and Oak Ridge Turnpike, but accessible only from Marquette Rd, off Lafayette. Coming from Knoxville turn right onto Lafayette (at light at bottom of hill) and continue past 3 lights. Marquette is the only left turn between that 3rd light and the Turnpike. Church parking lot entry is then the first drive on right side of Marquette, about 100' up.

Photo Committee Contact: Guy 482-1295

*****>>> MID-WEEK HIKES <<<*****

Two March Wednesdays

Mar 7 - Lead Cove-Bote Mtn-Anthony Creek-Crib Gap 8.3 mi.

Mar 21 - Elkmont-Meigs Mtn-Curry Mtn Trails-Metcalf 8 mi.

Both leave Alcoa Food City at 9:00

Pat & Maureen 671-8033 pbarbier200@yahoo.com

LITTLE LAUREL CREEK

March 11 - Sunday

Little Laurel Creek tumbles unobtrusively off the north slope of Woolly Tops mountain and flows quietly through a culvert underneath the gravel road near the Ramsay Cascade trailhead. Following it upstream, 100% off-trail, will take us to a nice cascade and then a small "hanging valley" above the cascade, in which is situated a patch of beautiful old growth forest. We will take a break for lunch under the spreading limbs of the giant poplar that is the senior citizen of this glade. After lunch, we will wind our way down the way we came. This is designed as an easy off-trail but be aware that makes it at least a "moderate" hike since some small degree of agility and extra effort will be required.

Meet at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> at 8:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 100, hike- about 3.

Leaders: Debbie 382-3047 debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net
Carole 423-587-2638 caroleamador@aol.com

LAUREL-SNOW POCKET WILDERNESS

March 17 – Saturday <note change vs Handbook>

We'll start by following an old railroad bed about 1.5 miles until we begin a short climb to cross Laurel Creek on a metal bridge and then on to a fork. The left fork will take us to Snow Falls via an 850' climb up the escarpment. A short side trip will take us to Bryan Overlook for a spectacular view of the Tennessee Valley. Hardy souls can wet their feet in Morgan Creek to finish the trip to Snow Falls. Back at the fork another 900' climb will take us to Laurel Falls.

We will leave the **ORNL Credit Union in Kingston** <see list> at 8:00 AM. Hike 10.5 miles, rated moderate. Drive 90 miles round trip from Kingston.

Leaders: Dave & Ellen 927-6522 emg01@comcast.net

FIGHTING CREEK GAP TO ELKMONT VIA OLD ROAD

EASY, Short Hike: March 17 - Saturday 4-5 miles
Includes strolling around Elkmont. Meet at Alcoa Food City 9:00.
David 984-4621 dcshiker@netzero.com

RHODODENDRON CREEK AND INJUN CREEK MANWAYS

March 24 - Saturday

These manways are two of the prettiest in the park. We will walk up Rhododendron Creek and enjoy its many small waterfalls and cascades. (Some people call this route "the waterfalls hike.") The walk does include several small stream crossings. These typically are "rock hop" crossings, but this depends on water levels. At the creek's head, we will follow the Grapeyard Ridge Trail, past an old steam boiler (the "engine" of Injun Creek), to Campsite 32, where we can have lunch. We return to the Greenbrier Ranger Station on another manway. A side trip to a cemetery is an option on the return walk.

Meet at the **Asheville Highway Food Lion** <see list> to leave at 8:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 100, hike- 6.1(6.6 if we add the side trip). Rated moderate.

Leaders: Jean 584-7310 jeanguager@yahoo.com
Claudia 673-5822 claudiadean@bellsouth.net

WALLS OF JERICHO

March 31 - Saturday

Thanks to the TN and AL Chapters of the Nature Conservancy, this property consisting of 21,453 acres lying in both states is protected from future development. This will be a car shuttle hike going in on the AL side and walking out the TN side. Our hike starts on the rim and leads down into the gorge, which means the hike back out will be uphill. Our destination is a limestone bowl at the gorge bottom that is 50 feet wide. In heavy rains water shoots out of bowling ball size holes and foot wide cracks in the rocks. The bowl is surrounded by limestone cliffs that rise about 200 feet high on both sides. Spring flowers should be in abundance at this time of year. A stop for a late lunch is planned in Chattanooga after the hike.

Group size is limited and pre-registration with one of the hike leaders is required. Hike 8.5 miles round trip, rated strenuous due to elevation drop and uneven footing. Drive 3 hrs 1 way, approx 340 miles round trip.

Leaders: Nan 692-1212 tallwaters@earthlink.net
Carol 898-7719 ander743@bellsouth.net

MEETING PLACES: "Asheville Hwy Food Lion"= From exit 394 ramp off I-40 go left (east) out Asheville Hwy, US-11E/25W/70, 1.0 mi to signal light; turn left, then right into Food Lion lot (not visible from Hwy intersection). Park along front edge, to left of entry. Far east side of Knoxville

"Food City in Alcoa"= on right between 3 rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), just before Big Lots- where we are not wanted.

"ORNL Credit Union in Kingston" at exit 352 off I-40: Turn left at end of ramp and go 1/2 block to entry on right. Park along right edge of side lot.

COMING EVENTS - April

1 - Sun White Oak Sinks
7 - Sat AT Worktrip
7 - Sat Porter Creek Wildflower Stroll
14-15 - S&S BP: Beech Gap Trail- Campsite 44- Hyatt Ridge Loop
15 - Sun Frozen Head SP: Wildflower Hike
22 - Sun House Mountain
28 - Sat Richland Mtn & Smith Branch Manways <off trail>
