

*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 sign in on 3 Club hikes (or 2 A.T. Work trips) an application for membership is provided.

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Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

NOW: 8 cents /mile /passenger is Recommended

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AT WORK TRIP**April 5 – Saturday**

See ATMNews for details.

THOMAS DIVIDE and KANATI FORK TRAILS**EASY, Short Hike:****April 5 – Saturday**

4.7 miles

On the Kanati Fork Trail it descends steeply, 2120' in 2.9 miles.

Meet: Food City in Alcoa at 8 AM. Laura 985-3194

WALLS OF JERICHO**April 6 – Sunday**

The feature "Walls of Jericho" is a bowl surrounded by rock cliffs where, during sufficiently wet weather, water shoots out of crevices and holes in the cliff walls. When we hiked this last year, the rock cliffs were dry as a desert. Maybe we will be luckier this year. In addition to this particular feature, the hike traverses some typical South Cumberland gorge areas, with visible cliffs and fairly steep descent and ascent into and out of the gorge. Wildflowers are to be expected, particularly at the bottom. The hike length is about 8 miles and we rate it as moderate, but with a steep and lengthy ascent. A short car shuttle lets us hike different trails going in and out. The leaders plan to have supper at a great restaurant in Chattanooga on the way back.

The 340-mile round trip drive is perhaps more daunting than the hike itself. Even with an early start, return to the meeting place will be after dark. Pre-registration is required for this trip; do it early as we may have to limit numbers. We will need a few volunteers willing to drive this distance and who have good seating capacity in their vehicles. Expect to pay your driver \$25 - \$27 (each).

Leaders: John 494-7431 jjwrobe@bellsouth.net

Guy 482-1295 griffingd@ornl.gov

FROZEN HEAD STATE PARK: WILDFLOWER HIKE**April 12 – Saturday**

Welcome spring with a leisurely hike on one of the best wildflower trails in our area. This hike has it all — many varieties of spring wildflowers, a waterfall, and a bit of exercise as we climb up the mountain. In order to avoid a car shuttle, the hike will begin and end at the large parking area by the picnic shelter and restroom. We will walk down the main road to the trailhead, pick up the old jeep trail alongside the creek, and make the short detour to DeBord Falls. Then we head back onto the main trail and across the bridge where Panther Branch Trail climbs through meadows of white trillium and up along

mountainsides laden with many kinds of flowers. We will take the North Old Mac Mtn Trail to our lunch spot, a rocky outcropping to the right a bit off the main trail. After the downhill segment on North Old Mac, perhaps with different flowers, we will bear right to return to our cars.

Meet at **NOAA in Oak Ridge** <see list> at 8:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 50 {8¢=\$4}, hike- 6, rated easy to moderate (due to climb).

Leaders: Cata 982-3890 Betty 694-0160 broyer@knology.net

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

Two April Wednesdays

Apr 2 Bird Mtn Loop in Frozen Head 8 miles – moderate

Meet 9:00 at Oak Ridge *The Rush* (next to Dollar Tree & Books-a-Million on Illinois Ave opposite Wal-Mart)

Apr 16 Elkmont: Little River Trail to Site #24 8 miles – easy/moderate

Meet 8:00 at Alcoa Food City Both dates: Les 690-3814

SLICKROCK CREEK – IKE BRANCH LOOP

April 19 – Saturday

This hike begins just below Cheoah Dam off US-129. We will hike 0.6 miles along Slickrock Creek Trail above Calderwood Lake before turning left and climbing up Ike Branch Trail. After a mile we reach our highest elevation of the day at 1800'. We then begin a 1.2 mile gradual descent to Slickrock Creek and the first of two creek crossings. In 0.6 mile, after passing Lower Falls and its plunge pool, we cross back over Slickrock Creek for the second time. For the next 2.5 miles or so we hike parallel to Slickrock Creek and Calderwood Lake, sometimes on a very narrow and rocky trail, before passing by the Ike Branch Trail and returning to our cars. Wildflowers should be a nice highlight of this hike.

Meet at the **ex-Bi-Lo in Maryville** <see list> ready to leave at 8:00 A.M. Roundtrip mileages: drive- 75 {8¢=\$6.00}, hike- 6.6, rated moderate. Cautions: Several areas on these two trails are extremely narrow. Wading shoes, hiking poles, and towel are highly recommended for the creek crossings. Since we will be driving 'the Dragon', people prone to car sickness should take a Dramamine pill before leaving home.

Leaders: Keith 982-7368 keithmertz@hotmail.com Judy 982-0399 jwadeteach@aol.com

WHITE OAK SINKS WILDFLOWERS

April 20 – Sunday <note date change>

Join us for one of the club's annual springtime wildflower hikes. White Oak Sinks is widely known for its many varieties of Springtime Wildflowers including Shooting Stars and Yellow Lady Slippers. Our hike will consist of visits to several cave sites including the "Blowhole," which houses the Indiana Bat. It is on the endangered species list and gets the name from first being discovered in 1904 in Southern Indiana's Wyandotte Cave. We'll also visit the disappearing waterfall and the lone gravesite on a hillside.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 9:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 50 {8¢=\$4.00}, hike- 4. Rated easy.

Leaders: Lynda 435-7924 Jim 660-3351 jqhiker37@aol.com

PORTERS CREEK WILDFLOWER STROLL

April 26 – Saturday <note date change>

Note the word STROLL —slow pace— to enjoy the many wild flowers, as we walk up a gravel road to the cabin & barn that our club used to have. Then we go on up the trail, passing about an acre of fringed phacelia —probably the Park's largest display. Bring water, lunch, camera, & raingear. We will stop to eat at Fern Falls, a small cascading stream. Return same way.

Drive: In Greenbrier, keep right at all intersections. You will pass a covered picnic area on your right and last chance for pit toilets. Park at end of turn-around, our starting point.

Meet at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> at 8:30AM or the trailhead at 10. Round trip mileages: drive- 85 {8¢=\$6.80}, walk- 4.5, rated easy.

Leaders: Mary Alice 523-6731 mmcporter@juno.com Alice 689-4217

COMING EVENTS - May

3 - Sat AT Work Trip
4 - Sun Courthouse Rock- Quilliams Cave- over top & down Sugarland Mtn Trail <OT>
10 - Sat BSF: Grand Gap Loop & Angel Falls Overlook
26 - Mon Mt Sterling via Big Branch Manway or via Sterling Gap
31-6/1 - S&S Backpack: Beech Gap Trail- McGhee Spring Site#44

MEETING PLACES: "Asheville Hwy Food Lion"= 6221 Riverview Crossing Dr., Knoxville. 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. [Map](#)

"Food City in Alcoa"= 121 North Hall Rd. Alcoa. On right between 3 rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35) [Map](#)

"NOAA in Oak Ridge"= 456 S Illinois Ave., Oak Ridge. On SW side of Illinois Ave. (TN-62), **National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration**, (doing weather research). Between *Ford* dealer and *Carden Rentals*, on left coming from Knox. Is between 1st & 2nd traffic lights. [Map](#)

"Roane County High School"= From I-40 exit 352, go south on US-58 to light #4, turn right and go 0.2 miles to parking lot on left, across from school. [Map](#)

"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 behind. [Map](#)

"The Rush in Oak Ridge"= on SW side of Illinois Ave. (TN-62), on left coming from Knox. It's after 3rd traffic light; next to Dollar Tree & Books-a-Million. [Map](#)

NOW AVAILABLE

>>For those who **don't want paper copy** of Newsletter<<

We now offer **full complete SMHC Newsletter as pdf** file (b&w) sent as e-mail attachment to those members and subscribers who ask for this service. No paper copy will be sent. The ATMN is already complete on website, so this is not included in pdf. No change in dues or subscription rates with this. To ask – send e-mail to KlabundeCE@aol.com

Tennessee Appalachian Trail License Plate Coming Soon

Once the legislative bills are approved, ATC will need to secure 1,000 applicants for the specialty plate in TN. The plate will cost an *extra* \$35 of which \$15.38 goes to the ATC. For full info, send your full name, address and e-mail address to ljoyner@appalachiantrail.org with the subject line Tennessee A.T. Plate.