

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for March 2009

(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. (New Subscriptions are not available now. Everyone may now become a member by sending in appropriate dues and the signed Application form found in the Brochure in this website.)

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Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

MEMBERS: HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET ? ***No more printed or pdf Newsletters for you until you do.***

CONTENTS: Items listed here for March

- 3 - Tue Backpacking Skills Workshop
- 6 - Fri Photo Show – in Oak Ridge
- 7 - Sat A.T. Work Trip – Blowdown removal south of Fontana.
- 8 - Sun Pinnacle at Cumberland Gap: a loop hike
- 11 - Wed Turtle Town Falls in Cherokee NF
- 14 - Sat Devils Den - Greenbrier Pinnacle (we try again)
- 14 - Sat EZ: Maryville College Campus & Woods
- 15 - Sun Yahoo Falls Loop (BSF in KY)
- 18 - Wed Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forrest – Naked Ground
- 21 - Sat Little River, Huskey Gap, Sugarland Mountain & Rough Creek Trails
- 22 - Sun Laurel Branch Leviathan
- 28 - Sat Shelton Laurel: Hickey Fork- A.T. North- Jerry Miller Trail

BACKPACKING SKILLS WORKSHOP **March 3 – Tuesday <note schedule change>**

This workshop will provide information to the dayhiker who would like to take the next level of experiencing the backcountry. We will start from acquiring gear to the essentials of a successful backpacking trip. This may also help the backpacker from years gone by who needs information on newer, lighter gear that will help make backpacking more enjoyable. How many times have you been dayhiking only to have to turn around due to limit of daylight? Backpacking takes you a little further into the backcountry to experience sunsets/sunrises and more solitude that you can't get from a dayhike. We will have equipment on display and several experienced backpackers on hand to answer all your questions. Come see if backpacking is right for you!

Please pre-register to reserve a spot and for directions. Meeting will be at the Powell Library 6:15-7:30
Leader: Bobby Trotter 621-1646 whiteblazing@yahoo.com

PHOTO SHOW **March 6 - Friday**

At the Unitarian Universalist Church in Oak Ridge— It's SHOW TIME!! Dig out some of your favorite shots, or better yet, an edited "slide" show of an adventure to somewhere near or far. Charlie will project your slides or digital files to an appreciative audience of your fellow SMHC members. You can also show off your culinary skills (or chip buying skills) at our snack table. A Donation of \$3.00/person is requested (but not required) to defray room expenses. Show begins at 7:00 PM. It would be good if you have files on CD or travel drive to come early so they can be loaded (same for slides too).

Directions to the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church: If coming from Knoxville on Pellissippi Pkwy (TN-162) then TN-62 into Oak Ridge as South Illinois Ave. Go past the Wal-Mart and the Doubletree Hotel (on your right) and Turn RIGHT at the next traffic light - onto Raccoon Road. Continue through the next traffic light, crossing Oak Ridge Turnpike (at its signal light #11). The church is on your left. Enter parking lot at 2nd left, park and come down the steps and into the Social Hall to your right.

Dianne Gruber for the SMHC Photography Committee

A.T. WORK TRIP **March 7 – Saturday**

Blowdown removal south of Fontana. See ATMN for details.

PINNACLE AT CUMBERLAND GAP: LOOP HIKE

March 8 – Sunday

Celebrate the start of daylight savings time with a hike at Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. From Virginia's Wilderness Road Campground, we'll follow old roadways, including the Wilderness Road Trail, past Gap Cave to the Saddle of Cumberland Gap. We can visit historic Fort McCook on our way up to the Pinnacle and nearby Fort Lyon. After enjoying the panoramic view, our hike along the Ridge Trail will take us to the Lewis Hollow Trail. On our descent to the campground, the adventurous among us can opt to look in at Starlight Cave.

Meet at **Merchants Drive** <see list> to leave at 8:00. Round trip mileages: drive- 160 {8¢=\$12.80}, hike- 8. Rated moderate.

Leaders: Kathleen Kitzmiller 696-0256 kkitzmiller@hotmail.com Don Dunning 966-7277 dedz1@aol.com

>>> MID-WEEK HIKES <<<

Two March Wednesdays

Mar 11 Turtle Town Falls in Cherokee NF 5 miles
Moderate. Meet right side of Maryville Wal-Mart lot (in front of gas station) on Hwy 411 at 8:30.
Ron Brandenburg rbrandenburg@bellsouth.net

Mar 18 Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forrest – Naked Ground 11 miles
Meet 8 AM at Food City in Alcoa or 9:15 at the JKMF trailhead.
Brian Schloff (865)387-1183 brianschloff@yahoo.com

MARYVILLE COLLEGE CAMPUS & WOODS

EASY, Short Hike: March 14 - Saturday 3 - 4 miles

Guided tour of Maryville College including a couple of historic buildings plus a walk in the woods.

Refreshments served afterwards. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 9:00.

David Smith 984-4621 dcshiker@bellsouth.net Peggy Maher 207-1023 peggy.maher@maryvillecollege.edu

DEVILS DEN - GREENBRIER PINNACLE

March 14 – Saturday

This hike scheduled on Jan. 24 was not done then due to closure of Greenbrier Road by snow. We will start at the Ramsey Cascade Trailhead, cross the river on the bridge, then climb the Greenbrier Pinnacle off-trail, going past Buzzard Rock, Devils Den, and other interesting rock formations on our way to the old fire tower trail at around 4100'. This is a steep climb gaining 2000' in about a mile and a half. After lunch at the Pinnacle Overlook, we will take the old trail and road back.

Meet Debbie at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> to leave at 7:30 AM, or Ed at the trailhead at 8:30. Hike about 6 miles; rated difficult. Round trip drive 100 miles {8¢=\$8}.

Leaders: Ed Fleming 436-4719 edwrdfm@aol.com

Debbie Goddard 382-3047 debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net

YAHOO FALLS LOOP

March 15 – Sunday

This is in the KY part of BSFNRRRA. We'll start at the BSF's Yahoo Falls Picnic area and pass Yahoo Falls (Kentucky's highest), Yahoo Arch and Markers Arch before descending off the plateau rim to the Big South Fork. A 1.5 mile trip on the Sheltoewe Trace along the river takes us to Princess Falls, one of the hidden gems of the BSF. We'll pass Alum Ford, and several historic coal mines.

Meet at **Merchants Drive** <see list> at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 170 {8¢=\$13.60}, hike- 12.4, rated moderate.

Leaders: Tim Bigelow 607-6781 bigelowt2@mindspring.com

Craig Hutto 591-7632

LITTLE RIVER, HUSKEY GAP, SUGARLAND MOUNTAIN AND ROUGH CREEK TRAILS LOOP

March 21 - Saturday

This loop hike starts and ends on the Little River Trail, which follows an old logging road out of Elkmont. We will see evidence of the old Elkmont community as the trail runs between unoccupied cabins constructed prior to park establishment. At 2.7 miles the Huskey Gap Trail branches off to the left. This route was used by many who lived in the Sugarland and Gatlinburg area who worked in the Little River lumber camps. The trail climbs 600 feet to the gap where it intersects with Sugarland Mountain Trail. We will gain another 1300 feet as we travel through second growth forests, and an extensive boulder field. On a clear day we expect some beautiful views. At 4.1 miles the Rough Creek Trail bears to the right. The trail makes a pleasant descent over 2.8 miles to the Little River Trail. The remaining 7 miles on the Little River Trail is a gentle downhill grade. We may reverse this loop depending on the trail conditions.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 7:30 A.M. (Or trailhead parking area by 8:30) Round trip mileages: drive- 68 {8¢=\$5.40}; hike- 16, rated difficult (due to length).

Leaders: JD Schlandt 661-4474 jdscca@comcast.net David Smith 984-4621 dcshiker@bellsouth.net

LAUREL BRANCH LEVIATHAN

March 22 - Sunday

Ever since the *News Sentinel* ran a story on the measurement of the largest known eastern hemlock in the world early in 2007, there has been a lot of interest in this tree. On this off-trail hike beginning at the Ramsey Cascade trail-head in Greenbrier, we will go up the Laurel Branch drainage to visit this 400 year old tree - dubbed the Laurel Branch Leviathan. If the Middle Prong is crossable without too much difficulty, we will cross over a ridge to the Hill Fields, take the old trail down the river to the mouth of Ramsey Prong, cross the river, then take the road back to the trail-head.

Meet at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> to leave at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 100, hike- 6, rated moderate.

Leaders: Ed Fleming 436-4719 edwrdfm@aol.com Al Watson (919) 266-9121 W4ABW@aol.com

SHELTON LAUREL: HICKEY FORK- A.T. NORTH- JERRY MILLER TRAIL

March 28 - Saturday

Shelton Laurel is just NE of Hot Springs, NC in the Pisgah NF. Depending on rainfall amounts there may be a wet creek crossing on Hickey Creek, and views of numerous cascades. Hickey Creek Trail has many LONG, and evilly STEEP sections that are not for the faint of heart or those lacking in stamina. Once we reach the A.T. we will head north to our lunch spot at White Rock cliffs. This lookout is past the half way point so be sure to bring extra food for an earlier snack break. We will also check out the view at Blackstack Cliffs. An option for those with extra energy will be the views at Big Firescald Knob, before we head back down via the Jerry Miller trail. There is a short shuttle to complete this hike. Afterwards there is the option of soaking in the hot springs in town and then finding dinner before heading home.

Space limited. Preregistration required. Hike rated very difficult due to elevation gains, steepness, poor footing in some areas, mileage, and the time factor...it will be a very long day with drive time of 2-1/2 hours one way. Round trip mileages: drive- 200 {8¢=\$16}, hike- 12.5.

Leaders: Nan Woodbury 692-1212 tallwatersdsl@gmail.com (co-leader not yet determined)

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. **Caution: *must* be coming from I-640 to make this exit now.

"Food City in Alcoa"= on right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots. "Merchants Dr" = off I-75 at exit 108, Merchants Dr, west towards Clinton Hwy. Park in front part of large lot at Outback Steakhouse, (near McDonalds).

"NOAA in 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.

<p>There was no space in the printed version for the 5 For-the-Record reports ready to go; so here too, they will be held for the April issue.</p>
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COMING EVENTS - April

4 - Sat A.T. Work Trip – Help Sawyers
5 - Sun Porters Creek Wildflowers [a 75th Anniv'y hike]
11-12 S&S Backpack: Anthony Crk #9, Spence-Russell Loop
11 - Sat Frozen Head Wildflowers (day moved from Easter)
18 - Sat White Oak Sinks [a 75th Anniversary hike]
25 - Sat Piney Falls & Piney River
26 - Sun Couches Creek <off trail>
