

**Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for April 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.

**CONTENTS: Items listed here for April**

- 4 - Sat A.T. Work Trip – Help Sawyers
- 4 - Sat EZ: Chestnut Top Trail
- 5 - Sun Porters Creek Wildflowers [A Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike]
- 8 - Wed Rich Mountain Loop < A Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike – (that was done Feb 8 )>
- 11-12 S&S Backpack: Anthony Creek- Site #9, Spence-Russell Loop
- 11 - Sat** Frozen Head Wildflowers (day moved from Easter)
- 18 - Sat White Oak Sinks [A Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike]
- 22 - Wed Frozen Head: Panther Branch & North Old Mac Mtn Trails
- 25 - Sat Piney Falls & Piney River
- 26 - Sun Couches Creek <off trail>

**A.T. WORK TRIP**

**April 4 – Saturday**

See ATMN for details of the Newfound Gap- & Clingmans Dome- based groups.

**CHESTNUT TOP TRAIL**

**EASY, Short Hike:**

**April 4- Saturday**

1.2 miles

Excellent wildflowers in a very short distance but strenuous uphill and return. Meet 10 AM at Alcoa Food City, or 10:20 at the Townsend Wye, where we park. Bring lunch to eat by river afterwards.

Mary Alice Porter 523-6731 mmcporter@juno.com

A Park 75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Hike

**PORTERS CREEK WILDFLOWERS**

**April 5 - Sunday**



This trail has a number of wildflower species and those in bloom will depend on early spring weather. Also, it passes several old homesites, a cemetery, the remains of an old car, a number of large trees, and 40-foot Fern Falls. We will lunch at campsite # 31 and return on the same route, but taking a side trip to the (ex-)SMHC cabin, springhouse and barn before heading on to the cars.

Meet at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> to leave at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 100 {8¢=\$8.00}, hike- 7.5, rated moderate.

Leaders: Scanlon & Tabor jltlhs@yahoo.com

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

**Two April Wednesdays**

**Apr 8** Rich Mountain Loop 8.7 mi = A Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike – (that was done Feb 8 )  
8:00 at Alcoa Food City

**Apr 22** Frozen Head: Panther Branch- N. Old Mac 7.5 mi.  
9:00 at The *Rush*, Oak Ridge

Both: Les Alley 690-3814

**BACKPACK: ANTHONY CREEK- #9- SPENCE FIELD- A.T.- RUSSELL FIELD LOOP**

**April 11-12 — Saturday & Sunday**

The weather should be just right to spend a weekend in the Smokies. For the new backpackers this will be a great opportunity to break in the new gear and for the rest of us a good time to dust off the gear and get back in the back-packing groove. Day 1 will be a 3-mile hike on Anthony Creek Trail to Campsite #9. Day 2 we will break camp and continue on the Anthony Creek Trail to Bote Mountain Trail. After a tough climb of 1.7 miles we connect to the A.T. and a welcomed break at Spence Field. Then we will hike

south on the A.T. until we reach the Russell Field Trail and from there we will hike to Anthony Creek Trail to finish our loop. Moderate hike 13.3 miles. Drive 90 miles RT. Call or e-mail leader to reserve a spot and for meeting time and location.

Leader: Bobby Trotter 621-1646 whiteblazing@yahoo.com

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**FROZEN HEAD WILDFLOWER HIKE**  
**April 11 – Saturday <note date adjustment>**

Time once again to head to Frozen Head State Park and see the spectacular spring wildflower display. We will hike past DeBord Falls on an old road to the start of the Panther Branch trail. We will climb on this trail to the intersection with North Old Mac trail. After lunch at a rocky outcropping we will descend down the trail to a parking lot. A shuttle beforehand cuts out a mile of road walking.

Meet at **NOAA in Oak Ridge** <see list> at 9:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 50 {8¢=\$4}, hike- 6, or 5 with shuttle. Easy to Moderate.

Leaders: Jean Bangham 483-9862 jbangham@comcast.net      Cata Folks      982-3890

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A Park 75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Hike

**WHITE OAK SINKS**  
**April 18 – Saturday**



We'll hike into the Sinks via the Schoolhouse Gap Trail and a manway and visit the disappearing waterfall, the bat cave, and a couple of sinkholes where flowers should be abundant before exiting the Sinks via a manway that leads out to the Scott Mtn./Schoolhouse Gap Trails intersection. We then hike back to the cars via Schoolhouse Gap trail.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> ready to leave at 7:30. Hikers who want to meet the group at the Townsend Wye parking area should call or e-mail a leader in advance. Please do not drive to the Schoolhouse Gap parking lot by yourself as parking may be at a premium. Round trip mileages: drive- 50 {8¢=\$4}, hike- 7. Rated moderate due to steep, possibly slippery section, and walking on unmaintained manways.

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

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**PINEY FALLS AND PINEY RIVER**  
**April 25 – Saturday**

We will hike to Upper Piney Falls to see an 80-foot sheer drop waterfall. Unless water flow is up, we'll skip getting to the base of Lower Piney Falls, an "inaccessible" 40' drop in the gorge. After that, we will drive to the Newby Camp trailhead of Piney River Trail. We should enjoy a splendid assortment of Spring wildflowers, including gaywings.

Meet to leave at 8:00 at **Roane County High School** <see list>. Total drive: 90 miles {8¢=\$7.20}. Total hiking distance for the day: 12 miles. Rated moderate to difficult.

Leaders: Dana Koogler 983-4082 or 414-4984:cell      Dan Feller      673-5822

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**COUCHES CREEK and MT. STAND WATIE**  
**April 26 – Sunday**

This off-trail hike (foiled last year by road closure) starts where Couches Creek crosses the Newfound Gap Road 0.4 mile south of Tow String Road. We will follow an old grade up Couches Creek to 2900', then follow a tributary and slab onto the ridge taking us to Mt. Stand Watie (MSW) at a distance of 2 miles. After crossing MSW we will follow the ridge north for 1.3 miles to reach the Newton Bald Trail at about 4500'. From there it's 3.4 miles of trail down to the Newfound Gap Road. We should have excellent views from the ridge around MSW. Round trip mileages: drive-164, hike 7, rated strenuous. Pre-registration is required.

Leaders: Clyde Austin 252/527-0146 iceaxe@suddenlink.net      Ed Fleming 436-4719 edwrdfm@aol.com

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**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  
**"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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic lights.

**"the Rush fitness center in Oak Ridge"**= 2-1/2 traffic lights past NOAA; opposite Wal-mart. Meet next to Illinois Ave. [for mid-wk]

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

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## COMING EVENTS - May

- 2 - Sat A.T. Work Trip
  - 3 - Sun Allen Gap to Hot Springs
  - 9 - Sat Thunderhead via Thunderhead Prong <off-trail>
  - 17 - Sun Roundtop Trail
  - 23 - Sat Standing Indian Mountain (A.T.)
  - 25 - Mon Hemphill Bald –Rough Fork Loop
  - 30 - Sat Sweat Heifer Creek from Newfound Gap <off-trail>
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