

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for April 2010

(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. (Subscriptions are no longer offered. Everyone may now become a member by sending in appropriate dues and the signed Application form found at *Join the SMHC* in this website.)

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Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

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- 17 – Sat White Oak Sinks
- 18 – Sun Bent Arm Manway
- 21 – Wed Little River Trail to Campsite 24
- 24 – Sat Brookshire Creek Trail (Cherokee NF)
- 25 – Sun EZ: Haw Ridge Loop

Notice the Two New Meeting Places

Now in Use.

They have some similarities to the previous places they replace, but should be more convenient.

A.T. WORK TRIP

April 3 – Saturday

Info should be available after ATMC's 3/24 meeting.

PORTERS CREEK WILDFLOWERS

April 3 – Saturday

Come enjoy springtime in the lovely Porters Creek area of the Greenbrier (GSMNP)! We hope winter has yielded to wonderful wildflower displays—including wild iris and phlox, meadows of white fringed phacelia, and banks of trillium mixed with purple geraniums. In addition to early spring flowers, you may also visit the former SMHC cabin and an adjacent cantilevered barn. The creek rapids and lovely Fern Falls are along this route. Those going the distance will hike to Campsite #31 for their lunch break and return by the same trail. Because of the different possibilities, the hike length could be anywhere from 3.5-7.5 miles RT, rated easy to moderate.

Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy <see list>** at 8:30 or at trailhead at 9:15 (at end of road into Greenbrier, straight ahead into loop). Drive 85 miles RT {8¢=\$6.80}. Try to carpool with others who are compatible on the length and pace of hike and let a leader know if you are heading back early.

Leaders: Cata Folks 982-3890

Tom Porter 684-3831 tnpfarmer@live.com

FROZEN HEAD WILDFLOWERS

April 10 – Saturday

April at Frozen Head means wildflowers. This hike starts at the concrete bridge across North Prong of Flat Fork Creek. One-half mile in, DeBord Falls is 100 feet off to the side. After a stop there, we will take Panther Branch trail to the intersection with North Old Mac trail. After lunch at a rocky outcropping we continue down the trail to the parking lot. A mile on the road gets us back to our cars. Easy to moderate 6 mile loop hike.

Meet at 9 AM at **Books-a-Million in Oak Ridge <see list>**. Drive 50 miles RT {8¢=\$4}.

Leaders: Jean Bangham 483-9862 jbangham@comcast.net

Jeannette Gilbert 483-8874

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

Two April Wednesdays

Apr 7 Frozen Head: Panther Branch- N. Old Mac 7 miles

Meet at O.R. **Books-a-Million <see list>** 9:00

Apr 21 Little River Trail to Campsite 24 8 miles

Meet at Alcoa Food City 9:00

Les Alley 690-3814

WHITE OAK SINKS
April 17 – Saturday

This hike visits a local hot spot for abundance and variety of wildflowers. We will walk in from Schoolhouse Gap trail and exit via the backdoor following a manway back to the main trail. While in the sinks we will visit the disappearing waterfall, several smaller sinks, one gated bat cave and one non-gated cave. Bring your wildflower reference book unless you have them all memorized and can help rest of us.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** at 8 AM. Efficient carpooling is a must due to the limited trailhead parking. Round trip mileages: drive- 50 {8¢=\$4}, hike about 4-5, rated easy.

Leaders: Nan Woodbury 692-1212 tallwatersdsl@gmail.com
Carol Anderson 376-4895 ander743@bellsouth.net

BENT ARM MANWAY
April 18 – Sunday

Bent Arm Manway is an old CCC Trail that connects Elkmont with the far eastern end of Dripping Springs Mountain on Miry Ridge. Our hike is a loop beginning on the Jakes Creek Trail. We climb to Jakes Gap where we take Miry Ridge Trail 2.3 miles to Bent Arm. Our off trail starts out almost level before we descend to the Cucumber Gap Trail 1.5 miles from our cars. We hope to walk into spring.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** at 8 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 70 {8¢=\$5.60}, hike- 11, rated moderately difficult due to the off trail which has a few challenges, especially at the upper end. We suggest you wear long pants.

Leaders: Craig Hutto 591-7632 craig_hutto@yahoo.com
David Smith 984-4621 dcshiker@bellsouth.net

BROOKSHIRE CREEK TRAIL
April 24 – Saturday

Beginning at FS Road 126 in Cherokee National Forest, we will immediately cross Henderson Branch and hike beside Bald River on a gentle logging grade. At 1.1 miles we will wade Bald River (there may still be a log lying across the river) and continue the easy grade to cascades and a small waterfall at mile 2.4. At about 3 miles the Benton MacKaye Trail joins the Brookshire Creek Trail at a hard right turn. This is a very scenic area with lots of hardwoods, cascades, and wildflowers. There will be another wade/rock hop of Brookshire Creek along this section. At 5.7 miles, after a sharp switchback, Brookshire Creek Trail continues straight ahead and we make a right turn onto the Benton MacKaye Trail and continue for a mile to Rocky Top along the TN/NC state line. Approximate elevation gain is 2000'.

Leave at 8:00 from **Maryville ex-Bi-Lo** <see list>. Round trip mileages: drive- 130 {8¢=\$10.40}, hike- 13.4.

Leaders: Keith Mertz 982-7368 keithmertz@hotmail.com
Pam Reddoch 705-1923 preddoch@comcast.net

HAW RIDGE LOOP

EASY, Short Hike: April 25- Sunday ~5 miles

Meet 1 PM at Haw Ridge parking area kiosk on Edgemoor Road (TN-170) 1.0 mile east of TN-62, from the O.R. end of the bridge.

Debbie Goddard 382-3047 debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net
Tim Bigelow 607-6781 bigelowt2@mindspring.com

MEETING PLACES: **NEW** “Comcast on Asheville Hwy” = From exit 394 ramp off I-40 go left (east) on Asheville Hwy, US-11E/25W/70, to signal light at top of hill; turn right, down into Comcast lot. Park to left of entry, about 2 lanes over toward the exit end of lot.

“Food City in Alcoa” = on right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots

“ex-Bi-Lo in Maryville” = just south of where US-129 & US-411 join, (SW corner at traffic light, past Pilot/Conoco). Meet at front of lot.

NEW “Books-a-Million in Oak Ridge” = (same lot as the Rush) 3-1/2 traffic lights in, coming from Knoxville; on left, opposite WalMart. Meet next to Illinois Ave. in front of Books-a-Million.

“ORNL Credit Union in Kingston” at exit 352 off I-40: Turn left at end of ramp and go ½ block to entry on right. Park along right edge of side lot, toward rear.

“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

COMING EVENTS – May

1 – Sat A.T. Work Trip
2 – Sun Allen Gap to Hot Springs
8 – Sat Old Black via Indian Camp & Otter Creeks <off trail>
9 – Sun Ramsey Cascade
15-16 S&S Tusquitee Bald, NC (CC)
22 – Sat Cow Flats (NC NF)
29 – Sat Brushy Mtn from Greenbrier
31 – Mon Plott Balsams
