



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

June 2018

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 22nd ANNUAL GSMNP A.T. WORK DAY June 2 - Saturday

Please join us for the 22nd Annual A.T. Work Day in GSMNP in celebration of National Trails Day. Perform important trail maintenance, get some exercise, enjoy a day of camaraderie (RAIN OR SHINE), receive a commemorative T-shirt, and conclude your day with a picnic dinner at the Greenbrier Picnic Pavilion. Volunteers of all skill and experience levels are welcome – this is a great opportunity to learn trail maintenance techniques from experienced leaders. The staging area will be the Sugarlands Visitor Center (bus parking lot) at 7:30 AM. **Preregistration is required for this event.** Registration fee is \$25 (\$20 before May 15); funds go to support AT maintenance activities. Registration forms are available at area outdoor outfitters and on the SMHC website, www.smhclub.org. Leader: Don Dunning, ntdsmhc@aol.com, 865-705-2154.

HAW RIDGE PARK June 3 - Sunday

It has been some time since the club has visited Haw Ridge. This extensive trail system wedged between Oak Ridge and Knoxville is an appealing nearby destination for a post-National Trails Day hike. Haw Ridge is an Oak Ridge City Park that occupies former TVA land on a peninsula along Melton Hill Lake. A dense web work of trails used by hikers, runners and mountain bikers explores the park's ridges and shorelines. Our route will trace part of the perimeter of the park along a series of rolling trails with good views of Melton Hill Lake, maybe a few late flowers, and opportunities for wildlife watching. Hike: 4-5 miles, rated moderate. Meet at the Welcome Kiosk/Bicycle Trailhead at the west entrance on Edgemoor Road about 0.5 miles east of the TWRA boat launch <see list> at 1:00 pm. For details see the map at <http://tnlandforms.us/google.php?trk=hr>. Leader: Mac Post, mpost3116@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY HIKE: A.T. CLINGMANS DOME TO SILERS BALD June 6 - Wednesday

For this high section of the A.T., we will start at the Clingmans Dome Bypass trail, hiking the mountain ridge, descending about 1300ft. net in about 4 miles. Open areas allow views south to North Carolina, and north to Tennessee. We will pass Double Spring Gap shelter on the AT and continue with short climbs and as well as more level areas, noticing ecosystem changes as the elevation changes. We'll enjoy several high points on this hike—Mt. Buckley, Jenkins Knob, Silers Bald, and then Clingmans Dome if desired, on the way back. We'll also walk across the Narrows, where the ridge lives up to its name! This 9.5 mile in-and-out hike is rated Moderate. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 8:00 am or Clingmans Dome parking lot at 9:30 am. Drive: 110 miles RT {@4¢ = \$4.50}. Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149.

Visit our website: www.smhclub.org

WINDOW CLIFFS / BURGESS FALLS June 9 - Saturday

In April 2017, Windows Cliffs became the state's newest designated natural area. Located on the eastern edge of Middle TN (Cookeville area), the cliffs are an island of rocky pinnacles in a deeply-cut stream gorge. Less than fifteen minutes away is Burgess Falls State Park, featuring three high-volume waterfalls, with Burgess Falls, at 130 feet high. Total hiking mileage for both areas is less than ten miles; spectacular scenic waterfalls and rugged cliffs make this a memorable outing. Rated moderately difficult due to numerous stream crossings (18) and climbs out of the gorges. This hike has considerable driving distance and will take most of the day. Water shoes necessary (might want to consider wearing water shoes to hike in and change back before climbing out of the gorge. Three meeting places: (1) **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 6:30am; (2) **Oak Ridge Books-a-Million & Gold's Gym <see list>** at 6:45 am; (3) **Burgess Falls/Willow Ave Exit on I-40** at 8:45 EST. Estimated RT mileage from Alcoa: 260 miles {@4¢ = \$10.40}; or if we go to Lost Creek (time permitting) 300 miles {@4¢ = \$12}.

Leaders: David Starnes; Lois Esmark, 865-414-9097, Misse711@aol.com and Debra Barton, 865-494-0276, dgbarton@comcast.net.

ROARING FORK OFF-TRAIL June 9 - Saturday

The North Face of Mount LeConte is well known for the peaceful ascents to the mountain's summit—Bullhead, Rainbow Falls, and Trillium Gap Trails. The waterfalls along these trails draw thousands of tourists to see and play. Venturing off these beaten paths and ascending the mountain off-trail shows a very different side of LeConte. The upper region of the North Face of LeConte is steep and barricaded with high cliffs that include huge waterfall upon waterfall. The route for this excursion has been used by Smokies explorers and the Hiking Club for many decades. We will pass through the doorway into the wilderness through Grotto Falls by way of Trillium Gap Trail. Rock-hopping and scrambling will be the mode of transportation in the lower stretches of Roaring Fork until the terrain gives-way to cascades, cliffs, and waterfalls. Massive walls, large waterfalls, and a club favorite Dome Falls will serve as superior backdrops for the climb. As the waterfalls transition into the more gentle slopes of the summit we will arrive at Basin Spring and LeConte Lodge. The return will be by Trillium Gap Trail. Total trip: off-trail 1.4 mile, on-trail 8.1 mile, 9 hours, drive 100 miles RT. This off-trail trip is rated difficult. **Preregistration for this off-trail hike is required; contact the trip leader by email for meeting place and time.** Leader: Greg Harrell gregharrell@emscas.com.

SMHC Newsletter Editor: Don Dunning 865-705-2154

Send hike write-ups & photos to: dedz1@aol.com.
Please include preferred contact method (email, phone).

SYNCHRONOUS FIREFLY VIEWING – June 7-14

Please be aware of traffic and parking restrictions.

RAMSEY CASCADES June 10 - Sunday

This perennial favorite hike of the SMHC goes through an old growth forest of magnificent trees to a majestic waterfall. The trail follows the Middle Prong, then Ramsey Prong, ascending ~2,200 feet. Last mile is rocky and slow going, rewarded by a roaring cascade with a 90-foot drop. Doris Gove's trail notes describe it as the highest waterfall accessible by trail in the park. Hike: 8 miles, rated moderate. Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy <see list>** ready to leave by 7:30 am. Drive: ~90 miles RT {@4¢ ≈ \$4}.

Leaders: Terri Cox, tcx@nxs.net, 865-805-9641; and Eric Sundstrom, sundstrom.eric@gmail.com, 865-406-8794. (Email preferred)

GREGORY BALD VIA TWENTYMILE / WOLF RIDGE June 16 - Saturday

Taking the "trail less traveled" for this June hike to see the flame azaleas on Gregory Bald will be challenging but rewarding. We will begin at the Twentymile Trailhead area in North Carolina, branching off quickly onto Wolf Ridge Trail. The climb is a big one (about 3400 ft. total) but we will be treated to an iconic Smokies view with flame azaleas on the Bald, and Cades Cove below once we reach the top. Hike 14.6 miles, rated Difficult. Meet at **Maryville Walmart, 2410 US Hwy 411S <see list>** at 8:00 am. Drive: 76 miles RT {@4¢ = \$3}.

Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149.

EASY HIKE: OLD SUGARLANDS TRAIL June 17 - Sunday

Meet at the **Sugarlands Visitors Center** parking area on the west side near the restrooms at 9:00 am. Our hike will focus on the former CCC camp and the former school sites. Hike: around 5 miles.

Leader: Ed Fleming, edwrdfm@aol.com.

BRADLEY FORK TO CABIN FLATS June 23 - Saturday

This out-and-back hike to campsite 49 will begin at Smokemont campground and follow a wide, relatively flat logging road along Bradley Creek. Along the way, hikers will see several small cascades, fishing holes, and an interesting steel framed bridge. After lunch at the campsite, we will retrace our steps back to the trail head. Hike: 9.2 miles, rated moderate due to length. Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy <see list>** at 7:00 am or at Bradley Creek trailhead at 9:00 am. Drive: 150 miles RT {@4¢ = \$6}. Leader: Steven Miller, samiller71@rocketmail.com, 865-318-9882.

BACKPACK TO CABIN FLATS June 23-24 - Saturday-Sunday CANCELLED

WEDNESDAY HIKE: TELLICO PLAINS, SYCAMORE TRAIL TO WHIGG MEADOW RETURN VIA WHIGG RIDGE June 27 - Wednesday

Beginning off of the Cherochala Skyway near the Tellico Trout Hatchery, we will climb the Sycamore Trail, part of the Benton MacKaye Trail. At the junction with the gravel Sycamore Rd., we will turn right and walk up to Whigg meadow, a beautiful flat open meadow with 360-degree views of the mountains. After turning around, we will backtrack on the gravel road to the Whigg Ridge trail to descend back to our cars, making this a partial loop hike. Total hike distance about 12 miles, elevation gain about 3000 ft. Rated Difficult. Meet at **Lenoir City Cracker Barrel <see list>** at **7:30am (note time change)**. Drive: 130 miles RT {@4¢=\$5}. Leaders: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com, 931-224-5149.

MEIGS CREEK - CURRY MOUNTAIN CAR SHUTTLE June 30 - Saturday

This hike begins at the Sinks and follows Meigs Creek with its 18 creek crossings. In dry weather, the crossings are easy. At Buckhorn Gap we turn up the Meigs Mountain Trail. Just before Curry Gap we will visit the Huskey Cemetery. From the Gap, the Curry Mountain Trail takes us back to Metcalf Bottoms. Hike involves a 3.8-mile car shuttle. Hike is 8.7 miles, rated moderate. Drive: 54 miles RT. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 7:30 am. Drive: 54 miles RT {@4¢ = \$2}.

Leader: John Smiley, johnsmiley55@bellsouth.com, 865-258-0989.

COMING EVENTS - July 2018

7 Saturday	AT Work Trip
8 Sunday	Fork Ridge and Deep Creek Trails
14 Saturday	LeConte via Rainbow Falls and Bullhead
21 Saturday	Styx Branch Off-Trail
22 Sunday	Charles Bunion
28 Saturday	Bobs Bald and Hangover

In Memoriam: Bernard Baymiller, 1934-2018

Bernard L. (Bernie) Baymiller, age 83, passed away on April 12. Prior to moving to Knoxville in 1970 to pursue a career in advertising, he lived in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. He was a graduate of Penn State University and a veteran of the US Army. Bernie was an avid hiker and long-time member of SMHC. He also was an avid golfer and returned to golfing full-time after retirement in Tellico Village.

In Memoriam: Lorene Smith, 1931-2018

Lorene Bean Smith, age 87, passed away on May 7, at her home in Maryville. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Maryville and a founding member of the Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society. She also was the Blount County historian and co-authored the book Blount County Remembered. She loved to travel and spend time in the mountain. She was a long-time member of SMHC, along with her husband, Jeff, and son, David.

We extend our sincere condolences to these families.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kelly Headden, kheadden@bma1915.com,
426 East Hillvale Turn, Knoxville, TN 37919

MEETING PLACES: **Alcoa Food City** = On right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots. [Map Link](#). **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, 5720 Asheville Hwy; park to left of entry, about 2 lanes over toward the exit end of lot. [Map Link](#). **Lenoir City Cracker Barrel** = Off I-75 at Exit 81, 0.6 mile or 3 stoplights, 325 Fort Loudon Medical Center Drive. [Map Link](#). **Maryville Walmart** = On Hwy 411 S between Market Place and Legends Way, 2410 Hwy 411. Meet near fuel center. [Map Link](#). **Oak Ridge Books-a-Million** = 310 South Illinois Avenue (same lot as Golds Gym) 3-1/2 traffic lights in, on left coming from Knoxville, opposite Walmart. Meet next to Illinois Ave. in front of Books-a-Million [Map Link](#). **Haw Ridge Park in Oak Ridge** = Take Pellissippi Parkway to Old Edgemoor Road to Haw Ridge parking area, approximately 0.5 miles east of TWRA boat ramp. [Map Link](#).

FOR THE RECORD

Frozen Head Wildflower Hike 4/8/2018

Nine members and one visitor joined the leaders for this hike. We certainly didn't know what to expect with temps reaching down to 24 degrees the previous night. As we drove into Frozen Head we could see some of the highest peaks were frosted with snow (hence its name). We were pleasantly surprised to find many wildflowers blooming to include all types of trilliums, jack in the pulpit, blue phlox, chickweed, foam flower, hepatica, solomon's seal, spring beauty, toothwort, trout lily, wild ginger, wild oats and little brown jug to name a few. Due to rain from the previous day DeBorde Falls was spectacular. On a negative note, the wild boar have invaded the park. We were informed by the rangers they started arriving in large numbers last summer. It was a good day to be hiking and looking for wildflowers.

Lynda Bryan and Jim Quick



Bradley Fork to Cabin Flats 4/11/2018

There were 20 of us who gathered on this crisp, cool morning for our hike up the Bradley Fork trail. Most of us started out with jackets and gloves, but as soon as the sun peaked above the mountain ridge on our right, the temperature seemed to rise about 20 degrees. It was a beautiful day, with the sun bright and blue and the waters of Bradley Fork tumbling noisily across the rocks. There were wildflowers along the way (though not as plentiful as last year). We saw fields of phlox, truck loads of trilliums, and many many mayapples, though they weren't yet in bloom (hmm, I wonder if they bloom in May?). There were spots of spring beauty, a handful of hepatica and various violets (purple, yellow and white – why are they all called violet?). The white fringed phacelia were plentiful. Yellow trout lilies and bellworts were dotted along the way. After we

descended Cabin Flats and made our way to campsite 49, we noted dwarf ginseng covering the ground. After a restful lunch lounging in the sun on the rocks along the river, we all made our way back to the cars. All in all, it was a beautiful day, and everyone enjoyed being out in the mountains.

Pat Watts



Rocky Crag Off-Trail (& RESCUE!) 4/14/2018

The unexpected is always to be expected whenever Greg Harrell leads a Club hike, but the recent excursion to the Rocky Crag was beyond the wildest of expectations. It was a mild second Saturday in April with lower temperatures and rain expected when Greg teamed up with Tim Hernandez to lead 17 hikers on what would undoubtedly become one of the most extraordinary adventures in the annals of SMHC lore.

The day's objective entailed an easy stroll up the Dry Sluice manway to Lester Prong, then a hand-over-hand scramble up the side of the knife-edge that extends from the base of the Rocky Crag. Reaching the summit of the knife-edge was exhilarating. The precipice offers expansive views of the Sawteeth, the tourists on Charlies Bunion, and various peaks along the state-line divide, as well as into the deep chasms that define both sides of the knife-edge.

After lunch, the group climbed the spine of the knife-edge to the pinnacle of the Rocky Crag, then hiked briefly along the AT before starting our descent back to Lester Prong on the middle ridge that separates the Rocky Crag from Charlies Bunion. At one point, the group stopped for a short break and during the lull Tim heard voices crying in the wilderness several hundred feet below. The cries were for help.

Quickly girding our loins, the group made haste down the ridgeline to a point where we could safely drop off into the adjacent drainage and work back upstream to where we estimated the voices to be coming from. Two young men were found sitting in a stream, one who had fallen thirty feet off a cliff and was unable to move.

Cindy McJunkin, the only one in our group with formal medical training, took charge, checking the injured for shock, hypothermia, and extent of injuries. Situated, as he was, in the middle of a stream with barely enough room to turn around, it was imperative that the injured be moved to a setting more open for a possible helicopter rescue. With permission granted by Cindy and with Greg anchoring the upper end of a rope to ensure that we did not drop the injured over a precipice, the others less-than-gently eased him down one water-slickened cliff after another until two hours later we had advanced maybe two hundred yards.

Utilizing his skills as an engineer, Greg estimated that at the rate we were moving, it would be sometime in the middle of the next week before we would reach the Porters Creek Trail. Cell phone contact was made and soon the Park Service search and rescue was on the way. Cindy took charge again, stripping the injured of his wet clothing and hectoring the rest of us to give him any dry clothes we could spare.

With the rescue on the way, our work was done. Cindy was deemed to be the most expendable in our group, so she was elected to remain with the injured until the rescue was complete. Greg then led the group on down Lester Prong to finish the day's hike.

Just as we reached our cars, waiting patiently for us in the parking lot, a Blackhawk helicopter passed overhead going to the rescue. Supremely satisfied that we had had a grand adventure on

the Rocky Crag and had done a good deed for the day, we all headed home for a good night's sleep. The injured was air-lifted out and taken to UT hospital where he was diagnosed with a fractured pelvis.

And Cindy, the real hero of the day? We later learned that after the helicopter rescue of the injured was complete, she was left behind, but managed to negotiate her way down Lester Prong and Porters Creek in the dark, reaching the trailhead around 2:00 am, by which time the temperature had plummeted and the rain was falling.

Porters Creek 4/18/2018

What a beautiful day for a hike! We had 20 club members and 2 visitors gather at the trailhead for Porters Creek. Somewhere along the way we ended up with 23 hikers, I still haven't figured out how that happened. Anyway, we started up the trail and immediately spotted the wildflowers. We saw many yellow trillium, and we uncovered the little brown jugs hidden under their leaves. The dwarf crested irises were plentiful, the wild geranium were everywhere, and the showy orchis were putting on a show. We took a side trip to visit the Ownby Cemetary, and then made our way to the Messer barn and SMHC cabin. Back on the trail, we continued our hike. Thank goodness they added a second railing to that creepy long foot log! Fern Falls was beautiful, with the recent rains causing it to cascade heavily down the hillside. There we saw the first of many wild ginger plants. As we made our way to Campsite 31, there were nodding mandarin along the way, lots of white trillium, Solomon's seal, and plenty of fringed phacelia as well as bead lily (among many others I can't name). Everyone enjoyed a relaxing lunch at the campsite, then we made our way back down the trail to our cars. Other things that were plentiful on this hike? The cloudless blue sky, the rushing waters across the stones of the creek, and the fellowship of hikers enjoying another great day in the woods.

Pat Watts



SMHC Photo Show 4/20/2018

Nine members and a visitor enjoyed some light snacks, as we perused some slide shows of far flung adventures; Glacier, Grand Canyon, Maine, Wales, as well as Pogue Canyon right here in Tennessee. While small in number, the group was enthusiastic! Our club has long been invested in photography, both as an art form and as a way of documenting the wonders of the outdoor world.

Brad Reese



Little River & Rough Creek 4/21/2018

On a perfect spring day, eight members hiked up the lovely Little River Trail and the Rough Creek Trail to the Sugarland Mountain Trail junction. We were overwhelmed by the abundance of spring wildflowers along our route - over a hundred showy orchises plus expanses of wild phlox, spring beauty, white trillium, and white fringed phacelia. Because of unusually high water in Rough Creek, the unbridged creek crossings were a little more challenging than usual. No one in our group had hiked up Rough Creek since the historic Gatlinburg fire. We witnessed the greatly changed landscape in the last half mile of the trail and noted the emergence of many soon-to-be quite troublesome briars. We covered a lot of miles (15.6) but had a magnificent day.

Mary Anne Hoskins and Debra Barton



New Backpacker Orientation Hike 4/28-29/2018

On April 28-29, several new backpackers and some more experienced ones hiked up to BCS 49 Cabin Flats for the weekend. Highlights of the overnight stay was when two of the group discovered new skills. Shania (aka, Sparky) built several outstanding fires to hold off the chill, and Leah (aka, Jetboil) provided boiling water for all our meals with only a few burned fingers. Numerous wildflowers were observed along the trail, the weather was perfect and we all had a great time.

Steve Dunkin



NTSA 50TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE EVENT Invasive Species Removal – July 7 at Fontana Dam

ATC, in cooperation with TVA, REI, GSMNP, and USFS, is planning a work day to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act on July 7. Volunteers will help to remove invasive species from the AT on both sides of Fontana Dam, where the National Forests meet the National Park. Work will occur between 9 am and 1 pm, and will be followed by a naturalist walk and other activities. Participation is limited and preregistration is required. For more information see:

<https://www.appalachiantrail.org/home/community/events/2018/07/07/default/50th-anniversary-service-at-dam>

NEWCOMER TO HIKING WITH SMHC?

Some hints: Our 'difficulty ratings' are gauged to SMHC members with some experience with our hikes, not to the general public, nor to sometime or flatland hikers who are all likely to find our 'easy, moderate, or difficult' seem to under-rate the difficulty. Always be prepared for worse weather (wetter, colder) than expected. Wear adequate boots. Bring rainwear, water, spare food. Each carpool rider should reimburse driver about 4¢ per mile. Doubts? Call a leader.

And please note: No dogs or firearms are permitted on any Club hikes, whether inside or outside of GSMNP