



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

November 2018

A.T. MAINTENANCE WORK TRIP November 3 – Saturday

This A.T. Maintenance trip will involve hiking up from Davenport Gap past the shelter. We will clear water bars, trim vegetation and check the shelter for trash and construction items that need to be hauled out. Our efforts will involve pushing up past the trail intersections above the shelter in order to get portions of the trail closer to the Cammerer cutoff. We will meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy** [Map Link](#) at 8:00 am. Drive 100 miles RT {@5¢ = \$5}. Bring a tool of your choice. If we need additional tools we will stop at the Cosby Ranger Station tool shed. Leader: Steve Dunkin, jsdunkin1302@gmail.com, 865-202-3286.

CUMBERLAND TRAIL/GRAYSVILLE MOUNTAIN SECTION

November 4 – Sunday

The leader had hoped, when last year's Handbook was printed, that we could do a hike of this entire 9 plus mile section pending completion of the northern terminus. Alas, that project is not yet done, and is in fact quite a challenge to navigate to where semi-completed CT begins! (I speak from experience!) So instead, we will do an in and out hike from the southern end at Brayton Mountain Rd. near Graysville. As we hike north on the CT, we will ascend past beautiful high rock bluffs with cascading waterfalls to eventually reach the top of the plateau. Then we have a delightful walk in pine forests and near the edge of the plateau, with great views of Cranmore Cove. Blowdowns permitting, we will hike to Gilbreath Creek, a very large tributary of Sale Creek. Hike 9.2 miles RT with fairly steep ascent to plateau. Rated Moderate. Meet at the Lenoir City Cracker Barrel [Map Link](#) at 8:00 am. Drive 130 miles RT {@ 5¢ = \$6.50}. Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com, 931-224-5149.

Ramsey Cascades November 7 – Wednesday

Our hike will take us to Ramsey Cascades, one of the highest waterfalls accessible by trail in the Smokies. We will parallel the Middle Prong and the Ramsey Prong on this iconic hike, with trail conditions ranging from an easy old road bed to rocky, where you'll wonder how long that last mile can be. Elevation gain of about 2,200 ft. Hike: 8 miles, rated moderate. Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy** [Map Link](#) at 8:00 am or at the Ramsey Cascades trailhead in Greenbrier at 9:15 am. Drive: 88 miles RT {@5¢ = \$4.40}. Leader: Pat Watts, watts_at_home@yahoo.com, 901-487-7941.

SMHC NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Sarah Wimmer,
ches1995@yahoo.com, 865-382-9636

Visit our website: www.smhclub.org

CAT STAIRS, OFF-TRAIL November 10 – Saturday

We'll take a path from the Ramsey Cascades road to the Barnes homesite and beyond to the Cat Stairs, a series of rocky outcrops on the northwest end of Greenbrier Pinnacle. We'll return via a rocky ravine known as the "cable route." Our primary destinations will be several exposed niches in the cliffs. Continuing to the top of Greenbrier Pinnacle will be optional, depending on hikers' interest and energy. Waterproof gloves and jacket recommended. Off-trail experience preferred. Very strenuous. Five miles. Eight hours. **To register for the hike, including information on meeting time and place, email: ghoover@cn.edu no later than 1pm on Friday, Nov. 9.**

Leaders: Greg Hoover [865-475-7832](tel:865-475-7832), & Kindel Page.

INDIAN FLATS FALLS November 11 – Sunday

Indian Flat Falls is an 8-mile RT hike to one of the most photographed falls in the Smokies. Our hike begins at Middle Prong trailhead at the end of the Tremont Road. We will see some relics along the trail from years before the area was a Park as we hike alongside the gorgeous Middle Prong. After crossing a bridge, we will start climbing up the switchbacks that will take us to our destination. At the falls we will eat lunch and check out the four cascades that are part of Indian Flat Falls. The cascades drop a total of 65 feet and run 170 feet. Bring your camera as you should have lots of opportunities to use it on this hike. Hike distance 8 miles, rated moderate. We will leave from the **Alcoa Food City** [Map Link](#) at 7:30 am. Drive is 52 miles RT {@5¢ = \$2.60}. Leader: Dale Potter, dalepotter55@gmail.com, 865-773-8114 (Text preferred).

Old Settlers to Campsite 33 November 14 – Wednesday

We will hike part of the Old Settlers Trail, starting in Greenbrier and going to Campsite 33 for our lunch break, then returning the same way. We will see traces of early mountain community life along the way, with a few stream crossings that can (hopefully) be rock-hopped. Hike: 13 miles, rated moderate (but long). Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy** [Map Link](#) at 8:00am or at the Old Settlers trailhead in Greenbrier at 9:00am. Drive: 86 miles RT {@5¢ = \$4.30}. Leader: Pat Watts, watts_at_home@yahoo.com, 901-487-7941.

Save the Date!

The **Annual Christmas Banquet and Annual Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, December 8**, at Fox Den Country Club. Social Hour will be from 5-6, with dinner following. Cost will be \$25 and deadline for RSVP is December 1. The speaker will be local hiker, Benny Braden. Visit the website for online payment option.

RAYFIELD ORCHARD SITE ON RHODODENDRON CREEK OFF-TRAIL

November 17 – Saturday

This hike will begin at the Rhododendron Creek Bridge on Greenbrier Road. We will take the Rhododendron Creek manway up the creek to the Grapeyard Ridge Trail which we will follow up the creek to just past the Laurel Creek School site. We will then go off-trail up a branch of Rhododendron Creek to the orchard site for lunch. On our return, we will visit the Dodgen-Rayfield Cemetery and a mysterious stacked stone cube over 7 feet high. Hike about 7 miles, rated moderately difficult due to off-trail portions. Drive 90 miles RT {@5¢=\$4.50}. **Preregistration for this off-trail hike is required – please contact leader for meeting time and place.** Leader: Ed Fleming, edwrdfilm@aol.com, 865-548-2489.

LAUREL GAP SHELTER BACKPACK

November 17-18 – Saturday-Sunday

On this backpack trip we will head over to Cataloochee and hike a loop starting out on the Palmer Creek Tr and on Balsam Mtn trail to Laurel Shelter and camp for the night. A side trip further up Balsam Mtn Trail to Gunter Fork is an option. The next day we will hike Sterling Mtn trail to Pretty Hollow Gap Trail and back to Cataloochee. Hike a total of 20 miles, rated Difficult. Drive 140 miles RT {@5¢=\$7.00}. **Please contact a leader to sign up and for car pool details.** Leaders: Tim Bigelow, bigelowt2@mindspring.com, 865-607-6781; or Steve Dunkin, jsdunkin1302@gmail.com, 865-202-3286.

CATALOOCHEE DIVIDE – CANCELLED

November 18 – Sunday

EASY HIKE: IJAMS NATURE CENTER

November 24 – Saturday

Ijams Nature Center has many great trails to choose from, but the scouting party chose a 3.5-4 mile walk that to include some of the most interesting experiences. We will begin from the Visitor Center at 10 AM, walk the North Cove Trail to where it joins the River Trail, walk the River Boardwalk above the river, up the stone stairwell to the Will Skelton Greenway. At this point, hikers who'd like a shorter walk may choose to turn right and return to the center and their cars. The rest of us will turn left, through the Quarry parking lot and rest area, to the Imerys Trail. This will take us up to the entrance to the Rock Bridge/Keyhole Loop Trail, which we will walk clockwise to first, cross the Stone Bridge and then down into the Ross Marble Quarry area to the Keyhole - a rock tunnel through the middle of the Stone Bridge. We will then take the Flow Trail back to the Quarry parking lot. Some folks may want to take the 1-mile Tharp Trace loop around Mead's Quarry.

We will all return on Will Skelton back to the Center. The hike is either 2, 3.5, or 4.5 miles, depending on how much you do. Meet ready to leave **Golds Gym in Oak Ridge** <see list> at 9:00 am or at Ijams Nature Center at 10:00 am. Drive from Oak Ridge: 56 miles RT {@5¢ = \$2.80}. Leader: Betty Glenn, glennbj@roanestate.edu, 865-307-3436.

COMING EVENTS – December 2018

1 Saturday Chestnut Top
8 Saturday Installation Dinner
9 Sunday House Mountain
15 Saturday Hidden Passage Trail
22 Saturday Concord Park
29 Saturday Anne Davis Commemorative Hike

MEETING PLACES: **Alcoa Food City** = On right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots. **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. **Gold's Gym & Books-a-Million in Oak Ridge** = 310 South Illinois Avenue 3-1/2 traffic lights in, on left coming from Knoxville, opposite Walmart. Meet next to Illinois Ave. in front of Books-a-Million. **Lenoir City Cracker Barrel** = Off I-75 at Exit 81, 0.6 mile or 3 stoplights, 325 Fort Loudon Medical Center Drive.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Travis Hall, travisjason@yahoo.com, 865-981-8881,
209 High St, Maryville, TN 37804
Mike Lane, mikelane1@att.net, 865-482-9274,
414 New York Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Maria London, iammarialondon@gmail.com, 941-266-
1440, 1017 Peterson Ln, Maryville, TN 37803

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. Always bring rain gear, water, and food. Each carpool rider should reimburse the driver 5¢ per mile. If you have any doubts or questions, please contact the hike leader.

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

FOR THE RECORD

September 1 – Cumberland Trail

Eight hikers braved the fog and predicted pop-up showers to meet in Oak Ridge for the drive to Crab Orchard and then on to check out the various CT trailheads along Hebbertsberg Road into Caatoosa. When we arrived at Devil's Breakfast Table trailhead in Catoosa Wildlife Management Area (WMA)



we met another hiker at the trailhead and the group proceeded across Daddys Creek and up the road to the where the trail enters into the woods. The hike starts with many rock steps down the hillside with an easy walk to the only rock-hop section. The water was down but the moisture made the crossing rather tenuous. From there we marveled at the staircase past outstanding rock formations on our way to the top. Once on top the hike became much easier and we were rewarded with two side trails overlooking Daddys Creek and the rock cliffs on the opposite side. *(Co-leader's note: This hike was all the more rewarding since the hike Leader also led efforts in building the trail and it's over 200 stone steps- a marvel of design and hard work!)* Pete Berntsen and Diane Petrilla

September 12 – West Prong-Bote Mtn-Schoolhouse Gap-Chestnut Top



Twice as many hikers showed up to do this hike as compared to last week. Yes, 20 gathered at the Wye parking area to start the hike. We welcomed back Jane who had been on babysitting duty, Steve who has recovered from surgery, and Terry. We also welcomed Nancy who had never hiked with us before. She became the fourth Nancy on my list. We left a couple of cars there and took all the hikers except Jean who did the hike differently, and most of the cars to the West Prong parking area where we started the hike. The trails were damp but not muddy and not too steep. When we got to the Schoolhouse Gap trailhead, they were paving the parking lot so we did not stay there very long. When we got to the top of Schoolhouse Gap, it was time for lunch, so we went down to the picnic table to eat. After lunch it was uphill for about another 1.5 miles on Chestnut Top before finally starting down. We met Jean part way down Chestnut top and got back to the Wye by just a little after 2:00. That made it 10.7 miles (10.3 for the loop and another 0.4 for the side trip to the picnic table at Schoolhouse Gap). I do not know how much elevation gain we added going to the picnic table but for the rest it was 2,004 feet. The Shuttle was completed then some hikers went down to Little River and soaked their feet. Michael Zielinski

September 26 – When You Can't Hike Alum Cave Trail to LeConte

Most of our Wednesday hikers, upon hearing the weather forecast for this day, intelligently decided to stay at home. There were 5 of us however, including our leader Michael, who were stubbornly (stupidly?) determined to hike. There were even some of us who would have hiked up Alum Cave trail, despite the predictions of heavy rain, flash floods, thunder, lightning and wind knocking over dead



trees. Fortunately, our leader chose a safer and extremely enjoyable alternative! We hiked the Old Sugarlands Trail, beginning directly across from SVC. The rain was slight, and at times non-existent as we began. At 1.5 miles we meandered among the CCC camp ruins, and then took the spur trail to the Sugarlands Cemetery. On the way, we saw a big snail, an interesting slug, some turkeys and a small bear near the trail. The drizzling rain, leaves floating down and grey light was fitting for the old historic cemetery where McCarters, Ogles and Vogels are buried (as well as many others). We turned back to return to the main trail and started up towards Cherokee Orchard Rd. It was now beginning to rain more seriously. Quite seriously. We still enjoyed goldenrod, gentian, snakeroot and other Fall flowers on the way. We could also see the fire-scars on tree bases the higher we climbed. There are many stone walls and other ruins in this area which was heavily settled in the 19th century. We passed Bull Head Trail, which remains closed. At Cherokee Orchard Rd. we turned around, and ate lunch (raining) near the bridge at Two-Mile Branch. Our pace picked up hiking back down Old Sugarlands because it was still raining, we were soaked, and now having visions of dry clothes. Even so, back at the cars, we were unanimously grateful to Michael for leading this hike in the rain, because everyone enjoyed it immensely in spite of (and at times actually because of) the rain. Michael Zielinski and Diane Petrilla



September 22 – Moonlight Hike at Cades Cove

Fourteen visitors and three members risked the weather and met at the entrance to the Cades Cove Loop Trail parking area at 8:00 PM. After being greeted by a large buck and a very light mist while in the parking area, we headed out for an eight-mile walk. Two folks and sweep (Lloyd Chapman) hiked in about one mile but had to return to the vehicles. Lloyd hiked the loop backward to rejoin us. The sky opened up around mile three to provide enough light for a hike of shadows and silhouettes that was enjoyed by all. Pete Berntsen

Congratulations to former SMHC President Doris Gove who was recently inducted into the East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame—Children’s Literature.

Following is the text from her introduction:

Doris grew up on a farm in Massachusetts where she learned to love salamanders, toads, birds, trees, and wildflowers. After writing a dissertation on snake behavior, she taught biology and began writing books for children about animal and plant life histories. She is the author of the children’s books **One Rainy Night, A Water Snake’s Year, Miracle at Egg Rock, My Mother Talks to Trees,** and **Red-Spotted Newt.** Her other books include the **Audubon Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges: Southeast, 50 Hikes in the Tennessee Mountains, Exploring the Appalachian Trail: Hikes in the Southern Appalachians,** and **Great Smoky Mountains Trivia.** A resident of Knoxville, Gove is retired from the University of Tennessee, where she was a science journal editor. She leads hikes for Elderhostel groups and writes newsletter articles for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

~Cindy Spangler



PLEASE CONSIDER GOING GREEN!!!

If you receive this newsletter by US Mail, please consider changing to the PDF version distributed by email for bonus content. Contact Newsletter Editor, Sarah Wimmer at ches1995@yahoo.com or Cindy Spangler at spangler@utk.edu to change.

SMHC BOARD NEWS

Board Member Steve Dunkin has been nominated as Recording Secretary. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting in December. Abundant thanks to Brad Reese who has held this position for three years.

**URGENT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund quietly expired on September 30, while Congress was preoccupied with the contentious Supreme Court confirmation hearings. The LWCF is one of the most important conservation and recreation programs, which has helped to protect, preserve, and expand our public lands throughout the United States for over 50 years. Since its creation in 1963, this visionary and bipartisan program has helped to conserve trails, national parks and forests, fish and wildlife refuge areas, and state and local parks in every state. All of this was done without reliance on taxpayer dollars, as LWCF is funded by a small portion of federal offshore oil and gas development fees to protect important land, water, and recreation areas for all Americans. Over its five decades, this landmark legislation has provided more than \$70 million for public lands in Tennessee alone.

Congress previously allowed the LWCF to sunset in 2015 at the end of its initial 50-year authorization. Fortunately, it was reinstated within months and reauthorized for an additional 3 years, through September 30, 2018. Again this year, Congress failed to act in a timely manner to reauthorize and preserve this important legislation before its expiration date. However, bills to permanently reauthorize and fund the program have passed out of committee in both the House and Senate, and now await reconciliation and approval by both chambers. Important differences in the House and Senate bills include funding provisions. The Senate bill (S. 569) would establish full dedicated funding for the first time in the history of the LWCF. The House bill (H.R. 502) would allocate funds according to a 40-40-20 split, with 40% going to state projects, 40% going to federal projects, and 20% directed at the president’s discretion; previously all funds were allocated according to the president’s discretion. While both bills seem to have good bipartisan support, there are enough differences to make for challenging negotiations ahead at a very difficult time with the midterm elections.

Please take time to contact your elected representatives to let them know that permanent reauthorization of the LWCF with full, dedicated funding is important to you to preserve our public lands for future generations. If the program is not immediately restored, access to the public lands we love may be at risk.

The American Hiking Society has recently launched a new **VOTE PUBLIC LANDS** campaign to provide information and resources to assist voters in getting better educated on public lands issues, and tools to assist voters in communicating your concerns to your Senators and Congressmen to call for passage of public lands legislation. This action has never been more critical, due to the recent expiration of the LWCF and the \$21+ billion deferred maintenance backlog for public lands. Please let your voice be heard on this important issue: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/vote-public-lands/> .