



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

June 2019

23rd ANNUAL SMOKIES APPALACHIAN TRAIL WORK DAY in celebration of AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY'S NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

June 1- Saturday

We will gather at Sugarlands Visitor Center at 7:30am for registration and T-shirt distribution, snacks and some brief words, before heading out in crews with great leaders! Our maintenance work will be on accessible sections on the Appalachian Trail that the SMHC maintains. Each year, this is an opportunity to help give back to the GSMNP and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. After working, there will be a picnic at the Twin Creeks Pavilion, Cherokee Orchard Rd., Gatlinburg at 4:30pm. We have some great door prizes this year! By the time you are reading this newsletter, the May 15 registration deadline will have passed, but if you are interested in participating, please contact Diane Petrilla at petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149 to see if we can accommodate you. Registration is free. The event is co-sponsored by the SMHC, ATC, GSMNP and Friends of the Smokies.

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

PINEY RIVER SEGMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

June 5- Wednesday

This is a beautiful section of the CT, with waterfalls, rock houses, bluffs, five bridges across various streams, and a 100-foot suspension bridge across the Piney River. We will set up a short shuttle then begin at the Piney River TH on Shut In Gap Rd. in Spring City, hike the 8.5 miles of the segment "south" (more distance depending on number of spurs, up to 10.5 miles), and ending at the Newby Branch TH. Meet at 8am, Lowes, 1800 Roane State Highway, Harriman. 60 miles RT = \$3.00. Rated moderate.

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

EASY HIKE: FITTIFIED SPRING IN GREENBRIER

June 9 – Sunday

We will hike on the Porters Creek and Brushy Mountain trails to the site of the former fittified spring stopping along the way to visit the Ownby Cemetery, the Hiking Club Cabin, and the past club members memorial area. Hike around 4 miles total. Meet at the first parking area in Greenbrier, on the right just off Hwy 321, at 10:00 to carpool to the Porters Creek trailhead.

Leader: Ed Fleming, edwrdfilm@aol.com.

EASY HIKE: LITTLE GREENBRIER SCHOOL AND WALKER SISTERS' CABIN

June 15- Saturday

In honor of Father's Day on Sunday, we will hike from the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area up past the Little Greenbrier School and on to the Walker Sisters' Cabin. This is an easy 3.9 miles round trip hike over gently rolling hills. We will stop to explore the school and then hike on to the "sisters" cabin a mile past the school. Once we explore the cabin and barn, we will

hike back down to our cars. We will meet at 9:00 am at the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area near the bridge.

Leader: Neil Snepp, neilsnepp@comcast.net.

Note: published as the Leader's choice hike for June 8, the date and hike leader have been updated.

WOOLLY TOPS- OFF TRAIL

June 15 – Saturday

From the Ramsey Cascade parking lot, we will head cross-country to Laurel Branch, then up the stream and into a steep climb that terminates on the summit of Woolly Tops, a flat ridge lying about a mile due north of Laurel Top. There will be sufficient rock hopping, fighting with rhododendron, climbing over blowdowns, and interminable steepness to satisfy the most avid off-trailer. Near the summit, we will explore the widely scattered remains of a plane wreck. The route down will follow McCarter Ridge to Kalanu Prong and then out by the False Gap Prong manway, hopefully passing a particularly huge poplar tree on the way. Hike: about 11 miles, rated Difficult. Pre-registration for this off-trail hike is required. Please contact the leaders to get meeting time and place.

Leaders: Tim Hernandez, 865-607-9362,

spikestac19@gmail.com and Ken Wise 865-310-7764, kwise@utk.edu.

FATHER'S DAY GREGORY BALD VIA THE GREGORY RIDGE TRAIL

June 16 -Sunday

The blooming of the colorful azaleas at the top of Gregory Bald in June is the crowning achievement of the Smokies' wildflower season and a worthy reward for the hardy hikers willing to make the long climb. This year the SMHC will enjoy the magnificent display by climbing the Gregory Ridge Trail, and a short section of the Gregory Bald Trail. At the top of the Bald, the display of the azaleas is framed by views down into Cades Cove and to Fontana Lake. This hike will include a visit to Moore's Spring. Hike: 12 miles with 3,000 feet of elevation gain, rated difficult. We will meet at the Food City Alcoa at 7:00 am. Drive 80 miles RT x .05 = \$4.00. Be prepared for slow traffic on our exit out of Cades Cove.

Leader: Dale Potter, 865.773.8114 or dalepotter55@gmail.com

COVE MOUNTAIN TO SUGARLANDS VISITOR CENTER

June 22 - Saturday

We will park at the Sugarlands Visitor Center and ride the Gatlinburg trolley to the Laurel Falls trailhead. We will then hike to the very popular 80 ft falls and continue up to the uncrowded old fire tower site at the crest of Cove Mountain before continuing along the Cove Mountain trail back to our vehicles at the Visitor Center. Drive 80 miles RT @5¢ = \$4, plus \$2 exact change trolley fare. Hike 12.4 miles, rated moderate due to the length. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8am or the Sugarlands Visitor Center near restrooms at 9am.

Leaders: Steven Miller, samiller71@rocketmail.com, 865-318-9882 and John Smiley, 865-816-0822, johnsmiley55@bellsouth.net.

ROAN MOUNTAIN BACKPACK W/ SIERRA CLUB JUNE 22 & 23 – Saturday & Sunday

One of the iconic east Tennessee hikes, this section of the Appalachian Trail, from Carvers Gap to Highway 19 offers some spectacular views from its grassy balds. We're partnering with the HBG of the Sierra Club on this hike. Little Hump mountain will be our destination for the first day, which offers both exposed camping spots if the weather is clear, or more sheltered spots if it is not, as well as a good water supply. The second day starts with the climb up Big Hump mountain to get the blood flowing, but is generally level to downhill after that. Hike is about 14 miles total, split pretty evenly. We'll park our cars at Mountain Harbour Bed and Breakfast on Highway 19, and also let them shuttle us to the Carvers Gap trailhead. The shuttle is \$10 a person and there is a \$5 fee per car to park. Rated moderate, but weather can be unpredictable. Drive: About 300 miles round trip. Please pre-register with Tim for details on carpooling and times.

Leader: Tim Bigelow, bigelowt2@mindspring.com, 865-607-6781

CHADWELL GAP TRAIL TO HENSLEY SETTLEMENT, CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

June 26- Wednesday

The Chadwell Gap Trail climbs from the base of the Cumberland Gap Ridge, through forest and beneath cliffs, to the Ridge Trail. From here, we will turn left and head over to the Hensley Settlement, occupied from 1903 to 1951 by a self-sustaining settlement of Appalachian families. Well-preserved log structures remain, including cabins, a schoolhouse, and cemetery. 8-9 miles RT (which includes exploring the settlement) with a steep climb up Chadwell Gap of 2000 ft. Rated moderate. Meet at Hardees, 107 Buffalo Rd. Clinton, TN at 8am. Drive 130 miles RT= \$6.50. Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149.

MAX PATCH TO LEMON GAP

June 29- Saturday

Our hike will start at the parking lot below the large grassy bald of Max Patch and follow the AT north for a little over 5 miles to Lemon Gap. Once there, return will be via the same route. This hike offers potential wildflower viewing and views from the summit of Max Patch. Hike 10.8 miles, hike rated moderate. Meet at Comcast at 7:30 or Max Patch parking area at 9:00. RT drive from Comcast: 150 miles x .05 = \$7.50. Leaders: Brian Schloff, brianschloff@yahoo.com, 865-320-4998 and JD Schlandt, trailhard@gmail.com

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

COMING EVENTS – July 2019

6 Saturday	A.T. Work trip
13 Sunday	Mt. LeConte via Alum Cave
20 Saturday	Lowes Creek, Off-Trail
20 Saturday	Round Top to the Wye
28 Sunday	Big Creek / Midnight Hole

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. Entrance to Greenbier** = **MapLink. Hardees on TN-61 at I-75 Exit 122:** I-75 to Exit 122, to TN-61 east, Hardees is on the left (107 Buffalo Rd). **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. Metcalf Bottoms Picnic area** = **MapLink. Lowes at Midtown** = Take Exit 350 from I 40, go south 0.5 mile on TN-29 Pine Ridge Road to US-70, right 0.3 mile to 1800 Roane State Highway. **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.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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FOR THE RECORD

Panther Branch/North Ole Mac Trail

4-7-19

It is said when you are given lemons, one makes lemonade so that's exactly what we did. The morning started off with clouds and lots of rain. We considered scrapping the hike but with 2 eager souls arriving at the meeting point, how could we? We arrived at Frozen Head and found 1 person waiting for us. So we had a total of 4 members and 1 visitor.

Thanks to Jim Quick's suggestion we decided to change our plans and continue past Debord Falls and on to Emory Gap Falls. Due to all the morning rain both falls were spectacular. We also were rewarded with an abundance of wildflowers to include several types of trilliums, wild geranium, stonecrop, jack-in-the-pulpit, little brown jugs, wild ginger, bloodroot, trout lily, Solomon's seal and many more. As we made our way back down



the trail, we decided to go over the bridge on Panther Branch until the trail started climbing and was getting slick. Again, we weren't disappointed with the abundance of wildflowers.

Along the trail we were rewarded 2 different times by seeing 2 bright orange salamanders and back at the beginning of the trail we found some toad frogs doing their mating calls and even found their eggs in the water. Although this hike was so different from when it was scouted just 4 days earlier when it was a bright warm sunny day, today was beautiful in every way. In the words of Jim Quick "It doesn't get any better than this".

Lynda Bryan and Jim Quick

Porter's Creek

4/13/2019

The day of our wildflower hike dawned with rain showers. One lone hiker (the leader) showed at the meeting point; one more joined at the trailhead, where the parking lot was already full. Intermittent, light rain (really not enough for rain gear) continued through the hike. The cloudy sky gave perfect lighting for photography.



We saw at least 16 kinds of wildflowers in bloom, including a patch of iris slightly more numerous than the photographers surrounding them. The star attraction was Trillium, blooming along much of the trail and most spectacularly in a few huge fields covering slopes uphill from Fern Falls. A fine Spring hike enjoyed by many besides SMHC members.

Eric Sundstrom

Beech Flats

4-14-2019



There was light rain and mist at the start of the hike but two hikers still enjoyed checking out the trail along the route of the old roadway. Plenty of Dutchman's Britches seen and a few other wildflowers but it was still a bit early at that elevation. Although not maintained the trail is easy to follow all the

way to Luftee Gap for a total of about four miles out and back. As we returned to the car rangers greeted us letting us know 441 was closed due to downed trees on the Tennessee side. We had to wait just below the chimneys for a while in the windy and now sunny weather for the road to be cleared.

Tim Bigelow

White Oak Sinks

4-20-2019

Four members braved early morning rain en route to the trailhead only to have the clouds clear by 9 AM offering the rare opportunity to have this magical valley to ourselves! Doris Gove and Allen Sweetser identified over 75 plants including shooting stars, lady slippers, trillium, wild ginger, hepatica, and sweet shrub. Member Bill Jacks shared



fascinating info gleaned from his book, *Wildflowers and a Brief History of White Oak Sink in the Great Smoky Mts National Park*. A truly wonderful re-introduction to Spring! Cindy Spangler

Norris River Hike

4/21/2019

4/21/2019

Five members and four guests enjoyed an Easter hike on the River Bluff and Dyer Hollow trails. On River Bluff, the flower of the day was pawpaw--we saw hundreds



of these brownish maroon flowers in large pawpaw patches both on top of the bluff and down by the river. Celandine poppies, maroon trilliums, and miterwort made a good show, and another specialty was pipevine flowers (see photo) right down at eye level. Bear corn bloom was in full swing.

Then we

drove back across the dam and to the water tower past the grist mill. We slogged through high water and hiked along the creek to Dyer Hollow. Dominant flower was blue cohosh, with lots of little brown jug, Canada violets, and more trilliums. We hiked above the spring and then retraced steps to cars.

Doris Gove and Chris Hamilton

**Sugarland Mountain / Huskey Gap**

4-24-2019

On another beautiful day 16 hikers gathered to hike Sugarlands



Mountain trail and Huskey Gap trail. Much to my surprise, half of the hikers chose to go up and half chose to go down. That allowed us to do a key swap instead of the expected car shuttle. It was a day for wildflower walks so the parking lot at Huskey Gap was full. We had to do some fancy car shuffling to get the cars that were to stay there into parking spots and the ones to go to the top out of the parking spots.

Continued Sugarland Mtn Trail: At Clingman's Dome road the temperature was cool, but not cold, as we started down. That

was good because we did not have the usual climb to warm us. We decided that this was not a trail but an obstacle course with the many rocky sections and multiple blowdowns. Some of the blowdowns were small and easily worked through, others were small trees with many branches that got in the way and a few were big trees that were hard to climb over or crawl under. One blowdown in particular was difficult. It consisted of multiple trunks that lay almost parallel to the trail and could only be crossed by climbing up and over it. The wildflowers were in abundance. Starting at the top with spring beauties (yes, it is still early spring at 6,000 feet) and trout lilies. A little lower there were masses of bluets and other flowers. Down at the lower elevations there were many trillium of various kinds, purple phacelia violets and many other flowers. On Huskey Gap trail Carolyn and I spotted a fairly good-sized bear. I thought it might have been too big to be a yearling and it probably was male because there were no little ones around. He watched us watching him but did not seem too interested, as I took a couple of pictures and moved on. The total hike was 11.2 miles long and with an elevation gain of 571 feet if going down and about 4,00 feet if going up. Ron Brandenburg



Bent Arm Manway

4-27-19

Eight members and one visitor took advantage of a warm, crystal clear day to explore the Bent Arm Manway. The manway



to our lunch spot on Bent Arm Ridge was reasonably clear and in remarkably good shape, a testament to the quality of work left by the CCC crews nearly 80 years ago. Luckily for those with cameras, the ridge top was covered in carpets of phacelia

and spring beauties, trout lily still in occasional bloom and ample evidence of recent use by bears. A few painted trillium and a lone overlook livened up the long walk back on trail. Hiram Rogers and Jean Gauger

Smokemont Loop and Cabin Flats

4-27-2019

The weather was perfect but only one hiker made the hike. Plenty of wildflowers were still out and lots of sun. The Bradley Fork made lots of noise along that portion of the trail. Taywa Creek cascades is featured in the photo. A couple of deer were seen at Cabin Flats. Tim Bigelow



Rabbit Creek from Cades Cove to site #15

5-1-2019

A bright sunny morning found 16 hikers padding out to Mill Creek in their water shoes to wade across Mill Creek and start the Rabbit Creek trail. This hike had four major creek crossings. Well, actually two, but we did each one twice. Once going out and once coming back. Mill Creek was almost knee deep in places and was pretty wide at the crossing

point. Rabbit Creek, which we crossed later, was about as deep but not nearly as wide. The start of the trail is rocky, muddy and had enough water in it to be a small stream. This trail had two faces: one was full of rocks and the other was as smooth and good as a mountain trail can be. The wildflowers were not present in any great abundance. That is not to say there were none. There were some very nice displays of white, yellow and purple along the



trail. At campsite 15, four of the hikers stopped for lunch and avoided crossing Rabbit Creek. The rest went on to Scott Gap where Rabbit Creek trail intersects with Hannah Mountain trail and had lunch there. The return trip had about as much elevation gain as the

trip out. About 1,100 feet each way. The trail was 8.2 mile round trip to campsite 15 and 10.2 round trip to Scott Gap. Ron Brandenburg

Congrats to the following SMHC members who completed 10 or more club hikes in 2018. There was a total of 382 hikers--206 members and 176 guests. Huge thanks to George Ritter who maintains these records!!!

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Tracy Kressler, 33 | Lloyd Chapman, 26 |
| Diane Petrilla, 25 | Patricia Watts, 23 |
| Michael Zielinski, 23 | Ron Brandenburg, 21 |
| Neil Snepp, 17 | Len Hudgens, 16 |
| David Grab, 15 | Jean Bangham, 15 |
| Tom Welch, 14 | Jeanette Gilbert, 14 |
| Ed Fleming, 13 | Gene Desrosiers, 12 |
| Malcolm McInnis, 12 | Steve Vittatoe, 12 |
| Tony Anderson, 12 | Earnest Wiles, 11 |
| Eric Sundstrom, 10 | Nancy Biddle, 10 |

The following is an edited Park Press Release:

Park Announces New Chief Ranger

GMSNP officials announced that Lisa Hendy has been selected as the new Chief Ranger. In April, Hendy will oversee employees in the Resource and Visitor Protection Division who perform law enforcement duties, wildland fire operations, emergency medical services, search and rescue operations, backcountry operations, and staff the emergency communications center.

Hendy brings a wealth of experience from Yosemite NP, Grand Canyon NP and Rocky Mountains NP. She is currently the Chief Ranger at Big Bend National Park where she has fostered interagency partnerships with local, state, federal, and international organizations to manage law enforcement and wildland fire operations. "Lisa has demonstrated incredible leadership in managing law enforcement, fire, and search and rescue operations at some of the nation's busiest parks," said Superintendent Cassius Cash.

Hendy grew up in Chattanooga and began hiking the Smokies as a youth.