



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

December 2018

CHESTNUT TOP

December 1 – Saturday

This hike allows us to experience the Smokies with easy access, just off the Townsend "Y". We begin with a gradual ascent of about 1200' through deciduous and pine forest. There are beautiful views of the Smokies to the left, including Thunderhead Mountain, and Townsend and Tuckaleechee Cove to the right, views easier to appreciate in the winter. At 4.3 miles we intersect Schoolhouse Gap Trail, our turn-around point. We will be joined by Carter Hall with The Wilderness Society who will be giving updates on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of the nation's most critical conservation programs that has greatly benefited the Smokies for decades. LWCF is currently in need of reauthorization by Congress, and Carter will be sharing information on how we can help get the fund reauthorized. See p. 4 for information. Hike 8.4 miles, rated Moderate. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8 am or at trailhead at 8:30am. Drive 40 miles RT {@5 cents/mile= \$2.00}.

Leaders: Eric Keller, eric.keller@live.com, 865-250-9266 and Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com, 931-224-5149

LITTLE RIVER TRAIL TO CAMPSITE 30

December 5 – Wednesday

12.4 miles. 1220 foot elevation gain. Or stop at Campsite 24 for 8.8 miles with 720 foot elevation gain. Moderately easy except for distance. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00. Drive 70 miles. (\$3.50). Leader: Ron Brandenburg 865-482-5078 or ronb86@comcast.net

SMHC INSTALLATION DINNER

FOX DEN COUNTRY CLUB

December 8 – Saturday

Don't miss the SMHC annual banquet at the Fox Den Country Club, 12284 N. Fox Den Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934. The program will include hiker Benny Braden as our special guest speaker, outstanding music, and a delicious meal, along with the installation of the 2019 Board and presentation of awards. Cost: \$25. Please register and pay online at the SMHC website (www.smhclub.org) or by contacting SMHC Social Committee member Jeannette Gilbert (865-483-8774, corsica111@att.net). For general questions about the banquet or special requests, contact Social Committee Chair Debbie Goddard (865-382-3047, debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net). Reservations deadline is December 1, and cancellation deadline is December 5th. (See page 4 for additional information.)

HOUSE MOUNTAIN

December 9- Sunday

Please join us for a pleasant hike to the top of the highest point in Knox County. If you attended the Installation banquet the night before this is a pleasant way to walk off a few extra calories, and we won't need to get an early start. We'll walk up the East Overlook trail to the Ridge Trail where we'll check out the east end before reversing ourselves to go the west, where we'll descend the East Overlook Trail. The hike is about 5 miles, rated moderate, but don't underestimate this old pile of rock. The trail is steep, rocky, and can be muddy at times. We'll carpool from Comcast at 9:30 AM or meet at the

trailhead at 10. Parking is limited and fills up fast, so carpooling is encouraged. Drive is about 20 miles round trip (20 x .05=\$1.00)

Leader: Brad Reese, bradktn@gmail.com

John Litton Farm Loop-Fall Branch Trail-John Muir Trail in BSF to Angel Falls Overlook

December 12- Wednesday

11 miles. Meet at Hardees at exit 122 off of I-75 at Rt-61 at 8:00 am. Drive 116 miles (\$5.80).

Leader: Ron Brandenburg ronb86@comcast.net 865-482-5078

HIDDEN PASSAGE TRAIL

December 15 - Saturday

For this interesting hike in Pickett State Park near Big South Fork and Pogue Creek Canyon, we will do a loop hike that takes in small arches, waterfalls, numerous rock houses, a gorge overlook and a "hidden passage"! This area is also home to the Cumberland sandwort, a rare plant species specific to Cumberland Plateau rock houses. Hike 9.5 miles, rated Moderate. Meet at Oak Ridge Books-A-Million at 8 am. Drive 140 miles RT {@5cents/mile= \$7.00}. Leaders: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com, 931-224-5149 and Karen Brackett, heartwork4@gmail.com.

CONCORD PARK

December 22 -Saturday

With the holidays here, let's do an easy local hike to keep fit, get outside, and burn off a few holiday calories! We'll pick a loop of about 4-6 miles in Concord Park East, along Fort Loudon Lake and in the winter woods, to enjoy! Rated easy. Meet at 9:30 at the trailhead near the Concord Park Dog Park.

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

ANNE DAVIS COMMEMORATIVEHIKE

December 29 - Saturday

Let's celebrate Anne Davis, Mother of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, by hiking to a view point of Mt. Davis on her birth anniversary. Our hike will begin on the Middle Prong Trail and after 4 miles we'll connect with the Greenbrier Ridge Trail where we'll proceed to our view of Mt. Davis. Upon our return to the parking area, we'll celebrate with cupcakes. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00 AM, or meet at the Middle Prong trailhead at 8:40 AM. Hike is roughly 12 miles total, rated difficult. Drive 60 miles x .05=\$3.00.

Leader: Cindy Spangler, spangler@utk.edu, 865-776-1301

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](#). 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. [Map Link](#).

SMHC NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Sarah Wimmer,
ches1995@yahoo.com

Send hike write-ups and photos as soon as possible following your adventures and copy Cindy Spangler at spangler@utk.edu. Please include preferred contact method (email or phone or text).

COMING EVENTS – January 2019

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|----|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Tuesday | Seven Islands |
| 5 | Saturday | Chestnut Top |
| 12 | Saturday | Abram’s Falls from the Cove |
| 19 | Saturday | Injun Creek Loop, easy off-trail |
| 26 | Saturday | Lone Mtn to Coyote Point |

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

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 the Newsletter Editor to change. Several people made this request in November

FOR THE RECORD

Styx Branch Off Trail 9/15/2018

Six members and one visitor enjoyed the Styx Branch route to the top of Mt. LeConte on the last day before the NPS closed the Park for hurricane Florence. Unfortunately, a misunderstanding involving a text about possible car trouble and the massively large Alum Cave trailhead resulted in one leader missing the hike. Weather was mild with occasional sunshine during the climb. Myrtle Point was fogged in due to moist air from Florence, preventing long views during lunch at the top. The ascent stayed mostly in or beside the creek bed. At about 5000 ft elevation, three of the hikers led a short

side trip up to the “Shark Fin,” a knife edged ridge not far from the creek. Late in the game we avoided a treacherously steep cascade by veering right, up a steep, open hillside to continue the climb along the base of the base of the “Brown Cliff.” This allowed us to come out closer to Myrtle Point than the open green grass route a little to the west. We saw Grass-of-Parnassus blooms in a grassy area near the top. The return by the Alum Cave trail was scenic but uneventful.
 Mike Harrington and Cindy McJunkin

Chimney Top/Spicewood Trails Loop 10/13/2018

The Chimney Top Trail boasts the 2nd highest elevation gain and loss of all the trails in Frozen Head State Park. On this



adventure 8 hikers (all members) spent part of their fall day climbing Chimney Top Mountain. The group opted for the more gradual approach to the top utilizing the Spicewood Branch Trail. Once on top we enjoyed our lunch at the Mart Fields Backcountry Campsite, the most remote campsite in the Park. Several hikers enjoyed the stone



recliners someone had created around the fire ring. Then we continued our hike across the spine of the mountain through a portion of trail that can be hard to follow at times. Towards the end of the hike we could hear live music down in the valley below. They were having a welcoming Shindig for the new Park Manager. It was a strenuous but very enjoyable hike. And even though the leaders did not have cookies or watermelon to share like Diane, everyone agreed that Bill and Pete did go the extra mile. (Inside joke...)

Billy Heaton and Pete Berntsen

Mount Cammerer via Whiterock Falls, Off-Trail 10/20/2018

On a wet dreary third Saturday in October twelve seasoned off-trail hikers assembled at the foot of Groundhog Ridge to follow the Club’s two infamous Gregs, Hoover and Harrell, on a leisurely excursion to Mount Cammerer by way of Whiterock Falls. Per usual, Harrell set a jackrabbit’s pace and soon the group found itself attempting to scramble up and around Whiterock Falls. Nearing the summit, Hoover led the group out onto the Whiterock overlook where, unfortunately, the splendid views were obstructed by the nasty weather. At the summit, we all crowded into the Mount Cammerer Lookout Tower for a quick lunch mixed with some contumelious comradery before fleeing the tower and chasing Harrell on a mad dash down the Groundhog Ridge manway.

Ken Wise

Canal and Bakers Hollow Branches-East Lakeshore 10/24/2018



Wow! What a gorgeous day for a hike. The day started a little cool but the bright sun and exercise warmed the 20 hikers quickly. Unlike the trail two weeks ago which was across from Tellico village, this portion of the Lakeshore trail has mostly natural forest across the

water. This portion of the trail is also a little easier with smaller ups and downs. The end of the Baker Hollow trail has picnic tables where we had lunch and real restrooms (not flush). The return hike was warmer with most hikers down to short sleeved shirts by the time we finished. We were all back by about 2:00.
Ron Brandenburg

FORNEY RIDGE TRAIL TO OLD FIRE-TUBE BOILER AND ANDREWS BALD 10/27/2018



Eight hikers including 2 visitors braved the cold blustery day where it was snowing as we dropped off the Clingman's Dome parking lot onto the Forney Ridge trail. Although we were out of the wind the weather did not improve and we walked in mist of rain and sleet. Despite poor visibility and fallen leaves

we located the spur trail to the boiler that is off the Forney Creek trail a short distance from the junction with Forney Ridge. After walking for about 10 minutes we began to see various artifacts before coming upon the large fire-tube boiler from the Norwood Lumber Co. Due to weather, we paused long enough for pictures before returning up to junction with Forney Ridge trail. Four hikers braved it on to Andrew's Bald despite low visibility and the others headed back to the warmth of their cars. It was sleeting as we ascended back up to crowded parking lot. Although this hike would be terrific with good visibility, those that braved the weather got some fresh air and exercise on a cold dreary day.



Nancy Dunning

Graysville RMA Section of Cumberland Trail – 11/4/2018

Nine members and two visitors gathered at the Brayton Mountain Rd. Trailhead of the Graysville RMA section of the CT to hike north on this absolutely stunning Fall day. One of our visitors was from Chattanooga, and helps maintain the McGill Creek Section, just south of where we were, so he added wonderful information as we hiked. The trail starts on an old roadbed beside Roaring Creek, where remnants of mining operations remain. We then began

climbing up towards high grey sandstone bluffs, with yellows, reds and oranges of autumn trees in the foreground. On the way we passed a high, beautiful waterfall. Much stonework went into this section of CT, which was very impressive. On top of the bluff, we were treated to expansive views of Graysville and Cranmore Cove



below. The trail follows the bluff line closely for quite a ways on top of the plateau. We passed Wildcat Falls, hiked through pine forest, and near our turn-around point, navigated some challenging blowdowns. Our lunch spot was at Gilbreath Creek and the waterfalls there. The CT continues north at that point, but is not as well

developed, and the very northern terminus not yet built. Maybe next year!! But a lovely way to spend a Fall day, for sure. Our hike was about 9.8 miles total.
Diane Petrilla

Ramsey Cascades

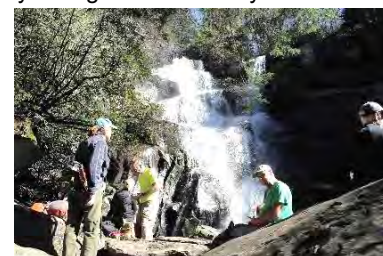
11/7/2018

It was a beautiful day for a hike, and 24 hikers showed up to enjoy the trek to Ramsey Cascades. We made our way along the old



road comprising the first part of the hike, enjoying the clear blue sky and cool temperatures. After passing the old traffic circle, the trail became more rocky and the serious climb began. As the climb became more difficult, the hikers spread out up and down the trail. We walked

between the two huge sentinel tulip trees before rounding the corner to stand in awe of the even bigger tulip tree that became the backdrop for many a photograph. Continuing our climb, we could see (and hear) how the rainstorms that had occurred the day before caused the waters of the Ramsey Prong to rush heavily over the rocks. They also caused parts of the trail to turn into mini rivers, where we picked our way carefully through the water and slippery mud. After the final climb up the rocky trail, we were rewarded with our first view of Ramsey Cascades. Those same rainstorms caused it to cascade heavily down its 90 feet. Somebody definitely turned on the air conditioning, as we sat on the rocks to enjoy our lunch and the cool breeze. After relaxing for a while, we started our trek back down the trail. Our blue sky disappeared, and clouds took over, but it wasn't until we were getting in our cars that a few raindrops came down. All in all, it was a great day and a great hike!



Pat Watts

2018 SMHC MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please remember that your 2019 membership dues (\$20 for regular membership; \$30+ for supporting membership) are due and payable at the start of the new year. Please watch for complete information in the January newsletter.

Please join us for this year's annual

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Installation Dinner

Saturday, December 8, 2018

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

5-6 Social hour with light refreshments followed by dinner at 6:00

Fox Den Country Club, 12284 N. Fox Den Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934
(in Fox Den Subdivision, off Kingston Pike, in Farragut, 865-966-9771)

Please RSVP by December 3rd on the website www.smhclub.org or by calling Jeanette Gilbert: 865-483-8774

When making your reservations, please indicate your entree choice from the following:

Traditional Turkey Dinner

Salmon

Chicken Piccata

Vegetable Tower

Musical entertainment provided by the Oak Ridge High School String Quartet and the Manny-Herz Band. Our special speaker this year is Benny Braden, who holds the 2017 speed record for completing all the trails in the Smokies.

Cost is \$25 at the door or via the website with PayPal

A Cash Bar will be available

If you make a reservation, but are unable to attend, please cover the cost of the dinner - otherwise the club will have to absorb the cost. Prepayment is appreciated but you can also pay at the door. Cancellations by Wednesday, December 5th.

Important Update: Land and Water Conservation Fund

Carter Hall of *The Wilderness Society, TN Public Lands Defense* visited the SMHC Board in November and shared some good information about the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which has provided funding to protect some of Tennessee's special places. Tennessee has received approximately \$201.5 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Chickamauga-Chattanooga NMP, Cherokee National Forest, Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge and Shiloh National Military Park. A diverse coalition promoting LWCF- which includes the ATC-is actively advocating for increased appropriations. Alas, our current Congress did not renew the reauthorization therefore it expired on September 30, 2018. We desperately need to urge our new Congress to confirm reauthorization ASAP. To support this effort, Carter will attend our December 1 hike to Chestnut Top and will share information on this important issue plus current updates on the good work of the Wilderness Society. Please make every effort to attend!

-Cindy Spangler

LWCF Funded Units in Tennessee

Federal Program

Appalachian NST

Big South Fork NRR

Cherokee NF

Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP

Chickasaw NWR

Cumberland Gap NHP

Fort Donelson NB

Great Smoky Mountains NP (multi-state project)

Lower Hatchie NWR

Moccasin Bend

Obed WSR

Reelfoot NWR

Shiloh NMP

Stones River NB

Tennessee NWR

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Federal Total | \$86,600,000 |
| Forest Legacy Program | \$30,200,000 |
| Habitat Conservation | \$4,000,000 |
| American Battlefield Protection Program | \$5,700,000 |
| Total State Grants | \$73,000,000 |
| Total | \$ 201,500,000 |