



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

May 2019

RABBIT CREEK FROM CADES COVE TO CAMPSITE 15

May 1 – Wednesday

We will begin by wading the broad and shallow stretch of Mill Creek and later Rabbit Creek, if we go all the way to Hannah Mountain intersection. Water shoes needed. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00. Let's get this hike in before they close the Cades Cove Loop road on Wednesday mornings! A moderate 8.2 miles. Adding the Hannah Mountain intersection for an additional 2 miles. Drive 70 miles RT = \$3.50.

Leader: Ron Brandenburg 865-482-5078,

ronb86@comcast.net.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL MAINTENANCE

May 4 – Saturday

We will start at Davenport Gap and work up toward the Mt. Cammerer side trail. We plan to clean water bars, inspect Davenport Gap shelter, trim vegetation, clear any manageable blow downs and perform light trail maintenance. A moderate hike of six to eight miles is typical. Meet at Comcast at 7:30 or Davenport Gap trailhead at 9:00. Drive 120 miles RT= \$6. Tools will be provided.

Leader: Jeff Cooper, jeffcooper100@yahoo.com, 865-804-5065

RAMSEY CASCADES

May 11 – Saturday

This 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. The last mile is rocky and slow going but rewarded by a roaring cascade beauty with a 90-foot drop providing a refreshing mist in the summer. Doris Gove's trail notes describe it as the highest waterfall accessible by trail in the park. Hike: 8 miles, rated moderate to difficult. Meet at Comcast on Asheville Hwy, ready to leave by 7:30 am. Drive: ~90 miles RT= \$4.50). Leader: Dale Potter, dalepotter55@gmail.com, 865-773-8114

SAMS CREEK- OFF TRAIL

May 11 – Saturday

This on-trail and off-trail route begins at the end of the gravel road in Tremont. We follow the abandoned Thunderhead Prong and Sams Creek railroad beds, then Sams Creek itself, always climbing, until we reach the AT at Sugartree Gap. There should be views from the state line ridge, depending on the progress of Spring leaf-out. Heading northeast on the AT, we pass the Derrick Knob shelter before taking the Greenbrier Ridge trail for the descent down into the upper Tremont valley. Depending on the conditions that day, we may take an off-trail short-cut down off Davis Ridge eventually following Woodchuck Branch to its mouth on the Middle Prong Trail. This hike is rated difficult since it includes unmaintained off-trail sections.

Pre-registration for this off-trail hike is required – please contact the leaders to get meeting time and place. Hike: about 14 miles (~3000 ft elevation gain). Drive: 90 miles RT = \$4.50.

Leaders: Terri Cox 865/805-9641, tcx@nxs.net and Mike Harrington. 865/765-4604, mike_harr@bellsouth.net.

BALD RIVER FALLS

MAY 18 – Saturday

This out and back hike is in the Cherokee National Forest beginning at the impressive Bald River Falls. The trail travels along Bald River in an area that was heavily logged in the early part of the 20th century, then designated a Wilderness area in 1984. We will start out with a steep climb to the top of the falls then follow the river through deciduous forest and over numerous embankments and cascades to Forest Service Road #126. A large flat rock out in the river makes for a great lunch spot before retracing our steps. Hike: 11.2 miles, rated moderate.

Meet at Lenoir City Walmart 8 am, Drive 120 miles RT = \$6.00.

Leader: Nancy Dunning (865)705-9416 ngdpt@aol.com

LADIES ONLY BACKPACK-CABIN FLATS

May 18&19- Saturday & Sunday

Join a group of adventurous women for what may be the first-ever SMHC ladies backpack! We'll start at Smokemont Campground and gradually climb up the Bradley Fork trail to the intersection with Cabin Flats trail. From here it's a quick downhill to campsite #49, a beautiful site by the stream with plentiful spots for tents and hammocks. If nature allows, we'll enjoy some late spring wildflowers, mild temperatures and a relaxing evening by the campfire. The group will return via Bradley Fork to Smokemont. Round trip hike is about 10 miles with 800 ft of elevation gain, rated moderate.

This trip is appropriate for beginners AND seasoned backpackers, but attendance is limited due to group size restrictions at campsites. Pre-registration with a hike leader is required so that campsite reservations can be made; reservations are \$4 per person per night. Please contact the leaders to register, for more information, and for meeting time/place. Please note: backcountry camping is primitive and no bathroom facilities are available. Drive: 126 miles RT=\$6.30. Leaders: Amanda Beal amandaw455@gmail.com or 865-207-1469, and Leah Graves, lgraves@perfectserve.net

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

Note: Please be prepared with correct cash, as noted in hike descriptions, to provide to the carpool drivers, if you are not meeting at the trailhead. Coming off-trail, it can be nice to sit back and ride, so we want to show appreciation for those volunteering to drive.



SEVEN ISLANDS STATE BIRDING PARK

May 19-Sunday

Seven Islands (<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/seven-islands>) is a hidden jewel located in east Knox County. We'll enjoy a lovely hike on the Upland and Seclusion Bend trails which will take us through both grasslands and woodlands with a promise of many bird sightings. Hike distance is ~5.0 miles and is rated easy, though there are 2 climbs. Meet at Comcast, 1720 Asheville Highway, at 1:10 PM or the Seven Islands upper parking lot, 2809 Kelly Road, at 1:30 PM. Drive: 30 miles = \$2.50.

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

NEW SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

May 25- Saturday

This Spring hike will begin at the Devil's Breakfast Table trailhead located within the Catoosa WMA and one of the yet to be completed newest section of the Cumberland Trail. The hike will follow the road across a wooden bridge, then enter the wood after a short distance. The trail leads across two small easil- crossed streams and then continues up, between bluffs, over approximately 380 rock steps/pavers to reach the top. We may pause to admire the trail builder's excellent workmanship. Once on top, the hike is relatively easy and offers three overlooks of the Daddy's Creek. Trial construction stops after about 4 miles: hence the hike is approximately 8 miles RT- perhaps more if the trail has been extended. Meet at Golds Gym in Oak Ridge at 7:30 am or at trailhead parking area at 9:00 am. Drive: 115 miles RT = \$5.75. Rated moderate mainly due to the short climb on the rock steps.

Leader: Lloyd Chapman, lrcchapman6667@yahoo.com or text at 865-719-3769

HEMPHILL BALD FROM POLLS GAP –

Joint Hike with Carolina Mtn Club

May 27 – Monday (Memorial Day)

Let's have a great turn-out to share some time with our fellow hikers from the Carolina Mountain Club! Starting at Polls Gap off Heintooga Ridge Road,, we will hike along the eastern border of the GSMNP to Hemphill Bald. Many wildflowers bloom at the edge of the open areas of the forest along this trail, and of course there are fabulous views to the East and the NC mountains. We will have lunch at the top of the Bald, under a big shade tree and surrounded by open vistas. Hike 9.4 miles RT, rated Moderate. Meet at Comcast Asheville Highway at 7:30 am, or at Polls Gap TH at 9:30am. Mileage 205 RT = \$10.50.

Leaders: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149
And Cindy McJunkin mcjfive@aol.com or 828-712-9646

PANTHER CREEK STATE PARK

May 29 – Wednesday

We will hike the horse connector trail out to the Maple Arches loop trail and return. 8.4 miles or add 4.0 miles to continue to the overlook, rated moderate. After the hike, drive to the overlook if you did not hike to it. Meet at Comcast at 8:00 am. Drive 60 miles RT = \$2.40.

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

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 then 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 Walmart** = From I-75 Exit 81 take US-321 North toward Lenoir City ~1.5 mile, to Franklin Centre at 911 US-321. **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](#)

COMING EVENTS – JUNE 2019

1 Saturday	National Trails Day - AT Maintenance
15 Saturday	Little Greenbrier School and Walker Sisters Cabin
15 Saturday	Woolly Tops Off-Trail
16 Sunday	Gregory Bald via Gregory Ridge
22 Saturday	Cove Mtn to SVC, Trolley Shuttle
22-23 Sat-Sun	Roan Mtn Backpack w/ Sierra Club
29 Saturday	Max Patch to Roaring Fork Shelter

FOR THE RECORD

Anakeesta Ridge, Off-Trail

3/3/2019

On the last Saturday in March, fourteen hearty souls congregated at the Alum Cave trailhead in excited anticipation of an excursion up Anakeesta Ridge. Half the group were the usual suspects, but the remaining half were newcomers hoping to see for themselves if the outlandish tales they had heard about leaders Greg Hoover and Greg Harrell were true. They also wanted to see how a Club member could be waiting at the trailhead and still yet miss the hike, as happened once last fall. In an effort to give the group at least the appearance of having some class,



one hiker arrived wearing a white shirt and tie after the fashion of our old-timey predecessors. Per usual, Harrell led off in a sprint and soon the group found itself sloshing up Alum Cave Creek. Long steep climbs up streambeds, through rhododendron, and

across bare rock scars eventually terminated at the crest of Anakeesta Ridge where the views were stupendous all around. The descent, down a sheer rock face, was a bit unnerving, requiring considerable butt-hiking. A few arrived at the bottom with the seats of their pants worn completely to shreds.

Ken Wise

Burnt Mill Bridge Loop/John Muir Trail 3-16-19

15 members and 2 visitors headed up to Big South Fork on this pre-Spring day that began as chilly. We started hiking the Burnt Mill Bridge loop in a clockwise direction, passing beautiful rock and bluffs on our right, and the wide and high Clear Fork River on the left. The river has created many lovely "beaches" with sand deposits along this trail, and at times it felt as if we were "at the beach" even though we had rhododendron, laurel and hemlock in the middle of everything with us! We gradually ascended out of the river gorge to the top of the plateau, and intersected the southern end of the John Muir Trail in BSF. We headed north, towards Honey Creek, walking through second or third growth forest, illuminated by fresh Spring light. The day warmed up. At a creek about 2 miles in, we crossed, and went briefly off-trail downstream to view Beaver Falls, which drops 20ft. off a ledge into a narrow gorge. Our lunch spot was at the headwaters of the waterfall, surrounded by large boulders and hemlock. We re-traced our steps on the JMT and picked up the last portion of the BMB loop. We saw just a few hepatica and halberd-leaf yellow violets as we hiked, but the coming weeks promise a profusion of wildflowers on this trail!

Diane Petrilla



Virgin Falls via Lost Creek Falls and Cave 3-27-2019

Twenty-three hikers gathered to hike to two water falls. These are both rather unique falls because there is no above-ground stream to the falls and no above-ground stream leaving the falls. The weather was a little cool but by the time we got back from the short walk to Lost Creek Falls, that drops 60 feet from one cave into another cave just like our destination Virgin Falls. You will understand why Disney used this to film scenes for "The Jungle Book". The trail to Lost Creek falls is rocky but with very little elevation gain. We went about 0.25 miles to the bottom of



falls and the same back. Then we went about the same distance to the top of the falls and back for about a mile total. Lloyd led us to believe that coming to Virgin Falls this way was easier than from the traditional direction. I tend to disagree. There is a similar amount of elevation gain (~1500 feet)



either way and the usual way is a little longer. But the difficulty was similar in my opinion. Some of the group chose to go up around the top

of the falls to reconnect to the trail back to the cars. Some of this trail was smooth and even while other parts were very rocky and difficult to walk on. Two hikers chose to stop at the high point of the hike and turn around there. I measured this trail at 7.6 miles round trip instead of the 9 miles if you believe the trail signs. It is a long drive to the trailhead but worth every mile.

Ron Brandenburg and Lloyd Chapman

Brushy Mountain

3/30/19

Seven members enjoyed wildflowers and a cool morning breeze to help alleviate the climb from Porters Creek to Trillium Gap and Brushy Mountain. The thin morning clouds gave way to a beautiful blue sky and clear panoramic views from numerous Smokies peaks, across the Tennessee Valley to the Clinch Mountains. After lunch on the summit, we retraced our steps and took a short excursion to explore the Messer barn and the SMHC cabin.

Steven Miller



SMHC Communications. Cindy Spanger.

Send hike write-ups & photos to: spangler@utk.edu
Please include preferred contact method (email, phone).

In sympathy, the SMHC sadly reports that Ronnie McGaha has passed away. Ronnie was a distinguished retired educator who was living in Newport, TN. He was a member of the SMHC for many years. Ronnie was a 900-Miler and trail maintainer. The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club extends our sympathies to the McGaha family. Here's a link to the obituary:

https://www.manesfuneralhome.com/obituary/ronnie-mcgaha?fbclid=IwAR0N8Apw3lwKBqXbJoC3Xy1mqUYyig83MErbWd-tD0f_AfVwkFUWI3FFkKs

Visit our website: www.smhclub.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Larry Johnson byrddogs2003@yahoo.com, 865/363-0297
354 Olympia Dr Maryville Tn 37804
Paul & Roxanne Sims 334/547-2901
PO Box 542 Dandridge TN 37725
Ann M Turner, love2golf@atmc.net
542 Gladstone Cir SW Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469

23rd Annual Smokies Appalachian Trail Work Day Volunteer Sign-Up Saturday June 1, 2019

Show your support on American Hiking Society's National Trails Day® – a fun day of work on the Appalachian Trail in the Smokies, when many improvements are made to the Trail that would not happen without your continued support. Get some exercise, enjoy a day of camaraderie (RAIN OR SHINE) and receive a commemorative t-shirt. We look forward to seeing each of you again or meeting you for the first time!

This year we will be working on Appalachian Trail sections between Icewater Spring Shelter and Silers Bald and also between Davenport Gap and Mt. Cammerer.

Pre-register with the form below or via the Club website at www.smhclub.org

Registration deadline is May 15!

Staging areas: Sugarlands Visitor Center (bus parking lot).

Davenport Gap area will meet at the Big Creek Ranger Station

Note: You will receive an email providing your assignment and directions to the staging area during the last week of May.

*WORK DATE & TIME: June 1, 2019 – 7:30 a.m. rain or shine

The workday will conclude with a picnic at the Twin Creeks covered pavilion at 4:30 p.m.

*WHAT TO WEAR: Layered clothing, boots or sturdy shoes (no open-toe footwear)

*WHAT TO BRING: Plenty of water, RAIN GEAR, lunch, snacks, work gloves, sunscreen, & bug repellent

*REGISTRATION FEE: **Registration is Free**

Volunteering - Those participating in this National Trails Day event will be official volunteers of Great Smoky Mountains National Park during the workday as part of the Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) program. All volunteers will need to sign a roster with their AT work leader prior to the start of the event and all AT work leaders will have their volunteers' registration information, including the requested emergency contact information.

Donations –There is no registration fee for this event. However, if you wish to make a donation to support the work of the Appalachian Trail Maintainers of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, please see address below!

Name _____ Phone (Home/Cell/Work)(_____) _____
Address _____

Signature _____ Email address _____

Emergency Contact Info: Name _____ Phone(_____) _____ Relationship _____

Please select the following: T-shirt size: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ I do not want a T-shirt _____

Preference on maximum round-trip hiking distance: 3 miles _____ 6 miles _____ 8 miles _____

Do you have a team/person that you would like to be assigned with (list name)? _____

Would you be able to backpack 15-20 lbs of mulch to a shelter? (please bring pack)
(Please circle) Yes No

Would you be willing to work at the Davenport Gap area? (Please circle) Yes No

Check if you will be at the picnic _____ Check here if you are a vegetarian _____

(The picnic will take place at the Twin Creeks covered pavilion, Cherokee Orchard Rd. at 4:30 pm to conclude the day.)

Mail this form to the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club in time to arrive by May 15

Mail to: Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, c/o Diane Petrilla, 167 Liberty Court Oak Ridge, TN. 37830

QUESTIONS: Call or email Diane Petrilla at (931) 224-5149 or ntdsmhc@gmail.com

Event Coordinated by the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club AT Maintainers Committee, Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Great Smoky Mountains National Park with support from Friends of the Smokies.

No, I am not able to work this year but would like to donate toward the maintenance of the AT.

Amount: \$ _____