



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

July 2019

REMOVE THE (FONTANA) DAM INVASIVES

July 6- Saturday

The ATC is offering an opportunity for TN and NC club members to remove invasive plants from the AT. We will work as a team to remove non-native species such as honeysuckle and thorny olive. Advanced registration is required. See full article on page 4. Meet at the Maryville Walmart located at 2410 US- 411, near the gas pumps, at 7 AM. RT drive mileage is 104 miles x .05=\$5.20.

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

ROUNDTOP TRAIL FROM METCALF BOTTOMS TO THE TOWNSEND WYE

July 10 - Wednesday

7.5 miles. Moderate. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00 am or Townsend Wye at 8:30 am. This will require a car shuttle. Wading the Little River required, so bring water shoes. Drive 60 miles @.05 = \$3.00

Leader: David Grab 865-405-5779 or digrab@aol.com

EASY HIKE: RICH MTN. TRAIL TO JOHN OLIVER CABIN

Sunday, July 14th

This will be an easy stroll on a shady trail to this 1818 cabin of an early settler in Cades Cove. We'll walk to the cabin where we can explore the area and return, maybe for some ice cream in the Cades Cove store! Hike roundtrip is 2.8 miles.

Meet at Alcoa Food City on Hall Rd. at 1:15 or 2:00 at the Kiosk at the entrance to the Cove Loop where the trail begins. Drive is 55 miles RT @ .05 = \$2.75. Please let me know if you plan to meet us at the Kiosk.

Leader: Priscilla Clayton, sigmtngirl@earthlink.net, 865-966-4142 or 865-963-9644

Mt. LECONTE via ALUM CAVE

July 13 - Saturday

If the valley temperatures are getting too high for you, join us for this hike to Mt. LeConte lodge where it is sure to be cooler. Weather permitting, we will have great views of Pigeon Forge, Sevierville, Douglas lake and beyond. We will pass Arch Rock and have a short pause at Alum Cave. Then we continue up to the Mt Le Conte lodge for lunch there, or Cliff Top. We return the same way after lunch. Total distance 10.2 miles not including Cliff Top. Total elevation gain 2800 ft. Hike rated strenuous due to the rocky climb and elevation gain. Meet at Comcast on Asheville Hwy at 7:00AM or the Sugarlands Visitor center near the restrooms at 8:00. RT 96 miles @ .05/mile = \$4.80.

Leaders Neil Snapp nsnapp@comcast.net and Eric Sundstrom sundstrom.eric@gmail.com.

LOWES CREEK OFF-TRAIL July 20 changed to August 3

ROUND TOP TO THE TOWNSEND WYE

July 20- Saturday

What a great hike to do in the hot summertime! We will leave some cars at the Townsend "Wye" and drive to start our hike at the Roundtop TH near Metcalf Bottoms and the Little Greenbrier Trail. The hike climbs about 800 ft. total, through forest and along ridgetops, ending at the Little River. Here, water shoes will be helpful to allow us to cross the river back to our cars (and splash a little!). Hike 7.5 miles, rated moderate. Meet at Alcoa Food City, 8am. 40 miles RT= \$2.00. Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149.

Laurel Falls Trailhead (Fighting Creek Gap) to Elkmont by the old road to Little River Trail to Huskey Gap Trail to Sugarland Mtn Trail to Laurel Falls Trailhead

July 24- Wednesday

9 miles. moderate. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00 am or Laurel Falls Trailhead by 8:45 am. Drive: 65 miles RT @5¢=\$3.25.

Leader: David Grab, digrab@aol.com, 865-405-5779.

MIDNIGHT HOLE

July 28 -Sunday. CANCELLED

ADDED HIKE: ROCKY FORK SP FLINT CREEK AND WHITEHOUSE CLIFFS TRAILS

July 27 - Saturday

Join SMHC, TN Citizens for Wilderness Planning, TN Chapter Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Cherokee Forest Voices for a hike into the heart of one of Tennessee's newest state parks. Rocky Fork SP is situated on the TN - NC state line surrounded by Cherokee National Forest. The park was created with the help of a donation by the Conservation Fund, US Forest Service and most importantly the LWCF in 2006.

We plan to hike the Flint Creek trail along Flint Creek several miles into the interior. The trail passes the site of a 1789 battle between Gov John Sevier and the Cherokee. We will return along Flint Creek back to another trail up to the top of Whitehouse cliffs and have a wonderful view of the wilderness-like park. Those not wanting to make the steep climb can hike along the White Oak Flats trail and look for signs of possible impending road construction.

Hike a total of 6-8 miles or less depending on side trail options. Most of the trails are relatively level and follow scenic creeks through valleys. Some side stream crossings are required and depending on rains could be more significant. Water shoes and hiking poles could be helpful.

Meet at Comcast parking lot by 8:00 am on Asheville Hwy Exit 394 off I-40. Drive 2hrs 15 minutes to the trailhead. Drive 200 miles RT @.05 = \$10.

Leader: Tim Bigelow, 865-607-6781, Bigelowt2@mindspring.com

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.](#) **Maryville Walmart** = On Hwy 411 S between Market Place and Legends Way, 2410 Hwy 411. Meet near fuel center. [Map Link.](#)

COMING EVENTS – August 2019

3 Saturday	AT Work Trip
3 Saturday	Lowe's Creek Off-trail (new date)
10 Saturday	Election Picnic
17 Saturday	The Gorges Off-trail
17 Saturday	Charlie's Bunion from NFG
24 Saturday	Hemphill Bald Loop
31 Saturday	Clingmans Dome to Siler's Bald

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jenny Costner 315 High St Maryville TN 37804
865-719-1098 Redfieldcostner@gmail.com
Gayle Edgar 280 Amicolola Falls State Park Rd Dawsonville GA
706-451-2712 Katahdin91@gmail.com
Wanda & Ben Lochrem 3694 Deerstone Dr Maryville TN 37801
865/805-4650 malulanihome@yahoo.com
Christina Lourido Centerview Crossing Way # 207 Knoxville 37932
865-924-2094 clourido@bellsouth.net
Rick Parks 1800 Derby Chase Dr Philadelphia TN 37840
865-458-6722 Rickafur1@gmail.com
Bob Potts 13124 George Loveless Ln Knoxville, TN 37932
865/850-0068 Bobleland@aol.com
Mark Sieger 1503 Agawela Ave Knoxville TN 37919
865/748-0432 marksieger@outlook.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

Leave No Trace

The Second Leave No Trace Principal is "Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces"

According to the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, "The goal of travel in the outdoors is to move through natural areas while avoiding damage to the land or waterways." If you grew up around the Smokies or have been a member of the SMHC for any amount of time you know how many visitors come to the Smokies and all of us have observed the negative impacts of overuse on our roads, trails and other park resources. Just try to park and hike up Alum Cave one Saturday morning. We all have our stories of trails, shelters and roads being overused. A recent experience by the

senior sawyer for the NC Backcountry Equestrian's is a good example. Tom Thompson and two other horsemen rode up to Pecks Shelter from Smokemont to cut out about 15 blowdowns between Peck's and TriCorner. When they got to Peck's (with their permits) two other backpackers were there. By the time the sun had set 25 other backpackers were set up around the shelter. The shelter holds about twelve. The park only assigns twelve permits. So, the majority of those others did not have a permit and were destroying the vegetation around the designated camp site and by the way running through the privy mulch painfully packed in. Because the Smokies has so many people visiting Smokies the NPS has designated specific trails and campsites in an attempt to limit damage related to overuse. This ensures that only narrow corridors and campsites are impacted by people. If everyone was allowed to camp and hike wherever they wanted to (in 2013 over 77,000 campers made reservations for back country campsites) the entire park would soon be devastated. By following the park hiking and camping regulations we are being good stewards of the natural resource we all love.

FOR THE RECORD

Bald River Hike

5-18-2019

With a hot day looming, 6 members and one visitor started the day



enjoying the mist from Bald River Falls, complete with a rainbow. The trail kept us cool with shade and air conditioning from the close proximity to the river and crossings of little tributaries along the hike. Following some steep climbs during the first mile the hike rolled along past numerous scenic campsites along a rushing river. The wildflower of the hike was galax as we saw many along the trail in addition to blooming of the mountain laurel along the

river. After 4.5 mile we enjoyed a pleasant lunch on large rocks by a beautiful cascade before retracing our steps back to the falls. Because the day was heating up, some of the hikers decided to cool off in the stream at the top of the falls before returning to cars. A wonderful way to spend a hot May day! Nancy Dunning



Seven Islands State Birding Park

05-19-2019

Five members and 3 visitors enjoyed a lovely hike at Seven Islands State Birding Park.



Flora and fauna sightings included a large black snake, several rabbits, lots of birds, and gorgeous wildflowers. The pedestrian bridge is still under construction which was disappointing but we headed to the barn and enjoyed brownies while waiting for a brief shower to pass.

A good day with a wonderful group!
Cindy Spangler

Cumberland Trail, Devil's Breakfast Table Section 05-25-2019

Four hikers met in Oak Ridge on the Saturday of The Memorial Day Holiday with unseasonably warm weather for the drive to the Catoosa WMA and the CT trailhead via Crab Orchard. Two additional hikers met the group at the trailhead to complete the company of 6 Holiday hikers. The group proceeded across Daddy's Creek via a bridge (although a wet crossing did look inviting on such a warm day) and within a short distance entered the trail into the woods. The hike starts with many steps down the hillside and then an easy walk to an easily rock hopped stream. The trail then begins a moderate climb to the top made much easier by the excellent staircase that leads hikers past outstanding rock formations as well as an overlook for the Devil's Breakfast Table rock formation. Once on top the trail is relatively flat and offers three short side trails to outstanding overlooks. The trail continues for about 4 miles to the point where trail construction has ended. The group returned the same way and arrived back to the cars with plenty of time to pursue other Holiday types of activities. Return trip to Oak Ridge was past Nemo into Wartburg and then to Oak Ridge. Special thanks to the co-leader who actually led the hike in that the author and so called leader was recovering from a knee/ankle injury and was only able to hike half of the trail.
Lloyd Chapman

Memorial Day Hike with Carolina Mountain Club 5-27-2019



Four SMHC members and 11 CMC members met at Polls Gap on this absolutely beautiful day, to hike to Hemphill Bald. It was sunny, cool, but comfortable with a breeze. We very

much enjoyed talking with the interesting group from the CMC, with varying backgrounds, and all so congenial! The final climb to the Bald is always a challenge, but the views east into North Carolina well worth it. This was the spot where we enjoyed lunch. The hike was about 9.4 miles, and we all agreed this annual hike with the CMC is a tradition worth continuing.
Diane Petrilla and Cindy McJunkin

Panther Creek State Park 05-29-2019

Eleven hikers gathered at Panther Creek State park to hike the Maple Arch trail. It promised to be another hot day but everyone was prepared with plenty of water and there was no mud in the trail. Three hikers who had not hiked with us before, decided they did not have time for the whole hike and split off early to visit the overlook. In one cove in the lake we saw probably one hundred or more cormorants, dozens of egrets and many great blue



herons. A twelfth hiker who got to the meeting place a little late followed us to the loop then went around the loop the opposite way from the rest of us so we met her part way around the loop. We all continued around the loop the way we were going. We stopped for lunch at the end of the loop and before we were finished with lunch she had joined us and we were all back together to finish the hike. At a later intersection we split up again. Six of us chose to hike up to the overlook, and three chose to go back to their cars and head home. We found a maple tree that arched over the trail and decided that must be the reason for the name of the trail. The

promise of a hot day was fulfilled but with a lot of shade and a nice breeze much of the time, everyone got through the hike with no problems. Did I mention that there was no mud?
Ron Brandenburg

National Trails Day

06-01-2019

Many thanks to Diane Petrilla for coordinating a hugely successful work day on the AT! Over 120 volunteers worked 7 hours to improve this highly used trail. Diane will provide a full report in the August newsletter. (Many thanks to Ed Fleming and Tim Bigelow who headed up a satellite group that worked from Davenport Gap to Mt Cammerer).
Cindy Spangler



National Trails Day Davenport Gap Crew

06-01-2019

The Davenport Gap NTD 2019 Crew worked on clearing waterbars and trimming vegetation from Davenport Gap up to Mt Cammerer side trail. Fifteen workers participated and enjoyed perfect weather. The crew also worked on filling in a section of eroded trail and reinforcing a locust log support. A failing locust log step was also reinforced with stakes. The Davenport Gap shelter was checked and cleaned up a bit.
Tim Bigelow



Lower Piney Creek Section Cumberland Trail 06-05-2019

14 SMHC members gathered on this hot and humid day to hike the 8.5 mile stretch of the Lower Piney River section of the Cumberland Trail from the Newby TH to the Piney River Management area. Beginning at Newby involved driving cars down a short, deeply rutted gravel road, but most of these smart hikers had driven tough vehicles to take this on! The trail drops over 700 feet gradually, passing different branches of the Piney River. With the recent dry weather, the water



was not high and the various waterfalls not full. It was still a great sight to see the giant flat river rock that is typical of the Cumberland Plateau. We saw Indian pink, bergamot, and a beautiful flame azalea. We crossed bridges, including one long suspension bridge. We visited Spider Den bluff. At the end, the hike distance was 9.1 miles or more. We all checked for ticks, but mine did not show up until the middle of the night after this day. I guess he had hidden somewhere in the meantime. My thanks to all for coming along on this adventure!
Diane Petrilla



Walker Sisters Cabin

6-15-19

5 hikers (3 members 2 visitors) met at the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area for a hike to the Little Greenbriar school house and the Walker Sisters' Cabin. The rhododendrons were beginning to bloom making a pretty trail. The day started out overcast and a light rain fell for a couple of minutes while we were exploring the school house and cemetery. Not long or heavy enough to dampen the hikers. No bears were seen however, a snake was found on the way to the cabin. Unfortunately, no one on the hike knew snakes well enough to identify it aside from knowing that it was not venomous. It was black with a white belly and chin. While exploring the cabin and associated buildings, we met a gentleman whose great (great?) grandfather was the uncle of the Walker sisters. The clouds had cleared and the sun was shining when we returned to the parking lot shortly before noon.
Neil Snapp



Kill the Dam Invasives- additional information Saturday, July 6 @ Fontana Dam

The ATC is offering an opportunity for TN and NC club members to remove invasive plants from the AT. We will meet at the Maryville Walmart located at 2410 US- 411, near the gas pumps, at 7 AM. RT drive mileage is 104 miles x .05=\$5.20. Work to protect native species in the Southern Appalachians on **Saturday, July 6 from 9 a.m to 1 p.m.**, by removing non-native, invasive species like Russian olive, honeysuckle, thorny olive, and oriental bittersweet from both sides of the Fontana Dam. This area includes National Forest, National Park and the Tennessee Valley Authority land. Participants will also receive a coveted "Kill the Dam Invasive Plants" long sleeve shirt! Enjoy the Barrett Smith from Steep Canyon Rangers and the Shannon Whitworth Band playing live music during lunch! Volunteer work be positioned in multiple locations along the A.T. to make the greatest impact. Work will occur between 9 am and 1 pm on Saturday July 6. Once the work finishes at 1, there will be lunch and a Naturalist Walk led by Matt Drury (ATC) and Matt Bushman (USFS). Come learn about all the native species you spent the morning protecting! This event is suitable for all experience levels. *Please be sure to wear a long sleeve shirt, long pants, and sturdy boots. Bring plenty of water and snacks for the day, as well as sunscreen, bug spray, and a rain jacket.* This event is sponsored by REI, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Tennessee Valley Authority, Mount Inspiration Apparel Company, Fontana Village Resort, Fontana Dam Tourism Development Authority, USFS, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. REI will be contributing lunch and some swag for volunteers.

Advanced registration is required and available at this link:
<https://appalachiantrail.org/home/community/events/2019/07/06/default/remove-the-dam-invasive-plants>

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

Hike Co-Leaders Needed

If you enjoy participating in SMHC hikes, please consider volunteering to be a co-leader for an up-coming hike. You will be teamed with an experienced leader. Your club needs YOU. Please contact Cindy at spangler@utk.edu. Thank you in advance.

Member input to 2020 Handbook

Please email rittergeo@gmail.com changes needed in your entry in the handbook's member listing. Spouse email addresses can be added to the handbook, so send that if you like.

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Election Picnic will be held on **Saturday, August 10**, at the Greenbrier Pavilion. Bring a covered dish to share; the Social Committee will provide utensils and drinks. (If so inclined, bring your own reusable utensils to reduce our solid waste).

Tim Bigelow will lead a short hike in the Greenbrier area prior to lunch. Meet at 9:00 at the Greenbrier picnic shelter parking area and we will visit some historic structures and possibly large tulip poplars. The picnic will begin at noon. The 2020 Hike Schedule will be posted, so come prepared to select a hike to lead or co-lead! Following lunch, we will have a short business meeting at which the 2020 Board of Directors and Officers will be elected.

Following is the proposed slate:

President: Diane Petrilla
Vice President: Ken Wise
Communications Director: Cindy Spangler
Treasurer: Tim Bigelow
Recording Secretary: Steve Dunkin
Membership Secretary: George Ritter
Historian: Brian Worley
Director: Jean Gauger
Director: Dale Potter
Director: Will Skelton
Director: Taylor Weatherbee
Director: Amanda Beal

