



**HEN WALLOW FALLS & CAMPSITE 34 via
OFF-TRAIL ORIGINAL ROAD**

March 4, Wednesday

This is an out and back hike. We begin by parking in the picnic area of Cosby Campground, then walking about a half mile back down the road to where we intersect the original road to Hen Wallow Falls and beyond. We will hike "off trail" following the original road until it meets the official Gabes Mountain Trail which follows the original road except for a short distance. We will pass many artifacts from an earlier time including the obligatory wash bucket, various remains of old cars, rock walls, etc. Along the official trail we will look for reminders that this used to be a road where one could drive to the Falls. We will return on the established trail to our cars. Rated moderate. Hike approximately 11 miles. Meet at Comcast, Asheville Hwy at 8:00 a.m. or at Cosby Campground at 9:00. Drive 120 miles RT = \$6.00.

Leader: Lloyd Chapman, 865-719-3769,
lrchapman6667@yahoo.com

**A.T. WORK TRIP
March 7-Saturday**

The March 7th work trip is designated toward clearing the 30 miles of trail between NOC and Fontana of any trees and limb debris that has fallen over the winter and prepping the trail for the upcoming thru hiker season. ATMC needs sawyers, and volunteers to assist the sawyers with removal of debris after it is cut and repair any tread as needed where trees have fallen. Specific work locations will not be known until a walk-through is completed in late February and based on number of sawyers and volunteers sign up. Ideally, we would like to have 4 crews. Each crew would hike no more than 7 miles over moderate terrain. Alternate bad weather date is Saturday March 14th. Carpool from the Maryville Walmart on Hwy 411 at 7 am. RT travel is 110-130 miles @ .05 = \$6.50, depending on actual start and end points. Participants will need to wear sturdy footwear and bring work gloves, lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. If you have a hardhat, ear protection, and/or safety glasses, please bring those as well.

Leader: Franklin LaFond, 678-464-3380, ox97GaMe@aol.com

EASY HIKE: CUCUMBER GAP LOOP IN ELKMONT

March 7 - Saturday

For this easy hike we will go up Little River Trail 2.4 miles (361 ft climb) and view cabin remains of old Elkmont settlers and walk beside the wonderful Little River then take a walk in the woods on Cucumber Gap Trail 2.4 miles (413 ft climb) then down Jakes Creek Trail .5 mile to see more cabin remains. hike 5.5 miles with 774 ft elevation gain, rated easy. meet at 8:00 am at Alcoa Food City or 9:00 am Little River Trail Head in Elkmont. RT 80 miles = \$4.00

Leader: Ernie Wiles, ernestwiles09@comcast.net, 865-315-0109

Hike Leaders Needed: If you are interested in becoming a hike leader yet don't feel you have proper skills, please let Cindy know if a short (non-certified) class in First Aid might be the encouragement you need!
Cindy Spangler, spangler@utk.edu



Reminder: If you have not renewed your membership for 2020, please see the January newsletter. Or pay online at <http://www.smhclub.org/membership.htm>

**LAUREL FALLS & BUZZARD POINT OVERLOOK –
Laurel Snow State Natural Area**

March 11 - Wednesday

This is a moderate in and back hike within the Laurel-Snow SNA (formerly Bowater Pocket Wilderness Area) near Dayton. We begin by following a short section of the Cumberland Trail (CT) which is an easy former railroad grade thru a deep river gorge formed by the beautiful Richland Creek. We will pass many artifacts from the past mining operations as well as the old Dayton Reservoir that supplied water to the city of Dayton. In about 1.7 miles the trail splits, the right fork leads about 1 mile with noticeable elevation gain as we climb out of the deep river gorge to the 80ft Laurel Falls which is very impressive when there is good water flow. We will backtrack to the trail split then take the left fork. After a short distance we will cross a 150 long metal bridge where the trail climbs about 1.5 miles out of the river gorge to the plateau. We will go to the left a short distance to Buzzard Point for a spectacular overlook. Watch for hawks (not buzzards) flying below the overlook. To the right the trail leads to Snow Falls, but we will not plan to do that section. After we return to our cars, I can lead any who are interested on a very short walk to the old coke ovens. These are the best-preserved ovens in existence probably by being covered with kudzu. If snow blocks the access road to the SNA, we will do the Soak Creek Section of the CT to Stinging Fork Falls outside of Spring City. Meet at Lowes in Harriman (1800 Roane State Hwy, off of I-40 at Midtown exit, exit 350) at 8 a.m. Or at the trailhead at the Laurel-Falls SNA at 9:00. Those traveling from Knoxville or Oak Ridge may want to establish carpools to drive to the meeting location. Approximately 10 miles. Rated moderate. Drive 80 miles RT (\$4.00).

Leader: Lloyd Chapman 865-719-3769,
lrchapman6667@yahoo.com

**LITTLE GREENBRIAR TO SITES OF THE FAMILY AND
FRIENDS OF THE WALKER SISTERS**

March 14-Saturday

After meeting at Metcalf Bottoms at 8:45 for sign in, we will begin to hike at 9 am. ** Note** This is not the Park road to the Walker Sister's Cabin! We will travel off- trail to the home places of brothers, niece and friends. We will see various artifacts as well as seeing photos and hear stories. We will walk to the early home site of the only sister to marry. Highlights of the hike include home sites, photos, stories, a small waterfall and, of course, the Log School House and Walker Sisters' Cabin. After the hike, a short drive to the Mattox Cemetery to view the final resting site of the Walker Sisters is a bonus. Hike is about 5 miles and 5 hours, with time for a lunch stop. Rated Moderate.

Leaders: Mark and Janet Snyder, Markandjanets@gmail.com, 865-448-1183

THE SUGARFINGERS - Off-Trail**March 14- Saturday**

From the Chimneys Picnic area, we will scramble up one of the thrilling finger ridges emanating from the crest of Sugarland Mountain. We will savor unique and spectacular views of the Chimneys and Mt. LeConte, as we test our nerves and stamina against the exposed and rugged rock. Dizzying precipices and an intensely steep climb await the adventurous hiker who tackles this charred and crumbly landscape. Upon reaching the Sugarland Mountain Trail, we will have the option of descending via the manway connecting to Chimney Tops Trail or dropping down one of several more interesting routes. Rated difficult. Pre-registration with a hike leader for this off-trail hike is required.

Leaders: David Sands dsands314@yahoo.com, (865) 978-0146 and Clayton Carver, crcarver07@aol.com

BRADLEY FORK TO CABIN FLATS**March 21 - Saturday**

We will explore a bit of the North Carolina side of the Smoky Mountains as we walk along the road/trail up Bradley Fork to campsite 49. Being March, expect to encounter a mild early spring day or a snowy chilly late winter blast. Hopefully the former, as we will spend a few hours walking on this 9-mile hike. There are several small cascades to pass and most likely early spring flowers will be in bloom.

We will meet at the Smokemont campground entrance at 9:30am. Those traveling from the Knoxville vicinity who wish to carpool will meet at the Comcast meeting place on Asheville Highway at 7am. RT drive@ 130 miles=\$6.50.

Leader: Brian Worley 865-207-2625, baw2222@aol.com

A.T. TRAIL MAINTENANCE BACKPACK to DERRICK KNOB SHELTER via GREENBRIER RIDGE TRAIL**March 28-29, Saturday-Sunday**

We will hike up Middle Prong and Greenbrier Ridge Trails to the A.T. and Derrick Knob Trail Shelter. After resting up a bit, we will hike west on the A.T. a few miles and perform some light trail maintenance such as trimming vegetation, small blowdown removal and waterbar cleaning. We will return to the shelter for the night. In the morning after packing up, we will head east on the AT and continue working on the trail over to Buckeye Gap and the Miry Ridge Trail. We hike downhill to Lynn Camp Prong Trail and over to Middle Prong and back to cars.

Hike 8.3 miles Saturday and 12.7 Sunday. Drive 52 miles RT =\$2.60 to drivers. Contact the leaders to register.

Leaders: Steve Dunkin, jsdunkin1302@gmail.com and Tim Bigelow, 865-607-6781, bigelowt2@mindspring.com

NORRIS DAM RIVER BLUFF TRAIL**March 28 - Saturday**

We'll hike 3.25 miles on the River Bluff Trail and make lots of stops to enjoy flowers -one of the best Spring displays. We might also find scarlet cup, maidenhair fern, and club mosses. After that hike, we'll drive back across the dam for lunch (bathrooms) then proceed to the gristmill for a walk up Dyer Hollow, promising different flowers and a beautiful spring-fed creek. Rated easy with a half mile climb on River Bluff; 5 miles total. Meet at TVA Norris Dam Visitor Center just before the dam on the Norris side at 8:30am. We'll carpool from there and you can pay your driver 10 cents.

Leader: Doris Gove, 865-456-8198; dorisgove@aol.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](#). **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](#) **Maryville Walmart** = On Hwy 411 S between Market Pl and Legends Way, 2410 Hwy 411. Meet near fuel center. [Map Link](#). **Lenoir City Walmart**. 911 US-321, Lenoir City, TN 37771 (Take hwy 321 exit off I-75 and travel South. Will be on the left before the Home Depot.

COMING EVENTS – April 2020

4	Saturday	AT Work Trip
4	Saturday	Sam's Creek off-trail
11	Saturday	Porters Creek Wildflower Hike
18	Saturday	White Oak Sink
19	Sunday	Frozen Head State Park Wildflower Hike
25	Saturday	Jake's Creek-Blanket Mountain
25-26	Saturday-Sunday	Backpack Lead Cove to Site 85. Pilkey Creek

Welcome New Members

Becky Anderson	simple.life@aol.com	816-922-9064
3603 N River Blvd	Sugar Creek, MO 64050	
Mary Brown	mdrbrown@yahoo.com	865-579-3594
328 White School Road	Knoxville, TN 37920	
Joseph Bullock	realrandybullock@yahoo.com	
167 Green Gap Rd	Robbinsville, NC 28771	
J. D. Coelho	perf1@comcast.net	865-856-6022
1207 Wintergreen Ln	Greenback, TN 37742	
Becky Courtney	becky@utk.edu	865-556-5334
1640 Littleton Drive	Loudon, TN37774	
Wayne Davis	wtdavis@utk.edu	865-250-0265
1626 Banebury Ln	Alcoa, TN 37701	
Dean Dennison	addennison@bellsouth.net	865-466-1916
149 Chandley Rd	Kingston, TN 37763	
Stephen Dickinson	winston.fob@comcast.net	
1106 W Outer Drive	Oak Ridge, TN 37830	
Robert Emory	bigarnj@gmail.com	865-719-8009
2108 Martha Berry Drive	Knoxville, TN 37918	
Lee Fulcher	dfulcher@comcast.net	865-640-4942
1508 Barley Cir	Knoxville, TN 37922	
Ronald & Patricia Moore		
	1ronmoore1@gmail.com	630-406-8481
520 Spring Branch Ln	Knoxville, TN 37934	
Patrick & Nanci Jackson Rakes		
	xenisma@gmail.com	865-385-4205
3840 Gooseneck Dr	Knoxville TN 37920	
Brad Travis	brad.travis22@gmail.com	270-287-7342
85 Clay Wy	Leitchfield KY 42754	

Newcomer to SMHC?

Our hike difficulty ratings are intended for regular hikers acclimated to the climbs and descents of the Smokies. Hikes may be more difficult than you might expect, unless you are an avid hiker. Also, please carry a pack with food, water and clothing for inclement weather. We appreciate our kind carpool drivers, so please have correct cash to reimburse him/her! Dogs and firearms are **not** permitted on club hikes. Please contact your hike leader with questions and to RSVP/cancel.

For the Record

Maryville/Alcoa Greenbelt Jan 11, 2020

Twelve members showed up on a warm (record breaking) albeit windy winter day to walk from Foothills Elementary School in Maryville to the Springbrook Recreation Center in Alcoa. Passed through several parks, around a couple of lakes, and by several historical sites. Most opted for the shorter 8 mile option while the rest did 10.5 miles.



-David Smith and John Smiley

Abrams Falls via Little Bottoms Trail Jan 15, 2020

On an overcast, unseasonably warm morning with rain forecasted, 13 hikers gathered at the Abrams Creek Ranger Station – half as many Wednesday hikers as last week when we had sunshine – including one new SMHC member hiking with us for the first time. On the short walk to the trailhead we saw Abrams Creek running



unusually fast and high. Nobody was surprised at the first stream crossing (Kingfisher Creek, parallel with

Cooper Road Trail) to find boot-deep water that required rock-hopping, instead of the "step-over drainage" some of us remembered. Also no surprise that the creek had overtaken some sections of the trail. The next crossing was more than boot-deep, and trickier. After the third crossing several of us had wet feet, which we ignored when climbing over or crawling under both familiar and newly fallen trees across the trail. The initial, steep climb up Little Bottoms Trail (300 ft. in a quarter mile) left us warmed-up and/or breathing hard. One hiker (who hadn't hiked in more than 6 months) shortly turned back at one of the blow-downs. Soon the first and only rain of the day began, just long enough for us to put on rain-jackets. After the downhill walk to the next, particularly difficult crossing (Buck Shank Branch) two more hikers turned back. As the rest of us continued up the ridge, the gray clouds lifted enough to give nice views of the swollen, rushing, misty creek below. Shortly before we reached the footlog bridge to the Falls, we came to a gap in the Abrams Creek trail, left where a tall tree and most of its roots had recently fallen about 50 feet down into the creek below (and stretched across!), leaving only a steep, muddy slope of loose clay. We carefully crossed the mud using 3 or 4 boot-sized footholds, glad it wasn't raining yet. When we reached the loudly roaring falls we sat on rocks far away because of high water, and ate fast, as lunchtime conversation dwelled on thunderstorms and the open, exposed ridge on the trail. On our return we fortunately had no rain and found all the stream crossings and blowdowns just as we had left them. The sun occasionally broke through the clouds so we could enjoy views of this beautiful part of the park – when not watching our footing. At least some of us were more tired than usual after what turned out to be a more challenging hike than we expected

- Eric Sundstrom

Norris Watershed Area

Jan 25, 2020

Fourteen SMHC members and visitors gathered on this cloudy Sunday afternoon to enjoy the trail system of the Norris Watershed Area, just south of Norris Dam State Park. Following a beautiful loop suggested by Debra Barton, we began at the Lenoir Museum, where we learned about the Rice grist mill and saw the Caleb Cosby threshing barn. Picking up Clear Creek trail, we then turned onto Dyer Hollow, then Reservoir Hill Trail. The latter climbs gradually, from forest with some huge beech and sycamores, to a younger deciduous woodland. One of our hikers knew the name of the invasive holly species we saw, Mahonia. We continued to ascend and picked up Observation Point trail, which climbed a bit more



to a stunning overlook. The CCC built a rustic pavilion there years ago, which has been restored. The view took in the enormity of Norris Dam, the Clinch River below, and Walden Ridge to the west. One hiker familiar with the area, said it was a great place to watch the sunset! We hiked back on Eagle and Cliff trails, the latter living up to it's name by being perched on a precipitous ridge, and making us climb over some challenging blow downs. All made it back in good spirits and just before it started to rain a little bit!
Diane Petrilla and Lois Esmark

Cumberland Trail in Frozen Head SP

Feb 1, 2020

On this chilly overcast first day of February, 11 staunch hikers gathered at the Rocky Flats TH at Frozen Head SP to begin a 9.9 mile loop that would encompass 4.5 miles of the 7.9 miles of Cumberland Tr that run through Frozen Head. Rocky Flats is a beautifully



constructed trail, and tan-gold beech leaves, mountain laurel and mosses lit up the otherwise monochromatic winter forest. The climb for the first 2.4 miles is arduous, finally intersecting with the CT at Ross Gap. From there we headed NE, continuing to climb, climb, climb, to the ridge top. Along the way, we saw remnants of the old mining operations that took place in this area. It was foggy and misty, but we could make out the big sandstone formations of Mushroom Rock, Castle Rock West and Castle Rock itself. Lunch was at the Bird Mountain campsite. Good to keep moving to stay warm, so we proceeded to the intersection of the Lookout Tower Trail and headed down. At this point, the skies were clearing more, and we could see the rugged slopes below us and beyond us. At Big Cove Campground we took our shuttle cars back to the TH. This leader appreciated everyone's good humor and the ability to find beauty, even on a less-than-ideal hiking day.
Diane Petrilla



Did you know that nearly 6,000 volunteers contributed 210,923 hours to the management and stewardship of the Appalachian Trail in 2019?

Daddy's Creek Section of the CT.

Feb 8, 2020

The hike planned for this date was adjusted to a similar trail in the same area due to the original, and I might add far superior, hike leader being ill. Happy to report that he is doing much better. A total of 6 hikers braved threats of snow to enjoy this 10-11 mile in



and back hike mostly along Daddy's Creek. Very happy to report two visitors joined the group and we hope to see them on future hikes. Weather was mild and there was a soft layer of snow in the beginning but had all but melted by

the time everyone had lunch. The trail offers a beautiful overlook of Daddy's Creek and a pleasant walk along the creek. Everyone enjoyed this easy and pleasant trail that is characteristic of the Plateau in the winter.

-Lloyd Chapman

Davenport Gap to Mt. Cammerer

Feb 12, 2020

Sixteen hopeful hikers gathered at the Davenport Gap TH of the A.T. I say "hopeful" because there were predictions of rain and wind, and the last few weeks have certainly dumped huge amounts of rain here in East TN! In fact, when we got off the Waterville exit, the Pigeon River was raging; I have never seen it so high. The A.T. however was only moist, occasionally muddy, with no significant stream crossings. One hiker commented that it was the first time his feet had stayed dry while hiking in weeks! 2 hikers did an 8-mile RT hike, turning back a mile or so beyond the Lower Mt. Cammerer junction. 3 hikers went as far as the Mt. Cammerer side trail junction, and 11 went out to the tower. We had plenty of intermittent sunshine, a very occasional raindrop, and views across the mountains of lovely low-lying cloud cover. At Cammerer, the wind picked up quite a bit, so it was good to start back down. The sun continued, and the wind decreased as we descended, with the temperatures warming. Absolutely beautiful. We were also fortunate to have 2 A.T. maintainers on the hike who used their handsaws along the way. There remained 2 very large blowdowns towards the top, one of which had just fallen in the last 2 days. Another reason to descend the Trail before high winds began! The hike was 11.6-mile RT to go all the way to the tower, with a 3200 ft. elevation gain. A wonderful day, from this leader's perspective :)) Diane Petrilla



SMHC History – Article 1

In 1974 the club issued a booklet celebrating the first 50 years and documenting highlights of those years. This booklet is a great read and I would recommend it as a starting point for learning about the early history of the SMHC.

Founded in 1924, the club's initial list of members numbered around 60 members. Today the club has close to 500 members. One of the unique aspects of the club is its annual handbook that started with a paper pamphlet in 1926 followed in 1927 with a hand-sized handbook that listed the yearly hikes and other club information. The same size and general layout of the handbook has been retained every year since. The club historical documents and a copy of every handbook reside in the University of Tennessee library archives along with other club documents. The club history predates the founding of the Great Smoky Mountains National park and the early handbooks have pull-out maps in the back of the handbook that shows the proposed park boundary. Some of these early proposals had the park boundary including Wears Valley and parts of Chilhowee mountain.

Next month I will address the club's history supporting conservation.

Brian Worley, Club Historian

Members of Smoky Mountains Hiking Club at Myrtle Point— photograph by Jim Thompson

When the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club was formed in 1924, its members agreed to work for the protection of the natural beauty of the mountains. The club began to publish annual handbooks with hiking tips, sample hikes and recommended foods.



- from the Great Smoky Mountains Association *Cub Report*

New Way to Consider Donating to SMHC- CARS!

SMHC has partnered with CARS, "Charitable Adult Rides and Services", to facilitate the donation of your no-longer-needed car, that can be sold by this organization, with proceeds going to the Club. CARS is a 501c(3)(b) charity that has an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau. It donates at least 70% of the proceeds from the sale of your used car back to the recipient organization (In this case, SMHC). You receive an initial donation receipt from the tow driver at the time of your vehicle pickup. This acknowledgement will indicate your name, as well as the year, make, model, and VIN. It will be your only receipt if your vehicle sells for less than \$500. The donor receives "IRS Form 1098-C, Contributions of Motor Vehicles, Boats, and Airplanes" if the proceeds from the sale exceed \$500, stating the amount of the gross proceeds from the sale of the donated vehicle. You will then be mailed a tax receipt within 30 days of the sale of the vehicle. To read more about CARS and how it works, go to <https://careasy.org/home>, and if you specifically want to read about how to donate to the SMHC in this manner, go directly to <https://careasy.org/nonprofit/smoky-mountains-hiking-club>. You can also call 855-500-RIDE. Thank you!

