



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Newsletter

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

June 2022

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY'S
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY®

June 4, 2022

**A Day of Service for Hometown Trails
and the People Who Love Them**

June 4-Saturday

SMHC National Trails Day Work Day on the Appalachian Trail

Hopefully by this time, you have had an opportunity to register to volunteer for a work crew on the A.T. for our 25th annual **National Trails Day** celebration! We will have crews from Davenport Gap to trail sections north and south of Newfound Gap, to Spence Field. Experienced crew leaders will show you how to perform general trail maintenance as well as do some special projects. We will provide a free lunch, a special commemorative T-shirt and PRIZES! Our deadline for registration is May 16. We need lots of willing hands! If you are interested, please go to <https://smhclub.org/NTD> and register ASAP! Crew members will meet at their assigned trailheads at 8:30am on June 4; crew assignments will be made after registration.

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

CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To lead a SMHC hike, a member must have completed at least 3 hikes with the club. We are always in need of hike leaders so plan to get your 3 hikes completed before August 2022--the date we finish up the 2023 handbook.

Also, if you have a favorite hike you would like to lead, contact Steve Dunkin at jsdunkin1302@gmail.com.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

CONSIDER GOING GREEN!!!

If you receive this newsletter by US Mail, please consider changing to the digital PDF version distributed by email. Email swalker.dev@gmail.com to change from print to digital. You will find the digital version much easier to read. Changing to digital will help save considerable time from printing to preparing the newsletter for mail, in addition to the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter.

Upcoming Hikes

Pre-registration at SMHClub.org is required for all hikes.

Please contact the leader if you are not sure of when and where to meet. We request that you cancel your registration ASAP if unable to hike to allow someone on the waiting list to take your spot. Please familiarize yourself with the Club Guidelines in this newsletter.

June 8-Wednesday Lumber Ridge to Meigs Mountain to Campsite 19

This out-and-back hike will start on the Lumber Ridge trail, making the climb to the ridge before leveling off to reach Buckhorn Gap at 4.1 miles 2,100 ft. elevation gain. We'll continue on the Meigs Mountain trail for another 1.5 miles to Campsite 19 for lunch then return on the same trails for 11.2 miles. For a shorter hike turn, around at Buckhorn Gap for 8.2 miles 1,686 ft. elevation gain. For a longer hike go on to Curry Mountain trail then return to the graveyard or campsite for lunch before returning to the cars for 12.2 miles, 2,258 ft. elevation gain. Rated moderate to moderately difficult depending on the length chosen. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00 or the parking area at the Tremont Institute at 9:40. Drive 46 miles (@0.10/mile = \$4.60).

Pre-register at smhclub.org.

Leader: Thomas J. Welch 224-944-3333 or coast5588@yahoo.com

June 11- Saturday Spicewood- Chimney Top Loop, Frozen Head SP

Frozen Head SP is a treasure in our own "backyard," and it's always nice to be hiking on the mountains of the Cumberland Plateau as the weather gets warmer. For this hike, we'll start at the main trailhead area past the Visitor Center, hiking to Spicewood Branch and then up, to connect with Chimney Top Trail. Turning south, we'll pass Mart Fields campsite, then ascend to the marvelous rock formations known as the Chimneys. Then we'll descend on Chimney Top trail to the Visitor Center and have a short walk on the road back to our cars. About 9 miles, rated moderate, with some big climbs. Meet at Books-A-Million in Oak Ridge, 310 S Illinois Ave. at 8am. Drive RT 50 miles @ \$.10/ mile = \$5.00.

Pre-register at smhclub.org.

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

June 11-Saturday Frowning Rock Prong off-trail

This excursion will take us deep into the Smoky Mountain wilderness to explore one of the most remote creeks in the park. We'll warm up with a quick stroll from Smokemont up Bradley Fork Trail to Campsite 49, where our real adventure will begin. We'll take to the creek and rock-hop or wade about two and a half miles up the unusually flat and serene Bradley Fork to its confluence with Frowning Rock Prong. Here, we'll begin an intimate relationship with one of the most enchanting streams to be found in the Smokies. For nearly a mile and a half, we'll slither our way past beautiful tumbling cascades and deep cold pools. Beyond this wonderland, we'll come to the legendary Frowning Rock Scar, where our adventure will conclude with a thrilling rock scramble up to the AT. We'll take the trail, probably wearing headlamps, out to awaiting vehicles at Newfound Gap. This is a massive day hike, involving all the obstacles the Smokies throw at hikers who abandon the trails.

Pre-register at smhclub.org.

Leader: David Sands, dsands314@yahoo.com

June 12-Sunday
Lower Mt Cammerer Trail to Sutton Ridge Overlook
Easy Hike

We will begin this hike at the hiker parking area at Cosby Campground at 9:30 am. We will hike the Lower Mt. Cammerer trail to Sutton Ridge overlook then return to the beginning possibly stopping by the Dorsey Cemetery and a couple of other interesting sites. Hike around 4 miles.

Pre-register at smhclub.org

Leader: Ed Fleming 865-548-2489 edwrdfm@aol.com

June 18-Saturday
Gregory Bald via Gregory Ridge

On this classic early summer hike, we will visit Gregory Bald in hopes of experiencing the flame azaleas in bloom. We will use the Gregory Ridge Trail and climb steadily to its intersection with the Gregory Bald Trail. From there it's a short climb to the summit of Gregory Bald. If we experience a clear day, a view of Cades Cove and Fontana Lake will also be provided. The total distance of the hike is roughly 11.3 miles with 3,000 feet elevation gain. The hike is rated moderately difficult.

Meet at Alcoa Food City at 7:30 a.m. (drive is 80 miles RT @ 10 cents/mile = \$8.00) or at the Gregory Ridge Trailhead at 8:30 a.m.

Pre-register at smhclub.org.

Leader: Mark Shipley, shipleymark57@gmail.com, 865-388-5261

June 22-Wednesday
Metcalf Bottoms trail to Little Brier Gap trail to Little Greenbrier trail and Laurel Falls trail

We will visit the Little Greenbrier School and the Walker Sisters cabin on the way to the Laurel Falls trail. 9.1 miles. 2,064 ft. elevation gain. Those who want to can add 1 mile each way and 441 ft. elevation gain to go on up to the Cove Mountain fire tower. Rated moderate. Meet at Food City in Alcoa at 8:00 or Metcalf Bottoms at 9:00. Drive distance 54 miles (@ 0.10/mile = \$5.40).

Pre-register at smhclub.org

Leader: Thomas J. Welch 224-944-3333 or coast5588@yahoo.com

June 25-Saturday
Clingmans Dome to Newfound Gap

This high elevation hike should provide a respite from valley heat. After arranging a shuttle at Newfound Gap, we will start our hike at the highest point in the Smokies --Clingmans Dome at 6443'. We will hike North through AT sections that our club maintains and through a beautiful conifer forest accented by moss covered logs and ferns. Meet at Newfound Gap at 8:30 AM at the NC/TN State Line sign (allow a few extra minutes for summer traffic). Total hike mileage: 8.4 miles, rated moderate. Drive distance 16 miles @ 0.10/mile = \$1.60.

Pre-register at smhclub.org

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

Please note that the SMHC Board of Directors voted to raise the carpool fee to 10 cents/mile due to rising fuel costs. If gas prices decline, we will recommend adjustments going forward. Thank you all for sharing these carpool costs!



For the Record

April 13
Ace Gap to Beard Cane to CS 3

It was a brisk, chilly morning as 20 members and 1 visitor started hiking up the Ace Gap trail. The rolling hills soon had us warming up despite the overcast skies. As is typical of a large group, we were soon spread out along the trail, with the “rabbits” scurrying ahead of the “turtles.” Some of those “rolling” hills felt a lot steeper than others, and the search for wildflowers gave us another good reason to slow down. The dwarf irises were out in force – I’m always amazed at how intricate they are, just growing wild in the woods. Alas, we found very little evidence of lady slippers, which in the past had been dotted up and down the trail. Us Turtles finally caught up with the Rabbits at the Beard Cane intersection. I had warned everyone that the trek to Campsite 3 involved a descent of about 400 feet over 0.6 miles. And we all know that what we go down we must eventually come up. Surprisingly, there were a good number of people who opted to make the plunge while the rest settled on the logs at the intersection to enjoy their lunch. Down, down we went until we were met with the first river (too wide to be called a stream, in my opinion) crossing, that looked very deep and very rough. We all decided that sitting on the rocks on this side was a very pleasant way to spend lunch. And it was very pleasant. Much too soon, we packed up our belongings and made our way back up. The sun had come out during the day, and we felt it beating down on us as we made our way along the south-facing Ace Gap trail. A couple of us slowed down to hike out with one person having somewhat of a struggle, but happily everyone made it out no worse for wear. There were varying measurements, but the hike was about 12.2 miles with elevation gain of about 2,500 ft.

--Pat Watts



April 16
Panther Branch/North Old Mac Flower Hike

Only 5 hearty hikers set off on Saturday morning to admire, photograph and identify flowers. The trails were wet from overnight rain and Debord and Emory Gap Falls were roaring. After Emory Falls we continued up Panther Branch (up being the operative word) stopping frequently to study spectacular flowers. There were trilliums trilling, spotted mandarin, lots of husky bellwort with yolk yellow blossoms, several jack in the pulpits and some showy orchis and more, much more. We descended North Old Mac and at the bottom several hikers peeled off to do other Saturday chores while three of us continued on to march up Judge Branch Trail. Judge Branch was crossable, carefully. We headed toward the parking lot but the two leaders went for broke and walked the interpretive loop while our last follower found her way back to her car.

--Claudia Dean and Jean Gauger



April 20
Twentymile to Shuckstack or BC92

We had 13 members and 1 visitor brave the drive across the Dragon for our hike up the Twentymile trail. Part of the group, the Super Six, opted to do a shorter hike that eliminated a rather steep climb to the top, while the remainder, the Great Eight, went with the planned hike to the Shuckstack Fire Tower. We started up the trail, enjoying a variety of wildflowers along the way. At the intersection with Long Hungry Ridge, the Great Eight waved goodbye to the Super Six and started the steeper part of the climb. We huffed and puffed our way up to the AT where we were met with a cold gusting wind that caused us to put our winter jackets back on. One hiker opted to turn around at this point and head back while the remaining Sensational Seven continued to the tower. We joined a good number of AT thru-hikers there, and we enjoyed lunch in the brilliant sun while listening to stories they told of their journey to date. A few brave souls made their way up the tower - but not me! Of the 4 fire towers remaining intact in the Park, Shuckstack has to be the tallest! After a nice rest, we made our way back down the mountain and to our cars. The hike was about 10.9 miles with elevation gain of 2,700 ft. It was another great day in the mountains!

--Pat Watts

Report from the Super Six or as I like to call them "the Six Old Guys"

We split off from the Great Eight at Long Hungry trail and hiked to Campsite 92 for lunch. On the way back we took a leisurely pace and looked at a lot of wild flowers. The most prevalent being Wild Geranium, Dwarf Crested Iris and various kinds of Trillium. Near the end one hiker chose to go on to his car while the rest of us took a short side trail to view the Twentymile Creek cascades. Back at the cars we agreed that this 8.4 miles with 1,342 ft. elevation gain hike was long enough.

--Ron Brandenburg



April 23
Bent Arm Manway

On a perfect spring day, eight lucky club members hiked the Bent Arm Manway as a loop hike with the Miry Ridge and Jakes Creek trails. While the old railroad grade section was a bit brushy, we found the forest, rhodo tunnel, and ridgetop sections delightfully open. Spring wildflowers were in bloom throughout the hike, but the dense carpet of spring beauties, trout lily, and fringed phacelia along Bent Arm ridge was as magnificent as any seen in the mountains.

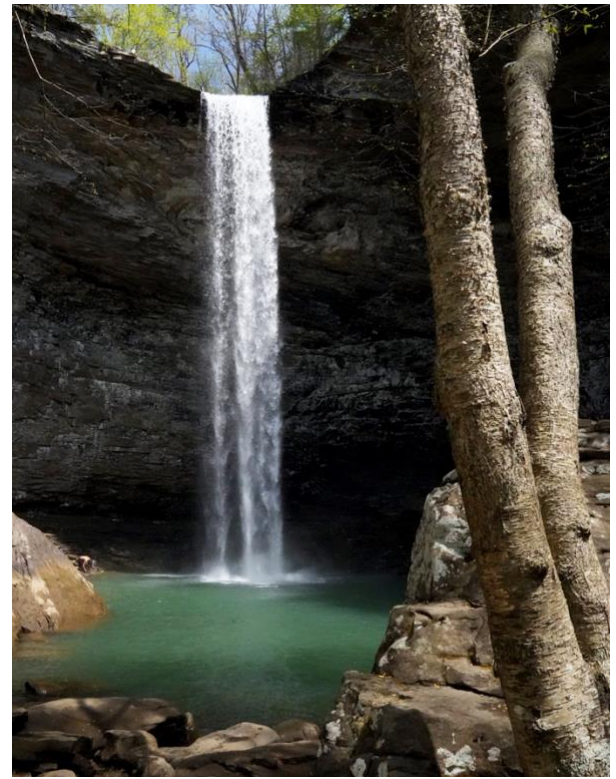
--Hiram Rogers and Jean Gauger



April 23
Black Mountain to Ozone Falls on CT

Ten members and one visitor gathered at Ozone falls SNA to set up a car shuttle to Black Mountain then start hiking! We first hiked the Black Mountain Loop trail, with its magnificent views at the southern overlook towards Grassy Cove and the Smokies. The northern overlook is a bit less panoramic, but still impressive. We saw huge sandstone boulders and talked about the karst topography of the area. Then picking up the Cumberland Trail heading "north" (more like east) we descended and ascended rolling hills and coves with just enough climb to make us all feel like we got a work-out! Nearing Ozone Falls, we admired the extensive rock-work underfoot, done by CTC volunteers, to build the trail. The 110 ft. Ozone Falls was magnificent, and since it was a beautiful sunny day, there were quite a few local folks swimming. Overall a most wonderful day with a very congenial group of hikers!

--Diane Petrilla and Scott Walker



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Officers and Directors

President: Ken Wise kwise@utk.edu

Vice President: jsdunkin1302@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Kristi Knight kcsknight@charter.net

Treasurer: Diane Petrilla petrillad@gmail.com

Trust Liaison: Jean Gauger jeanguager@yahoo.com

Membership Secretary: Scott Walker swalker.dev@gmail.com

Communications Director: Cindy Spangler spangler@utk.edu

Historian: Brian Worley baw2222@aol.com

Director: Tim Bigelow bigelowt2@mindspring.com

Director: Randy Mitchell mitchell1982@tds.net

Director: Will Skelton whshome@bellsouth.net

Director: Taylor Weatherbee tweatherbe@aol.com



KROGER'S COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

YOU have the power to raise money for the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club! Follow these steps and help us:

- Create and login into your Kroger account.
- Select My Account and use the menu to choose Community Rewards.
- Enter MV194 and hit save.

By doing so, you will help support trail maintenance and other club projects. You can check each quarter to see how much money your spending at Kroger resulted in a donation to the club.

Post Hike Write-Ups

Post-hike write-ups and photos should be submitted to SMHC Newsletter editors, Connie and John Tatgenhorst at newsletter@smhclub.org and Betsy Bohannon, betsybo1964@gmail.com, Facebook manager. For your write-up, please include the following: Hike name and date, total number of members and visitors, and description of hike.

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club
 PO Box 51592

Knoxville, TN 37950-1592