



PO Box 51592
Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Newsletter

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

August 2022

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Election Picnic

August 13, Saturday, 11 a.m.

GATOP Garden

2705 Riverside Drive Knoxville, TN 37914

Bring a bagged lunch and a chair. We will provide drink and dessert.

Arrive in parking area in time to view the gardens from 11- noon. There will be helpers there under a tent with maps to the gardens. Then settle in for a special lunch treat with The Missing Goats Band playing Blue Grass, Irish, Scottish, and Appalachian music. Dana Soehn with GSMNP will give a brief talk after lunch; then president, Ken Wise, will conduct some club business. There will be a table with SMHC merchandise as well as sheets of future hikes that need leaders for 2023. Please bring your calendar and consider leading a hike!

Register your attendance (and also guests) at www.smhclub.org or call:
Jeannette Gilbert 865-483-8774 Debbie Goddard 865-382-3047

Slate of SMHC Officers for 2023

President, Ken Wise
Vice President, Steve Dunkin
Recording Secretary, Kristi Knight
Historian, Brian Worley
Membership Secretary, Scott Walker
Treasurer, Diane Petrilla

Trust Liaison, Jean Gauger
Communication Director, Randy Mitchell
Compliance Director, Taylor Weatherbee
Director, Will Skelton
Director, Tim Bigelow
Director, Pat Watts

Merchandise for sale

Cash or check only

Shirts (S, M, L, XL): \$15
Books \$10
Patches: \$3
Caps: \$15

Rain day—Sunday, August 14

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.

August 6, Saturday

The North Face of LeConte-Roaring Fork-Basin Spring

Off-trail

The North Face of Mount LeConte is well known for the peaceful ascents to the mountain's summit. Bullhead, Rainbow Falls, and Trillium Gap Trails excite with waterfalls and vistas that draw thousands of tourists to see and play. Venturing off these beaten paths and ascending the mountain off-trail shows a very different side of LeConte. This route offers an exploration of the rough and foreboding terrain that is only glimpsed from the trails. The upper region of the North Face of LeConte is steep and barricaded with high cliffs that include huge waterfall upon waterfall. The route for this excursion has been used by Smokies explorers and the Hiking Club for many decades. We will pass through the doorway into the wilderness through Grotto Falls by way of Trillium Gap Trail. Rock-hopping and scrambling will be the mode of transportation in the lower stretches of Roaring Fork until the terrain gives-way to cascades, cliffs, and waterfalls. Massive walls, large waterfalls, and a club favorite Dome Falls will serve as superior backdrops for the climb. As the waterfalls transition into the more gentle slopes of the summit we will arrive at Basin Spring and LeConte Lodge. The return will be by Trillium Gap Trail.

Total trip: off-trail 1.4 mile, on-trail 8.1 mile, 9 hours, drive 100 miles RT. This off-trail trip is rated difficult.

Pre-register at smhclub.org.

Contact the trip leader by email for meeting place and time.

Leader: Greg Harrell, GSHarrell@milligan.edu

August 10, Wednesday

Gabes Mountain Trail from Cosby Campground via Henwallow Falls and Campsite 34

This hike will be out and back. Round trip 9.6 miles. Rated moderate. Meet at Cracker Barrel at I-40 Exit 398 (1510 Cracker Barrel Ln., southeast corner of parking lot) at 8:00 am or at Cosby Campground at 9:00 am. Drive 120 miles RT {@ 0.10/mile = \$12.00}.

Pre-register @ smhclub.org and with leader

Leader: Steve Vittatoe, 865-724-9666, svittatoe@charter.net

August 20, Saturday

AT Worktrip

On this AT Worktrip, we will be hiking out of Cosby along the Low Gap Trail. Once at Low Gap, we will divide into groups with some participants going north and some south. We will perform general maintenance duties including clearing out vegetation and cleaning waterbars.

Pre-register at smhclub.org and with leader.

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

August 20, Saturday

Long Bunk and Little Cataloochee Trails

Map Marker Hike

Let's take the opportunity to make a long trek to the Cataloochee area and hike these lesser traveled trails. We will have to make a car shuttle along the sometimes rough gravel road NC284 from Big Creek/Mt Sterling town with extra cars and leave half of them at Mt. Sterling Gap. We then drive on the rest of old NC284 to Pretty Hollow Gap trailhead in Cataloochee and start hiking. We reach the Little Cataloochee trail in a short distance which climbs over a small ridge and descends down into Little Cataloochee Valley with several historic structures to visit. We will follow the Little Cataloochee trail to the end at Old NC284 then backtrack a short distance to the Long Bunk trail. The Long Bunk trail passes a cemetery and has several scenic views as it climbs gradually to the Mt. Sterling Ridge trail at the gap where shuttle cars are parked. We will return along NC284 to pick up the other cars and may choose to drive back via Cove Creek Rd and I-40. Hike is a total of 11 miles with elevation gain of 1500 ft. Rated moderate. Meet at Cracker Barrel off I-40 at Exit 398 in the southeast corner parking lot at 7:00 am. Round trip driving 160 miles @ 0.10/mile=\$16.00.

Pre-register at smhclub.org and with leader for planning of shuttle cars.

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

August 24, Wednesday

Middle Prong Trail to Indian Flats Falls

We'll see three multi-tiered falls including Lower Lynn Camp, Lynn Camp and Indian Flats. Historic artifacts to be seen along the trail include the rusting Cadillac, a homestead chimney and remnants from logging operations of the past. Hike will be out and back. RT is 7.8 miles. Rated moderate with elevation gain of 1175 ft. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00 am or the trailhead at 8:45 am. Drive 50 miles RT {@ 0.10/mile = \$5.00}.

Pre-register @ smhclub.org and with leader

Leader: Steve Vittatoe, 865-724-9666, svittatoe@charter.net

August 27, Saturday

UT Arboretum-Easy hike

We'll meet in the parking lot of The University of Tennessee Arboretum at 9:00 a.m. for an hour-long easy hike. The Arboretum is located at 901 S. Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge. We will see some things that are at their peak in the summer and fall, such as the bog garden, the rain garden, and the Elmore holly collection. There will be a little bit about local history prior to the Manhattan Project taking over this boot-legging farming "hollow," as well. And if our new book on the Nature Book Trail is up by late August, we will check out Bugs on the Job.

Pre-register at smhclub.org.

Leader: Janet Bigelow, janet_bigelow@tds.net (865) 300-5580

August 28, Sunday
Noland Creek and Lower Noland Divide Trails

This hike begins with leaving some cars at the Noland Divide trailhead near the Deep Creek campground and driving over to Noland Creek trailhead off Lakeshore Drive. The Noland Creek trail follows the noisy scenic creek and gradually ascends to the end at Sassafras Gap at 4200 ft elevation. Along the way are a few remnants of historical structures and several campsites. There are several possibly deep creek crossings so water shoes and hiking poles are recommended. At the gap, we follow the Nolan Divide trail with a few ups and downs but mostly downhill to Deep Creek. We pass the Lonesome Pine overlook area and enjoy the views of the area and rest up a bit before the last bit of downhill to the cars. We will drive over to pick up the other cars. A stop in Bryson City is an option on the way back. Hike 17 miles with 2900 ft elevation gain. Rated difficult.

Meet at Cracker Barrel off I-40 at Exit 398 in the southeast corner parking lot at 7:00 am. Round trip driving 160 miles @ 0.10= \$16.00.

Pre-register at smhclub.org and with leader for planning of shuttle cars.

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

September 10-Saturday
A.T. Work Trip—Mulch Hauling

With the assumption that Icewater privy will still be closed, we will plan to backpack mulch to Double Springs shelter for storage in the privy mulch boxes there. As many folks know, mulch is crucial for the function of the composting privies in the Park, and we want to be sure supplies are adequate for the southbound thru-hikers this Fall! We will have pre-bagged mulch in 20 lb. bags, as well as extra back-packing style backpacks if you need one. Please meet at Cracker Barrel off of the Strawberry Plains exit (1510 Cracker Barrel Lane) at 7am, or at the Clingmans Dome parking lot at 8:45 am. Bring plenty of water, sturdy shoes, and snacks/ lunch. Roundtrip gas mileage from Cracker Barrel to CD and back is \$11.00.

Pre-register at smhclub.org.

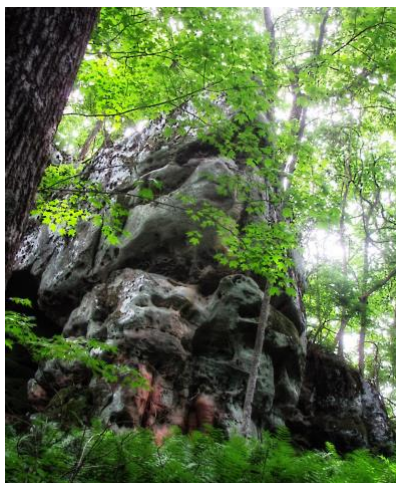
Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com.

For the Record

June 11
Spicewood-Chimney Top Loop
Frozen Head State Park

Eight members gathered on this cool and sunny June Saturday for a delightful walk in the woods. We talked about the plant biodiversity of this forest, when we saw trillium in seed, wild hydrangea, spiderwort and jewelweed and of course the full green leafy canopy of the deciduous forest. We talked about the geology of the Cumberland Plateau, especially noticeable in the unusual sandstone formations of the chimneys, with colors ranging from brown to tan to pinkish-orange. We talked about the CCC when we saw remnants of their work near Mart Field. We talked about the old Brushy Mountain Prison and one famous escapee's relationship to the Barkley Marathons. Being Frozen Head, the climbs and descents are rugged at times, and one hiker fell going down in the last 2 miles. Despite twisting her knee, she bravely hobbled out with two of us in attendance. We hope for her full recovery. Thanks to this great group for a wonderful day!

-Diane Petrilla



June 11 Frowning Rock Prong

Six adventurous hikers, including one new to off-trail excursions, set out from Smokemont to explore some of the wildest and most beautiful terrain in the Smokies. After taking the trail several miles to Campsite 49, the hikers took to the creek, rock-hopping and wading up gentle and low-flowing Bradley Fork. They enjoyed a sunny break for lunch at the mouth of Chasm Prong before pushing onward to find Frowning Rock Prong. Up that charming creek they went, navigating deep pools and magical cascades. Late in the afternoon, the creek began to peter out, and the hikers found the base of a long scar leading up to the AT. Climbing the open rocky scar was a thrilling experience, enjoyed by some more than others. All made it up safely and celebrated stepping out of the wilderness onto the trail. The long walk out to Newfound Gap as the sun sank below the horizon was a relaxing affair, allowing remembrances of the day's adventures to set up permanent residence in the minds of all who were there.

-David Sands



June 22 Little Brier Gap and Little Greenbrier Trails

The hike started with 10 hikers. Four hikers decided to go to the tower taking the Laurel Falls and Cove Mountain trails. This added another 2.2 miles to their hike and an additional elevation gain of 500 feet. Five other hikers ended the hike at the Laurel Falls trail junction. Their hike in total was 9 miles with an elevation gain of 1,925 feet. The final hiker did part of the hike and turned around. We were fortunate that the heat held off until early afternoon. The elevation gain going up the mountain made it cooler than at the trail head. There were some nice flame azaleas and rhododendron along the way. No one chose to go to the Walker Sisters cabin. On the way back, the group that went the farthest caught up with the other group at Greenbrier School just in time for Diane to patch up a scraped knee. Nothing serious.

-Ron Brandenburg





June 25

AT from Clingmans Dome to Newfound Gap

Thirteen intrepid hikers started the hike in rain and fog but finished with sunshine and cool breezes. An unexpected bonus was sharing lunch with AT Ridge Runner Amelia at the Sugarlands Trail intersection. She shared some great stories about life on the AT. Following the hike we gathered at Newfound Gap for watermelon. A big shout-out goes to Randy Mitchell and Pat Watts for serving as rear leaders!

A great day!

-Cindy Spangler



July 2 Forks of the River

Six members and one guest braved a hot July morning hike of 5.2 miles at Forks of the River. After the pleasant shade of Perimeter Trail, we came out in the sun on Groundhog Trail and met a sweet breeze and a few early sunflowers. Another special summer flower was wild petunia (*Ruellia carolinensis*), which blooms a couple inches from the ground; photographing it almost guarantees a couple ticks.

-Doris Gove



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

CONSIDER GOING GREEN!!!

If you receive this newsletter by US Mail, please consider changing to the digital version distributed by email. To change from print to digital, just send an email to swalker.dev@gmail.com. Not only is the online version much easier to read, changing will help us save considerable time and will also cut the cost of printing and mailing.

Highlights of National Trails Day

Saturday June 4 gave us beautiful clear sunny weather for the SMHC's 25th National Trails Work Day on the Appalachian Trail! We welcomed approximately 100 participants divided into 13 teams, including one crew working overnight at Spence Field, and one starting out from Davenport Gap. The majority of the crews worked north and south of Newfound Gap. The amount of work accomplished was tremendous!

Work related to NTD totaled 731.5 hours!

Travel hours of course were much greater, with some folks traveling from Texas, Georgia, and even Canada! A huge thank you goes out to our regular maintainers who led crews: **Amanda and Adam Beal, Ed Fleming and Lisa Sumter, Kristi Knight and Crystal Burnes, Mark and Janet Snyder, Pete Berntsen and Patti Grady, Philip Royer and Taylor Weatherbee, Rick Hughes, Rick Waggener and Mark Armstrong, Scott McClure, and Diane Petrilla.** We also had guest crew leaders who were superb! They were: **Bruce King**, from Sevierville, **Leanna Joyner**, Volunteer Relations Program Director for the ATC, and **Scott Medlyn**, from Alexandria, VA.

The Steering Committee worked tirelessly to make the day a good one and we can't thank them enough. They included **Cindy Spangler, Kristi Knight, Stefanie Gose, Philip and Betty Royer, and Karen Brackett** who helped design the beautiful sky-blue NTD T-shirts. **Diane Petrilla** was the Chair. Special thanks to **Taylor Weatherbee** who led teams to prep and deliver locust logs, and to **Steve Dunkin** who was in charge of bringing tools to Sugarlands on the morning of NTD. We are also so grateful to Christine Hoyer for help and coordination with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Finally, we could not have held this event without our generous sponsors! **Todd White of Froschauer Catering** put together all of our sandwiches. **Goodness to Go** donated our vegetarian lunches. We had contributions from **Ham n' Goodys** as well as the **Mountain Moonshine Cookie Company** for delicious lunch desserts! **Food City** helped us offset food costs. **Home Federal Bank** made a generous financial contribution for NTD. **Little River Trading Company** in Maryville made an incredibly generous donation of \$1600 worth of gift cards for our crews and crew leaders! And numerous local businesses and artisans donated gift cards and artwork for door prizes, including REI, River Sports Outfitters, NOC, Uncle Lems, Star Mountain Outfitters, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, Hot Rods, Foothills Milling Company, Food City, Robert Tino, Mayfield Dairy (Andy Mayfield), Andy Phipps, Kindred Creations, Frog Valley Farm, Athens Sock Shop, Sandy Brown, Sebnem Prevar, Blount Wellness Center, and Smokies Baseball. *Please remember to patronize these businesses- we are so grateful to them!*



Appalachian Gothic



**Work Crew
Mt. Love to Clingmans Dome**