

MAY – JUNE HIKING SCHEDULE 2019

SAT MAY 4 **Big Laurel Falls, Timber Ridge** to AT to Beech Gap in the Standing Indian Recreational Area.. Visit this lovely falls and then return to Timber Ridge and ascend to the AT. Go south on the trail to Beech Gap and have lunch. Descend on the Beech Gap trail to FS Rd. 67. Total Hike Distance: 11 miles Rating: M- S Elevation: 750' Meeting Place: WP Time: 8:30 am R/T Driving: 45 mi. Leader: Irene Brewi Phone: 772-263-3478

SAT MAY 4 **Upper Whitewater Falls and Whitewater River Gorge** to the Bad Creek Reservoir Parking lot. Start at the awesome viewing platform of Upper Whitewater Falls, the highest waterfall in eastern US. Proceed down the Foothills Trail to the river crossing the river on a foot bridge and hike down the gorge seeing beautiful river views and wildflowers. Scramble over rocks and roots. Total Hike Distance: 3.3 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Cashiers Recreation Center. Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 30 mi. Leaders: Mike and Susan Kettles Phone: 828-743-1079

SUN MAY 5 **Long Branch Trail** to Long Branch Shelter on the AT. This is in the Standing Indian Recreational Area and starts at the Backcountry parking lot. Hike 2.5 miles to the AT seeing wildflowers (hopefully painted trillium) then on to the newest NHC shelter. Total Hiking Distance: 6 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: WP Time: 1 pm R/T Driving: 35 mi. Leader: Katharine Brown Phone: 421-4178

SAT MAY 11 **Kimsey Creek to Deep Gap** and back in the Standing Indian Recreation Area. Follow this lovely creek and see many wildflowers. Total Hike Distance: 9 miles Rating: M – S Elevation: 900' Meeting Place: WP Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 35 mi. Leader: Irene Brewi Phone: 772-263-3478

SAT MAY 18 **Harrison Gap to Locust Tree Gap** and return on the Bartram Trail south. Follow a FS Road to Locust Tree Gap and follow the Bartram Trail back. Looking for dutchman pipes and showy orchids. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: WP Time: 9:30 am R/T Driving: 25 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Phone: 524-5298

SAT MAY 25 **Flat Creek** from Hientooga Campground in the GSMNP. This is a beautiful wildflower hike along the creek leading to the falls. Limit 15 people. Total Hike Distance: 5.5 miles Rating: M – S Elevation: 1000' Meeting Place: Ingles at Waynesville Time: 9 am or Soco Gap at 9:30 am R/T Driving: 30 mi. Leader: Keith Patton Phone: 828-456-8895

SAT MAY 25 **Bartram Trail** from Jones Gap to Fishhawk Mt. Several lookouts along the way. Children and dogs welcome. Total Hike distance: 6 miles Rating: M Elevation: 500' Meeting Place: Bi – Lo Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 30 mi. Leaders: Bill and Sharon Van Horn Phone: 369-1983

SUN MAY 26 **Highlands Botanical Gardens** This lovely garden has hiking trails with signage for all the plants, ferns and flowers. There is a hike around the lake also. Total Hike Distance: 2- 3 miles. Rating: E Elevation: Little Meeting Place: Bi – Lo Time: 2 pm R/T Driving: 28 mi. Leader: Mary Stone Phone: 369-7352

SAT JUNE 8 **Lakeshore Trail to Whiteoak Branch** to Forney Creek in the Great Smoky Mountains NP. Begin at the Road to Nowhere tunnel and make a loop back to Lakeshore Trail. Total Hike Distance: 7.5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Bi -Lo Time: 8:30 am R/T Driving: 80 mi. Leader: Gail Lehman Phone: 524-5298

SAT JUNE 15 **Park Creek to Park Ridge** Loop in the Standing Indian Recreational Area. Walk along the Nantahala River to Park Creek and up to the connector trail to Park Ridge. Total Hike Distance: 5.5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 560' Meeting Place: WP R/T Driving: 35 mi. Leader: Mary Stone Phone: 369-7352

SUN JUNE 16 **Full Moon** hike to Siler Bald. Have headlamp or flashlight for return trip. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: WP Time: 7:00 pm R/T Driving: 26 mi. Leader: Katharine Brown Phone: 421-4178

SAT JUNE 22 **Ranger Falls** at Cliffside Lake Recreation area. There is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle. They will accept Senior National Park passes. This is an interpretive trail along Skitty Creek to 20' – 30' waterfall. Pass an old homestead on the way back. Children 4 and older and dogs are welcome. Total Hike Distance: 2.5 miles Rating: E/M Elevation: 400' Meeting place in Highlands in the shopping center where 1 Nails is 145 Main St. (east of the light at 64 and 106) People from Franklin can meet at Cliffside. Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 12 – 15 miles Leader: Robin Lurie Phone: 954-632-7270

SAT JUNE 29 **Secret Falls** below Highlands. An Excellent secluded 60' waterfall with access to the top and bottom of the falls. Wading or swimming permitted. The trail is fairly easy with two water crossings. 200' climb back out. Total Hike Distance: 3 miles. Rating: E Elevation: 200' Meeting Place: Cashier Recreation Center: Time 10 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leaders: Mike and Susan Kettles Phone: 828-743-1079