



MARCH – APRIL 2021 NHC HIKE SCHEDULE

These hikes are limited to 10 people or as the leader specifies. Masks are required during congregating and driving to the trail head. Anyone feeling ill, or who may have been in contact with someone with Covid should not participate on any hike. Four people per four door car with windows down for air circulation. Participants are asked to social distance while hiking. It is asked if you come down with the covid virus within two weeks following a hike that you report this to the hike leader so that all participants can be contacted and be made aware and seek to be tested.

THURS MAR 4 Long Branch Trail in the Standing Indian Recreation Area. Hike this lovely trail by the Long Branch stream to Glassmine Gap on the Appalachian Trail. We may see some early wildflowers, maybe hepatica. This is an in and out hike with roots, very wet and rocky areas. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700'; Meeting Place: WP Time: 12:30 pm R/T Driving: 35 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Phone: 421- 4178

SUN MAR 7 Jack Rabbit Recreation Area in Clay County. This is an area on Lake Chatuge for biking and hiking. The trail is up and down at first then leveling off with views of the lake. Total Hike Distance: 4-5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 300'; Meeting Place: WP Time: 1 pm R/T Driving: 50 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Phone: 524-5298

SAT MAR 13 Wesser Tower on the Appalachian Trail. Hike the AT to an old fire tower with magnificent 360 degrees views. See Cheoah Bald, the Smoky Mountains and Fontana Lake. Return by an old Forest Service Rd. Total Hike Distance: 3 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700'; Meeting Place: Cowee School Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 30 miles Leader: Larry Barnett Phone: 828-226-9123

TUES MAR 16 Miller Trek at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, Ga. This loop hike takes us to the summit of Rocky Knob. Here we will take a short detour to a rock out cropping with views of Lake Chatuge, Young Harris Valley, Brasstown Bald, Double and Cedar Knobs. Some wet, rocky/rooty sections. Total Hike Distance: 7 miles Rating: S Elevation: 1400'; Meeting Place: Brasstown Valley Resort Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 85 miles from Franklin Leaders: Steve James and Linda Brookshire Phone: 706-949-5274

SAT MAR 20 Twenty Mile Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This hike uses three different trails with wide and easier footing with less than 800'; spread over 9 miles with much scenery and views of waterfalls. Total Hike Distance: 9 miles Rating: S Elevation: 800'; Meeting Place : 441 N Sanderstown Park and Ride Time: 8:30 am R/T Driving: 100 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Phone: 421-4178

SUN MAR 21 Greenway stroll with a Meditation stop at Charlie's Gazebo for beginner hikers and meditators. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: E Elevation: 100'; Meeting Place: Tasse Shelter on Ulco Dr. Time: 1 pm Leader: Deborah Gregory Phone: 421-0008

SAT MAR 27 Round Mountain near Cashiers. Go out a Forest Service road With ups and downs to the top and see great views of Lake Jocassee in South Carolina. Bring binoculars. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: Cashiers Recreation Park Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 12 miles Leaders: Mike and Susan Kettles Phone: 828-743-1079

FRI APR 2 Good Friday hike on Kimsey Creek in the Standing Indian Recreation Area. Hike to the broken bridge and have lunch in the apple meadow. This is a fairly level hike, but very wet and rocky along Kimsey Creek. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: E – M Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: WP Time:10 am R/T Driving: 35 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Phone: 421-4178

SAT APR 3 Thompson Loop at Tsali Recreation Area on Fontana Lake. Single track and old logging roads with views of the lake and maybe wildlife, stream crossings and old home sites. Total Hike Distance: 7.7 miles Rating: M Elevation: 650' Meeting Place: Bi – Lo Time: 8:30 am R/T Driving: 90 miles Leader: Laura Lauffer Phone: 919-444-1478

WED APR 7 Rufus Morgan Trail for novice Meditators. Some wildflowers will be blooming. Two stream crossings before coming to a beautiful waterfall named for the founder of the Nantahala Hiking Club. Total Hike Distance: 1.5 miles Rating: E Elevation: 200' Meeting Place: WP Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 24 miles Leader: Deborah Gregory Phone: 421-0008

SAT APR 10 Wayah Tower to Tellico Gap on the Appalachian Trail. Descending north on rocky AT to Licklog Gap then ascending to Five Points, down to Burningtown Gap. Climb back up to Cold Springs Shelter and to Copper Ridge with great views into Burningtown. Pass Rocky Bald with another beautiful view and descend to Tellico Gap. Total Hike Distance: 9.5 miles. Rating: S Elevation: 1000' (several up and downs) Meeting Place: Cowee School Time: 8:30 am leave shuttle at Tellico Gap go around to Wayah Tower. R/T Driving: 90 miles Leader: Larry Barnett Phone: 828-226-9123

SUN APR 11 Coweeta Lab. Hike up Shope Fork Rd. to Cunningham Branch and go to a large weir and return the same way. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M- S Elevation: 1000' Meeting Place: SMVC Time:1 pm R/T Driving: 8 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Phone: 421-4178

TUES APR 13 Lady Slipper Trail in the Lake Russell Wildlife Management Mount Airy, Ga. This loop hike winds and weaves through mature hardwood forest with several stream crossings. Rugged terrain with lots of up and downs. Hike limited to 8 people USFS parking fee of \$5. Total Hike Distance: 6.2 miles Rating: S Elevation: 1300' Meeting Place: Lake Russell Convenient Store(1321 Dicks Hill Parkway, Mount Airy, Ga) Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 4 miles(90 miles from Franklin) Leaders: Linda Brookshire and Steve James Phone: 770-519-8250

SAT APR 17 East Fork of the Chattooga River. Starting at the Wahalla Fish Hatchery descend down the East Fork to the Chattooga River and have lunch. This trail is an up and down one. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: Cashiers Recreation Park Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 24 Miles Leaders: Mike and Sue Kettles Phone: 743-1079

SUN APR 18 Meditation Hike on the Greenway with a Meditation stop at Charlie's Gazebo for

beginner hikers and meditators. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: E Elevation: 100' Meeting Place: Tasee Shelter Time: 1 pm Leader: Deborah Gregory Phone: 421-0008

FRI APR 23 **Winding Stair Gap FS Rd.** Hike along the logging road for 2-3 miles. This is a wide rolling footpath with some gravel for a leisurely day with your dog. This is an in and out hike. Total Hike Distance: 4 - 6 miles Rating: E Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: WP Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 22 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Phone: 421-4178

SAT APR 24 **Buckeye Branch to the Bartram Trail.** Hike the old Bartram Trail to the new section looking for wildflowers along the way. It is a continuous climb for 2.5 miles where we will have lunch and return. Total Hike Distance: 6 miles Rating: M – S Elevation: 1200' Meeting Place: SMVC Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 18 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Phone: 524-5298