



MAY – JUNE NHC HIKING SCHEDULE 2021

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.

SAT MAY 1 Refresher course for “old” hike leaders on Zoom. 10 am to 12 pm. Link will be sent.

SUN MAY 2 **Warwoman Dell.** Nature hike around the area, then take a leisurely hike east on the proposed railroad track. There is an informational sign about the attempted railroad construction. Total Hike Distance: 3 miles Rating: E Elevation: 200' Meeting Place: Clayton, GA Ingles north side Time: 1 pm R/T Driving: 7 miles Leader: David Stearns Must phone for reservations 349-7361

SAT MAY 8 **Brown Branch** in the Watauga Valley. Hike on a Forest Service Rd. with a steady climb. Pass a lovely cascade along the way. Views north to Gold City. Friendly dogs welcome. Total Hike Distance: 3 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: KFC at old Wal-Mart Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 10 miles Leader: Kathy Ratcliff Must phone for reservations 526-6480

SAT MAY 8 **Long Branch** in the Standing Indian Recreation area. Go to Glassmine Gap and hike north on the AT to Rock Gap. Rocky, rooty and wet on old railroad ties at one section. Wildflowers along the way. Walk down the road to back country parking lot. Total Hike Distance: 7 miles Rating: M Elevation 700' Meeting Place: WP Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 32 miles Must call Katharine for reservations 421-4178

SUN MAY 9 **Mother's Day flower hike** at Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Harrison Gardens. See beautiful azaleas and rhododendrons. Total Hike Distance: 2 miles Rating: E Elevation: little Meeting Place: WP Time: 1 pm R/T Driving: 70 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 524-5298

SAT MAY 15 **Bradley Fork** and Chasteen Creek GSMNP from Smokemont Campground. Stroll these beautiful creeks. We will go up Bradley Fork to Chasteen Creek to view Chasteen Cascade. Return to Bradley Fork and continue along watching for wildflowers. Total Hike Distance: 6 miles Rating: M Elevation: 500' Meeting Place: Bi-Lo Time: 8:30 am R/T Driving: 75 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 524-5298

SUN MAY 16 **Yellow Mountain Fire tower** from Cloudcatcher Lane in the Cashier area. Hike recommended for experienced hikers. Beautiful 360 degree views. Bring water, lunch and cameras. **Hike limited to 5 people.** Total Hike Distance: 2.4 miles Rating: S Elevation: 800' Meeting Place:

Exxon Sta. 6241 Highlands Rd. Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: David Heck **Must email** dheck.linuxmail@gmail.com Include your phone# in your email.

TUES MAY 18 **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 outcropping 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 Must call for reservations 706-949-5274

WED MAY 19 Refresher course in **CPR and First Aid** for Trail Maintainers and Hike Leaders. 9:00 AM at Jerry Sutton Public Safety Training Center in the Industrial Park.

FRI MAY 21 Hike 9 mile loop in the Great Smoky Mountains at **20 Mile Trail head**. This hike has easy footing with a wide path, beautiful creeks and bridges along the way. This will be an all day hike. Total Hike Distance: 9 miles Rating: M-S Elevation: 800' Meeting Place: Sanderstown Car Park Time: 8 am R/T Driving: 100 miles Must call Katharine for reservations 421-4178

SAT MAY 22 **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 Must Phone for reservations 828-743-1079

SAT MAY 22 **Siler Bald** on the Appalachian Trail. Beginning at Wayah Crest hike south on the AT to Snowbird Gap. Rocky and rooty to the meadow. Steep climb to the bald for spectacular views. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: WP Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 26 miles Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservations 369-1565

SUN MAY 23 **Lakeside Drive** at the Sheriff Department. Tour the Environmental Station. Total Hike Distance: 1.5 miles Rating: E Elevation: 200' Meeting Place: Macon County Jail Time: 2 pm Leader: Kathy Ratcliff Must call for reservations 526-6480

FRI MAY 28 **Mouse Branch Loop** at Tsali Recreation Area. Hiking about half of Mouse Branch Loop at Fontana Lake. A fun afternoon hike and after visit a brewery in Bryson City. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 350' Meet at Tsali trail head. Time: 5:30 pm Franklin at Bi-Lo at 4:30 pm Leader: Laura Lauffer Must call for reservations 919-444-1478

SAT MAY 29 **Siler Bald** on the AT. Hike south on the AT to Snowbird Gap and climb to the summit for spectacular views. Return by way of a Forest Service Rd. Rocky and rooty trail and FSRd. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: M – S Elevation: 800' Meeting Place: WP Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 26 miles Leaders: Bill and Sharon Van Horn Must call for reservations 369-1983

SUN MAY 30 **Wesser Bald Tower**. Hike north from Telico Gap on the AT to the tower. **Hike limited to 5 people**. Bring cameras, lunch and water. Beautiful views all around. See Fontana Lake and the Smokies. Return by Fire access Rd. Total Hike Distance: 4.4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: Behind Outdoor 76 and Baptist Church, Franklin. Time: 9:30 am Leader: David Heck Must register by email dheck.linuxmail@gmail.com Include your phone # in your email

SAT JUNE 5 **Thomas Divide to Kanati in GSMNP**. Walk the divide looking for spring beauty, trilliums, and trout lilies. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Bi-Lo

Time: 8:30 am R/T Driving: 95 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 524-5298

SUN JUNE 6 **Standing Indian Mountain.** Starting at Deep Gap, hike the AT north to the summit. Lots of loose rocks and uneven terrain. Great views west and south into Georgia at the top. Hopefully we can still see wildflowers, jack in the pulpit, Indian Paint brush.. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M-S Elevation: 1094' Meeting place: WP Time: 12:30 pm R/T Driving: 50 miles Must call Katharine for reservations 421-4178

SUN JUNE 13 **Black Rock** off the Blue Ridge Parkway across from Waterrock Knob. Hike out toward Yellowface Rock, then descend into valley with items left from logging. Climb to Black Rock and views east to the Parkway and south to Sylva. Total Hike Distance: 4.8 miles Rating: S Elevation: 1100' Meeting Place: Browning Knob parking lot 8.5 miles west on the Parkway from Balsam Gap Time: 11 am R/T Driving: 78 miles from Franklin Leader: Laura Lauffer Must call for reservations 919-444-1478

SAT JUNE 19 **Charlies Bunion** in the GSMNP. Starting at Newfound Gap, hike the AT north passing the Boulevard trail, Icewater Springs shelter along the way. Lunch at Charlies Bunion see great views including Mt Le Conte. Total Hike Distance: 8 miles Rating: S Elevation 2000' Meeting Place: Bi-Lo Time: 8:30 am R/T Driving: 90 miles Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservations 369-1565

SAT JUNE 19 **Chinquipin Mountain** near Highlands. Starting at Glen Falls parking lot, cross the creek several times. Views from five overlooks along the ridgeline, looking into Blue Valley and SC. Children over six and dogs welcome. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 880' Meeting Place: One Nails 145 Main St. Highlands Time: 9:30 am R/T Driving: 5 miles Leader: Robin Lurie 954-632-7270 Must call for reservations.

SUN JUNE 20 **Wayah Loop.** Beginning at Wayah Tower hike north on the AT to the intersection of the Bartram Trail and loop around returning on a forest service road. Great views from the tower and bald. Very rocky going down from the tower. Total Hike Distance: 3 miles Rating: M Elevation: 400' Meeting Place: WP Time: 2 pm R/T Driving: 32 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 524-5298

THR JUNE 24 **Full moon hike to Siler Bald.** This will be a Super Moon. This is a strenuous hike for experienced night hikers. The AT is narrow, uneven with many root, rocks and steps. The moon rise is approximately 9:15 – 9:30 pm. We will descend on a Forest Service Rd on the way back to make a loop back to Wayah Crest. It has many loose rocks also and it will be dark. Bring your own head lamp or flashlight. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: S Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: WP Time: 6 pm. R/T Driving: 26 miles You must call Katharine for reservations 421-4178

SAT JUNE 26 **Needmore** Cross the swinging bridge and follow the road to the left along the Little Tennessee River. Total Hike distance: 7 miles Rating: M Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: Cowee School Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: Larry Barnett Must call for reservations 828-226-9123