

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2021 HIKING SCHEDULE

SUN OCT 31 **Wesser Bald Tower Halloween** Hike. Hiking North on the Appalachian Trail from Tellico Gap ascend 800'. Return by way of the fire access road. Trekking poles are recommended along with water, snacks and camera. Spectacular views if clear. **Hike limited to 5 people.** Total Hike Distance: 3 miles Rating: M Elevation: 800' Meeting Place: Behind Outdoor 76 Time: 9:30 pm Leader: David Heck Please confirm by email to dheck.linuxmail@gmail.com with subject line "Wesser Bald Tower Halloween Hike". Include your area code and phone # in the email so I may confirm.

TUES NOV 2 Southern half of the **Jack Knob Trail to Chattahoochee Gap**. Interested hikers can take a short steep hike down to the source of the Chattahoochee River. If time permits we can go up to Brasstown Bald. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 500' Meeting Place: Jack's Gap at the intersection of GA 180 and spur 180. Time: 10 am Leaders: Steve James and Linda Brookshire Must call Steve for reservations 706-949-5274

SAT NOV 6 **Forney Creek** in the GSMNP from the Road to Nowhere. Walk through the tunnel where the road ends. Take the Lakeshore Trail to Forney Creek. This is part of the Benton MacKaye Trail. Check out the lake and have lunch. Then return the same way. Total Hike Distance: 6 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Food Lion Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 75 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 828-524-5298

SUN NOV 7 **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: 3 miles Rating: S Elevation: 900' Meeting Place: Exxon Sta. 6241 Highlands Rd. Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: David Heck Must email dheck.linuxmail@gmail.com with subject line "Yellow Mountain Fire Tower". Include your area code and phone # in your email so I may confirm.

TUES NOV 9 **AT /Rocky Mountain Trail Loop** to Indian Grave Gap. Hike the AT north from Unicoi Gap to Rocky Mountain Trail to Indian Grave. Total Hike Distance: 4 – 5 miles Rating: M – S Elevation: 1000' Meeting Place: Unicoi Gap (9 miles south on GA 75 to Unicoi Gap) Time: 10 am Leaders: Steve James and Linda Brookshire Must call Steve for reservations 706-949-5274.

WED Nov 10 **Boteler Peak** on the Chunky Gal Trail above Shooting Creek. Starting at Glade Gap on Hwy 64. Views of Lake Chatuge and north. Total Hike Distance: 6 miles Rating: S Elevation: 1300' Meeting Place: Glade Gap Time: 10 am Leaders: Steve James and Linda Brookshire Must call for reservations 706-949-5274

FRI NOV 12 **Winding Stair Gap to Panther Gap** on the Appalachian Trail. Pass a waterfall and at mile 1 a camping area. And two streams. Have lunch at Panther Gap looking out to the east. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 9 am Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4178

SAT NOV 13 **Standing Indian Mountain** from Deep Gap on the Appalachian Trail. Hike north on the AT. Pass the shelter and onto the summit to Standing Indian. 5500' highest point south of the Smokies. Spectacular views to the west and south. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 1000'

Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 50 miles Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservations 828-369-1565

SUN NOV 14 **Smokemont Loop** in the GSMNP. Smokemont Campground go up Bradley Fork to the junction of the loop. You cross Bradley Fork on a long footbridge to the other side. There is a 1.7 mile climb to the ridge line. On the down side you will see an old cemetery with late 1800 stones to 1925. Return into the Campground. Total Hike Distance: 6 miles Rating: S Elevation: 1400' Meeting Place: At the end of Smokemont Campground Time: 11 am Leader: Laura Lauffer Phone: 919- 444-1478

SAT NOV 20 **Rufus Morgan Trail** for novice meditators. Two stream crossings before coming to a beautiful waterfall named for the founder of the Nantahala Hiking Club. We will have lunch at the falls. You may want trekking poles when crossing the streams. Total Hike Distance: 1.5 miles Rating: E Elevation: 200' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 10:30 am R/T Driving: 22 miles Leader: Deborah Gregory Phone: 828-421-0008

SUN NOV 21 **Gibson Bottoms** This is a Mainstream acquisition along the Little Tennessee River. Total Hike Distance: 3 miles Rating: E Elevation: 200' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 2 pm R/T Driving: 9 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 828-524-5298

THURS NOV 25 Thanksgiving Day **Black Balsam Knob** Hike via Art Loeb Trail in the Pisgah National Forest just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Spectacular 360 views from the knob. Trekking poles recommended, bring snacks, lunch and water. Total Hike Distance: 3 miles in and out Rating: M Elevation: 375' Meeting Place: Food Lion 155 Macon Plaza Time: 9 am back in time for Thanksgiving dinner. R/T Driving: 112 miles Please email David Heck NHC Hike Leader at dheck.linuxmail@gmail.com with subject line of "Thanksgiving Day Black Balsam Knob Hike". Please include your area code and phone number so I may confirm.

FRI NOV 26 **Windingstair FS Road 7131**. Stroll along a nice wide logging road for 2 miles. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: E Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 9 am R/T driving: 26 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4178

SAT DEC 4 **William's Pulpit** on the NC Bartram Trail. Pass a waterfall and two more on Wallace Branch. go up to the ridge. Steep climb just before the pulpit. Good views into Mill Creek and across to Albert Mountain. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 900' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 10 am Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservations 828-369-1565

SUN DEC 5 **Ranger Falls** at Cliffside Lake. This is an interpretive trail. The falls is part of Skitty Creek which flows into Cliffside Lake. We will see the remnants of an old homestead with apple trees and remains of the hog pen. There is a trail around the lake if more hiking is desired. Parking fee of \$5/car. Total Hike Distance: 3 miles Rating: M Elevation: 570' Meeting Place: Cliffside Lake Time: 11am Leader: Laura Lauffer Phone: 919-444-1478

SAT DEC 11 **Long Branch** in the Standing Indian Recreational Area. Hike up to Glassmine Gap on the Appalachian Trail. Rocky, roots, debris avalanche, stream crossing, so bring trekking poles. Pass by a meadow. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 750' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4178

SAT DEC 18 **Anna Ruby Falls** at Unicoi State Park at Helen, GA. Walk to the falls and then come back to the picnic area and hike around the lake. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: E Elevation: Little Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 120 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations: 828-524-5298

SUN DEC 19 **Shope Fork** in the Coweeta Hydrological Lab. Hike to FSRD 7132 with rolling grassy path, footing is easy. We pass through a lovely pine forest in watershed 1 in the last mile. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: Smoky Mountain Visitor Center 441 S Time: 12:30 pm Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4178

SAT DEC 25 **Christmas Day Siler Bald Hike.** Hike the Appalachian Trail south to Snowbird Gap and then ascend to the bald. Trekking poles recommended. Snack, lunch and water. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 900' Meeting Place: Outdoor 76 (35 N Main St. Franklin) Time: 11 am R/T Driving: 24 miles Please email David Heck NHC Hike Leader at dheck.linuxmail@gmail.com with subject line "Christmas Day Siler Bald Hike". Please include your area code and phone number so I can confirm.

SUN DEC 26 **Larry's Road** out old 64 west. FSRD 7281 is a big wide road with good views into West Dill/ Cartoogechaye communities. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: E Elevation: 400' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 1:30 pm R/T Driving: 30 miles Leader: Kathy Ratcliff Must call to confirm 828-526-6480