

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2022 HIKING SCHEDULE

SAT SEPT 10 Full Moon Hike to Siler Bald. This hike is for experienced hikers only. We will start at Wayah Crest and go south on the AT. Bring snacks and a headlamp. We will return by way of the Forest Service road. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 7 pm R/T Trip Driving: 26 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4178

SUN SEPT 11 Highlands Greenway. Explore Highlands by foot going through the woods to the Recreation Park, following 4th Street to Chestnut Street to Kelsey Trail and coming out at the Botanical Gardens. We will meander back through Highlands to Oak Street. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 500' Meeting Place: Food Lion Time: 1 pm R/T Driving: 34 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 828-524-5298

SAT SEPT 17 Windy Falls on the Horse Pasture River. The trailhead begins in Gorges State Park. This is an awesome waterfall with a series of drops and neat rock outcroppings which are rarely seen. There is also a small cave in the cliff next to the falls. There is a very steep rocky old logging road the last ¼ mile to the falls. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M/S Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: Cashiers Rec. Park Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: Susan Kettles Must phone for reservations 828-743-1079 or cell 828-399-0090

SUN SEPT 18 Rocky Bald via Tellico Gap. Hike south on the AT to a rock outcropping with 180 degree vistas into Burningtown Valley and views to the Parkway. Bring lunch. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M/S Elevation: 1,260' Meeting Place: Cowee School Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 28 miles Leader: Chris Federico Must call for reservations 772-233-7277

FRI SEPT 23 Coweeta Hydrological Lab. We will hike along Shope Creek and around a loop on an old road bed. We will pass a weather station and then hike through a lovely white pine forest. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 500' Meeting Place: Smoky Mountain Visitor Center on 441 S. Time: 8:30 am Leader: Katharine Brown. Must call for reservations 828-421-4178

SAT SEPT 24 Standing Indian Mountain from Deep Gap on the Appalachian Trail. Rocky and rooty trail. Hopefully we have spectacular views into Georgia to Lake Burton and Lake Chatuge. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: M/S Elevation: 1100' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 50 miles Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservations 828-369-1565

SUN SEPT 25 Winding Stair 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: 2 pm R/T driving: 26 miles Leader: Kathy Ratcliff Must call for reservations 828-526-6480

SAT OCT 1 Yellow Patch to Bear Pen on the AT and come out at Betty Creek. This trail follows a horse trail. A very gentle climb. Lunch overlooking Coweeta Hydrological Lab. A spectacular view to the Fish Hawks. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 32 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 828-524-5298

SUN OCT 9 Full Moon Hike to Wesser Bald Fire Tower. This is a Red Moon with the sunset too. This hike is for experienced hikers only. Bring supper, a head lamp and hiking poles if preferred. Total Hike Distance: 3 miles Rating: M Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: Cowee School Time: 4:30 pm R/T Driving: 28 miles Leader: Chris Federico Must call for reservations 772-233-7277

MON OCT 10 **Twenty Mile Ranger Station** in the Great Smoky Mountain NP. We will make a loop on a wide footpath with lots of water and cross a dozen bridges. This is a full day hike with an hour travel to the trailhead. Total Hike Distance: 9 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Sylva Park and Ride 441 N. Time: 8 am R/T Driving: 120 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4718

FRI OCT 14 **Daniel Ridge Loop** in the Pisgah Forest near Brevard. Dogs and children over 8 are welcome. Total Hike Distance: 5.1 miles Rating: M Elevation: 820' Meeting Place: WalMart in Brevard Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: Robin Lurie: 954-632-7270

SAT OCT 15 **Waterrock Knob to Soco Gap.** We will hike on the Mountains to Sea Trail going north through the Plott Balsam Mountains. The first quarter mile is steep on a paved path. Then into the woods with lots of stone steps. Hiking poles recommended. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: M Elevation: Descend 1250' Meeting Place: Food Lion Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 92 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 828-524-5298

SUN OCT 16 **Gibson Bottom.** This is a Mainspring acquisition along the Little Tennessee River. It is diverse in that there is pasture land and forest. Total Hike Distance: 2.5 miles Rating: E Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 1 pm R/T Driving: 13 miles Leader: Chris Federico Must call for reservations 772-233-7277

FRI OCT 21 **Standing Indian Mountain** from Deep Gap on the Appalachian Trail. Rocky and rooty trail. Hopefully we have spectacular fall views. Total Hike Distance: 4.5 miles Rating: M – S Elevation: 1100' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 8:30 am R/T Driving: 50 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4718

SAT OCT 22 **Charlie's Bunion** in the GSMNP. Starting at Newfound Gap, hike the AT north passing the Boulevard Trail, Icewater Springs shelter along the way. Lunch at Charlie's Bunion, see great views including Mt Le Conte. Total Hike Distance: 8 miles Rating: S Elevation 1500' Meeting Place: Food Lion Time: 8:30 am R/T Driving: 90 miles Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservations 369-1565

SUN OCT 23 **Needmore** along the Little Tennessee River. Starting at Tellico Creek, walk along this beautiful river. Total Hike Distance: 3 – 4 miles Rating: E Elevation: level Meeting Place: Big Bear Shelter Time: 1:30 pm R/T Driving: 32 miles Leader: Kathy Ratcliff Must call for reservations 828-526-6480

SAT OCT 29 **Chattooga River Trail.** Starting at Whiteside Cove we will go to the Iron Bridge on Bear Pen Road. Hike along the Chattooga River, seeing rock formations, big tree and swim at the Narrows. There is some rock scrambling. Total Hike Distance: 6 miles Rating: M Elevation: tends to be downhill Meeting Place: Cashiers Rec. Park Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 26 miles Leader: Susan Kettles Must phone for reservations 828-743-1079 or cell 828-399-0090

SAT OCT 29 **Rabun Bald** via Hale Ridge Road in Georgia. We will be hiking the GA Bartram Trail going south. Hiking poles are recommended. The summit is 4696' and has 360' spectacular vistas all around. Total Hike Distance: 8 miles Rating: S Elevation: 1296' Meeting Place: Smoky Mountain Visitor Center Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 70 miles Leader: Laura Lauffer Must call for reservations 919-444-1478

