

## JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2023 HIKE SCHEDULE

SAT JAN 14 **Hike Leader Workshop** 9:30 am -1 pm at the NHC Clubhouse at 173 Carl Slagle Rd. RSVP to Gail Lehman by January 4, 2023 Phone 828-524-5298

SUN JAN 15 **Buck Creek** logging road. An old wide logging road with gentle switchbacks although uneven going to the top of a ridge. Go to a creek crossing and turn around, Come into an open field with lovely creek views. Total Hike Distance: 4 – 5 miles Rating: M – S Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: Exxon ST. on East 64 Highlands Rd. Time: 1 pm R/T Driving: 20 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Must Call for reservations 828-421-4178

SAT JAN 21 **Whiterock** off the NC Bartram Trail. Starting at Jones Gap going north on the Bartram Trail. Take a side trail out to Whiterock. Spectacular views into Tessentee and across the valley, you can see Albert Mt. Fire tower. Total Hike Distance: 4.6 miles Rating: M Elevation: 400' Meeting Place: Food Lion Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservations 828-369-1565

SUN JAN 22 **Onion Mountain.** This is a new acquisition of Mainspring in the Ellijay community. We will go up Kelder's Climb to Molly's Meandering with a view of the Ellijay Community. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Food Lion Time: 1:30 pm R/T Driving: 13 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Call for reservations 828-524-5298

SAT JAN 28 Alternative date for the Hike Leader Workshop. 9:30 am – 1 pm

SUN JAN 29 **Wandering** the bike path **at the Library.** Wander through the woods on a narrow path with lots of leaves, and on the Greenway. Total Hike Distance: 2 – 3 miles up and down. Rating: M Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: In back of the Library between the Early College. Time: 1 pm Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4178

SAT FEB 4 **Rabun Bald** via Hale's 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

SAT FEB 11 **Camp Branch** Forest Service Road 316 to the Bartram Trail and return by Locust Tree Branch. Total Hike Distance: 6 miles Rating: S Elevation: 900' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 9:30 am R/T Driving: 20 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Call for reservations 828-524-5298

SUN FEB 12 **Mingus Mill to Cooper Gap** in the GSMNP near Oconaluftee Visitor Center. This is part of the Mountains to Sea Trail. Beginning in the parking lot at the mill, hike along Mingus Creek. We will pass a shooting range for the NPS Rangers. Leaving the creek climb to Cooper Gap, have lunch and return. We can visit the mill. Total hike distance: 6 miles Rating: S Elevation 2000' Meeting Place: Mingus Mill Time: 10 am R/T Driving from Franklin: 60 miles Leader: Laura Lauffer Must call for reservations 919-444-1478

SAT FEB 18 **Wallace Branch** wandering of FSRD 7194 A. We will go to the foot of Gibson Ridge. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M- S Elevation: 750' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 10 am

R/T Driving: 6 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4178

SUN FEB 19 **Skitty Creek** going to Cliffside Lake. Starting on Hyw 64 E go to Cliffside Lake.. We will walk around the lake and return. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Food Lion Time: 1:30 pm R/T Driving: 26 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Call 828-524-5298

SAT FEB 25 **Park Creek/Park Ridge** in the Standing Indian Recreation Area..Starting at the Backcountry parking lot, we will go over to the camping area and hike along the Nantahala River to Park Creek. Go along this creek to a creek crossing. Hiking sticks are advised. Go up the connector trail to Park Ridge and back to the campground. Total Hike Distance: 5.5 miles Rating M Elevation: 600' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time:10 am R/T Driving: 35 miles Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservation 828-369-1565

SUN FEB 26 **Panther Gap** on the Appalachian Trail. Hike North on the AT. See a nice waterfall and camping area. Have a snack at Panther Gap and return. Enjoy winter views. The trail is uneven and has lots of roots. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M – S Elevation: 700' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 1 pm R/T Driving: 26 miles Leader: Katharine Brown Must call for reservations 828-421-4178