

MARCH – APRIL 2023 HIKE SCHEDULE

SAT MAR 4 **High Falls/Thompson Falls** (aka Rough Run Falls). Hike in and out along the West Fork of the Tuckasegee River among spring wildflowers into a box canyon with 200' high vertical walls. Total Hike Distance: 5.3 miles Rating: M Elevation: 550' Meeting Place: Food Lion Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 70 miles Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservations 828-369-1565

SAT MAR 11 **Chattooga River Trail**. Starting at Whiteside Cove we will go to the Iron Bridge on Bear Pen Road. May see a patch of Oconee Bell flowers, views of the river passing the Narrows. There is some rock scrambling. Total Hike Distance: 6 miles Rating: M-S 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

SUN MAR 12 **Winding Stair FS Road 7131**. Stroll along a nice wide logging road for 2 miles. Come back by way of the Appalachian Trail. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: E Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 1:30 pm R/T driving: 26 miles Leader: Sandi Hawk Must call for reservations 407-791-4761

MON MAR 13 **Ranger Falls via Flat Mountain Road**. Nice trail in Cliffside Recreation Area leading to a beautiful waterfall. Total Hike Distance: 1.8 miles Rating: E Elevation: 321' Meeting Place: Food Lion R/T driving: 40 miles Leader: Debi Gedling Must call for reservation 513-293-8015

SAT MAR 18 **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: 900' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 35 miles Leader: Mark Holmberg Must call for reservations 678-234-5681

THU MAR 23 **Courthouse Gap to Pinnacle Knob** overlooking Clayton, GA. This is on the GA Bartram Trail with a steady uphill climb, but worth it for the tranquility and view. It's a beautiful hike in the forest. Hiking poles recommended. Total Hike Distance: 3.5 miles Rating: M-S Elevation: 918' Meeting Place: Smoky Mountain Visitor Center Time: 9:30 am R/T Driving: 35 miles Leader: Marie Dunkle Must call for reservations 770-335-0967 If you are willing to drive must have AWD or 4WD

SAT MAR 25 **Whiterock Mountain** 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 Tennesse 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: 9:30 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: Sandi Hawk Must call for reservations 407-791-4761

SUN MAR 26 **Park Gap**. Hike to a knob on Middle Ridge in Standing Indian Recreational Area. A gentle walk on an old logging road. Some views with the leaves gone. We will see if the hepatica is blooming. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: E Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 1:30 pm R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Must call for reservations 828-524-5298

MON MAR 27 **Tessentee Bottoms.** Located in Otto on a historic farm owned by Mainspring Conservation Trust. Well maintained mostly wide trails through the woods with views of surrounding farmland. Total hike: 1.7 miles (can be extended) Rating: E-M Elevation: 111' Meeting Place: Smoky Mountain Visitor Center 441 S. Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 11 miles Leader: Debi Gedling Must call for reservations 513-293-8015

SAT APR 1 **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 828-524-5298

SAT APR 8 **Easter on the Trail** Help with trail magic. Call Elena Marsh 828-369-8915

SAT APR 8 **Jones Gap to Whiterock Mountain** on the NC Bartram Trail. This trail has great changes in topography with spectacular views of Otto, NC valley and tranquility as we hike in and out along a ridge. Hikers may bring a leashed good citizen dog on this hike. Total Hike Distance: 4.6 miles Rating: M Elevation: 941' Meeting Place: Food Lion Time: 9:30 am R/T Driving: 40 miles Leader: Marie Dunkle Must call for reservations 770-335-0967

MON APR 10 **Tennessee Rock Trail** at Black Rock State Park near Mountain City, GA. This is a loop with gradual climb to the summit (3,625'). Views into Wolf Fork and see Picken's Nose near the Eastern Continental Divide. Total Hike: 2.2 miles Rating: M Elevation: 400' Meeting Place: SMVC Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 36 miles Leader: Debi Gedling Must call for reservations 513-293-8015

SAT APR 15 **Siler Bald.** Hike south on the Appalachian Trail to Snowbird Gap. Leave the meadow and ascend to the top of the bald. Spectacular views, almost 360 degrees seeing Lake Nantahala, Wayah Bald and Winespring Bald. Return by a forest service road. Total Hike Distance: 4 miles Rating: M Elevation: 920' Meeting Place: Westgate Plaza Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 24 miles Leader: Mark Holmberg Must phone for reservations 678-234-5681

SUN APR 16 **Rufus Morgan Falls.** This is a wildflower hike. There is a beautiful waterfall named after our NHC founder. Total Hike Distance: 1.5 miles. Rating: E Elevation: 300' Meeting Place: WP Time: 2 pm R/T Driving: 26 miles Leader: Gail Lehman Call for reservations 828-524-5298

SAT APR 22 **Earth Day** on the **East Fork of the Chattooga River** from the Walhalla Fish Hatchery on Hwy 107 south of Cashiers. This is an in and out trail to the Chattooga River. There will be beautiful wildflowers. Total Hike Distance: 4.8 miles Rating: M Elevation: 550' Meeting Place: Cashiers Recreation Park Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 25 miles Leader: Susan Kettles Must call for reservations 828-743-1079

SAT APR 22 **Standing Indian.** Hike with author Victor Treutel along the route the main characters in his book "When the Dogwoods Bloom" hiked. Start at Deep Gap and hike N on the Appalachian Trail. Traverse the storied mountain of Standing Indian while Victor reads passages from his book. Not only will there be a spectacular view from the summit, but you might get a glimpse of the winged monster from Cherokee folklore. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: S Elevation: 1100' Meeting Place: WP Time: 9 am R/T Driving: 44 miles Leader: Victor Treutel Must call for reservations

407-341-6702

MON APR 24 **Mud Creek Falls** in Scaly Mountain, GA. Walk along an old logging road along Mud Creek. End at this beautiful waterfall. Total Hike: 2 miles Rating: E Elevation: 400' Meeting Place: SMVC Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 30 miles Hike Leader: Debi Gedling Must call for reservations 513-293-8015

SAT APR 29 **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. Total Hike Distance: 5 miles Rating: M-S Elevation: 1094' Meeting place: WP Time: 10 am R/T Driving: 50 miles Leader: Robert Barnable Must call for reservations 828-369-1565

SUN APR 30 **Hamilton Gardens** at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds 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 Call for reservations 828-524-5298