

MOUNTAIN HIGH HIKERS CALENDAR

Spring 2018

Updated: 2/20/2018

Apr. 3 9 AM B2	<p>Green Mountain Trail in Fannin County, Aska area. Deep Gap over Green Mt. trail to Long Branch Connector. A moderate hike of about 5 miles with good views of Lake Blue Ridge. Meet: Food Lion in Blue Ridge Ken Cissna 813-310-6084</p>
Apr. 3 8 am D4	<p>Dicks Creek Gap to Kelly Knob. Start at Dicks Creek Gap and hike south over Powell Mountain, McClure Gap, Deep Gap and climb the north side of Kelly Knob. Recently cleared view from Kelly Summit. Return the same way. 9 miles total. Meet: Macedonia Baptist Church east of Hiawassee Irene Reiner 706-970-9822</p>
Apr. 5 9 AM B2	<p>NEW - Leisure Hike - Vogel/Byron Herbert Reese Trail, Vogel Lake Trail - This new 1.45 mi. Vogel/Byron Herbert Reese Trail just opened in January. We will start at the new trailhead parking lot next to the Byron Herbert Reese Center, hike to Vogel State Park, trek around the lake (including waterfall), and return to the start at Reese parking - 4 miles total, with almost 3 miles of it totally new trail. Trail maintained by MHH. Don't miss this new one!! Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church George Owen 706-374-4716</p>
Apr. 5 9 AM	<p>NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</p>
Apr. 10 9 AM B2	<p>2 Wildflower trails: 1. Coleman River Trail. One of the prettiest trails in North Georgia featuring cascades, old growth forest and huge boulders. This 2 mile round trip hike is rated moderate. Trail maintained by MHH. We then move over to Moccasin Creek SP. Scenic 2-3 mile hikes along a creek with several waterfalls and interpretive trail. Pass required for SP. Optional meal out at La Prades on Lake Burton Meet: Macedonia Baptist Church east of Hiawassee Carolyn & Tom Sewell 706-669-4916</p>
Apr. 10 9 AM E4	<p>Byron Herbert Reese parking lot up to the AT at Flatrock Gap. (0.7miles), then turn north on the AT and hike through Neel Gap and to Cowrock Gap (4.7miles) and return for a total of 10.8 miles. Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church on Hwy 180 Stephen Gales 864-276-4763 (cell text please to confirm)</p>
Apr. 12 9 AM C3	<p>Leisure Hike - Woody Gap to Gooch Mountain Shelter and Back to Gooch Gap - This trek of just a little over six miles is longer than most leisure hikes, but worth it. Two short but steady climbs on the AT each give wonderful vistas southward. Spring wildflowers should be a-poppin'. It also includes a brand new more gradual climb west of Gooch Gap. Shuttle. Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church Virginia Lane 706-745-8058 or Cell 706-897-1785</p>
Apr. 12 9 AM	<p>Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</p>
Apr.17 9 AM B4	<p>Hike in Eales Nest Park at the summit of Mt. Oglethorpe, the original terminus for the Appalachian Trail in Georgia. Spectacular views to Amicalola Lodge to the North, and to Stone Mountain, the Atlanta Skyline, and Kennesaw Mountain to the South. 2 mile moderate hike with 500 feet ascent in ~2 miles. Afterwards, as an option, travel 20 minutes to Burnt Mountain Preserve and hike the Champions Creek trail for 2 miles with 800 foot ascent. Meet: Ellijay Food Lion Mike Pilvinsky 706-889-5254</p>
Apr.17 9 AM D3	<p>Chunky Gal Trail from Perry Gap to Glade Gap. We will start at Perry Gap and hike south about two hours to the summit of Boteler Peak which has perhaps the best views of any summit in the Nantahala's. Then we continue walking south about another two hours to Glade Gap at Highway 64. Trail maintained by MHH. 6.5 miles. Short shuttle. Meet: Ingles in Hayesville Jerry Carnes rockkicker48@gmail.com</p>
Apr. 19 9AM B2	<p>Leisure Hike - Winding Stair Gap to Log Steps at Old Logging Rd. - Begin with a 550-ft. climb gradually to 4,400 ft. in first mile, turn around as serious downhill is about to begin at the old log steps in small clearing and return - total exactly 5 mi. round-trip. Hope for trilliums and other wildflowers to be in bloom. Meet: Ingles, Hayesville Marjorie Hornsby 828-415-1530</p>
Apr. 19 9 AM	<p>NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</p>

Apr.24 9 AM C3	Benton MacKaye Trail from Wilscot Gap to Dial Road. 6 miles with GREAT wildflowers. Hike shortened to enjoy the flowers and go at a slower pace. Shuttle Meet: Park and Ride in Blairsville Kim Hulsey Blankenship kmhlisy6@yahoo.com 770-880-8358
Apr.24 8 AM C5	Arkaquah Trail from Trackrock Gap to Brasstown Bald parking lot, then down to Jacks Gap for a total of 7.8 strenuous miles. Trail ascends 2,100 ft. & descends 1,400 ft. Spectacular views. Trail maintained by MHH. Shuttle. Meet: Jacks Gap at base of Brasstown Bald on Hwy. 180: Irene Reiner 706-970-9822
Apr. 26 9 AM B3	Leisure Hike - Benton MacKaye Trail from FS 221 to Ocoee River and Rhododendron Trail to Whitewater Center - Again, an old favorite! Easily trek the BMT 3.7 miles downhill amidst some towering big trees, then hike the Ocoee River Trail to the Whitewater Center - little over 5 miles total with lunch along the river. Meet: Piggly Wiggly, Ducktown, TN Hank Baudet geezer95@gmail.com 706-455-5583
Apr. 26 9 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
May 1 9 AM C3	Trails of Tallulah Gorge State Park – This includes a visit to the Jane Hurt Yarn Interpretative Center displays and the excellent on the gorge. Then we will hike the North Rim Trail with its views of several waterfalls; go down Hurricane Falls staircase to the (about 200 steps each way), hike the High Bluff Loop, and maybe trek a portion of the Stoneplace Trail. Moderate hike with no lot the steps) – distance is 6- 8 miles depending on how much the group decides to do. \$5 per car daily fee or GA State Park Pass ne Meet: Macedonia Baptist Church parking lot east of Hiawassee. Steve Dennison 706-299-6825
May 1 8 AM D4	Fires Creek Rim Trail. Hike up Phillips Ridge Trail to the Rim Trail, then right to Rockhouse Creek Trail and follow it down to our cars. Views from the Rim trail in early spring are fantastic. Trail maintained by MHH. Approx. 10 miles. Loop hike; no shuttle. Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville. Irene Reiner 706-970-9822
May 3 9 AM C3	NEW - Leisure Hike - Piney Knob Trail System - Gobbler Loop Tr. - Opened to the public just a few months ago, with more trails to be added soon. We will hike the five-mile Gobbler Trail with a bit of additional mileage to-from it - giving us a loop. Climb only a few hundred feet over the first mile on the Gobbler going clock-wise, then tour around near ridge summit for miles with great views off - located just east of Murphy, NC. Total mileage, with approach trail, bit over six miles. ABSOLUTELY AWESOME - AND NEW! Meet: Ingles on U.S. 19/74 just east of Murphy George Owen 706-374-4716
MAY 3 8 AM	Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
May 8 9 AM B2	Park Creek Trail with crossover to Park Ridge Trail in Standing Indian area. 5 miles with some stream crossings (≈ 3:30 hrs.). A favorite spring hike because of beautiful wildflower display. Meet: Ingles in Hayesville. Linda & Bob Kaempfer 828-644-5836
May 8 9 AM C4	Andrews Cove to Tray Mountain. 9 mile in and out hike (≈ 4:30 hrs.), 2,500 ft. elevation gain. Hike the Andrews Cove trail to Indian Grave Gap I and then the AT to Tray Mtn. Return the same way. Meet: Macedonia Baptist Church parking lot Hiawassee. Stephen Gales 864-276-4763 (cell text please to confirm)
May 10 9 AM B1	Leisure Hike - Two Loops at Jackrabbit - We will trek the 3.1 mi. Central Loop Tr. and the 1.5 mi Upper Ridge Loop Tr. and the little approach trail in and out - ca. 4.8 mi. - most pleasant and easy hiking. Meet: Jackrabbit Mtn. Bike/Hiking Trails parking in NC north of Hiawassee Gail Janney 706-889-9004
May 10 8 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
May 15 9 AM B3	Raven Cliffs Trail. A scenic 5 mile round trip hike along a cascading mountain stream to towering cliffs with two waterfalls. Some difficult footing due to erosion. Trail maintained by MHH. Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church on Hwy. 180 Sue & Bob Astley 404-702-0273 or 404-403-8425
May 15 8 AM D3	Rabun Bald. Hike on the Bartram Trail from Hale Ridge road to summit of Rabun Bald and return the same way. Approx. 10 miles. Moderate hike. Plan on dinner in Clayton afterwards? Meet: Macedonia Baptist Church east of Hiawassee Jerry Carnes, rockkicker48@gmail.com
May 17 9 AM B2/3	Leisure Hike - Some Trails of Amicalola Falls State Park & Lunch at Lodge - This is really a favorite of the leader. We mostly do quite modest trails within the state park, several of them. Included will be two trails to two parts of the great waterfall and the vista atop the waterfall. Time allowing, we will do the first part of the Hike Inn Trail too - out 0.9 mile to a vista and return. Then we'll enjoy lunch in the lodge restaurant with that fabulous view from the great windows while eating. Meet: Home Depot parking lot in Blue Ridge, GA George Owen 706-374-4716

May 17 8 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
May 22 9 AM B3	Hanging Dog Recreation Area. Various trails of about 5.7 miles. Nice views Lake Hiawassee. Moderate hike. Meeting: Murphy at Old L&N Depot Evelin & Doug Yarns 828-837-7237
May 22 9 AM C4	Byron H. Reece Parking area to Woods Hole Shelter on the AT. Return on the Freeman Trail. (7.5 miles) 1,400 ft. climb. Rough, rocky footing in designated wilderness area. Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church parking lot on Hwy 180 Steve Dennison 706-299-6825
May 24 9 AM B2	Leisure Hike - Mooney Gap South on AT to Awesome Vista, Return Via Betty Creek Gap Trailhead - High in Standing Indian country is this lovely walk of 5.1 mi. - in one way and out another. Significant point of the jaunt is a high 180-degree, east-facing vista at our turn-around point. Very short shuttle. Meet: Ingles, Hayesville, NC Marjorie Hornsby 828-415-1530
May 24 8 AM	Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meet: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
May 29 9 AM B4	Duncan Ridge Trail from Mulkey Gap east to Buckeye Gap and return. Moderate 5.2 miles. Duncan Ridge Trail has several steep sections. Pink Lady Slippers should be at peak. Meet: Park & Ride in Blairsville. Hike Leader Needed
May 29 9 AM D3	Sandy Gap to Unicoi Gap on the Benton MacKaye Trail: It is an 8.3 mile section, with a beautiful ridgeline walk along the NC/TN state line. Added attractions of seeing an old engraved marker on the ridge marking the state line and "old Doc" -Roger's TB sanatorium, in ruins, with rock walls over 3 stories high still standing. Ends at the historic Unicoi Gap in TN. Shuttle. Meet: Home Depot in Blue Ridge.. Phyllis & Ken Jones 828-646-8925
May 31 9 AM B3	Leisure Hike - Catawba Rhododendron Peak Blooms on Brasstown Bald - Every year the purple/pink/lavender Catawba Rhododendron reach peak blooming as May turns into June atop several of Georgia's highest peaks, including Brasstown Bald. Our walk amidst these blooms will first be out about two miles to two great vistas and return on the Wagon Train Trail. Then we will also take the short hike up the little peak and back on the Jacks Gap Trail just south of the Brasstown parking lot. A most "color-full" trip with views - don't miss it! Brasstown Bald parking - fee area or free with federal senior pass. Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church at 9:00, or Jacks Gap at 9:10 George Owen 706-374-4716
May 31 8 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Jun. 5 9 AM B4	Chunky Gal Trail. Hike from Bob Allison Campground along scenic Tuni Creek to the big buckeye tree and return. About 4 miles (≈ 3:00 hrs.) with 5 stream crossings (slippery footing) each way. sticks required. Trail maintained by MHH, Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville. Tim Holby 828-361-4205
Jun. 5 9 AM D3	Hogpen Gap on the Richard Russell Hwy. To Low Gap Shelter and return. A mod. 8.4 mi. hike on the AT. Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church on Hwy 180. Candy Retter 706-897-9538
Jun. 7 9 am B2	Leisure Hike - NEW: Mooney Gap on AT to and down Bearpen Gap Trail - The first 1.3 mile out of Mooney Gap has moderate uphill on the Appalachian Trail. Then, just before we reach that steep climb up Albert Mtn., we turn west onto the 2.4 mi. Bearpen Gap Trail, and it is then down, down, down to our waiting vehicles on Forest Service Rd. 67. Shuttle. Meet: Ingles, Hayesville, NC Marjorie Hornsby 828-415-1530
Jun. 7 8 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
June 12 9 AM B2	Cooper Creek Sampler. Begin at the Cooper Creek Parking Area and hike the 1.7 mile Eye on Wildlife trail back to Parking Lot. From there we will continue hiking over to the Yellow Mountain Trail to Shope Gap Trail and back to Parking Lot for another 3.2 mile hike. If we have time, we'll go over to Sea Creek Falls. This is a very scenic area around Coopers Creek and features easy to moderate hiking. Trails maintained by MHH. Meet: Blairsville Park & Ride Michael O'Brien 706-994-1569
Jun. 12 9 AM E4	Long Branch Trail to Albert Mt. 10.5 miles. Up the Long Branch Trail tom the AT and on to Albert Mt. and return. Start at Back Country Information center at Standing Indian. Meet: Hayesville Ingles Don Mulheman 210-316-8614

Jun. 14 9 AM B2	Leisure Hike - Big Frog, Rough Creek, Benton MacKaye Trails - This repeat hike is fairly easy and partly in the Big Frog Wilderness of Southeast TN, and it's almost a loop with two trailheads on For. Serv. Rd. 221. The first 1.5 mi. on the Big Frog Trail climbs exactly 300 feet, slowly and almost unnoticeable. Then the Rough Creek Trail turns left and heads east an easy 1.5 mile to dump into the Benton MacKaye Trail. We conclude taking the BMT 2.2 miles back to its trailhead on FS Rd. 221. This final section has two usually shallow crossings of West Fork Creek close together, but you <u>might bring an extra pair of socks</u> in case the stream is up from rains. Total hike mileage: 5.2. Short shuttle. Meet: Piggly Wiggly, Ducktown, TN Ken Cissna 813-310-6084
Jun. 14 8 AM	Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meet: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Jun. 19 9 AM B3	Cohuttas: Gahutti Trail loop at Fort Mtn. State Park. Start at park entrance Gahutti to Goldmine Trail to Lake Trail to Rock Trail and back on Gahutti Trail, 5.3 mile. Variety of terrain, some minor stream crossings, great views. Meet: Ellijay Food Lion Mike Pilvinsky 706-889-5254
Jun. 19 9 AM E4	Lake Winfield Scott over Blood Mountain to Wolfpen Gap on Hwy 180. 10.5 mile shuttle hike, 1500 ft. elevation change. Hike via the Jarrard Gap Trail, Freeman Trail, AT, and Duncan Ridge Trail. Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church parking lot on Hwy. 180 Hike Leader Needed
Jun. 21 9 AM B3	Leisure Hike - Hogpen Gap North, In & Out, Then South to Wildcat Mtn. High Point & to Tesnatee Gap - Head north from Hogpen Gap on the Appalachian Trail about 1.5 mi. to gap with a big campsite on the left, then return, cross Hogpen Gap, and journey south to summit views from Wildcat Mtn. Final leg of venture is to head to Tesnatee Gap. Total mileage is a little over five miles. Very short shuttle. Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church Howard Baggett howardeb@windstream.net
Jun. 21 8 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Jun. 26 9 AM C2	Cohuttas: Grassy Mountain Fire tower and Lake Conasauga Loop. 6.2 miles. Great view from the fire tower. Meet: Ellijay Food Lion Mike Pilvinsky 706-889-5254
Jun. 26 9 AM D3	Winding Stair Gap to Siler Bald on the AT. 9.4 miles RT. This hike will be moderately paced. Meet: Ingles Parking Lot in Hayesville. Steve Dennison 706-299-6825
Jun. 28 9 AM B2	Leisure Hike - Rock Gap South on AT to Glassmine Gap, Out Long Branch Trail to Backcountry Parking Lot - This 4.8-mile hike has some steady but moderate uphill on the Appalachian Trail the first mile, but the rest of the hike is mostly downhill. Short shuttle. Meet: Ingles, Hayesville, NC Marjorie Hornsby 828-415-1530
Jun. 28 8 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167

Guests must contact hike leader in advance in order to determine if the hike is appropriate for their skill level. Please contact the Hike Leader or visit www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule changes.

In order to accommodate different hiking levels, we might do "timed-in-and-out" hikes.

Hike Rating: Distance: A = up to 3 miles Terrain / Footing: 1 = easy
 B = 3 - 6 miles 2 = average
 C = 6 - 8 miles 3 = moderate
 D = 8 - 10 miles 4 = strenuous
 E = over 10 miles 5 = very strenuous