

MOUNTAIN HIGH HIKERS CALENDAR

Fall 2018

❖❖ Trails maintained by MHH

Designated Wilderness Area (limit 10 hikers/group in NC, 12 hikers/group in GA)

Oct 2 9 AM B3	<p>Wayah Gap to Siler Bald on the AT. The trail climbs 1,000 feet in 1.9 miles, but the view from top is well worth the effort. A 3.8 mile round trip hike. Then a side trip to Rufus Morgan Falls for an additional 2 miles. Rufus Morgan Falls is located on SR1310 toward Franklin then take Forest Service Road 388.</p> <p>Ingles parking lot in Hayesville. Candy Retter 706-897-9538</p>
Oct 2 9 AM D3❖❖	<p>Smith Creek Trail from Unicoi State Park to Ana Ruby Falls and return. A moderate 9 mile hike with lunch at the falls.</p> <p>Meeting: Unicoi Gap on Hwy 75 south of Hiawassee Ginny Smith 706-258-8716</p>
Oct 4 9 AM	<p>Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meet: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</p>
Oct 4 9 AM B2	<p>Park Creek Trail to Footbridge & Return - This rather flat river walk is peaceful and beautiful in deep forest. From the Standing Indian Backcountry Parking to the bridge over Park Creek just beyond its confluence with the Nantahala River is a truly leisure hike. This in and out hike is a little over two miles each way, giving a total of about 4.5 miles. Suggest that the group go past the Park Creek bridge a hundred yards for a great cascade that is virtually a small waterfall. Then advance another hundred yards to the steep stairs and turn around to retrace you steps.</p> <p>Meeting: Ingles at Hayesville Marjorie Hornsby 828-415-1530</p>
Oct. 8 12 Noon Monday	<p>Covered Dish Picnic / Business Meeting at Tom & Betty Rose Shope Pavilion, Blairsville.</p> <p>Bring a covered dish for 8.</p> <p>For info & Directions call : Candy Retter 706-897-9538 or cfretter4@gmail.com</p>
Oct 9 9 AM B2	<p>Flat Creek Loop in Fannin County. This 5.8 mile loop hike begins at Deep Gap on Aska Road and is rated easy moderate.</p> <p>Park & Ride in Blairsville Candy Retter 706-897-9538</p>
Oct 9 8 AM D3	<p>Rabun Bald. Hike on the Bartram Trail from Hale Ridge road to summit of Rabun Bald and return the same way. Approx. 9 miles. Moderate hike. Plan on dinner in Clayton afterwards?</p> <p>Meeting: Macedonia Baptist Church east of Hiawassee Irene Reiner 706-970-9822</p>
Oct 11 9 AM	<p>NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</p>
Oct 11 9 AM B3	<p>Upper Springer Mountain Loop, AT & BMT - From the Springer Mountain AT parking lot on FS 42, we first journey 0.9 mile to the summit vista where the Appalachian Trail begins its 2,190-mile journey to Maine. Then we drop down a bit to the southern terminus of the Benton MacKaye Trail, and take that to another vista and on a round-about journey back to the AT parking lot for a loop of 4.7 mi.</p> <p>Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride (or Springer Mtn. AT parking lot at 9:40) Leader: George Owen 706-374-4716</p>
Oct 16 9 AM B3	<p>Gooch Gap southbound to Justus Creek. Break at Gooch Shelter. 6 miles.</p> <p>Meeting: Choestoe Church on Hwy 180. NEEDS HIKE LEADER</p>
Oct 16 9 AM E4##	<p>Unicoi Gap to Tray Mt. on the AT with return on the Rocky Mt. Tr. A 10 mi. strenuous hike. 2400 ft. elevation gain. Great views from Tray Mt.</p> <p>Meeting: Macedonia Baptist Church lot east of Hiawassee Ginny Smith 706-258-8716</p>

Oct 18 9 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Oct 18 9 AM B1	TN Benton MacKaye Trail from FS Rd. 221 to Thunder Rock Campground - Autumn color should be approaching toward peak as we partake of this mostly downhill trek. The upper part of this journey is through some rather large trees nearing or at old growth status. Mileage about 3.4; modest shuttle. Meeting: Old Piggly Wiggly parking lot, Ducktown Laurie Columbo 530-295-7639
Oct 23 9 AM B3##	Cherohala Skyway fall color hikes: plan to spend the day traveling from NC to TN along 43 miles of beautiful scenery, 5 mi. of hiking. Elevation gain is over 4000 ft. so expect lots of different fall color. We will stop at several overlooks (a couple with bathrooms) and eat at the Tellico Grains Bakery in Tellico Plains after hiking Huckleberry Bald with 360 views for 2.4 miles RT, 364 ft. elevation gain and Fall Branch Falls for 2.6 miles RT, 515 ft. elevation gain. This enchanted forest has gnarled old-growth trees tumbling down to a 70 ft. waterfall. The trail can be slippery in spots, difficult footing, very steep for 1/4 mi. Meeting: Andrews Rest Area off HWY 64 Leader: Pam Sullivan - pams11@tds.net
Oct 23 9 AM D3	Classic Fall Hike: Winding Stair Gap to Siler Bald and return. Approx. 9 miles. Peak Color. Meeting: Ingles Parking lot in Hayesville Marjorie Hornsby 828-415-1530
Oct 25 9 AM	Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meet: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Oct 25 9 AM B3	Brasstown Bald Summit and Wagon Train Trail Two Miles Each Way - First we'll take the shuttle to the top of Brasstown at the observation deck to enjoy all it's fall glory - bring a little cash for the shuttle. Then we will walk down the paved trail to the Wagon Train Trail, turn left, and trek out this trail for almost two miles to the second vista, the one where finally you can look back up at the Brasstown summit with tower. Autumn should be about at peak. Our main uphill will be returning to the Brasstown parking lot, but it is a modest grade. Parking fee required or Golden Age/Senior Pass. Total miles, about 4.5. Meeting: Blairsville Park and Ride (or Jack's Gap at 9:20) NEEDS HIKE LEADER
Oct 30 9 AM C2##❖❖	Wagon Train Trail/Arkaquah Trail combo hike. We will start at Brasstown Bald parking area and hike out and back on the Wagon Train Trail about 2 miles to viewpoint then return to parking area and hike about 1.5 miles out and back on the Arkaquah trail. Total of about 7 miles. Wilderness area: group size rules apply. Parking fee required or Golden Age Pass. Meet: Choestoe Baptist Church parking lot on Hwy 180 Evelin Yarns 828-837-7237
Oct 30 8 AM C3❖❖	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. 6 miles Short shuttle. Meeting: Ingles in Hayesville Irene Reiner 706-970-9822
Nov 1 9 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Nov 1 9 AM B3	Betty Creek Gap South on Appalachian Trail to Vista & Return - Again we exploit the wonders of autumn, perhaps starting to wane a bit at this elevation. Using the Betty Creek Gap Trail for 0.2 mi, then southward on the AT for exactly 2.0, we arrive at the stupendous Little Ridgepole vista of Pickens Nose, the Little Tennessee River Valley, Rabun Bald, Whiteside Mountain west of Highlands, and glorious other ridges and peaks. Wonderful! Then we return to our vehicles by the same route northward. Total hiking miles: 4.4. Meeting: Ingles in Hayesville NEEDS HIKE LEADER

Nov 6 9 AM B4	Duncan Ridge trail from Hwy 180 to White Oak Stomp and back. B 4 approx. 6 miles strenuous up an down. First half mile is moderate. Great views from Coosa Bald along the way. Meet at Choestoe Baptist Church on Hwy 180 near Richard B Russell Hwy. Kim Blankenship 770-880-8358
Nov 6 9 AM C3##	Tesnatee Gap to Levelland Mountain on the AT and return. This 7.6 mile hike has spectacular views from Cowrock, Wolf Laurel Top and Levelland Mountains. Wilderness area restrictions. Meeting: Choestoe Baptist Church lot on Hwy 180. Steve Dennison 706-299-6825
Nov 8 9 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Nov 8 9 AM B3/4 (moderately strenuous)	Benton MacKaye Trail from the Toccoa River Swinging Bridge to GA Hwy. 60 - First will be our drive on Forest Service Rd. 816 to the bridge parking area, then a quick jaunt down to that fabulous 260-foot Toccoa River suspension bridge over the rushing rapids. Then we turn north and hike up onto Toonowee Mountain (yes, some climb, but moderate with nice breaks, then you travel along the ridge and come downhill the last mile). All very scenic; total mileage about 3.8. (Some shuttle at trip's end.) <i>And...the leader plans to tell a little history of how and when that swinging bridge came to be - he even watched it being built he's so ancient!</i> Meeting: Blairsville Park & Ridge (or trailhead parking on GA 60 at 9:30) Leader: George Owen 706-374-4716
Nov 13 9 AM B3	Yonah Mountain near Cleveland, GA. A 5 mile round trip with 1,700 feet elevation gain, you literally "climb a mountain". This shark-fin shaped mountain has a trail that is a combination of moderate and some steep and rocky sections. Excellent views. Icy in winter. Unicoi Gap on Hwy. 75 south of Hiawassee. Steve Dennison 706-299-6825
Nov 13 9 AM D3	Hike Inn Trail. 4.9 miles from Amicalola Falls State Park to Len Foote Hike Inn, 4.9 miles return. 9.8 mi total. Several moderate climbs but slower paced hike. Meet at Blairsville Park and Ride Marjorie Hornsby 828-415-1530
Nov 15 9 AM	Georgia Trail Maintenance Day. Meet: Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Nov 15 9 AM B2	PARTLY NEW: Trails of Murphy, NC - Yes, we scheduled the new Piney Knob five-mile trail last quarter, but we haven't done the shorter, easier new two-mile trail at Piney Knob preserve just east of Murphy - so first that morning we will traverse the 2-mile Grape Smuggler Loop (lower and less climbing). Then we will drive to the old L&N depot site in Murphy and do about 2.5 mi. of rather flat trails on the Murphy Greenway that includes the Cypress and Confluence loops, the latter going out to the confluence of the Valley and Hiwassee rivers. All total for the day - a little under 5 miles. AND...let's conclude by eating lunch at a downtown restaurant in Murphy. Meet at Ingles, Murphy Leader: George Owen 706-374-4716
Nov 20 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, minor stream crossings, great views. Meeting: Ellijay Park and Ride Ken Cissna 813-310-6084
Nov 20 9 AM E4##	Long Branch Trail to AT to Albert Mt. 10.5 mi. Up to the AT on Long Branch Trail, from the Backcountry Information Center, hike south on the AT to Albert Mt lookout tower and return. Meeting: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Ginny Smith 706-258-8716
Nov 27 9 AM C3##	Deep Gap south on old and new AT. See aircraft crash site and Ravenrock Cliffs. This is a moderate round trip hike of 6.5 miles. Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville. Kim Blankenship 770-880-8358

Nov 27 9 AM D4	Bartram Trail from Warwoman Dell to Pinnacle Knob and return for a 8.4 mile hike. The climb to the top from the Bartram trail has a new trail section. This makes the trail a little longer but dramatically better. Meeting: Macedonia Baptist Church parking lot east of Hiawassee Irene Reiner 706-970-9822
Nov 29 9 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Nov 29 9 AM B2	Three Georgia Waterfalls Along U.S. 19 - Start at Vogel State Park with the walk around the lake and visiting the Trahlyta Falls at the north end. Then we drive on to nearby Helton Creek Falls. The trip ends with the two falls available to the public at Desoto Falls Campground/Recreation Area. All three treks are loop or in-and-out - no shuttle. Hiking miles: Just under 4 miles. Vogel requires fee or state pass, and Desoto Falls requires fee or federal pass. Meet at intersection of U.S. 19 and GA 180 toward Brasstown Bald. NEEDS HIKE LEADER
Dec 4 9 AM B3##	Benton MacKaye Trail, Section 15 near Coker Creek, TN. Moderate 4.2 miles in and out, from Sandy Gap NC to Sixmile Gap, with the optional side trip up Waucheesi Mountain. The side trip will add @ 1.5 miles but includes GREAT 360° views. The main trail walks the ridge along the TN/NC line, with beautiful views in the winter, and a stone state line marker engraved in the 1821 state line survey. Total: 5.7 mi. Meet at Piggly Wiggly in Ducktown TN Please text if you plan to attend: Ken 423-506-8128 or Phyllis 828-646-8925
Dec 4 9 AM D3##	Hemp Top: this 8 mile hike will start at Dally Gap, join the BMT at Spanish Oaks, and pass Penitentiary trail intersection on to Hemp top where we will return via same trail. May see ruins of old fire tower atop Hemp top Mtn. We will start hiking from Dally Gap. Shuttle 15 miles paved plus 4 miles dirt Meeting: Home Depot in Blue Ridge Ginny Smith 706-258-8716
Dec 6 9 AM	NC Trail Maintenance Day Meet: Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Dec 6 9 AM B2	Boyd Gap to Thunder Rock Campground - We begin this extreme southeastern corner of TN journey at Boyd Gap parking with its awesome vista of 4,224 Big Frog Mountain, highest point on the Benton MacKaye Trail in GA and TN until Whigg Meadow near the Cherochala Scenic Highway just before the BMT leaves TN. After drinking in the view of Big Frog and surrounding ridges, our journey is almost all modestly downhill until the trip's conclusion at Thunder Rock. Trails used will be the Boyd Gap, Old Copper Road, and Rhododendron and will include passing the U.S. Forest Service's Ocoee Whitewater Center that celebrates being the location of the 1996 Olympic whitewater events. Total mileage: Just one side or the other of 5 miles, but a most pleasant downhill overall. Meeting: Old Piggly Wiggly parking lot, Ducktown Evelin Yarns 828-837-7237
Dec 6th 6:00 pm	Covered Dish Supper / Christmas Party / Elections / Business Meeting at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Club will supply a TurkeyBring a covered dish for 8. For info call : Candy Retter 706-897-9538 or cfretter4@gmail.com
Dec 11 9 AM C3	Fall Branch Falls parking lot on BMT to junction with Stanley Gap trail at Weaver Creek section and return. No shuttle. 6.4 miles. Food Lion in Blue Ridge Ken Cissna 813-310-6084
Dec 11 9 AM D4	Dicks Creek Gap south on the AT to Kelly Knob and return for 9 miles. Elevation gain 1,200 feet. Nice scenic viewpoint. Meeting: Macedonia Church east of Hiawassee. Irene Reiner 706-970-9822

