

# MOUNTAIN HIGH HIKERS CALENDAR

**Spring 2017**

Apr. 4 9 AM B3	<p><b>Bear Hair Trail in Vogel State Park.</b> Loop hike of about 4 miles with some moderate to steep climbs. Bring hiking sticks and State Park pass or \$5.  <b>Meeting:</b> Choestoe Baptist Church parking lot on Hwy 180. Candy Retter 706-897-9538</p>
Apr. 4 D4	<p><b>Eagle Mountain</b>, near Hiawassee: 9 mile loop with some steep climbing. Come climb the mountain that along with Bell Mountain dominates the skyline from Hiawassee and Hayesville. Up close views of Bell Mountain; great views of Lake Chatuge. The route follows old logging roads and receives no maintenance, so hopefully the weeds will have been killed by winter freeze.  <b>Meeting:</b> Macedonia Church east of Hiawassee <span style="float: right;"><b>Jerry Carnes, <a href="mailto:rockkicker48@gmail.com">rockkicker48@gmail.com</a></b></span></p>
Apr. 6 9 AM B1	<p><b>Leisure Hike - Some Special Trails of the Blue Ridge Area - New for Leisure Hikes -</b> First we start with a fairly new trail that loops through a Blue Ridge city park. Then we drive a short distance to the Lake Blue Ridge Recreation area on the west side of the Lake (NOT Morganton Point) where we hike two trails totaling 2.1 mi. and learn about some special recreational projects under study for this area. Then we drive again southward a bit on Weaver Creek Rd. to hike a mile each way (rather flat) on a little-used part of the Benton MacKaye Trail. Total mileage: just under 5 miles.  <b>Meeting: Food Lion, Blue Ridge. <span style="float: right;">George Owen, <a href="tel:706-374-4716">706-374-4716</a></span></b></p>
Apr. 6 9 AM	<p><b>NC Trail Maintenance Day</b>  <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville <span style="float: right;">Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</span></p>
Apr. 11 9 AM B2	<p><b>Green Mountain Loop Trail</b> in Fannin County, Aska area. A moderate hike of about 5 miles with good views of Lake Blue Ridge.  <b>Meeting:</b> Food Lion in Blue Ridge <span style="float: right;"><b>Ken Cissna 813-310-6084</b></span></p>
Apr. 11 9 AM E3	<p><b>Cohutta Wilderness – Wolf Ridge and Hemp Top Trails to Big Frog Mountain.</b> A 12.8 mile hike up to and along the Tennessee Valley Divide. Return by the same route.  <b>Meeting:</b> Piggly Wiggly on Hwy 64 Ducktown, TN <b>Hike Leader??</b></p>
Apr. 13 9 AM B2	<p>Leisure Hike - Appalachian Trail Between Hogpen and Tesnatee Gaps with Side Hike to Whitley Gap Shelter - This is a great hike for several high bluff views over only 3.3 miles with a couple ups and downs of a few hundred feet each - the last 0.9 is downhill to Tesnatee Gap. Short shuttle.  <b>Meeting:</b> Choestoe Baptist Church south of Blairsville. <b>Hike Leader??</b></p>
Apr. 13 9 AM	<p><b>Georgia Trail Maintenance Day.</b>  <b>Meeting:</b> Blairsville Park and Ride <span style="float: right;">Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</span></p>
Apr.18 9 AM B3	<p><b>Five-Mile Round-Trip on AT South of Winding Stair Gap -</b> Yes, no shuttle, and we have a gradual ascent over a 550-foot elevation gain in the first mile to 4,400 feet with views as we hike along the ridge. We drop just slightly to a trail "platform" created by a roadbed with wooden steps, turn around, and hike back out the same way.  <b>Meeting:</b> Hayesville Ingles <span style="float: right;"><b>Steve Dennison <a href="tel:706-299-6825">706-299-6825</a></b></span></p>
Apr.18 9 AM C5	<p>Chunky Gal Trail from Bob Allison Campground to Tusquitee Bald. 7.5 strenuous miles round trip. 2,200 foot elevation gain. Scenic area with giant hickories and the "Big" Buckeye tree. 5 wet stream crossings in the first 1.5 miles, so bring poles  <b>Meeting: Ingles in Hayesville. <span style="float: right;">Richard Sullivan 706-374-5281</span></b></p>
Apr. 20 9AM B1	<p>Leisure Hike - Jackrabbit Biking/Hiking Trails - Trails included this time are: 1) central loop, 2) Burrell Cove, and Saba Beach - all for a little over 5.5 mi. total on very easy grades - rather flat much of the way.  <b>Meeting:</b> Jackrabbit Biking/Hiking Trails trailhead parking. <span style="float: right;">Lauri Colombo 530-295-7639</span></p>
Apr. 20 9 AM	<p><b>NC Trail Maintenance Day</b>  <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville <span style="float: right;"><b>Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</b></span></p>
Apr.25 9 AM C2	<p><b>Grassy Mountain Fire tower and Lake Conasauga Loop.</b> In the Cohutta's, 6.2 miles, great view from tower  <b>Meeting:</b> Home Depot in Blue Ridge. <span style="float: right;"><b>Ken Cissna 813-310-6084</b></span></p>
Apr.25 9 AM C5	<p><b>Arkaquah Trail from Trackrock Gap to Brasstown Bald parking lot, then down to Jacks Gap</b> for a total of 7.8 strenuous miles. Trail ascends 2,100 ft. &amp; descends 1,400 ft. Spectacular views.  <b>Meeting:</b> Jacks Gap at base of Brasstown Bald on Hwy. 180: <span style="float: right;">Don Weaver 404-277-3847</span></p>
Apr. 27 9 AM	<p>Leisure Hike - Easy Parts of Three Big Frog Area Trails - New for Leisure Hikes - The few hundred feet of change in this 4.6-mile jaunt are gradual and pleasant, no steep climbs mixed with downhill. Be</p>

B1	<p>prepared for a possible wet foot or two at a modest creek crossing mid-hike (extra socks in pack suggested). Short shuttle on FS 221 in TN of about four minutes involved: The three trails used a short distance each are: Big Frog, Rough Creek, and Benton MacKaye. Part of this hike is in the Big Frog Wilderness.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> Piggly Wiggly in Ducktown <b>Hike Leader??</b></p>
Apr. 27 9 AM	<p><b>Chattanooga Bike Ride</b> – 2 (or 3) options. A shorter 12 miler on new path (off the old path) ,or the usual 17-ish ride into Chattanooga for lunch. OR the short and long route together. We'll all start from same parking area (the dam).</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> at Ducktown Piggly Wiggly. Questions call Ginny Smith <a href="tel:706-258-8716">706-258-8716</a></p>
Apr. 27 9 AM	<p><b>NC Trail Maintenance Day</b>  <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville <span style="float: right;">Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</span></p>
May 2 9 AM C3	<p><b>Trails of Tallulah Gorge State Park</b> – This includes a visit to the Jane Hurt Yarn Interpretative Center displays and the excellent 20-minute movie on the gorge. Then we will hike the North Rim Trail with its views of several waterfalls; go down Hurricane Falls staircase to the swinging bridge (about 200 steps each way), hike the High Bluff Loop, and maybe trek a portion of the Stoneplace Trail. Moderate hike with no long climbs (except the steps) – distance is 6- 8 miles depending on how much the group decides to do.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> Macedonia Baptist Church parking lot east of Hiwassee. <b>Hike Leader??</b></p>
May 2 8 AM D4	<p><b>Fires Creek Rim Trail.</b> 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. Approx. 10 miles. Loop hike : no shuttle.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville. <span style="float: right;">Irene Reiner 706-970-9822</span></p>
May 4 9 AM B2	<p>Leisure Hike - Benton MacKaye Trail across the Sisson Property - A tumbling cascade, the only BMT shelter in Georgia, two little lakes, a chapel, are all part of this leisurely trek of the BMT through the Sisson development between Forest Service sections of the trail. About three short but steep uphill are involved - take them slow...and cover all from U.S. 76 west to Boardtown Road - distance ca. 4 miles. Shuttle with parking either side of Hwy. 515/76 and on Boardtown Rd.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> Food Line, Blue Ridge. <span style="float: right;">Darcy Douglas 404-431-3614</span></p>
MAY 4 8 AM	<p><b>Georgia Trail Maintenance Day.</b>  <b>Meeting:</b> Blairsville Park and Ride <span style="float: right;">Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</span></p>
May 9 9 AM B2	<p><b>Park Creek Trail with crossover to Park Ridge Trail</b> in Standing Indian area. 5 miles with some stream crossings . A favorite spring hike because of beautiful wildflower display.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> Ingles in Hayesville. <span style="float: right;">Ginny Smith <a href="tel:706-258-8716">706-258-8716</a></span></p>
May 9 8 AM C4	<p><b>Andrews Cove to Tray Mountain.</b> 9 mile in and out hike, 2,500 ft. elevation gain. Hike the Andrews Cove trail to Indian Grave Gap and then the AT to Tray Mtn. Return the same way.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> Macedonia Baptist Church parking lot east of Hiwassee <span style="float: right;">Irene Reiner 706-970-9822</span></p>
May 11 9 AM B2	<p>Leisure Hike - Woody Gap to Gooch Gap - This hike has been shortened by a relocation a couple years ago - no longer 3.8 mi. but still a bit over 3.0 with two climbs, short but steady, to great overlooks on rock bluffs southward. Shuttle involved.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> U.S. 19/GA 180 toward Brasstown parking. <span style="float: right;">Jan Stansell 706-747-5892</span></p>
May 11 8 AM	<p><b>NC Trail Maintenance Day</b>  <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville <span style="float: right;">Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</span></p>
May 16 9 AM B3	<p><b>Hanging Dog Recreation Area.</b> Various trails of about 5.7 miles. Nice views Lake Hiwassee. Moderate hike.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> Appalachian Outfitters in Murphy <span style="float: right;">Evelin &amp; Doug Yarns 828-837-7237</span></p>
May 16 9 AM C4	<p><b>Dicks Creek Gap to Kelly Knob.</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> Macedonia Baptist Church east of Hiwassee <span style="float: right;">Jerry Carnes <a href="mailto:rockkicker48@gmail.com">rockkicker48@gmail.com</a></span></p>
May 18 9 AM B1	<p><b>Leisure Hike - Murphy Greenway - New for Leisure Hikes -</b> We begin beside the Hiwassee River at the old train depot, trek to where the Valley River joins the Hiwassee, then on to Konehete park, trail's end, and return. Leader and others can decide whether to make the three-mile trek each way or shorten it a bit. This is a partly new, recently completed urban trail mostly in woods beside two rivers.</p> <p><b>Meeting:</b> old L&amp;N depot on Hiwassee St. in Murphy (directions online: "Murphy River Walk &amp; Canoe Trail"). <span style="float: right;">Sue &amp; Bob Astley 404-702-0273 or 404-403-8425</span></p>
May 18 8 AM	<p><b>NC Trail Maintenance Day</b>  <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville <span style="float: right;">Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</span></p>

May 23 9 AM C3	<b>The Miller Trek</b> (Trail #46) at Brasstown Valley Resort. 6.5 mile loop is moderately difficult with an elevation change of 1,400 feet and some rough, rocky footing. Pace will be slow so we can look for wildflowers. <b>Meeting:</b> Young Harris Trailhead parking lot at the resort Carolyn & Tom Sewell 706-669-4916
May 23 9 AM C4	<b>Byron H. Reece Parking area to Woods Hole Shelter</b> on the AT. Return on the Freeman Trail. (7.5 miles) 1,400 ft. climb. Rough, rocky footing in designated wilderness area. <b>Meeting:</b> Choestoe Baptist Church parking lot on Hwy 180 Candy Retter 706-897-9538
May 25 9 AM B1	Leisure Hike - Unicoi State Park Lodge to Helen for Lunch & Return - This hike is something of a reverse of the way we usually do this - start at Helen, eat at the state park lodge, and return. Instead, this time we will hike from the back of the state park lodge parking, arrive in Helen later morning, maybe even spend a little time visiting downtown Helen, then eat lunch in the delightful German bakery/restaurant next to the city park. The return to the state park after lunch will give us just under six miles of pleasant, easy travel. . State park pass or buy day pass for each car left at Unicoi State Park. <b>Meeting:</b> Choestoe Baptist Church Blairsville Ginny Smith 706-258-8716 C
May 25 8 AM	<b>Georgia Trail Maintenance Day.</b> <b>Meeting:</b> Blairsville Park and Ride Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
May 30 9 AM B4	<b>Duncan Ridge Trail from Mulkey Gap east to Buckeye Gap</b> and return. Moderate 5.2 miles. Duncan Ridge Trail has several steep sections. Pink Lady Slippers should be at peak. <b>Meeting:</b> Park & Ride in Blairsville. Don Muhleman 210-316-6614
May 30 9 AM D4	<b>Dicks Creek Gap north to almost Plum Orchard Gap Shelter</b> , in and out on the AT to rock outcropping ½ mile south of Plum Orchard Gap. About 8 miles. Moderate with some steep climbs. <b>Meeting:</b> Macedonia Baptist Church Hiawassee. Steve Dennison <a href="tel:706-299-6825">706-299-6825</a>
Jun. 1 9 AM B3	<b>Leisure Hike</b> - Catawba Rhododendron Time on Brasstown, Using Two Trails - Each year the rosy Catawba rhododendron reach their peak in late May, early June atop Georgia's tallest mountain and accompanying nearby ridges. There is a bit of yearly watching and guessing to hit the peak time, but we should be at it or close. So we will hike from the Brasstown parking lot out the Wagon Train Trail along the ridge to the second overlook and back. Afterwards we will hike the Jack's Gap Trail steeply down to the gap and our waiting shuttle to complete the day. This latter trail hiking portion is over the recently renovated trail done by the Mountain High Hikers maintenance volunteers, with some relocating. Let's see their fine improvements. Total distance hiking: ca. 6.5 miles. <u>Federal Senior Pass or other federal pass required to park at Brasstown upper parking lot, or buy day pass.</u> <b>Meeting:</b> Choestoe Baptist Church on Hwy. 180 south of Blairsville. George Owen, <a href="tel:706-374-4716">706-374-4716</a>
Jun. 1 8 AM	<b>NC Trail Maintenance Day</b> <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
June 5 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon	Covered Dish Picnic / Business Meeting at Meeks Park Pavilion #1. Bring a covered dish for 8. Folks can come early and walk the 5 miles of trail for stay later and walk. There is a boat ramp for anyone who wants to kayak as well. For info call : Candy Retter 706-835-1344 or <a href="mailto:candy.retter@gmail.com">candy.retter@gmail.com</a>
Jun. 6 9 AM B2	<b>2 Wildflower trails: 1. Coleman River Trail.</b> 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. We then move over to <b>Moccasin Creek SP.</b> 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 <b>Meeting:</b> Macedonia Baptist Church east of Hiawassee Carolyn & Tom Sewell 706-669-4916
Jun. 6 9 AM D3	<b>Hogpen Gap on the Richard Russell Hwy. To Low Gap Shelter</b> and return. A mod. 8.4 mi. hike on the AT. <b>Meeting:</b> Choestoe Baptist Church on Hwy 180. Michael O'Brien 706-745-6260
Jun. 8 9 AM B1	Leisure Hike - Waterfall Hikes on U.S. 19 Southward from Blairsville - Here's a pleasant and easy "summer cooler" with a short drive between three sites. First we go to Vogel State Park and walk around the lake, visiting the waterfall at the lake's north end. Next it's southward on the highway and then eastward about three miles on another road to walk a few hundred yards to the two drops of Helton Creek Falls. Finally, we drive on southward again over Neels Gap to visit two waterfalls at the DeSoto Falls Recreation Area. Total hiking distance is between 3.5 and 4.0 miles. Both federal and state park passes needed per car or buy day passes. <b>Meeting:</b> U.S. 19/GA 180 toward Brasstown. Hike Leader??
Jun. 8 8 AM	<b>NC Trail Maintenance Day</b> <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167
Jun. 13	<b>Warwoman Dell to Pinnacle Knob down to Courthouse Gap.</b> 5.8 miles moderate hike,

9 AM B3	some steep climbs, great views, short shuttle required. Follows the Bartram Trail. <b>Meeting:</b> Macedonia Baptist Church parking lot east of Hiawassee <b>Hike Leader??</b>
Jun. 13 9 AM E4	<b>Long Branch Trail to AT to Albert Mt. 10.5 mi.</b> 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. <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville. <b>Hike Leader??</b>
Jun. 15 9 AM B1	<b>Leisure Hike - New Trail Setup at Nottely Lake</b> - First in the morning we will trek the main loop of the new trail system established in 2016 on the northwest corner of the lake. Then we will travel a short distance across Nottely Dam, where just east of the dam we turn north and hike a couple of side trails, the last being along the river. Total about five miles. <b>Meeting:</b> Blairsville Park and Ride at 9:00 or at 9:15 at the southernmost trailhead parking between Loving Road and the dam on the lake's northwest side. <b>Hike Leader??</b>
<b>Jun. 15 8 AM</b>	<b>Georgia Trail Maintenance Day.</b> <b>Meeting:</b> Blairsville Park and Ride <b>Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</b>
Jun. 20 9 AM B3	<b>Cohuttas:</b> 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. <b>Meeting:</b> Ellijay Food Lion <b>Mike Pilvinsky 706-273-2086</b>
Jun. 20 9 AM D4	<b>Wayah Crest to Wayah Bald on the AT.</b> Trail climbs from 4,188 ft. at Crest to 5,342 ft. at observation tower with some ups and downs in between. 8.4 miles round trip. No shuttle. <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville <b>Don Muhleman 210-316-6614</b>
Jun. 22 9 AM C2	Leisure Hike - Other Trails of Amicalola Falls State Park - Certainly most of you know that the AT Approach Trail and the Hike Inn Trail begin in the park and leave for points miles beyond. This hike however, includes those "other" trails on the east and west ridge and a short one at the falls bottom. First we'll hike the trail from behind the visitors' center past the shelter and through part of the picnic area up to the pond at the falls base. Then we will hike back on the bottom of the west ridge to the visitors' center. Then we drive part way up the park road toward the top, stopping to take the paved trail to the falls main drop and back. Next we come down the West Ridge Trail from the same springs parking area along the west ridge back to the visitors' center. Then we'll drive to the falls top, visit the top of the falls and the little loop next to the lodge. Now we're hungry, and it's time for lunch at the lodge. Tummy's full, we conclude the day by hiking from the lodge all the way back to the visitors' center via the East Ridge Trail which has awesome vista viewing in the first portion. At the bottom a waiting car shuttle takes the drivers back to pick up the rest at the lodge. Total hike: a little over 6 miles. And now you have completed the <u>first leisure hike of summer</u> . Short shuttles involved. <u>State park pass required per car or buy day pass</u> . <b>Meeting:</b> Blue Ridge Home Depot lot near Dairy Queen. <b>Mike Pilvinsky 706-273-2086</b>
<b>Jun. 22 8 AM</b>	<b>NC Trail Maintenance Day</b> <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville <b>Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</b>
Jun. 27 9 AM B2	<b>Cooper Creek Sampler.</b> Begin at the Cooper Creek Parking Area and hike the 1.7 mile Eye on Wildlife trail. 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. <b>Meeting:</b> Park & Ride Blairsville <b>Ginny Smith 706-258-8716</b>
Jun. 27 9 AM D3	<b>Winding Stair Gap to Siler Bald on the AT.</b> 9.4 miles RT <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles Parking Lot in Hayesville. <b>Steve Dennison 706-299-6825</b>
Jun. 29 9 AM B1	Leisure Hike - AT/BMT to Long Creek Falls and "the bald" - This 4.2-mile round-trip trek begins at Three Forks and travels up the combined Appalachian Trail/Benton MacKaye Trail with a little climbing for 0.9 mi. to lovely, restful Long Creek Falls. From the trail split here, we take the BMT trail for most of the next mile on an easy streamside walk, then the last about 0.3 mi. we steeply but slowly climb to where the BMT crosses an opening just called "the bald." From the "bald" we will hike a short distance down to the old cemetery; rest and have lunch. Return is back the same way to Three Forks again. <b>Meeting:</b> Blairsville Park and Ride. <b>Virginia Lane 706-745-8058</b>
<b>Jun. 29 8 AM</b>	<b>NC Trail Maintenance Day</b> <b>Meeting:</b> Ingles parking lot in Hayesville <b>Bronco Burnsworth 315-591-3167</b>

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](http://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  
B = 3 - 6 miles  
C = 6 - 8 miles  
D = 8 - 10 miles  
E = over 10 miles

**Terrain / Footing:** 1 = easy  
2 = average  
3 = moderate  
4 = strenuous  
5 = very strenuous