

***OLD TIMERS HIKING CLUB***  
***SCHEDULE FOR SPRING—AprMayJun2009***

**A REMINDER-OUR SCHEDULE IS NOW ON OUR WEB SITE=[www.olddtimershikingclub.org](http://www.olddtimershikingclub.org).** Suggest you book mark that site, then go to the web site, click on OLD TIMERS NEWS and download the schedule. Also check the link, CALENDAR, for upcoming events and the link ALBUMS for hiking pictures. As soon as we can get it done, we'll be using other links and also fix it so each member may enter his own news, pictures and comments. CALL CB WITH ANY PROBLEM WITH THIS SITE-.282-3325.

***RESPOND TO OTTENFELTS WITH RSVP-SEE MONDAY, MAY 18.***

**NOW, THE HIKING SCHEDULE**

Wed Apr 1 Work day **needing all our able-bodied members and guests.** Here is a chance to get your feet wet if you haven't done much trail maintenance as yet. Leader will separate us into three groups so we can cover the entire trail adoption. We'll clean out water bars, clip encroaching laurel thickets, pick up litter on the trail and at shelters (a fourth crew will be shuttling cars and picking litter at trail heads and crossings), remove small trees from the trail and list larger blow-downs for later chain saw work and various other duties as advised by Mike Hupko, 929-2626. Call Mike with any questions.

Mon Apr 6 Roan Mountain State Park, Forest Road Trail, 3.1 miles, some strenuous parts but we can all do it. 80-mile round trip. Not sure if we shuttle or loop. Breakfast at Bobs Dairyland. Leader, Daryl Loyd, 753-2895.

Wed Apr 8 Actually MTW, Apr 6-7-and 8. Jerry Mayne's trip to Georgia did not work out as scheduled for February, 2009. Jerry sez gonna do it now. Attendees will hike a Rails to Trails site for 5-miles, much of it along an old canal; then the next day, a nice and easy walk on the beach near Savannah. Call Jerry, 912-220-3429 with questions. **Secretary no longer has the phone numbers of motels in the Savannah area.**

Hike for those not attending the Savannah trip will be at Paint Creek in Greene County, led by Ralph Bible, 257-5889 or 257-5658. This will be a

five-mile moderate loop hike with just a little steep climbing, fortified with breakfast at Ma and Pa's where we meet our leader.

Mon Apr 13 Hungry Mother with Bob Miller. Leader, 245-1465 is not available for questions right now as he is in California, probably hanging from a cliff or dangling at the end of a hot-air balloon. **If**, that's a real if, he gets back uncontaminated, he will be glad to answer all your questions. Bob's made it back every time-he will again. Actually we believe we will hike the mostly level lake trail for five-miles. No shuttle. About 130 driving distance round trip.

Wed Apr 15 Devil's Fork Gap to an exit to the Shelton Branch area known to Howard Guinn, 753-4072. The first part of the hike is easy, about 3-miles to the shelter, then a steep climb and down to Flint Gap. After that it's up to Howard and Mike, 929-2626, to get you out. Maybe a shuttle or key swap. If further info is needed, call Howard. About 8-miles.

Mon Apr 20 South Holston Lake area. Carol **Culnon**, 383-0549. No shuttle, 60-miles round trip driving, beautiful area, Breakfast at Bluff City Diner. Potentially a superior and enjoyable day. The hike will be within the compatibilities of all of us.

Wed Apr 22 Channels in Southwest Virginia. Daryl.753-2895. At this point we don't know much more. Daryl will get in touch with Marcia Pruner, who helps us in this area. An advance note of appreciation to Marcia. The area is private and we must receive permission to get access. If we get the approvals, we'll hike 5-6 miles on an old logging road which will result in a shorter and easier hike than the formally over 8-mile, steep hike some of our members have experienced here. Whatever we do, we can expect an entertaining hike in an exceptionally beautiful area.

Mon Apr 27 Rocky Fork with Brenda Warner. Brenda is a grad student at ETSU, specializing in botanical studies in Rocky Fork for a Master's Degree. She spends almost full time in the RF area and knows the area intimately. Brenda will be of much help to us in understanding the 'lay of the land' there. We don't know the extent of the hike Brenda has in mind but we believe we will have an educational day, rather than just a strenuous hike. CB, 282-3325 with questions. Brenda, <[xblw14@goldmail.etsu.edu](mailto:xblw14@goldmail.etsu.edu)>.

Wed Apr 29 Rocky Branch to F/S 230 on Unaka Mountain and back via the Stamping Ground Ridge Trail and the Limestone Cove Trail, all climb going, downhill back- 4-miles each way. You choose all or part. No shuttle. Driving distance round trip about 38-miles, breakfast at Clarence's. Leader, Lamar Adcox, 234-0296. **Lamar, Mike Hupko sez lots of logging going on at the former campground, you may wish to check out.**

Mon May 4 Garanflo Gap on the AT to Hot Springs, NC AT Parking Area, 6.6-miles moderate, 120 miles driving round trip, shuttle or key swap. Breakfast at Ma and Pa's. Leader, Carl Kincheloe, 913-3048.

Wed May 6 Big Bald to Spivey for the flowers-Brenda Whitt.245-2550. Brenda still has a job but we hope she will be able to join us; if not, she will get us into Wolf Laurel so we can start from the top, an advantage. This will be the landmark hike for spring flowers-you won't believe the beauty that is available. Acres and acres of Fringed Phacelia, Trout Lilies, Spring Beauties, Trillium, Showy Orchis and many others, all in profusion. An awesome sight. Not to be missed. Breakfast at Clarence's for Lou. 80 mile round trip, long shuttle unless some will hike from the bottom and key swap. 6 \_ mile- some ups and downs and last two miles a welcome down hill.

Mon May 11 Bluff Mountain Nature Conservancy, near Jefferson City in Ashe County, NC. Gabby Call, our friend from the Shady Valley conservancy site, will accompany us when we get there, maybe an 85 mile drive from JC, and that much back. CB has hiked there years ago and it is a beautiful place with various hiking opportunities to suit each limitation, if any. We can hike a short distance and just enjoy the surroundings, or take a hike that takes most of the day. This will be a very appealing day for us, so come on. CB (282-3325) will try to get us to the place of meeting with Gabby and her friend, who is the manager of Bluff Mountain Conservancy and will lead the hikes.

Wed May 13 This hike, sez Alice Faye, will be better classified an *exploration*, rather than a hike although the distance will be from 6.0 to 8-miles. We'll check out the North Carolina Arboretum to see what is blooming. We will start on the Hard Times Trailhead (appropriate) and pass Lake Powhatan, then into the back of the Arboretum. We will hike some of the short trails, including the Owl Ridge and Bent Creek Trails. Lunch will

be at the Azalea Repository Loop. A lot of today's hike is on roads. The only climb is on the Wesley Branch Trail (short climb), which takes us into the gardens and buildings at the Arboretum. This is a loop-no shuttle. **We arrange our car pools at the Church and meet the leaders at Clarence's.** Howard Guinn, Leader, 753-4072.

Mon May 18 BREAKFAST at OTTENFELTS. We look forward to having breakfast, oatmeal pancakes, with Betty and Neil, two beautiful people. Betty is willing, even anxious to host us again, in their home, even though this would be a daunting effort for many of us. After breakfast and leisurely conversation, our Leader, Anne Whittemore, 477-2235 will lead us for an easy hike in Warrior's Path SP. **BETTY O MUST HAVE AN RSVP FROM ALL ATTENDEES. CALL 239-8070.** They will be glad to hear you are coming. You will love the Ottenfelts.

Wed May 20 A hike with Glenn Marshall, 1-865-856-0174, who, along with Joanne, had the temerity to leave us a few years ago when they moved to Greenback. This is an opportunity for fellowship with the Marshals as well as hiking in the Smokies. Schoolhouse Gap, and along White Oak Sinks Trail to see an abundance wildflowers, including the rare Guyandotte Beauty, Glenn, being educated calls it the Synandra Hispidula, but he is educated. Driving distance round trip about 170-miles.

Mon May 25 A nice walk on the Virginia Creeper trail led by Rick Culbertson, 246-7298. We'll start at Whitetop Station and hike downhill 3-gentle miles to Green Cove Station. There are several alternatives if hikers want, such as key swapping and longer distances. Or, it's a very makeable hike for most of us, probably all, to hike the round trip distance of 6-miles. This is a spectacular part of the VCT, not to be missed.

Wed May 27 An easy to moderate hike on the AT from Shook Creek to Watauga Dam and back. Decide to walk along the lake to the Visitor's Center and back, then back to the trail head, we'll do about 7-miles. 30-mile drive round trip, in and out, no shuttle. Leader, Daryl, 753-2895. See Susan Peters about breakfast-she says Hardees ain't the only place.

Mon Jun 1 Easy hike on Cross and Iron Mountains. From the Church, we will breakfast and meet Powell (423-366-2273-cell) around 9:00-9:15AM in the Cross Mountain parking area on TN 91. We will hike south on the AT along Cross Mountain to Iron Mountain, then north on manway to the Iron

Mountain Trail. We will then take a shortcut over fields owned by Malcolm and Janata Norris of North, SC. (They may accompany us on the hike). We will then hike Cross Mountain Road back to the cars. Plus an optional half-mile north for lunch at one of the most beautiful lookouts on the AT. Further loop from this point for those whose hiking appetite is not satisfied. Others can languish on the grass at the viewpoint or amble down to the Osborne pioneer home soon to be restored by the Forest Service. **Come on - we promise an enjoyable and different kind of hike.**

Wed Jun 3 Eight to ten mile strenuous loop hike on Holston Mountain starting at the Hinkle Branch Trail Head. The first four miles we will ascend the Taylor Ridge Trail until it meets the Rye Patch Trail, which will loop us back to the cars. There are four creek crossings; Faye says she and Howard negotiated them on an exploratory hike by rock-hopping with no difficulty. This is a new hike for our club and most of our stronger hikers will want to have this experience. Susan sez there are other places for breakfast in Elizabethton besides Hardees. Short drive, 3-4 miles up Stoney Creek for the trail head. Leaders, Howard and Faye Guinn, 753-4072.

Mon Jun 8 Off the BRP, we hike to Crabtree Falls, a round trip hike of about 4-miles to the beautiful and large falls, then on to the campground after a strenuous climb out of the creek bottom. Drive 136-miles, total. (This hike was scheduled for Jan 19<sup>th</sup> and the weather was atrocious. Still four hardies showed up and did the hike.) We want to too. Leader, CB 282-3325.

Wed Jun 10 Work day on the AT. Mike 929-2626. Need every able bodied Old Timer to trim, weed, trail re-building, litter pick up, shelter clean-up-painting blazes, cleaning out water bars, etc. We'll be in groups with each group having definite responsibilities. Work days are Fun, Fun. Get your feet wet, come on. This is who we are.

Mon Jun 15 Work day on the AT. We need another day for weed eating or other Spring trail work. This is only the third work day this year as Mike, Howard and Faye have done so much of the necessary work themselves. Please join us-you'll enjoy. Mike, 929-2626.

Wed Jun 17 Carver's Gap (5512 ft) to Roan High Knob (6285 ft), a one-way distance of 1.4 miles however, we will also walk around the Cloudland Rhododendron Gardens. They should be in full bloom and very beautiful. Some may want to also visit Roan High Bluff, about a mile from the PA.

Before the day is over, we'll do much more than 2.8 miles. No shuttle. 100 miles round trip from JC. I'd bet on Bob's for breakfast. Leader-John Willis, 282-1905.

Mon Jun 22 A new and interesting hike for our club-The Salt Trail in the Saltville, VA area. 130-mile driving, round trip. The trail is about 13-miles long but most of us would expect to hike about 5-miles. Leader will reconnoiter before the hike and know more than he knows now. Just come on with high expectations and trust. Leader, CB Willis, 282-3325.

Wed Jun 24 Tweed Springs, a new hike for our club, about 4-miles (moderate) up to the site of the old hotel. This is the other side of the hill from the hike in the summer that started at the campground on 107. If we wanted a longer hike, could go down the Cedar Creek Trail, turn down the intersection with the Gum Springs Trail and wind up where we started. Probably breakfast at Ma and Pa's. About 100 miles driving, round trip. Leader, Virginia Williams, 282-3325

Mon Jun 29 Weaver Bend, we'll do the alternate trail and avoid much of the steep ascent. We will still have the views of the French Broad River. 5-mile hike, 120-mile driving, round trip. Leader, Ralph Bible, 257-5889 or 257-5658.

MEET AT COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. We leave at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch, drink, seasonal dress and gear as well as RESERVES. Thanks to Columnist James Brooks of the Johnson City for suggesting the RESERVES word. There have been times we could have used reserves if we had them. Everyone is welcome, member or not.

**Our hikes have been very well attended, even on snowy, cold days, and the club is growing.**

**I know someone in the club is computer literate enough and would enjoy managing the web site. Please identify yourself! Cb 282-3325.**