

National Trails Day

Celebrate National Trails Day by hiking in the Little Cataloochee Valley. Kevin Fitzgerald, Deputy Superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, will be hiking with us. Choose from an easy half-day hike or a challenging climb. **Both hikes are listed with the all day Sunday and Saturday hikes.**

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-525 **June 3**

Dupont Forest:

Corn Mill Shoals P.L. #2 12:30 PM*

Hike 4 miles, Drive 94, Rated C-C
Nonmembers, call leader, Becky Elston,
828-749-1886, belston@cytechusa.com

A pleasant hike over several trails up and over the granite slabs of Cedar Mountain with a break at the top of Bridal Veil Falls. ***Note early start time. Meet at Westgate at 12:30 PM to form carpools, and meet hike leader at Hooker Falls Parking Lot at 1:15 PM.**

HALF-DAY No. H0702-465 **June 10**
Sam Knob Loop 1:00 PM*

Hike 5, Drive 70, Rated C-B, 1200 ft. ascent
Nonmembers, call leader, Joe Burchfield,
828-398-8413, burchfield@niu.edu

***Note early start time.** From the parking lot at the end of Forest Service Road 816 off the Blue Ridge Parkway, we will take the Sam Knob Trail up Sam Knob to Flat Laurel Creek, then through a spruce forest to return. **Second meeting place: BRP Cold Mtn. overlook at 1:35 PM.**

HALF-DAY No. H0702-453 **June 17**
Max Patch Ramble 1:30 PM

MOUNTAINEERING INFORMATION: Consult the trip leader for additional information regarding a particular hike. Hikes may be cancelled due to adverse weather or dangerous road and trail conditions. Please call hike leader if weather conditions are questionable. Dogs are not allowed on CMC hikes.

Visitors are cordially welcome but should select trips within their endurance. When reservations are required as listed in the hike schedule, the leader must be called to reserve a space. Hikers will carpool from the meeting places to trailheads and back. Passengers are expected to contribute 10 cents per mile towards the driver's operating expenses.

CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT, ETC.: Footwear comes first. Never start a mountain trip in brand new footwear. Hiking boots are recommended. Clothing of any substantial type will do. Carry a sweater, even in summer, and some kind of rain wear.

Equipment for all-day trips should be a lunch, plenty of water, first aid kit, cell phone if available and personal medication including allergy medication.

CLUB TRIP REGULATIONS: Both members and visitors are expected to abide absolutely by club regulations and by instructions of the leader. Visitors should make themselves known to the leader on arrival at assembly place announced for the trip. No one is to start ahead of the leader without definite permission, or lag unreasonably far behind the group.

MEMBERSHIP: Everyone is eligible for Club membership by completing a Membership Application Form and paying dues. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families, and should be sent to the Carolina Mountain Club, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802. Frequent non-member participants in

Carolina Mountain Club

P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802

Return Service Requested

Hike 5.5, Drive 104, Rated B-C
Nonmembers, call leader, Gail Lamb,
828-350-0450, galmb46@aol.com

Awesome panoramic views and late spring wild-flowers make this moderate hike a favorite. We will go up Max Patch to the Appalachian Trail and north through meadows, woods and across a small stream. We'll then loop back on a side trail.

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-292 **June 24**
North Slope Trail 1:00 PM*

Hike 6, Drive 62, Elevation gain 500, Rated B-C
Nonmembers, call leader, Ashok Kudva,
828-698-7119, ashok.kudva@mchsi.com
We will go along the Exercise Trail at the Ranger

Station, cross US 276 to the Davidson River Campground, and walk along the river passing the historic English Chapel and family cemetery, to the North Slope Loop Trail and return to the cars through the campground. ***Note early start time. Meet at 1:00 PM at Westgate to form carpools, and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station parking lot on US 276 at 1:30 PM.**

HALF-DAY No. H0703-511 **July 1**
Florence Nature Preserve 1:30 PM

Hike 5, Drive 40, Rated C-C, 600 ft. ascent
Nonmembers, call leader, Don Walton, 828-654-9904, donwalton@bellsouth.net
Tour the 600+-acre Florence Nature Preserve that may become part of a larger plan to establish a new NC State Park in the Lake Lure area.

Further
information is available
at www.carolinamtclub.org
about regulations

Club hikes are expected to join the Carolina Mountain Club. All members are encouraged to participate in one of the Club's many trail maintenance efforts. Contact a Club officer for details.

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB OFFICERS

Lenny Bernstein-236-0192, President
Becky Smucker-298-5013, Vice President
Chip Miller-654-9331, Secretary
Carroll Koepplinger-667-0723, Treasurer
Gerry McNabb-274-0057, Immediate Past President
Council Members: Barth Brooker-299-0298, Ruth Hartzler-251-0886,
Don Gardner-754-4067, Bruce Bente-692-0116, Joanne Tulip-299-3495,
Gail Lamb-350-0450, Charlie Ferguson-398-0213.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL: The Carolina Mountain Club is a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25245. Telephone (304) 535-6331.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY: Each CMC member, guest or non-member hiker agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her safety and the safety of minors accompanying such persons. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant on hikes. In participating in Club hikes, each such person agrees to hold harmless and free from blame the hike leaders, and the CMC, its officers and members, for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participating in hikes or other Club activities.

Editor: Stuart English-883-2447, stuengo@citcom.net
Deadline next issue: May 15



SECOND QUARTER 2007
Quarterly News Bulletin
and Hike Schedule



P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802 • www.carolinamtclub.org • e-mail: cmcinfo@carolinamtclub.org

CMC speaks out for land conservation

Ten CMC members attended a meeting held by the Joint Legislative Commission on Land and Water Conservation on January 4 at AB Tech. The meeting was one of three held by the Commission across the state to get public input and present its draft recommendations. The main recommendation is to increase state funding for land and water conservation and historic preservation from \$805 million to \$1.8 billion over five years. Of the \$1 billion increase, \$175 mil-

lion would go to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. This fund improves and expands state and local parks, with special emphasis on trails and urban forest protection. The remainder of the \$1 billion increase would go to other existing state land, water and cultural conservation trust funds. Since the meetings, the Commission issued its final report recommending \$1 billion increase in funding.

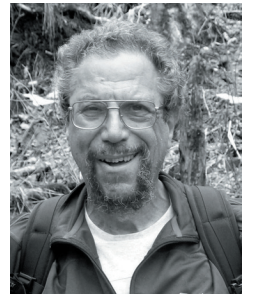
CMC's position, as approved by Council, is:

The Carolina Mountain Club believes that funding for the acquisition, protection, and maintenance of public lands should be a priority for the State of North Carolina. Accordingly, the Carolina Mountain Club requests the State of North Carolina to substantially increase funding for land and water conservation. The Carolina Mountain Club supports the draft recommendation of the Joint Legislative Commission

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CMC's primary objectives are hiking and trail maintenance, but we also have encouraged conservation of our natural scenery and education and training of Club members as additional objectives. Our Conservation Committee is doing a good job of meeting that objective, and our Hiking and Trail Maintenance Committees has taken responsibility for training hike leaders and trail maintainers. We formed an Education Committee several years ago, but it is currently inactive.



Right now CMC does not have an education program. Some of our members question whether we need one. I think we do. In the past we've run successful courses on wilderness first aid, map reading, and GPS use. We've also had hikes devoted to tree and flower identification. The feedback from these educational activities was uniformly positive, and I believe that many of our members would enjoy the opportunity to learn these and similar skills.

We need to know whether you would be interested in CMC courses on outdoors skills and if so, what would interest you. Joanne Tulip has volunteered to chair the Education Committee. Please contact me (236-0192, lsberns@worldnet.att.net) and give me your input. We'd also like to know whether you would be willing to become part of the Education Committee.



CMC members at AB Tech included, from left, Greg Goodman, Bob Taylor, Becky Smucker, Joanne Tulip and Jane Blodgett.

Spring Social April 21 at Arboretum

The second annual Spring Barbeque will be held at the beautiful NC Arboretum on Saturday, April 21 from 2 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for CMC members, their families and friends.

We will have two scheduled hikes, both within the Arboretum property. The first will be at 2 p.m. and the second will be at 3 p.m., meeting in front of the main building. There will also be maps available at the check-in for self guided tours of the gardens and Bonsai exhibit. The social hour will be 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Bubba Q will again serve barbeque pork and chicken, sides, dessert and tea (no alcohol allowed). After dinner there will be a photo show by members. The price is \$13 per person (no gate entry charged).

Please send checks made out to CMC by April 14 to Les Love, 25 Scenic View Dr., Weaverville, 28787. Questions? Contact Les at 658-1489 or lesrlove@charter.net

The Great Southeastern Hiking Festival is May 3-6

The Great Southeastern Hiking Festival will be held at the Montreat Conference Center – our own backyard – on May 3-6. The Festival, which will attract hikers from all over the Southeast, is sponsored by the American Hiking Society. Each day, there will be hikes, workshops and great entertainment.

This conference is held biannually in order to build a conservation constituency among trail volunteers, conservation

organizations and agencies and link up a 5,000 mile hiking trail network in the southeast.

Carolina Mountain Club, represented by Danny Bernstein, is one of the co-hosts. Bruce Bente, CMC councilor for hiking, created the hiking schedule for the Festival, and many CMC members will be leading hikes. Our Conservation Committee is offering a workshop, "Creating a Conservation Committee for

your Club."

On Friday evening, local bluegrass band Buncombe Turnpike will play, and on Saturday evening local singer-songwriter Christine Kane will be the main event.

Come for a day or for the whole festival. Early-bird registration must be received by March 23. For more information, see www.greatsehikingfestival.org.

TRAIL MAINTAINERS IN WINTER

If you enjoy hiking, remember there are people you have probably never met out there keeping the trails fit to walk. Never take them for granted! Recently we touched base with Piet Bodenhorst, who leads the Asheville Friday crew of trail maintainers.

"It is a cold, wet winter outside and the flowers and animals are enjoying a

long rest. But as you know, winter is one of the most enjoyable times in the mountains of Western North Carolina. There are fewer hikers out now and your trail maintainers are taking advantage of this to rebuild old, overused trails in preparation



Howard McDonald, Allan Frank, Boyd Brasington and Jack Thomas build a bridge on a snowy day.

for the hordes of little feet looking for spring.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is closed, so little work can be done on the MST. The AT is too high and usually not accessible. So the crews are re-habilitating lower trails such as the one in the Florence Nature Preserve.

Five new bridges have been built, over 50 steps added, and all the swampy

areas were drained or relocated. The trails are now open and a wonderful stream, full of little waterfalls, is ready for visitation.

For those of you wanting to join in the fun, please mark your calendar for the next Saturday Club-wide trail building day, which is March 24. WE NEED YOU!!!!"

– Piet Bodenhorst

Welcome new members

These are our new members as of Feb. 1, 2007. We hope to see you on the trail.

Bill and Jerry Allsbrook, Sharon Atchley, Kathy Atilano, Doug and Janet Barlow, Beth Bloom, Jim Blöse and Sarah Rubin, Doreen Blue, John Bodine, Per Bollner, Rich Bowerman, Rebecca Chaplin, Kathleen Davis, David DeBell, Tish and Ray Desjardins, Tom and Lynne Doebber, Deborah and Robert Doty, Arnold and Nancy Dzick, William Freeman, Christiana Gallant, Donna Greemore, Sanford and Laurie Groetzinger, David Halford, Ed Hall, Kathleen Handley, Ronald Hart, Ray Hearne, Don and Diane Herring, Joan Kopp, Brett Hopkins and Julie McMillan, John and Michelle Hudler, Constance Hummel, William Jones, Kathy Kyle, Joe Leonard, Alicia Lepke, Ron Lepke, Rodney and Jacqueline Mangum, Ken Marks, Ruben Marshall, Bill McAnninch, Jerald McCoy, Jim Miller, Nick Mimken, Sarah Minis, Brian Nadig, Deni Neihammer, Chris Ogden, Jim Plant, Bobbi Powers, George Reid, Buddy and Donna Sanders, Fredilyn Sison, Carol Story, Brenda Thomas, Rena Tobey, Ronald Truskolaski, John Von Valen, Mike Walcher, Neil Waller, Mike Washburn, Mike and Michelle Williams, Steve and Judy Winchester, Joyce Wood, Jürgen Zerboc.

CMC speaks out about conservation issues

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on Land and Water Conservation to increase state funding \$1 billion from \$805 million to \$1.805 billion over five years. A key objective of the CMC is to encourage the conservation of our natural scenery and the hiking experience in Western North Carolina and surrounding areas. Pressures from increasing population growth demand prompt and fully-funded action by the state to protect our natural treasures.

Ruth Hartzler presented CMC's position. Becky Smucker, Bob Taylor, Rachel

Doughty and Jesse James presented their individual statements about the importance of acquisition of lands for protection as population and development pressures increase dramatically in North Carolina.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, and the City of Asheville are several organizations supporting the Commission's recommendations as part of a broad coalition of over 240 organizations called Land for Tomorrow.

From the archives

Our club has a long and storied history. If you want to learn more, go online to Jerome Dykeman's web page or visit the Carolina Mountain Club archives at the Ramsey Library at UNCA. We would like to do more historical articles (space permitting) in the future. Anyone having any historical information for this newsletter is encouraged to contact the editor. Following is a hike report from the early 1930s. Note the exact times on the hike. Get on that time machine. Be in that moment.



A group of Carolina Mountain Club members take a break during a hike in 1951.

RICHLAND BALSAM: An all day hike best suited to the seasoned hiker.

The Richland Balsam rises to the height of 6540 feet, 150 feet less than Mr. Mitchell, and is closely associated with more than a dozen peaks of 6000 feet or over.

Leaving Asheville, (6:15 AM) follow N.C. #10, West, 34 miles to Hazelwood, which is two miles beyond Waynesville; turn left at Allen Creek, over good dirt road four miles to Quinland. (3000 feet elevation.) Park cars. (7:45 AM)

Hike road East about three-fourths mile; cross Allen Creek and enter gate to the right onto the Waynesville watershed. Follow little used road about 200 yards, turn sharply to the left straight up ridge, over an old trail to top of ridge. Here you encounter wire fence, which is the boundary of the watershed. Follow fence up snaggy ridge to summit. Approximately two hours and four miles

have been consumed. (9:45 AM)

Both trail and fence turn to right and approach Cold Spring Knob, (6010 ft) less than a mile away. From this knob a splendid view of Pisgah, Pigeon River Valley and surrounding mountains may be had. (10:15 AM)

Continue to follow fence SSW into Double Spring Gap, where water can be had by passing over fence into the watershed a distance of 200 yards.

Keep following fence just as long as the trail stays with fence. Then the trail leads south to the crest of ridge. (11:45 AM) More perfect views. Follow ridge SW thru small gap and onto the Richland (12:30 PM) Lunch and feast your eyes. Unobstructed views from here are limited only by the elements. You may see the Mt. Mitchell range, Cowee Mountains, Blue

Ridge beyond Franklin, much of the Smoky Mountains, etc.

To complete the circle, do not follow the ridge leading NW as trail there has been obliterated, but drop down to the western side of this ridge until a splendid trail is encountered. Good water crosses trail. Follow trail NW by Lone Bald and on to Cany Fork Bald, which is about one and a half hours from Richland Balsam. As you approach Cany Fork, views of the beautiful Cowee Range may be had. Follow fence to gate, passing thru continue straight ahead in a northerly direction. This trail leads down for four miles to cars. We arrived at five o'clock.

Some dozen and a half grouse, a snipe, bear signs, ravens, large hawks and small birds were observed along the way. This hike in many respects remind[s] one of the Smoky Mountains. Fifteen hikers including four ladies made the trip on Nov. 22, 1931. O.C. Barker, Leader.

From notes of the Carolina Mountain Club, George Masa Papers (UNCA).

ATC news: Southern Partnership Meeting

One of our esteemed partners in the preservation and enjoyment of outdoor activities in our region is the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. This spring our own Don Walton will chair a committee at the Southern Partnership Meeting. The purpose of the committee will be to define the ideal Appalachian Trail Club and choose a Volunteer of the Year and an Agency Partner of the Year. This event will be held at the Blowing Rock Conference Center, March 30 through Sunday, April 1.

Also, the ATC will increase the amount it contributes to Appalachian Trail related

projects up to \$25,000 this year. This increase from the \$4,000 awarded last year is due to the strong growth in sales and renewals of "Friends of the Appalachian Trail" special license plates.

The meeting is hosted this year by the Southern ATC Office managed by Morgan Sommerville and the Southern Regional Partnership Committee chaired by Don Walton.

Any club member and agency employee is encouraged to attend. See <http://www.carolinamtnclub.com/rpc/info/index.html> for more details.

NEXT CMC COUNCIL MEETING

When: Monday, April 23, 2007

Where: Greenlife Community House, Merrimon Avenue

Time: 6:00 PM

Info: Call Lenny at 828-236-0192 if you would like to attend. All CMC members are welcome.

SATURDAY NO. A0702-555 **June 23**
MST: NC 80 to Woods Mtn. 8:00 AM
 Hike 10, Drive 90, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
 Don Walton, 828-654-9904,
 donwalton@bellsouth.net
 Hike on a little-traveled section of the eastbound
 MST north of NC 80 to Woods Mtn., with sel-
 dom seen views of the Blacks and Mt. Mitchell.
Second meeting place: parking lot adjacent
to McDonald's at exit 64 of I-40 at 8:20 AM
 Topos: Celso, Little Switzerland

ALL DAY NO. A0702-562 **June 24**
AT: Carvers Gap-Elk Park 8:00 AM
 Hike 12, Drive 130 or 150, 1800 (NB) or 4000
 (SB) ft. ascent, Rated A-A or A-AA+
 Tom Sanders, 828-252-6327,
 tomary2@charter.net (SB)
 Susanna Whitaker, 828-808-3071 (NB)
 This hike is timed to see the rhododendrons and
 flame azaleas in full bloom. We'll hike the AT
 over five summits of more than 5400 ft, includ-
 ing Hump Mtn. and Little Hump, with the most
 spectacular scenery in our region. From Hump
 Mtn. we'll use the side trail to Elk Park. Hikers
 will have the choice of direction and amount of
 climbing on this key swap hike. Expect a long
 day due to long driving time. **Second meeting**
place: call leader. Topos: Carvers Gap, White
 Rocks Mtn., Elk Park

NIGHT HIKE NO. A0702-324 **June 29**
Bent Creek Moonlight Hike 7:30 PM*
 Hike 5-6, Drive 15, 700 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
 Kathleen Hannigan, 828-271-3559,
 kathleen.hannigan@pgnmail.com
P400 *Note start time! This new hike is sched-
 uled for a night with a full moon. We'll meet at
 Hard Times Trailhead, and will do a leisurely
 5- to 6-mile loop, pausing frequently to observe
 wildlife as darkness descends. We'll look for
 the beavers at the back of Lake Powhatan and
 stop on the lake pier to enjoy the surroundings.
 Bring a flashlight. ***Only meeting place is Hard**
Times Trailhead on Bent Creek Rd. Topo:
 Dunsmore Mtn; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0702-181 **July 1**
Black Balsam & Tennent Mtn. 8:00 AM*
to Graveyard Fields
 Hike 9, Drive 65, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
 Janet Onan, 828-698-3237,
 janonan@bellsouth.net
SB6K, P400 This scenic hike traverses a long
 stretch of balds with spectacular 360 degree
 views. From FS 816, we'll hike over 6214 ft.
 Black Balsam and 6040 ft. Tennent Mtn. to
 Ivestor Gap. We'll then follow an old road south
 to the Graveyard Ridge Trail and follow it back
 to our cars. Short car shuttle. ***Meeting places:**
Form carpools at Westgate at 8:00 AM, and
meet leader at Cold Mtn. overlook (BRP M.P.
412) at 8:30 AM. Topos: Sam Knob, Shining

Rock; also Nat'l. Geographic PRD map

HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES

Newcomers are welcome, but non-mem-
 bers MUST call the leader before the hike to
 determine the requirements. Half-day hikes
 submitted by Paula Robbins, 828-281-3253,
 paularww@bellsouth.net. Driving distance is
 round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at
 the south end of the Westgate Shopping Center
 near Exit 3B off I-240 UNLESS OTHERWISE
 NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting
 places as described in hike listings.

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-046 **Apr. 1**
Bent Creek Ramble 1:30 PM
 Hike 5, Drive 20, Rated C-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Tom Sanders,
 828-252-6327, tomary2@charter.net
 This loop hike will pass by Lake Powhatan and
 ascend to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail via the
 Sherman Stambaugh Trail. We will then descend
 on the Sleepy Gap Trail and wander along the
 Explorer and Pine Tree Trails.

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-556 **Apr. 8**
Beaver Dam Overlook 1:15 PM*
to Mills River Overlook
 Hike 5.6, Drive 40, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Pat Elias,
 828-687-1651 or patelias@bellsouth.net
 An easy, pleasant in/out hike along the
 Mountains-to-Sea Trail, where we will see some
 rock work from the original Shut-In Trail and
 perhaps some early spring blooms. ***Meet at**
Westgate at 1:15 PM to form carpools and
meet hike leader at Beaver Dam Overlook on
the Blue Ridge Parkway at 1:40 PM.

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-380 **Apr. 15**
Big Creek Trail 1:00 PM*
 Hike 5, Drive 50, Rated C-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Greg Goodman,
 828-684-9703
 From the Trace Ridge Trailhead, we will walk
 along a gravel road next to the North Fork of
 the Mills River to the Hendersonville Reservoir.
 After crossing a log bridge we will hike along
 the Big Creek Trail to a meadow where, with
 luck, we will see showy orchis and other spring
 wildflowers in bloom. Then we will retrace our
 steps. ***Meet at Westgate at 1:00 PM to form**
carpools and meet hike leader at parking area
just before the North Mills River Recreation
Area at 1:20 PM.

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-490 **Apr. 22**
Craven Gap to the Folk Art Center 1:30 PM
 Hike 5.4, Drive 11, Rated C-C
 Nonmembers, call leaders, Ken and Carol Deal,
 828-281-4530, cnkdeal@charter.net
 We will leave a few cars at the Folk Art Center

and drive to the trailhead at Craven Gap to begin
 the hike. Spring wildflowers should be in bloom
 on this portion of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.
Second meeting place Folk Art Center Lower
Parking Lot at 1:50 PM.

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-300 **Apr. 29**
MST: Craven Gap to Bull Gap 1:00 PM
 Hike 5, Drive 11, Rated C-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Jean Gard,
 828-777-1814, jeangard@charter.net
 An easy in-and-out hike on the Mountains-to-Sea
 Trail. Spring wildflowers should be in bloom, so
 bring your cameras. **Second meeting place Folk**
Art Center Lower Parking Lot at 1:20 PM.

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-101 **May 6**
Lower Big Laurel Creek 1:00 PM*
 Hike 6, Drive 50, Rated B-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Renate Ridders,
 828-298-9988, reridders@aol.com
***Note earlier start time.** This in-and-out hike
 near Hot Springs follows a beautiful rushing
 stream past a profusion of spring wildflowers to
 the historic logging camp at Runion. Over 250
 vascular plants have been identified along this
 former railroad track.

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-170 **May 13**
Butter Gap Trail to 1:00 PM
Picklesheimer Fields
 Hike 5, Drive 40, Rated C-B, 1000-ft elevation
 gain
 Nonmembers, call leader, Gerry McNabb,
 828-274-0057, gerrymcnabb@charter.net
P400 From the Fish Hatchery parking lot, we
 will follow the Cat Gap Trail .9 miles to its jun-
 ction with the Butter Gap Trail for this in-and-out
 hike along Grogan Creek. **Second meeting**
place: Fish Hatchery Parking Lot off US 276.

HALF-DAY NO. H0702-464 **May 20**
Greybeard Overlook to Balsam Gap 1:00 PM*
 Hike 7, Drive 44, Rated B-C
 Marlene Santa Maria, 828-299-9095,
 marlena98@hotmail.com
 An in-and-out hike on this portion of the
 Mountains-to-Sea Trail, with 400 feet ascending
 and 700 descending, will provide great views
 midway. Many spring wildflowers likely. ***Note**
early start time. Only meeting place: Folk Art
Center lower parking lot.

HALF-DAY No. H0702-349 **May 27**
Buck Spring Trail 1:00 PM
 Hike 6.2, Drive 50, Rated B-C
 Nonmembers, call leader, Paula Robbins,
 828-281-3253, paularww@bellsouth.net
 This pleasant downhill hike starts at the Pisgah
 Inn and ends at Rt. 276, with a car spot. Call the
 leader if you wish to join her for dinner at the
 Pisgah Inn after the hike. **Second meeting place:**
Pisgah Inn parking lot near convenience store
at 1:30 PM.

HIKE SCHEDULE Second Quarter 2007

Hike Ratings

First Letter	Second Letter
Distance	Elevation Gain
AA: Over 12 miles	AA: Over 2,000 ft.
A: 9-12 miles	A: 1,500-2,000 ft.
B: 6-9 miles	B: 1,000-1,500 ft.
C: Under 6 miles	C: Under 1,000 ft.

Also in the hike descriptions, the terms easy,
 moderate or strenuous reflect the overall trail
 conditions, physical challenge and other factors
 influencing hike difficulty. If you have questions
 or if the weather on the day of the hike is ques-
 tionable, contact the leader.

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS:

SB6K For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000'.

For information, contact Don Gardner,
 gardog3@charter.net

P400 For hiking every trail in Pisgah Ranger
 District. For information, contact Don Gardner,
 gardog3@charter.net

900M For hiking every trail in GSMNP.

For information, contact John Gallemore,
 kelarco@aol.com

WEDNESDAY HIKES

All-day hikes submitted by Ann Gleason 828-
 859-9387, gleason.ann@gmail.com. Driving
 distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes
 assemble at the south end of the Westgate
 Shopping Center near Exit 3B off I-240
 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes
 will have second meeting places as described in
 hike listings. Please phone the hike leader if you
 are not sure of the meeting location.

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-558 **Apr. 4**
Palmetto Trail: Pointsett Passage 8:30 AM*
and Blue Wall Preserve
 Hike 10, Drive 100, 1200 ft. ascent,
 Rated A-B

Ann Gleason, 828-859-9387,
 gleason.ann@gmail.com
 Come hike the newly opened section of the
 Palmetto Trail: Pointsett Passage is a 6.6 mile
 stretch that climbs along the NC/SC border and
 NW ridge of the Greenville watershed. The trail
 travels up and down the ridge through wilderness
 that has been closed to the public for decades,
 then descends to the Vaughns Gap parking area
 behind Lake Lanier. The hike requires a car drop
 at the Lake Lanier end. ***Meet at Westgate at**
8:30 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at
Saluda Truck Stop, Texaco station at exit 59
off I- 26 at 9:05 AM. Topo: Saluda

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-559 **Apr. 11**
Greybeard from Montreat 8:10 AM*

Hike 10, Drive 40, 2500 ft. ascent,
 Rated A-AA
 Ames Tryon, 828-669-3805, tryonaf@charter.net
 This new CMC hike will give a good workout
 with lots of views. We'll ascend the Rocky Head
 Knob to the Old Trestle Road, and hike a newly-
 cleared trail past Graybeard Falls to connect to
 the Graybeard Trail to the summit of Graybeard.
 We'll continue on West Ridge Trail descending
 on Big Piney Ridge Trail. ***Meet at Westgate at**
8:10 AM to form carpools, and meet leader at
parking lot adjacent to McDonald's at exit 64
of I-40 at 8:30 AM. Topo: Montreat

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-550 **Apr. 18**
Paris Mountain State Park 8:00 AM
 Hike 9.9, Drive 130, 2000 ft. ascent,
 Rated A-A
 Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192,
 danny@hikertohiker.org

Located between Traveler's Rest and Greenville,
 Paris Mountain State Park is one of the oldest
 protected areas in South Carolina. Originally,
 the lakes were the source of Greenville's water
 supply. We will walk on well-maintained trails,
 enjoying good views of Greenville, early spring
 flowers and historical artifacts. \$2 a person
 entrance fee. **Second meeting place: NE corner**
of Cracker Barrel parking lot at exit 53 of I-
26 at 8:30 AM. Topo: Paris Mtn.

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-560 **Apr. 25**
Chattooga River 8:00 AM*
 Hike 9, Drive 180, 600 ft. ascent, Rated A-C
 Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897,
 suejackfitz@bellsouth.net
 Hike down to the Chattooga River from Walhalla
 Fish Hatchery Road on the Foothills trail. Visit
 Spoon Auger Falls, then hike two miles along
 the beautiful Chattooga River, with a lunch spot
 at a pretty white beach. Hike back up East Fork
 Creek to Fish Hatchery. Short car shuttle. ***Meet**
at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and
meet leader at NE corner of Cracker Barrel
parking lot at exit 53 of I-26 at 8:30 AM.

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-367 **May 2**
Art Loeb, Grassy Ridge to 8:00 AM*
Bridges Camp Gap
 Hike 9, Drive 65, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
 Stuart English, 828-883-2447,
 stuengo@citcom.net
SB6K, P400 Beginning with a climb up a short,
 steep manway to Black Balsam (6214 ft.) and
 Tennent Mtn (6040 ft.), we'll descend to Ivestor
 Gap and then down Grassy Cove Ridge to the
 Big East Fork of the Pigeon River. Short car
 shuttle. This is a wilderness area hike limited to
 ten people. Please contact hike leader to reserve
 your place. ***Meet at Westgate at 8 AM to form**
carpools, and meet hike leader at Cold Mtn.
overlook on BRP at 8:35 AM. Topo: Shining
 Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-182 **May 9**
Green River Cove in the 8:45 AM*
Green River Game Lands
 Hike 7, Drive 80, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
 Becky Elston, 828-749-1886,
 belston@cytechusa.com
 This nice in-and-out hike goes along the Green
 River. Our lunch spot is on the river and maybe
 kayakers will provide some entertainment. ***Note**
later start time. Meet at Westgate at 8:45 AM
to form carpools, and meet hike leader at
Texaco station off Exit 59 of I-26 at 9:30 AM.

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-216 **May 16**
AT: Sams Gap to Devil Fork Gap 8:30 AM
 Hike 8.5, Drive 90, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
 Ruth Hartzler 828-251-0886,
 ruthmtn@charter.net
 This section of the AT features magnificent wild-
 flower displays and nice views into Tennessee
 from the ridge line, traversing a series of knobs
 along an unusual section of the TN-NC state
 line where Tennessee is east of NC and the
 southbound hiker is actually traveling north. Car
 shuttle. Topo: Sams Gap

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-491 **May 23**
Miami Mtns Watershed Hike 8:40 AM*
 Hike 6, Drive 40, 1750 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
 Tommy Boston, 828-686-5029 (cell after 8 AM,
 279-8410), Tambee2@aol.com.
Strenuous hike! This is the second time the
 club will hike the Miami Mtns watershed from
 Ridgecrest Boys Camp to Christmount Christian
 Assembly. Some steep uphill and good views
 of the Craggys. ***Meeting places: Meet at**
Westgate at 8:40 AM to form carpools,
and meet leader at parking lot adjacent to
McDonald's at exit 64 of I-40 at 9:00 AM.
 Topo: Black Mtn.

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-447 **May 30**
MST: Mt. Pisgah to 9:00 AM*
Beaver Dam Overlook
 Hike 8, Drive 45, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
 Joe Burchfield, 828-298-8413,
 Burchfield@niu.edu
P400 *Note later start time. This moderate
 hike will start with a round trip up and down
 Mt. Pisgah, and will then follow the MST north-
 bound to Beaver Dam Overlook. Expect good
 views along the route. Short car shuttle. **Second**
meeting place: BRP French Broad overlook

SATURDAY WORK DAY

Here is a great chance to learn what is
 involved in trail maintenance. We will meet
 on May 12 at the Moose Cafe at the Farmer's
 Market on Rt. 191 at 8 AM for breakfast. We
 will return to Asheville around 4:00 PM. Call
 Les Love at 828-658-1489 (lesrlove@charter.
 net) to verify date.

at **9:10 AM**. Topos: Cruso, Dunsmore Mtn.; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map & MST Profiles, pg. 53-55

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-273 **June 6**
Boogerman Loop **9:00 AM***
Hike 8, Drive 90, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119,
ashok.kudva@mchsi.com
900M *Note later start time. A lush forest with giant old-growth Tulip trees and remnants of pioneer life make this a favorite loop hike in the Cataloochee area of the Smokies. If we're lucky we may spot elk. **Second meeting place: Pilot truck stop at exit 24 off I-40 at 9:30 AM, but call leader first.** Topos: Cove Creek Gap, Dellwood; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-270 **June 13**
**Cedar Rock Mtn-
John Rock Loop** **8:30 AM***
Hike 8, Drive 80, Rated B-A
Charlie Ferguson, 828-398-0215,
ccf108@gmail.com
400 *Note later start time. This trip features two of the spectacular rock summits in the Pisgah Forest, with great views from both. Starting at the Fish Hatchery, we'll have our major climb up to Cat Gap and then on to Cedar Rock for lunch. We'll return via John Rock. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 9:10 AM.** Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-561 **June 20**
Roans in Bloom **8:30 AM***
Hike 8, Drive 150, 1000 ft. ascent,
Rated B-B
Adrian Lotherington, 828-484-9132,
jaloth@charter.net
SB6K A beautiful AT hike with some of WNC's finest views. Expect rhododendrons and flame azaleas to be in bloom, with perhaps an early Gray's lily. From Carver's Gap we'll go north past Grassy Ridge (6160 ft.) to a scenic overlook for lunch, then double back south to Carvers Gap. From here we'll drive up to see the Rhododendron Gardens and the vista from Roan High Bluff (6287 ft). Small fee to enter garden area. ***Only meeting place: Rose's Car Park, across from McDonald's at the US 25/70 Weaverville Exit #19 at 8:30 AM.** For any questions, please phone leader. Topo: Carvers Gap; also Nat'l. Geo. South Holston & Watauga Lakes map

WEDNESDAY NO. W0702-555 **June 27**
MST: NC 80 to Woods Mtn. **8:00 AM**
Hike 10, Drive 90, 1400 ft. ascent,
Rated A-B
Don Walton, 828-654-9904,
donwalton@bellsouth.net
Hike on a little-traveled section of the eastbound MST north of NC 80 to Woods Mtn., with seldom seen views of the Blacks and Mt. Mitchell.

Second meeting place: parking lot adjacent to McDonald's at exit 64 of I-40 at 8:20 AM. Topos: Celo, Little Switzerland

ALL DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY HIKES

All-day hikes submitted by Bruce Bente 828-692-0116, bbente@cytechusa.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All Saturday and Sunday hikes assemble at south end of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

ALL DAY NO. A0702-151 **Apr. 1**
Big East to Shining Rock via Old Butt **8:00 AM**
Hike 8.5, Drive 60, 3100 ft. ascent,
Rated B-AA+
Les Love, 828-658-1489, leslove@charter.net
SB6K, P400 (strenuous) We will hike from the Big East parking lot up the steep Chestnut Ridge trail over Dog Loser and Old Butt knobs to lunch at Shining Rock (6040 ft.) with its exceptional views. We'll return via a steep descent to the North Fork of Shining Creek. Wilderness area hike limited to ten people; please contact leader for reservations. Topo: Shining Rock; also Nat'l. Geo. PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0702-305 **April 1**
**Dupont Forest
Lake Imaging P.L. #1** **8:00 AM***
Hike 10, Drive 70, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, ashok.kudva@mchsi.com
This moderate low-altitude hike will traverse a loop on the northern side of Dupont Forest, from Lake Imaging to Stone Mtn., including Grassy Falls, the Thomas Cemetery, Wintergreen Falls, and Stone Mtn. ***Meeting place: self-organize carpools at Westgate at 8:00 AM, and meet leader at Bi-Lo parking lot in Pisgah Forest at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont State Forest trail map, 6-7-05 revision

ALL DAY NO. A0702-443 **Apr. 8**
Pine Mtn. Loop **8:00 AM***
Hike 9-10, Drive 50, 2380 ft. ascent,
Rated A-AA
Tom Bindrim & Joan Lemire 828-273-3880,
tjbindire@yahoo.com
P400 *Meet at Westgate at 8:00 AM to form carpools, and meet leaders at North Mills River parking lot at 8:30 AM. From North Mills River area, we'll ascend Seniard Mtn. to Double Head and Pine Mtn. (the one with the BRP tunnel) and return through Bent Creek Gap, Bad Fork Hollow and Wash Creek. Some off-trail hiking. Expect late return. Topo: Dunsmore Mtn.; also Nat'l. Geographic PRD map

ALL DAY NO. A0702-333 **Apr. 15**
Bearwallow Mtn. **8:30 AM***
Hike 9.2, Drive 30, 2700 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA

Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116,
bbente@bellsouth.net
***Note later start time.** This hike is an old CMC favorite. From Hickory Nut Gap on US 74-A, we will hike over Ferguson Peak, then through undulating, open meadows before reaching our lunch spot on the summit of Bearwallow Mtn. Extraordinary views down towards the Lake Lure area. Topo: Bat Cave

ALL DAY NO. A0702-558 **Apr. 22**
Round Top Ridge Trail to Rich Mtn., AT to Hot Springs **8:00 AM**
Hike 11.7, Drive 70, 3000 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Paul Benson, 828-251-1909,
pdbenson@charter.net
From Hot Springs we climb to the lookout tower on the summit of Rich Mountain via the Round Top Ridge Trail, then descend on the AT through Tanyard Gap, Pump Gap and Lovers' Leap Ridge back to Hot Springs. An option to enjoy a relaxing post-hike soak in the natural hot spring waters is offered. If interested contact the leader by April 18 for reservations. Topo: Hot Springs

BACKPACK No. A0702-559 **Apr. 28 - 29**
Spring backpack in the Smokies: Maddron Bald & Hen Wallow Falls
Hike 17.9, Drive 126, 3300 ft. ascent,
Rated AA-AA+
Chip Miller, 828-654-9331,
backpacker54nc@bellsouth.net
900M This two day, one night backpack will start at the Snake Den Ridge Trail for a hike to backcountry campsite #29. (We will camp at this "rationed" site.) Many books regarding the GSMNP list this hike as "THE BEST" backpacking loop in the park! Old growth forest, balds, waterfalls, virgin woods and spring wildflowers. Trees along the way are: Yellow Poplar, Buckeye, Beech, Fraser Magnolia and Silverbell. Also pass huge American chestnut stumps. Trails are: Snake Den Ridge, Maddron Bald and Gabes Mtn trail which leads back to Cosby Campground. Space is limited to 8 participants. For more info, meeting place and time, call leader. Topos: Hartford, Luftee Knob, Mt. Guyot, Jones Cove; also Nat'l Geo. GSMNP map

SATURDAY NO. A0702-459 **Apr. 28**
MST: NC 128 to Glassmine Overlook **9 AM***
Hike 6.4, Drive 80, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Dave Wetmore, 828-884-7296,
dwetmore@citcom.net
***Note later start time.** We will head up into the old growth Spruce-Balsam forests south of Mt. Mitchell and enjoy the amazing rock work on a trail built by CMC ten years ago. This scenic hike has dramatic views and some rocky climbs. Car shuttle. **Second meeting place: Craven Gap on BRP at 9:15 AM.** Topos: Mt. Mitchell,

Montreat; also MST Profiles, pg. 66-69 and PNF S. Toe River, Mt. Mitchell & Big Ivy Trail maps

ALL DAY NO. A0702-164 **Apr. 29**
Hawkbill Creek-Snowball Circuit **8:00 AM**
Carroll Koeppinger, 828-667-0723,
carrollkoepp@bellsouth.net
Hike 8-9, drive 50, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
This exciting spring trip will bushwhack up Hawkbill Creek, then up to Hawkbill Rock and Little Snowball Mtn., the site of an old fire tower, and then back down. The wildflowers and ramps have been spectacular every time CMC has taken this hike. The hike will also feature panoramic views from Hawkbill Rock and Little Snowball and enjoyable open-woods, off-trail hiking. A strenuous climb, but the pace will be moderate. Topo: Craggy Pinnacle

No Hike Scheduled **May 6**
No hike is scheduled because the Great Southeastern Hiking Festival is being held May 3-6 in Montreat, NC, with CMC as a co-host.

ALL DAY NO. A0702-560 **May 13**
Groundhog Creek, AT, Rube Rock Loop **8:00 AM**
Hike 10, Drive 100, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Stuart English, 828-883-2447,
stuengo@citcom.net
A beautiful loop hike, rich in wildflowers. Located in the Harmon Den area of Pisgah Nat'l Forest, we'll hike up to and along the AT to Brown Gap, then descend and hike along the old railroad grade back to our cars. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop off I-40 at exit 24 at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Waterville

SATURDAY NO. A0702-257 **May 19**
Hemphill Bald-Rough Fork Loop **8:00 AM**
Hike 13.7, Drive 96, 3200 ft. ascent,
Rated AA-AA+
Charlie Ferguson, 828-398-0213,
ccf108@gmail.com
900M If this is a clear day, we will experience some of the most spectacular views in WNC. We will hike to Hemphill Bald for lunch, then down Caldwell Fork Trail and back up Rough Fork Trail, passing enormous old-growth tulip trees along the way. A strenuous hike, but the trails are well-graded. **Second meeting place: rear of Post Office parking lot on US 19 in Maggie Valley at 8:30 AM, but phone leader first.** Topos: Bunches Bald, Dellwood; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

ALL DAY NO. A0702-265 **May 20**
Panthertown Prowl #5 **8:00 AM**
Hike 8-10, Drive 120, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Joe Cirvello, 828-252-2721,
cirvello25@bellsouth.net
Rescheduled from last fall due to inclement weather, you now have an opportunity to see this beautiful area, located near Cashiers, in spring.

This moderate loop hike has everything: waterfalls, granite domes with impressive cliffs, high-altitude bogs, a lovely valley floor, great views, and the probability of wildflowers. **Second meeting place: Bi-Lo in Pisgah Forest at 8:40 AM.** Topo: Big Ridge

ALL DAY NO. A0702-033 **May 27**
Ramsey Cascades **8:00 AM**
Hike 8, Drive 160, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
Janet Martin, 812-738-8154,
jaykaymartin@msn.com
900M This is one of the classic hikes in the Smokies. We will pass through a grove of old-growth tulip poplars on our way to sixty-foot high Ramsey Cascades, located in a rich forested glen. The drive and effort to reach this trail are a small price to pay for the reward. **Second meet-**

National Trails Day

Celebrate National Trails Day by hiking in the Little Cataloochee Valley. Kevin Fitzgerald, Deputy Superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, will be hiking with us. Choose from an easy half-day hike or a challenging climb.

SATURDAY ALL-DAY
NO. A0702-561 **June 2**
Mt. Sterling from Cataloochee **8:00 AM**
Hike 13.3, Drive 100, 3300 ft. ascent,
Rated AA-AA
Danny Bernstein, 828-236-0192,
danny@hiketohiker.org
900M The views on Mt. Sterling are awesome. Starting at the Little Cataloochee Trailhead, we'll hike up the Long Bunk Trail past Hannah Cemetery. Then we turn on the Mt. Sterling Trail, an old jeep road, which makes the climbing easier than it sounds. There will be wildflowers and views as we go up. **Second meeting place: Pilot truck stop at exit 24 off I-40 at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Cove Creek Gap; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

SATURDAY HALF-DAY
NO. H0702-557 **June 2**
Little Cataloochee Church **8:00 AM**
Hike 5 miles, Drive 100, Rated C-C
Nonmembers, call leader, Jean Gard,
828-777-1814, jeangard@charter.net
900M Hike to the Little Cataloochee Church and cemetery on a good jeep road, with a short diversion to the Hannah Cemetery. Residents in this vibrant Little Cataloochee community had to leave when the area became the Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l. Park. After the hike, those who wish can drive to the Big Cataloochee valley and see the church, school and other structures. **Second meeting place: Pilot truck stop at exit 24 off I-40 at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Cove Creek Gap also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

ing place: Pilot Truck Stop at exit 24 of I-40 at 8:30 AM. Topo: Mt. Guyot; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map

MEMORIAL DAY JOINT HIKE WITH SMOKY MTNS. HIKING CLUB
ALL DAY NO. A0702-089 **May 28**
AT: Max Patch to Lemon Gap and Return **8:00 AM**
Hike 11, Drive 100, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Becky Smucker, 828-298-5013,
bsmucker@charter.net
Our annual joint hike with Smoky Mountains Hiking Club will begin and end at Max Patch to enjoy one of WNC's most stunning views, hike along a beautiful section of the AT, and see the new AT shelter recently built by CMC. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop at exit 24 of I-40 at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Lemon Gap

ALL DAY NO. A0702-449 **June 3**
Bald Mtns. Loop **8:00 AM**
Hike 9.7, Drive 135, 2900 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Les Love 828-658-1489, leslove@charter.net
This is a beautiful Tennessee hike only 1 1/4 hours away. We'll hike from the Horse Creek Rec. Area to Pete's Branch Falls, then up Sarvis Cove along the creek to the AT at Cold Spring Mountain for lunch. We'll go back down an old jeep road that has great views. This hike is strenuous and has seven rock-hop creek crossings that may involve wading, so come prepared. Topo: Greystone; also Nat'l. Geo. French Broad & Nolichucky Rivers map

ALL DAY NO. A0702-248 **June 10**
AT: Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River **8:00 AM**
Hike 11, Drive 110, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Chip Miller, 828-654-9331,
backpacker54nc@bellsouth.net
This AT sequence hike is the first section north of CMC's maintenance sections. The hike features beautiful woods and striking views of the Nolichucky Gorge as we drop down to the end point at the hostel at the Nolichucky River. Car shuttle. Topo: Chestoa

ALL DAY NO. A0702-376 **June 17**
Mt. Le Conte via Rainbow Falls and Bullhead Trails **8:00 AM**
Hike 13, Drive 180, 3900 ft. ascent,
Rated AA-AA+
Don Gardner, 828-754-4067,
gardog3@charter.net
900M From Cherokee Orchard near Gatlinburg, we'll ascend Rainbow Falls Trail, stopping to look at the falls, and then to a late but spectacular lunch spot at Cliff Top on Mt. Le Conte; we'll descend on scenic Bullhead Trail. A long day and strenuous hike, but the evenly-graded trails make it easier. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop at exit 24 off I-40 at 8:30 AM.** Topo: Mt. Le Conte; also Nat'l. Geo. GSMNP map