



Annual Meeting Hike Fest Schedule

Unicoi Lodge, Helen, GA

Updated July 20, 2021

Hikes for November 11 Thursday through Sunday 14: Hikers are to meet and depart from the Unicoi Lodge. Sign-up sheets will be available for participants starting in the late afternoon prior to the following day's hike. No advance sign up. Please remember on Friday -- some hikes should end by 3:00 so that BMTA Board Members may have the opportunity to participate. All hikes on Saturday must end by 3:30 in order for hikers to have time to get to the lodge/campground to prepare for BMTA events starting at 4:30.

Group size is limited to 12 participants. If you want to accommodate more hikers, please be prepared to have a second Hike Leader and a plan to separate the group so that we follow best practices for limiting impact on the trail environment.

Planned Hikes to Date

Thursday November 11

- ◆ Duke's Creek Falls. Short 2-mile round trip hike but it has a lot of stairs to maneuver. 7-mile drive from the lodge. **Hike Leader Michael Pilvinsky. Departs lodge at 3 PM.**
- ◆ Unicoi Lake trail. 2.5 miles easy. 100' elevation change. Meet at the Lodge. **Hike Leaders Tom and Carolyn Sewell. Departs lodge at 3:30 PM.**

Friday November 12

*Some participants will need to be here for an early start.
BMTA Board Meeting at 4:00 & Friday Nite Social at TBA)*

- ◆ Smith Creek Trail from Unicoi State Park to Ana Ruby Falls and return. A moderate/strenuous 10-mile hike. **Hike Leaders are Tom and Carolyn Sewell Departs lodge at 9 AM.**
- ◆ Raven Cliffs Trail. 7-mile drive from the lodge. A scenic 5-mile round trip hike along a cascading mountain stream to towering cliffs with two waterfalls. Some difficult footing due to erosion. **Hike Leader Bill Witherspoon.** Bill will focus on the Geology in this specific area. **Departs lodge at 11AM**
- ◆ Helen & Hardeman Farm: Meet at Unicoi Lodge and drive to the new riverside trail just on the south edge of Helen. We will then walk 1.25 miles through woods to the Hardeman Farm, where we will take the official tour Cost \$7-12 each for 90-minute tour. Total walking distance is about 3 miles. Last tour is 3 PM. Hike **Leader Suzy Downing. Departs lodge at 1 PM.**

- ◆ Hemlock Falls: a great 4 easy mile hike to a beautiful hike at nearby Moccasin State Park. 17-mile drive from Unicoi Lodge. **Hike Leader Mike Pilvinsky. Departs lodge at 1 PM.**
- ◆ Unicoi Lake trail. 2.5 miles easy. 100' elevation change. Meet at the Lodge. **Hike Leader George Owen. Departs lodge at 3:30 PM.**

Saturday November 13

Participants return by 3:30 BMTA events start at TBA

- ◆ Smith Creek Trail from Unicoi State Park to Ana Ruby Falls. A moderate/strenuous 5-mile hike. This hike has a shuttle required. **Hike Leaders are Brenda and Rick Harris. Departs lodge at 9 AM.**
- ◆ Smithgall Woods State Park Chunanee Falls trail. - We will first gather on arrival at the nature center to view interactive exhibits, gift shop, restrooms then to the trails: Tsalaki trail to Chunanee Falls trail. 6.8 moderate miles. Come enjoy this state preserve of over 5,500 acres. Our trekking distance will be about five miles. 7-mile drive from the lodge. **Hike Leader Barry Allen. Departs lodge at 9:00 AM.**
- ◆ Yonah Mountain Trail -This climb of some 1,700 ft. features awesome views from atop the rugged rock-hewn summit trail portions. Overall hike is some over five miles. In & out. 10 miles south of the lodge. **Hike Leader Michael Pilvinsky. Departs lodge at 9 AM.**
- ◆ Indian Grave Gap to Tray Mountain and back. 5.0-mile moderate hike on the AT to Tray Mt. The trail passes Indian Grave Gap (3,113'), a fabulous hillside of Galax, the "cheese factory" turnoff, and a viewpoint just before Tray Mt. (4,430'). Drivers need a 4-wheel drive or high clearance vehicles since a 6-10-inch-deep creek crossing is required). **Hike Leader is Jess Riddle from Georgia Forest Watch. Jess will focus on Georgia Forest environmental issues and introduce you to some tree identifications. Departs lodge at 9:30 AM.**
- ◆ Brasstown Bald: First will be a visit to the Observation deck atop the bald. Then we the Upper portion of the Wagon Train trail and travel northward to the second overlook that finally looks back at the Brasstown tower. Total mileage 4.2. 20-mile drive from the lodge. **Hike Leader George Owen. Departs lodge at 9:30 AM.**
- ◆ Unicoi Helen with Lunch at Hofer's German Restaurant – The hike is an easy, almost 3-mile trail from Unicoi Lodge to Helen, GA, and lunch at Hofer's German Restaurant. Then afterwards we have 1 hour to shop in downtown and then meet up at the downtown park and hike back to Unicoi Lodge total 6 miles round trip. **Hike Leaders Evelyn & Doug Yarns. Departs lodge at 10:00 AM**
- ◆ Waterfalls Tour A: Hidden along Forest Service Roads: High Shoals Falls and Horse Trough Falls both have hikes to reach. Drivers need a 4-wheel drive or high clearance

vehicles since a 6-10-inch-deep creek crossing is required. Hike round trip to the High Falls is 2.5 miles. Hike to Horse Trough Falls is 1 mile round trip. **Hike Leader Larry Jarkovsky. Departs lodge at 10:30 AM.**

Sunday November 14

Departure day, no scheduled events planned

- ◆ Testnatee Gap to Levelland Mt. on the AT and return. This 7.6-mile hike has spectacular view from Cowrock, Wolf Laurel Top and Levelland Mts. 12-mile drive from the lodge. **Hike Leader is Jess Riddle from Georgia Forest Watch. Jess will focus on Georgia Forest environmental issues and introduce you to some tree identifications. Departs lodge at 9:30 AM.**
- ◆ BMT Swinging Bridge: Hwy 60 to Swinging Bridge over Toccoa River and back. 7 miles moderate hike. Parking space is limited to max 7 vehicles, we can't reserve space and there is no nearby parking, no room for trailers etc. **Hike Leader George Owen. Departs lodge at 9:30 AM.**
- ◆ Anna Ruby Falls, trail up and back to spectacular Anna Ruby double falls (1 mile round trip). Drive from lodge is 4 miles and \$3 admission fee. **Hike Leader Bill Witherspoon. Bill will focus on the Geology in this specific area. Departs lodge at 9:30 AM.**
- ◆ Hogpen Gap on the Richard Russell Hwy. To Sheep Rock and return. A moderate 7.5 miles. hike on the AT 1,100' elevation change. 11-mile drive from the lodge. **Hike Leaders Carolyn and Tom Sewell. Departs lodge at 10:00 AM.**