

# FOOTSTEPS

NEWSLETTER of SEQUOYAH HIKING CLUB

TAKE ONLY PICTURES

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APRIL 1997

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LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

## APRIL MEETING

The April meeting will be held at 7 PM, April 28, 1997 at Stephano's in Madisonville. Bring a friend and join in for a fun time. Supper will be on your own.

## MARCH MEETING

The March meeting was held at Stephano's on the 17th with 17 members and guests present. We would like to thank Houston Lowry for sharing the history of John Muir's trip through Monroe County.

The club voted to: 1) Purchase one T-shirt for each family that has paid dues up to date and 2) Support the "Relay for Life" event sponsored by the American Cancer Society on April 26 from 6 to 9 PM at the Fort Loudoun Park in Vonore. Anyone interested in walking in the Relay for Life can contact Bobbie Arp, team leader, at 442-1923 or Judy and John Maiuri at 442-9024.

It was announced that friends of Betty Cather, our former president, have donated funds to Hiwassee College to establish a skills lab in the Nursing Department in honor of Betty. Donations may be sent to Hiwassee College.

## MARCH HIKES

March 2 hike to Warrior's Passage was canceled due to bad weather.

March 12 hike to Gee Creek was simply beautiful with three happy hikers and a picnic at Gee Creek campgrounds.

March 16 hike to Starr Mountain was changed to Gee Creek with 16 hikers enjoying a perfect Sunday afternoon.

## APRIL ACTIVITIES

April 5, midnight - Eastern standard time changes to daylight savings time. If you have been one hour late for work or school or meetings, check your clock to be sure you have set it forward one hour.

April 12, Saturday - Multiple sclerosis Walk-A-Thon at 8 AM starts at the Lost Sea. This is a six mile, easy walk.

APRIL 16, Wednesday - Chestnut Top - leader, Freda Lowry, 442- 2161 or 442-5288 (work). This is a nine mile, moderate hike. Leave Wal-Mart at 8:30. Chestnut Top is perhaps the most spectacular wild flower trail in the Smokies. Spring beauty will be displayed by bloodroot, hepatica, yellow fringed orchids, trillium, toothwort and much more. The greatest display is within the first half mile.

APRIL 19 - Benton MacKay Trail Association service day. Fork Ridge section of the BM trail. Bob Smith, leader. Meet at the bridge to the Ocoee #3 powerhouse, US highway 64 at 9:00 AM.

April 19, Saturday - Piney River. Leader will be Helen Maxwell, 442-4970. Leave Wal-Mart at 8:00 AM. Some 43 wildflowers have been identified on this trail including the rare yellow lady slipper and gay wings. The trail is very scenic along the river with several cascades and water falls. Also there is an old, abandoned coal mine along the way. The trail is ten miles long and rated easy.

April 26 - Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. Meet at Fort Loudoun Park in Vonore at 6 PM.

April 27, Sunday - The Tennessee Group of the Benton MacKay Trail Association and all BMTA members and guests are invited to Al Rymer's at 4:00 PM. Phone # 423-263-5800.

April 27, Sunday - Scenic Spur. This a hike of four miles and is rated easy to moderate. Donna Clark will be the leader. Leave Wal-Mart at 1:00 PM. The trail is about two miles into a recently rediscovered, small canyon with two waterfalls near the Ocoee River.

April 28, Monday, is the time of the monthly meeting of the Sequoyah Hiking Club. It will be at 7:00 PM at Stephano's.

## MAY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

May 3, Saturday - Habitat for Humanity Walk-A-Thon . There will be three hikes on this day. All groups will leave Wal-Mart at 8:00 AM.

1) Grassy Gap - Difficult hike. The leaders will be Brian Harrill and Helen Maxwell.

2) Flats Mountain - Moderately difficult hike. Leaders will be Elbert Croft and Lee Roy Holt.

3) Indian Boundary - Easy hike. The leaders for this hike will be John Cooley and Liz Yates. This hike will be rescheduled for May 10 if it gets rained out on May 3.

May 4, Sunday - Laurel Mountain Lake. Lady slippers. The leader will be Al Rymer, 263- 5800. This is an easy, two mile hike. Leave Wal-Mart at 2:00 PM.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome two new members, Richard and Betty Spurling who attended our March meeting and joined the club at the meeting.

## A CELTIC BLESSING

Celtic Christianity and its earlier Pre-Christian tradition provided a more inclusive view of creation and humankind's relation to God's creation. All created things- earth, sky, sea, sun, moon, trees, plants and animals- were interdependent and included in the web of life. All forms of life had spiritual meaning and Celtic blessings reflected the Celtic concern with hallowing daily life. You will recognize some of the following ancient Celtic blessing for the traveler .....or the hiker:

Blessing on Setting Forth

May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields,  
And, until we meet again, may  
God hold you in the palm of His hand.

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