

FOOTSTEPS

NEWSLETTER OF SEQUOYAH HIKING CLUB

TAKE ONLY PICTURES ***** MAY 1999 ***** LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

APRIL MEETING

Another fruitful meeting of the Sequoyah Hiking Club was held at Bert's Hometown Grill on April 26. Those present were Bobbie Arp, Tom Burris, Johanna Cooley, Paul Gamble, J. D. Jones, Houston and Freda Lowry, Helen Maxwell and Liz Yates. We welcome Tom Burris as a new member. Tom had joined with Sequoyah Hiking Club members to help in the Tellico River Cleanup last month.

In This Issue

Page 1
Reports:
January Meeting
Hikes
Why Is it Called?
Page 2
Calendar of Events

The club has been invited to have a booth at the Monroe Maternity Center's Fair. The club voted to not have a booth since it would require planning, preparing and manning a booth.

A suggestion to start a club wild flower list by recording the wild flowers seen and identified on club hikes by members and guests was thought to be a good idea. The date the flowers are seen and the trails on which they are seen will be recorded. This list will be put in "Footsteps" and updated monthly as new flowers are reported.

Sequoyah Hiking Club

Officers

President

Paul Gamble
Vice-President

Secretary

Bobbie Arp

Treasurer

Liz Yates

Editor

Johanna Cooley
Helen Maxwell

Purpose

- 1-To plan and enjoy hikes in local areas.
- 2-Little organization
- 3-Few rules
- 4-No by laws

Meetings

4th Monday of each month

Dues

\$12 per year

Footsteps

Monthly newsletter

The treasurer reported the total financial assets of the club to be \$488.17.

APRIL CLUB HIKES

CHESTNUT TOP

Freda Lowry led the hike to Chestnut Top on April 7. All the hikers walked 6.5 miles except J. D. Jones who hiked 11.5 miles. Those participating in the hike were Luci Alexander, Elizabeth Johnston, J. D. Jones, Freda Lowry, Robert Millsaps, Sue West and Liz Yates. The hikers saw many wild flowers including white and yellow trillium, toothwort, rue anemone, giant chickweed, devil's walking stick, stonecrop, fire pink, bird foot violet, long spur violet, purple violet, halberd violet, trailing arbutus, purple fringed phacelia, partridge berry, cinquefoil, golden Alexander, red bud, serviceberry and dogwood (about to bloom). These will be recorded to start our wild flower list.

PINEY RIVER

For the first time in years there was beautiful weather for the Piney River Trail hike. Some hikers, who had missed all previous Piney River hikes, had prior commitments on this day and again miss the hike. The hikers, Lee Roy Holt, J. D. Jones, June Kile and Liz Yates, walked half the trail and then retraced their steps to the starting point rather than hiking the rocky, downhill second half of the trail. Many wild flowers were in bloom. Lee Roy, who planned and led the hike, proved helpful to some Tennessee Tech University students by letting them copy his map. They assured him that copying the map was not cheating!

FLATS MOUNTAIN-FALL BRANCH FALLS TRAILS

Instead of hiking to Jeffrey's Hell, the April 17th hike was to Flats Mountain and Fall Branch Falls led by Bobbie Arp with Imogene Cantrell, J. D. Jones, Robert Millsaps and Betty Spurling hiking with the group. It was a great day for hiking, sunny but windy and cold. Later that day there was snow in the mountains.

SPENCE FIELD

The hike to Spence Field was in perfect weather. Imogene Cantrell, Johanna Cooley, Elizabeth Johnston, J. D. Jones, Freda Lowry and Robert Millsaps. The group took the Anthony Creek trail to Spence Field. They saw 29 different wild flowers, but they did not keep a list of them.

Before the Smokies became a park, Spence Field spread over more than 200 acres. It was used for summer grazing of cattle, horses and sheep. Since the Park Service banned grazing in the mountains the encroaching forest has decreased the size of Spence Field to less than 30 acres.

WILD FOWL REFUGE

The Wild Fowl Refuge and Indian Memorial was visited and hiked by Imogene Cantrell, Johanna Cooley, Joyce Denton, Paul Gamble, J. D. Jones, Robert Millsaps and Liz Yates on April 25. The leader for this hike, Johanna Cooley, reported great weather, great scenery and great fellowship.

WHY IS IT CALLED THUNDERHEAD?

The dominant feature of the western end of the Smokies is the long, bare top

Cont on p-2

of **Thunderhead**. To the Cherokees it was Atagahi, "gall place (oak galls)", but how its present name, of long standing, came into being no one seems to know with any certainty. By one account, it was due to a fancied resemblance to a low lying cloud, a thunderhead, on the horizon. Another is that it is due to the extreme frequency of lightning strokes on its summit. The blasted, torn appearance of its **Rocky top** seems to bear out that idea.

May 8, Saturday - Laurel Mountain Lake hike and covered dish supper at Helen Maxwell's home, 951 Laurel Lake Circle; hike at 4:30 PM, supper at 6:30 PM; leader - Helen Maxwell, 423-442-4970.

May 19, Wednesday - Middle Prong; 8 to 10 miles, moderate; leave Wal Mart parking lot at 8:30 AM; leader - Freda Lowry, 423-442-2161.

May 24, Monday - Monthly meeting, 7 PM at Bert's Hometown Grill.

If you are going on a hike or an event, it will be helpful for you to let the leader know that you are going!

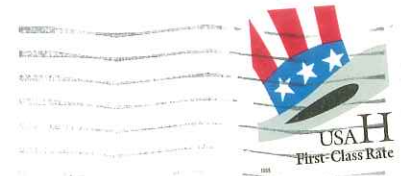
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1, Saturday - **Mystery Hike**; 8 miles, moderate; leave Wal Mart parking lot at 8 AM; leader - Paul Gamble, 423-442-9382.

May 5, Wednesday - Cucumber Gap; 6 miles, loop hike, moderate to hard; leave Wal Mart parking lot at 8:30 AM; leader - Freda Lowry, 423-442-2161.



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