2025 BMTA Annual Meeting & Hike Fest

October 30 – November 2, 2025

Bryson City, North Carolina

Watch your email and BMTA's Website for updates!

THURSDAY HIKES

Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest

3 Miles / Easy
Ed Sullivan
Meet at Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest Parking lot.

This is a gentle, yet inspiring walk well-positioned for hikers heading to Bryson City from Tellico Plains. Before starting the hike, read about Joyce Kilmer, his service in WWI, and his classic poem "Trees". Then wander the memorial loop trail to experience the magic of the old growth forest!

Appalachian Trail from Tellico Gap to Wesser Bald

2.8 miles / Easy
Ralph Collinson

Enjoy this shortest hike to Wesser Bald. The hike begins with a fairly steep climb during the 1.4 miles to the bald … yet rewards hikers with a breath-taking view. This hike is about a 9-mile drive off 74 and would be great for the hikers coming in from Georgia on their way to Bryson City.

When driving toward Bryson City on US 19/74, turn right at the Nantahala River Launch Site on Wayah Road. Follow Wayah Road for 5 miles along the Upper Nantahala River and take the second paved road to the left, Otter Creek Road. There is a brown information sign pointing to Tellico Gap here … look out carefully. Follow Otter Creek Road another 4 miles to the parking lot and trailhead. You will most likely not have a signal as you head out Wayah Road, so download directions in advance, if needed.

FRIDAY HIKES

Friday Hikes Meet at 9:00 AM Unless Noted Otherwise

*Please note, all of today's hikes will require the GSMNP parking pass for the Deep Creek Parking lot. This is $5 / day, $15 / week, or $40 annually. The daily and weekly passes can be purchased at the kiosk in the Deep Creek Parking lot as well as at the Bryson City Visitor Center.

Take A Walk with Suzy Downing and Bring Your Phone Camera

Easy / 2 to 3 hours
Hike Leader: Suzy Downing
Meet at the Deep Creek Pavillion
Limited to 10 walkers!

On Halloween, walk through the woods along the Indian Creek Trail looking for "spooky images" that could turn into wonderful Halloween photos. Suzy will give you camera pointers and suggestions.

Deep Creek-Waterfalls Loop Trail

App. 3 miles / Easy
Meet at the Deep Creek Pavillion
Hike Leaders: Ken Cissna & Ralph Collinson

This hike will focus on the beautiful waterfalls that bring thousands of visitors to the Deep Creek entrance of the GSMNP every year. Hikers will visit Juney Whank Falls, Indian Creek Falls and Tom Branch Falls. This hike offers plenty of photo opportunities. There are benches or large boulders

for ample seating at each falls for hikers to sit and relax while enjoying the falls.

Deep Creek Loop Trail

7 miles / Moderate
Meet at the Deep Creek Pavillion.
Hike Leader: Darcy Douglas

Come join the most popular hike at the Deep Creek entrance to the GSMNP! Hikers will complete this moderately challenging loop in a clockwise direction starting up the Deep Creek Trail. They'll first enjoy the beautiful sounds of the creek. A roughly .6-mile climb over a ridge descends to join the Indian Creek Trail heading to Juney Whank Falls. You will see 3 beautiful waterfalls during this classic hike!

Lonesome Pine Overlook

7 miles round trip / Strenuous
Meet at the Deep Creek Pavillion.
Time: 8:30 AM
Hike Leaders: Rick and Brenda Harris

During this in-and-out hike on the Noland Divide to the Lonesome Pine overlook, you will get many great views into the park from different angles as you navigate the trail. Once you reach the Lonesome Pine Overlook, you will get to marvel at the 280-degree view … locals promote this outstanding hike as an opportunity to see 4 states from a gorgeous overlook! The overlook provides ample space for a much-needed lunch break … and time to sit and enjoy the spectacular view nature is offering up to those hikers who take the challenge! Indeed, the climb up to the overlook includes 2300' in elevation gain. The challenge is real, but the reward of the spectacular view is worth the effort!

SATURDAY HIKES

Saturday Hikes Meet at 9:00 AM

*Please note, all of today's hikes that start from the Road to Nowhere will require the GSMNP parking pass for the Road to Nowhere parking lots. This is $5/day, $15/week or $40 annually. The daily and weekly passes can be purchased at the kiosks throughout the park and at the Bryson City Visitor Center.

Take A Walk with Suzy Downing and Bring Your Phone Camera

Easy / 2 – 3 hours
Meet at the Road to Nowhere parking lot closest to the tunnel.
Hike Leader: Suzy Downing
Limited to 10 walkers!

Enjoy an easy walk through the woods starting at the "Tunnel to Nowhere" and heading toward the Benton MacKaye Trail. Learn phone camera strategies that could enhance your photographs.

Tunnel Bypass Trail

2.25 miles / Easy
Meet at the Road to Nowhere parking lot closest to the tunnel.
Hike Leader: Ken Cissna

This fun hike starts at the parking lot near "Tunnel to Nowhere" yet bypasses the tunnel. The undulating trail has a few steady climbs to get the heart working, but not to exhaust the hiker. A portion of the hike is on the BMT!

Noland Creek Trail (includes BMT)

App. 5 miles / Easy
Meet at Noland Creek Parking Lot on the Road to Nowhere.
Hike Leader: Ed Sullivan

Begin this easy hike at the Noland Creek Trail parking area on the Road to Nowhere. Hikers will enjoy hearing the sounds of nature as they wind along the trail that hugs Noland Creek. This gentle hike will give you a chance to chat with fellow hikers and enjoy the crisp fall air!

Lakeshore Trail … AKA Lower Forney Loop Trail (the unofficial name by Dick Evans)

App. 8 miles / Moderate
Meet at the Road to Nowhere parking lot closest to the tunnel.
Hike Leader: Gilbert Treadwell

Gilbert Treadwell will lead this hike that begins at the Tunnel on the Road to Nowhere. It goes up White Oak Branch and Forney Creek Trails and returns on the BMT/Lakeshore Trail. The loop is mostly level on old railroad beds in the area. During the hike you will visit Campsite 74 (near the lower Forney). Hikers also will get a chance to visit the Woody Cemetery and learn some local history. Dick Evans estimates about half of the hike will be on the BMT!

SUNDAY HIKES

Sunday Hikes Meet at 10:00 AM

Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest

3 miles / Easy
Meet at the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forrest Parking lot.
Hike Leader: Rick Harris

This is a gentle, yet inspiring walk well-positioned for hikers returning to Tennessee via the Cherohala Skyway. Before starting the hike, read about Joyce

Kilmer, his service in WWI, and his classic poem "Trees". Then wander the memorial loop to experience the magic of the old growth forest!

Appalachian Trail from Tellico Gap to Wesser Bald

2.8 miles / Easy
Hike Leader: Ralph Collinson

Enjoy this shortest hike to Wesser Bald. The hike begins with a fairly steep climb during the 1.4 miles to the bald … yet it rewards hikers with a breath-taking view!

The hike is about a 9-mile drive off 74 on the way home to Georgia. (When driving toward Bryson City on US 19/74, turn right at the Nantahala River Launch Site on Wayah Road. Follow Wayah Road for 5 miles along the Upper Nantahala River and take the second paved road to the left, Otter Creek Road. There is a brown information sign pointing to Tellico Gap here….look out carefully. Follow Otter Creek Road another 4 miles to the parking lot and trailhead. You most likely will not have a signal as you head out Wayah Road, so download directions in advance, if needed.)

Tsali Recreation Area- Thompson Loop

7.7 Miles / Moderate
Meet at the Tsali Recreating Area Parking Lot.
Hike Leaders: Cindy & Patrick Ward

Enjoy this meandering loop that offers lovely overlooks of Fontana Lake, stream crossings, logging roads and remnants of pioneer home sites. For a shorter adventure, hikers can do an in-and-out to get moving before their ride home to Tennessee (via Cherohala Skyway). (Meet at the Tsali Recreating Area Parking Lot.) Hike Leader:

*Please note, you will need to pass a $3 parking fee at the Tsali Recreation Parking lot. You can pay the fee in a cash box at the entrance to the Right and Left loop trails.