

**SANP WILDFLOWER WALK**  
**GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**  
**(Beginning at Elkmont)**

**Saturday April 18, 2020, 7:00am**

**Leader:** Joe Rentz      **Phone:** 865-659-2721      **E-mail:** [drjoe77749@gmail.com](mailto:drjoe77749@gmail.com)

**Meeting Place:** Little River Trail trailhead in the Elkmont area

**Description:**

We will hike/walk the Little River Trail – Cucumber Gap Trail – Jakes Creek Trail loop. The wildflowers should be abundant along all three trails. Little River is a beautiful mountain stream, with some cascades. Jakes Creek is a smaller, steeper stream and with foliage overhanging and more cascades. Often the three trails will have different wildflowers blooming, because of different ecosystems. We can stop by the Troll Bridge if the group wants. If you want, you can explore the houses the Park is restoring in the Elkmont area after the hike.

The entire loop is 5.4 miles. We will be stopping often and photographing flowers along the way, so plan on plenty of time (4 hours?). For those who have physical difficulties or not enough time, you can go up Little River Trail as far as you want, then return to the parking lot. It's a wide trail with a relatively gentle slope.

**Recommended Equipment:**

Take what you have. Some will have macro lenses and other gizmos. If you don't have those, you can learn from others, and can get good images without a macro. A tripod is virtually a necessity if you want really sharp images. For the streams, I'll probably use my 24-70mm lens. For the flowers, I've had good luck with my 70-200mm in the past and will probably take it too, along with my new 105mm macro lens. A polarizing filter is helpful most any time, and a ND filter may be necessary for creative photos of the streams.

**Directions:**

**Do not rely on GPS in the Park.** Reception is spotty at best, and it may lead you astray. From the Townsend Wye or the Sugarlands Visitor Center, take Little River Road (Hwy 73), turn onto Elkmont Road (there are small brown signs marking it), and proceed to Elkmont. Don't go into the Elkmont campground, but rather bear to the left (there are signs) and go around it. You will cross a bridge with a stream underneath it and will be in a parking lot. The Little River trailhead is to the left. If you aren't familiar with the area, taking a map may be a good idea.

**A Note on the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Several of us agree that we can practice "social distancing" during the hike. Please take hand sanitizer. We'll keep an eye on further developments and will inform you if any changes are made.