

Outings and Events Stories

Member Memories of Past Hikes and Events

Memories are made in the National Forests: we learn, we experience beauty, we find joy with friends. This is where you can share your photos and stories of GFW Outings and Events.

Send your story and photos to your hike leader or to: [info at gafw.org](mailto:info@gafw.org). (Note: we reserve the right to edit stories and photos.)
Thanks for sharing!

Bartram Trail Hike

by Jerry Thursby

On Saturday, June 5, ForestWatch volunteer Brooks Franklin led a group of hikers down the Bartram Trail, Section 1 and the Chattooga River Trail, Section 3. ForestWatch member Jerry Thursby shared the following notes: It was a great day for a hike and a typical June day in North Georgia—cool, low humidity and no rain.

Well, not too hot at least and only a brief downpour, lasting just long enough for me to don my poncho, leaving me with a wet poncho and a damp wife.



A view of Dick's Creek Falls
Photo by Cheryl Bird

The water for all waterways was high and markedly higher than in the past few years. Of particular note were the signs of a very recent flash flood of Dick's Creek near the bridge from the trail to Dick's Creek Waterfall (a truly magnificent waterfall if you have not had the chance for a visit). The rain causing this flood must have been prodigious. Signs of flooding extended for several hundred yards along the creek and for as many as 30 yards in width. The mud was still heavy with much standing water and the ground cover, as well as numerous small trees/bushes, flattened. It might seem overdramatic to say the scene was surreal, but it was my thought at the time!



Jerry Thursby works his way up the Bartram Trail on a beautiful summer day, followed by Marie Thursby, Robin Peterson, and Shannon Cooper. Photo by Brooks Franklin

Five began the hike and five ended, so not a bad day on a score that matters. Matt, Jeffrey, Marie, Brooks and Jerry

were in attendance. It was a grouping of two lawyers, two economists and one gentle soul with a leisurely pace set, as is typical of a Brooks-led hike and a fine time was had by all (as is said in the society pages).

While I cannot claim to be familiar with many local trails, this is clearly my favorite of the ones I know. It has deep wood, numerous small creeks and fast-flowing rivers. This is a most beautiful, though long, trail. I am ready to do this one again.

We saw a very interesting salamander about 3 inches in length and a vivid orange—not sure if this is a new species; if so, I have appropriately named it Salamandus Jerry (I saw the critter first).



The Dick's Creek Ledge, where Dick's Creek meets the Chattooga River.
Photo by Peter McIntosh