

HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE CHATTOOGA RIVER

In PDF format, clicking on an item will take you to that page. Clicking on bookmarks in the left column will take you to the account. You can also click on items in the INDEX. Clicking on a location on the Area Map page 3, will also take you to that account page. Pictures and many map features have 'mouse-over pop-up text'. Don't forget keyboard shortcuts – back is ALT + ← and forward is ALT + →.

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About this booklet

Originally this was a list of locations in the Chattooga River area that would be of interest to naturalists and wildflower enthusiasts so some destinations may be of little interest to hikers; **these locations are marked with an asterisk (*)**.

“Our Area”

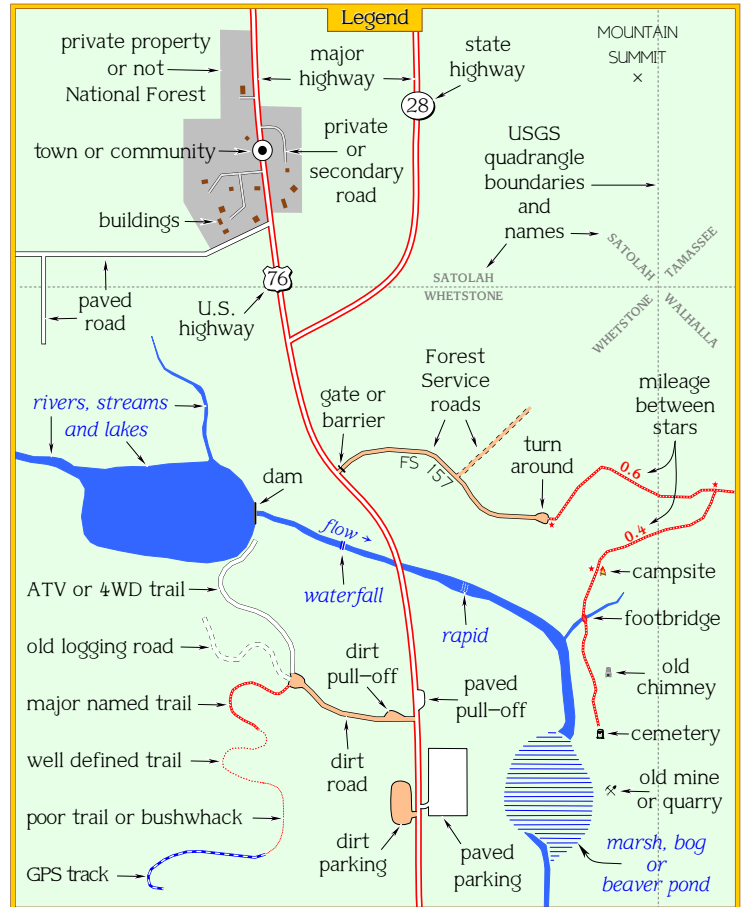
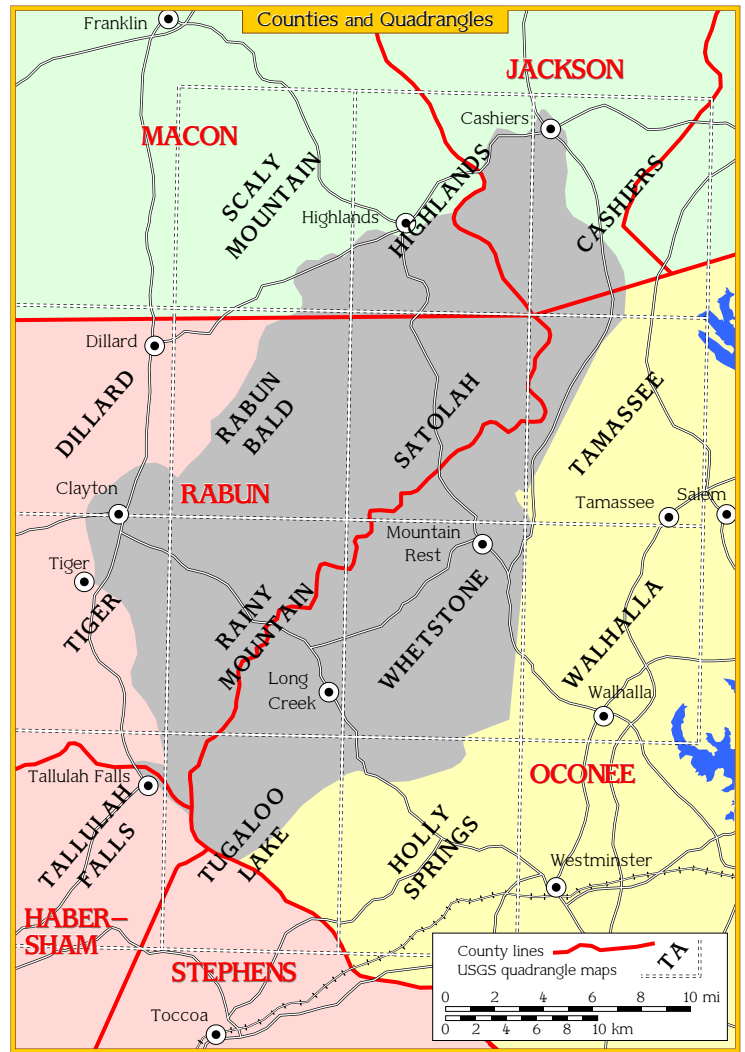
Our area forms a pie-segment-shaped piece of the southern Appalachian rim with a total area of about 300 square miles. There are four major areas;

1. The entire Chattooga River watershed including the Tugaloo Reservoir area.
2. The Chauga River watershed upstream of Cobb Bridge.
3. The Battle Creek and Brasstown Creek watersheds.
4. Tallulah Gorge.

Whiteside Mountain at 4,930 feet is our highest peak. Our lowest elevation is at the confluence of Brasstown Creek and Tugaloo River, below 680 feet, a difference of about 4,250 feet. The protected Chattooga River corridor covers about 57 river miles.

CNPS Maps

North is always straight up on all CNPS maps; no compass rose is needed. The maps were drawn using U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps, tracks from GPS units, plotting with a compass, altimeter and plain guessing. Map drawing artistic liberties have been taken. There is an attempt to show the quality of our trails and roads with various combinations, styles and weights of lines. Private property or non-National Forest land (gray areas) are approximations only. The abbreviation “mi” is used for mile or miles. Carsonite signs, about 3 feet high, are used by the Forest Service to label our roads and trails.

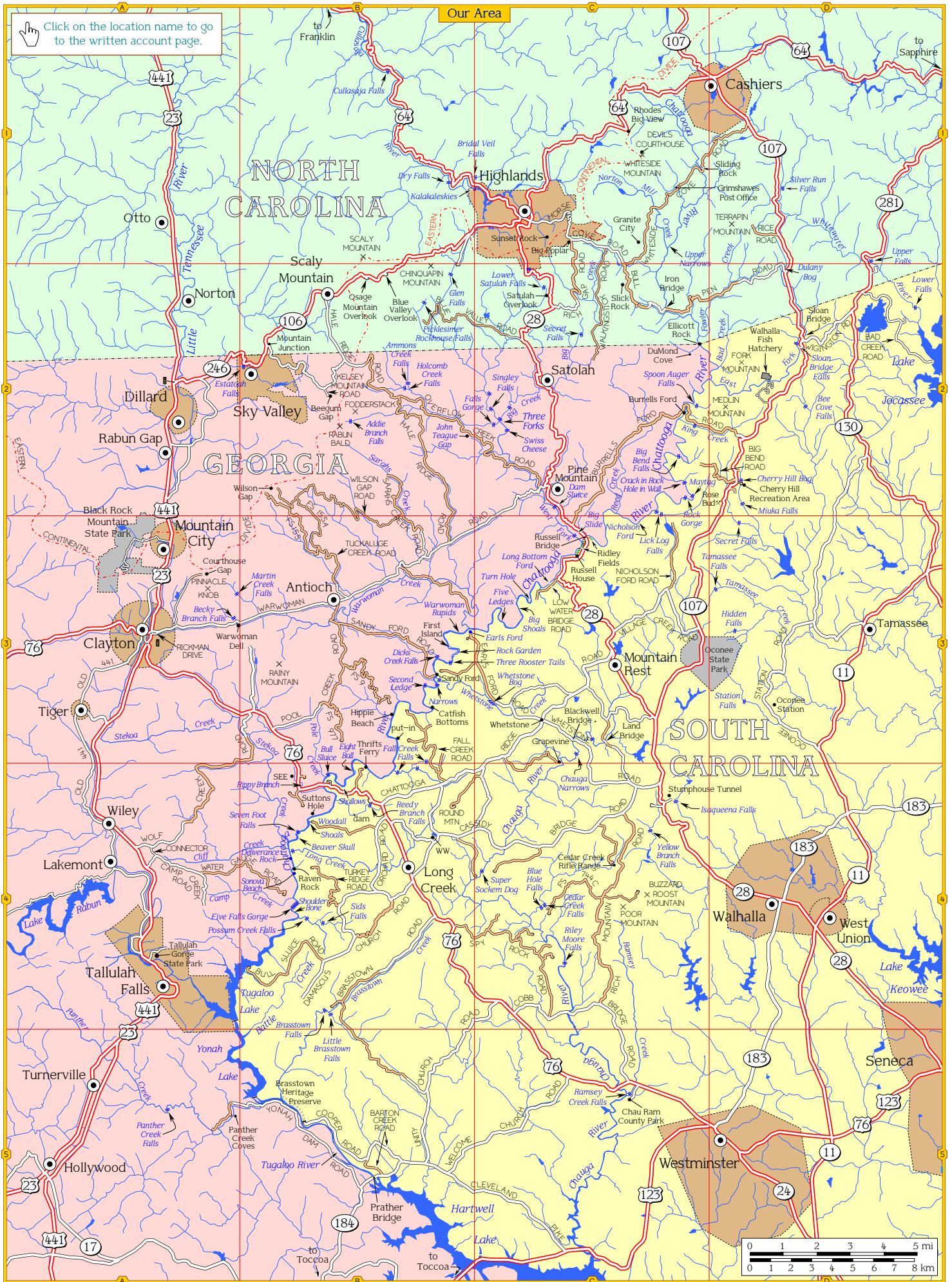


“Our Area” watersheds

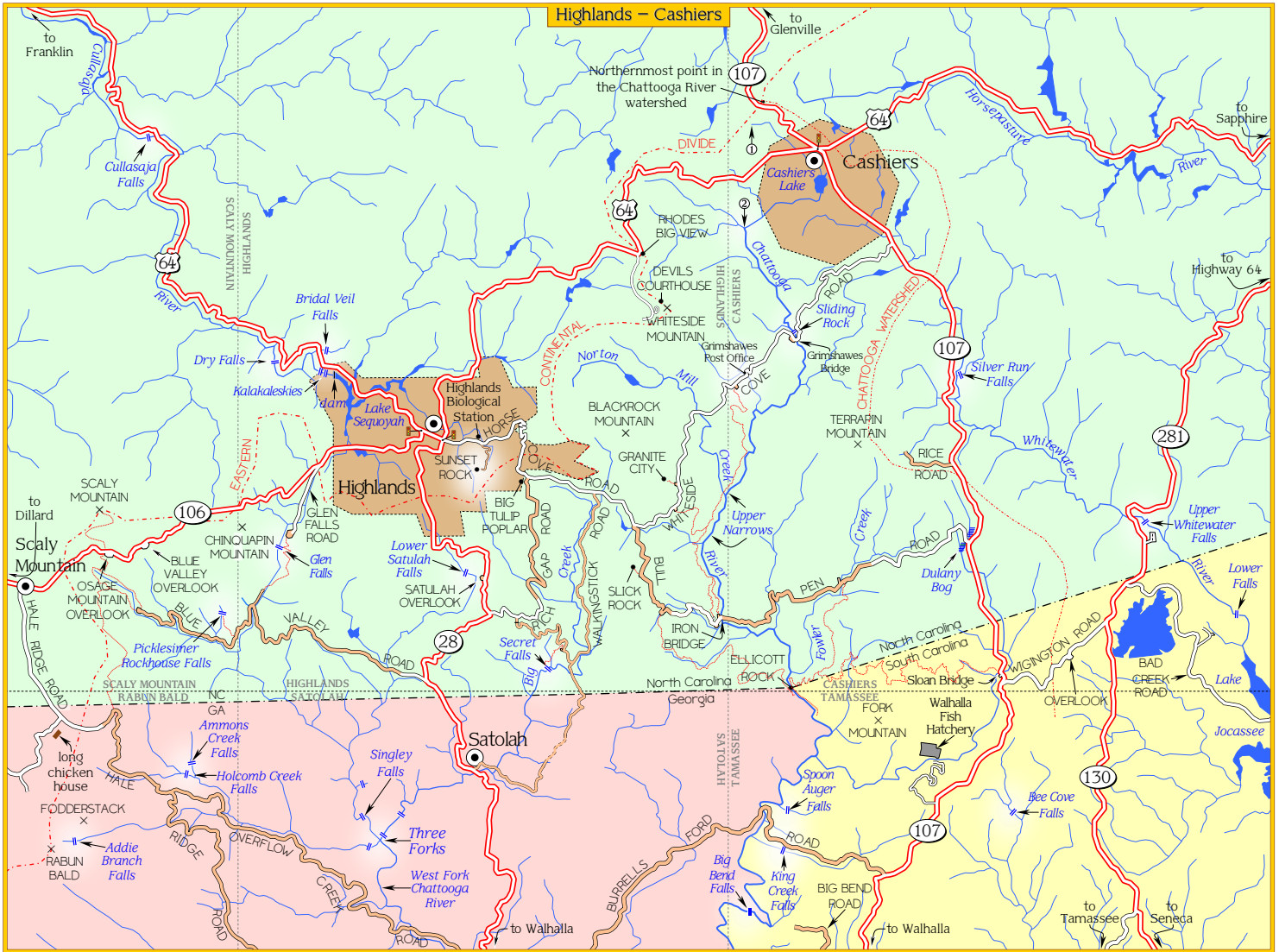
Some maps may not adhere strictly to the above format.

Our Area

Click on the location name to go to the written account page.



Highlands – Cashiers



The Chattooga River begins its journey in the rich mountain coves of the Highlands and Cashiers area. The northernmost point in the Chattooga River watershed is about 1 mile north of Cashiers just off Highway 107. On the map above notice the red dot-dash line; the Eastern Continental Divide. It is the line between watersheds that drain into the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. When you follow a river to its source, at some point you will have to call it a stream rather than a river. This point for the Chattooga River is not totally agreed upon. On many maps, including GPS, the Chattooga River begins upstream of Cashiers Lake (Ⓞ). It is said a stream should only be called a river when enough streams have come together to form a stream of “river” volume. This point is shown on the map where streams come together between Rhodes Big View and Cashiers Lake (Ⓞ). The river in this area is quite small. At an elevation of 4,118 feet, Highlands is the highest incorporated town east of the Rockies. The entire area is very scenic and attracts tourist year round, especially during fall leaf color. The downtown area is concentrated around the intersection of several highways, has numerous gift shops and restaurants. Driving here can be dangerous due to the many sharp curves that are necessary on mountain highways. The first four locations are not in our area but northwest of the Chattooga watershed. They are all on Highway 64 which follows the Cullasaja River from Highlands down to Franklin. If you visit the Highlands area you don’t want to miss this scenic drive. Make sure the driver pays attention to the road.

Kalakaleskies *map above* †

Don’t know where this name came from or what it means but it refers to the series of waterfalls right after the Cullasaja River leaves the Lake Sequoyah dam. The first waterfall below the dam is called Lake Sequoyah Dam Falls or Kalakaleskies Falls and has a path that leads to it. A number of small waterfalls downstream follow this one.

When you drive west from Highlands on Highway 64 you’ll soon notice a quiet scenic lake on the left. Once you pass the lake, the highway winds downward close to and parallel to the Cullasaja River. You’ll get occasional glimpses of the river and notice quite a few pull-offs and picnic areas along the highway. Here the river continually cascades through large boulders and offers many secluded little spots to picnic, play in the water and enjoy the great scenery. Be very careful when swimming or playing around the river in this area. You can find suitable places for children to play but they will need close supervision. Could be dangerous for kids and adults alike.

Bridal Veil Falls *map above* †

This scenic waterfall is only about 2.6 miles west of downtown Highlands on Highway 64. As you drive on beyond the Kalakaleskies you can’t miss it on your right. This waterfall is along a small stream that flows into the Cullasaja River. The appearance of the falls varies with water levels but is usually somewhat wispy, drops about 60 feet from an overhanging cliff. At one time the highway actually went behind the falls. It then became an optional little loop separate from the main highway. The little loop of road is still there but vehicular traffic has been blocked. You will need to have someone take a picture of you beneath this well known waterfall.

Dry Falls *map above* †

Dry Falls is only 0.8 miles beyond Bridal Veil Falls or about 3.4 miles west of Highlands on Highway 64. The Cullasaja River flows over a 70 foot overhanging cliff that forms a grotto behind the falls. A walkway goes into the grotto behind the falls. Despite the name, Dry Falls, conditions can vary from very wet to a light mist, but never dry. This falls offers endless photo opportunities through different water levels and seasons of the year. Winter ice at the falls can be spectacular. Well worth a visit. Driving from Highlands watch for the parking area on the left after a sharp right turn.

Cullasaja Falls *map page 4*

This beautiful falls is about 9.3 miles west of Highlands on Highway 64. That's about 5.9 miles beyond Dry Falls. This falls does not have a very convenient pull-off although there is enough room for one or two cars to barely get off the road. The Cullasaja Gorge is at its steepest in this area making almost every curve in the road a virtual cliffhanger. Driving west, a passenger (not the driver) will need to look down into and back up the gorge for the falls. Traffic can be hectic on this winding stretch of Highway. It is possible to hike from the highway down the steep bank to the base of the falls. If you are a waterfall photographer or just an enthusiast you do not want to miss this one.

Sunset Rock *map page 4*

This is a popular overlook right in Highlands. It's an easy hike of about 0.7 miles one way, all level or slightly uphill. Virtually all of the hike is on a private driveway. Sunset Rock, is a granite bald with plenty of room for picnicking and hanging out to watch the sunset. Parts of downtown Highlands are visible giving sunset photographers interesting compositions that can include the city lights. In downtown Highlands go about 0.5 miles east of the Highway 64 and Highway 28 intersection (traffic light at this Main Street intersection). The trailhead parking area is on the right directly across the street from the Highlands Biological Station. There are several Sunset Rock signs.

Highlands Biological Station *map page 4*
Nature Center and Botanical Gardens

This wonderful resource covers much more area than it might appear from the street. There's a museum and nature center with people to help with questions. There are several hiking trails through a spacious and well maintained botanical garden. Many of the trees and other plant species have labels and represent the native species of our area. There's also a small lake which does have some non-native species. Read the Sunset Rock account above for directions to the main building.

Cashiers Sliding Rock *map page 4*

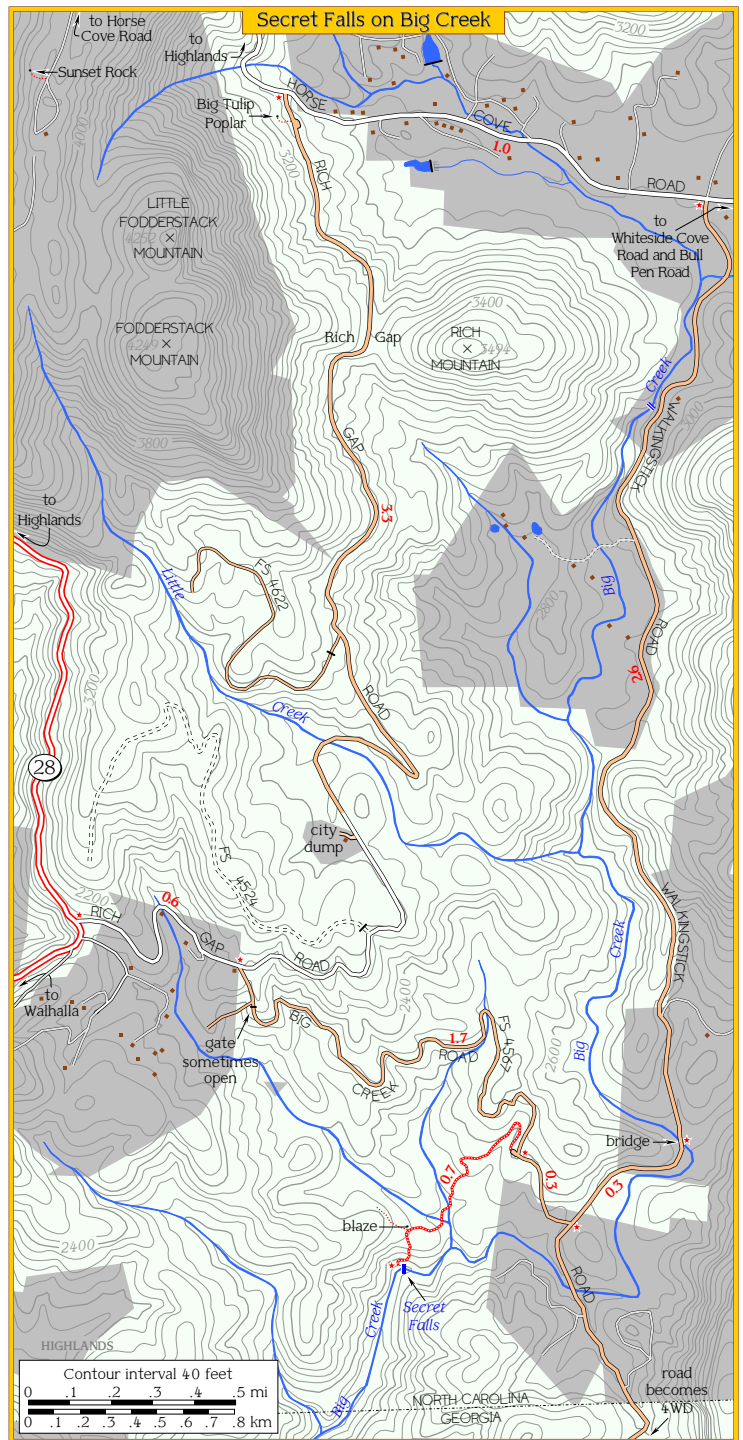
This is a very popular swimming hole in the summer. There's a large sliding rock with a shallow sandy bottomed river at the base. Usually plenty of adults standing guard at various points to help out with those skinned knees. A short easy trail leads to the top and the bottom of the slide and there are ample beaches or shady places for picnickers. Some people bring chairs and grills. The area surrounding this part of the Chattooga River is within the National Forest near an old community known as Grimshaws. From Cashiers drive 1.8 miles south on Highway 107 and turn right onto Whiteside Cove Road, easy to miss this turn. At 2.7 miles there are pull-offs after a small bridge (Grimshaws Bridge) crosses the Chattooga River. Church groups and others often have outings here so parking may be difficult to find.

Grimshaws U.S. Post Office *map page 4, 9*

This is said to be the smallest U.S. Post Office. It is only about six feet wide. Publications say it has been in operation from 1878 to 1953 although there is conflicting information that states it was only official from 1903 to 1953. It was originally named the "Whiteside Cove Post Office". Located in the Grimshaws community, all the post masters were Grimshaws. From Cashiers going south on Highway 107 turn right onto Whiteside Cove Road. It's on the right about 1.6 miles beyond the Sliding Rock Chattooga River bridge. Don't miss this photo op. You can park right in front of the little shack which is only a few yards from the road. There is some literature posted on the walls.

Silver Run Falls *map page 4*

This 25 foot waterfall on Silver Run Creek near its confluence with the Whitewater River is a popular swimming hole in the summer. The hike is very short; less than 0.1 miles and easy walking. A footbridge crosses the Whitewater River then the trail breaks up near the base of the falls. The area around this falls is quite small and it can get quite crowded at times. Another lesser trail goes upstream to another falls. From Cashiers go about 4 miles south on Highway 107 to a narrow pull-off on the left. Look for Forest Service signs near the highway.

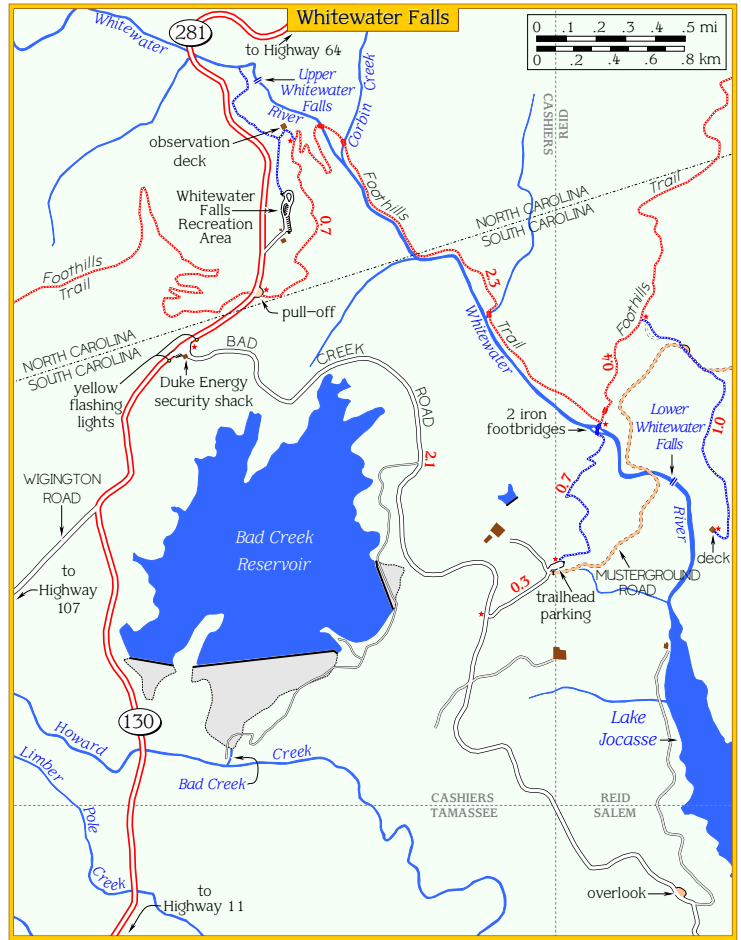


Secret Falls on Big Creek *maps page 4 & above*

This is a 50 foot falls with an 8 foot drop just downstream. Trails lead to the top and bottom of the falls, could be dangerous for kids and dogs. From the GA/NC state line on Highway 28 go north about 1.8 miles to Rich Gap Road on the right. Going south from Highlands, Rich Gap Road is about 4 miles. Drive 0.6 miles on Rich Gap Road and turn right onto Big Creek Road FS 4567. It is to the left of a dilapidated house, no signage. At about 100 yards bear left at the Wilson Lake sign. If the gate here is closed go back to Rich Gap Road and continue to Horse Cove Road. If the gate is open drive about 1.7 miles on Big Creek Road find a large pull-off on the right, has Carsonite signs marking the Big Shoals Trail. The hike to the falls is only about 0.7 miles. You'll cross two very small streams, no footbridges, could get wet feet. Turn left and downward at a blue blaze on the right. If coming from Highlands go east on Main Street. It becomes Horse Cove Road and zigzags down into the cove. At 3.5 miles turn right onto Walkingstick Road and drive 2.9 miles to Big Creek Road FS 4567. It's about 0.3 miles past the Big Creek Bridge. *Check the map on page 4 for an overview of this area.*

Whitewater Falls map page 4 & right →

At 411 feet **Upper Whitewater Falls** is the highest waterfall east of the Rockies. Not in 'our area', the Whitewater River is just east of the Chattooga River watershed at the North Carolina/South Carolina state line. At the popular Whitewater Falls Recreation Area there's a large parking lot, \$2(?) fee per car, with toilets, information boards and picnic tables. A short trail leads to an observation deck for a great view of the falls. From there the trail continues down to join the Foothills Trail. Driving south from Cashiers on Highway 107, the state line is 8.3 miles. After another mile turn left onto Wigington Road; a wide intersection with signs that direct you to Whitewater Falls. There is a spacious paved overlook on Wigington Road that offers a scenic view of Lake Jocassee. At the end of on Wigington Road, about 2.2 miles turn left (north) onto South Carolina Highway 130. It's 0.9 miles to the Whitewater Falls Recreation Area on the right. Coming from the south on Highway 107, Wigington Road is about 2.3 miles north of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery Road. **Lower Whitewater Falls** is 386 feet high and located in South Carolina just before the river ends at Lake Jocassee. The Foothills Trail enters this area from the east and a spur trail goes down to an observation deck downstream of the Lower Falls. There is a trail to the lower falls off Bad Creek Road, hike is about 2.1 miles. This is the entrance to Duke Energy Power Company. Driving north on Highway 130, it's on the right just before you come to the state line. You can't miss this road. There are flashing yellow warning lights just north and south of the intersection. There's a gate and a security shack with a small parking lot. On Highway 130 just north of the state line you'll see a pullout for the Foothills Trailhead. Notice on the map how this trail bypasses the Whitewater Falls Recreation Area.

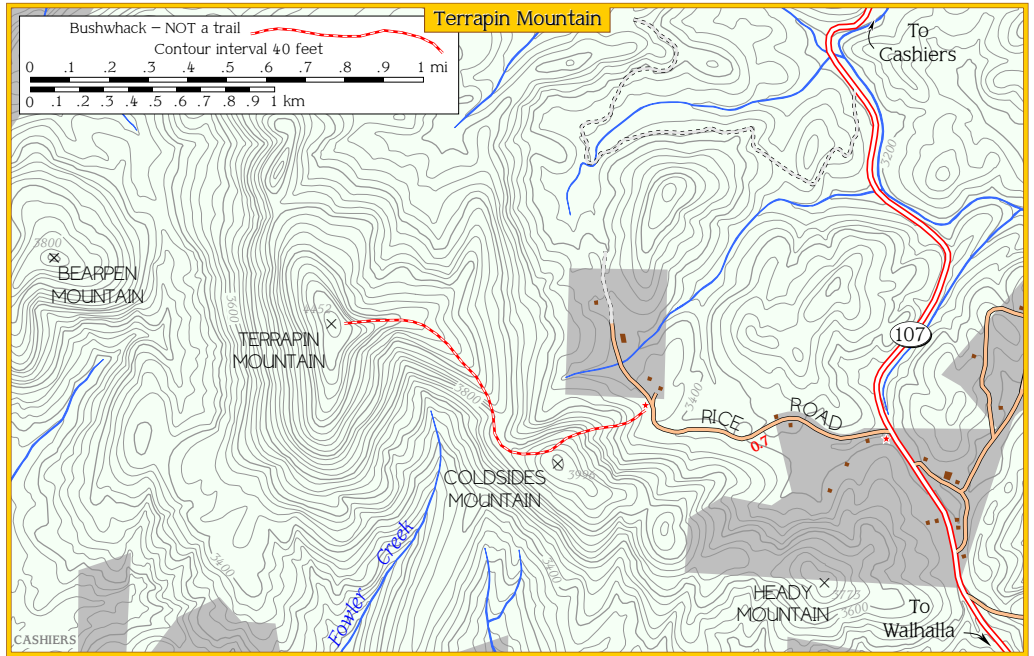


Whiteside Mountain map page 4

At 4,930 feet elevation and located at the very headwaters of the Chattooga River this is our highest elevation in the Chattooga River watershed. There are scenic views from a number of locations along a looping trail around the summit and a trail to the Devils Courthouse. On Highway 64, from Highlands travel 5.5 miles east or from Cashiers about 5 miles west and turn south onto Whiteside Mountain Road. Follow signs to a Forest Service \$2(?) per car parking area with information boards and toilet facilities. A rugged cliff area on the very northern tip of Whiteside Mountain is known as Devils Courthouse. It has a trail skirting the cliffs that can be dangerous if one isn't careful. Study the information board at the parking lot. A trail does lead down to the base of the cliffs. The cliffs of Whiteside can also be seen when driving Whiteside Cove Road.

Rhodes Big View map page 4

This is a must-do scenic overlook on Highway 64. It's about 5.5 miles east of Highlands and 4.6 miles west of Cashiers. You won't miss this overlook if you drive this stretch of Highway 64 but it isn't always easy to pull off the road. A plaque, not visible while driving, gives it the name Rhodes Big View while most people know it as the Devils Courthouse Overlook or Whiteside Mountain Overlook. There are pull-offs at a very sharp curve on both sides of the highway. Viewed from this overlook Whiteside Mountain can cast a **Bear Shadow** across the valley. It occurs late afternoon the last part of October and early November before the leaves drop. It always draws a big crowd and can sometimes be a problem for traffic and onlookers as there is little room for people to stand. The shadow itself is a little unpredictable and depends mostly on the trees that the shadow is falling on. The shadow loses its sharpness and disappears as the leaves drop at the end of fall.



Terrapin Mountain map page 4 & above

It is only a one mile **bushwhack** to the summit of Terrapin Mountain, elevation 3,980 feet. The beginning of this hike is through thick vegetation and rather steep but well before nearing the summit of Coldsides Mountain the woods open up and it become easy walking. From here vague trails cross a saddle and follow the ridge up to the summit of Terrapin Mountain. Several small balds afford outstanding views of Whiteside Mountain and the surrounding area. Drive 0.7 miles on Rice Road to a driveway on the right and park without blocking the driveway. There is no pull-off. Notice that this private driveway begins in the National Forest. Rice Road does have a street sign. It is 1.4 miles north of Bull Pen Road and about 5.8 miles south of Cashiers on Highway 107.

Glen Falls map page 4 & right →

Glen Falls is a scenic series of three waterfalls on the East Fork of Overflow Creek. The uppermost falls is the highest at about 70 feet. The trail is steep but an easy downhill walk with several switchbacks. It's about 0.3 miles to the top of the first falls. A viewing platform is quite close to the falls and affords a great view across Blue Valley with Rabun Bald in the distance. From Highlands go about 1.8 miles west on Highway 106 and turn left onto Glen Falls Road, a big sign marks the intersection. Drive about 1.1 miles to the end of the road. As seen on the map, you can hike a trail up from FS 79C in Blue Valley but there is no bridge across the East Fork Overflow Creek: too big for a rock hop.

Chinquapin Mountain map page 4 & right →

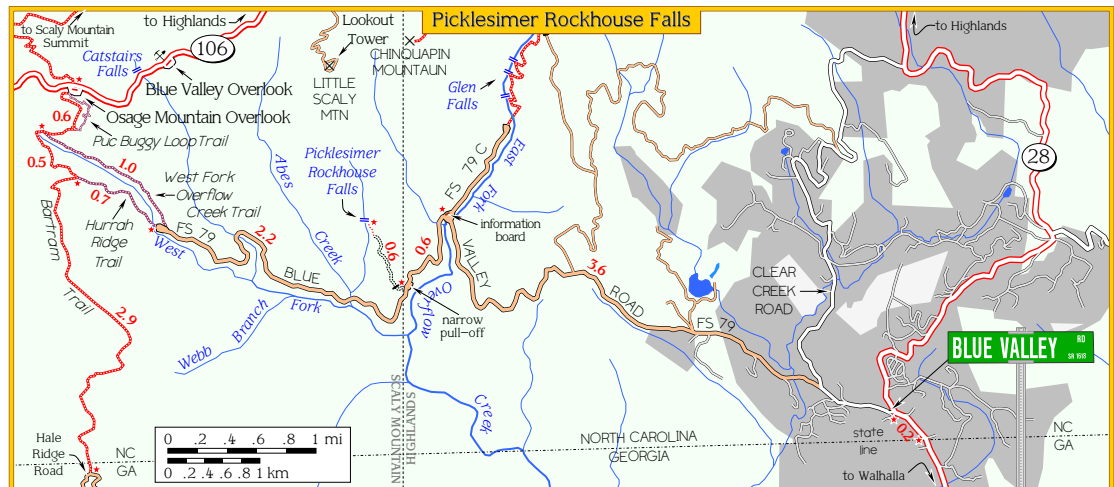
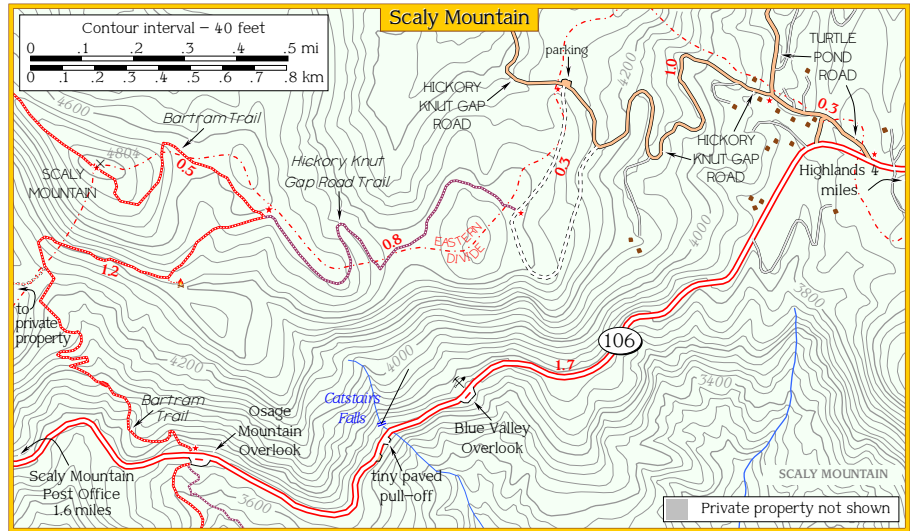
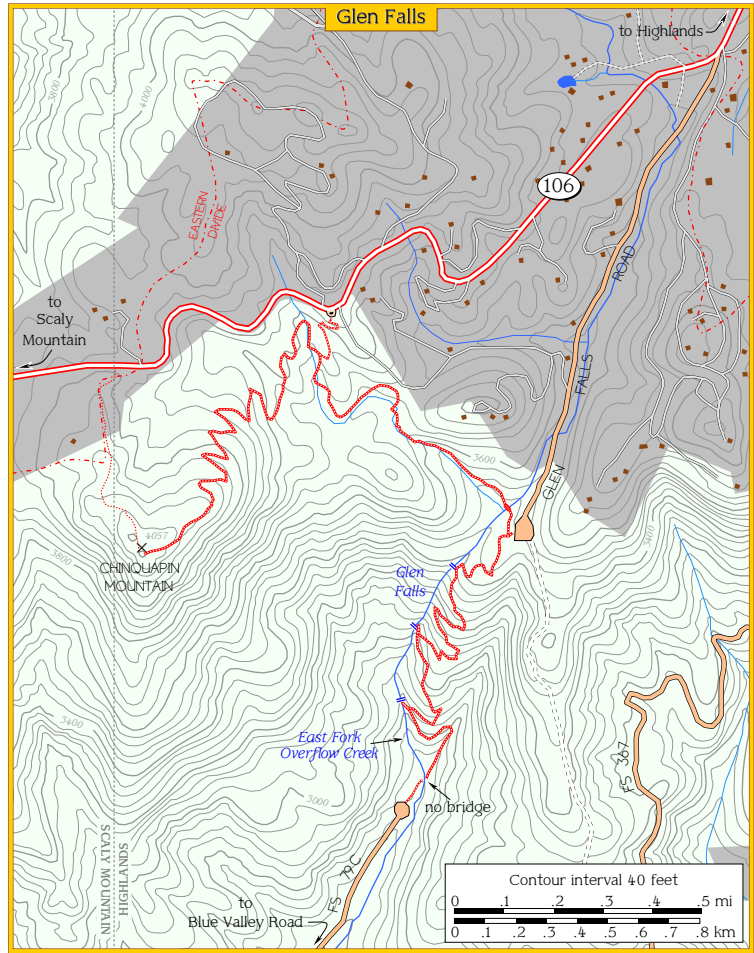
A hike to Chinquapin Mountain, elevation 4,057 feet, offers nice views of **Blue Valley**. There are two trails that join and then climb through numerous switchbacks to the summit. At the Glen Falls Trailhead you will notice a Carsonite sign for a trail to Chinquapin Mountain. Hike is about 1.9 miles. The trail crosses the East Fork (bridge) then zigzags across a stream up a cove where it joins a trail from Highway 106. From Highlands on Highway 106 the trailhead is 1.1 miles past Glen Falls Road, a small pull-off on the left with a rock in the center of the pull-off. It's about 1.7 miles to the summit from here. See *Glen Falls* above.

Scaly Mountain map page 4 & below right

At 4,804 feet, Scaly Mountain offers great views of the surrounding mountains of the tri-state area. The hike to the summit is 1.7 miles, quite steep and wet in some places. It is listed as difficult in some accounts. To get to the trailhead drive to the Osage Mountain Overlook on North Carolina Highway 106. From the post office in Scaly Mountain, NC drive about 1.6 miles east. From the main street in Highlands turn onto Highway 106 and drive about 5.8 miles. Park at the overlook. Careful, traffic can be hectic here. Notice the steps at the Bartram Trail trailhead on the other side of the highway. To get to the Hickory Knut Gap Road trailhead drive 1.7 miles east (toward Highlands) from the Osage Mountain Overlook and turn left onto Turtle Pond Road. This tight little community can be confusing so pay attention. After about 0.3 miles turn left onto Hickory Knut Gap Road. At about 1 mile look for a pull-off on the right and notice the old Forest Service Road on the left. Hike this road for about 0.3 miles to the trailhead on the right, blue blazes.

Picklesimer Rockhouse Falls map page 4 & below →

This 40 foot free falling waterfall drops from the top of an impressive rockhouse. The tiny stream is a tributary of Abes Creek, a tributary of the West Fork Overflow Creek. It's an easy hike of about 0.6 miles one way. From the traffic light in Highlands drive about 5.8 miles south on Highway 28 and turn right onto Blue Valley Road. A street sign and a larger Clear Creek Church sign marks the intersection but it is quite easy to miss when going south. The North Carolina/Georgia state line is only 0.2 miles south of the intersection. Drive 3.6 miles to an intersection with an information board. Go left 0.6 miles to an old logging road going upward to the right. You'll find a narrow pullout on the left. Hike the old road up to a gate and through open forest to a small game opening. Here the trail goes into Rhododendron and splits up as it nears the stream. These trails go only a short distance up the cove to the rockhouse.



Bartram Trail from Scaly Mountain to Hale Ridge Road →

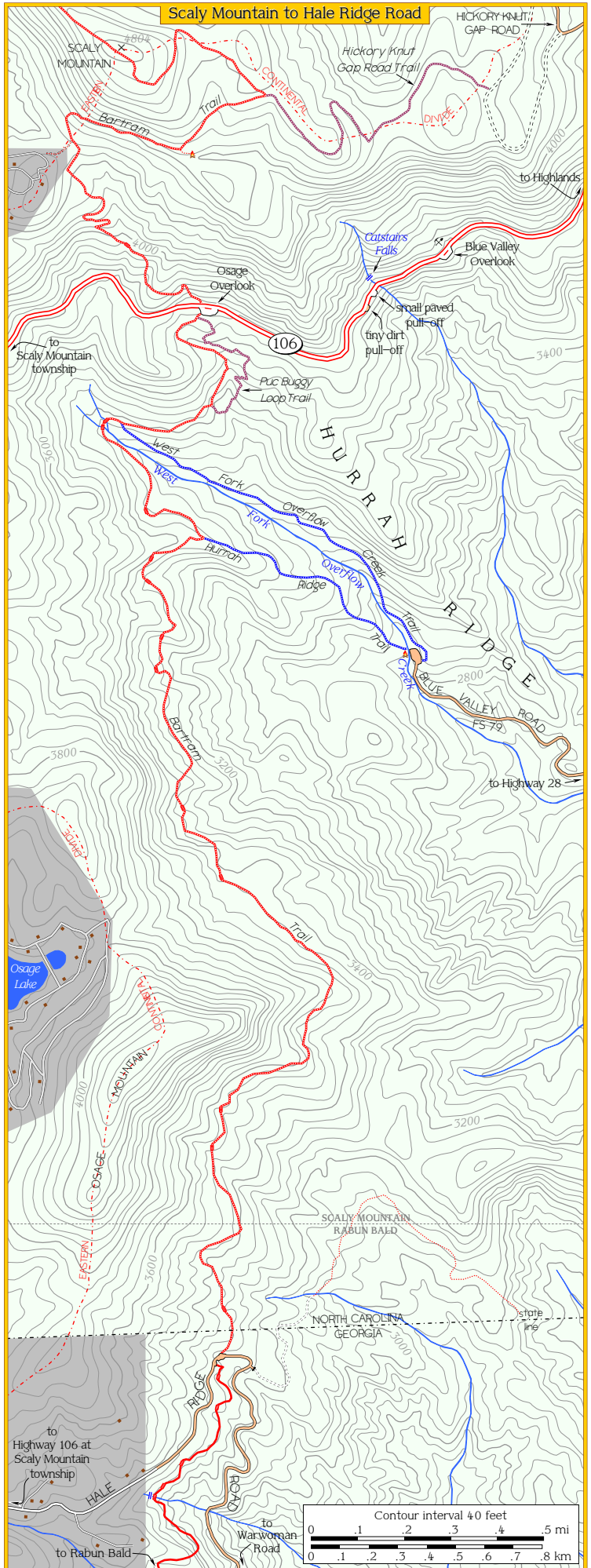
The Bartram Trail crosses the Eastern Continental Divide and enters the Chattooga River watershed at the summit of Scaly Mountain, 4,804 feet elevation. The hike from the summit south to Hale Ridge Road is about 5 miles with an elevation drop of about 1,280 feet. The trail is well maintained, has yellow blazes, excellent signage and footbridges across almost every stream. As with any mountain trail, there can be flowing water on the trail especially during periods of frequent rainfall. The Bartram Trail just south of Scaly mountain has several of these wet places. At Osage Overlook you can see Osage Mountain to the right and Blue Valley on the left. The parking area is paved, has information boards and room for maybe 15 cars. Highway 106 links Highway 441 near Dillard Georgia with Highlands North Carolina. This makes for a very busy 2-lane mountain highway. Although there is a shorter trail up to the Scaly Mountain summit most hikers go north from Osage Overlook on the Bartram Trail. Hikers going south from the overlook are most often doing a loop hike or a short in and out hike. Some do set shuttle and hike from the Overlook down to Hale Ridge Road. The entire area is great for wildflowers. There are several especially rich coves on the eastern slopes of Osage Mountain. You might notice trails from private property joining the Bartram Trail in the Scaly Mountain and Osage Mountain areas. These trails aren't shown on the map →.

Catstairs Falls *maps 7 & right* →

The Catstairs Waterfall gets little attention except from diehard waterfall enthusiasts who want to have every possible waterfall on their résumé-. This falls tumbles through a maze of boulders just before the small unnamed stream goes beneath Highway 106. It is mostly hidden by trees and vegetation but in the winter can be easily seen. Walking along the highway here is scary; there's very little room for getting out of the way of traffic. Metal barriers line the road but brambles and the steep rocky drop-off forces you out onto the pavement. This isn't a friendly area for pedestrians. Driving east from the Osage Mountain Overlook you will notice a very small dirt/grass pull-off at about 0.4 miles. Only 30 or so yards more and there is a tiny paved pull-off. Check the map. The falls are only a few more yards on the opposite side of the road. Good luck with this one – getting a decent photo of this falls seems impossible but doesn't mean you shouldn't try.

Hurrah Ridge Trail, West Fork Overflow Creek Trail and Puc Buggy Loop Trail *maps 7 & right* →

Going south on the Bartram Trail from the Osage Mountain Overlook there are 3 side trails. The Puc Buggy Loop Trail is only a few yards from the overlook. A short trail about 0.6 miles long making the loop hike from the overlook about 1.0 miles. It's an easy trail with a couple of spots where you might get wet feet if you are not careful. There are excellent signs at both intersections with the Bartram Trail. I do not know the significance or origin of this trail or if it should be of interest to botanists. The name "Puc Buggy" is the name given William Bartram by the Seminole Indians and translates to "one who gathers flowers". I'm guessing the trail was recently created by Bartram Trail enthusiasts to honor Bartram, it doesn't appear to be an old trail. The Hurrah Ridge Trail, about 0.7 miles long, and the West Fork Overflow Creek Trail, about 1.0 miles long, connect Blue Valley Road with the Bartram Trail. There is good signage at all intersections and trailheads. However, there can be some confusion. The Hurrah Ridge Trail goes up a ridge alongside the West Fork Overflow Creek but Hurrah Ridge is actually on the opposite side of the cove on another unnamed ridge. The West Fork Overflow Creek Trail is at the base of Hurrah Ridge and closely parallels the stream all the way up to the Bartram Trail. There is no footbridge at the Hurrah Ridge Trailhead so you will have to wade or rock-hop the West Fork there. While the Bartram Trail is well maintained and has footbridges the other trails here aren't quite as well managed. Hikers frequently do a loop hike from Osage Overlook down to Blue Valley Road and back up using all these trails, a total hike of about 3.4 miles. Read the Picklesimer Rockhouse Falls account *and map page 7* for directions to Blue Valley Road.



Granite City map page 4, 9, 12

This is an area of giant boulders strewn along the lower southeastern ridge of Blackrock Mountain. Trails between the maze of boulders are called streets thus the name Granite City. It is a short uphill hike of about 0.2 miles to the beginning of the boulder strewn area. The trailhead is a small 2 car pull-off on the west side of Whiteside Cove Road. A rocky gully/path going up the ridge is visible just behind the pull-off. You can also hike the nearby gated Forest Service road and bushwhack off the ridge down to the boulder area. From Highlands drive east on main street. It becomes Horse Cove Road as you leave town. The intersection with Bull Pen Road and Whiteside Cove Road is about 3.6 miles. The Granite City pull-off is another 1.2 miles on the left. From Cashiers drive 1.8 miles south on Highway 107 and turn right onto Whiteside Cove Road, easy to miss this turn. The Granite City pull-off is about 6.4 miles on the right.

Big Tulip Poplar map page 4, 5

It's worth a stop to get a photo with this giant tree. There is a pull-off with a large information board on Rich Gap Road about 400 feet from its intersection with Horse Cove Road. Look for the trail on the other side of the road and bear right up the trail, only a few yards to the tree. Rich Gap Road is partially paved, about 4 miles long, connects Highway 28 and Horse Cove Road. From the Georgia/North Carolina state line on Highway 28 go north about 1.8 miles to Rich Gap Road on the right. It is immediately past Wilson Gap Road. Coming from Highlands go east on Main Street; it changes to Horse Cove Road and zigzags down into the valley. The intersection with Rich Gap Road is on the right about 3 miles from downtown Highlands. A plaque at the site honors Bob Padgett, the Forest Service employee who decided to save the tree. Oconee Bells, *Shortia galacifolia*, has been planted along the nearby stream.

Satulah Overlook map page 4

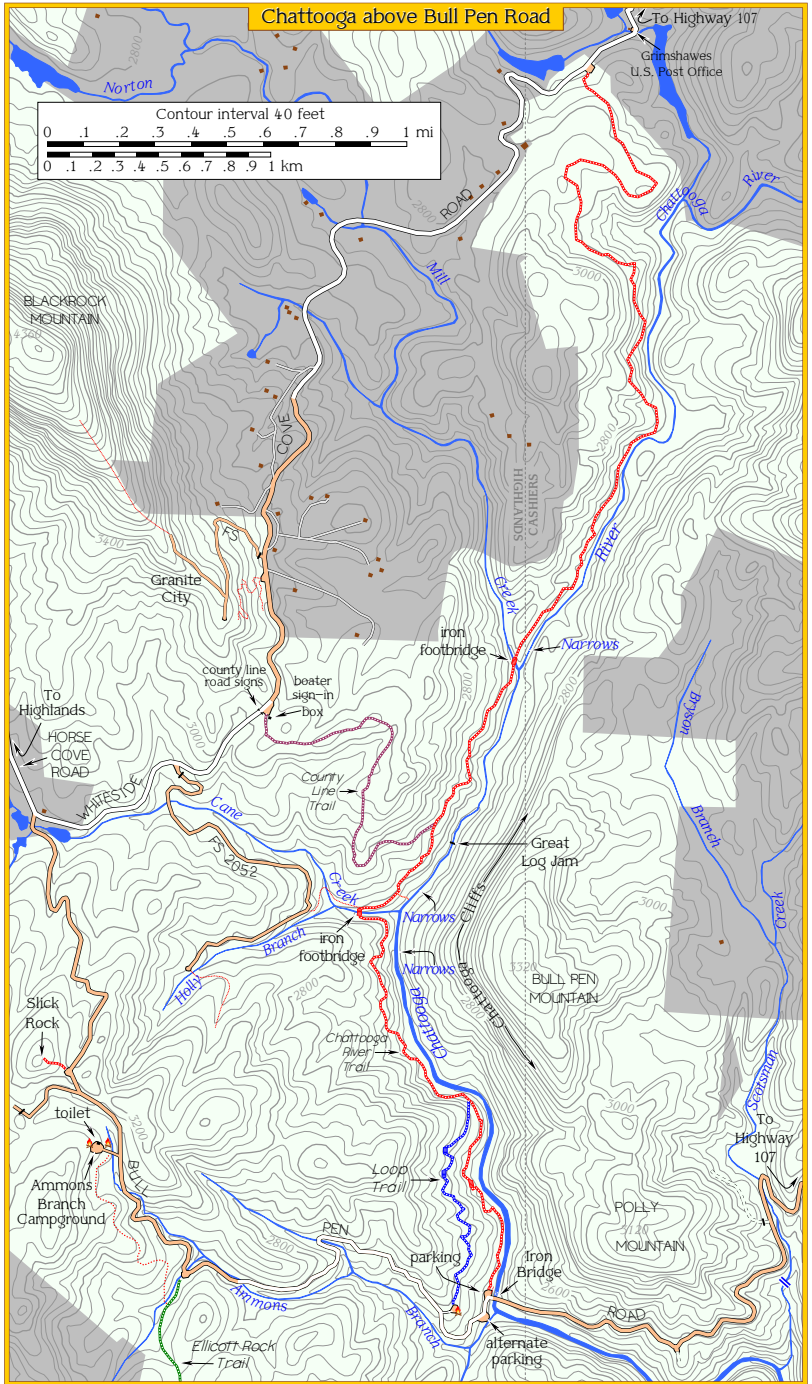
This is a small overlook on the west side of Highway 28 about 3.5 miles south of Highlands or 2.4 miles north of the state line. **Lower Satulah Falls** is directly in front of the overlook on the opposite side of a steep cove. Rabun Bald can be seen in the distance to the left, 7.5 miles as the crow flies. Satulah Mountain, with its conspicuous cliffs, is on the eastern side of the highway. Great spot for fall color. *Parnassia asarifolia*, Grass of Parnassus, grows at a seepage about 500 feet up the highway.

Bull Pen Road maps page 4, 12, 13

This is a long dirt and partially paved road that connects Horse Cove Road/Whiteside Cove Road and Highway 107. Bull Pen Road is on the right about 6 miles south of Cashiers on Highway 107. You will see some kind of warehouse business on the left and a large marshy area on the right. Coming from the south on Highway 107, Bull Pen Road is on the left about 1.2 miles north of the state line. To reach Bull Pen Road from the Highway 28 bridge go north about 10.1 miles and turn right onto Rich Gap Road. This is a paved, then dirt, road about 4 miles long that connects Highway 28 and Horse Cove Road. Turn right onto Horse Cove Road and go 2 miles to the Whiteside Cove Road and Bull Pen Road intersection. From Highlands drive east on Main Street. It becomes Horse Cove Road as it leaves town; about 5 miles to the Whiteside Cove Road/Bull Pen Road intersection.

Dulany Bog* map page 4, 15

This is a large marshy area at the junction of Bull Pen Road and Highway 107, about 1.2 miles north of the North Carolina/South Carolina border. This marsh is impossible to miss once you arrive at the junction. There's some sort of warehouse business on the east side of the highway. The area is labeled Mulkey Gap on some maps. This bog is a study site of the Highlands Biological Station. Turn onto Bull Pen Road and park as soon as you find a place wide enough. Walk back toward the bog area and you'll find a very faint trail on the right leading into the bog. The vegetation here is very thick and finding the trail may be impossible. A late winter or early spring visit



might be best if you aren't comfortable in such thick vegetation. Be prepared to get your feet wet here but also remember that it's very important you be careful not to disturb anything in this very sensitive study area. Among the rare plants found there –

- Helonias bullata*, Swamp Pink
- Carex folliculata*, Northern Long Sedge
- Smilax laurifolia*, Laurel-leaved Green Briar
- Sarracenia purpurea montana*, Purple Pitcher Plant

Slick Rock maps page 4, 12 ♂ above ↑

This is a small bald near the western end of Bull Pen Road. Hiking to the bald spot is nothing more than a short uphill walk, a little over 100 yards. This bald is misnamed; it isn't at all slippery. The granite has eroded into a very rough texture with many little pockets and grooves. Although the footing is good you will need to be very careful here as the bald gets increasingly steep, eventually becoming a cliff as you move downward. It is a good wildflower location and offers a good view; said to be excellent for sunrises. Much of the rocks are covered by thick mats of Spike Moss, *Selaginella*. From Horse Cove Road turn onto Bull Pen Road and drive about 1 mile to a small pull-off on the right; a Carsonite sign on the side of the road marks the trailhead.

Chattooga River Section 00 *maps page 9, 12, 13*

The Chattooga River from Bull Pen Road upstream to Whiteside Cove Road is referred to as Section 00 (double zero). About 2 miles of the river upstream of Whiteside Cove Road courses through private property. Part of Section 00 has recently been opened to boaters at certain water levels. Whiteside Cove Road to Bull Pen Road is about 6 river miles or a hike of about 5.4 miles.

Chattooga River Section 00 Trail *maps page 9, 12, 13*

This is a disjunct section of the Chattooga River Trail, popular with hikers, picnickers and fishermen. It begins on the west side of the Bull Pen Road Iron Bridge, goes north paralleling the river and ends at a pull-off on Whiteside Cove Road, a one-way hike of about 5.4 miles. The Whiteside Cove Road pull-off is well marked with a highway sign and a trailhead sign. Going north from the Iron Bridge the trail has several minor obstructions; slippery and steep rocks, large fallen trees and muddy places. A trail called the **County Line Trail**, *map 12*, goes down to the Chattooga River Trail from Whiteside Cove Road. It is about 1.2 miles long, in good shape, easy walking, flat for the first half then gently sloping down a ridge until it joins the Chattooga River Trail. There's a fire district sign and two new county line signs on the highway, Whiteside Cove Road, at the trailhead pull-off. The **Bull Pen Road Iron Bridge** is about 5 miles west from Highway 107 and about 3 miles east from the Horse Cove Road intersection. There's parking for one or two cars at the bridge and a larger alternate parking area further up the road. At the bridge parking area a short trail on the right goes down to the river just upstream of an unnamed cascade known by some as **Swiss Cheese**, a name often given places with numerous potholes, *see Three Forks Hikes page 23*. A plaque at the trailhead commemorates the Youth Conservation Corps, the young workers who built the trail in 1977.

Upper Chattooga Narrows *maps page 4, 9, 12*

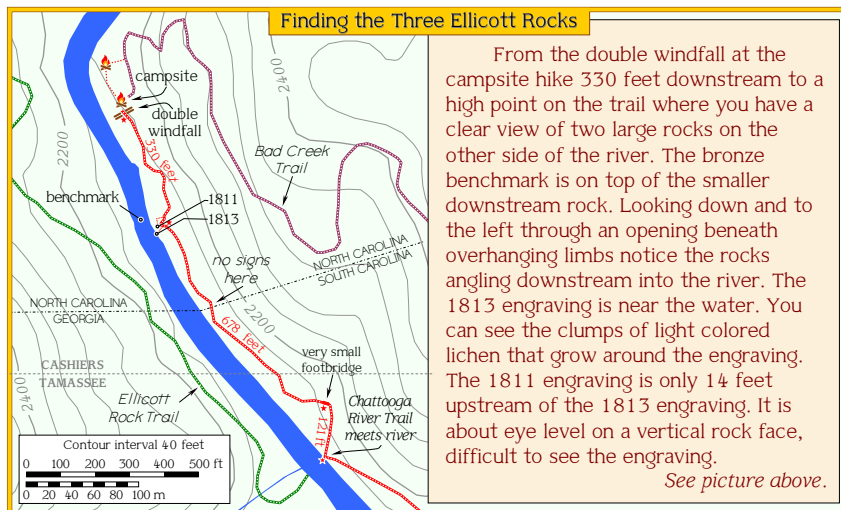
The term "Chattooga Narrows" has been loosely applied to several places between the Bull Pen Road Bridge and the Norton Mill confluence. A few yards upstream of the sandy beach at Norton Mill Creek the Chattooga River is confined to a narrow chute. This is known by some as The Section 00 Narrows or Upper Chattooga Narrows. The river is mostly gentle and flat for half mile downstream of Norton Mill Creek where it is totally blocked by what is known as **The Great Log Jam**. Another 0.1 miles downstream and the river enters another Section 00 Narrows also known as **The Gorge**. This scenic gorge area is most easily reached by hiking, wading or rock-hopping in the river at low water. You can also hike upstream in the river to this Narrows. There is a very steep, muddy and thickly vegetated spur trail that goes to the river off the main trail steeply downward to the river just downstream of the Narrows/Gorge. The trail is about 270 yards north of the Cane Creek footbridge. It's less than 200 feet down to the river. When you reach the river you'll find the Gorge only a few yards upstream. If you hike downstream in the river you will soon enter another gorge. At low water the entire Section 00 can be hiked in the river. It is a fun, beautiful hike in the summer months.

Chattooga Cliffs* *maps page 9, 12*

These cliffs are in a remote area on the west side of Bull Pen Mountain. They are almost continuous for a half mile or more. Hike the Section 00 Trail about 1.8 miles north to the metal bridge at Cane Creek. At 270 yards beyond the bridge look for a spur trail that drops steeply down to the river. Wade and rock-hop downstream looking for river left woods that aren't too dense to bushwhack up to the cliffs. As above, it is much easier hiking in this area at periods of low water. Round-leaved Sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia rotundifolia*, a very rare plant in our area has been recorded at seepages along these cliffs and Frasier's Loosestrife, *Lysimachia fraseri*, is found along the base of the cliffs. This is a rich area for the botanists but hiking along the base of the cliffs can be difficult due to fallen trees and limbs that accumulate there.



All three rocks are close together. The 1813 engraving is photo-enhanced.



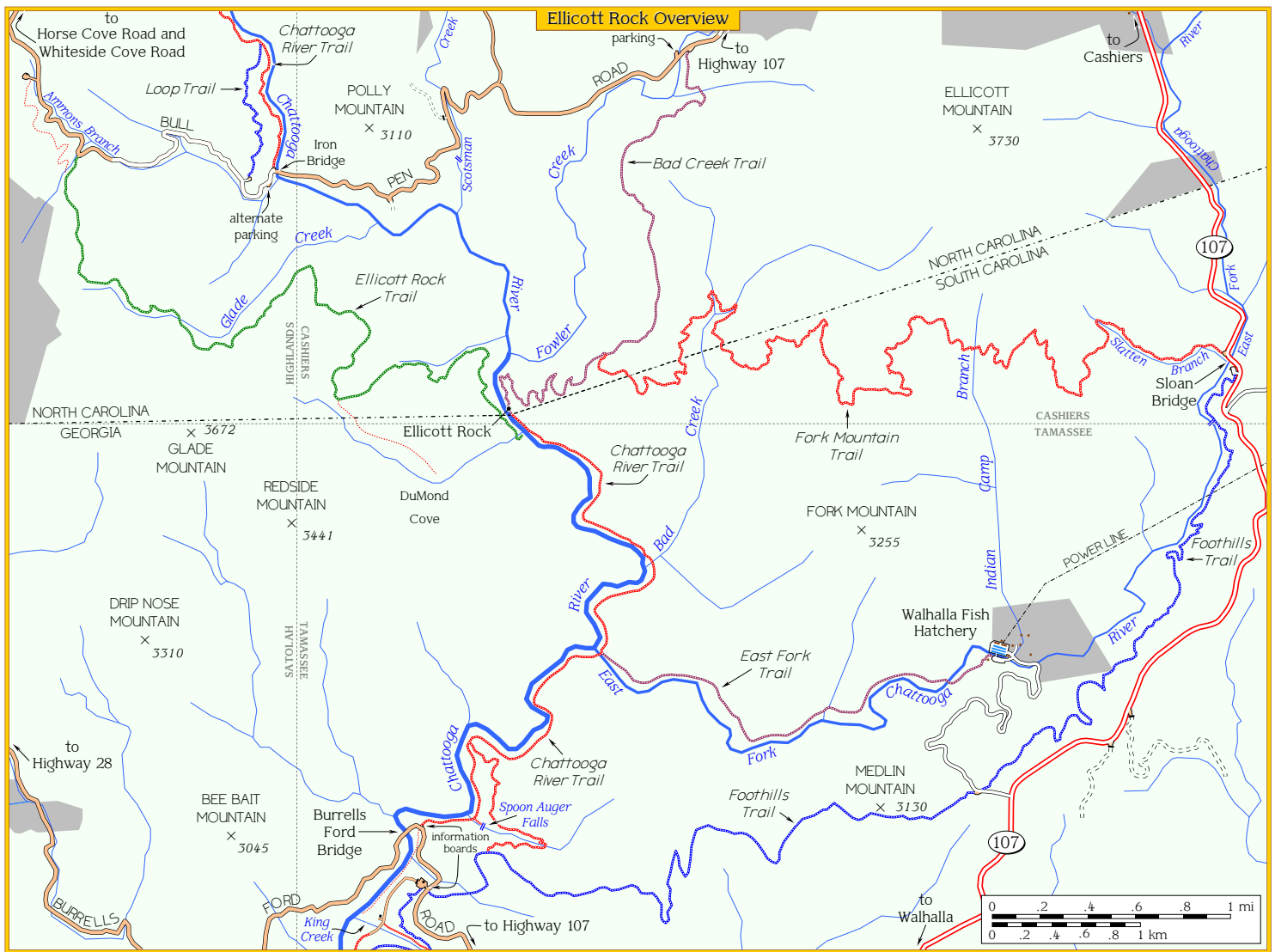
From the double windfall at the campsite hike 330 feet downstream to a high point on the trail where you have a clear view of two large rocks on the other side of the river. The bronze benchmark is on top of the smaller downstream rock. Looking down and to the left through an opening beneath overhanging limbs notice the rocks angling downstream into the river. The 1813 engraving is near the water. You can see the clumps of light colored lichen that grow around the engraving. The 1811 engraving is only 14 feet upstream of the 1813 engraving. It is about eye level on a vertical rock face, difficult to see the engraving.
See picture above.

Ellicott Rock

Ellicott Rock is where our three states come together. There's a lot of controversy, misinformation and misunderstanding about this historical site. Numerous accounts have been written about the rock and the man it is named for. In 1811 the renowned retired surveyor, Andrew Ellicott, was hired by the state of Georgia to settle a land dispute between Georgia and North Carolina. His surveying team was to ascertain the exact location of the point where our three states, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, come together. The location of this point is on a line that continues from the southern border of Tennessee so it involves that state also. This line (border) is still in dispute and legal actions are in progress in various courts and political bodies to this very day. The 1811 Ellicott surveying expedition determined the location and inscribed "N — G" on a rock, "Ellicott Rock", on the east riverbank of the Chattooga River. There was still much political disagreement and in 1813 another surveying team was commissioned by North Carolina and South Carolina to locate this spot. They engraved a nearby rock on the east riverbank with the inscription "LAT 35 AD 1813 NC + SC". This 1813 rock is named "Commissioner's Rock" but is the site that is often referred to as Ellicott Rock. Yet another rock has the typical modern bronze benchmark and is assumed by many to be the most accurate spot where you can technically stand in all three states at one time. This obviously isn't true since the benchmark is well over 200 feet north of the state line. Many people aren't aware that Georgia claims all the islands in the river so the state line goes down the center of any waterway, river left of an island.

Ellicott Rock Hikes

For people without explicit directions this is usually a very frustrating hike. They can't find Ellicott Rock. From time to time there have been trailside signs and flagging tape at the spot where you descend the 20 feet from the trail down to Commissioner's Rock. The engraving is very faint and visitors sometimes scratch the dirt and lichens out of the engraved letters and numbers to make them more photogenic. For some reason markers or signage at Ellicott Rock is short lived. Carefully follow these directions and you will surely find all three rocks. Remember that visiting the area is best at the lowest possible water level.



Bad Creek Trail maps page 12, 13 & above +

Another trail from the Duke Energy Bad Creek Station is also known as the Bad Creek Trail. It provides access to Lower Whitewater Falls by way of the Foothills Trail, see page 6. If you do either of these trails you will not see the name “Bad Creek Trail”. More confusion; “Our” trail, the Chattooga River Bad Creek Trail, is often called Ellicott Rock Trail but another trail has that name, see next account. Opinion; this trail should be just a continuation of the Chattooga River Trail. From Bull Pen Road to Ellicott Rock it is 3.2 miles and easy walking, mostly level or gently inclined up or down on top of a ridge. It is the easiest and shortest hike to Ellicott Rock although many visitors prefer the Chattooga River Trail hike up from Burrells Ford because it goes along the river for most of its length. The Bad Creek Trail doesn’t go close to Bad Creek although a portion of the trail is parallel to and about 0.2 miles west of the stream. There is one fork in the trail at about 1.9 miles; the Fork Mountain Trail or Sloan Bridge Trail forks to the left, has signs. For the next 1.2 miles the trail goes down the end of the ridge. The final descent from the end of the ridge down to the river is very steep but there are several switchbacks making it quite easy. Spur trails drop down to the river near the end. The trail ends at a riverside campsite with Ellicott Rock less than 400 feet downstream. To get to the Bad Creek Trailhead turn onto Bull Pen Road from Highway 107 and drive about 2.6 miles to a parking area just after crossing Fowler Creek, no bridge, just a culvert, does have a small sign, ‘Fowler Creek’. From this parking area the trailhead is about 100 yards back up the road on the other side of Fowler Creek. There is also a small pull-off at the trailhead, one or two cars.

Ellicott Rock hikes with one way mileage.

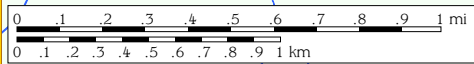
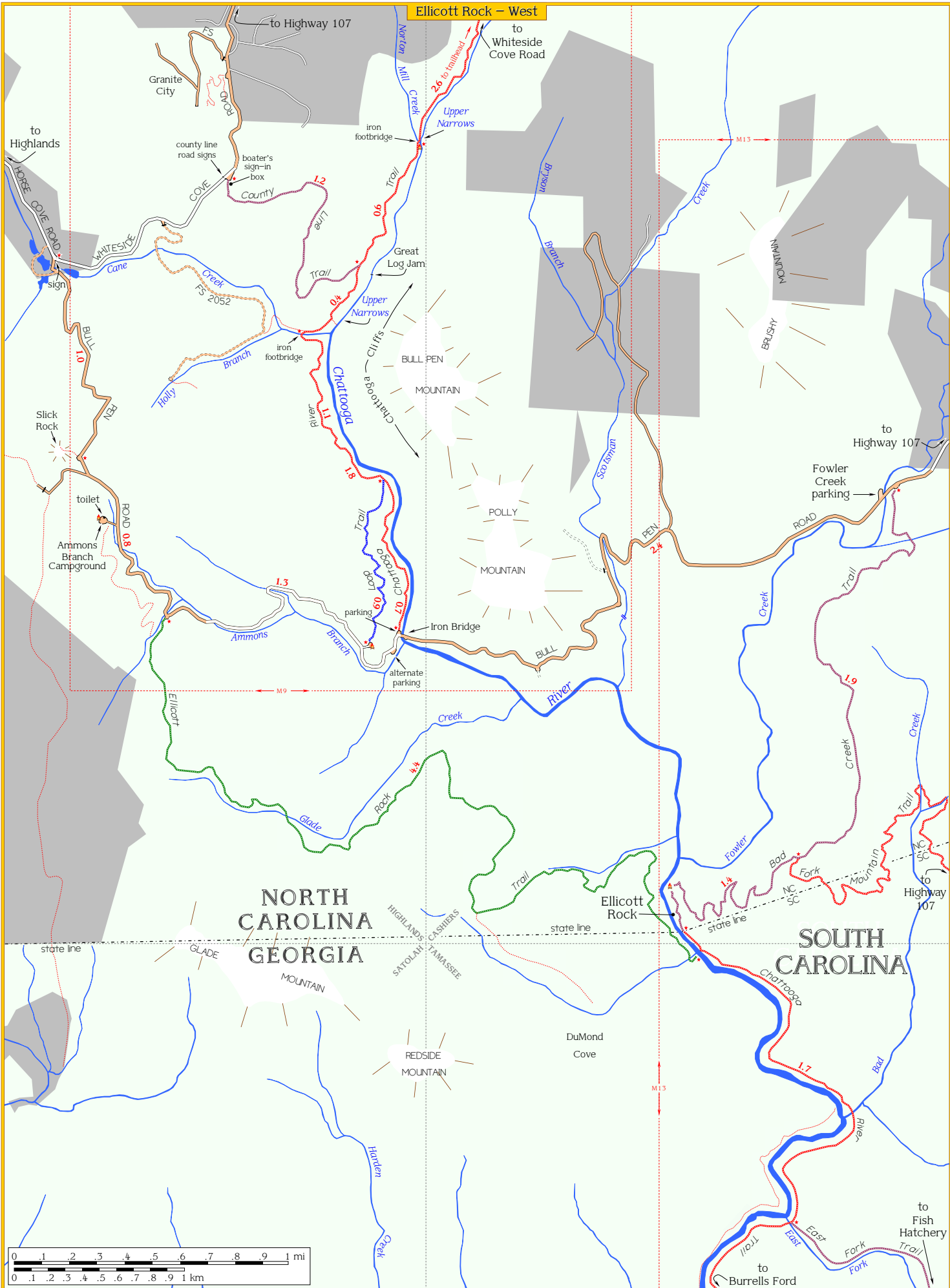
Bad Creek Trail from Bull Pen Road	3.2
Ellicott Rock Trail from Bull Pen Road.....	4.4
Fork Mountain Trail from Highway 107	7.5
East Fork Trail from Walhalla Fish Hatchery	4.2
Chattooga River Trail from Burrells Ford Rd	3.5

All these trails are shown on the overview map above.

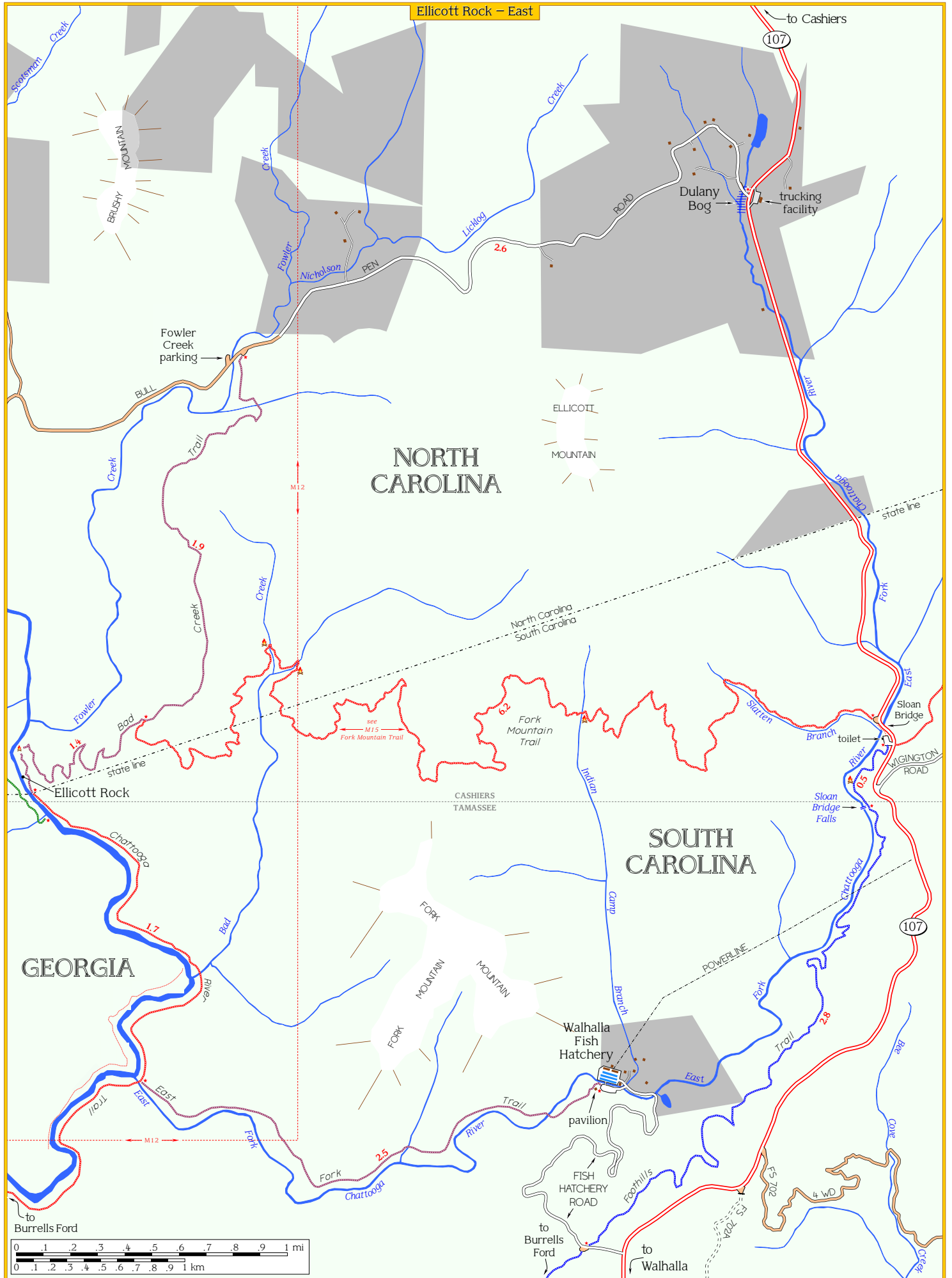
Ellicott Rock Trail maps page 12, 13 & +

This trail begins at Bull Pen Road and ends at a spot on the west side of the Chattooga River about 0.16 miles downstream of Ellicott Rock. You’ll need to cross the river to get up to the rock. The trail, about 4.4 miles, is mostly level, easy walking but does have numerous windfalls to work through. It isn’t clear if anyone is doing maintenance on this trail. A footbridge across Glade Creek has been replaced with a culvert. The trail goes through a variety of forest types, a great wildflower hike. Much of the trail follows an old road bed and observant hikers will notice at least one old home site along the way. When the trail gets within about 0.1 miles of the river it turns south paralleling the river for about 0.6 miles. You might see vague fishermen trails dropping down to the river in this final stretch. As you get very close to the river the trail crosses a small stream and goes only a few yards underneath thick vegetation down to the river. Here the Chattooga River Trail is visible on the other side of the river only feet from the water’s edge. It’s an easy wade crossing the river here at low or normal water levels but the rocks can be very slippery. One or two walkingsticks will come in handy wading in the shallow water. To get to the trailhead from the intersection at Horse Cove Road and Whiteside Cove Road turn onto Bull Pen Road and drive about 1.8 miles. The small Ellicott Rock Trail pull-off will be on your right in a very tight left turn. If you drive from the Highway 107 end of Bull Pen Road the trailhead is on the left about 1.4 miles beyond the Chattooga River Iron Bridge. There’s an Ellicott Rock Trail sign you can see from your car and an information board as you go up onto the trail. The pull-off is small but at least two cars can park here.

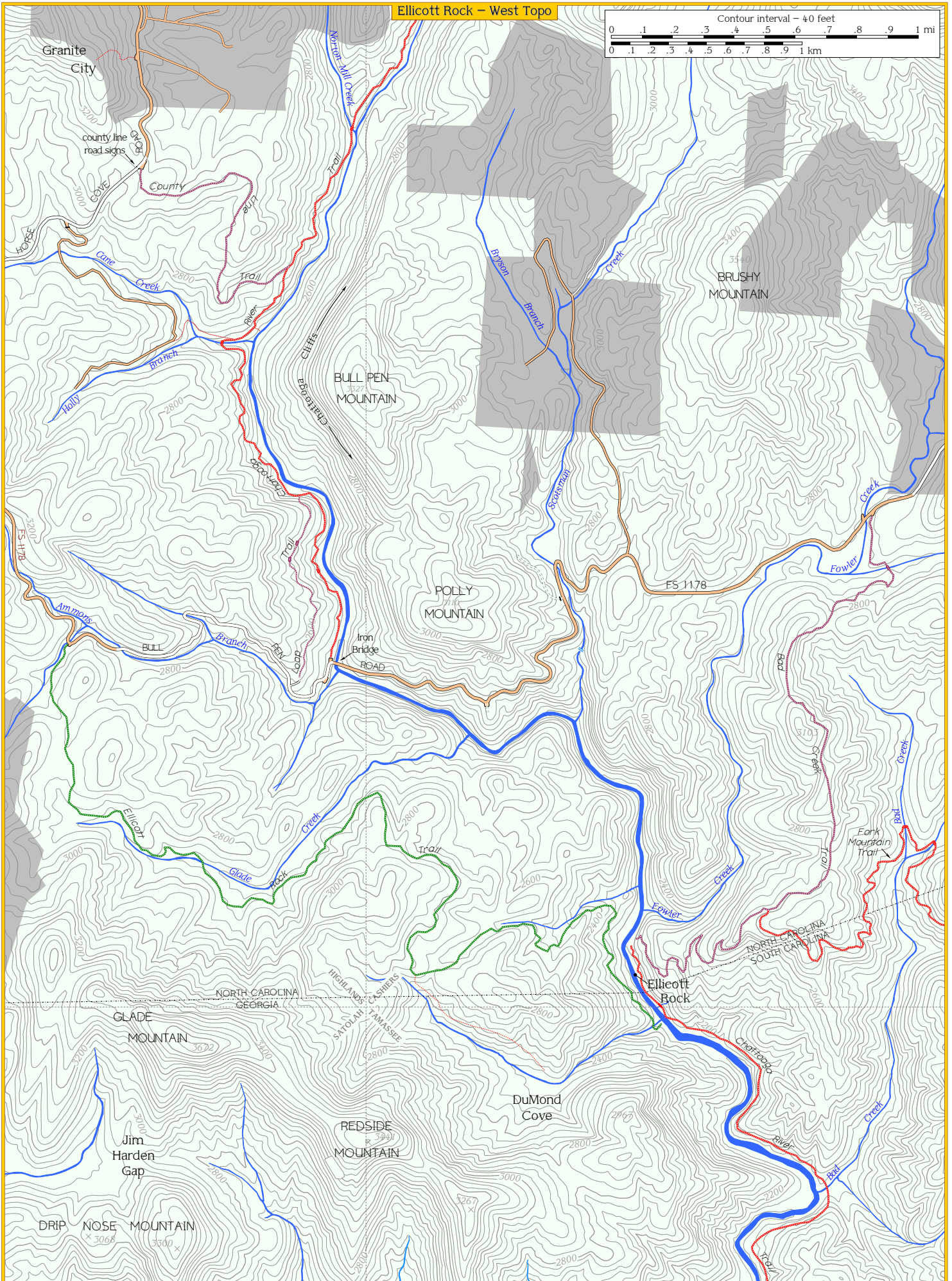
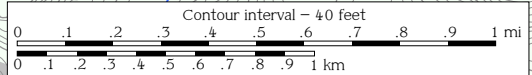
Ellicott Rock - West

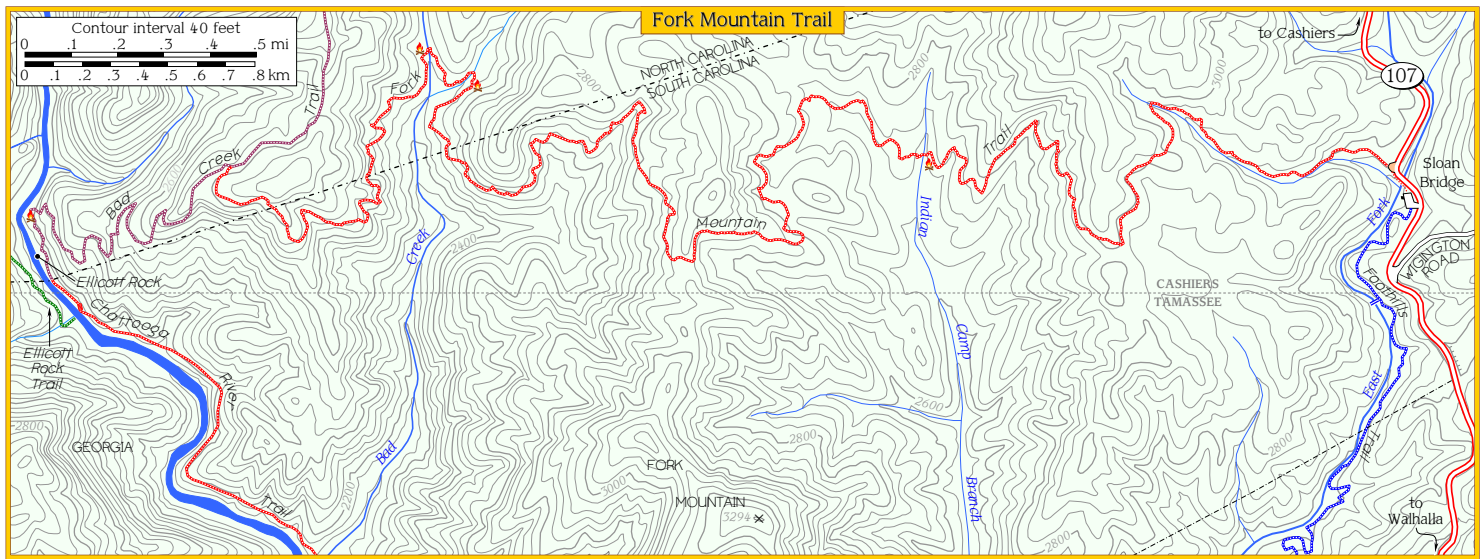


Ellicott Rock - East



Ellicott Rock - West Topo





Fork Mountain Trail, Sloan Bridge Trail maps page 11, 12, 13, & above ↑

At 7.5 miles one way this Ellicott Rock day hike is quite long; 6.2 miles from Sloan Bridge to the Bad Creek Trail, 1.2 miles to the Chattooga River Trail then 0.1 down to Ellicott Rock. On this surprisingly level trail you'll get occasional views of Fork Mountain, Oconee County's highest peak at 3,294 feet. Sloan Bridge, at the East Fork Chattooga River, no longer exists. It is now just a culvert beneath Highway 107. Look for the Sloan Bridge parking area, has a toilet and information board. Going north on Highway 107 it is only 0.2 miles north of Wigington Road, the cutoff to Whitewater Falls. Going south from Cashiers it is 0.9 miles south of the NC/SC state line. A path next to the highway leads to the Fork Mountain Trailhead about 100 yards north of the parking area.

East Fork Trail to Ellicott Rock maps page 11, 12, 13, 17, 73

This is a great wildflower trail that goes from the Walhalla Fish Hatchery to the Chattooga River Trail near the confluence of the East Fork and the Chattooga River. The trail is about 2.5 miles long, easy walking. It parallels the East Fork for the entire distance although only the lower portion of the trail is close to the stream. To get to Ellicott Rock you must then hike 1.7 miles north on the Chattooga River Trail. This is a one way hike of about 4.2 miles from the Fish Hatchery. From the parking lot follow the walkway, bearing left, to the pavilion. The trailhead is on the right corner of the pavilion. See *East Fork Chattooga River* below right.

Chattooga River Trail to Ellicott Rock entire trail map on page 73

Hiking north from Burrells Ford Road, Ellicott Rock is only 3.5 miles. It's 1.8 miles to the East Fork and another 1.7 up to Ellicott Rock. The trailhead is 0.3 miles north of the Burrells Ford parking area. An information board is right next to the road. At about 0.2 miles a spur trail goes right a short distance up to Spoon Auger Falls, steep but easy 150 yard hike. There are numerous fisherman trails and campsites along the river here; not shown on the maps. The trail that begins across the road from the Burrells Ford parking area is a longer hike up along the ridges and coves but bypasses the intensive fishing/camping area close to the river. For more info See *Burrells Ford* page 16, page 17 for another map.

- Aristolochia macrophylla*, Dutchman's Pipe
- Boykinia aconitifolia*, Brook Saxifrage
- Carex appalachica*, Appalachian Sedge
- Carex austro-caroliniana*, South Carolina Sedge
- Carex communis amplisquama*, Fort Mountain Sedge
- Carex manhartii*, Manhart's Sedge
- Carex scabrata*, Rough Sedge
- Carex woodii*, Pretty Sedge
- Caulophyllum thalictroides*, Blue Cohosh
- Clintonia umbellulata*, Speckled Wood Lily
- Cypripedium parviflorum*, Yellow Lady's Slipper

Foothills Trail map page 73

The Foothills Trail enters the Chattooga River watershed in this area. It comes from the Whitewater Falls area and crosses Highway 107 near Sloan Bridge. Going south it crosses Fish Hatchery Road then Medlin Mountain and down to join the Chattooga River Trail near Burrells Ford. See *Medlin Mountain* next.

Some Fish Hatchery and East Fork Trail plants.

- Deparia acrostichoides*, Silvery Glade Fern
- Diphylella cymosa*, Umbrella Leaf
- Galearis spectabilis*, Showy Orchis
- Hepatica acutiloba*, Sharp-lobed Hepatica
- Huperzia porophila*, Rock Club Moss
- Isotria medioloides*, Small Whorled Pogonia
- Melanthium parviflorum*, Appalachian Bunch Flower
- Thaspium trifoliatum aureum*, Yellow Meadow Parsnip
- Thaspium trifoliatum trifoliatum*, Purple Meadow Parsnip
- Trautvetteria carolinensis*, Tassel Rue
- Trillium catesbaei*, Catesby's Trillium

- Trillium grandiflorum*, Large-flowered Trillium
- Trillium simile*, White Trillium
- Trillium undulatum*, Painted Trillium
- Trillium vaseyi*, Vasey's Trillium
- Ulmus rubra*, Slippery Elm



Walhalla Fish Hatchery maps page 12, 17, 73

The entrance road to the Walhalla Fish Hatchery is on Highway 107 about 12 miles north of the Highway 28 and Highway 107 intersection in Mountain Rest north of Walhalla. That's about 10.6 miles south of Cashiers or about 3.4 miles south of the state line. There is parking and a picnic area with facilities at the hatchery. The hatchery raises trout that are released in various rivers for fishermen. This is a very worthwhile visit – open to the public. You can stroll around the pools of fish that are in various stages of growth. There is often a person on duty to give you a tour inside the building where the Trout eggs are hatched.

East Fork Chattooga River, East Fork Trail maps 13, 17, 73

This stream begins about 4 miles north of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery, flows south along Highway 107 then westward to the Chattooga River. The East Fork Trail goes alongside the stream for most of the distance from the hatchery to the river. This lower portion of the East Fork and surrounding coves downstream of the hatchery is possibly the most botanically diverse area in the Chattooga River drainage. The area around the hatchery has lost its South Carolina record holding Hemlocks to the Woolly Adelgid. The area is now full of huge stumps and fallen Hemlock trees. The East Fork Trail is still a must do for the wildflower enthusiasts; about 2.5 miles from the Fish Hatchery to the river.



Foothills Trail Conference bumper sticker

Medlin Mountain *maps page 17, 19*

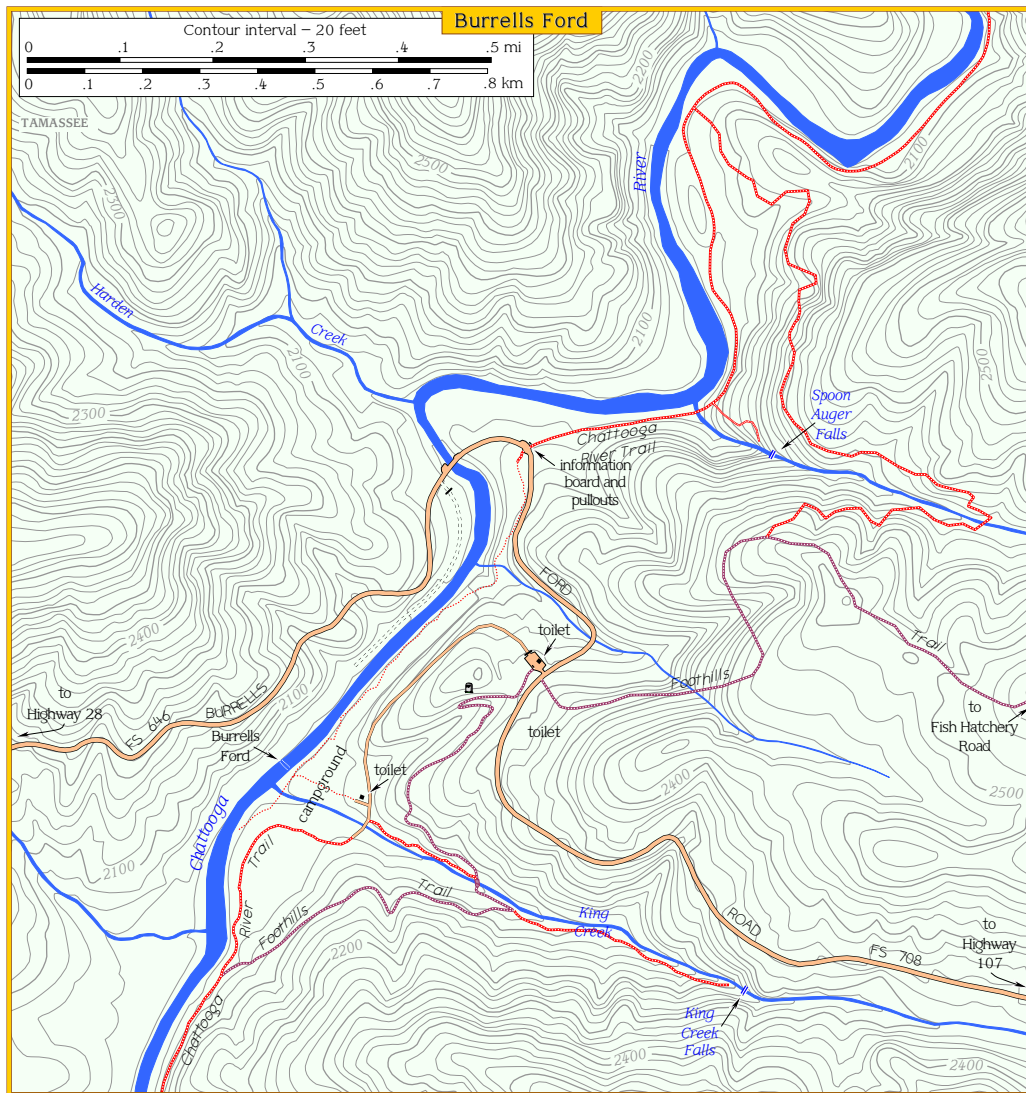
Elevation 3,141 feet. This is a remote and complex mountain ridge east of Burrells Ford and southwest of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery. The Foothills Trail goes west from Fish Hatchery Road along the Medlin Mountain ridge to Burrells Ford. The trailhead is on the left side of Fish Hatchery Road little more than 0.1 miles from Highway 107. The hike down to Burrells Ford is surprisingly easy. The trail across the top of Medlin Mountain, is fairly level. At 3.3 miles the trail forks. The trail to the right goes 1.1 miles upriver to join the Chattooga River Trail. The trail to the left goes 0.5 miles down to the Burrells Ford parking area. A spur trail on the Chattooga River Trail goes up to Spoon Auger Falls. For the hardcore naturalist there's a rewarding bushwhack from the summit of Medlin Mountain half mile down the north facing slope to the East Fork Trail. Most all open woods, nice grottos and seepage areas. Hike out the East Fork Trail.

Spoon Auger Falls *map page 17 & right* →

This 50 foot waterfall, also known as Rock Cliff Falls, is on a small unnamed stream that enters the Chattooga River, river left, upstream of the Burrells Ford Bridge. From Burrells Ford Road hike about 0.2 miles north on the Chattooga River Trail. A Carsonite sign marks a short spur trail that goes up to the falls, about 140 yards, a little steep but easy walking.

DuMond Cove* *maps page 11, 12, 14*

Old growth forest is rare anywhere in the United States and timber companies are eager to destroy what remains. Botanist David M. DuMond wrote about an old growth cove he discovered southwest of Ellicott Rock but didn't give explicit directions to the location. In the mid 90s botanist Chas Zartman conducted several searches of the area and discovered the cove; now dubbed "DuMond Cove". This cove has large Hemlocks, Tulip Poplars, American Ash, White Oaks, Red Oaks and American Holly. A few tree measurements were taken on a 1997 field trip. At least one Hemlock was 55 inches DBH, half dozen or more over 40 inches DBH. Many Tulip Trees over 40 inches DBH; the largest measured was 49 inches DBH. One American Ash measured 32 inches DBH. Another striking feature is the many large fallen Chestnut trees and stump remains throughout the area. A series of rich coves enclose a small stream that empties into the Chattooga River about 0.1 miles downstream of Ellicott Rock. The Ellicott Rock Trail ends at this confluence. You could hike from this point along the stream up to the more level old growth coves but this quarter-mile stretch is quite difficult, not recommended; very steep, poor footing and extremely thick vegetation. The cove is most easily accessed by a spur trail off the Ellicott Rock Trail. This trail is quite vague in parts but is mostly a straight line paralleling the stream down the cove. It follows the almost extinct remains of an old logging road. While the Ellicott Rock Trail was drawn from GPS tracks the DuMond Cove Trail, red dots on the *page 14 map*, is only an approximation. The trailhead junction was found blocked by a pile of limbs in 2011. Hike from Bull Pen Road about 2.9 miles and look for the blocked trail on the right. Although it has yet to be confirmed if the Woolly Adelgid has killed these mighty DuMond Cove Hemlocks we might assume the worse. Old growth in our area is quite rare. This cove would be a worthwhile visit for anyone interested in our area.



Burrells Ford to Ridley Fields *map page 17*

The Chattooga River Trail mostly parallels the river from Burrells Ford down to Ridley Fields at the Highway 28 Bridge, about 12.3 miles. The trail is well maintained, easy walking with switchbacks that avoid very steep places as it follows the ridges and coves. There are occasional scenic stretches near the river. The trail portion from Burrells Ford down to Lick Log Creek is named the Chattooga River Trail and Foothills Trail. Lick Log Creek down to Ridley Fields is the Chattooga River Trail and the Bartram Trail. At about 1.4 miles south of Lick Log Creek the trail goes up on the ridges while a fishermen's trail continues near the river.

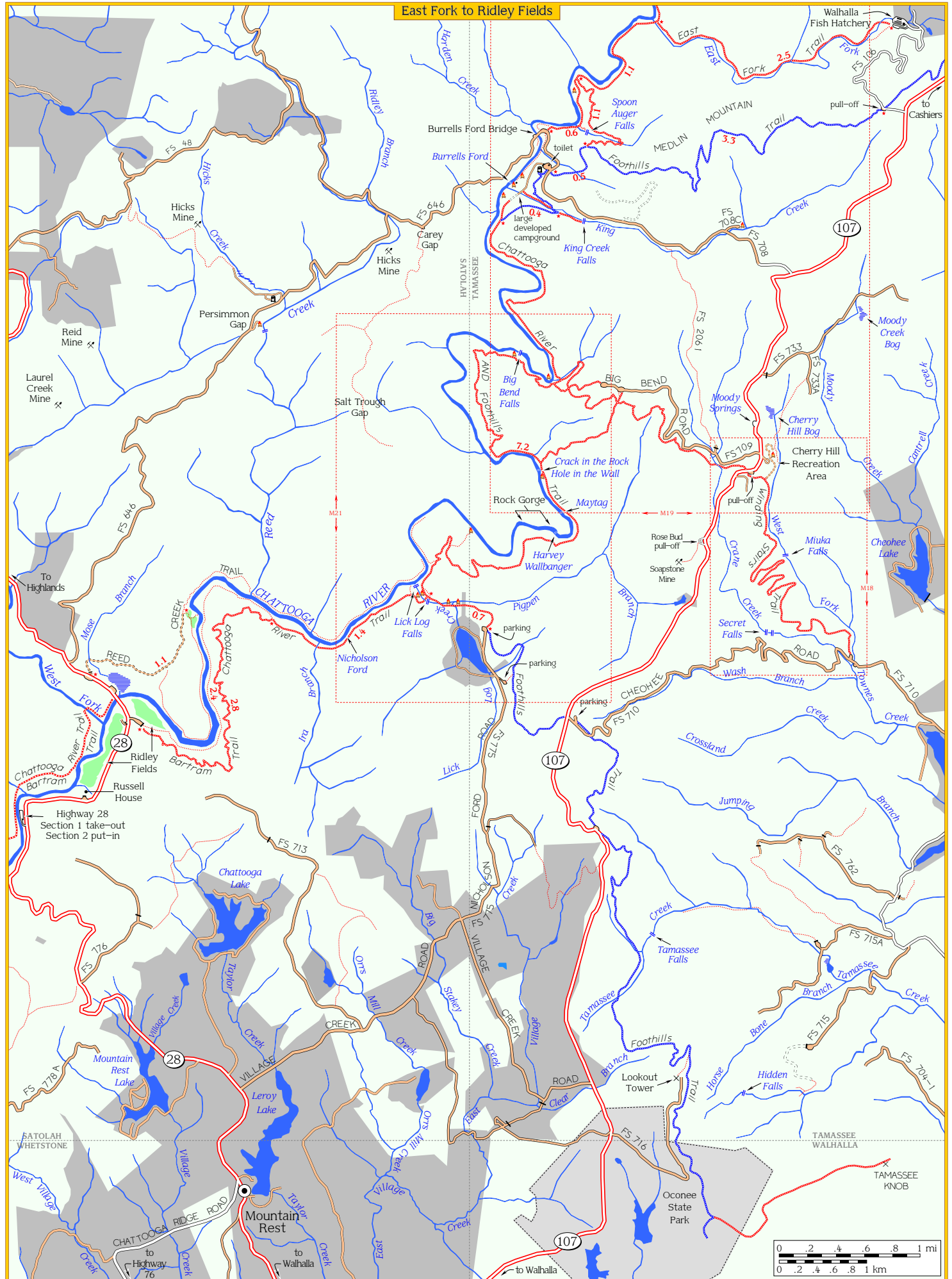
Burrells Ford Road *maps page 17 & above* ↗

Burrells Ford Road is a 10 mile long Forest Service Road that goes, east to west, from Highway 107 in South Carolina, crosses the Chattooga River at Burrells Ford, then on to Highway 28 in Georgia just north of the Chattooga River bridge. The South Carolina portion of the road is FS 708, about 3 miles long. The Georgia portion is FS 646, about 7 miles long. To get to the South Carolina end of Burrells Ford Road from the Highway 28 and Highway 107 intersection north of Walhalla drive north on 107 about 10.5 miles and turn left onto Burrells Ford Road. To get to the Georgia end of Burrells Ford Road. Drive 0.4 miles north of the Highway 28 bridge, Burrells Ford Road on the right. This road is excellent for wildflowers.

Burrells Ford *maps page 17, 73 & above* ↗

This is the site of an old ford. Now there is a bridge and a large campground. The campground is the largest on the Chattooga and is popular with boy scouts and other organized groups. There's a toilet in the campground area and another in the parking lot. There are numerous trails and pathways that can be a little confusing. The many fisherman trails aren't shown on the maps. King Creek flows through the campground.

East Fork to Ridley Fields



Big Bend Falls maps page 17, 21

This is said to be the largest single drop on the Chattooga River, about 30 feet. To get a complete photograph you will need to go downstream below the falls and cross the river onto the Georgia bank. From the Highway 28 and Highway 107 intersection north of Walhalla go north on 107 about 9.0 miles. The Cherry Hill Recreation Area will be on the right, Big Bend Road, FS 709, on the left. Turn left onto Big Bend Road and park at the end of the road. The hike from here to Big Bend Falls is about 1.2 miles if you follow the trail straight down the ridge from the end of the road. Attempts were made to eliminate this shortcut but because it is an older more direct and well established route it has been restored. The switchback avoids some of the steep places in the trail and adds about 0.3 miles to the Big Bend Falls hike; total one way about 1.5 miles. Study maps on pages 17 and 21 to understand these trails. Many people prefer the downriver hike from the Burrells Ford campground. This is a scenic and longer but quite easy hike with very few steep places, about 3.2 miles one way. At the Burrells Ford campground find the Foothills Trail/Chattooga River Trail and hike downriver. The King Creek Falls trail from the parking lot bypasses the camping area. See King Creek next.

King Creek Falls, King Creek* maps page 16, 17

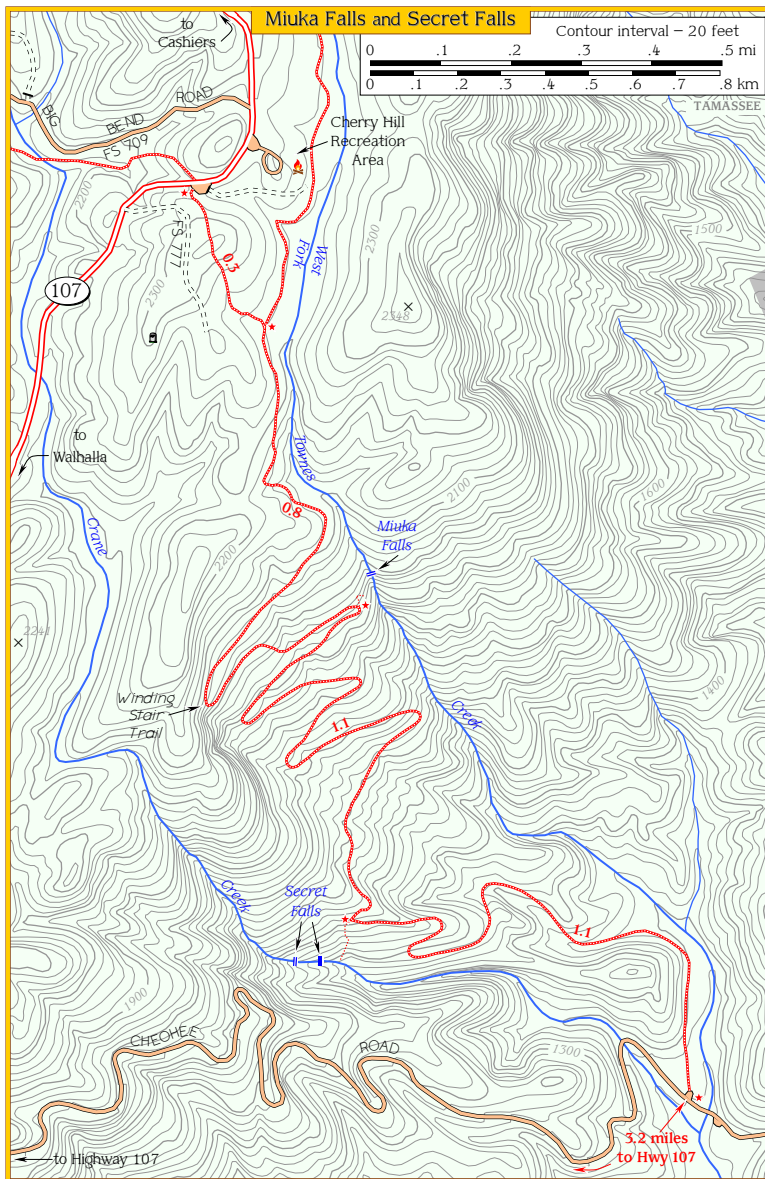
King Creek Falls is a 70 foot waterfall near the Burrells Ford campground. Very near the entrance to the campground parking lot the Foothills Trail leads off to the left. There is a sign at the trailhead. An easy walk to the falls of about 0.7 miles. Once you cross the bridge over King Creek follow the trail upstream to the falls. The Foothills Trail goes to the right and joins the Chattooga River Trail. Some of our rarest plants are in the King Creek watershed, including two rare orchids; *Isotria medioloides*, Small Whorled Pogonia and *Isotria verticellata*, Large Whorled Pogonia.

Crack in the Rock Hole in the Wall maps page 17, 19

This is a beautiful spot on the river for camping and fishing. Boaters have several tongue twister names for this rapid: "Rock in the Hole in the Wall", "Hole in the Wall" and "Crack in the Rock and Hole in the Wall". It is easily reached by hiking from Big Bend Road. See Big Bend Falls above for directions to Big Bend Road. Drive to the end of Big Bend Road and turn around. You will notice that you have driven past a wide place in the road about 500 feet from the end of the road. Park at this wide place and look for the trailhead on the south side of the road. You'll see a tank trap and mound with a little shortcut around the left side. This trail becomes more well defined as you travel downward. It shortly intersects with an old logging road/trail – go straight. The trail is all downhill but quite easy, about 0.9 miles to the river where it intersects with the Chattooga River Trail. Go downriver a few yards to a large sandy beach area just below Crack in the Rock Hole in the Wall. You can also hike to Crack in the Rock Hole in the Wall from the Nicholson Ford Road area. Park at the end of Nicholson Ford Road and follow the trail upriver about 3.4 miles. This is an easy hike. The Chattooga River Trail/Foothills Trail going north is surprisingly level or gently inclined most all the way up to Burrells Ford. See Lick Log Creek Falls page 22.

Rock Gorge maps page 17, 21

The Rock Gorge is a rugged 0.3 mile stretch of river about 0.7 miles downstream of Crack in the Rock Hole in the Wall. It is all bushwhack with no trails. Much of the hike within the gorge is wading and the best route is on the Georgia side. The lower the water level, the easier the hike. A level below 1.5 feet (Highway 76 water level gage) is recommended for a safe hike. To get to the upper end of the gorge hike the Chattooga River Trail downstream from Crack in the Rock Hole in the Wall about 0.4 miles and wade across to the Georgia side of the river. You'll see a right-hand bend downstream; the beginning of the Rock Gorge. Maytag Rapid is just upstream of this crossing point. The hike upstream from the Lick Log Creek area is a lengthy hike of about 1.7 miles in the river or by way of fisherman's trails. Hiking downstream, after exiting the Gorge, the river is relatively calm. Bushwhack up the South Carolina bank until you reach the Chattooga River Trail. Study map 21.



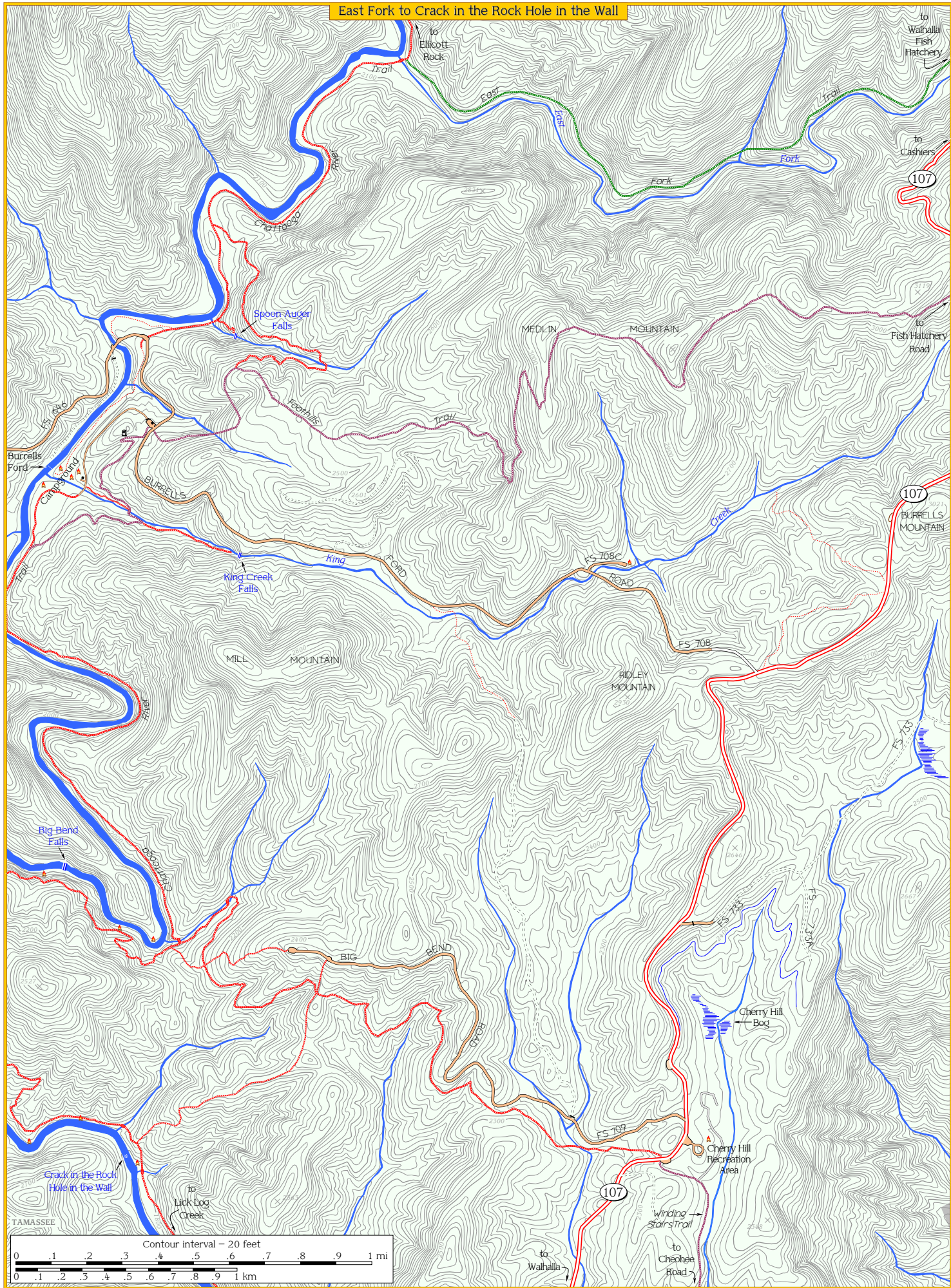
Miuka Falls and Secret Falls maps page 3 D2-3, 17 & above ↑

Both these falls are near the Winding Stair Trail that goes south from the Cherry Hill Recreation Area. While the trail itself is very gentle and easy walking, the final drop-down to either falls can be steep. Park at the pull-off just south of the Cherry Hill Recreation Area. Notice on the map (above ↑) that the trailhead is near the extreme right side of the pull-off. Look for a Carsonite sign. The trail starts out in Rhododendron but soon enters open forests. At 0.3 miles the trail from Cherry Hill comes in on the left. Hike another 0.8 miles to the Miuka Falls access trail at the end of one of the long switchbacks. You'll hear the falls and possibly see them if the foliage isn't in full leaf. You will notice several vague scoot-down trails to the stream; take your pick. Secret Falls is 1.1 miles further down the trail, still easy. At a sharp left turn you will notice a trail going right and steeply downward to the falls. You can also hike north from Cheochee Road, see overview map page 17.

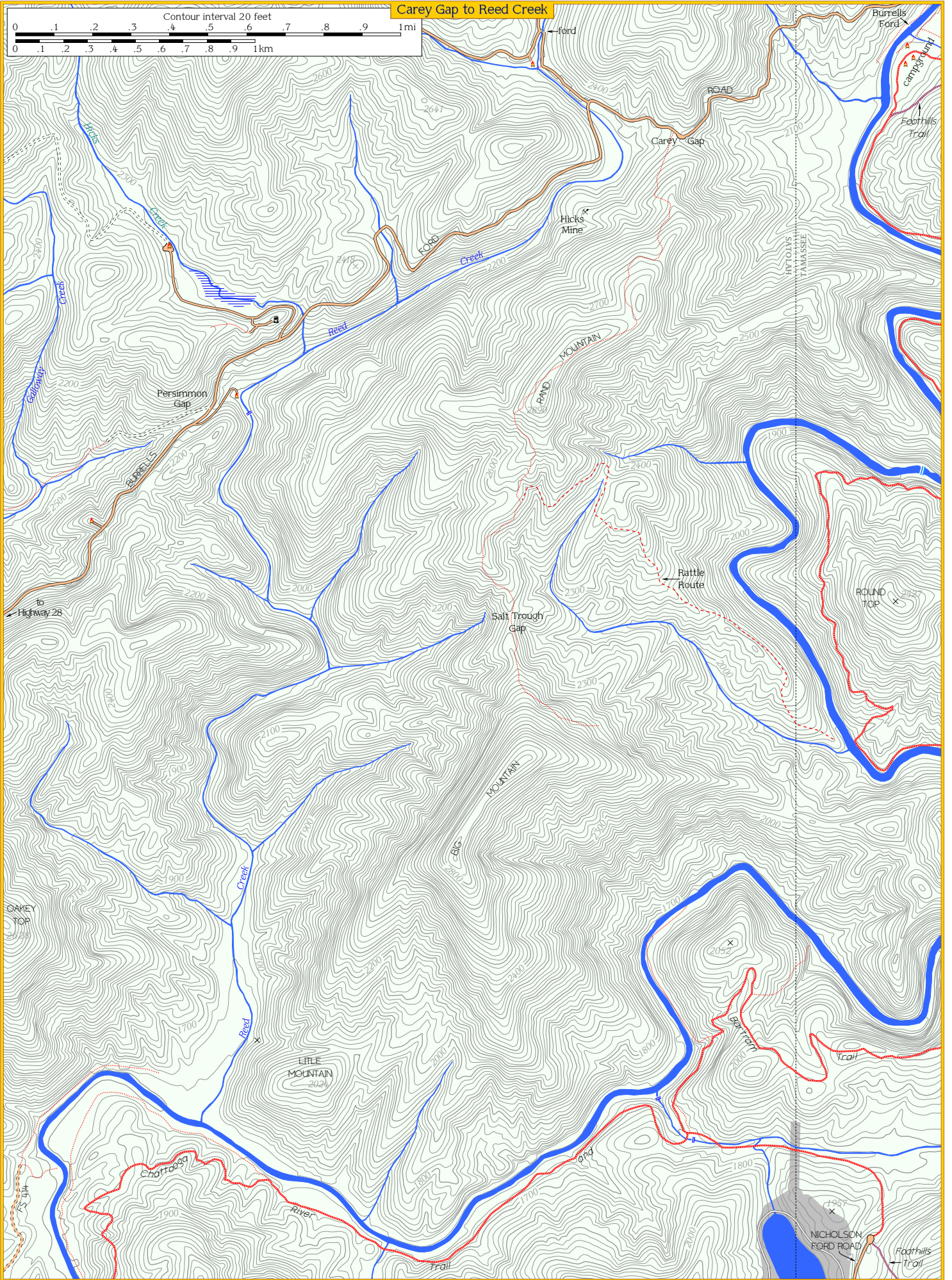
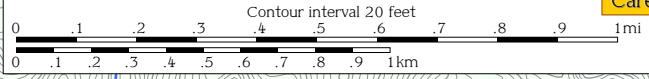
Cherry Hill Bog* map page 17

This small bog is just north of the Cherry Hill Recreation Area. It is most easily reached by hiking south from Forest Service Road 733. From the Highway 28 and Highway 107 intersection north of Walhalla go north on 107. At about 8.9 miles look for a sign, Cherry Hill Recreation Area. FS 733 is another 0.7 miles on your right. Park at the metal barrier and bushwhack down the drainage or the ridge on your right. At about 0.3 miles you will encounter flat boggy areas along the small streams. For a more gradual descent with no bushwhacking hike along the road from the barrier. At about 0.4 miles go to the right along a much deteriorated logging road until you see boggy areas on your right.

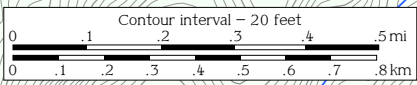
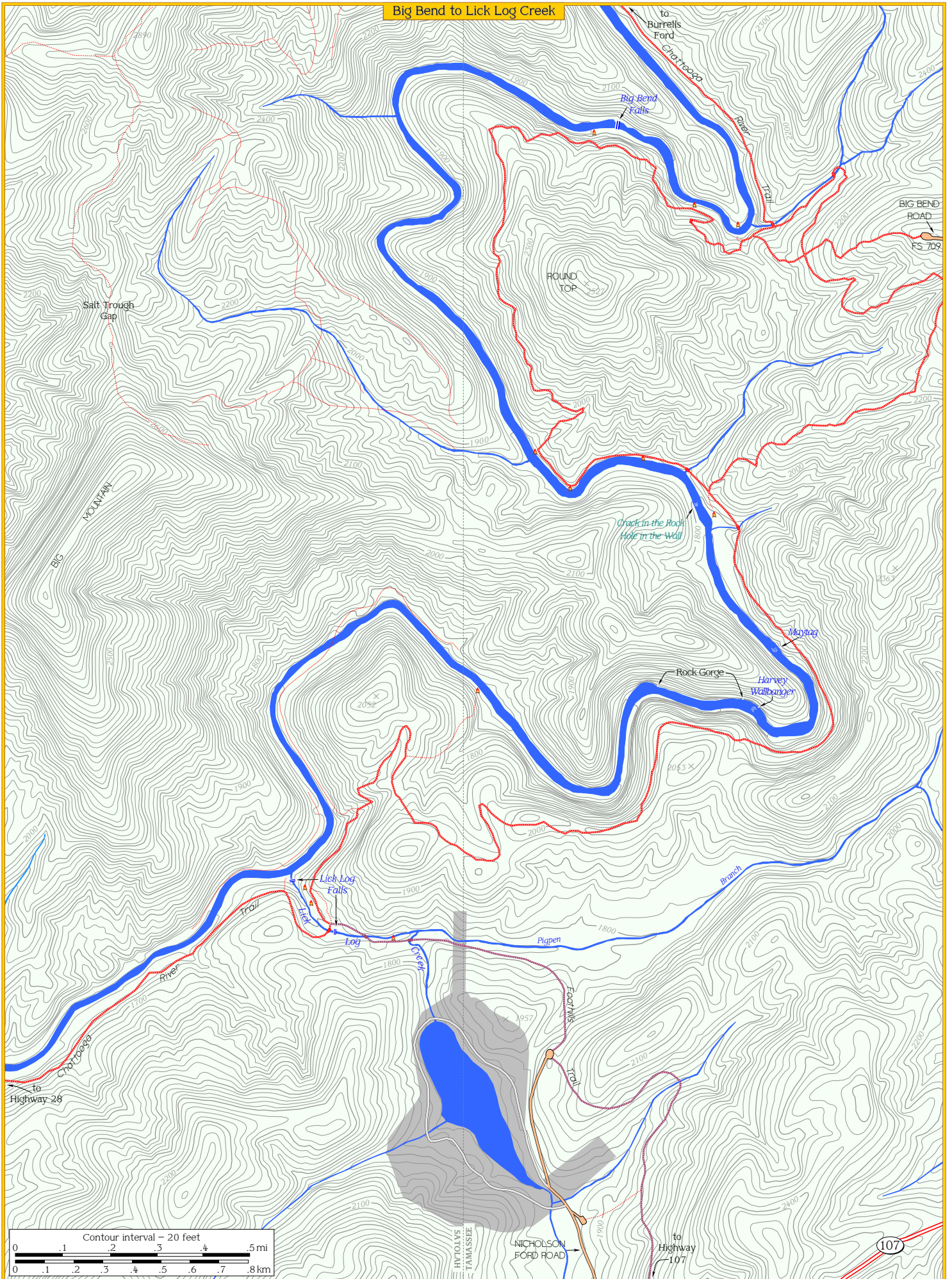
East Fork to Crack in the Rock Hole in the Wall



Carey Gap to Reed Creek



Big Bend to Lick Log Creek



107

Sloan Bridge Falls *maps page 3 D2 & right →*

This waterfall is on the East Fork Chattooga River. Hike about 0.5 miles south on the Foothills Trail from the Sloan Bridge parking area. There are numerous waterfalls along the river in this area but this is the only one that has a clear trail that drops down from the main trail. Once you pass an old campsite/fire ring look for the trail on your right. It is very short, very steep and slippery when wet but if you take your time and get a good hand hold on the many strong tree roots the descent is quite easy. The Foothills Trail from the Sloan Bridge parking area down to Fish Hatchery Road is about 3.3 miles, very easy walking, nothing steep. Driving north on highway 107 the Sloan Bridge parking area is about 2.5 miles north of the Fish Hatchery entrance or only 0.2 miles north of the Wigington Road intersection. There is a toilet and several picnic tables. The Foothills Trailhead is easy to miss. It's near the highway on the far left or south side of the parking area.

Bee Cove Creek Falls *maps page 3 D2 & right →*

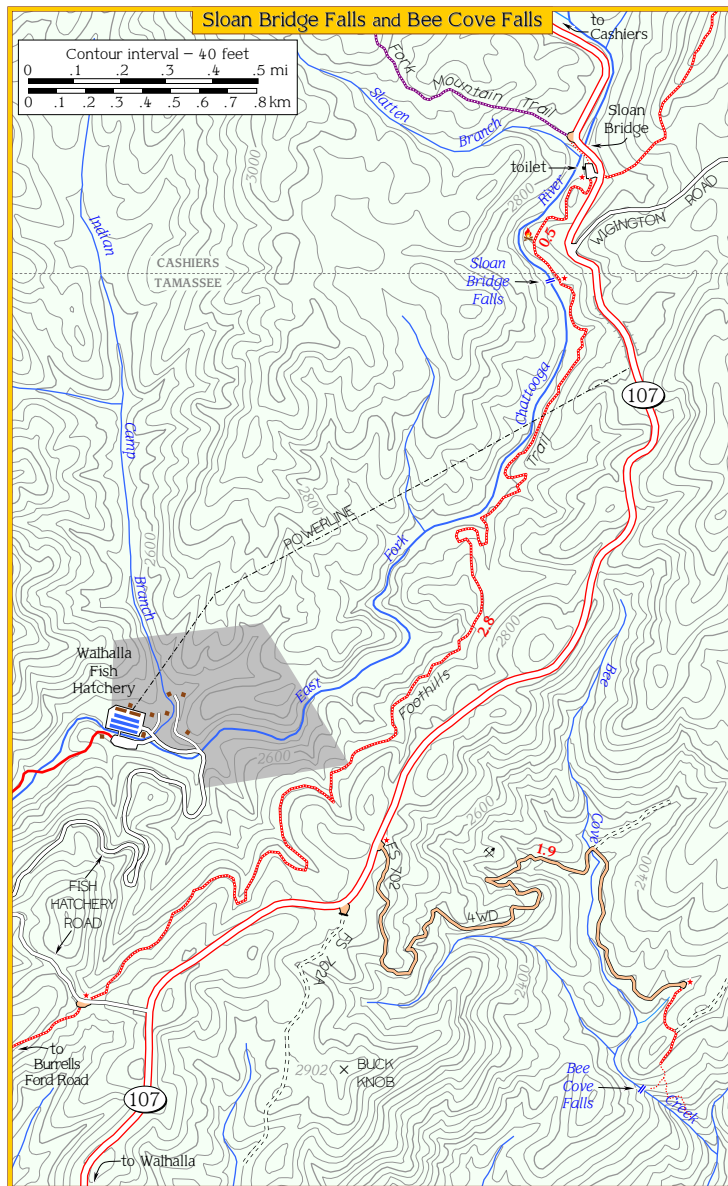
This is an almost continuous falls down a steep cove embedded in thick vegetation. Hike FS 702 (4 wheel drive road) around numerous complex ridges and coves, mostly level or gently inclined. At 1.4 miles go right at a fork then another 0.5 miles to the end of the road, trail on the right. After only 0.1 miles an old logging road goes left, the trail again goes right. Another 0.1 miles and the trail makes an abrupt left turn and becomes very steep, about 450 feet down to the top falls. Vague trails continue downward. FS 702 is on Highway 107 about 0.7 miles north of Fish Hatchery Road.

Lick Log Creek Falls *maps page 17, 21*

Also known as Pigpen Falls because both these streams join just before the confluence with the Chattooga River. Lick Log Creek Falls is an easy hike of about 0.8 miles from a parking area at the end of Nicholson Ford Road. Approaching the falls a Carsonite sign marks the Chattooga River/Foothills Trail going north. At the falls a footbridge crosses Lick Log Creek taking you downstream (south) on the Chattooga River Trail/Bartram Trail. It's about 4.2 miles down to Ridley Fields at the Highway 28 Bridge. The trail south stays quite close to the river. At 0.2 miles past the falls a short spur trail goes down to another waterfall at the Lick Log Creek confluence with the river. At 1.4 miles a set of steps goes left taking the main trail up along the ridges and coves. It rejoins the riverside trail at the **Ridley Fields** parking area. The length of this upper section of trail is about 2.8 miles. Going north from Lick Log Creek Falls, Burrells Ford is about 8.1 miles. *See the mileage chart on page 75.* To get to the Lick Log Creek area from the Highway 28 and Highway 107 intersection north of Walhalla go north on 107 about 3.3 miles and turn left onto Village Creek Road. Its about 1 mile north of the Oconee State Park entrance. Drive about 1.8 miles and go right onto Nicholson Ford Road. A conspicuous sign mark this intersection. After about 2.3 miles the road will end at a parking area. If you're in the Long Creek area take Chattooga Ridge Road from Highway 76 and turn left onto Highway 28. Drive 0.7 miles and turn right onto Village Creek Road. Drive 2.1 miles and turn left onto Nicholson Ford Road.

Rose Bud Soapstone Mine *maps page 17 & ↓*

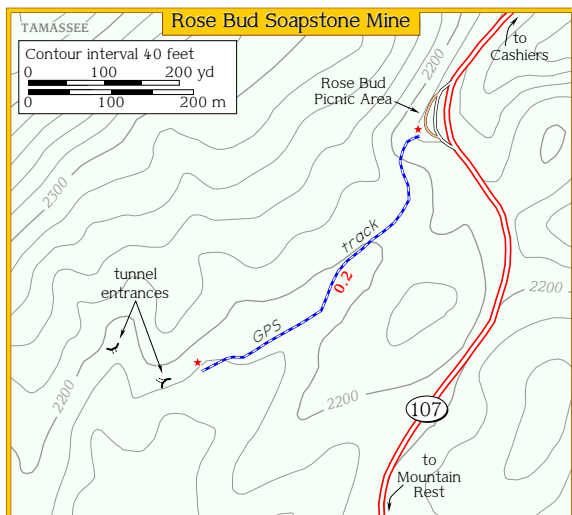
Labeled "Rose Bud Picnic Area" on many maps, this pull-off has no picnic table but was once a popular lunching spot for highway travelers. There is a very vague trail to the mine but it is easily missed until you are well into the hike. It becomes more well defined as you go along. The entrances to this soapstone mine, one on each side of a small hill, are blocked off by heavy ironwork barriers. If you carry a good flashlight you'll be able to see that this was

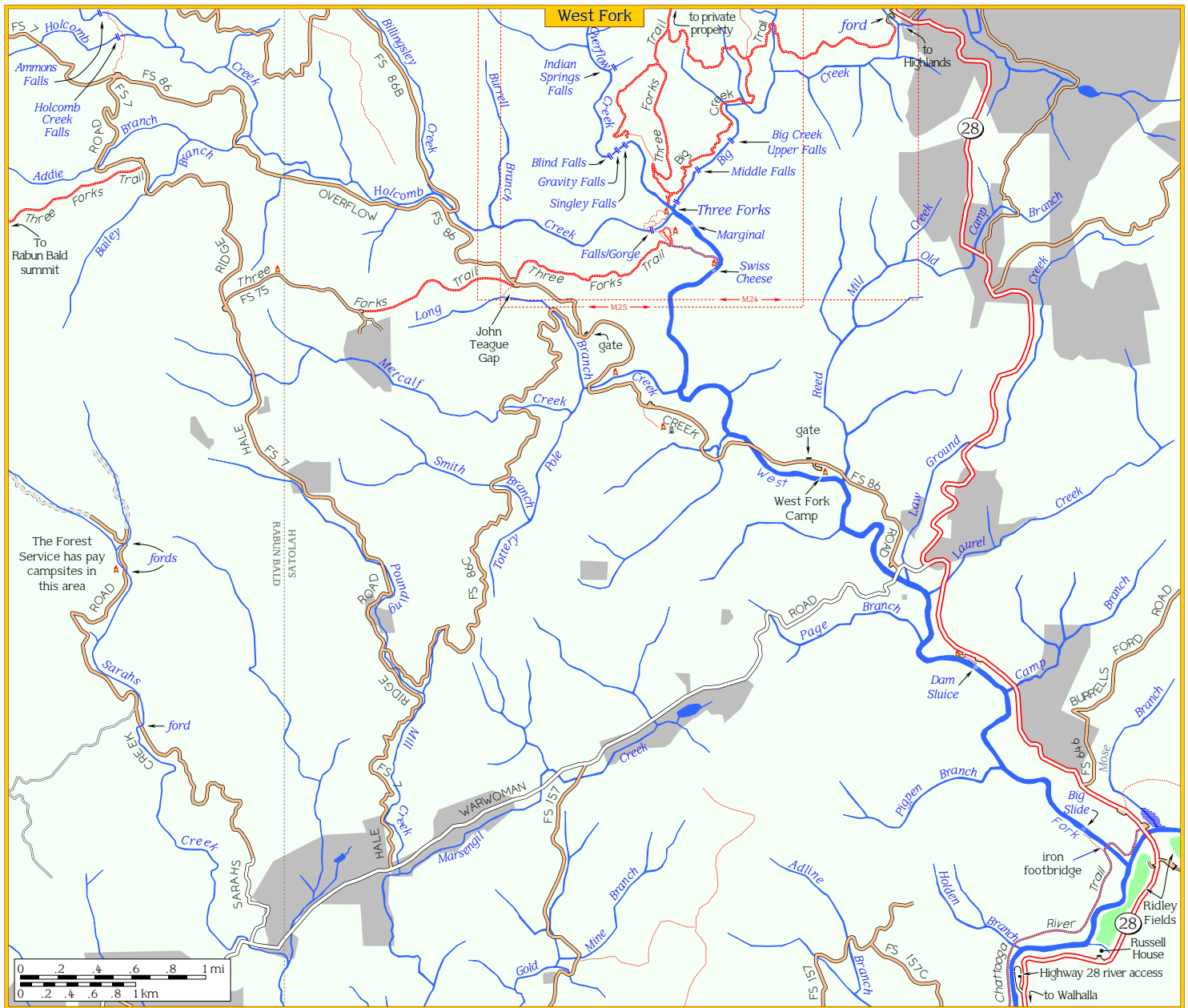


at one time a serious little mining operation with substantial tunneling. There are many stones strewn about in this area. Soapstone was used by the Indians and early settlers to make bowls and other fireproof implements. These mines or quarries are common in the southern Appalachians. From the Highway 28 and Highway 107 intersection in Mountain Rest go north about 7.9 miles and turn left into the Rose Bud Picnic Area pull-off. The pull-off is easily missed in the middle of a left/right S curve about 1.7 miles north of Cheochee Road. You will have just passed through a community of several houses.

West Fork Chattooga River *maps page 23, 24, 26, 31*

The West Fork is part of the Wild and Scenic River System and is referred to as Section 1 by boaters. The West Fork begins at **Three Forks** where three major streams, Holcomb Creek, Overflow Creek and Big Creek come together. The West Fork's confluence with the Chattooga River is about 0.2 miles downstream of the Highway 28 bridge; a total length of about 5.8 river miles. Section 1 boaters usually put in at the West Fork Campground on Overflow Creek Road about 0.9 miles up from Warwoman Road or about 1.1 river miles upstream of the Warwoman Road bridge. This Section 1 float is about 4 river miles. The last 1.2 miles is on Section 2 of the main river from the West Fork confluence down to the Highway 28 take-out. The West Fork is very popular with campers and fishermen. Highway 28 take-out.





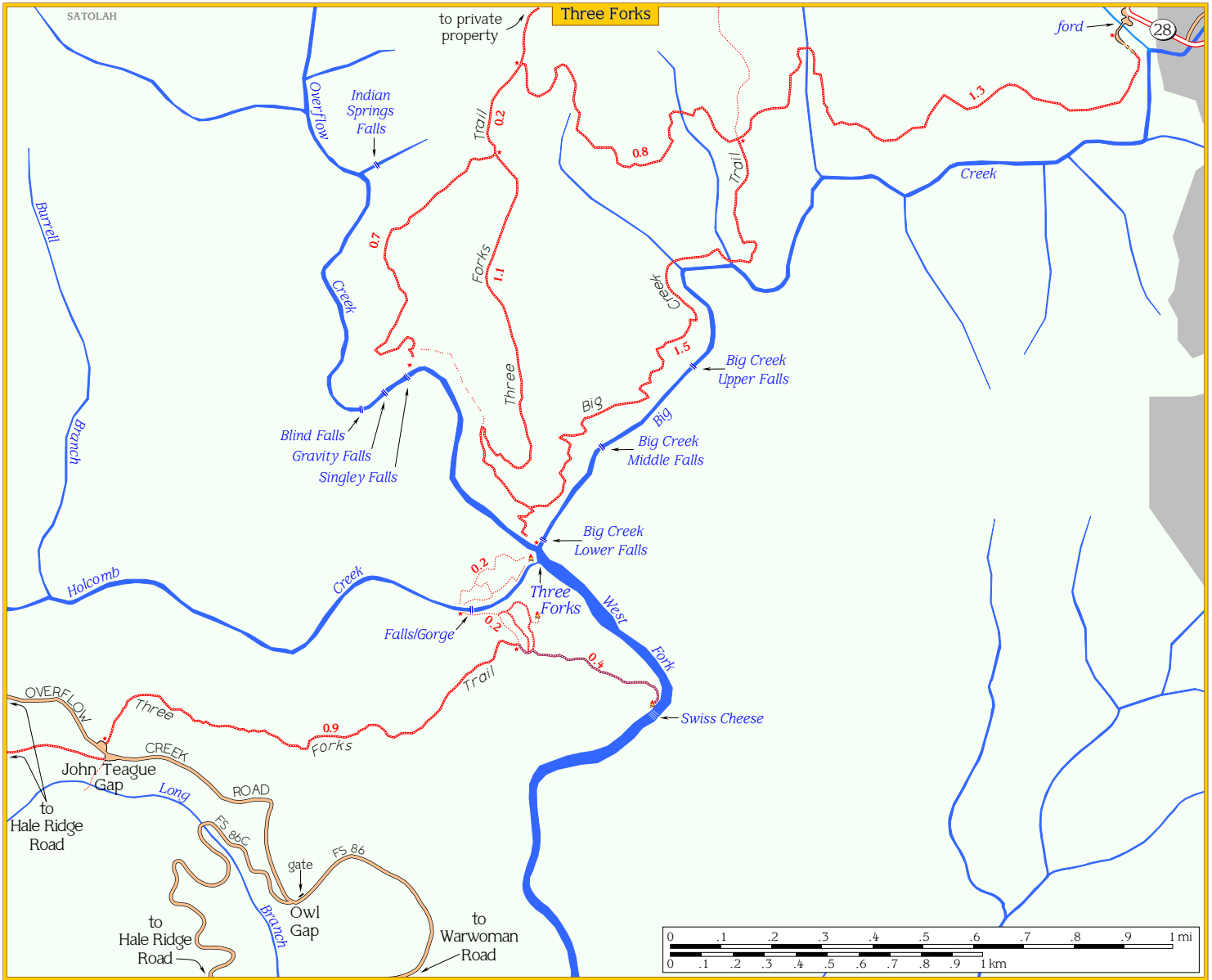
Dam Sluice and Big Slide maps page 36 & above †

The West Fork Chattooga River downstream of Warwoman Road is quite gentle with only two rapids of note. Big Slide is only 0.2 river miles from the West Fork confluence and is visible from the West Fork bridge which is only 0.1 miles downstream. Fishermen often wade upstream from the main river to fish at the slide. Big Slide, a rock shelf, is only about 3 feet, maybe 4 feet high at normal water level but it does span the full width of the river. Hiking the Bartram Trail west from the Highway 28 bridge you'll find a trail on the right shortly after crossing the West Fork bridge that leads up to Big Slide. Dam Sluice is about 1.6 river miles from the confluence. At the site you'll find old timbers with heavy steel rods to hold them in place. From the Highway 28 bridge drive north about 1.4 miles and look for a small pull-off on the left. A trail goes a short distance down to the sluice. You can drive past the pull-off to a road that drops down to a campsite. A trail goes downstream from here to Dam Sluice, about 0.1 miles.

Three Forks Hikes maps page 24, 25, 26 & above †

The **Three Forks Trail at John Teague Gap** is on Overflow Creek Road about 4 miles going north from Warwoman Road. For many months Overflow Creek Road has been closed due to a dangerous landslide. Good news – it is now open again. Gates were installed to facilitate the closing and these gates have been left intact should the road need to be closed again. See map above and the Hale Ridge Road Map, page 26. Look for a small pull-off on the

right with an engraved boulder marking the Three Forks trailhead. There's also a wooden post marked "John Teague Gap" that easily goes unnoticed. The trail is fairly level for about 0.9 miles. Here a rather wet trail goes sharply left down a deeply shaded drainage. Take this left fork and hike along the drainage until you come to Holcomb Creek. Notice on the map that there are 2 nice new alternate trails that bypass this wet drainage trail. Recently installed signs, "3 FORKS SPUR", mark this new bypass trail. Holcomb Creek here runs gently through a beautiful wooded cove, comes to a flat rocky area then suddenly drops down into a small well hidden but impressive pothole-filled gorge. The trail ends at the flat rock area only feet from the gorge, be careful. One writer described the little gorge as resembling an out-of-control toilet. It's an unnamed falls but referred to by some as Swiss Cheese, Hidden Falls or Hidden Gorge. A more precise name might be **Holcomb Creek Falls near Three Forks**. You will need to cross the creek here and bearing right, follow any of the several ill-defined trails that go down the steep ridge to Three Forks, less than 0.2 miles. You'll find a nice campsite near the Holcomb Creek confluence. Back to the trail intersection before you get to Holcomb Creek. The trail on the right goes down the ridge to the West Fork Chattooga River. The trail is all downhill and gets steeper as you go, much steeper; about 0.4 miles to a campsite. A large scenic rapid, Swiss Cheese, named for its many pot-holes, is just downstream of the campsite. Not shown on the map above are the other named Three Forks area rapids.

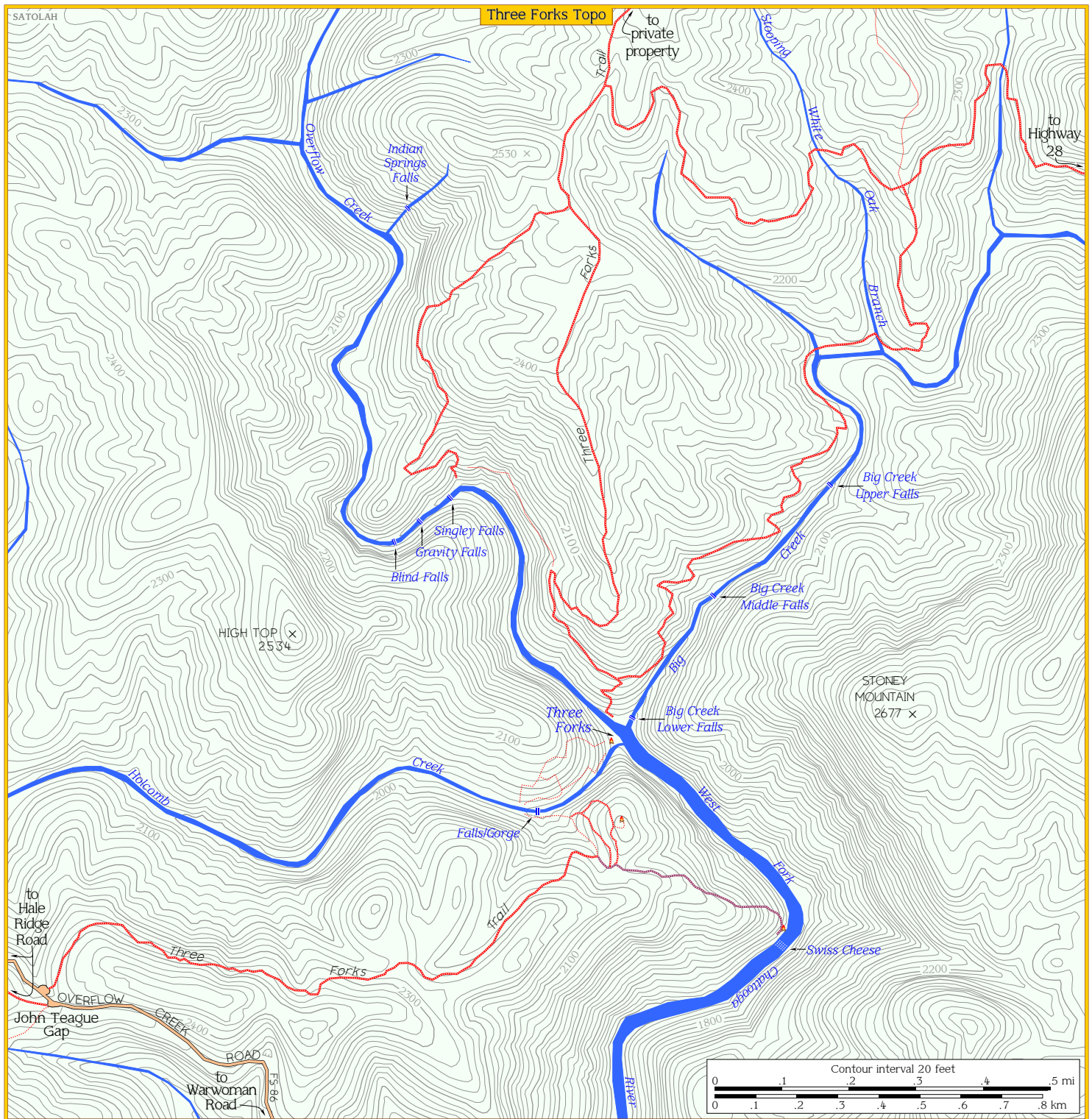


Big Creek Trail. This trail leads to the Three Forks from Highway 28 near the Satolah community. It is commonly referred to as the Three Forks Trail. However, the actual Three Forks Trail in this area originates in a private community and goes south to Three Forks. Big Creek Trail is a more appropriate name since it roughly parallels Big Creek for its entire length, about 2.8 miles. From the Warwoman Road and Highway 28 junction drive north about 4 miles to the Satolah Community and look for the Big Creek bridge. Shortly after crossing Big Creek, less than 0.1 miles, there is a pull-off at a lower elevation on the left. Driving south from Highlands on Highway 28 this pull-off is on the right about 1.4 miles south of the NC/GA state line. You can park here or ford the small stream on an old Forest Service road (FS 650). If you ford the stream drive only a short distance to a small pull-off on the right. Parking isn't going to get any better further down this road. The old road quickly disintegrates into a trail. At about 1.3 miles the three forks. The right fork (straight) continues on to join the Three Forks Trail. This connector trail and the Three Forks Trail are wider, more well defined, not as steep and easier hiking than the Big Creek Trail. Hiking distance about 0.6 miles longer than the Big Creek Trail. To stay on the Big Creek Trail go left (straight). At about 0.7 miles below the fork you will find a trail that goes left and downward to the Big Creek Upper Falls. These little spur trails that drop down to the falls aren't conspicuous and are easily missed. You'll need to listen for the falls; as falls go they aren't very loud. Another 0.3 miles down to Big Creek Middle Falls. Another 0.5 miles and the trail ends at Three Forks. Total one way hike of about 2.8 miles, all downhill. At Three Forks you'll find the last falls on Big Creek, a

series of small drops, on your left. Looking downstream from this spot you can see Holcomb Creek issuing from between the rocks and falling 6 feet or so directly into Overflow Creek which comes in on your right. The three stream coming together here are now the West Fork of the Chattooga River. Cross Overflow Creek to get to the Holcomb Creek campsite. Hiking back to the Highway 28 trailhead from Three Forks is longer but easier if you take the Three Forks Trail up the ridge then go right to the Big Creek Trail.

Singley Falls *maps page 23, 25, 26 & above ↑*

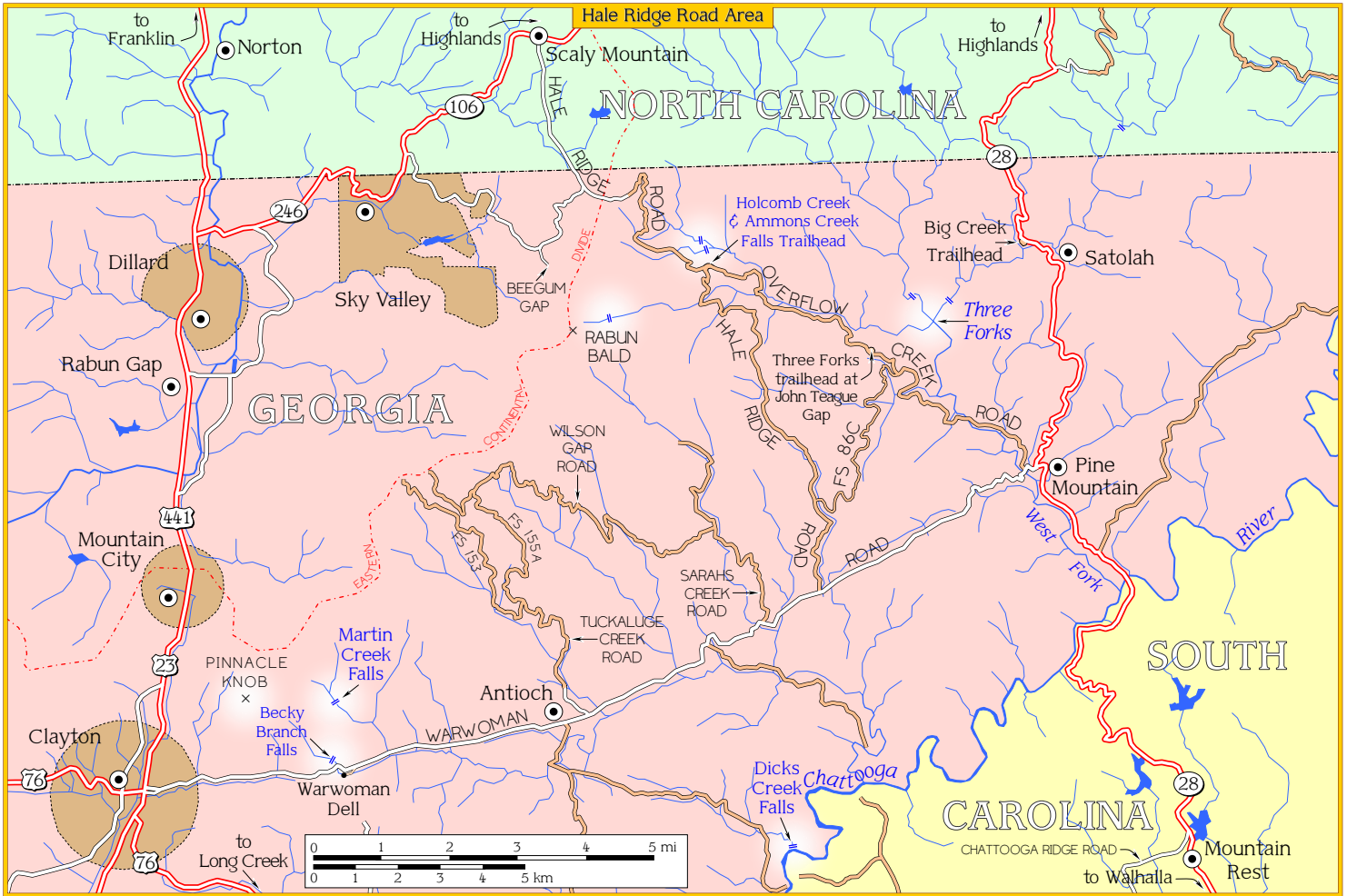
Singley Falls is a rewarding side trip when on a Three Forks hike from Highway 28. From the parking area it is about a 3 mile one way hike. Hike the Big Creek Trail down to the first fork about 1.3 miles and go right (actually straight). After another 0.8 miles there is another junction. The trail to your right goes up the ridge to private property. Go left down the ridge. After a short hike of about 0.3 miles you'll find a wide spot in the trail and a trail going right. This trail, Singley Falls Trail, while all downhill, is quite easy, about 0.7 miles. There are supposed to be vague trails in the Singley Falls area that go further upstream to other waterfalls; Gravity Falls and Blind Falls. They are certainly ill-defined and aren't shown on the map. This is a great area for wildflowers and scenic views of Overflow Creek. Boaters run this stream at high water levels which is often accompanied by wet and rainy weather. However, hiking in this area is best (and safest) during periods of low water. Slippery rocks at Singley Falls can be dangerous for kids. The fine red-dotted trail shown going downstream from Singley Falls to the Three Forks Trail was checked in 2012 and found to be vague or nonexistent although it is clear that there has been a trail here at one time.



Holcomb Creek Falls, Ammons Creek Falls *maps page 26, 30*

Holcomb Creek Falls is a very scenic 120 foot falls that, like most waterfalls, can look quite different at different water levels. A trail at the intersection of Hale Ridge Road FS 7 and Overflow Creek Road FS 86 leads to both waterfalls. It is a popular destination and gets quite a few visitors in fair weather. The hike to Holcomb Creek Falls is about 0.3 miles, virtually all in very thick Mountain Laurel. The trail is narrow and largely a bed of gnarly roots. Due to the steepness of the slope it is plagued by frequent windfalls and is often blocked by tangles of uprooted and broken Mountain Laurel. Despite this constant need for maintenance the trail isn't difficult and there are few steep places. Huge Hemlocks until recently towered over the cove. A footbridge crosses Holcomb Creek right in front of the falls. A sign here warns against leaving the trail but after you cross the footbridge you can go off trail to a very nice picnic area on the rocks near the base of the falls. An old trail on the left

that parallels Holcomb Creek, river left, from the falls trail all the way up to Hale Ridge Road seems to have disappeared. From here the trail continues another 0.2 miles up to Ammons Creek Falls, also known as Emory Branch Falls. The trail ends at a viewing platform that is very close to and over a portion of the falls. This makes it impossible to get an overall picture of the falls. Looking downstream you can see just how rugged this mountain cove is. You can imagine just how difficult it would be hiking off trail in this area. From Warwoman Road turn onto Hale Ridge Road and drive about 6.5 miles of this dirt road to the intersection with Overflow Creek Road. Driving on Hale Ridge Road from Highway 106 in Scaly Mountain it's about 6 miles to the intersection with only about 2.5 miles of dirt road. There's no real pull-off but the intersection is wide enough for parking. There are numerous large signs and an engraved stone marks the trailhead on the north side of the intersection. *See Hale Ridge Road map next page.*



Rabun Bald Hikes

maps page 28, 30, 32, & above ↗

Five miles due west of Three Forks is Rabun Bald. It is the second highest mountain in Georgia and home to some of our rarest plants, see *Rabun Bald Plant List* page 29. Elevation is 4,696 feet with a 13 foot high observation platform at the summit. The view from the platform is one of the best in our area. Rabun Bald is visible from numerous points throughout our area and is often the most prominent mountain on the horizon.

Rabun Bald day hikes with one way mileage

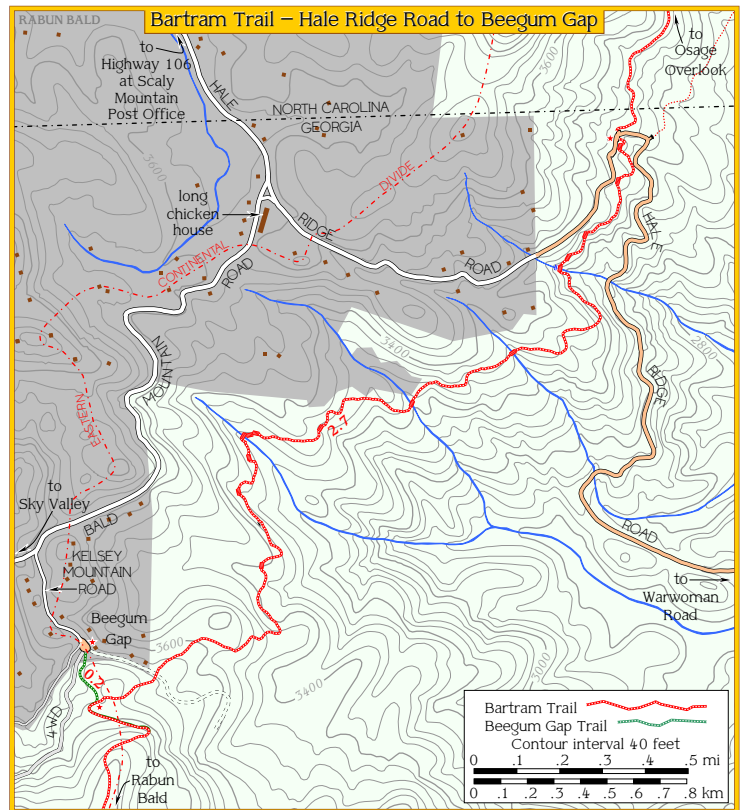
Beegum Gap Trail from Beegum Gap	1.6
Jeep Trail from Beegum Gap	1.8
Bartram Trail from Hale Ridge Road	4.2
Three Forks Trail from Hale Ridge Road	2.8
Bartram Trail from Wilson Gap Road.....	5.0

Bartram Trail from Hale Ridge Road to Beegum Gap map ↗

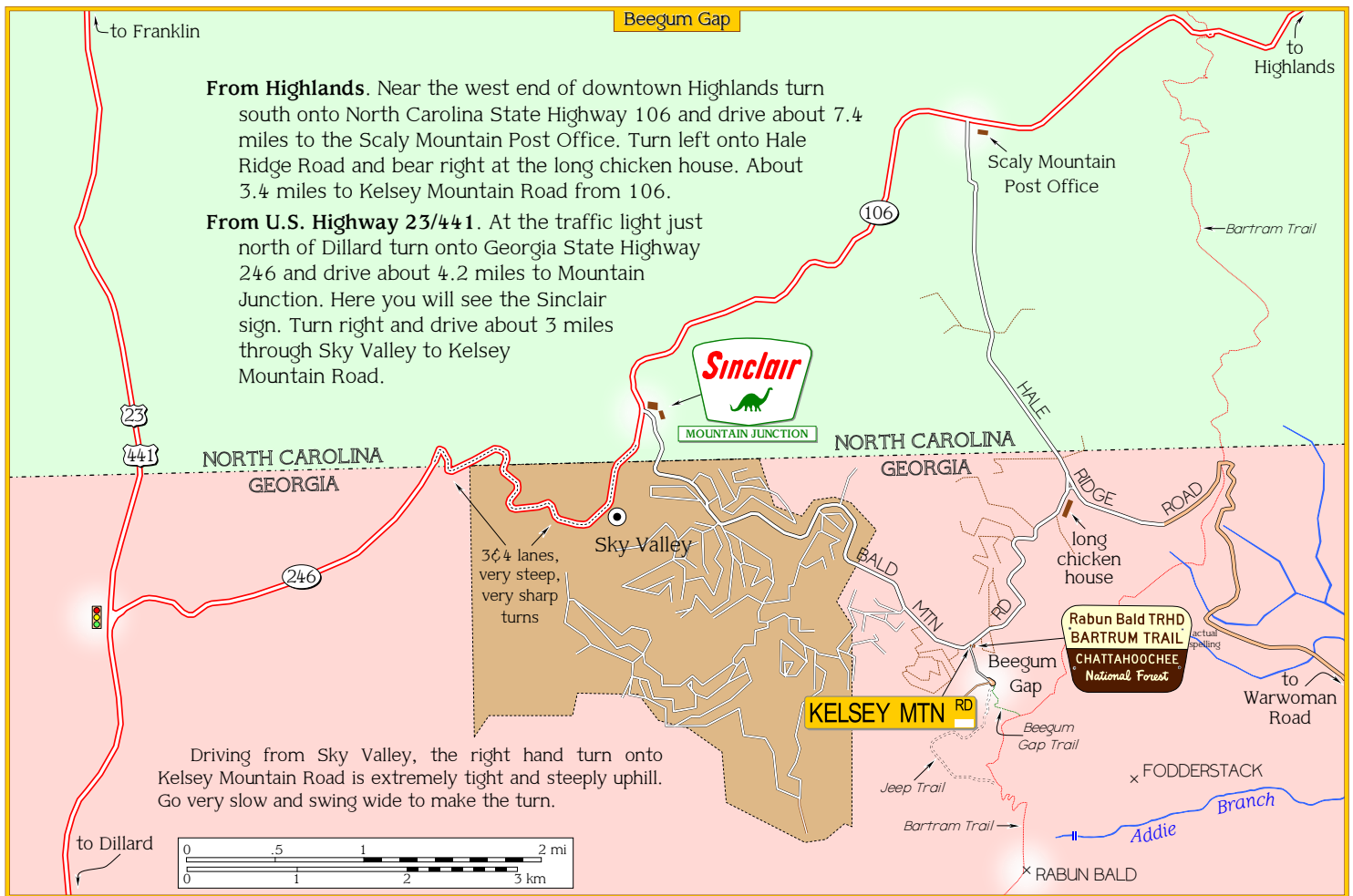
The Bartram Trail is well maintained and this section of trail is no exception. You'll cross fourteen footbridges, all of them shown on the map right ↗. One small stream even has a nice little waterfall. Beautiful forest along this section of trail. The trail does pass close to one residence in the Beegum Gap area. The trailhead parking pull-off on Hale Ridge Road is narrow but has space for about 4 cars. It's a hike of about 2.7 miles to the Beegum Gap Trail intersection, then about 1.5 on to the Rabun Bald summit. Hiking distances on various signs in this area can have conflicting numbers.

Beegum Gap to Rabun Bald maps page 27, 28, 30, 74, above ↗ & ↘

The shortest hike to the Rabun Bald summit is from Beegum Gap. Probably the most popular route, it roughly goes along the Eastern Continental Divide all the way to the summit. You'll find Beegum Gap and the trailhead to Rabun Bald at the end of Kelsey Mountain Road. This parking area is quite small but as many as 8 vehicles can be seen tightly squeezed in on a busy day. From here you can hike the foot trail or an old 4-wheel drive trail. A sign marks the foot trail and you'll notice the 4WD trail just to the right. The foot trail is shorter, but both trails are very rewarding wildflower hikes. Some hikers take one trail up and the other one down. The Beegum Gap foot trail joins the Bartram Trail after about 0.2 miles. You'll see a post with a yellow marker. The 4-wheel drive trail ends



at a clearing on the Bartram Trail a little more than halfway to the summit. It's another 0.7 miles up the trail to the summit. This section of trail to the summit has several switchbacks and can be icy in the winter. Total hike to the summit from Beegum Gap is 1.6 miles one way, 1.8 miles if you take the 4 WD trail. For directions to Beegum Gap see map next page.



Three Forks Trail to Rabun Bald maps page 28, 30

The Three Forks Trail from Hale Ridge Road to the Rabun Bald summit is a 2.8 mile hike. You will pass through a variety of beautiful forests that offer great wildflower opportunities. The Forest Service rates this trail as "most difficult" only because of the very steep places in the last three quarters of a mile to the summit. You may need to take a few rest stops in that section. Most of the trail up to that point is gently inclined. The elevation gain from Hale Ridge Road to the summit is a whopping 2,270 feet. From Highway 441 in Clayton go east on Warwoman Road 10.2 miles and turn left onto Hale Ridge Road FS 7. A sign listing trails marks the intersection. Drive about 5.7 miles to a small parking area on the right. A hiker's sign and a Carsonite sign mark the trailhead on the west side of the road. If you're driving south on Hale Ridge Road turn right onto Overflow Creek Road and look for the trailhead sign on the right. It's about 1 mile from the intersection.

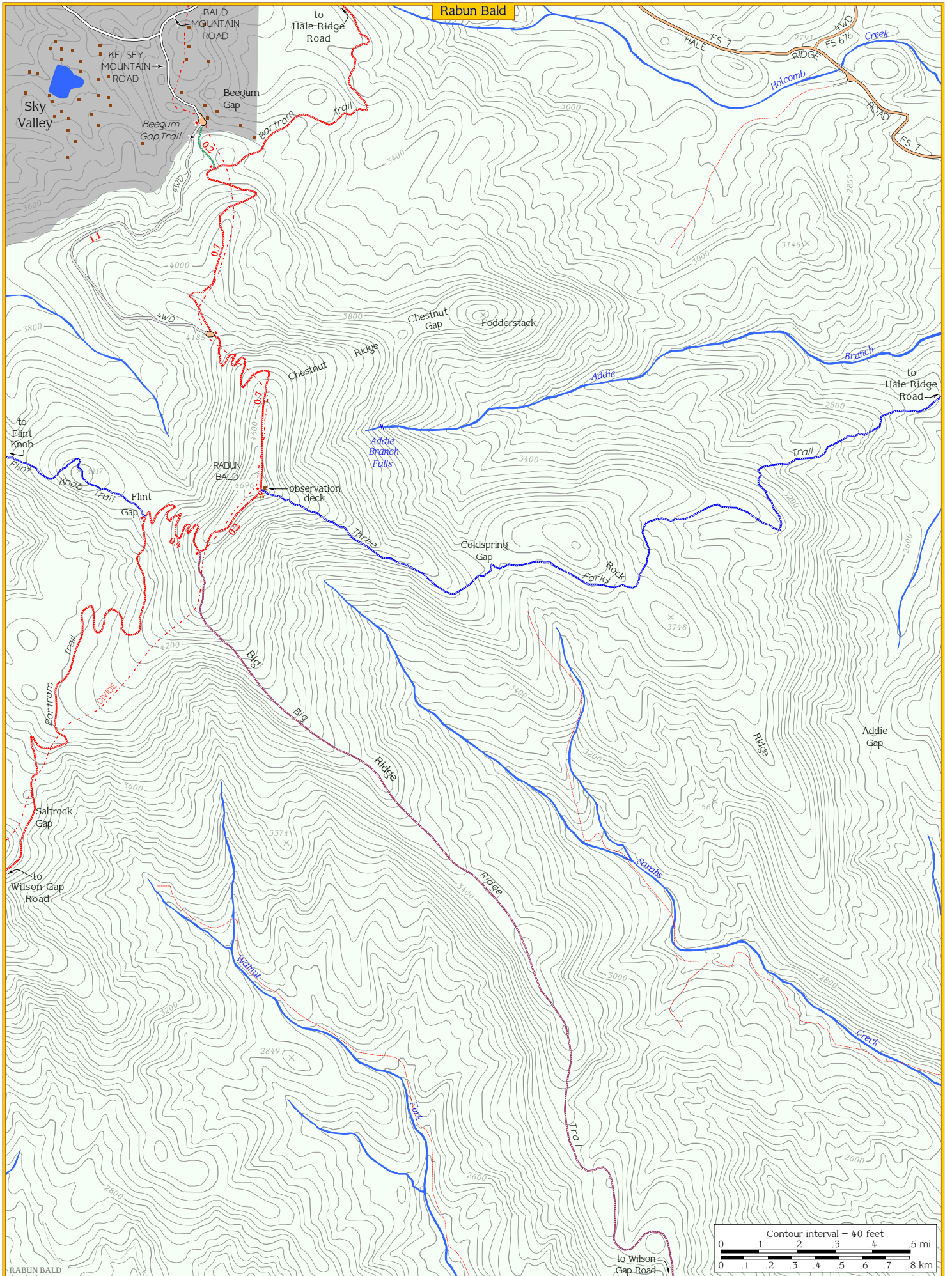
Northern Cliffs and Boulder Field* maps page 28, 30

The maps with GPS tracks are for experienced hikers who want to bushwhack the northern cliffs, Chestnut Ridge, Fodderstack, the boulderfield and/or Addie Branch Falls. For the botanist or naturalist this is a very rewarding hike. While there is nothing really difficult bushwhacking in this area, Rhododendron thickets, steep places and slick rocks can make for slow and tedious progress. To get to the northern cliffs bushwhack eastward from the 4-wheel drive parking area; the junction of the 4WD trail and the Bartram Trail. After only a few yards you will come to a seepage area with a bath tub; the site of an old moonshine still. From here contour upward and you will soon come to the minor cliffs. There is a path along the base of these cliffs. Skirt along the base of the cliffs until you come to the end of the cliffs. Here you will have to scramble downward through the Rhododendron to continue. At one point you will have to drop sharply downward and follow a rocky, sometimes wet, drainage before you come to the major cliffs. There are several minor cliffs beyond the higher ones, then open woods. This is Chestnut Ridge. Contouring upward you will find a very interesting boulder field.

These are huge boulders that have tumbled from the mountain and come to rest, now in dense forest. Excellent wildflowers throughout this area. If you go north from here you will find short cliffs running left and right. Go right along the cliffs until the woods transition into Rhododendron. Here, in rich open woods, you should find a large patch of native Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majuscula*) mixed in with the Wood Lily (*Clintonia umbellulatta*). Returning to the trail is quite easy but confusing. From the Lily patch the natural tendency is to bear south as you enter the thick Rhododendron. Keep your trajectory westward and only very slightly to the south for the shortest route back to the Bartram Trail: about 400 feet.

Addie Branch Falls maps page 28, 30

This small stream, Addie Branch, originates in a remote area on the eastern slope of Rabun Bald, flows beneath Hale Ridge Road and joins Bailey Branch. Much of the area is very steep and covered with thick vegetation. There are numerous small rocky seepages in the upper drainage that form the stream. At about 3,680 feet elevation Addie Branch goes over an eighty foot cliff then flows down a steep rock face into a Rhododendron thicket. The area around the falls is a great but difficult place to explore. The rock surface is very slippery except in periods of very dry weather. The falls cliff extends southward as a series of cliffs only 10 or more feet high. About half way up the falls cliff on the north side is a large rockhouse with a seepage; well worth taking a look, sometimes has luxuriant growth of Filmy Fern, *Trichomanes boschianum*. The ceiling of this rockhouse has recently peeled off in the form of rock slabs so it may take time for the Filmy Fern to repopulate. Filmy Fern is usually seen growing downward from a rock ceiling. In 2012 there were just as many plants growing upward from the floor as were hanging from the ceiling. On another visit in 2013 it was discovered that the ceiling rock slabs had fallen. The maps on page 30 have GPS tracks from actual hikes. Keep in mind that these are not trails but when you bushwhack the area these tracks are often the most logical path of least resistance. The vegetation is very dense in the falls area and the rockhouse isn't visible until you are only feet away.



Rabun Bald Plant List*

For the wildflower enthusiast, the seasoned botanist or bryologist, Rabun Bald is one of our best hikes. In 1773 naturalist William Bartram came through our area on his epic journey through the southeast. He referred to the area as the Cherokee Mountains and is said to have called Rabun Bald 'Mount Magnolia'. Keep in mind that the actual path Bartram followed on his travels is much debated. Over the years the forests on and around Rabun Bald have been cut (harvested) many times changing the slopes from forests to pasture and back again. Yet, even today the mountain still has one of the most diverse plant communities in the Blue Ridge. Botanists continue to come to this mountain to study it's plant life. The mighty Chestnut Trees were harvested years ago and disease has taken the remaining adult trees. Young trees can still be found on the slopes but it is doubtful they will survive long enough to be like the mighty giants of the past. Now the Hemlock is similarly threatened by the Woolly Adelgid, already killing off most of our larger trees. The Frasier's Magnolia is still one of the dominant or very common trees in many of the coves in the area and this probably accounts for the name Mount Magnolia.

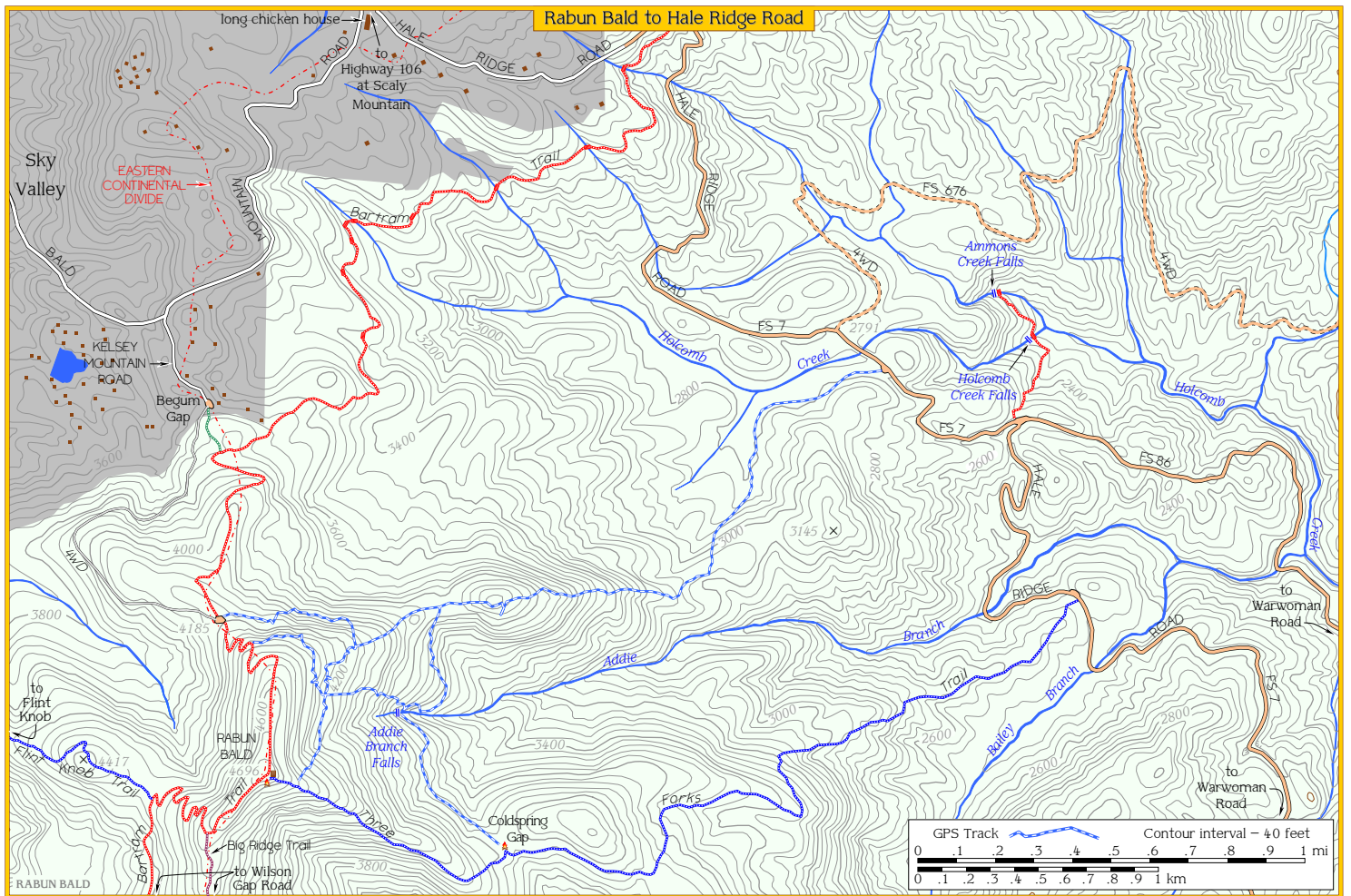
Each cove or ridge of Rabun Bald can have its own personality and the cliff areas have a rich and varied assortment of mosses and lichens. Numerous streams originate on this mountain and seepage areas are very common. The casual wildflower hiker should not miss the four-wheel drive trail from Beegum Gap. It is especially good in early to mid May. You can hike up one trail and back down the other.

A bushwhack around the cliffs to the boulderfield is actually quite easy and a wondrous hike for anyone interested in nature. A hike to the summit is rewarding any time of the year. Remember, it is always cooler at the summit. Rabun Bald is also one of the very few mountains in our area from which you can get a 360° view of the surrounding area.

Many of the species listed below are very rare in our area and some are found nowhere else in Georgia. Some species like Monkshood and Grass of Parnassus are common on and around nearby mountains but rare on Rabun Bald. Some species are disputed or said to be in doubt but all the species listed below have been confirmed at one time or another by researchers. Perhaps some species were planted here. *Trillium viride*, Green Wake-Robin, has been recorded on Rabun Bald. It is believed by many botanists that this report is probably of the green-flowered form of *Trillium cuneatum*. On August 24, 1996, bryologist Dr. Chas Zartman discovered Rock Gnome Lichen, *Gymnoderma lineare*, on the northern cliffs of Rabun Bald. Until that time it wasn't known in Georgia. Before that, the only known occurrence in the south was a small patch on Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina. Since then it has been found on several other mountain cliffs in the Chattooga River watershed, including North Carolina and South Carolina.

Rabun Bald was a favorite haunt of local naturalists and environmentalist Marie Mellinger, 1914-2006. She has been credited with getting protections for numerous natural areas in the Chattooga River watershed.

<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i> , Striped Maple	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i> , Marginal Fern	<i>Prosartes maculata</i> , Spotted Mandarin
<i>Acer spicatum</i> , Mountain Maple	<i>Epigaea repens</i> , Trailing Arbutus	<i>Quercus coccinea</i> , Scarlet Oak
<i>Aconitum uncinatum</i> , Monkshood	<i>Galax urceolata</i> , Galax	<i>Ranunculus abortivus</i> , Kidney-leaved Buttercup
<i>Actaea pachypoda</i> , Bane Berry, Doll's Eyes	<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i> , Common Peruvian Daisy	<i>Ranunculus acris</i> , Common Buttercup
<i>Ageratina altissima roanensis</i> , Appalachian White Snake Root	<i>Goodyera pubescens</i> , Downy Rattlesnake Plantain	<i>Rhizomnium appalachianum</i> , Appalachian Rhizomnium Moss
<i>Amelanchier arborea arborea</i> , Downy June Berry	<i>Gymnoderma lineare</i> , Rock Gnome Lichen	<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i> , Purple Laurel
<i>Amianthium muscaetoxicum</i> , Fly Poison	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> , Witch Hazel	<i>Rhododendron vaseyi</i> , Pinkshell Azalea
<i>Amphicarpaea bracteata</i> , Hog Peanut	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i> , Woodland Sun Flower	<i>Robinia hispida</i> , Bristly Locust
<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i> , Wood Anemone	<i>Heuchera parviflora</i> , Small-flowered Alum Root	<i>Rubus canadensis</i> , Smooth Blackberry
<i>Angelica triquinata</i> , Mountain Angelica	<i>Heuchera villosa</i> , Hairy Alum Root	<i>Sanguisorba canadensis</i> , Canada Burnet
<i>Apocynum androsaefolium</i> , Spreading Dogbane	<i>Houstonia serpyllifolia</i> , Thyme-leaved Bluet	<i>Sanicula canadensis</i> , Canada Black Snake Root
<i>Aralia hispida</i> , Hairy Sarsaparilla	<i>Huperzia appressa</i> , Appalachian Club Moss	<i>Saxifraga michauxii</i> , Michaux's Saxifrage
<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i> , Wild Sarsaparilla	<i>Huperzia lucidula</i> , Shining Club Moss	<i>Selaginella apoda</i> , Meadow Spike Moss
<i>Aralia racemosa</i> , Spikenard	<i>Huperzia porophila</i> , Rock Club Moss	<i>Silene stellata</i> , Starry Campion
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> , Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> , Wild Hydrangea	<i>Silene virginica</i> , Fire Pink
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> , Red Choke Berry	<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i> , Golden Seal	<i>Smilax biltmoreana</i> , Biltmore Carrion Flower
<i>Asclepias exaltata</i> , Mountain Milk Weed	<i>Hypericum buckleii</i> , Blue Ridge St. Johnswort	<i>Smilax herbaceae</i> , Common Carrion Flower
<i>Asplenium montanum</i> , Mountain Spleenwort	<i>Ilex montana</i> , Mountain Holly	<i>Solidago caesia</i> , Blue-stem Goldenrod
<i>Aster acuminatus acuminatus</i> , Whorled Wood Aster	<i>Impatiens pallida</i> , Pale Touch-me-not	<i>Solidago simulans</i> , Granite Dome Goldenrod
<i>Aster retroflexus</i> , Curtis' Aster	<i>Juniperus communis depressus</i> , Ground Juniper	<i>Sorbus americana</i> , Mountain Ash
<i>Athyrium asplenoides</i> , Southern Lady Fern	<i>Krigia montana</i> , Mountain Dwarf Dandelion	<i>Stellaria pubera</i> , Giant Chick Weed
<i>Betula allegheniensis</i> , Yellow Birch	<i>Leucothoe recurva</i> , Mountain Dog Hobble	<i>Streptopus roseus</i> , Twisted-stalk
<i>Botrychium virginiana</i> , Rattlesnake Fern	<i>Ligusticum canadensis</i> , Lovage	<i>Thalictrum clavatum</i> , Lady Rue
<i>Campanula divaricata</i> , Southern Harebell	<i>Lilium superbum</i> , Turk's Cap Lily	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i> , Early Meadow Rue
<i>Cardamine clematitis</i> , Mountain Bitter Cress	<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i> , Fringed Loosestrife	<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i> , New York Fern
<i>Cardamine flagellifera</i> , Blue Ridge Bitter Cress	<i>Lysimachia quadrifolia</i> , Whorled Loosestrife	<i>Tilia americana heterophylla</i> , American Basswood
<i>Carex biltmoreana</i> , Biltmore Sedge	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i> , False Lily of the Valley	<i>Tradescantia subaspera montana</i> , Appalachian Wide-leaved Spiderwort
<i>Carex misera</i> , Wretched Sedge	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> , False Solomon's Seal	<i>Trautvetteria carolinensis carolinensis</i> , Tassel Rue
<i>Castanea dentata</i> , American Chestnut	<i>Magnolia fraseri</i> , Fraser Magnolia	<i>Trichomanes boschianum</i> , Filmy Fern
<i>Chelone glabra</i> , White Turtlehead	<i>Medeola virginiana</i> , Indian Cucumber Root	<i>Trichomanes intracatum</i> , Grotto Felt
<i>Cimicifuga americana</i> , Mountain Bugbane	<i>Melampyrum lineare</i> , Cow Wheat	<i>Trichoporum cespitosum</i> , Deer-hair Bulrush
<i>Cirsium altissimus</i> , Tall Thistle	<i>Melanthium parviflorum</i> , Appalachian Bunch Flower	<i>Trillium catesbeae</i> , Catesby's Trillium
<i>Clethra acuminata</i> , Cinnamon Clethra	<i>Menziesia pilosa</i> , Minnie Bush	<i>Trillium erectum</i> , Wake-robin
<i>Clintonia umbellulata</i> , Speckled Wood Lily	<i>Mitella diphylla</i> , Miterwort	<i>Trillium pusillum virginianum</i> , Least Trillium
<i>Collinsonia canadensis</i> , Horse Balm	<i>Monarda clinipodia</i> , Basal Balm	<i>Trillium undulatum</i> , Painted Trillium
<i>Conopholis americana</i> , Squaw Root	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i> , Indian Pipe	<i>Trillium vaseyi</i> , Nodding Red Trillium
<i>Convallaria majuscula</i> , American Lily of the Valley	<i>Morus rubra</i> , Red Mulberry	<i>Triphora trianthophora</i> , Three Birds Orchid
<i>Corydalis sempervirens</i> , Pale Corydalis	<i>Osmunda claytoniana claytoniana</i> , Interrupted Fern	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> , Canada Hemlock
<i>Cypripedium acuale</i> , Pink Lady's Slipper	<i>Oxypolis rigidior</i> , Cowbane	<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i> , Large-flowered Bellwort
<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> , Yellow Lady's Slipper	<i>Pachera obovata</i> , Round-leaved Ragwort	<i>Vaccinium erythrocarpon</i> , Bear Berry
<i>Cystopteris protrusa</i> , Spreading Bladder Fern	<i>Panax quinquefolium</i> , Ginseng	<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i> , Low Blueberry
<i>Demnstaedtia punctilobula</i> , Hay-scented Fern	<i>Parnassia asarifolia</i> , Grass of Parnassus	<i>Veratrum viride</i> , White Hellebore
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> , Common Hair Grass	<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i> , Lousewort	<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i> , Shonny Haw
<i>Diervilla sessifolia</i> , Bush Honeysuckle	<i>Picea rubens</i> , Red Spruce (planted)	<i>Viburnum lantanoides</i> , Witch's Hobble
<i>Dioscorea quaternata</i> , Wild Yam	<i>Pinus pungens</i> , Table Mountain Pine	<i>Viola rotundifolia</i> , Round-leaved Yellow Violet
<i>Diphylleia cymosa</i> , Umbrella Leaf	<i>Poa autumnalis</i> , Autumn Meadow Grass	<i>Zizia aurea</i> , Golden Alexanders
<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i> , Intermediate Fern	<i>Polypodium virginiana</i> , Rock Cap Fern	
	<i>Prosartes lanuginosa</i> , Yellow Mandarin	



Fodderstack maps page 28 & above

There are several hills, knobs or small mountains in our area called Fodderstack. This one, elevation 3,960 feet, is just 0.7 miles northeast of Rabun Bald. From the Rabun Bald platform look northeast; it is the nearby small mount with several small exposed rock outcroppings. After hiking the Northern Cliffs bushwhack down Chestnut Ridge. The ridge, Chestnut Gap and the western slope of Fodderstack are all in fairly open woods. A few yards to the southwest of the summit you will find the uppermost rock face that is visible from the Rabun Bald platform. Addie Branch Falls can be seen from this spot. There are also very interesting sheltered cliffs on the northeast side of Fodderstack. These are most easily reached by bushwhacking from Hale Ridge Road.

Coldspring Gap* maps page 28 & above

From the summit of Rabun Bald hike about 0.7 miles east on the Three Forks Trail. The trail goes steeply downward but soon levels out. This level place, a saddle, is called Coldspring Gap: a popular camping area with several fire rings. You can bushwhack north from here to the boulder field and Addie Branch Falls. There is a seepage area on the south side of the saddle only yards from the campsite, great for wildflowers. *Cardamine clematitis*, Mountain Bitter Cress, a very rare high elevation species, was once recorded here but subsequent searches failed to find it. Some say that is the ephemeral nature of that species.

Rabun Bald to Warwoman Dell maps pages 32, 33, 34

The Bartram Trail hike from Rabun Bald south to Warwoman Dell is 14.8 miles. This section offers a number of very scenic views. Most spur trails to nearby scenic overlooks have become extinct over the years so you may need to bushwhack for best views. At only 0.2 miles south of the Rabun Bald summit the **Big Ridge Trail** forks left, goes 3.4 miles down the ridge to Wilson Gap Road. After passing this trail junction it's only another 0.4 miles to Flint Gap. Here a privately maintained trail on the right goes to Flint Knob, 0.7 miles, then on through the southern limits of Sky Valley to Alex Mountain. At 5 miles south of Rabun Bald the Bartram Trail crosses

Wilson Gap Road. This is the only place you can access the trail by car between Rabun Bald and Warwoman Dell. Hiking the 5 miles north to Rabun Bald from this trailhead has become popular with day hikers. This entire area is within the Warwoman Game Management Area and roads to the Wilson Gap trailhead are closed to vehicles from January to mid March for the winter hunting season. Hiking south from Wilson Gap Road it is only 0.7 miles to Wilson Gap, then 5 miles down to the Courthouse Gap Trail junction, has signage. See *Courthouse Gap Trail*, page 34. From here it's only 0.3 miles to the Pinnacle Knob Spur Trail, page 34, then the trail drops into the Martin Creek drainage and on to Warwoman Dell. Wilson Gap Road to Warwoman Dell is about 10 miles.

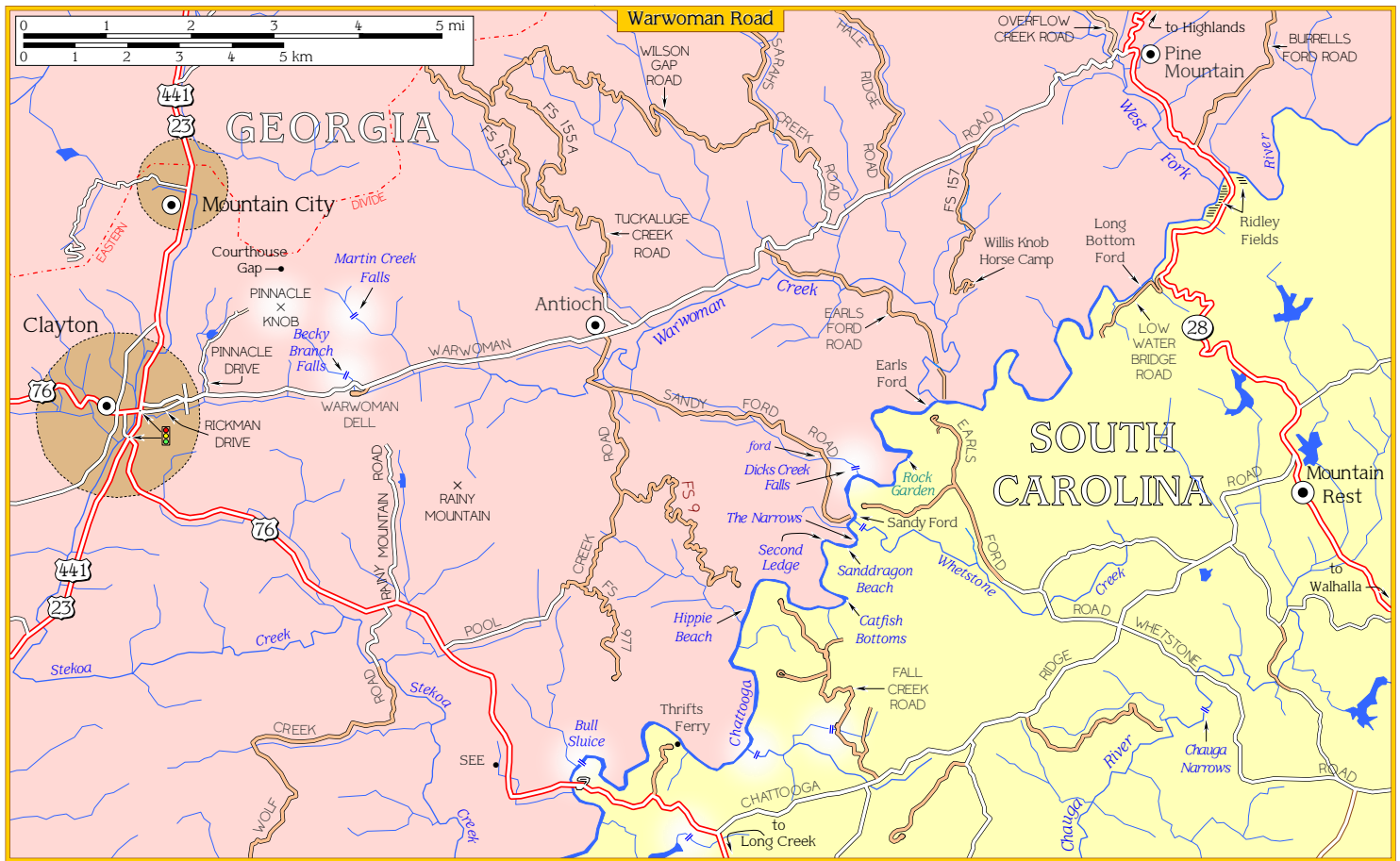
The Bartram Trail at Wilson Gap Road

How to get there by Sarahs Creek Road –

From Clayton drive about 9.2 miles on Warwoman Road and turn left onto Sarahs Creek Road FS 156. Drive 2.2 miles and turn left onto Wilson Gap Road FS 155. Road signs here use the name **Walnut Fork Road**, an old name used on many maps. This is a long narrow dirt road that is drivable in an ordinary car, does have rough spots. It is 6.6 miles to the trailhead at the end of the road. The road doesn't actually end here but becomes a 4-wheel drive road just beyond the trail crossing. There's a large campsite on the right and a big muddy place on the left. An engraved rock on the right marks the Bartram Trailhead. You will notice a horse trailhead just left of the Bartram Trailhead, see maps 32 and 33.

How to get there by Tuckaluge Creek Road –

From Clayton drive about 6.5 miles on Warwoman Road and turn left onto Tuckaluge Creek Road FS 153. The pavement ends after about 0.5 miles. Drive another 1.9 miles and bear right onto FS 155A, Carsonite sign. Drive 3.9 miles and take a sharp left turn onto Wilson Gap Road, no signage. Drive 1.3 miles to the trailhead, see Sarahs Creek Road account above. This route is about 1.2 miles shorter than the Sarahs Creek Road route but steep places and slippery gravel can be a little challenging for an ordinary car. Most cars will have little trouble but you will need to drive carefully.



Warwoman Road maps page 34 & above ↑

This east/west highway, about 15 miles long, connects Highway 441 in Clayton with Highway 28 north of the Highway 28 Chattooga River bridge. There are two traffic lights on Highway 441 in Clayton; the south traffic light at the Highway 76 junction and the north traffic light at Rickman Drive. The Highway 441 and Warwoman Road intersection is one block north of the north traffic light. You can also turn east at the north light onto Rickman Drive. It comes to a rather complex intersection. Warwoman Road angles upward to the right, not the road immediately to your right, see map above. If you are going north from the Highway 28 bridge, go 2.3 miles and look for a sign on the left that reads Clayton 17. This is Warwoman Road, kind of hard to see because of the way it drops away from Highway 28 at this right-hand curve.

Once you leave Clayton much of the area north of Warwoman Road is in the Warwoman Wildlife Management Area, one of our largest wilderness areas. Hale Ridge Road and Overflow Creek Road go north off Warwoman Road through National Forest all the way to the Scaly Mountain community in North Carolina. Forest Service Roads, old logging roads and trails can be found throughout the area and are very popular with hunters, fishermen, hikers and campers. The area on the south side of Warwoman Road is mostly private but it quickly gives way to National Forest and eventually the Chattooga River Wild and Scenic River Corridor. While all the land here has been logged before, it still has some of our best forest areas. Sandy Ford Road and Earls Ford Road are the only roads that go south all the way to the Chattooga River from Warwoman Road. Another road goes south to a Willis Knob Horse Camp – a plethora of horse trails.

Sarahs Creek Road FS 156 maps page 23 & above ↑

This area is popular with fishermen and is developed for camping. There are several information boards and at least one chemical toilet. You must pay to camp here. FS 156 is a very narrow paved road for 0.6 miles then rough gravel, roughly paralleling Sarahs Creek. At 2.2 miles Wilson Gap Road, also known as Walnut Fork Road, goes left connecting with the roads in the Tuckaluge Creek area. See *Wilson Gap Road* page 30. From Clayton go east on Warwoman Road 9.2 miles and turn left onto Sarahs Creek Road.

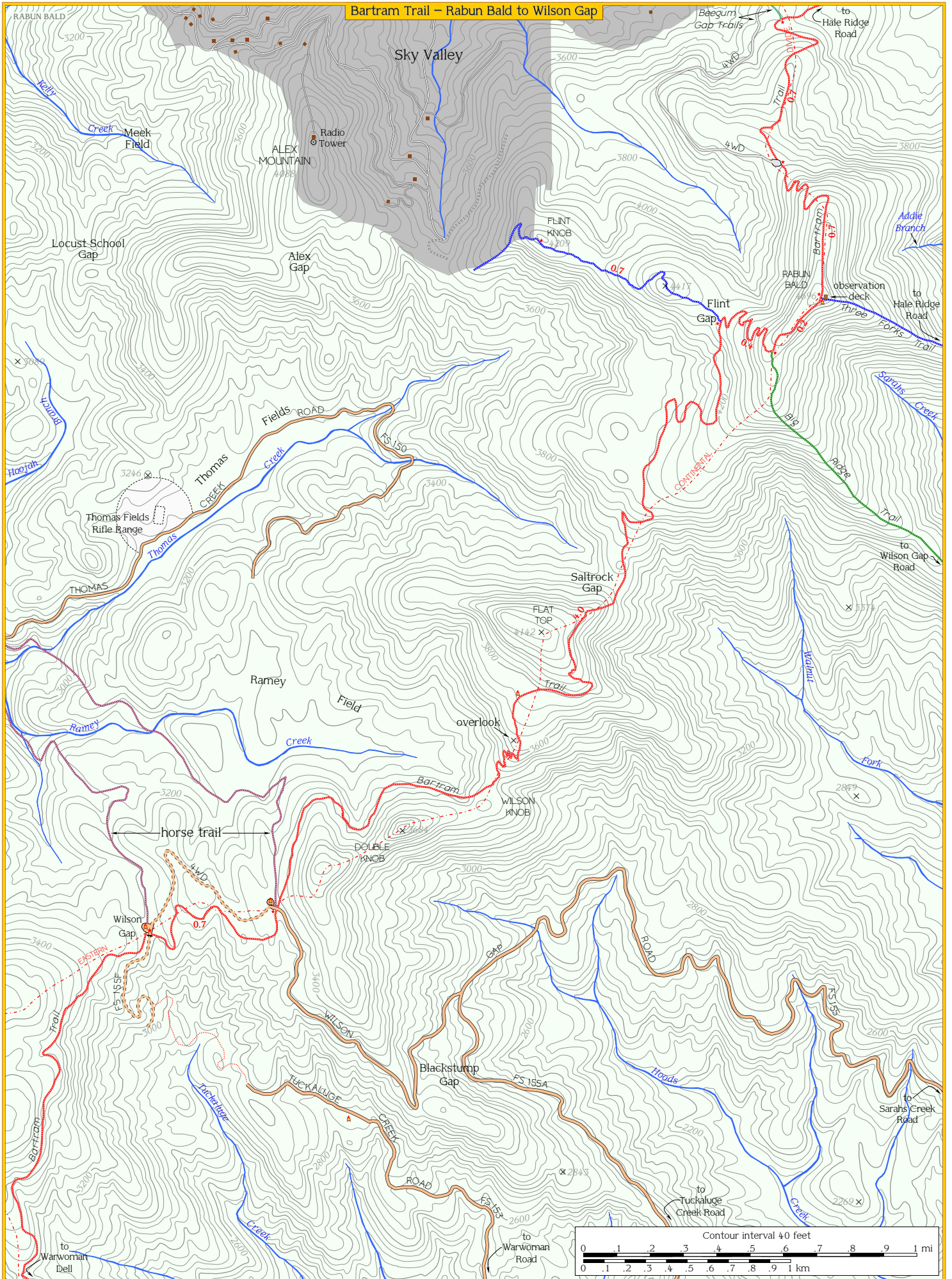
Warwoman Dell* maps page 34 & above ↑

This is a small nature park off Warwoman Road about 3 miles east of Highway 441 in Clayton. It has a nice nature trail that is great for wildflower enthusiasts, especially in the spring months. Coming from the north, the Bartram Trail passes through the park and continues south crossing Pool Creek Road and Sandy Ford Road to join the Chattooga River Trail near Dicks Creek. A pre-Civil War era railroad was being constructed here and the old roadbed can be seen cutting through the solid rock. Remains of shallow concrete pools are hidden in the woods. They were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps for raising trout to stock nearby streams. When traveling from Clayton on Warwoman Road look for a sign, Warwoman Dell, then a very sharp right turn into the park.

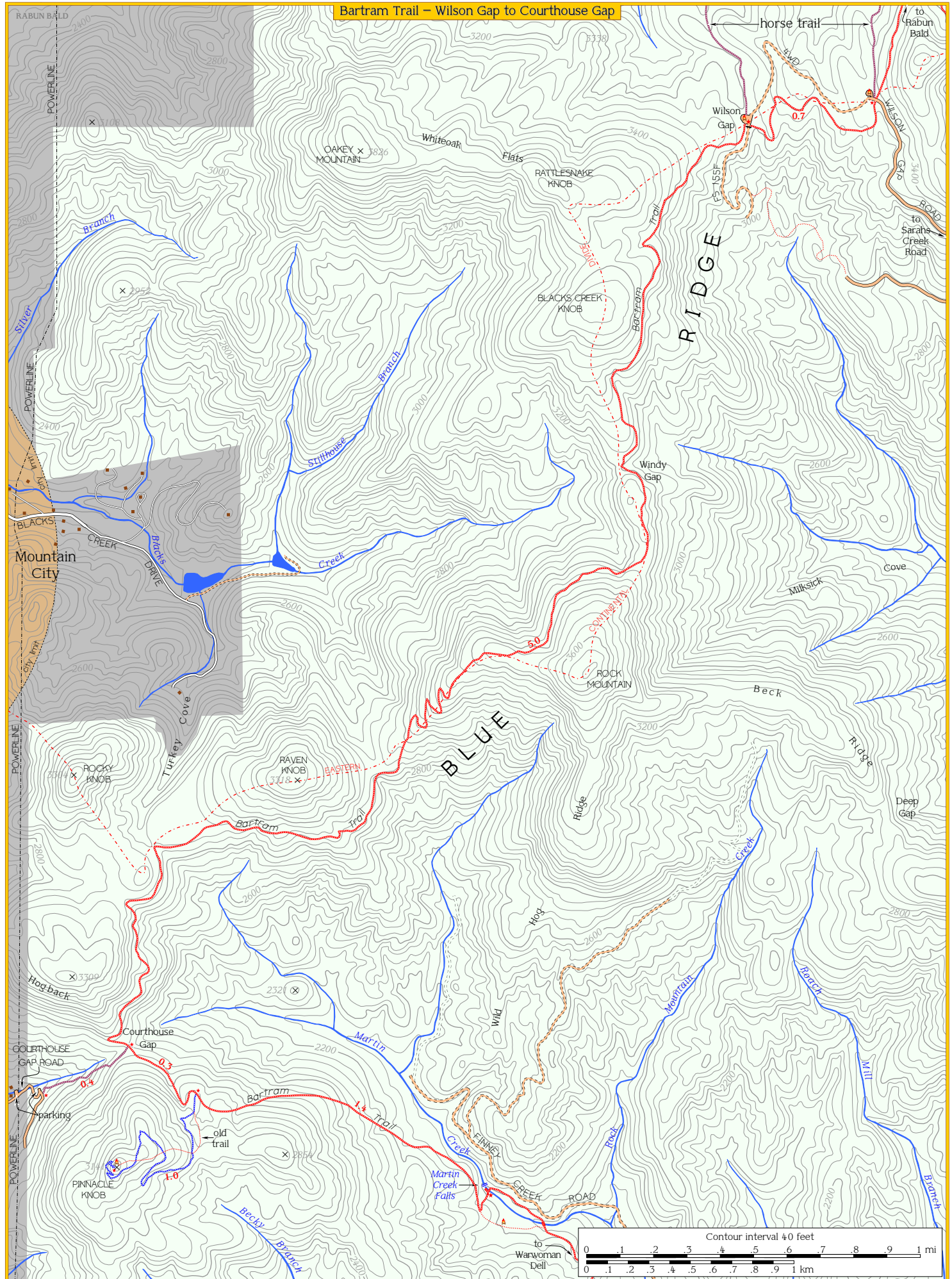
A few of the Warwoman Dell plants –

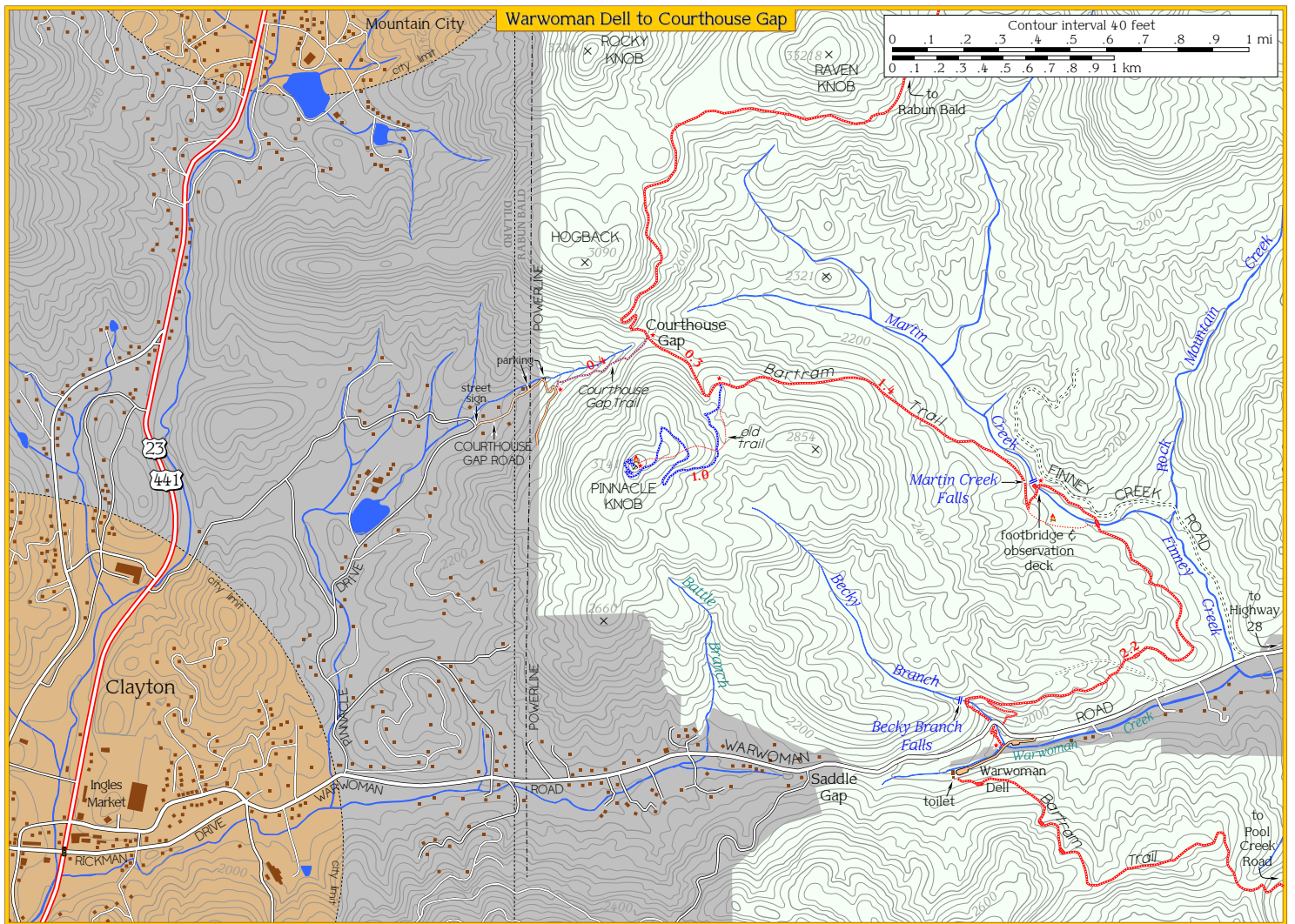
- Actaea pachypoda*, Bane Berry
- Adiantum pedatum*, Maiden-hair Fern
- Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Asimina triloba*, Tall Pawpaw
- Asplenium rhizophyllum*, Walking Fern
- Botrychium virginiana*, Rattlesnake Fern
- Cardamine flagellifera flagellifera*, Blue Ridge Bitter Cress
- Corallorrhiza odontorhiza*, Autumn Coral Root
- Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, Green Ash
- Galearis spectabilis*, Showy Orchis
- Laportea canadensis*, Wood Nettle
- Lindera benzoin pubescens*, Spice Bush
- Polypodium virginiana*, Rock Cap Fern
- Prenanthes serpentaria*, Lion's Foot
- Prosartes lanuginosa*, Yellow Mandarin
- Ranunculus hispidus*, Hairy Buttercup
- Rubus phoenicolasius*, Wine Berry
- Trillium vaseyi*, Vasey's Trillium
- Thaspium trifoliatum aureum*, Yellow Meadow Parsnip
- Viburnum acerifolium*, Maple-leaved Viburnum
- Viburnum rufidulum*, Blue Haw
- Viola hastata*, Halberd-leaved Violet
- Viola rotundifolia*, Round-leaved Yellow Violet
- Zizia trifoliata*, Mountain Golden Alexanders

Bartram Trail – Rabun Bald to Wilson Gap



Bartram Trail – Wilson Gap to Courthouse Gap





Becky Branch Falls maps page 31, 74 ☺ above ↗

Becky Branch Falls isn't a whopper as far as waterfalls go but it is well advertised in the Clayton area, maybe because the hike is so short. Most accounts say the falls are 20 feet high but as you hike down the trail beyond the falls you can look back and see that the falls are a series of falls perhaps 50 or more feet high. The Bartram Trail passes right through Warwoman Dell. Driving on Warwoman Road turn into Warwoman Dell and park at the first parking area. Look for a sign board a little further up the road. From there the Bartram Trail goes to the right steeply upward and crosses Warwoman Road. At only 0.2 miles from the parking lot you'll cross a small footbridge at the base of the falls. Becky Branch is a small stream and likewise the footbridge is small. It is so close to the falls that getting a picture is difficult.

Martin Creek Falls maps page 31, 74 ☺ above ↗

After crossing Becky Branch the Bartram Trail continues down the ridge paralleling Warwoman Road. You'll see a trail veering off to the right. This is a shortcut that, for hikers going south, bypasses the Becky Branch cove, *see on map above*. At 0.5 miles beyond Becky Branch Falls the trail crosses an old road used by hunters. It soon turns northward going around the tip of the ridge. At Martin Creek there's a footbridge and a not-so-well-defined alternate trail going left for those who want to bypass Martin Creek Falls or just want to go to the camping area in this flat area. At the falls there's a viewing platform with an extensive boardwalk and footbridge across Martin Creek just downstream of the falls. A good place to take a break and maybe get pics of this scenic falls. People do picnic and play in the water here in the summer months. Martin Creek Falls is a 2.2 mile hike from the parking area at Warwoman Dell. Aside from the steep beginning, the trail is mostly flat or slightly inclined. Hiking the Courthouse Gap trail it's about 2.1 miles to Martin Creek Falls, *see Courthouse Gap Trail this page*.

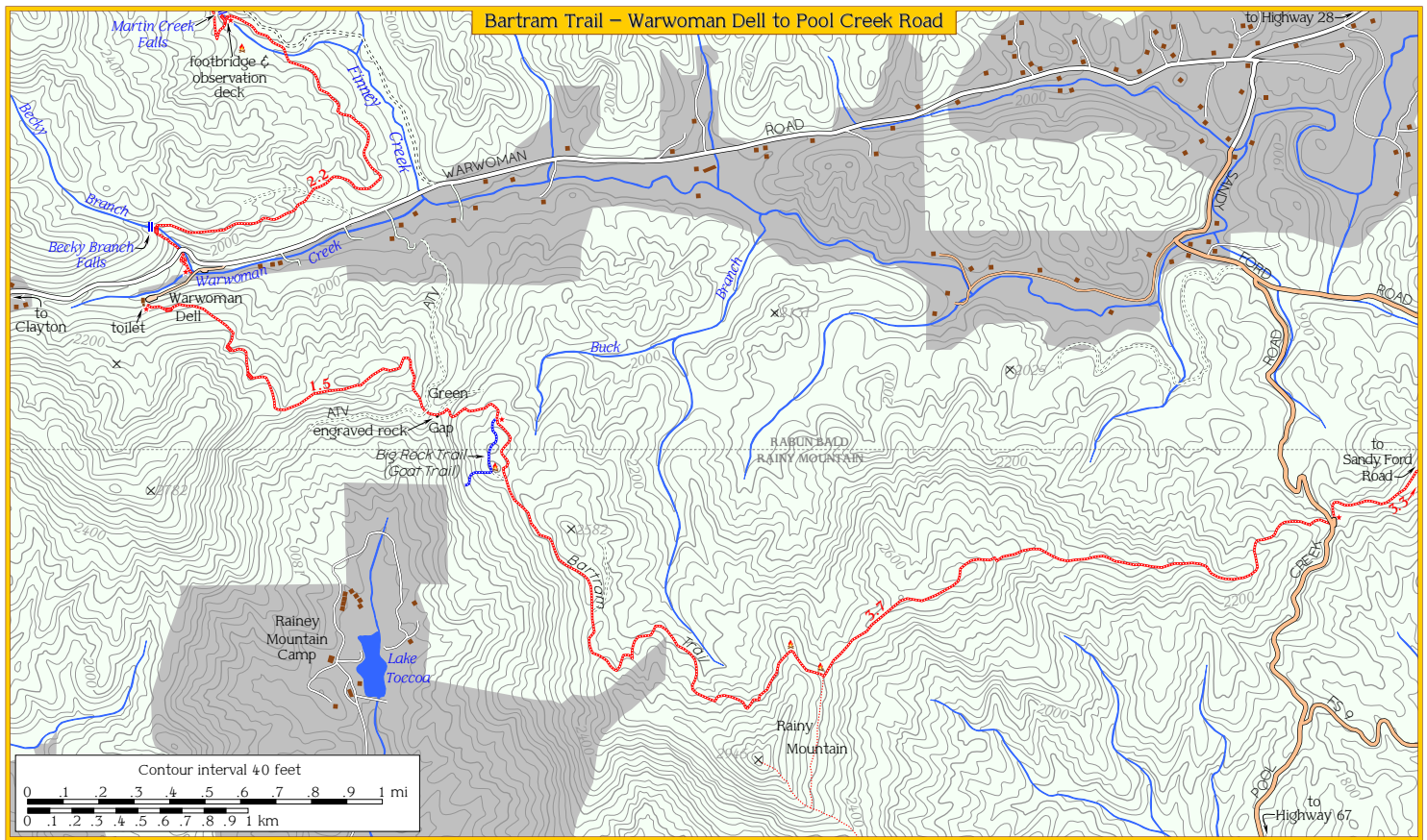
Pinnacle Knob maps page 31, 74 ☺ above ↗

From Martin Creek Falls continue northward for about 1.4 miles to the Pinnacle Knob spur trail on the left; Carsonite sign with the number 58. This new one mile spur trail has huge switchbacks but is very easy walking. The old trail mostly followed a gully steeply up the side of the knob. Pinnacle Knob, at 3,141 feet, offers a great view to the north, has a campsite with fire ring and several nice balds, be careful. This small summit often has strong howling winds. Warwoman Dell to Pinnacle Knob is about 4.6 miles one way. There's a much shorter hike, about 1.8 miles one way, to Pinnacle Knob by way of the Courthouse Gap Trail, *see next*.

Courthouse Gap Trail maps page 31, 74 ☺ above ↗

This trail provides access to the Bartram Trail from a residential area east of Clayton. The Bartram Trail is about 0.5 miles from the pull-off on Courthouse Gap Road. The trail itself is only about 0.4 miles long, goes up a steep cove, has a few short muddy places. From Clayton, go 0.8 miles east on Warwoman Road and turn left onto Pinnacle Drive. Go left at the fork in the road, then left at the next fork. Here you'll drive between two stone pillars, pass by a lake visible through the trees on your left and at 1.2 miles turn right onto Courthouse Gap Road, has a street sign. This short narrow dirt road comes to an open power line clearing at only 0.2 miles. Park on the left beneath the power lines. There is another small parking pullout on the left a little further up the road, *see map above*. The trailhead is on the left a little more than 0.1 miles from the power line, has a Carsonite sign. The Courthouse Gap Trail intersects the Bartram Trail about 0.3 miles north of the Pinnacle Knob spur trail.

A hike mentioned earlier is from Courthouse Gap up to Wilson Knob or Wilson Knob Road on the Bartram Trail. This is a one way 5 mile hike, 5.7 miles if you continue on to the trailhead at Wilson Gap Road. This hike is in a great wilderness area, nice impressive forests and great wildflowers.



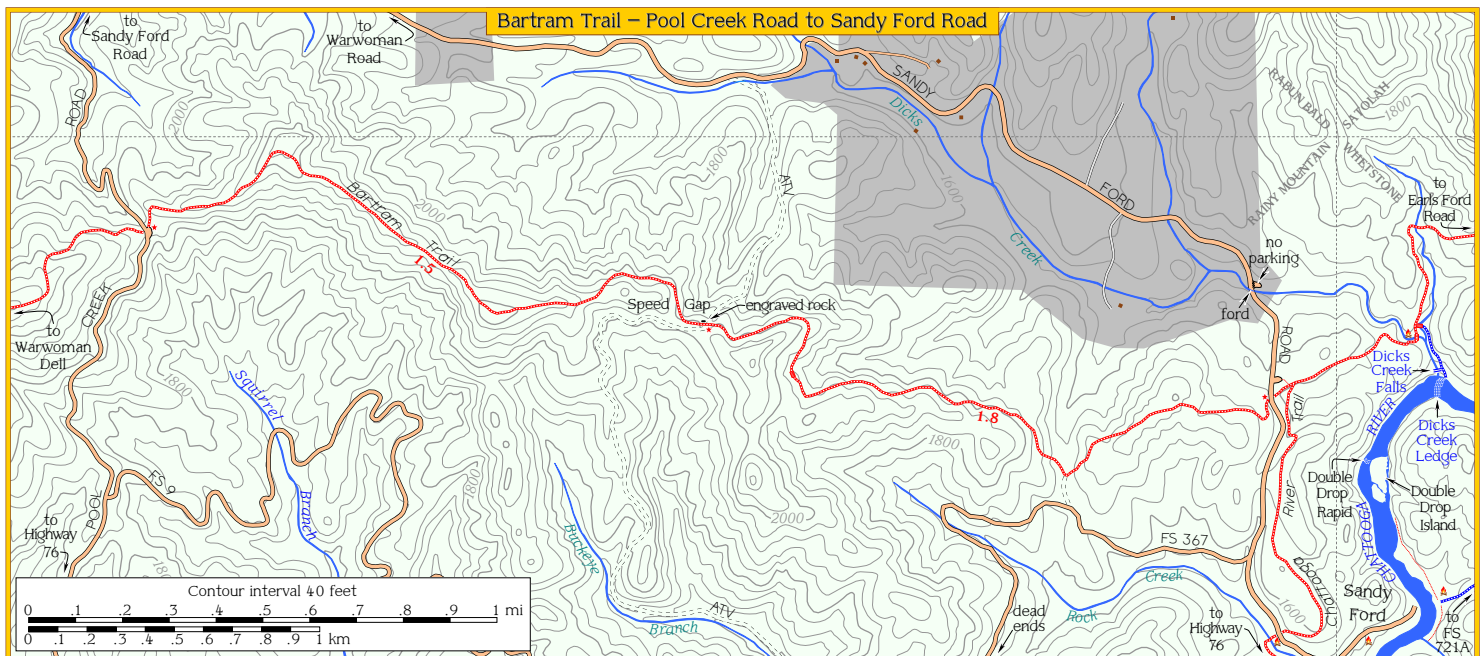
Bartram Trail – Warwoman Dell to Pool Creek Road *map above ↑*

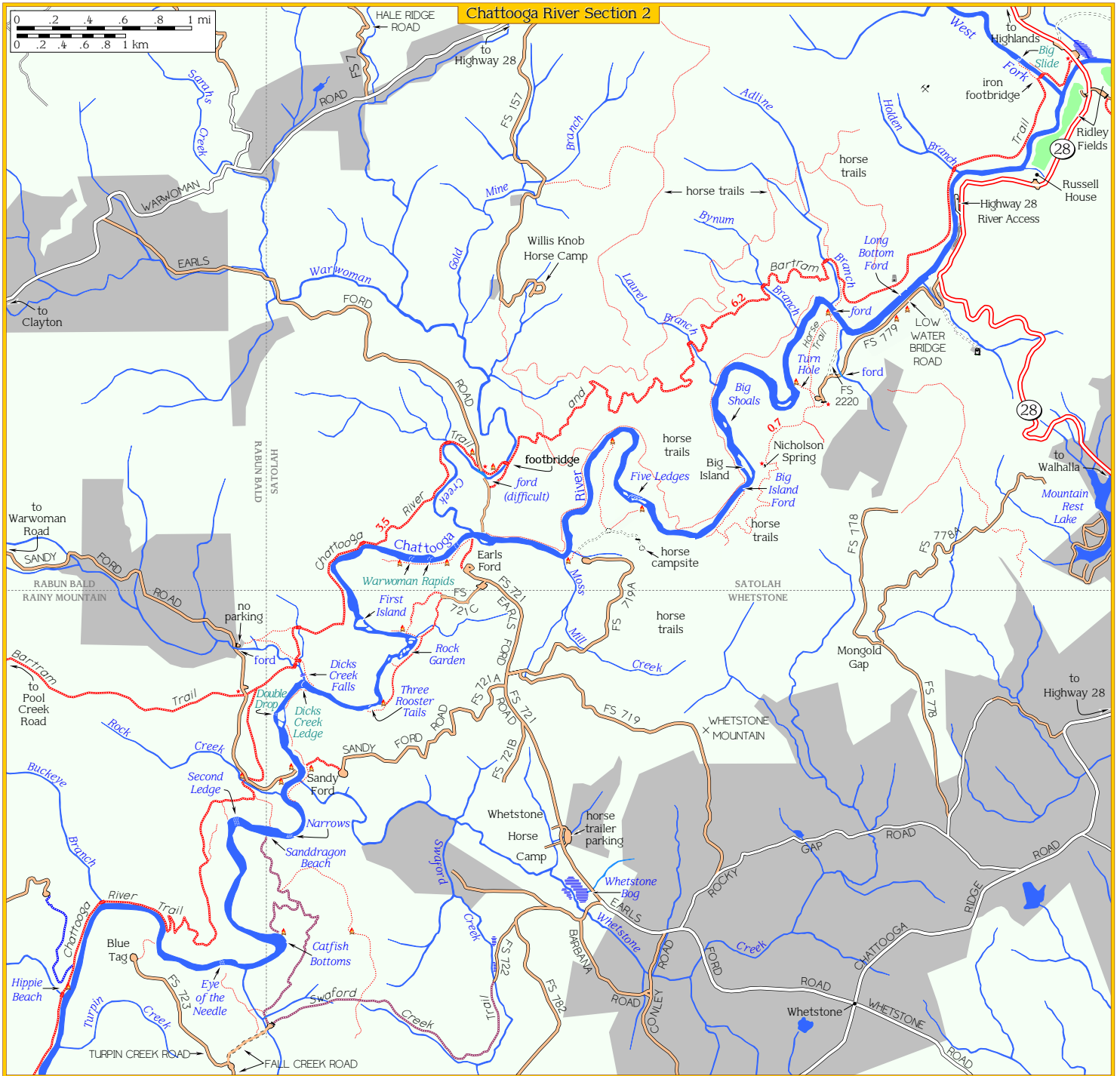
The Bartram Trail comes into the Warwoman Dell from the north near the first parking area. To find the southbound trailhead go to the end of the road parking lot. You'll see a toilet, a large pavilion and several picnic tables. The trailhead is to the left of the toilet. The trail stays mostly up on or near ridge tops rarely dropping below 2,000 feet elevation, no water. At only 1.3 miles you will come to an intersection with an old logging road, heavily used by ATV's. This is **Green Gap**. These ATV trails parallel much of the Bartram Trail in the first half of this section. They are not shown on the map and can be a little confusing when you come to a junction. Always look for the yellow blazes that mark the Bartram Trail. Some sections of the trail are also used by ATV's. At 1.5 miles you'll come to the **Big Rock Trail**, a trail that goes down to the Rainey Mountain Boy Scout Camp. The trail is marked with sheet metal Mountain Goat shaped blazes and is also known as the **Goat Trail**. At about 2.3 miles from

Warwoman Dell the Bartram Trail takes a left turn at an intersection with an old road. The old road going to the right is blocked with limbs thrown there by concerned hikers. It goes to the summit of **Rainy Mountain**. Go down this unmarked trail about 0.4 miles to a rocky clay drainage that turns sharply to the right and leads up to the summit, about 0.3 miles. Don't get your hopes up, there's a nice campsite but no scenic overlook. ATV's visit this site. The hike from Warwoman Dell to Pool Creek Road is 5.2 miles. For directions to Pool Creek Road and the Bartram Trailheads *see page 46*.

Bartram Trail – Pool Creek Road to Sandy Ford Road *map above ↑*

The hike to Sandy Ford Road is 3.3 miles. Like the last section of trail it's pretty much on ridge tops, no water. At 1.5 miles you'll cross an ATV trail. This is **Speed Gap**. An engraved stone marks the intersection. The Bartram Trail joins and becomes congruent with the Chattooga River Trail about 100 yards after crossing Sandy Ford Road.



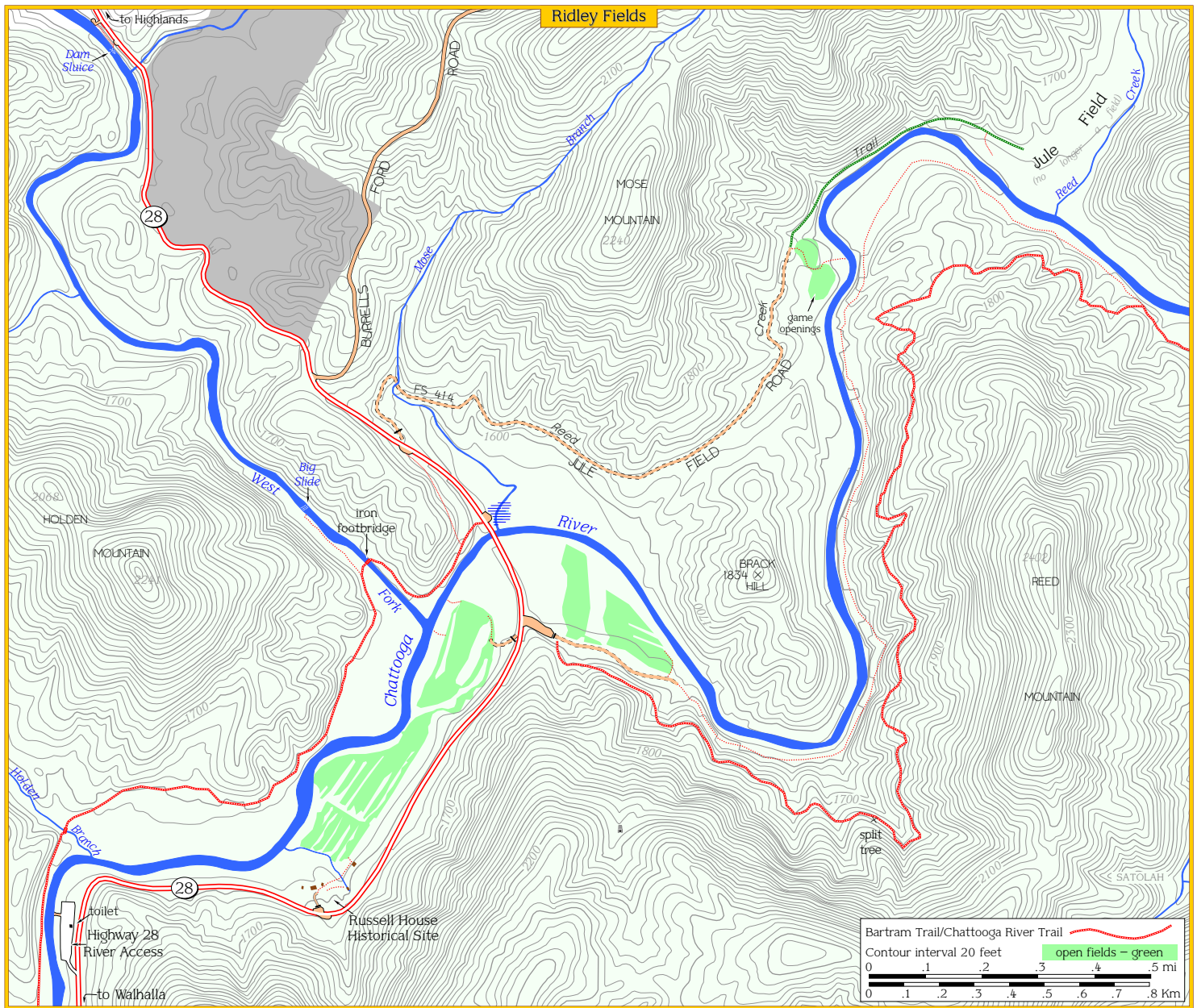


Chattooga River Section 2 maps page 37, 38, 39 and above

Section 2 is the stretch of River from the Highway 28 bridge down to Earls Ford, about 7.5 river miles. However, the put-in for boaters, the Highway 28 River Access, is about 1.4 river miles south of the bridge making the float distance about 6.1 river miles. Sometimes, but rarely, Section 2 boaters will put in at the bridge. Except for one class 2 rapid, Big Shoals, Section 2 is easy boating as well as beautiful and great for fishing. The map above covers much more than Section 2. It shows the two large horse camps in the area, one in Georgia, one in South Carolina. Other than the hiker-only Bartram Trail/Chattooga River Trail, the trails on both sides of Section 2 are mostly dedicated to horseback riders. Hikers and horses do share these trails although many hikers prefer horse-free trails. Most of the horse trails aren't shown on the maps but notice that the horse trails often go along the river whereas hiker trails are up on the ridges away from the river. There are also a number of horse trail river fords along this section of river. Hard core hikers can also use some of these horse trail fords at low water. Remember also that horse trails don't have footbridges. The riders in this area have done a great job of maintaining their trails. While the Forest 36

Service has installed signage at various places, the riders themselves have put up excellent directional and mileage signs at many of the trail intersections. When hikers meet horseback riders it is usually a very cordial exchange. The lead rider will halt the group and say "hiker". Probably the easiest, and most polite, way for hikers and riders to pass on the trail is for the hiker to step off the trail until the horses have passed. Riders often have a dog with them and thus far I've not seen a problem with hiker's dogs meeting rider's dogs on the trail. It's been my experience that rider's dogs are mostly fixated on following the horses and pay little attention to other dogs or hikers. A hiker with a dog might be apprehensive about their dog meeting a horse for the first time. It might surprise dog owners but most dogs seem to have no problem with meeting horses, even for the first time. Horses and riders are tolerant of dogs that do bark and pay them little attention. Carrying a leash is recommend.

The last few pages of this guide have taken us along the Bartram Trail from Rabun Bald down to Sandy Ford Road where it joins the Chattooga River Trail. We can now jump to Ridley Fields, *next page*, where we left off going south on the Chattooga River Trail (*way back on page 22*).



Ridley Fields, Highway 28 Bridge maps page 17, 23, 36 and above ↕

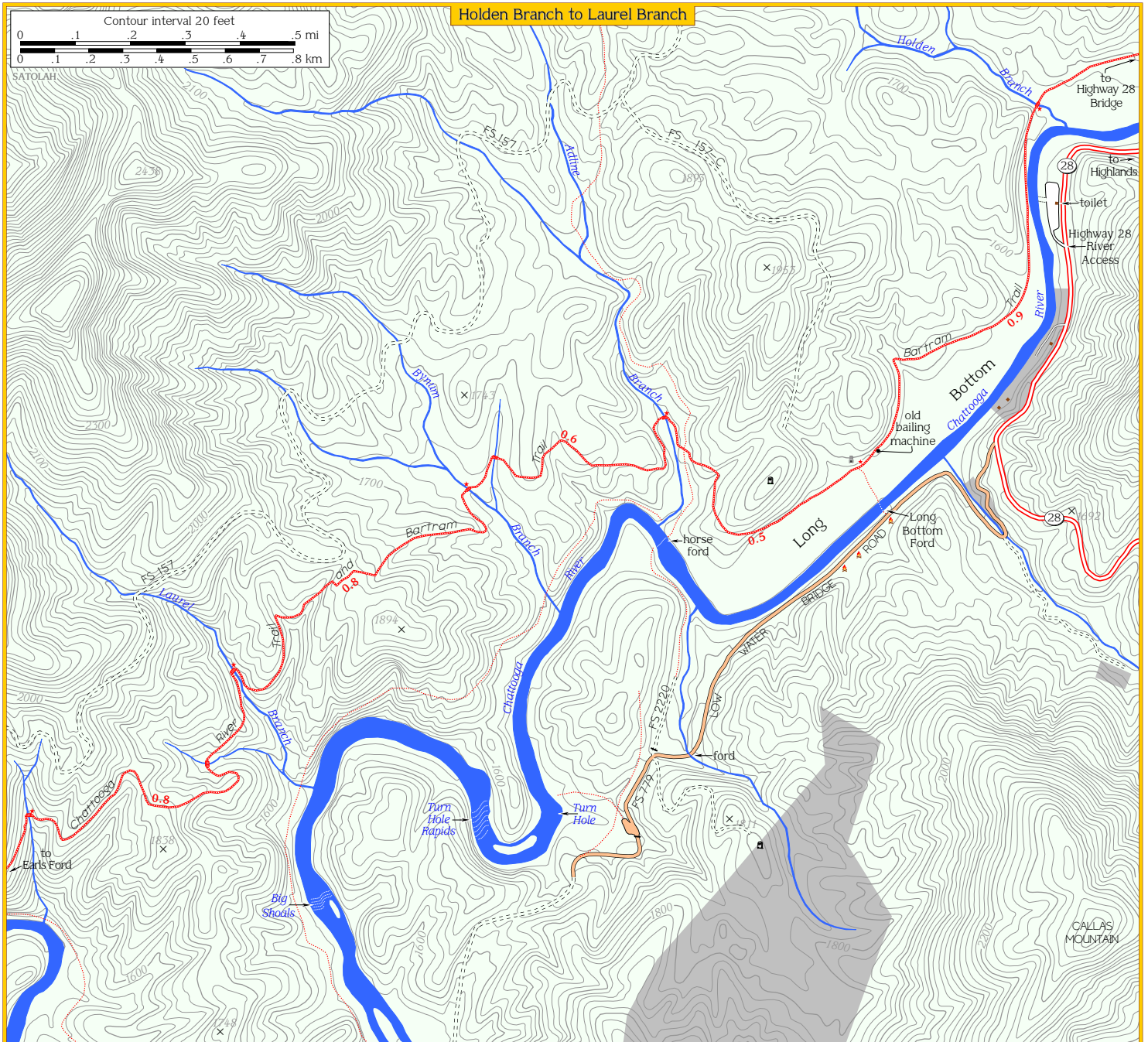
Just north of the Highway 28 bridge you'll find a pullout across from a gated Forest Service road, Jule Field Road FS 414, or **Reed Creek Trail**. It's about 1.1 miles to game openings on the right. Here the road ends and a trail continues on to the Reed Creek delta or you can go right through the game openings to the river. The Chattooga River Trail/Bartram Trail crosses the Highway 28 bridge, also known as **Russell Bridge**. You'll need to hike about 0.25 miles on the highway to get from one trailhead to the other. Large mown fields, estimated 13 acres, in South Carolina on the east side of the highway are known as Ridley Fields. They are commonly planted in corn by the Forest Service. Fields on the west side of the highway, estimated 19 acres, extend southward to the **Russell House Historical Site** and are called Russell House Fields or Russell Farm. Many people simply refer to the entire area as Ridley Fields. In the late 1800's and early 1900's the Russell Farm served as a way station for stage coaches traveling between Highlands and Walhalla. The house was burned down years ago but several outbuildings remain. There are small bumpy pullouts about 0.8 miles south of the bridge. You'll find an information board with a map of the farm. A path leads to the outbuildings and on to the open fields. These buildings are slowly deteriorating and one by one are crashing to the ground. Hiking from the South Carolina parking area southward to the Russell House keep left through

the fields. These fields have been hailed as our best place for butterflies. It's not a scientific study or conclusion but since about 2015 there seems to have been a decline in the butterfly populations. Some say it could be the Forest Service's application of chemicals to the land. There is an ongoing project to restore native cane thickets to the area. Cane thickets, known as canebrakes, are important habitat for a number of our native animals. Cane is the major food plant of the Southern and the Northern Pearly Eye butterflies, both common here. Another, much sought after butterfly, the Gulf Fritillary is also common here. When you walk the fields of the Russell Farm you might notice that the canes often have Maypop Vines, *Passiflora incarnata*, climbing on them. Maypop is the food plant of the Gulf Fritillary. Hemp Milkweed is also common in these fields; food plant of the Monarch.

Some Ridley Fields Butterflies and Skippers.

Anthocharis midaea, Falcate Orangetip
Argraulis vanillae, Gulf Fritillary
Battus philenor, Pipevine Swallowtail
Celastrina ladon, Spring Azure
Cercyonis pegala, Common Wood Nymph
Chlosyne nycteis, Silvery Checkerspot
Danaus plexippus, Monarch
Enodia anhedon, Northern Pearly Eye
Enodia portlandia, Southern Pearly Eye
Euptoieta claudia, Variegated Fritillary
Eurema nicippe, Sleepy Orange
Everes comyntas, Eastern Tailed-Blue

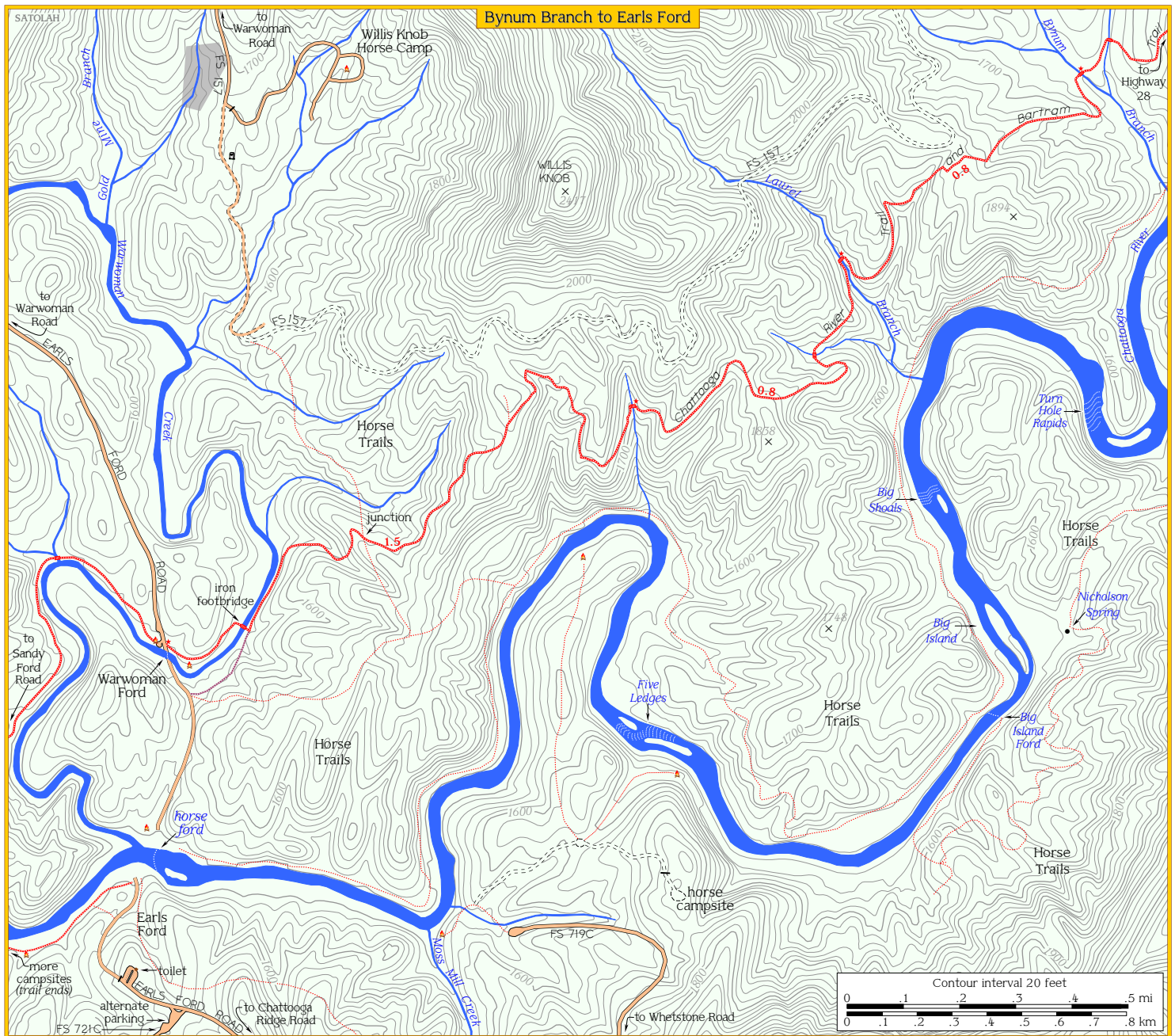
Feniseca tarquinius, Harvester
Hermeuptychia sosybius, Carolina Satyr
Junonia coenia, Common Buckeye
Limenitis arthemis astyanax, Red-spotted Purple
Papilio glaucus, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Phoebis sennae, Cloudless Sulphur
Polygonia comma, Eastern Comma
Polygonia interrogationis, Question Mark
Pyrisitia lisa, Little Yellow
Satyrodes appalachia, Appalachian Brown
Speyeria cybele, Great Spangled Fritillary
Urbanus proteus, Long-tailed Skipper



Section 2 South Carolina side of the river is paralleled by Highway 28 from the Highway 28 bridge southward to **Low Water Bridge Road** FS 779, known by some as Long Bottom Ford Road. There are numerous camping areas along this road. These campsites are mostly for those that want to camp next to their car or in a camper. There can be much activity here in the summer months with campers filling all the available sites. After the camping areas the road veers away from the river, fords a small stream and ends at a gate with a parking area on the right. A trail from the parking area leads to a popular fishing spot on the river known as **Turn Hole**. A horse trail from the Whetstone Horse Camp comes through here and ends at a campsite on the river at another popular fishing spot. An easy hiker's trail from FS 2220 also leads to this campsite, about 0.4 miles. Horses sometimes ford the river just downstream near Adline Branch. The remainder of Section 2 is most easily reached by hiking in from FS 719A. Driving Whetstone Road this is the first road on the right past the Whetstone Horse Camp. Go left at the fork. The road going right, FS 719, crosses Whetstone Mountain and ends at Rocky Gap Road. Horses use FS 719A to access their trails but there are no horse trails from the parking area at the end of the road. Here there are signs and a short trail, about 0.2 miles, that leads to a campsite at the confluence of Moss Mill Branch. At less than 0.1

miles along this trail notice a trail going right, remains of an old logging road. It goes to a small clearing, about 0.2 miles, where the road veers to the right and a trail continues on to the left. The road goes to the horseback rider's area. The trail going left, somewhat blocked by a mound of earth (tank trap), is very well defined, virtually level for its entire length, about 0.6 miles, does have many old windfalls but they are mostly quite easy to step over. There's a campsite and a large rock and sand beach at the river. Don't know a name for this spot but it's a nice area worth exploring. To get to **Five Ledges** from the small clearing go straight. It looks impossible but not really bad, a big vegetated tank trap at the beginning. Stay in the very bottom of this cove, numerous windfalls, until you reach open woods near the river, only 0.2 miles. The riverbank here isn't hiker friendly, no beaches or rocks you can reach without wading or swimming. See *Section 2 map page 36* and *topo map page 39*. The Moss Mill Branch campsite, the unnamed river campsite and the Five Ledges areas are the only hiker-only trails up river from Earls Ford. From here to Low Water Bridge Road it is all horse trails. Despite this the area is worth exploring by way of the horse trails. It is perhaps easier when hiking south from the end of Low Water Bridge Road. There are old homesites with interesting vegetation like fruit trees and open fields, good for butterflies.

Bynum Branch to Earls Ford



Section 2 Georgia side of the river from the Highway 28 bridge downstream to Earls Ford Road affords a nice 6.2 mile hike on the Bartram Trail/Chattooga River Trail. There's a small parking area at the Highway 28 bridge with an information board and signs. An engraved rock points to the Bartram Trail trailhead on the west side of the highway. At only 0.1 miles there's an ill-defined trail coming in on the right. At one time this was the main trail. It went up to the Highway 28 pull-out across from the gated Jule Field Road FS 414. This was the old trailhead before the trail was rerouted to the bridge. At 0.3 miles an iron footbridge crosses the West Fork. If you look downstream you can see the high river bank on the opposite side of the Chattooga River, about 200 yards. *See West Fork account beginning on page 22.* Fishermen have created numerous trails that drop down to the West Fork and the main river in this area. From the iron bridge it's about 0.9 miles to a footbridge that crosses Holden Branch. Then the trail moves close to the river across from the River Access parking lot. However the trail is up high on a steep riverbank that isn't hiker friendly. As the trail moves away from the river you'll notice the land was obviously farmed at one time. There's an old hay bailing machine next to the trail and only yards later a nice old chimney maybe 70 feet off to the right. There are remains such as old fencing scattered around the area. You have entered the fertile river bottomland, estimated at least 65 acres. It would be interesting exploring this bottom land but the vegetation here is very

dense. About 0.5 miles past the old chimney you'll come to Adline Branch. Here a horse trail mixes a little with the hiker's trail just before the footbridge. There is a horse ford at the river but no beach or rocky area for a lunch site. After crossing Adline Branch the trail remains some distance from the river and you might notice intersecting horse trails that are not shown on the map. It's 3.4 miles from Adline Branch to Warwoman Creek. The trail stays well away from the river up on the slopes and ridge tops for this entire distance. At the Warwoman Creek iron footbridge the trail, now paralleling the creek, goes straight or to the right onto the footbridge. It's only 0.2 miles to Earls Ford Road if you go straight. This section of road is after Earls Ford Road has crossed Warwoman Creek. Anyway, you can take the road down to the river here, about 0.3 miles. After crossing the Warwoman Creek footbridge go left until you come to Earls Ford Road. You will see Warwoman Creek Ford on your left. Daring 4-wheelers ford the stream to get to the camping area at the river. Cross the road and continue through the several large campsites. Yellow blazes mark the trail right through this campsite area. Just remember, going downstream, the trail here is close to the creek until it gets away from the campsites. It can become quite crowded in the summer months. The Bartram Trail/Chattooga River Trail for their entire lengths are well maintained, blazes at places of possible confusion and footbridges across most all streams of any significant size. *See Earls Ford next page.*

Chattooga River Section 3 *maps page 41, 42*

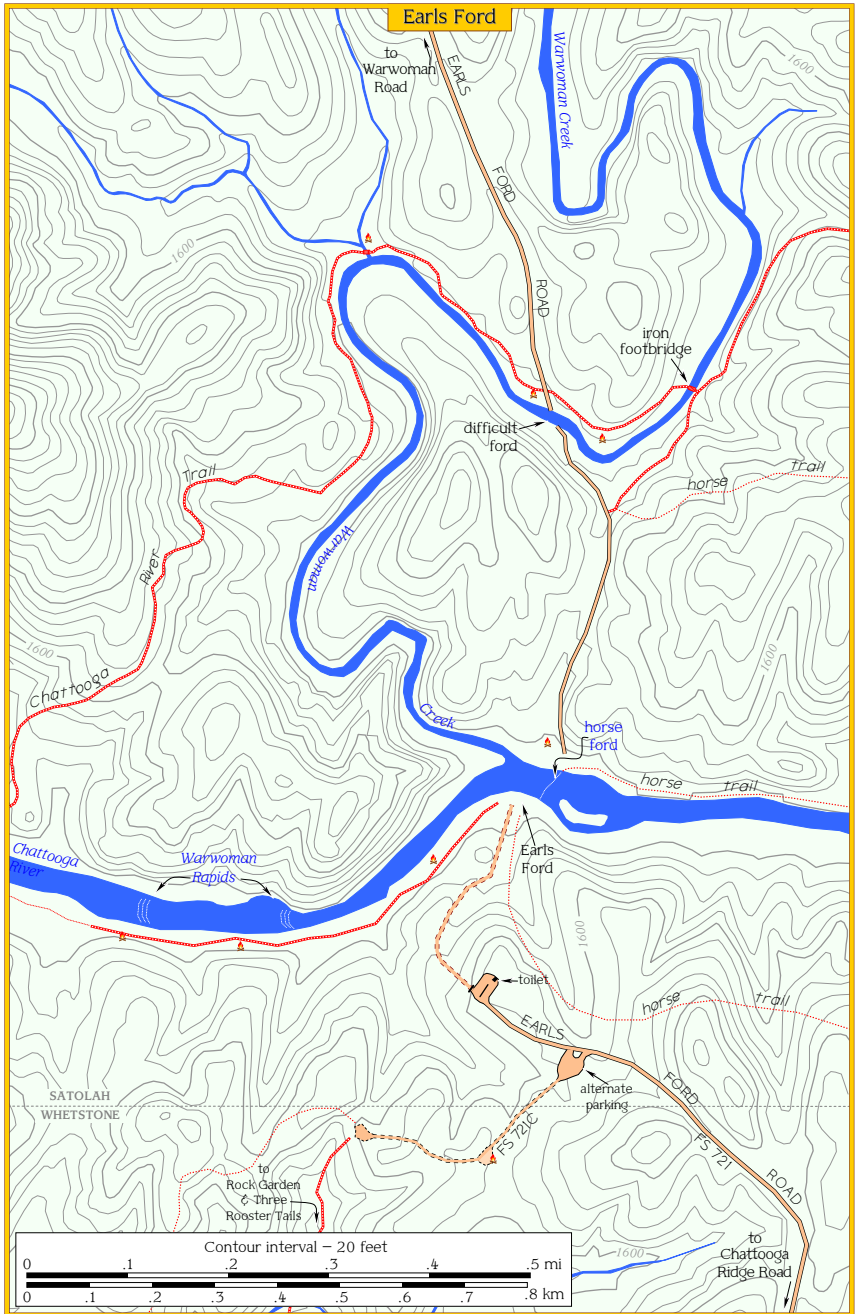
Section 3 of the Chattooga River begins at Earls Ford and ends at the Highway 76 bridge, about 12.4 river miles. It is a favorite of boaters and commercial rafting companies. Great for scenery and exciting rapids. Boaters often put in at Thrift's Ferry and take out at Woodall Shoals referring to this as a short Section 3 trip. Water levels will determine if it is safe to explore the river bank and other features. Low water is usually clear and exposes more rocks – best for hikers, nature and photo enthusiasts. Boaters and rafting companies have calculations for the times it takes to complete trips from and to various points at different water levels. At high water levels rafting companies may cancel trips or shorten the distance due to faster water speeds.

Earls Ford *maps page, 31, 36, 41, 42 & right →*

Earls Ford can be accessed from both sides of the river. There are two roads named Earls Ford Road. The Georgia road goes south from Warwoman Road and the South Carolina road goes north from Chattooga Ridge Road. However, the Earls Ford Road in Georgia ends at Warwoman Creek well before it reaches the river. Horseback riders and extreme 4-wheelers do ford the creek here and continue on to the river. The ford is only possible at low water and never low enough for ordinary cars. You can park at the end of the road, wade Warwoman Creek and hike on to the river, about 0.4 miles. It's a 0.7 mile hike to Earls Ford on the river if you hike up the Chattooga River Trail, cross the Warwoman Creek Bridge and take an immediate right to get back to the road. *See map right →*

Earls Ford on the Georgia side of the river isn't accessible in an ordinary automobile as the road, about 3.1 miles long, ends before reaching the river. To get to the Georgia Earls Ford Road from Clayton drive east on Warwoman Road and at about 8.4 miles turn right onto Earls Ford Road. The main attraction is the easy access to Warwoman Creek for camping and fishing. The road is often very close to the stream where there are many campsites and fisherman trails. In the summer months, especially weekends and holidays, the road can become clogged with vehicles, campers and horseback riders. The Bartram Trail/Chattooga River Trail crosses Earls Ford Road only a few yards from the road's end at Warwoman Creek. Fording the creek here is impossible in an ordinary vehicle or can be difficult even for a normal high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle. On the left there is a yellow blaze marking the trail. On the right side of the road there are large boulders and campsites with yellow trail blazes marking the trail going downstream.

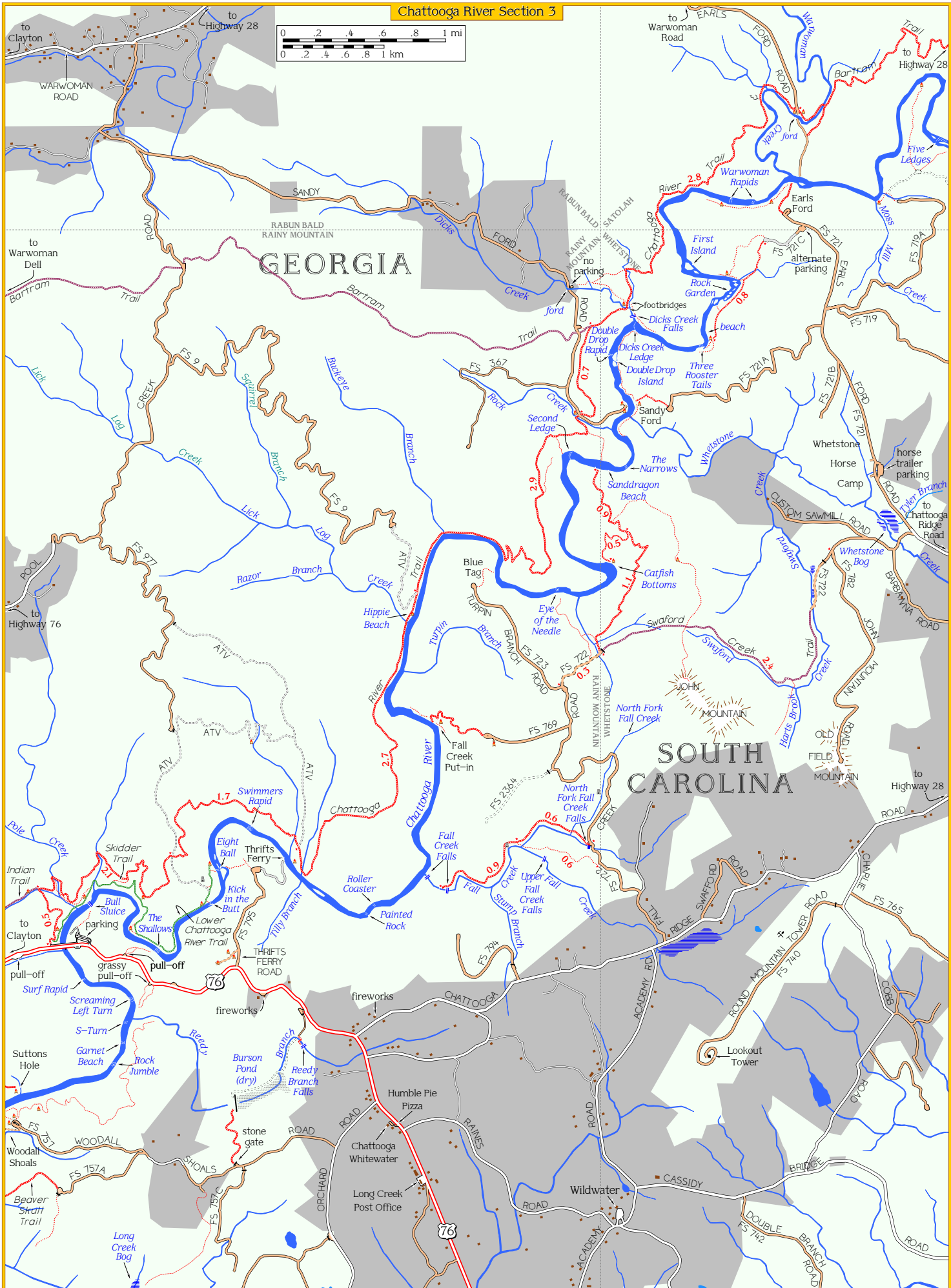
Earls Ford on the South Carolina side of the river is the boater's take-out for Section 2 and the put-in for Section 3. It's about a 0.2 mile hike down to the river from the parking area. A trail goes about 0.5 miles downstream along the river to a set of two rapids, **Warwoman Rapids**. The first ledge of the Warwoman Rapids is also known as Turn Back Rapid, meaning that if you can't handle this rapid you need to turn back now. There are several campsites and very nice beaches along this trail. There are often no empty campsites along this trail in the summer months. The trail just keeps going downstream but becomes too vague to follow as it nears the bend in the river. From the Highway 76 bridge go east 2.1 miles and turn left onto Chattooga Ridge Road. You'll see a rock business at this intersection. It's the first paved road on the right after entering South Carolina. Go 5.8 miles to the Whetstone intersection, a 4-way stop and turn left onto Earls Ford Road. It becomes a dirt road after 1.7 miles. Drive another 2.2 miles to a small parking area at the end of the road. There is a toilet and an information board. If this lot is full there is an alternative parking area a few yards back down the road. Be careful here; those concrete parking barriers can be hidden in the grass.



First Island *maps page 36, 41, 42, 43*

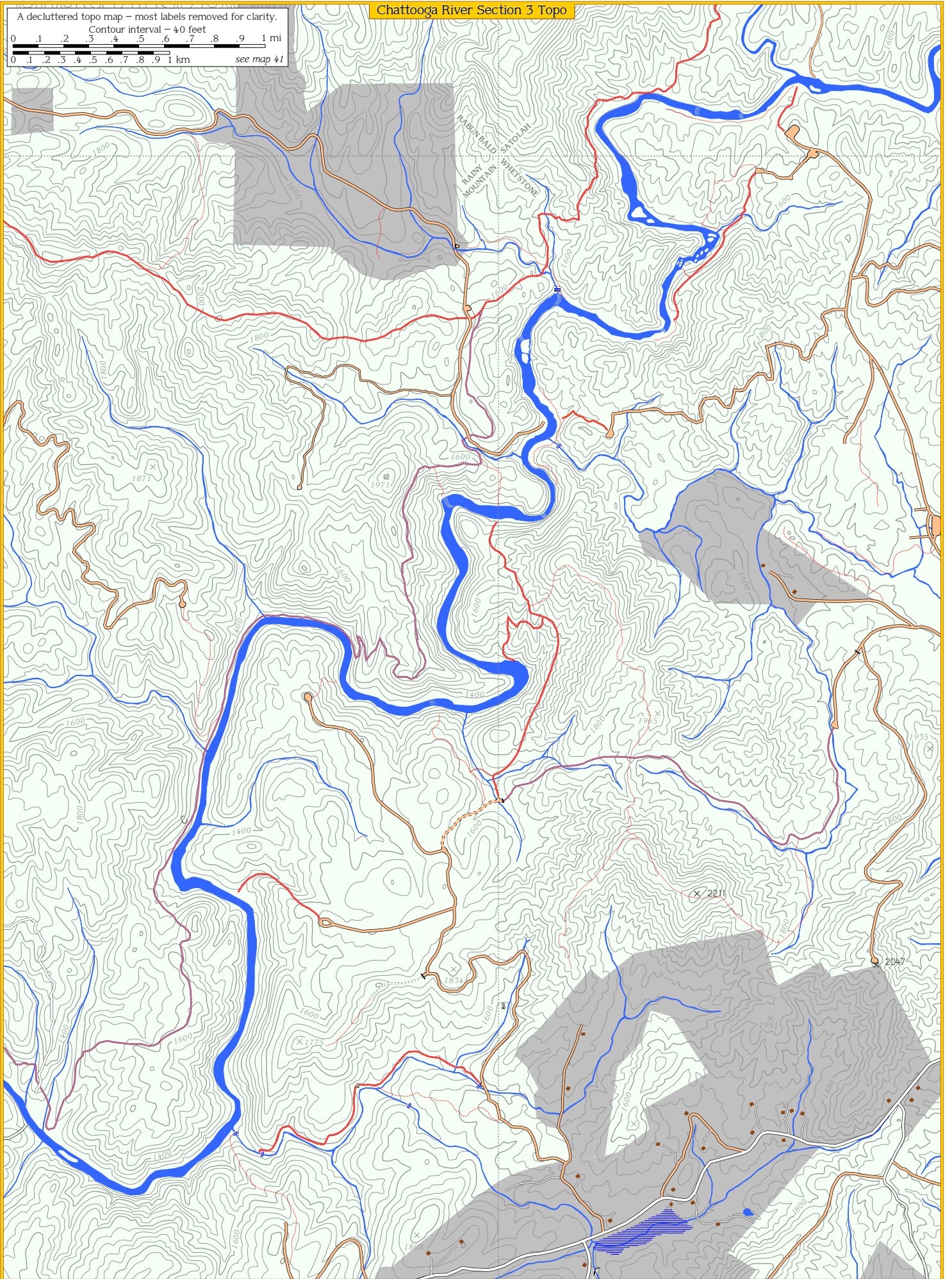
This is the first big island boaters come to below Earls Ford. It is most easily reached by hiking upstream from a campsite just upstream of the Rock Garden. The area along the river here seems to be visited only by fishermen but not very often. You will have to wade or swim to get to the island. At the lowest point near the river along the Three Rooster Tails Trail you can go off the trail (vague trail) and cross the little stream on the right. After crossing the little stream and climbing up the bank you will find a riverside trail that goes a short distance upstream to a well used fishermen's campsite. A seldom used trail from the end of the road also leads to this campsite. Study the *map page 43* and notice that if this trail becomes too ill-defined you can easily just follow the ridge down to the riverside trail or campsite. If you continue upstream from the campsite the trail disappears but you are then in a fairly open, easy hiking wooded flood plain. Continuing on you will come to First Island. It is possible to bushwhack on up to the riverside trail that comes down from Earls Ford but you are forced up on the ridges at several points. It's at least half a mile upstream from the campsite before you find signs of the Earls Ford Trail. Recently, horseback riders have been using the trails from the Earls Ford alternate parking area. None of these trails have Forest Service signage so it is uncertain whether horses are or aren't permitted here.

Chattooga River Section 3



Chattooga River Section 3 Topo

A decluttered topo map - most labels removed for clarity.
Contour interval - 40 feet
0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5 .6 .7 .8 .9 1 mi
0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5 .6 .7 .8 .9 1 km see map 41



Rock Garden and Three Rooster Tails *maps 36, 41, 42 ↪*

Rock Garden is another very scenic area on section 3. It's about 2.1 river miles downstream of Earls Ford. Large rocks almost fill the river for about 0.1 miles. There are gravel bars and a very nice beach area at the downstream end of Rock Garden. Low water is the best time to visit the area, especially if you are willing to wade around and explore. A short spur trail that drops down from the Three Rooster Tails trail has become fairly well defined. At the spur trail on the main trail, Rock Garden will not be visible but will have been visible for some time through the woods. At a point near the top of a ridge, about 0.6 miles from the trailhead, look for a trail that goes steeply down to the right, about 300 feet downhill to the river. You will go beneath a small grotto with a fire ring. This little drop-down trail is shown on maps listed above as a tiny red-dotted line. Look closely for the trailhead, it is there. This is a rather short and easy hike, round trip distance of about 1.3 miles if you park at the trailhead or about 1.9 miles from the Earls Ford alternate parking area.

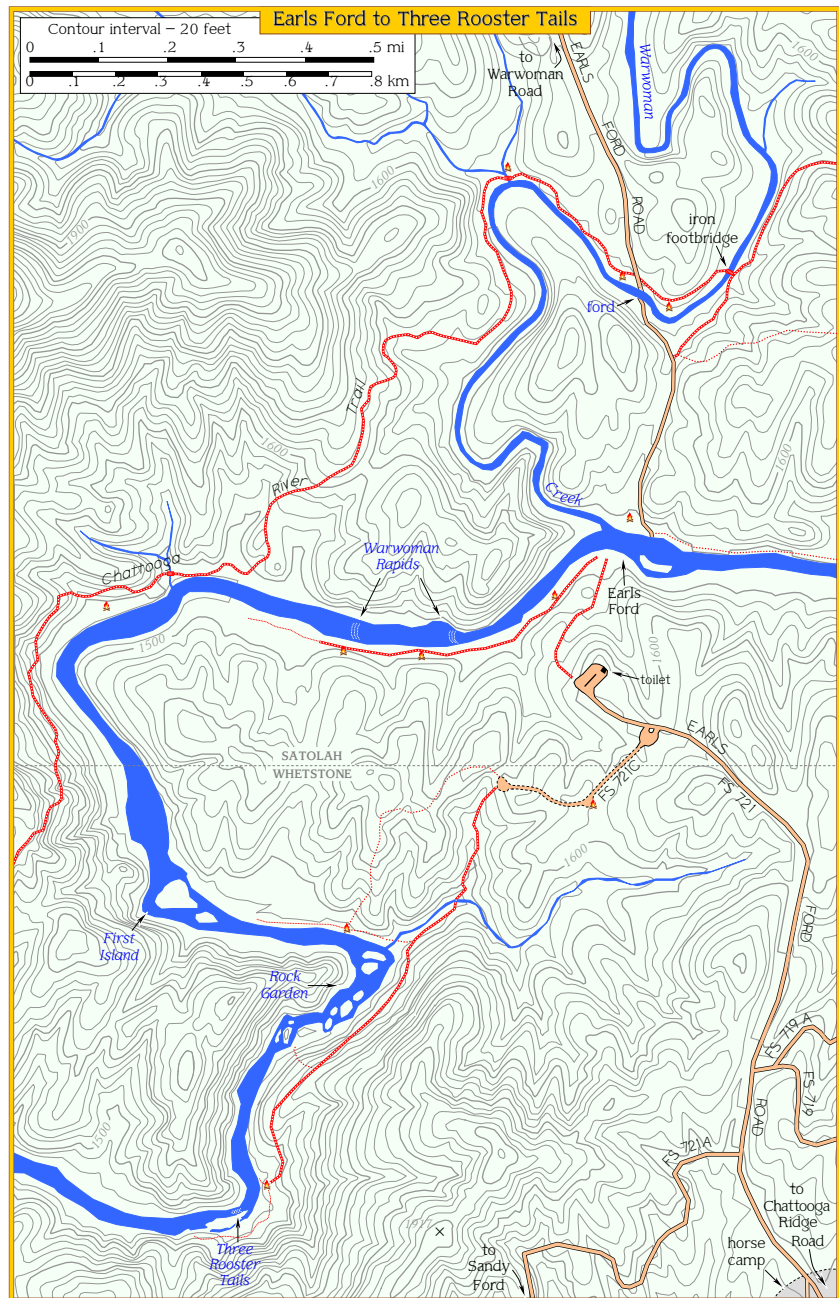
Three Rooster Tails is a must-do scenic area on Section 3. It's about 2.5 river miles downstream of Earls Ford. The trailhead begins at the Earls Ford alternate parking area, FS 721C. At the rear of the parking area you will find a 4-wheel drive road that ends at a campsite, about 0.3 miles. This 4WD section can usually be driven in an ordinary car although it can sometimes be blocked by windfalls. At the end of the road the trail on the left leads downstream to Three Rooster Tails, about 0.9 miles. There's a campsite and a nice sandy beach where the trail comes down to the river. To get to Three Rooster Tails continue downriver along the vague trails another 0.2 miles to the end of the pools that will be on your right. There's another beautiful area just downstream of the Three Rooster Tails rapid.

Sandy Ford *maps page 26, 31, 36*

This is a popular swimming hole, fishing area and gathering place along Section 3 of the Chattooga River. A road in Georgia and a short trail in South Carolina lead to the river. The summer months can bring crowds of campers and partygoers. Still great if you want to visit the Narrows and Double Drop Island.

Sandy Ford Georgia side. On the Georgia side of the river the road goes all the way to the river. The beach area here is often very littered and the numerous unmanaged restroom areas in the nearby woods make this spot an inhospitable area for many wildflower enthusiast. This said, a check of the area (March 2013) shows that the litter problem has greatly improved, perhaps a cleanup by interested parties. In past summers the beach area on this side of the river has been the site of loud gatherings. Trucks are parked on the sand next to the river with their radio/CD players blasting music that can be heard for some distance. A trail goes along the river downstream from the beach area but virtually ends at Rock Creek, about 0.2 miles. **From Clayton** go east on Warwoman Road about 5.9 miles and turn right onto Sandy Ford Road. This road is also known as Dicks Creek Road. It ends at the river after about 4.9 miles. At 3.9 miles the road fords Dicks Creek. This ford can be intimidating for many cars, especially at high water. You might want to get out and take a good look before driving across. There is limited parking at the Sandy Ford beach but usually not a real problem. There are also numerous campsites with pull-offs along the road as it approaches the river. Fishermen also frequent the area.

Sandy Ford South Carolina side. For the wildflower bug the South Carolina side is possibly best. There's an interesting and scenic rocky area just upstream and a short hike downstream takes you across Whetstone Creek to the Section 3 Chattooga Narrows. From the Highway 76 bridge go east 2.1 miles and turn left onto Chattooga Ridge Road (SC 196). Go 5.8 miles to the Whetstone



intersection, a 4-way stop. Turn left and go 3.2 miles (pavement ends at 1.8 miles) and turn left onto FS 721A. This is the second road on the left after you pass a large horseback riding camp parking lot, a Forest Service sign clearly marks the road, FS 721A. It's about 1.7 miles long with a spacious parking area at the end. Only a few minutes walking down the trail to the river, about 0.2 miles. At the river there are several large campsites and a trail that goes upstream to Double Drop Island and downstream to the Chattooga Section 3 Narrows. *Next.*

Chattooga Section 3 Narrows *maps page 41, 42, 45 ↪ above ↵*

Known simply as "The Narrows", this is a very scenic area about 0.4 miles downstream of Sandy Ford. The river turns right and goes through a very narrow gorge. The upper end of the gorge is easily reached by hiking downstream along the riverside trail at Sandy Ford on the South Carolina side of the river. Hike down the trail from the Sandy Ford parking area, about 0.3 miles to the river. Near the river there is a large camping area on the left. The trail goes downstream right through this campsite. After only 0.1 miles you must cross Whetstone Creek, rock-hop at low water. The trail ends well upstream of the Narrows but open areas with large easy to walk on rocks allow exploration of the area. The rocks on either side of the river form a narrow channel a hundred or so yards before the point actually known as the Narrows. The large area of flat rocks and small beaches is a great place for an outing.

Double Drop Island maps page 36, 41 & right →

Double Drop Island is only 0.3 miles upstream of Sandy Ford. On the South Carolina side of the river, the trail going upstream from Sandy Ford leads to a large rocky area along the river. From this point on a rather ill defined trail continues upstream to a very interesting island area; great for wildflowers and dragonflies. At normal water levels this island isn't really an island having only pools of water on its river left side. This river left side pool area really takes a beating at high water. The soil, sand and vegetation is constantly being scoured from pools and rearranged among the boulders. You will need to pick your way around the small pools, boulders and sand. At the top of the island there is a scenic rapid known as Double Drop, hence the island's name. Yet another ill defined trail continues on upstream to a bend in the river where you can see Dicks Creek Falls on the opposite bank of the river. At the southern end of Double Drop Island there are remains of an old road bed along the river bank. The Georgia/South Carolina state line is river left of Double Drop Island.

Dicks Creek Falls maps page 31, 36, 41 & right →

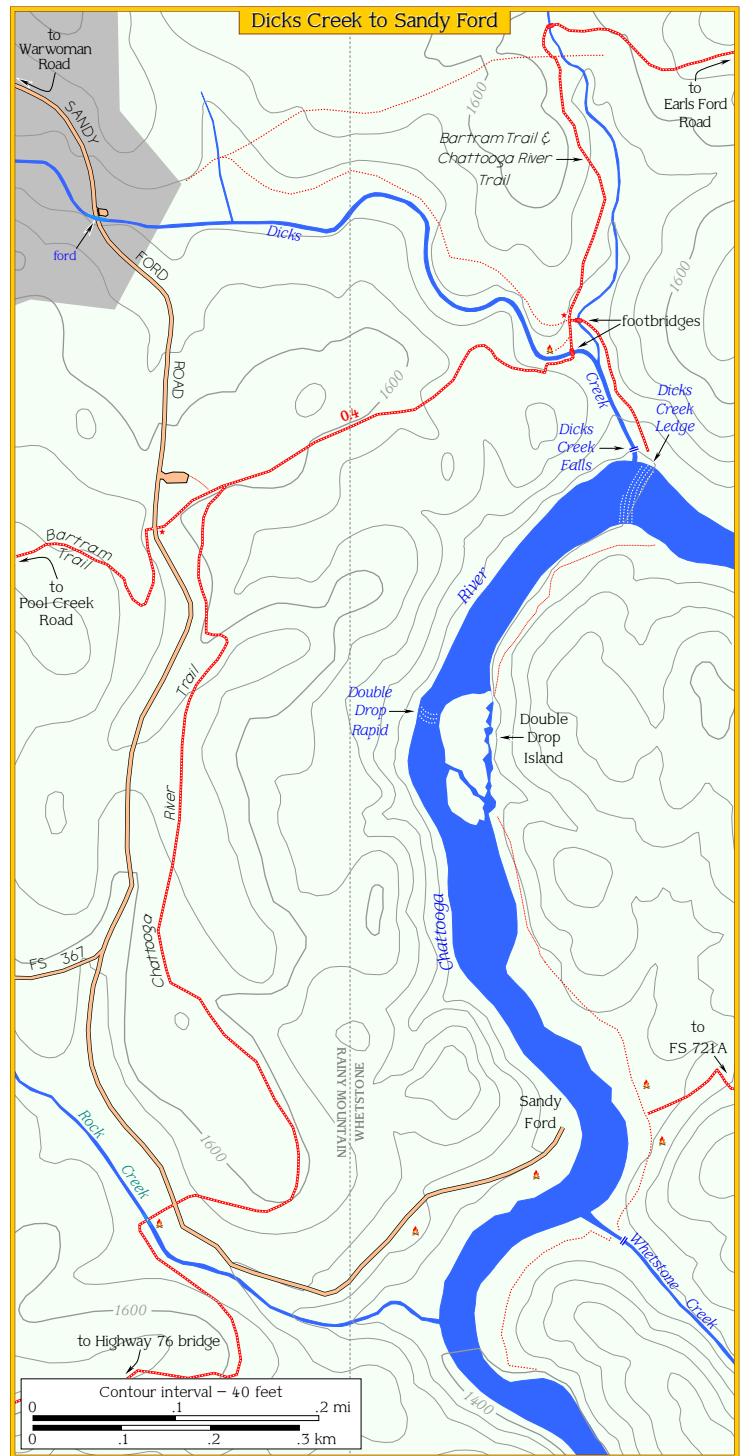
A well developed trail on the Georgia side of the river leads to Dicks Creek at its confluence with the river. Dicks Creek Falls, also known as Five Fingers Falls is about 60 feet high and drops onto the rocks only a few yards from the river. From the base of the falls a scenic rock ledge, Dicks Creek Ledge, also known as First Ledge, extends across a wide bend in the river angling downstream toward Double Drop Island. The river bank at the Dicks Creek confluence isn't user friendly except at low water levels that allow walking out on the rocks. For directions to Sandy Ford Road on the Georgia side of the river see page 42. You can also take Pool Creek Road from Highway 76. It tees into Sandy Ford Road. When you come to the ford at Dicks Creek don't underestimate the power of the running water; it can be quite challenging or impossible for some regular automobiles, especially at higher water levels. There is a Dicks Creek Falls trailhead here at the ford but it is on private property and is now blocked with a chain, logs and no trespassing signs. This blocked pull-off is shown on the map right. The posted signs on the other side of the creek refer only to the land on either side of the road. Notice the private property boundaries on the map at right →. Ford the creek and drive about 0.25 miles looking for the parking area in the woods on the left. You will have noticed roadside signs with trail information. The hike from this parking area to the falls is only about 0.5 miles. Hike east on the Bartram Trail: the map right shows a little short cut from the parking lot down to the trail. Soon after crossing the first footbridge, turn right and cross a second footbridge. This leads down to the river. You can drop off the right side of this trail to get to spots near or at the top of the falls but it isn't recommended: can be dangerous. Near the river look for a small downward path to the base of the falls. The trail continues downriver but soon ends.

Whetstone Bog* map page 41

This is a boggy area along Whetstone Creek. There is a grassy pull-off on the left about 0.2 miles beyond the end of the paved portion of Earls Ford Road. A short walk down into the woods and you will find an extensive bog left and right. This is a treasure for the botanist studying rare and unusual plants of our area. Some plants include; Southern Blue Flag, *Iris virginica*; Arrow Arum, *Peltandra virginica*; Quillwort, *Isoetes engelmannii*, False Nettle, *Boehmeria cylindrica*. The Star-nosed Mole, *Condylura cristata*, has been recorded here. The Wood Frog, *Rana sylvatica*, and Spotted Salamander, *Ambystoma maculatum*, migrate to the bog to mate and lay their eggs here in late winter. A note about the Blue Flag Iris; It can be found here at Whetstone Bog and in at least one Chauga River location, Land Bridge Falls, in fast flowing water. It could potentially be found at many other places along both our rivers but would go unnoticed unless blooming.

Swaford Creek Trail maps page 41, 42

Before we leave Earls Ford Road we need to take a look at the Swaford Creek area. Until the mid 1990s you could drive Fall Creek Road FS 722 all the way to Earls Ford Road in an ordinary car. Around 1995 the road became so degraded by 4-wheelers that it



was closed. This closed 2.4 mile stretch of road is now a well defined trail, almost level for its entire length. In earlier days there was a beautiful marsh at the confluence of Swaford Creek and Harts Brook. It is no longer there, dry as a bone, duck boxes are still on a couple of trees. A trail, not easily noticed, goes south here, crosses Swaford Creek and parallels Harts Brook ending on private property off Chattooga Ridge Road. Hikers from this residential area have several trails that originate on their property, mostly trails west of John Mountain. There's a very noticeable trail intersection about a mile from the western end of the trail. Here a trail goes south and climbs steeply to a trail on John Mountain, about 0.4 miles. In 2010 the Forest Service put up a Carsonite sign along this trail warning against trail building. Since then the trail has all but disappeared and now the sign itself is gone. The trail going north from the big trail intersection goes up a campsite at the top, then down to meet the trail to Sanddragon Beach, about 1.4 miles. Notice that John Mountain Road ends atop Old Field Mountain. It originally continued on to John Mountain. You'll find remains of this old section of road leaving the clearing atop Old Field Mountain.

Fall Creek Road maps page 41, 42, 49 & right →

Fall Creek Road FS 722 is 2.6 miles long, goes north from Chattooga Ridge Road into wilderness areas along Section 3 of the Chattooga River. From the Highway 76 bridge go east about 2 miles and turn left onto Chattooga Ridge Road, a rock business at the intersection. Drive 2.1 miles and turn left onto Fall Creek Road. You will need to turn left after 0.3 miles, straight leads to a residential dead end. A street sign, “Fall Creek Road ext”, marks the intersection. At 2.3 miles a road, FS 769, goes left. Another 0.3 miles and Turpin Branch Road goes left while straight ahead Fall Creek Road turns into a 4-wheel drive road. Most people choose to park here rather than drive the 0.4 mile 4-wheel section to the end of the road. The road ends at a small parking area with barely enough space for two vehicles. A steep clay bank makes parking here a little tricky, especially if the clay is wet. There is a trailhead on the left next to a large rock. The closed portion of the road (Swaford Creek Trail) is straight ahead with a metal gate blocking it. The trail on the left is marked with a Carsonite sign and is known by some as the **Catfish Bottoms Trail**. Horseback riders and mountain bikers do sometimes illegally use this trail but don't cause much of a problem. It leads to two locations on the river; Catfish Bottoms and Sanddragon Beach.

Catfish Bottoms maps page 41, 42 & right →

This is a broad gentle curve in the Chattooga River and said to be the widest part of the river, good catfishing. There's a large level area for camping and a small sandy beach. Like many of our trails the Catfish Bottoms Trail follows the coves and ridges and remains quite level until it starts down to the river. From the trailhead, see map right →, hike about 1.1 miles to the first fork; a grassy clearing where the trail turns to the right rounding a ridge. Catfish Bottoms Trail is on the left. The trail winds down a cove about 0.5 miles to the river. There are some level places but mostly downhill, not steep or difficult. One way hike of about 1.9 miles from Fall Creek Road, 2.2 from Turpin Branch Road parking.

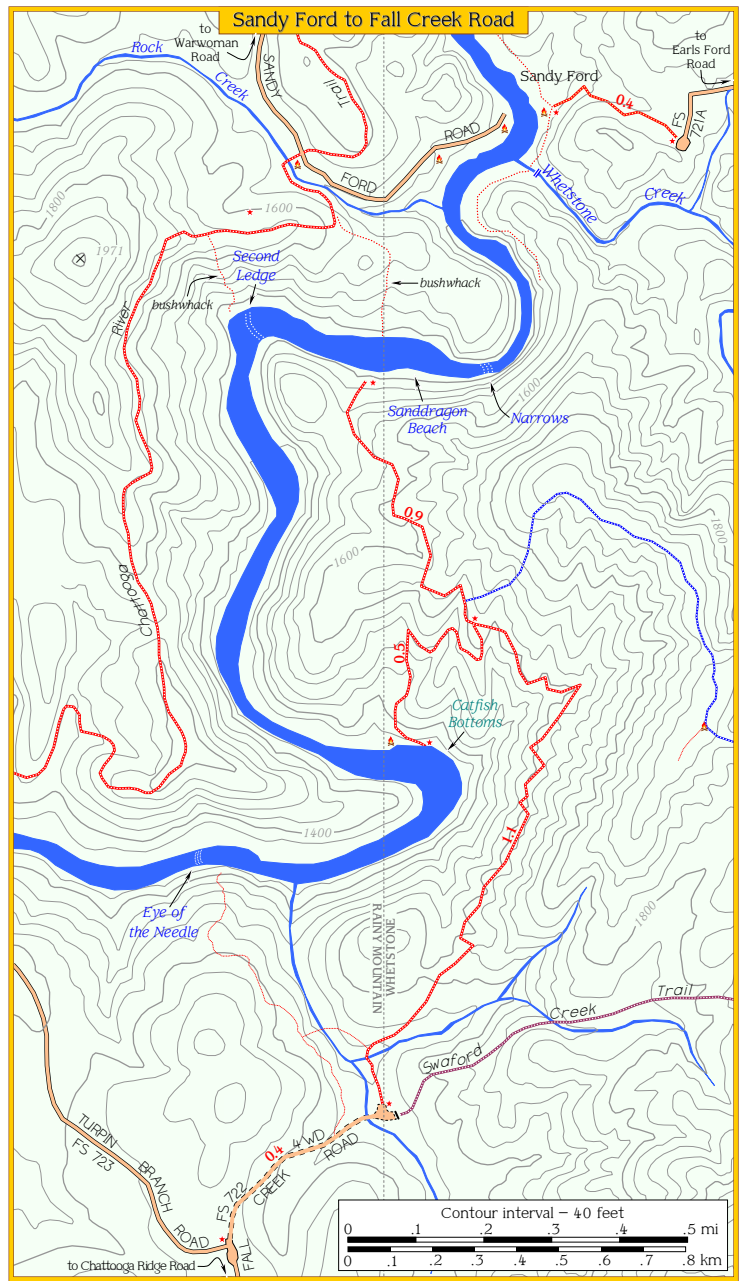
Sanddragon Beach maps page 41, 42 & right →

A scenic beach area downstream of the Chattooga Narrows. Named for the Common Sanddragon dragonflies found there. This is a gentle 2.4 mile one way hike if you park at the Turpin Branch Road intersection. There are a couple of forks in the trail. About 1.1 miles to the Catfish Bottoms Trail on the left and another 0.1 miles to the trail that goes to the right up the ridge and back to the old road. Stay on the main trail. Near the end it goes down a ravine to the river. Hike a short distance upstream to a nice sandy beach area a hundred yards or so below the Narrows; great area for wildflowers, photography, swimming and exploring.

Georgia side Sanddragon Beach. There is a short hike in from the Chattooga River Trail/Bartram Trail. The trail is very vague and shown as a fine dotted line on maps page 41 and above right. From the Rock Creek campsite hike only 0.1 miles and notice the vague trail veering off to the left. It follows the remains of an old logging road then turns right and goes down a cove to the river, about 0.3 miles. The forest is fairly open here, easy walking. The trail is a remnant of an old horse trail up from a ford below Sanddragon Beach. While hiking the river bank downstream to Second Ledge from the ford is difficult it's only a short walk upstream to the bottom of the Narrows. See next.

Second Ledge maps page 31, 41, 42 & above right

Second Ledge is a very scenic falls that spans the Chattooga River about 0.4 miles downstream of the Narrows. The ledge is only 5 or so feet high but extends from bank to bank presenting quite an obstacle for boaters. The Georgia side of the river has good photo opportunities. If the lighting is right, with little mist rising from the river, the cliff area at the bottom of the Narrows can be seen upriver. There's a small pull-off where the Chattooga River Trail crosses Sandy Ford Road. You'll see a campsite on a tiny stream, Rock Creek. From here hike south on the Chattooga River Trail 0.3 miles. This distance was measured with GPS at 1,838 feet or 0.348 miles. At this spot you will find a clearing on the left. This is not really a clearing but the first point along the trail that vaguely resembles a clearing. It's on the backbone of a ridge that goes



directly down to Second Ledge, quite steep but not difficult. The vegetation is very thick but surprisingly easy to walk through. You will encounter boulders near the bottom of the ridge. This bushwhack down the ridge to the river is 1,186 feet or 0.225 miles and is shown as a fine dotted line on the maps page 41, 42 and above. Total hike one way from the Rock Creek campsite is 0.573 miles. Bushwhacking to the South Carolina side of Second Ledge from the Sanddragon Beach Trail is difficult. The South Carolina side of the riverbank in the Second Ledge area is not at all hiker friendly, very steep ridge with thick vegetation, no beach.

Blue Tag maps page 41, 42

Can't find info on this location. I've heard from old timers in the area that this is the name given to the end of Turpin Branch Road, FS 723. Said to be the location of a popular campsite for hunter's. A trail on the right side of the turn around does go down to the river, about 0.3 miles. In 2009 the Forest Service installed a Carsonite sign at the trailhead →. It isn't clear if this trail still exists. The river here isn't at all hiker friendly, probably best to use this trail only for evacuations.

NOTICE

THIS TRAIL IS STEEP AND DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN. TO MINIMIZE EROSION AND PROTECT THE RIVER PLEASE USE THIS TRAIL ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Eye of the Needle maps page 36, 43, 44, 47

This class 3 to 4 rapid, also known as Yankee Stadium, is on a stretch of the river seldom visited by hikers. The trail is well defined but becomes vague as it approaches the river and breaks up into alternate steep dropdowns. It is shown on the maps as a fine dotted red line. Park at the end of Fall Creek Road. You'll see a street sign, Turpin Branch Road. Hike down the 4-wheel drive section for about 0.3 miles. On the left you'll find remains of an old logging road blocked by eroded tank traps (mounds of dirt). The trailhead won't be visible but you'll find a well defined trail once you cross over these tank traps. At about 0.2 miles along the trail a fork goes right, crosses a small stream and connects to the Catfish Bottoms Trail. The main trail, left fork, is partially hidden by fallen logs. It continues along the side of the ridge for another 0.4 miles where you might see the river down through the vegetation. The ridge becomes very steep here and the trail less well defined. Look for places where people have been going down the steep river bank. Some hikers have been working on this final drop.

Fall Creek Put-in maps page 43, 44 ↺ right →

The Fall Creek put-in is misnamed since it has nothing to do with Fall Creek; maybe just because it is off Fall Creek Road. After about 2.3 miles on Fall Creek Road turn left onto FS 769 and drive about 0.6 miles to a parking area at the end of the road. The hike down to the river, dreaded by rafters, is about 0.5 miles. There are several popular campsites and a launching area for boaters and rafters. Trails at the river go

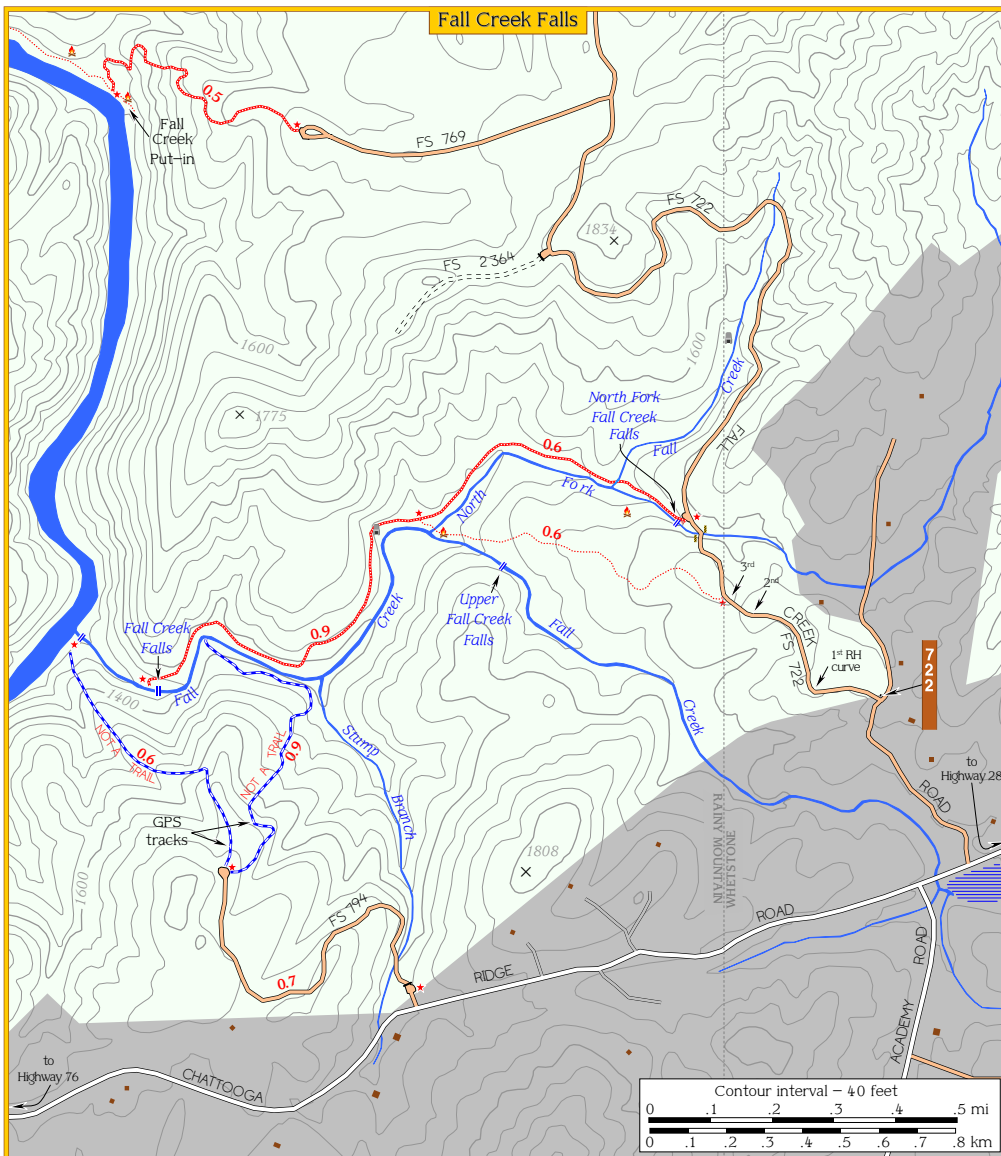
upstream and downstream but only for a short distance. There are nice rocky areas to explore upstream. Some hikers try to bushwhack from here downstream to Fall Creek or the falls, a distance of about 1 mile. The very thick vegetation and rough terrain make for very slow progress. A very difficult hike that is not recommended.

Fall Creek Falls maps page 43, 44, 54 ↺ right →

North Fork Fall Creek Falls. There is a small waterfall on a tributary of the North Fork Fall Creek that some waterfall enthusiasts like to add to their résumé. After the left turn onto FS 722 (Fall Creek Road ext) go 0.5 miles to a large culvert beneath the road. The culvert and stream are impossible to see through the vegetation but black and yellow diagonally striped road signs (B) mark the stream crossing. Drive past the signs to a pull-off on the left. Park here and walk only a few yards downstream, river right, to the base of the falls. This trail goes on to the main falls, *next*.

Fall Creek Falls. This falls is located about 0.1 miles upstream of the confluence with the Chattooga River. The hike from the North Fork Falls pull-off is about 1.5 miles. For the most part the trail is well defined, well travelled but windfalls and vague sections of trail can be confusing. Be careful on the steep slope as you near the falls, especially if the ground is wet. Notice on the map the GPS track down the ridge from the end of FS 794. Total hike of about a 1.4 miles from the Forest Service road barrier. The woods here are fairly open and there are old logging roads but you will need to cross Fall Creek if you choose this route.

Upper Fall Creek Falls. A well defined trail leads from Fall Creek Road down a ridge to the confluence of Fall Creek and its North Fork, about 0.6 miles. The trail is mostly level at the beginning then starts down the ridge. At about 0.5 miles you will



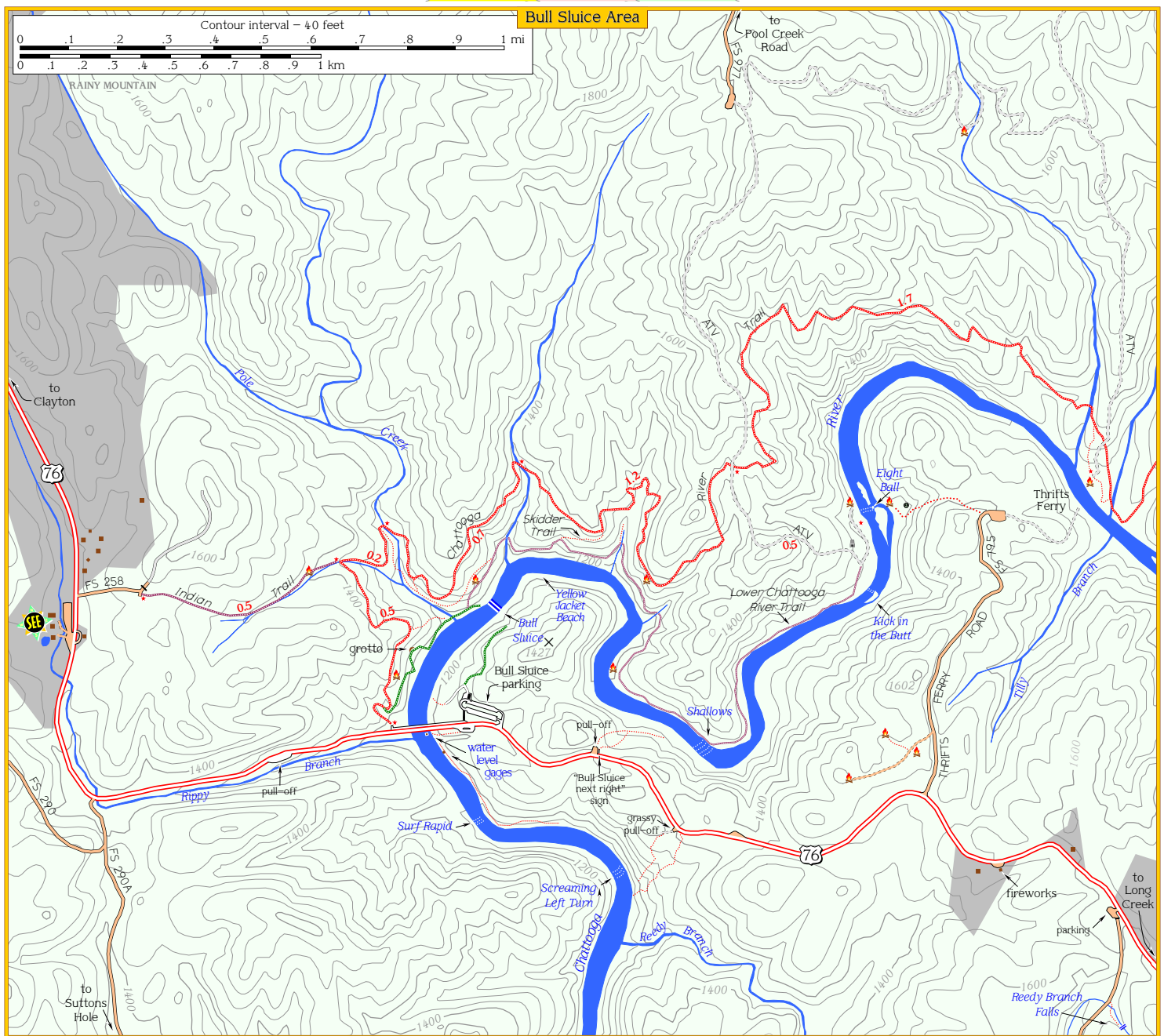
hear and see the Upper Fall Creek Falls through the trees on your left. At the end of the trail you can cross the North Fork to access the Fall Creek Falls trail. The trailhead to this little falls isn't really visible at the road. It's about 0.4 miles along the Fall Creek Road extension, FS 722. Count the right hand turns; the trailhead is on the left at the beginning of the third right turn. Study the map *upper right*. Notice that vague remains of an old road veering off to the left forms the trailhead. Walk into the woods to find the trail.

Pool Creek Road maps page 31, 35, 75, 76

This is a 5 mile long road on the Georgia side of the river that connects Highway 76 to Sandy Ford Road. From the Highway 76 Chattooga River bridge drive west, toward Clayton, about 2.9 miles and turn right onto Pool Creek Road. At 1.7 miles the pavement ends. From this point on to Sandy Ford Road it is a narrow winding dirt road with numerous switchbacks and tight turns all within a wilderness area. Be aware that you can meet an oncoming vehicle at any of the many blind curves. To come in from Sandy Ford Road drive east from Clayton on Warwoman Road about 5.8 miles and turn right onto Sandy Ford Road. The intersection with Pool Creek Road is about 0.9 miles, well marked with a road sign. Pool Creek Road forks off to the right. *See Warwoman Road Map page 31.*

Bartram Trail at Pool Creek Road

Driving Pool Creek Road from Highway 76, you'll find the Bartram Trail crossing about 2.4 miles beyond where the pavement ends. There's a generous pull-off on the right with five large rocks and a Carsonite sign. Coming from Sandy Ford Road the trailheads are easier to miss, look closely on the left, about 0.9 miles. For maps of the Bartram Trail from Warwoman Dell to Pool Creek Road then on to Sandy Ford Road *go to page 35.*



Squirrel Branch Rd, Hippie Beach Rd, FS 9 maps 31, 41, 42, 52 ♂ ↑

Driving north from Highway 76, this is the second drivable dirt road along the dirt portion of Pool Creek Road. There are usually no road signs at this intersection but it is easily recognized as the only well defined dirt road off to the right. It is about 1.3 miles north of the first dirt road on the right, FS 977. It is quite long, about 4.5 miles, barely drivable in an ordinary car, a few sketchy places but no real problems. Park at the end of the road and hike about 0.6 miles down to the Chattooga River Trail, go right 0.2 miles to Hippie Beach. It is said that hippies once lived here. You'll find a large campsite and a nice sand beach. The trail from the end of FS 9 to Hippie Beach is frequented by ATV riders and the Forest Service has apparently tried to keep them from using the trail by constructing numerous tank traps along the way. It actually looks like these traps might finally be working.

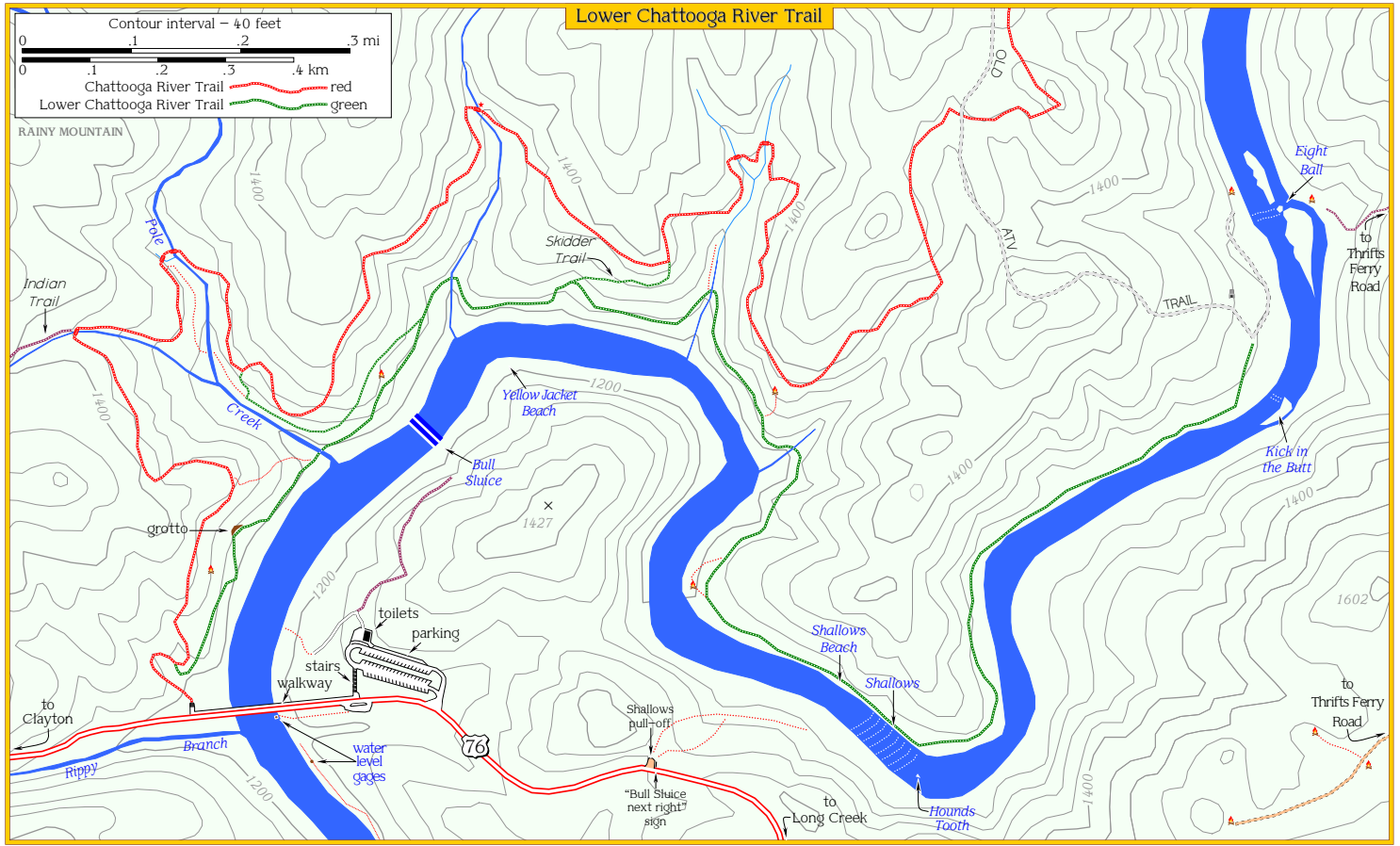
FS 977 to Eight Ball and Thrifts Ferry maps 31, 41, 42, 52 ♂ ↑

From Highway 76, after only 0.4 miles on the dirt portion of Pool Creek Road, you will find FS 977, the first dirt road on your right. It's about 2.1 miles long, ends in a large open parking area. From here trails often used by ATV riders go down to Eight Ball and Thrifts Ferry on the Georgia side of the river. There is a large campsite along the trail where one trail goes left, one right. Once you are on one of these trails you will notice an occasional side trail

but in general if you keep going downward on the most well developed trail you will come to the Chattooga River Trail. One such intersection is north of Thrifts Ferry and one at the trail that goes down to Eight Ball. Thrifts Ferry is the site of an old ferry, has a large camping area on the Georgia side of the river. A riverside trail from the Highway 76 bridge ends at Eight Ball, see *Lower Chattooga River Trail, next page.*

Thrifts Ferry Road to Thrifts Ferry and Eight Ball

maps 31, 41, 42, 52 ♂ above ↑ From the Highway 76 bridge drive east about 1.2 miles and turn left onto Thrifts Ferry Road, FS 795, formerly known as Tilly Branch Road and label that on some maps. It's the first dirt road on the left east of the Highway 76 bridge; a sweeping right turn, be careful. After only a few yards on Thrifts Ferry Road you'll see a road going left. It leads to several campsites, a good place to crash for the night if you've come here to boat the next day. This is a well used Forest Service road about 0.9 miles long, ends at a parking area with an information board. This can be a very busy place with boaters and rafting company buses putting in and taking out here. Be sure to not block the bus unloading area. At the parking area the Thrifts Ferry Trailhead is next to the information board, about 0.3 miles down to the river where there is a boat and raft launching area. Another trail leads down to Eight Ball from the parking area, *next page.*



Eight Ball maps page 41, 47, 52, 73, 74 & above ↑

This is a rapid on Section 3 of the Chattooga River. Here the river spreads out and creates several small islands and picturesque shallow rocky areas. For boaters a large rock in the river is said to look like an eight ball as it comes into view. Rafters and boaters often stop for lunch at a small sand beach on Eight Ball Island. On Thrifts Ferry Road, just when you turn right to enter the Thrifts Ferry parking lot notice a trailhead on the left; has a fallen log across it. This is the trail to Eight Ball. The trail goes only a few yards up to a saddle and then left down a narrow cove to the river, a hike of less than 0.3 miles from the parking area. The flat area at the bottom of this cove has over 30 *Stewartia ovata* trees, the Mountain Camellia, blooms mid May to early July. This may be the largest stand of Mountain Camellia in the Chattooga River watershed. *Lysimachia fraseri*, Fraser's Loosestrife has been recorded on Eight Ball Island. The area is also good for dragonflies.

The Shallows maps page 41, 47, 49, 52 & above ↑

The Shallows, as the name implies, is a very shallow stretch of the river. The river turns right and flows down a wide sloping section of rocks for over a hundred yards. At one time a small beach at the downstream end of the shallows on the South Carolina side was a popular swimming spot, only a short hike down from Highway 76. People would often stop here after work for a refreshing swim. Several years ago high water and floods changed the South Carolina beach into a muddy area. A very nice sandy beach remains on the Georgia side of the river along the Lower Chattooga River Trail. Boaters and rafters often stop here for lunch.

Shallows on the South Carolina side of the river.

From the Highway 76 bridge go east, into South Carolina, only about 0.4 miles and notice a small pull-off on the left at the beginning of a metal barrier and a large "Bull Sluice next right" sign. You'll see a mound of red clay soil blocking an old logging road. Only 2 or 3 cars will fit in this tiny pull-off. Some boaters do put in here and the pull-off is often full. Two trails leave this pull-off for the river but soon join and go upriver to The Shallows, about 400 yards.

Lower Chattooga River Trail Mileage	
Bull Sluice Parking	0.0
Highway 76 Bridge Trailhead	0.2 0.2
Bull Sluice	0.3 0.5
Shallows Campsite.....	0.8 1.3
Shallows	0.2 1.5
Kick in the Butt	0.7 2.2
Eight Ball.....	0.1 2.3
(Upper) Chattooga River Trail	0.4 2.7

Shallows on the Georgia side of the river.

Hike up to Bull Sluice from the Highway 76 bridge then follow the Lower Chattooga River Trail to The Shallows. The hike from the Sluice is about 0.9 miles; total distance from the parking lot is about 1.8 miles. Just before you reach the Shallows you'll see a well established campsite on the right; has a nice sand and rock beach. Since it has no name

that I know of I call it the Shallows Camp. See *Lower Chattooga River Trail*, next for more details.

Lower Chattooga River Trail maps page 47, 50, 52 & above ↑

This is a great trail for those who want a riverside hike. It does suffer from frequent windfalls and is usually in need of maintenance. From the Bull Sluice parking lot cross the bridge and after only a hundred yards or so you'll find the Lower Chattooga River Trail going right. It soon drops down to the river and after crossing a few large piles of drift wood you'll come to **Pole Creek**. You must wade or rock-hop this stream to get to Bull Sluice, quite easy at low water. From the Sluice the trail goes back up onto the ridge. There are three other streams before you get to the Shallows but they are quite small. From the Shallows the trail is mostly along the river until it gets close to **Kick in the Butt**. As you near Eight Ball you'll find an ATV trail that goes left uphill or right, down to the river. Dropping down near the river you can see Eight Ball and the sandy island beach through the woods. The trail ends at a campsite on the river. To get back up to the (Upper) Chattooga River Trail follow the ATV trail up the ridge looking to the right for the remains of a beautiful old stone chimney.

Bull Sluice maps page 47, 50, 52 & above ↑

This is a very popular and scenic class 4 to 5 waterfall just upstream of the Highway 76 bridge. There are excellent beaches and swimming areas for children and adults from the sluice downstream to the bridge. Needless to say it is one of the most visited and photographed spots on the river. You can't miss the large parking area at the Highway 76 bridge. There are trash receptacles and a building with toilets. A paved trail rafters leads to a launching beach. A foot trail forks off to the right that leads upstream to the Sluice.

South Carolina side of Bull Sluice.

The Sluice is easier to reach on this side of the river. There's a paved parking lot with restrooms (chemical toilets) and a paved trail for boaters leads to a launch area at the river. A small dirt trail forks to the right off the paved trail and goes upstream to the sluice. This is a great place to swim, picnic or just sit and watch boaters and rafters challenge the sluice. At high water, people often come here to view and photograph the raging river. Kayakers sometimes opt to put in here above the Sluice rather than at the launch beach downstream.

Georgia side of Bull Sluice.

The Georgia side is a stopping place for rafters and boaters where they scout the rapid before running it. To hike to the Georgia side of the sluice park in the South Carolina parking lot and cross the bridge to the Chattooga River Trail trailhead. An engraved stone marks the trailhead. The trail goes upward and to the right. Before reaching the top of this little ridge you will notice a fork to the right; follow this to the sluice, about 0.3 miles. You will come down to the river and have to wade or rock-hop across Pole Creek. The Sluice can get very busy but it is always a great spot on the river.

Bull Sluice Grotto* maps page 50, 52

This is a small overhanging cliff along the Lower Chattooga River Trail to Bull Sluice, Georgia side. An easy 15-minute walk from the parking lot. This is perhaps the easiest walk if you want to see Filmy Fern, *Trichomanes boschianum*, and Dwarf Filmy Fern, *Trichomanes petersii*. Also Grotto Alum Root, *Heuchera parviflora*. In the spring there is a beautiful display of Cross Vine, *Bignonia capreolata*, atop the cliffs adjoining the grotto on the right. Visitors to this tiny grotto have built fires that have almost destroyed these plants. It can also be a dangerous place – slabs of rock occasionally fall from the roof. It is a good place to seek refuge from sudden summer storms. From the Georgia side of the Highway 76 bridge hike the Chattooga River Trail and turn right onto the Lower Chattooga River Trail, about 240 feet, *see map previous page*. The trail drops down to the river, only about 0.2 miles to the grotto.

Chattooga River Trail in the Bull Sluice Area map page 70

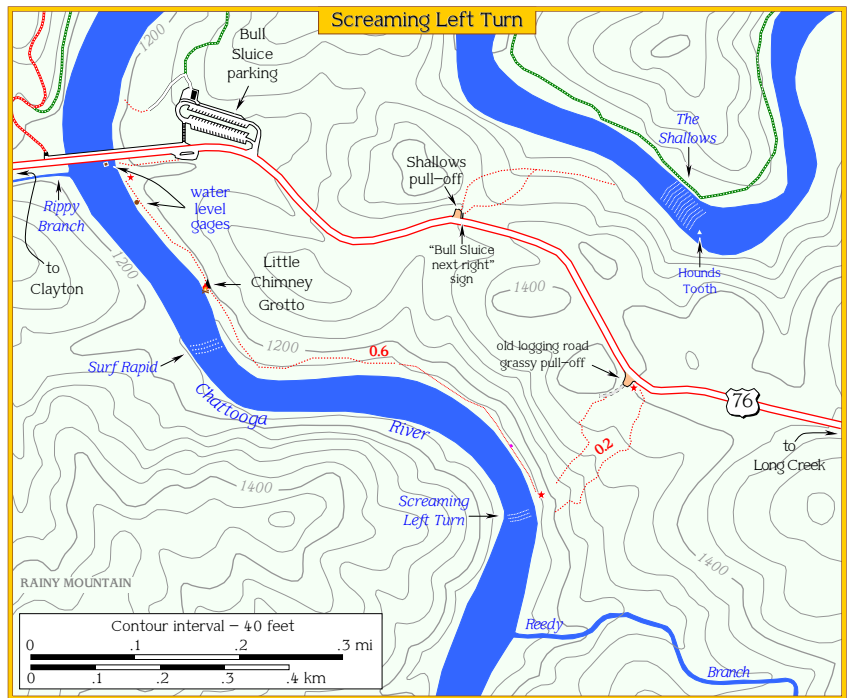
The Chattooga River Trail goes north from the Georgia side of the Highway 76 bridge. It is well maintained with footbridges crossing the streams and few steep places. It follows the ridges and coves some distance from the river until it gets to Thrifts Ferry, about 3.3 miles. From here it goes back up and over a ridge coming down to the river again near Hippy Beach. For an overview and mileages of the entire Chattooga River Trail *see Our Nationally Recognized Trails, page 73*.

Indian Trail maps page 47, 50, 52, 73, 74

Also known as the Southeastern Trail, don't know the origin of the Indian Trail name. This short trail connects FS 258, near Southeastern Expeditions (SEE) on Highway 76, with the Chattooga River Trail. The Indian Trail, only one half mile long, closely follows a tiny stream in a very rich cove, good for wildflowers. This trail lets you access the Chattooga River Trail without crossing the Highway 76 bridge. From the bridge drive west about 1 mile to SEE. A few yards past SEE you will find FS 258 on the right; a very easy to miss, almost hidden, short dirt road. You can park at the end of FS 258 or in the guest parking lot at SEE and walk from there. The Forest Service has recently installed a Carsonite sign at the trailhead; hiking only, no bikes or ATVs. The Indian Trail intersection with the Chattooga River Trail is at a small footbridge; the first bridge hiking from the Highway 76 trailhead, about 0.5 miles. If you're hiking south on the Chattooga River Trail this footbridge is the first bridge, about 0.2 miles, after you cross Pole Creek. The Pole Creek bridge is a large bridge with handrails on both sides then a very small bridge across a little seepage.

Chattooga River Section 4 maps page 50, 52, 55, 56, 57

This section of the Chattooga River begins at the Highway 76 bridge and ends at Tugaloo Lake. Some say Section 4 begins at Woodall Shoals and many section 4 boaters put in at Woodall Shoals.

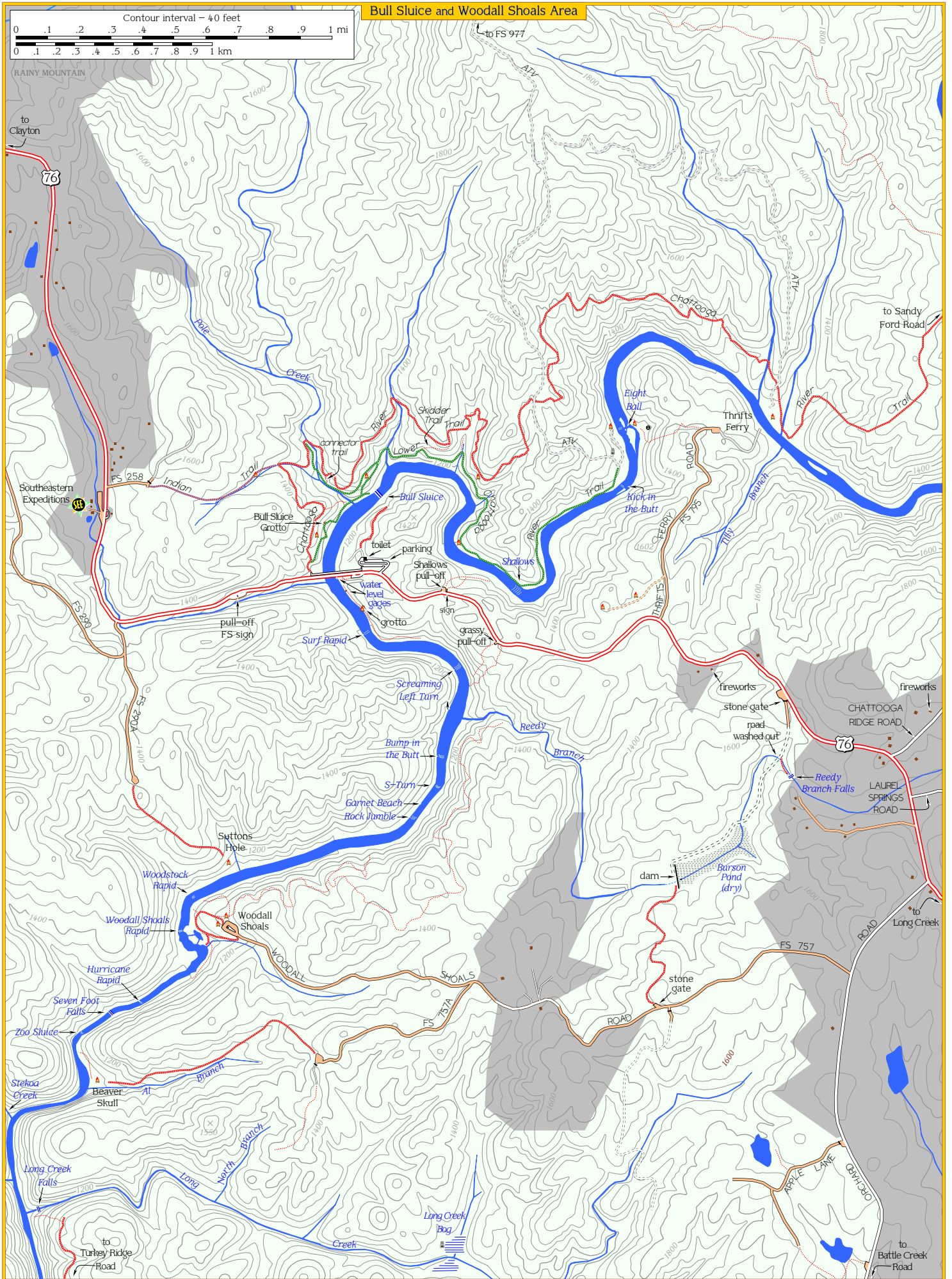
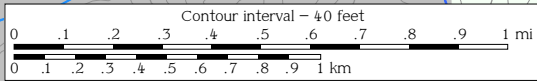


Rafting companies like to keep a fairly consistent time schedule so they put in at different places at different water levels since the water travels at different speeds according to the water level. This section of river has the river's most challenging rapids and should not be attempted by inexperienced boaters. Section 4 is severely lacking in riverside trails but there are numerous trails that go into the river from various points.

Screaming Left Turn maps page 47, 50, 52 & above

This is a class 4 rapid on the Chattooga River downstream of the Highway 76 bridge, a very scenic area not often visited by hikers. As boaters round a right turn of the river they are suddenly faced with an abrupt left turn. At least two vague trails lead to this spot from Highway 76. They are evacuation trails used by rafting companies should they have to get an injured rafter off the river. From the Highway 76 bridge drive east beyond the Shallows pull-off on the left to a small pull-off on the right. It's about 0.6 miles from the bridge. This pull-off is grassy as opposed to the usual bare dirt pull-offs. A post with two small yellow reflectors marks the spot. In 2010 these trails were mapped with GPS. From the pull-off hike down the old road and notice that the trail turns left and goes down the top of a small ridge. This trail eventually fades out but it's easy to continue down the ridge until you are quite close to the river. The further downriver you go the easier it is to exit the woods onto the river bank. The rocky drop off at the river becomes quite a cliff if you go upstream. The other trailhead is well defined although it is narrow and may be hard to follow for beginning hikers. It begins a few yards further up from the pull-off. Park and walk up the road. Just before the second sign, yellow with black mark, you'll find the trailhead. The trail soon follows an old roadbed going left, look for the trail on your right to drop off this roadbed and go down the ridge. Both of these hikes are rather short, about 0.2 miles, a little steep, but easy. Notice on the map, Screaming Left Turn above ↑, that these two trails simply go down opposite sides of the same cove. To get to Screaming Left Turn from the Highway 76 Bridge hike downstream, South Carolina side, along the river. There is a very vague trail and much of the hike can be done on the riverbank at low water but you are forced up into the woods several times. At about 0.2 miles downstream of the bridge you'll find a nice little rockhouse or grotto with a cleared area, candles and a well constructed fire ring. Written in charcoal on the rock wall are the words "Little Chimney". The river along this section is very scenic with rocks and small sandy beaches. My GPS recorded a hike of over one mile only because of my frequent forays up into the woods because of high water. The actual hiking distance is just over 0.6 miles at low water.

Bull Sluice and Woodall Shoals Area



Reedy Branch Falls maps page 50, 52 & right →

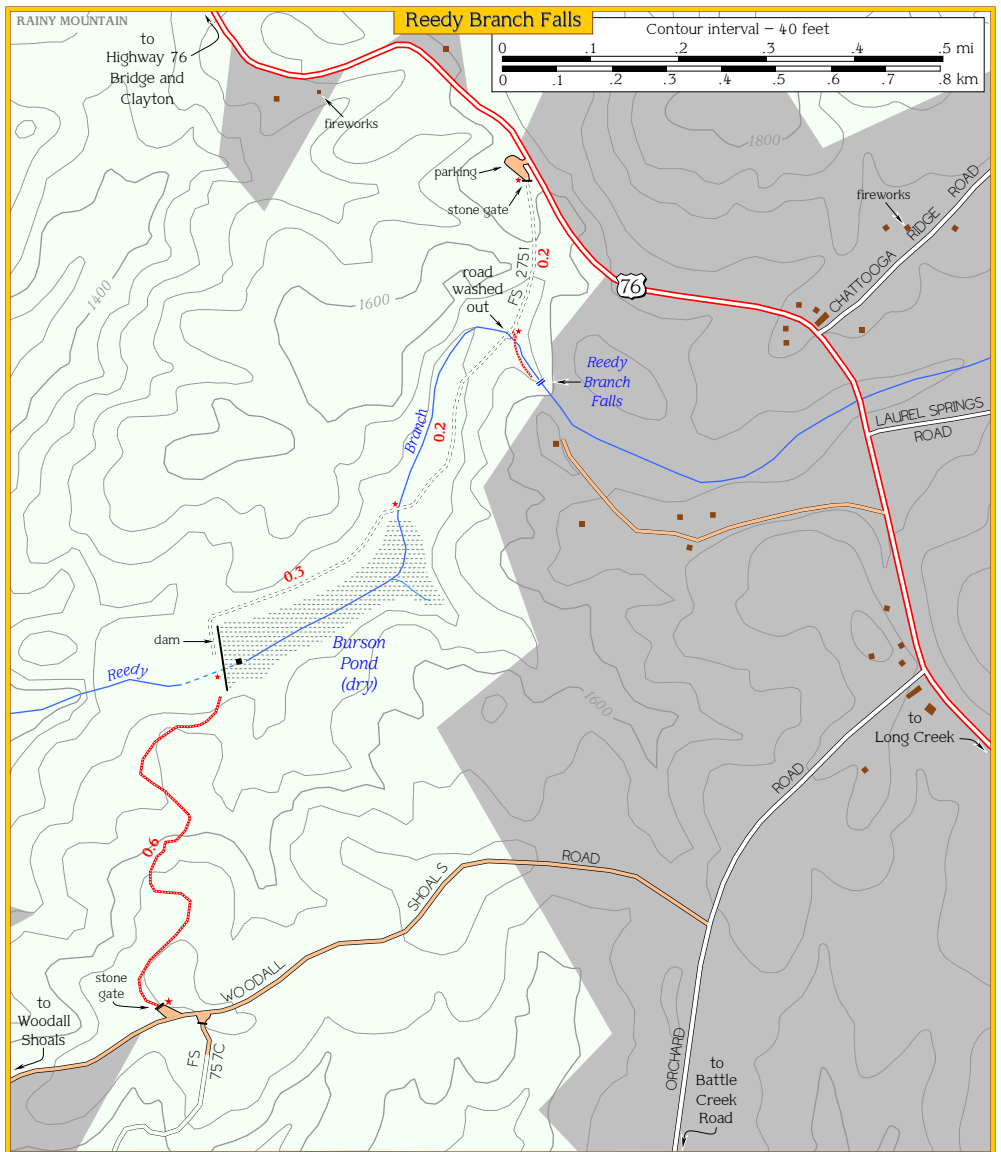
Burson Pond or Lake takes its name from the former owners of the property. From the Highway 76 bridge go east about 1.7 miles to a pull-off on the right. A stone gate is visible here. The road, FS 2751, leads to a nice waterfall and a 13 acre lake (oops, now dry). From the parking area hike a hundred yards or so down FS 2751 to where Reedy Branch has washed out the road. Here a trail goes left only a few yards to the falls. You must cross Reedy Branch to continue on down to Burson Pond, about 0.3 miles. The road follows the shoreline for another 0.3 miles to the dam. Another trail leads to the dam from Woodall Shoals Road, FS 757. See *Woodall Shoals Road*, page 51. From Orchard Road turn onto Woodall Shoals Road and go about 1 mile to a stone-bordered gate on the right, very small parking area. The trail from this gate is a narrow winding woodland trail; about 0.6 miles to the dam. Burson Pond has been one of our best Odonata viewing sites in the Chattooga watershed – at least 28 species recorded there. However, after the Forest Service drained the lake there has been little Odonata activity. An attempt to restore the lake has failed. The last check, April 2019, clearly show beavers at work.

Suttons Hole maps page 50, 52, 53

This is a camping area along the river, Georgia side, just upstream of Woodall Shoals. From the Highway 76 bridge go west about 0.3 miles to FS 290, a dirt road on the left. This road is known locally as Ham House Road. Go 0.4 miles and keep left (straight) onto FS 290A. Another 0.4 miles and the road ends in a small parking area. A steadily downhill, but not steep, trail on the right continues to the river, about 0.4 miles. Along a short riverside trail going downstream you'll find Flame Azalea, *Rhododendron calendulaceum*, blooming May to early June. Southeastern Expeditions Rafting Company uses this camping area for overnight rafting trips.

Rippy Branch* maps page 45, 48, 50

Only for the hard core botanist or wildflower enthusiast. The specific location in the plant list refers to the area along the stream from Ham House Road FS 290 to near the river. You can park at the



Chattahoochee National Forest sign pull-off just west of the Highway 76 bridge. A surprisingly rich area with a great diversity of plants. Much of the flora can be seen without leaving the grassy area at the Forest Service sign. Drop down into the stream to check out the great diversity of plant species found here. On one botany field trip here students counted over 40 woody shrub, tree and vine species. The wildflowers and ferns growing on the steep banks of the stream make for great photo opts.

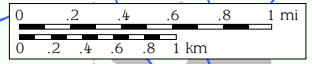
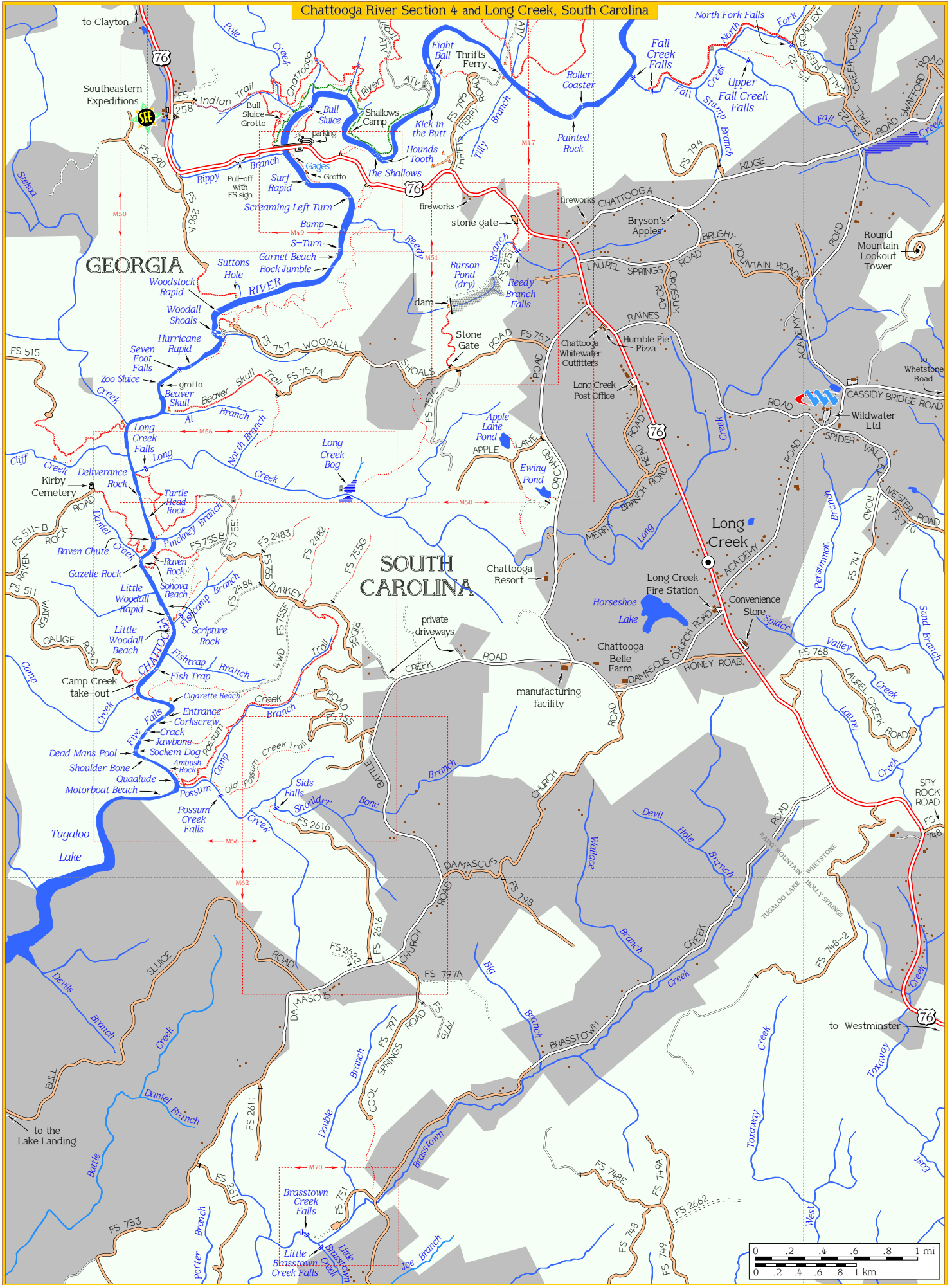
Some plants found along Rippy Branch:

- Adiantum pedatum*, Maiden-hair Fern
- Albizia julibrissin*, Mimosa
- Anemone quinquefolia*, Wood Anemone
- Aralia spinosa*, Devil's Walking Stick
- Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Asplenium platyneuron*, Ebony Splenwort
- Bignonia capreolata*, Cross Vine
- Botrychium virginiana*, Rattlesnake Fern
- Campsis radicans*, Trumpet Vine
- Cardamine flagellifera*, Blue Ridge Bitter Cress
- Cardamine hirsuta*, Hairy Bitter Cress
- Carex amphibola*, Narrow-leaved Sedge
- Carex annectens*, Yellowfruit Sedge
- Carex austro-caroliniana*, South Carolina Sedge
- Carex nigromarginata*, Black-margined Sedge
- Carex plantaginea*, Plantain Sedge
- Chrysogonum virginianum*, Green-and-gold
- Cicuta maculata*, Water Hemlock
- Clematis virginiana*, Virgin's Bower
- Decumaria barbara*, Climbing Hydrangea
- Deparia acrostichoides*, Silvery Glade Fern
- Dioscorea quaternata*, Wild Yam

- Galax aphylla*, Galax
- Galearis spectabilis*, Showy Orchis
- Galium aparine*, Catchweed Bedstraw
- Galium triflorum*, Sweet-scented Bedstraw
- Geranium maculatum*, Wild Geranium
- Halesia tetraptera tetraptera*, Common Silver Bell
- Hepatica acutiloba*, Sharp-lobed Hepatica
- Hexastylus* sp.
- Hydrangea arborescens*, Wild Hydrangea
- Hydrangea radiata*, Silver-leaved Hydrangea
- Impatiens capensis*, Jewel Weed
- Maianthemum racemosum*, False Solomon's Seal
- Medeola virginiana*, Indian Cucumber Root
- Osmorhiza claytonii*, Sweet Cicely
- Oxalis stricta*, Yellow Oxalis
- Panax quinquefolium*, Ginseng
- Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, Virginia Creeper
- Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, Broad Beech Fern
- Phlox divaricata*, Blue Phlox
- Plantago rugelii*, American Plantain
- Podophyllum peltatum*, Mandrake
- Polygonatum biflorum*, Solomon's Seal
- Polystichum acrostichoides*, Christmas Fern

- Pyrularia pubera*, Buffalo Nut
- Ranunculus bulbosus*, Bulbous Buttercup
- Ranunculus recurvatus*, Hooked Buttercup
- Salvia lyrata*, Lyre-leaved Sage
- Sanguinaria canadensis*, Blood Root
- Stellaria pubera*, Giant Chick Weed
- Anemone thalictroides*, Rue Anemone
- Tiarella cordifolia*, Foam Flower
- Persicaria virginiana*, Jumpseed
- Trifolium repens*, White Clover
- Trillium catesbaei*, Catesby's Trillium
- Trillium cuneatum*, Toad Shade
- Trillium vaseyi*, Vasey's Trillium
- Triodanis perfoliata*, Venus' Looking-glass
- Valerianella radiata*, Corn Salad
- Viola blanda*, Sweet White Violet
- Viola pubescens scabruscula*, Smooth Yellow Violet
- Viola hastata*, Halberd-leaved Violet
- Viola sororia*, Common Blue Violet
- Viola primulifolia*, Primrose-leaved Violet
- Viola rotundifolia*, Round-leaved Yellow Violet
- Viola tripartita*, Three-parted Violet
- Xanthorhiza simplicissima*, Yellow Root

Chattooga River Section 4 and Long Creek, South Carolina



Woodall Shoals Road *maps page 50, 52, 61*

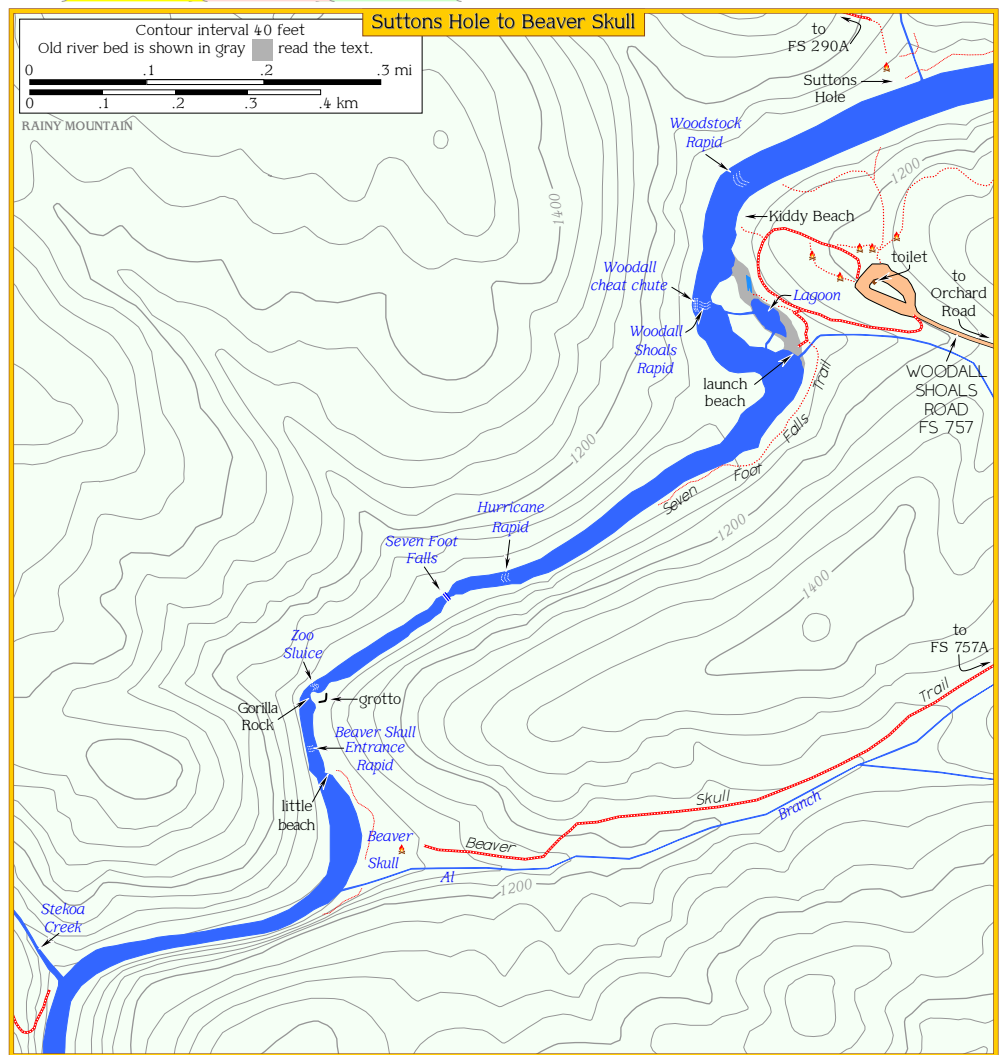
From the Highway 76 bridge drive east about 2.7 miles and turn right onto Orchard Road. It's the first paved road on the right coming from the bridge. You'll see a small defunct business and several storage containers at this intersection. Go only 0.4 miles and turn right at the first road, Woodall Shoals Road FS 757. There is sometimes a street sign but it gets stolen so often it may or may not be there. The road is 2.3 miles long and ends at the Woodall Shoals parking lot. Be careful driving this road. It probably has more auto accidents than any of the Forest Service roads in our area.

Beaver Skull *maps page 50, 52 & right →*

Beaver Skull Road, FS 757A. This is a calm stretch of river at the confluence of Al Branch and the river. You'll find sandy areas with driftwood as you go upstream to a little beach at the entrance rapid to the calm area. Beaver Skull is most easily reached by hiking along a well-developed trail from the parking area at the end of Beaver Skull Road (FS 757A). From the Highway 76 bridge go east about 2.7 miles and turn right onto Orchard Road. Go about 0.4 miles and turn right onto Woodall Shoals Road FS 757. After 1.4 miles, shortly after the paved section of road, turn left onto FS 757A; this is Beaver Skull Road. It is 0.7 miles long, a parking area at the end. The trailhead is on the right, opposite the gated road. The Beaver Skull Trail or **Al Branch Trail** is about 0.9 miles long from the parking area to the campsite at the river. From 1,440 feet to about 1,080 feet, a drop of about 360 feet but easy walking. The stream-side trail is excellent for spring wildflowers. Sections of the trail are strewn with nice buckeyes in late October. From the campsite a sandy trail goes upstream to a small sand beach. Hiking upstream from here is easy on the rocks. You will shortly come to an overlook with a great panorama and photo op of the **Seven Foot Falls** gorge, see *next page*. **Seven Foot Falls Grotto**, mentioned in the plant list, is in this river bend. Mountain Spleenwort, *Asplenium montanum*, has been recorded in this grotto, perhaps its lowest recorded occurrence in the Chattooga drainage. A small sluice, **Zeus Sluice** or **Zoo Sluice**, with a large jumping-off rock known as **Gorilla Rock** is also in this bend of the river.

North Branch*. There's another hike/bushwhack from the end of Beaver Skull Road that may be of interest to wildflower enthusiasts. Hike beyond the metal road barrier on the left. You will pass through a large game opening. At the end of the opening there is a vague trail going down the ridge a short distance to a very small stream, North Branch. This rich cove is good for wildflowers and it's an easy bushwhack through open woods down to the confluence with Long Creek. See *topo map page 50*.

Stekoa Creek. This creek is mentioned here only because you can bushwhack downstream from Beaver Skull to its confluence with the river, only about 0.3 miles. If you look downstream from Beaver Skull you can see the rocky delta where Stekoa Creek enters the river. Not a simple bushwhack to get there. Cross the tiny stream downstream of the Beaver Skull campsite and hike as far as practical along the river. Here you will (might) find a vague trail going up away from the river. It does turn into a very old logging road that skirts around the ridge. Look for a flat area along the river and bushwhack back down to the river. There is a trail on the Georgia side of the river that goes directly to a small beach at the confluence. See *Stekoa Creek page 61 for details*.

**Woodall Shoals** *maps page 50, 52, 61 & above ↑*

This is a very scenic area on the river and is worth a visit any time of the year. It is great for those who want to be near their car and near the river or campsite at the same time. It can get quite crowded, especially on summer holidays when boaters and rafters launch to paddle Section 4. The parking lot can get full and there is no alternate parking area. **No Parking** along the road or on the asphalted pad which is reserved for buses. There are campsites, an information board and a chemical toilet. Woodall Shoals was once a place of litter, trash dumps and a final resting place for discarded cars. Some scenes in the movie *Deliverance* were filmed here. It also has an interesting history. Years ago loggers floated their logs down the river to various points where they could be hauled out and taken to the sawmill. A large flat rock area at Woodall Shoals caused the river to spread out and become very shallow slide as the water flowed down a wide sloping rock face. This blocked the logs even at high water levels so a river right section of the rock slope was dynamited to reroute the river into a deeper channel. See *map above*. It also formed the most dangerous rapid on the river; Woodall Shoals Rapid, class 6. This is the most dangerous classification for a rapid; it means you will likely not survive. Boats and swimmers can be held underwater by the swirling water. The river goes over a small ledge into a deep hole where it forms what is called a hydraulic. It can be thought of as an underwater whirlpool that holds onto objects that would otherwise float to the surface. At certain water levels this rapid isn't a threat. Swimmers and boaters will simply float right through and be swept downstream. It is best to avoid the rapid and not put it to the test. Despite the large number of visitors this is still a great place to spend a summer day. Rafting companies put in and take out here so be aware of buses when driving in and out. The main trailhead to the river is a wide paved path to the left of the information board. Other trails go north and west through the camping areas to nice beaches upstream of Woodall Shoals Rapid.

The sand and gravel beaches near Woodstock Rapid are favorites with local picnicking families. The beach, Kiddy Beach, is ideal for swimmers of all ages. Another favorite for families with small children is the 'Lagoon'. Here children can play in the shallow sandy-bottomed pool and at the little cascade where water spills into the lagoon. The trails and the entire area is also surprisingly good for wildflowers, butterflies and dragonflies. Although there is a wealth of wildflowers here some species come and go with the fluctuating water levels. Floods carrying mud, sand, gravel and plant debris can scour the rocks and remove or deposit soil from the rock crevices and depressions. Despite the steady human traffic, Woodall Shoals has remained one of our best 'easy to get to' natural areas. The plant list, right →, includes plants that have been recorded over time along Woodall Shoals Road and at the river in the Woodall Shoals area.

Agalinis purpurea, Purple Gerardia
Anemonella thalictroides, Rue Anemone
Apios americana, Ground Nut
Aureolaria laevigata, Smooth False Fox Glove
Bignonia capreolata, Cross Vine
Chrysogonum virginianum australe, Green-and-gold
Chrysopsis mariana, Maryland Golden Aster
Clitoria mariana, Butterfly Pea
Collinsonia verticillata, Whorled Horse Balm
Commelina communis, Asiatic Dayflower
Cornus amomum, Silky Dogwood
Dianthus armeria, Deptford Pink
Erigeron pulchellus pulchellus, Poor Robin's Plantain
Eryngium yuccifolium yuccifolium, Rattlesnake Master
Eupatorium perfoliatum perfoliatum, Boneset
Geranium maculatum, Wild Geranium
Helenium autumnale autumnale, Sneezeweed
Helenium flexuosum, Purple-headed Sneezeweed
Ilex verticillata, Winter Berry
Iris verna smalliana, Dwarf Iris
Lindernia dubia dubia, False Pimpernel
Liquidambar styraciflua, Sweetgum
Lobelia amoena, Lobelia
Lobelia cardinalis, Cardinal Flower
Ludwigia decurrens, Primrose Willow
Lycopus virginicus, Bugle Weed

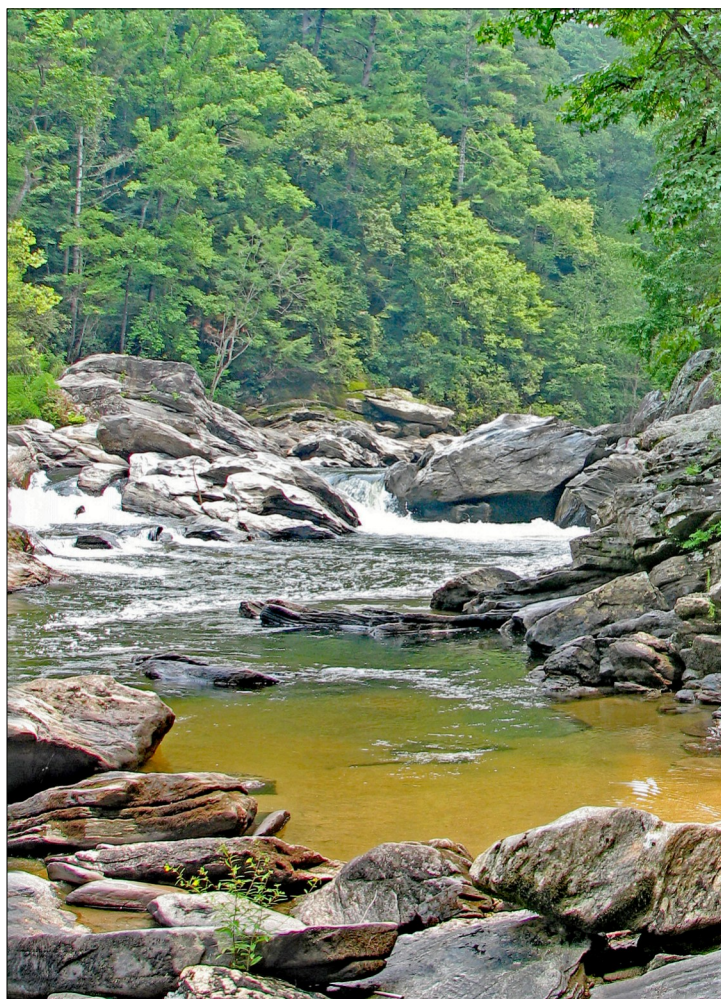
Lysimachia fraseri, Fraser's Loosestrife
Lysimachia lanceolata, Lance-leaved Loosestrife
Magnolia acuminata, Cucumber Tree
Mimosa microphylla, Eastern Sensitive Briar
Mimulus ringens ringens, Monkey Flower
Murdannia keisak, Marsh Dewflower
Panax quinquefolium, Ginseng
Persicaria sagittatum, Arrow-leaved Tearthumb
Platanus occidentalis, Sycamore
Polygala paucifolia, Fringed Polygala
Rhexia virginica virginica, Virginia Meadow Beauty
Rudbeckia hirta, Black-eyed Susan
Sagittaria latifolia pubescens, Broad-leaved Arrowhead
Salvia lyrata, Lyre-leaved Sage
Spiranthes cernua, Nodding Ladies' Tresses
Spiranthes ovalis erostellata, October Ladies' Tresses
Stellaria pubera, Giant Chick Weed
Stenanthium gramineum, Featherbells
Stewartia ovata, Mountain Camellia
Trichostema dichotomum, Forked Blue Curls
Trillium cuneatum, Toadshade
Verbesina occidentalis, Crown Beard
Viola hastata, Halberd-leaved Violet
Viola walteri, Prostrate Blue Violet
Xyris torta, Twisted Yellow-eyed Grass

Seven Foot Falls maps page 50, 52, 53

This scenic place is a class 4 rapid/waterfall most easily reached by hiking about 0.5 miles downstream from Woodall Shoals. Boaters dating from the 1970s call this falls **Death Hole**. Hike down the main trail from the Woodall Shoals parking lot. Go to the left of the information board, then bear left at a fork in the trail, a wood wall on the left bank. Rafting companies and boaters launch at a large pool area downstream of the main Woodall Shoals rapid. As you near the launch area you will notice a trail that goes left and crosses a small stream. Rock-hop across the stream. This trail bears right, eventually goes downward to the river and onto rocks that are exposed at normal and low water levels. Once you drop down to the river the trail becomes more of a path of least resistance. The rocks can be slippery in wet weather and high water levels may keep you from hiking here at all, but this is a wonderful little hike in dry conditions. The path eventually rises from river level up onto large riverside boulders near **Hurricane Rapid**, class 3, the first rapid boaters come to when they launch at Woodall Shoals. Seven Foot Falls is in a sharp left turn only 200 yards downstream. Photographers from the rafting companies take pictures here. They station themselves at convenient spots directly in front of and above the falls. As difficult as the swift water below the falls looks it is a popular swimming place at low water levels. You can go beneath the large boulder, river left, at the base of the falls and jump into the falls. You can also (maybe) get to Seven Foot Falls by hiking upstream from **Beaver Skull**. This approach from downstream affords a great view and photo opportunity from atop large rocks (Gorilla Rock) at an interesting grotto area. Despite your closeness to the falls, hiking on upstream from here may not be easy. See *Beaver Skull*, previous page.

Turkey Ridge Road maps page 52, 56, 57

Section 4 of the Chattooga River is the stretch of river from the Highway 76 Bridge to Tugaloo Lake. On the South Carolina side of the river there are only two roads that provide access to this section. Woodall Shoals Road ends close to the river while Turkey Ridge Road remains some distance from the river. Recent clear cutting has forever changed the environment along Turkey Ridge Road. Hundreds of acres of hardwood forests have been clear cut, burned, treated with herbicide and replanted with alien pines. This conversion to pine farming is taking place at ever increasing speed throughout our National Forests. This Forest Service Road (FS 755) is a narrow winding dirt road, 2.8 miles long, quite dusty in dry weather with numerous blind curves. There are two very popular waterfall trails; Possum Creek Falls and Long Creek Falls. You will find visitors parked at these two trailheads almost any day the weather is good. Other lesser known trails go to Cigarette Beach, Fishcamp, Sonova Beach, the top of Raven Rock and Raven Chute.



Seven Foot Falls

A trail to Long Creek Bog and the trailhead section of the Possum Creek Shortcut Trail have been obliterated by the clear cutting but will probably reappear as more hikers use them. There has always been a problem with signage at the beginning and anywhere along Turkey Ridge Road. Take a look at the map, next page. The street sign and Carsonite sign are most often missing and when maintenance workers replace them they usually last only a few days before vandals remove them. Turkey Ridge Road isn't hard to find. It is on a long straight stretch of Battle Creek Road. You will have passed a dirt driveway on the right in a left turn. There are two entrances, first one with a new Oppossum (sic) Creek Falls sign.

Turkey Ridge Road Directions Map

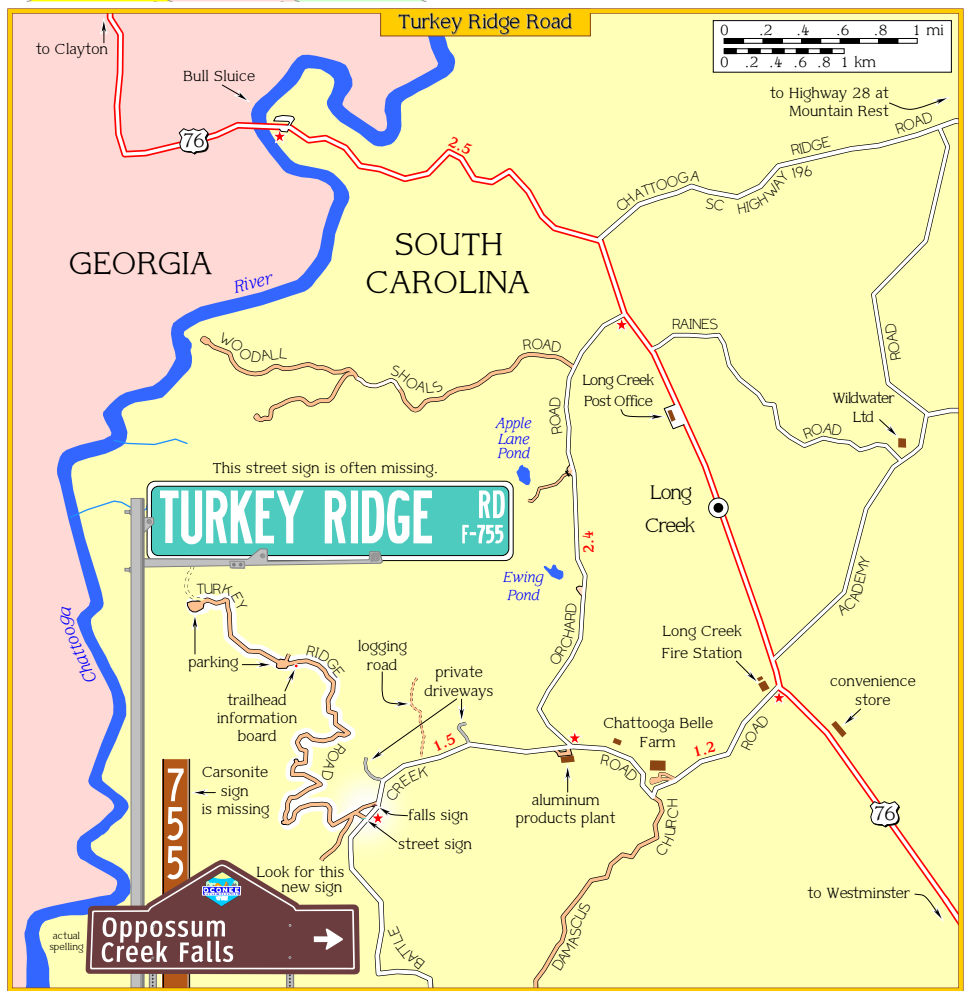
This road has several popular hiking trails to scenic places on section 4 of the Chattooga River. It is a dirt Forest Service Road, dead ends after about 2.9 miles. Some of the area has recently undergone massive clear cutting in order to convert our beautiful hardwood forests to pine farms. Notice on the map that it has two entrances where you will find a street sign and a Forest Service Carsonite sign. The street sign often gets stolen so be aware of that. The Carsonite sign has the number 755. How to get to Turkey Ridge Road?

From Clayton, Georgia –

At the traffic light near McDonald’s drive east on U.S. Highway 76. At about 8.1 miles you will cross the Chattooga River and enter South Carolina. After 2.5 miles turn right onto Orchard Road. This is the first paved road on the right after you enter South Carolina. Orchard Road is 2.4 miles long and ends at Battle Creek Road. There’s an aluminum products plant just across the road. Turn right and drive about 1.5 miles to Turkey Ridge Road, a dirt road on your right.

From Westminster, South Carolina –

Drive west on U.S. Highway 76 about 13.2 miles and turn left at the Long Creek fire station onto Damascus Church Road. After only 0.8 miles the paved portion of this road changes to Battle Creek Road. You will soon see an aluminum products plant on your left. Go another 1.5 miles and turn right onto Turkey Ridge Road, a dirt road on your right.



Possum Creek and the Five Falls *maps page 52, 56, 57*

Possum Creek is on the South Carolina side, flows into the Chattooga River downstream of the Five Falls area. There are campsites and a nice sandy beach at the confluence. Rafting trips often stop here to have lunch and hike up to the falls. The amount of sandy beach area varies according to the water level. A short trail, 0.3 miles, leads to Possum Creek Falls. An “Opposum Creek Falls” sign at Turkey Ridge Road is not at all helpful to those trying to find the Possum Creek Falls trailhead.

Old Possum Creek Trail. In the past there have been several trails leading to the confluence of Possum Creek and the Chattooga River. The trail now known as Old Possum Creek Trail was completely obliterated by a tornado on March 27, 1994. Several efforts were made to restore it but failed because of the many downed trees, newly grown brambles and thickets. Old hiking guides and at least one new guide recommend this trail to get to Possum Creek Falls; don’t believe it. Remember that this trail has not been restored and what remains ends well before reaching Possum Creek. To get to the falls from the end of this trail you will need to bushwhack steeply down through very thick vegetation. To get to this trailhead turn off Battle Creek Road onto Turkey Ridge Road. There is a pull-off on the left at about 0.5 miles, you can’t miss it. A recent check, December 2012, found this trail unusable. Hunters do use the beginning part of the trail.

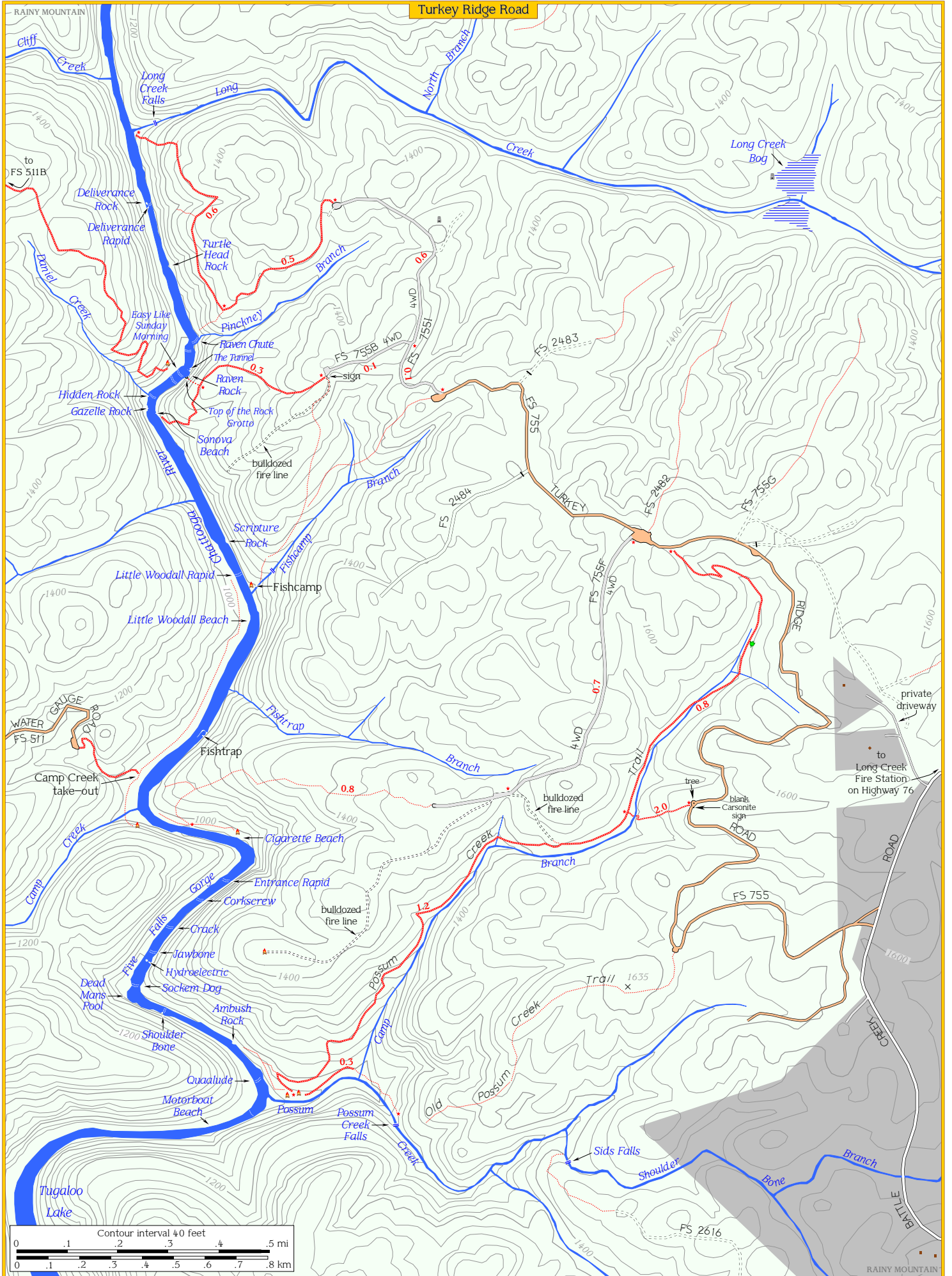
New Possum Creek Trail. This is the Possum Creek Trail; about 2.1 miles long, easy 45 minute walk. A mostly uphill hike coming back up. The trail parallels Camp Branch for much of its length. Turn onto Turkey Ridge Road and drive about 2.1 miles to the trailhead parking area. This is a large well used pull-off on both sides of the road, has a Forest Service Road FS 755F (4WD) going left and a Carsonite sign. Important; To get to the trailhead park at this pull-off and walk back down the road about 74 yards; several boulders, Carsonite signs and an information board mark the trailhead. The trail has a couple of switchbacks as it drops down into the Camp Branch cove. It then follows the ridges and coves down to a

campsite at the confluence of Possum Creek and the Chattooga River. A trail from the campsite area leads up to **Possum Creek Falls**, Carsonite sign. It parallels Possum Creek upstream about 0.3 miles, river right, to just below the falls. A short walk but crossing tiny Camp Branch can be a tricky little rock hop if the water is high or the rocks are wet and slippery. Possum Creek Falls can be a difficult photo shoot because of the bright sun and deep shadows.

Possum Creek Trail Shortcut. There is a shortcut to the Possum Creek Trail that shortens the hike to the river from 2 miles to 1.4 miles. Joggers sometimes use this trail to jog down to the river and back. Rare, but boaters have set shuttle here and carried their boats up from the river. The small trailhead pull-off is in a right turn about 0.6 miles after the Old Possum Creek Trail pull-off. You’ll find a Carsonite sign with a reflector (reflector now missing) on the right side of the road diagonally opposite the pull-off. This is the only Carsonite sign along the edge of Turkey Ridge Road. The little shortcut has become well used, only 0.2 miles down to the Possum Creek Trail. Notice on the map how it goes left then down the ridge and across Camp Branch. Remember this Possum Creek Trail intersection if you hike on down to the river; coming back up from the river it can be easy to miss.

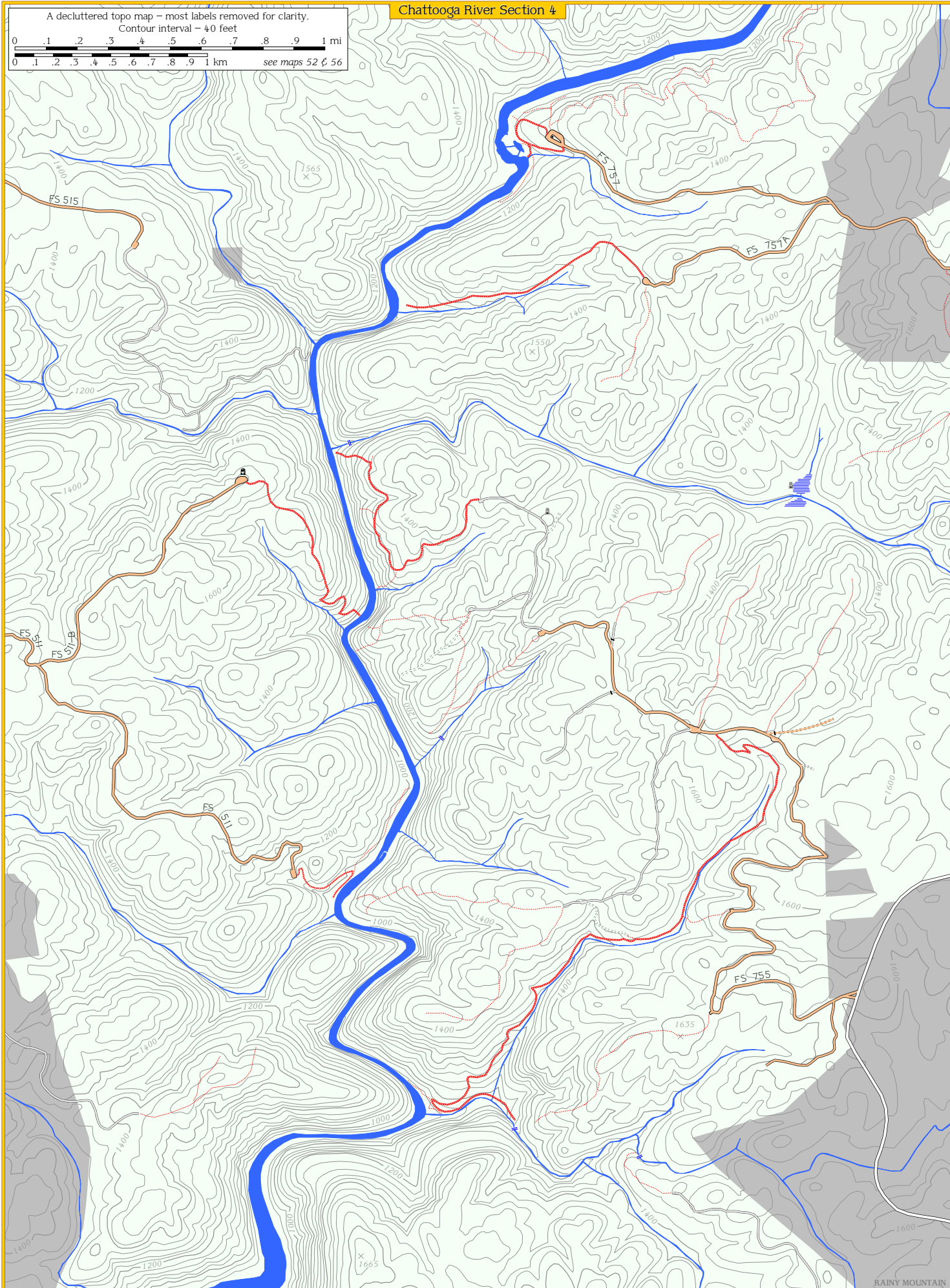
From the Possum Creek confluence you can hike upriver to the **Five Falls** or **Five Falls Gorge**. While this trail is, in some places, well defined it completely disappears several times along the way. It’s mostly a bushwhack upstream from the Possum Creek confluence, about 0.4 miles. At low water you can hike on the riverside rocks with occasional forays away from the river. There’s a tricky spot at Ambush Rock where you will have to go over a small 6 foot rock face down to a little beach. After rounding the bend at **Dead Man’s Pool** you will see the last rapid of the Five Falls; **Sockem Dog**. The Five Falls is a very scenic area with five class 4 and 5 rapids. These are the Chattooga River’s most challenging rapids and only experienced paddlers should attempt them. Hikers have recently tried to better define a trail up to the Five Falls but thus far have been unable to connect all the well defined stretches.

Turkey Ridge Road



Chattooga River Section 4

A decluttered topo map – most labels removed for clarity.
Contour interval – 40 feet
0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5 .6 .7 .8 .9 1 mi
0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5 .6 .7 .8 .9 1 km see maps 52 & 56



RAINY MOUNTAIN

Cigarette Beach maps page 52, 56 & right →

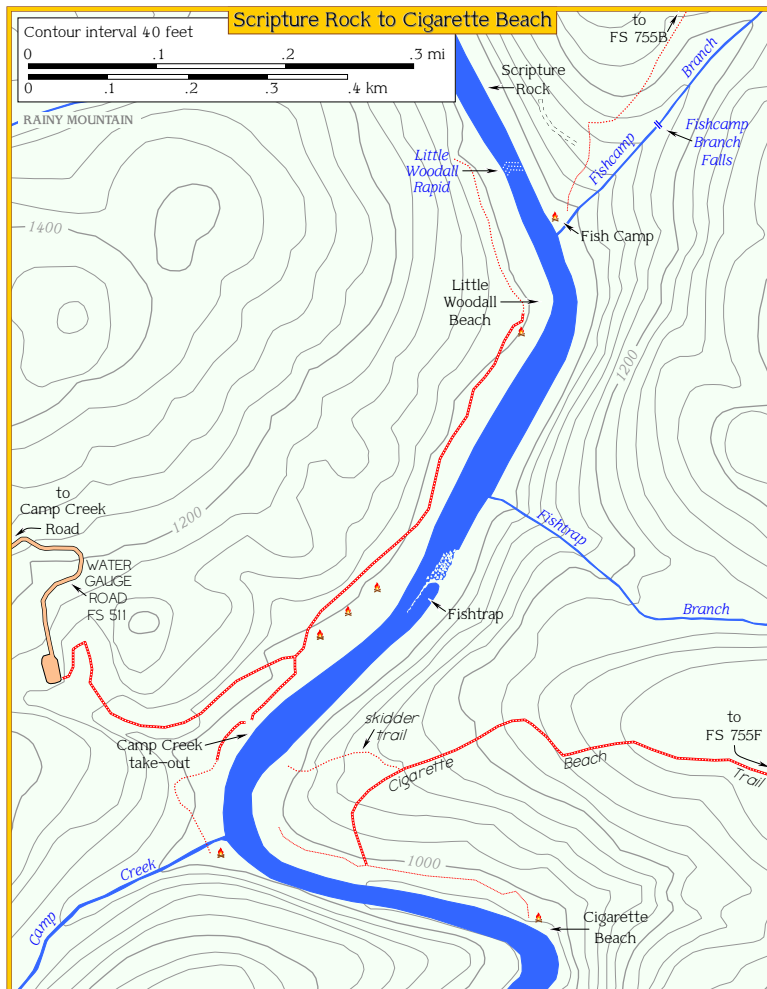
This is said to be the last place to stop for a cigarette before boaters enter the Five Falls Gorge. One rafting company calls it “**Last Supper**”. There is a nice sandy beach with a fire ring, river left, approximately 200 yards downstream of the Camp Creek/Chattooga River confluence. Entrance Rapid is downstream just around the bend. From the Possum Creek Trail parking area hike FS 755F. This road is well used by 4-wheelers. At about 0.7 miles the remains of an old logging road angles upward off to the left and disappears at the end of a ridge about 0.3 miles from the river. The 4-wheel road, FS 755F, continues on the right for another 0.2 miles. There has been bull dozer work and 4-wheelers do play here so it can be a confusing area. Check map 53 for an overall picture of this hike. The Cigarette Beach Trail is well developed for its entire length despite numerous windfalls. The last 0.2 miles drops down to the left to a large rock strewn area along the river. Cigarette Beach is another 150 yards downstream. The vegetation here can be thick in summer months but there is a trail in the flat area that goes down to the beach. It is shown as a fine dotted line on the map, goes upstream and downstream. The hike from the parking area to the beach is about 1.5 miles.

Fishtrap Branch* maps page 52, 56, 57 & right →

A hike for the hard core botanist/naturalist/bushwhacker. This is a small stream from a complex watershed north of the old road FS 755F. This watershed area is rich in plant life. The upper part is easy to get around in. The lower part closer to the river is heavily vegetated with numerous small waterfalls and is more easily hiked by walking in the stream itself, still quite a bushwhack. The lower part is most easily reached from the river. To get to the upper drainage follow FS 755F and drop off to the right. Another more direct route to the very top of the drainage is to park at FS 2484. This is a closed Forest Service road about 0.3 miles beyond FS 755F. Walk only a short distance down FS 2484 and the upper Fishtrap Branch drainage will be on your left. If you walk through the wildlife openings you can follow a long ridge top all the way down to the river to a spot upstream of the confluence. It is a bushwhack of about 0.8 miles, mostly open forest, steep with thick vegetation near the river. The easiest way to get to the confluence is to hike the riverbank upstream from the Cigarette Beach trail. The confluence of Fishtrap Branch is very small and well hidden from view, partially underground and in a narrow ditch so you may unknowingly pass right by it. Notice the skidder trail on the map. It has been flagged in past years but if you look to the right as you hike it is easy to see. It takes you to a small beach directly across the river from the Camp Creek take-out. A loop hike I've enjoyed a couple of times now is to hike from Cigarette Beach or the Skidder Trail up the river to **Fishcamp Branch** (see page 58). The riverside part of the hike is quite easy at low water, about 0.6 miles. Could be challenging during months of heavy vegetation. Take the Fishcamp Branch Trail out to Turkey Ridge Road. Total loop hike is about 3.5 miles. Dwarf Ginseng, *Panax trifolium*, False Ginseng has been recorded in the upper Fishtrap Branch drainage.

Fish Trap maps page 52, 56, 57 & above right

The Fish Trap is about 100 yards downstream of the Fishtrap Branch confluence. It is a long ridge of rocks lined down the middle of the river believed to be the remains of an ancient fish trap constructed by Indians. See the rough representation on the map above right. Indians wading in the water upstream and downstream of the trap would beat the water with limbs and sticks to chase the fish up into the trap, a shallow dead end pool. Here they could easily catch or spear the fish. At high water levels the fish trap can be under water. At low water the rocky river bottom, river left, an area upstream of the trap is exposed. The river bank from Fishcamp downstream to Fish Trap is fairly easy hiking and is a good place for studying the flora and fauna. The river here looks to be good habitat for Edmond's Snaketail and other dragonflies. A fieldtrip here on either side of the river in late April to mid June could be very worthwhile. See *Fishtrap Branch* above.

**Long Creek Bog*** maps page 52, 56, 57

Before we leave the Possum Creek Trailhead parking area we need to discuss Long Creek Bog, another area that might interest the naturalist. Once a lush beaver pond, this bog is becoming extinct. The stream on the north side of Long Creek has cut into the ground and become sharply defined leaving the surrounding flat areas high and dry. There is no evidence that beavers are still utilizing this area although a few very small shallow pools remain, only inches deep. You will need to wade across Long Creek to get to wet areas that are on both sides of the stream. Although it can be reached by hiking south from Woodall Shoals road it is most easily reached by hiking north from Turkey Ridge Road. Hidden in the woods is an old logging road, FS 2482, that goes north directly from the Possum Creek Trailhead parking area. It is now completely hidden by recent bulldozing and clear-cutting. Hike through the woods just left of the road that goes north to find remains of the old road. You'll need to study map 53. Hike to the end of the ridge and bushwhack steeply down off the right side to boggy areas along Long Creek. Boots are recommended for this muddy area if you intend to explore it. The trail from Woodall Shoals Road is shown on the *Chattooga River Section 4 and Long Creek, South Carolina Map, page 52*. The Forest Service has placed large boulders at the old trailhead on Woodall Shoals Road. This old logging road goes down the middle of a ridge toward Long Creek. Once regularly used by hunters it is now very obscure in many places. If you bear right as the ridge goes downward you will come to Long Creek Bog. A short trail is shown linking this trail with FS 757C. This trail is, for the most part, non-existent. It mostly indicates that it is a short hop to go to the Long Creek Bog trail from FS 757C, woods are fairly open here. This bog could still be of interest to botanists and perhaps dragonfly enthusiasts. It's very doubtful that the Wood Duck nesting boxes here will be of any use to Wood Ducks. There are at least two old chimney remains on the western side of the northern bog. Some hikers have bushwhacked down from the end of Beaver Skull Road, FS 757A. See map 52.

Back to Turkey Ridge Road. At the end of Turkey Ridge Road you'll find a parking area with a 4-wheel drive Forest Service sign at the beginning of FS 7551. Park here for hikes to Long Creek Falls, Raven Chute, the top of Raven Rock, Sonova Beach, Fishcamp Branch, Scripture Rock and Little Woodall. Some people do drive the 4-wheel road to its end, about 0.7 miles. It is usually drivable in ordinary car if care is taken to avoid rocks and a couple of mud puddles that may cause trouble for low clearance vehicles. You also have the option of driving part way and finding a pull-off. The large mud puddle at the end has been bulldozed away but looks like it will redevelop (trail goes around to the right).

Long Creek Falls *maps page 52, 56, 57, 60*

This is one of our most beautiful waterfalls. It is about 30 feet high and 200 feet from the confluence at the river. Boaters and rafters often stop here to lunch and have their pictures taken with the falls. Be careful of the slippery rocks when exploring the crevices and ledges beneath the falls. There's a small beach where people often swim. Park at the end of Turkey Ridge Road and hike FS 7551, a 4-wheel drive road, has sign. At only 0.1 miles FS 755B goes left. Stay on FS 7551 by going right. At the end of the road, about 0.7 miles, you'll find the trailhead on the right side of a berm recently created to stop 4-wheelers. The trail, at first, follows a small clay gully but quickly splits into three trails to go around an old windfall. I prefer the trail to the right. The trail is quite level, easy to walk. A spot at about 0.5 miles is marked with a pile of stones and is the first place the noise of the river can easily be heard. Go right. That spur trail, usually blocked with branches, goes down to **Raven Chute**, *see next account*. Another 0.6 miles and you will find a short, well defined, but very steep trail going left down to the river. You will have to wade across Long Creek for the best views and picnic spots. The total hike from the parking area at the end of Turkey Ridge Road to the falls is about 1.8 miles one way.

Raven Rock and Raven Chute *maps page 52, 56, 57, 60, 61*

Also called Raven Cliff and Raven Rock Cliff. There are several Raven Cliffs and places with similar names in our area. The Raven Rock in this list is a cliff area about 0.5 miles downstream of the Long Creek confluence with the Chattooga River. It is a 200 foot rock face on the left river bank with a class 4 rapid, Raven Rock Rapid or Raven Chute. There are three hikes to the South Carolina side of this area: 1. Raven Chute Rapid at the bottom of Raven Rock. 2. Top of Raven Rock. 3. Hike the river bank upstream to Raven Rock from Sonova Beach. The hike to Raven Rock on the Georgia side of the river is discussed in the *Wolf Creek Road and Water Gauge Road section, bottom of page 61*.

A note. In the spring of 2018 a pair of Ravens nested on the Raven Rock Cliff. They were monitored almost daily by a concerned lady, Honor Woodard. The Ravens successfully reared three chicks. Only hours after fledging, one chick was taken by a Great Horned Owl. The two remaining chicks, apparently doing well, were observed periodically cruising up and down the river until near the end of the year. In late winter of 2019 another nest was started. By mid March three (not positive) could be seen and feeding was taking place. At the end of March things took a change for the worse. The nest appeared undisturbed but all the Ravens, chicks and parents alike were gone not to be seen again. This writing April 20, 2019. For the record, there were three adult Ravens at this 2019 nest. There sex or what role each one played isn't known as we could not tell one Raven from the other (plenty of guessing).

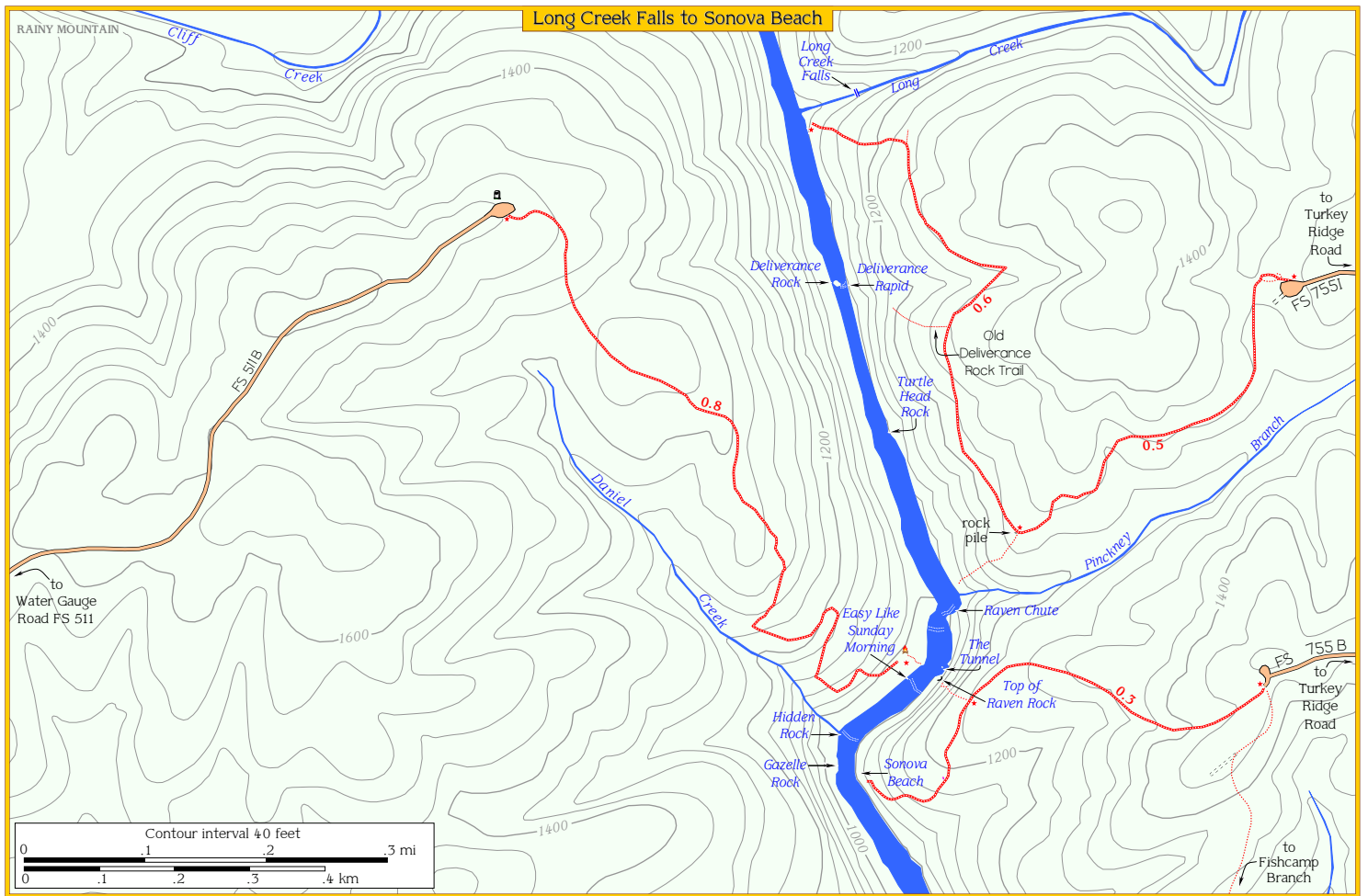
To get to Raven Chute follow the directions given for Long Creek Falls only go left at the fork in the trail. This fork in the trail is about 0.5 miles along the Long Creek Falls Trail and is marked by a pile of stones on the side of the trail. It is often blocked by sticks thrown there by concerned hikers. The trail itself is well defined and a little more than 0.1 miles down to the river. It follows the ridge top downward and becomes increasingly steep, actually vertical, as it gets closer to the river. Going downward here looks difficult or maybe impossible for some. In reality it's a fun easy hike. You will



Raven Rock. A small beach area on the Georgia side of the river.

have to hold onto the vegetation (roots and limbs) to continue sharply downward. A rope isn't necessary but can be very handy here; loop it around a tree and walk it down the steep places. At the river, a tiny stream, Pinckney Branch, flows across the rocks and enters the river at Raven Chute. You can hike downstream through the cliff area although one spot can be under water at high water levels. Logs sometimes accumulate here after high water. If disturbed they can come crashing down, be careful walking around or over them. Another caution: there are extremely large and prolific Poison Ivy vines growing at the base of the cliff and on many of the rocks. You cannot hike through this cliff area without coming into contact with Poison Ivy – no exaggeration.

Top of Raven Rock. Hiking to the top of the rock from the river isn't recommended unless you come up the Sonova Beach Trail. It is very steep and the soil in this area is easily disturbed. It is best to hike the trail from the end of FS 755B. Hike FS 7551 less than 0.1 miles and go left onto FS 755B. This short 4WD Forest Service road is only a couple of minutes walking to the end. The trailhead is on the left of the clearing. The trail is fairly steep downward, levels out in a couple of places and at a level place among tall pines a spur trail goes to the right and then sharply downward. This final section of spur trail is very steep but easy. Be careful here; the trail appears to continue right over the cliff but hooks sharply to the left. Hold on to the tree limbs to climb down then go right and climb down again to an overhang on the cliff face. This sounds tough but is very easy. You'll notice a well-worn path. The little grotto is a perfect observation platform facing slightly upriver overlooking Raven Chute rapid. It is a rewarding must-do hike with a great view but could be very dangerous for children or pets. Climbers sometimes rappel from this spot. Walking along the base of the cliff you can see a karabiner or two attached to the cliff face. This is one of the shortest hikes into Section 4, only 0.7 miles from the parking area at the end of Turkey Ridge Road. Look on the Turkey Ridge Road Map *page 53* to see that this is a short spur trail off the trail down to **Sonova Beach**. In wet weather you can walk in the woods next to the slippery slopes on this trail. *See next*.



Sonova Beach *maps page 52, 56, 57 & above*

This beautiful little beach has several names. Grumman Beach, origin unknown. Sunuva Beach and Sonova Beach are derived from the saying, Son of a Beach. It is great for a swim and even has a shaded picnic table rock. Rafters and boaters often stop here for lunch. This is the shortest trail from Turkey Ridge Road to the river; only 0.8 miles from the parking area at the end of the road. To get to the Sonova Beach Trailhead park at the end of Turkey Ridge Road and hike down the 4-wheel drive road, FS 7551. At only 0.1 miles go left onto FS 755B. At the end of this short road, about 0.3 miles, you'll find the trailhead behind a tall mound of dirt on the left. After climbing the mound of dirt go to the right of the Forest Service sign. This trail, about 0.5 miles, is mostly downhill, couple of flat stretches, gets steep just as it reaches the river, but easy in dry weather. Gazelle Rock is just across the river from the beach. This rock, for years, had a log sticking out of its 'mouth' and was called Smoking Gazelle Rock by raft guides. Picture a Gazelle lying in the Sphinx position only with its neck stretch forward and its chin on the ground. Hiking upstream from Sonova Beach to Raven Rock is easy at low water but the path is quite obscure. You will come to a place where you need to jump across about 4 feet of water to get to the cliff area. If you wish to bypass this obstacle, backup and try to find a way upward through the thick vegetation. There is a passageway but may be difficult to find without help. The trail goes up through very thick vegetation to the cliff, less than 20 yards, easy. As stated before, beware of the extensive growth of Poison Ivy that covers the rocks beneath the cliff. *See next.*

Raven Chute to Sonova Beach Loop Hike. There's a nice loop hike that includes a tour of Raven Rock. Walking at a casual pace with short stops the hike can take as little as 1¼ hours, longer if you include a visit to the top of the rock. From the Long Creek Falls Trail hike down the Raven Chute Trail and go downstream beneath the cliff. For directions to Raven Chute see *"To get to Raven Chute" previous page.* Near the end of the cliff you will go upward and away from the river. As the trail starts to go into the woods and close to

the cliff, look down to the right. You will see that the trail actually goes steeply down through thick Mountain Laurel where an old log once blocked the trail. A vague trail continues downstream or you can rock-hop on the river bank to Sonova Beach. You may have a little trouble finding the trail out from the beach. Go downriver only a few yards past the "picnic table rock" to a trail going upward then right. Hiking out the Sonova Beach Trail you can visit the little grotto at the top of the rock. As the trail levels out amid tall pines, one large pine right in the trail, look for the spur trail on the left that goes down to the top of the cliff. *See Top of the Rock previous page.* As stated before, if you hike beneath Raven Rock or go from Raven Chute to the base of the cliff you cannot avoid walking in Poison Ivy. Rocks at the base of the cliff are completely covered by the vines.

Deliverance Rock *maps page 52, 56, 57 & above*

This is a large flat-topped rock, river right, in the Chattooga River about 0.2 miles downstream of the Long Creek confluence and about 0.3 miles upstream of Raven Rock. You can see this rock looking upstream from Raven Chute or by looking downstream from the Long Creek confluence. Deliverance Rapid, class 3, is river left of the rock. Film crews set up equipment on top of this rock to film parts of the movie Deliverance. It is said that some expensive equipment was lost to the river here. The easiest hike to Deliverance is along the riverbank from Raven Chute, about 0.3 miles. Hiking downstream from Long Creek is shorter, about 0.2 miles, but the riverbank here is less hiker friendly due to thick vegetation right down to the water. There is an old trail that never reached Deliverance but started in that direction before giving way to the vegetation. It's located about 0.2 miles past the Raven Chute Trail pile of stones on the Long Creek Falls Trail. Look carefully along the trail and you can still find this old trailhead. It's only about 0.1 miles down to Deliverance. Hikers often pile limbs here to block this poor excuse for a trail as it often confuses people hiking to Long Creek Falls. People swimming and playing in the river sometimes hike on the river bank and swim or wade in the river from Long Creek Falls down to Deliverance Rock and on down to Raven Chute.

Fishcamp Branch *maps page 52, 56, 57, 58*

This tiny branch is named for an old well established fishing campsite at the river. It does have a nice, although very small, waterfall. A very good trail descends along a ridge from the end of FS 755B. This trail begins just to the left of the Forest Service sign at the beginning of the Sonova Beach Trail. The beginning of this trail has recently been bulldozed to create a fire break. The trail goes down the top of the ridge but soon drops off to the left side of the ridge. Near the end of the trail you will hear Fishcamp Branch Falls and the river. You will need to scoot down a steep area and follow the branch to the river. Little Woodall Beach is directly across the river and Little Woodall Rapid only a few yards upstream. The hike from the end of FS 755B to Fishcamp is about 0.6 miles. The bushwhack from Fishcamp Branch downstream to **Fish Trap** is easy at normal water levels, about 0.4 miles.

Scripture Rock *maps page 52, 56, 57, 58*

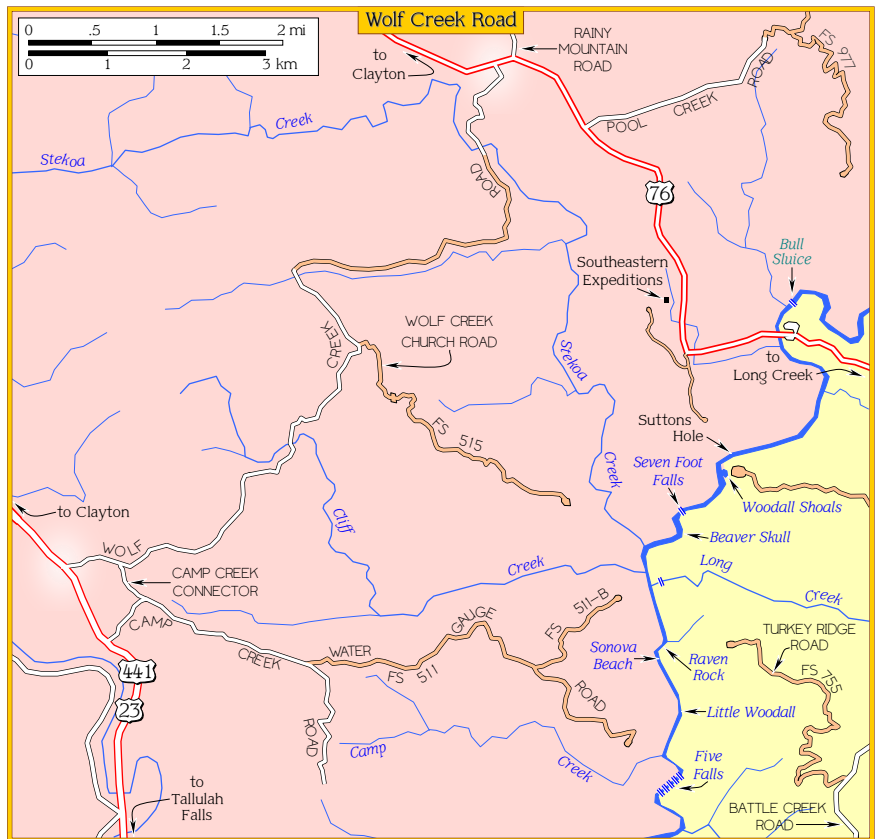
Two rocks along the river, river left, have chiseled scriptures, names and dates said to have been done in the 1940s. There are supposedly three scripture rocks, all within a few feet of each other; I've only found two. The inscriptions are quite worn and can be easily overlooked. One rock has the words "God is Love", beneath that a cross then at least four names and dates. The names and dates are difficult to read but could probably be determined with a little work. While one date is almost certainly 1940, the date at the very bottom is clearly 1983. The other rock has a short scripture taken from Isaiah 55:6 "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found". Not a difficult hike upstream from the campsite at Fishcamp Branch, about 240 yards. Instead of hiking the river bank up from the Fish Camp, hike up river on an old road bed at the end of the trail then drop down to the river. Hiking downstream from Sonova Beach is possible but a much longer, more difficult hike. *See Fishcamp Branch above.*

Wolf Creek Road and Water Gauge Road *map above right*

Wilderness areas along Section 4 of the Chattooga River on the Georgia side of the river can be accessed from these roads. Wolf Creek Road, about 7.9 miles long, goes southwest from Highway 76 to Highway 441/23 just north of Tallulah Falls. It is paved for a mile on the northern end and 2 miles on the southern end. Wolf Creek Road is on the left about 4.0 miles west of the Highway 76 Chattooga River bridge. This road is easy to miss. It's just past a left turn in the highway at Rainey Mountain Road, a paved road on the right. To get to Wolf Creek Road at Highway 441; from Clayton go south on Highway 441 about 7.4 miles and turn left onto Wolf Creek Road. Camp Creek Road is another mile south. The Camp Creek Connector, only 0.2 miles long, connects the two roads. It goes through a small community with children and dogs, drive slow. Water Gauge Road FS 511 is 4 miles long, dirt, a little rough in spots but easily drivable in an ordinary car. From the Camp Creek Connector drive 1.3 miles on Camp Creek Road and turn left onto Water Gauge Road. The road is well marked but looks more like a driveway. Go left, a driveway goes right. You'll pass right in front of a house. Further along there are house trailers on the right, then wilderness from there on. There's a parking area and information board at the end of the road. Be careful, rafting buses use this road.

Stekoa Creek *maps page 31, 52 & above right*

This is a major tributary of the Chattooga River on Section 4. It begins in Mountain City and roughly parallels Highway 441 southward through Clayton to just below Tiger. It then turns east, then south to enter the Chattooga, river right, about 0.3 miles downstream of Beaver Skull. If you look downstream from Beaver Skull you can see it's confluence. An illegal ATV trail on the Georgia side of the river leads to a small beach at this confluence. From Highway 76 turn onto Wolf Creek Road and drive 4.5 miles to Wolf Creek Church Road on the left. A sign advertizes the church at this intersection. Bearing left, drive about 0.6 miles where you'll find a



sign marking the beginning of FS 515. The road has recently (2015) undergone so called 'improvements' to better accommodate logging trucks. There's a large parking area at the end of the road, about 2.4 miles. This was the staging area for the logging trucks. The trailhead is the old logging road on the left. Total hiking distance from here to the river is about 1.1 miles. This is an easy hike, steep near the river but still easy. At about 0.5 miles there's a spur trail on the right that goes a little over 100 yards down to **Cliff Creek**. There's a small streamside campsite just upstream.

Camp Creek *maps page 52, 56, 57, 58 & above ↑*

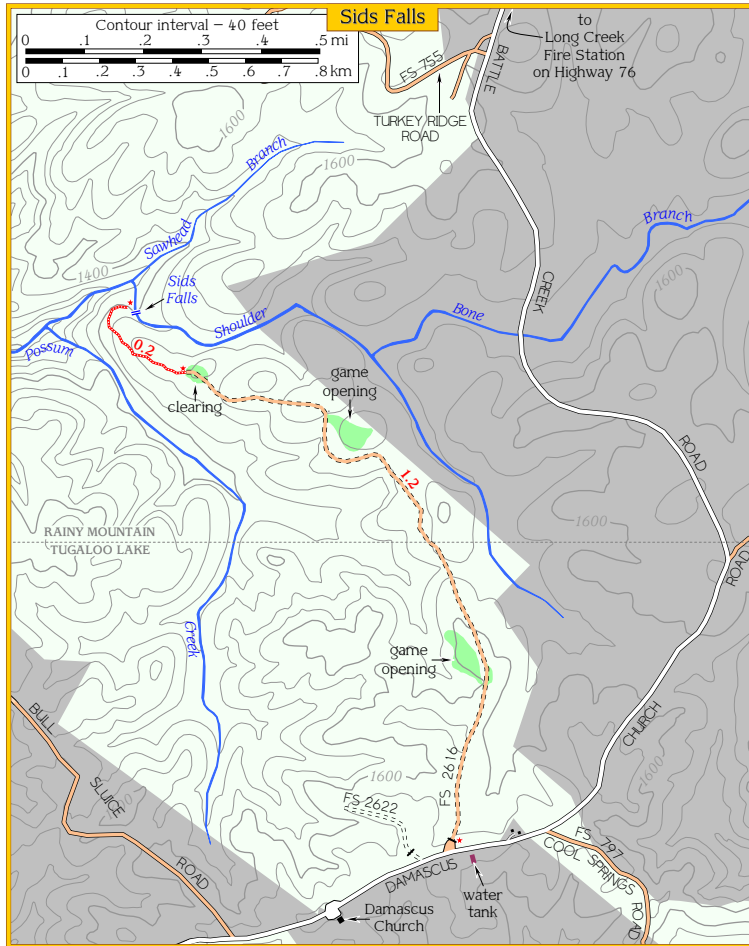
There are a number of creeks in our area with this name. The Camp Creek in this list enters the Chattooga River on the Georgia side just upstream of the Five Falls area. It is a long drive but a relatively short hike. Drive to the end of Water Gauge Road to a parking area with an information board. Rafting company buses park here at certain water levels so pay attention to where you park. A short winding downhill trail, about 0.3 miles, leads down to the river a few yards upstream of the Camp Creek confluence. There are a number of campsites along the river here. In the past there was a trail that went downriver to the Five Falls. It was never a well defined trail and there are different opinions about whether this trail is easy or difficult, well or ill defined or even exists. If you are into exploring you might try this old route to the Five Falls. **Little Woodall**. A very well defined, virtually level trail goes upriver. Hiking about 0.3 miles upriver from the Camp Creek take-out takes you to a beautiful sand beach on a bend in the river known as Little Woodall Beach. The trail then continues upstream for 0.2 miles and ends at Little Woodall Rapid.

Raven Rock on Georgia side of the River *maps 52, 56, 57, 60*

Drive about 2.6 miles on Water Gauge Road and turn left onto Forest Service Road 511-B. A Carsonite sign marks the road. It's also known as Raven Rock Road, about a mile long, easy to drive in an ordinary car. Park at the small clearing at the end of the road. The trailhead to Raven Rock is on the right, a metal Forest Service barrier blocking the trail. The trail is 0.8 miles long and is fairly level across the top of the ridge. The trail forks at one point but soon the two trails merge back together. It then goes down the ridge through several switchbacks to a large camping area near the river. A short trail from the campsite goes down a few yards to a small beach directly across the river from Raven Rock.

Sids Falls maps page 52, 56, 57 & right →

This beautiful waterfall on **Shoulder Bone Branch** was named after Sidney Holmes Ballenger, Jr., (1918–1991) a Walhalla High School teacher who endeavored to document the natural wonders of the area; most specifically Oconee County. This falls isn't associated with Sid Ballenger. It was thought that after his death a waterfall in our area should be named after him. The Forest Service was petitioned and the name of the falls was made "official". His documents are said to be on file at the Walhalla Public Library. Sids Falls is only 0.35 miles, as the crow flies, from Possum Creek Falls. However, bushwhacking from Possum Creek Falls or Turkey Ridge Road to Sids Falls would be a terrible mistake. The streams here are in deep, steep walled coves that are covered in extremely thick vegetation. The trailhead to Sids Falls is off Damascus Church Road. See the Long Creek Map on page 52. At the point where Battle Creek Road re-joins Damascus Church Road drive about 0.8 miles and look for a gated pull-off on the right. This is FS 2616, has a Forest Service metal gate. The hike is about 1.4 miles; a wide grass covered road with two large game openings (open fields) then a wooded trail down to the falls. The first game opening will be on your left, keep right. The hike along this road and through the game openings is flat, tall grass, easy walking. At the end of the last opening a well defined trail goes to the end of the ridge then steeply downward to the base of the falls. Despite the very steep ending of this trail it is surprisingly easy. Holding on to limbs makes it almost stair-like when descending or climbing out. Some hikers believe the Forest Service removes trail flagging and obliterates this trail to discourage hikers from visiting this waterfall because they have developed the area for use by hunters. Despite this, enthusiastic hikers interested in trail maintenance are trying to better define this woodland section of the trail, only 0.2 miles.



Bull Sluice Road and Tugaloo Lake maps page 52, 56, 57

The Chattooga River empties into **Tugaloo Lake**, a reservoir created for hydroelectric power just after the end of World War I. The lake is totally surrounded by wilderness area, all accessible to the public. The land is owned by Georgia Power Company or is within the National Forest. There are no houses on the lake and motorboats must not have motors greater than 25 horsepower. The lake is about 4.2 miles long, from just downstream of Possum Creek to the dam. There are several well established campsites around the lake. In South Carolina **Bull Sluice Road** is the only access road to the lake. Many people call this the Lake Road and on some maps it is labeled Tugaloo Lake Road. The road goes to a public boat ramp simply known by most locals as the Lake Landing. This is the take-out for section 4 boaters and commercial rafting companies. It is said that before the river was dammed there was a Bull Sluice rapid along this section, hence the name Bull Sluice Road. This may or may not be true since in earlier days the word "bull" was used to describe something big and might not be the actual name. It is a well traveled dirt road, 4.1 miles long; the last 0.7 miles is paved and very steep. The paved portion of this road should never be driven when it is icy. On Damascus Church Road, Bull Sluice Road is the first road on the right just beyond the church. Drive with caution; boaters and rafting company buses use this road quite a lot in the summer months. For the wildflower enthusiast *Hibiscus moscheutos palustris*, Swamp Rose Mallow can be found on at least one small island in the upper part of the lake; the only known occurrence in our area. Two more species are worth mentioning. Tallulah Gorge below the power plant is underwater where it enters the lake. When you boat up into the gorge you will find cliffs on the right. *Cheilanthes lanosa*, Hairy Lip Fern grows in the woods bordering these cliffs. Another rare plant for our area, *Drosera rotundifolia rotundifolia*, Round-leaved Sundew, can be found on seepage areas of the cliffs. A formerly closed boat ramp on the Georgia side of the lake has now been reopened. It is accessed by way of a long 4-wheel drive road that begins in the Tallulah Gorge State Park. Persistent

Trillium, *Trillium persistens*, common in Tallulah Gorge also occurs in lower Battle Creek cove and possibly some coves on the South Carolina side of Tugaloo Lake.

Tallulah Gorge map page 3 A4

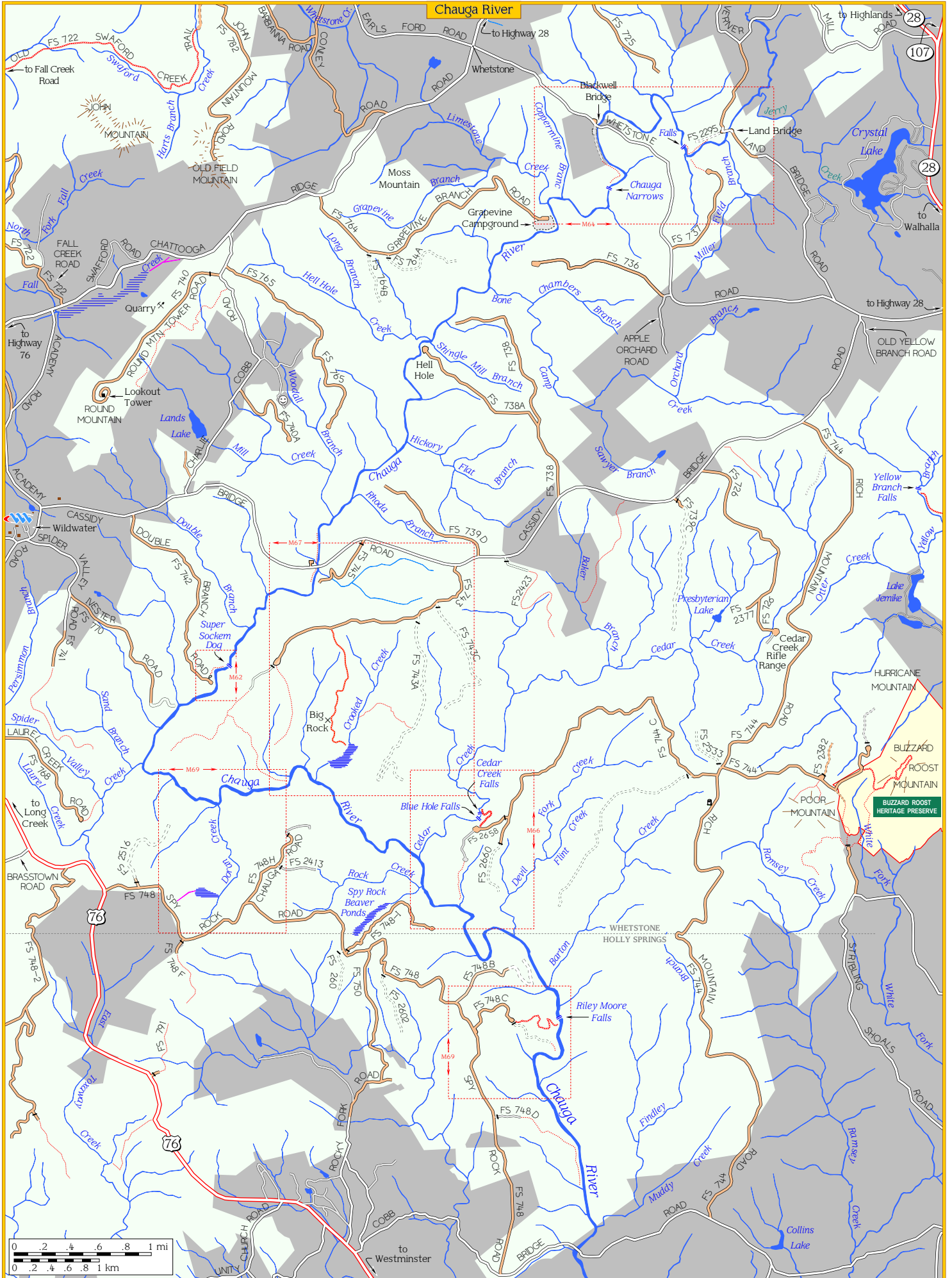
Tallulah Gorge has long been a popular tourist attraction. A dam on the Tallulah River at the beginning of the gorge was constructed in 1912. Water from Tallulah Falls Lake passes through tunnels to a power plant at the confluence with Lake Tugaloo. On July 18, 1970, the world famous high-wire walker, Karl Wallenda, at 65 years old, walked a steel cable across the gorge. In recent years, at Tallulah Gorge State Park, a museum, a breath taking suspension bridge, walkways, picnic facilities and observation decks have been constructed. You may need a permit to hike into the bottom of the gorge which is closed off during what are considered dangerous weather conditions. Check at the museum for regulations. There are now stairs that make the descent into the gorge quite easy. You'll find great photo ops and an amazing diversity of plant species. Boaters and rafters are now allowed to 'run' the river through the gorge. Gates at the dam are periodically opened to release a certain amount of water during the boating events. The park is off Highway 441/23 just north of the Tallulah Falls dam, look for signs. The highway crosses the dam. See comments in the previous account, left, about the lower part of the gorge that is flooded by Tugaloo Lake. *Lindernia monticola*, Rock False Pimpernel was recorded in the gorge in 1932 but hasn't been seen since.

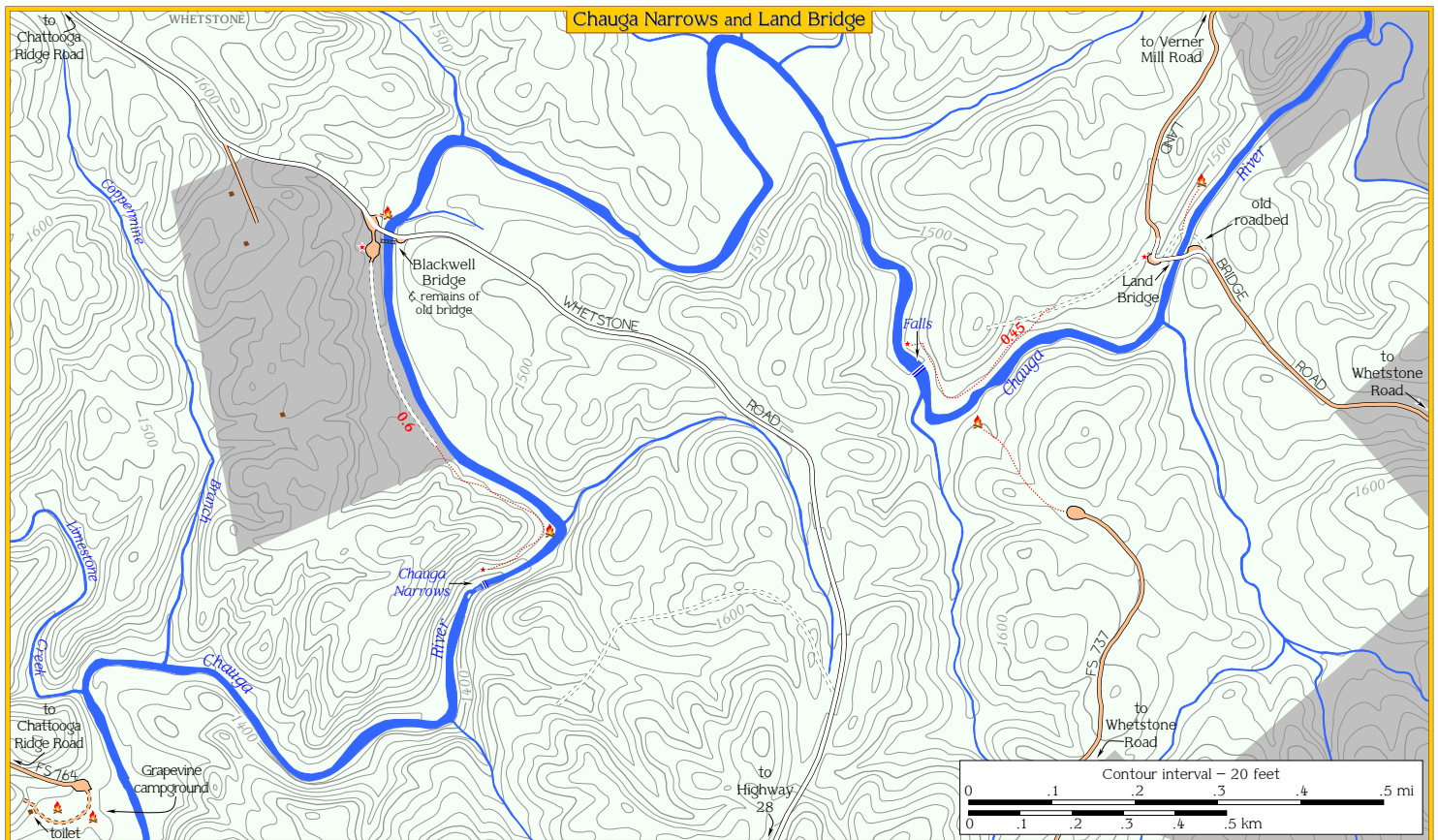
Some Tallulah Gorge plants –

- Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Asplenium trichomanes*, Maidenhair Spleenwort
- Callicarpa americana*, American Beauty Berry
- Calopogon tuberosus tuberosus*, Grass Pink
- Carex albursina*, White Bear Sedge
- Cheilanthes lanosa*, Hairy Lip Fern
- Drosera rotundifolia*, Round-leaved Sundew
- Hieracium paniculatum*, Panicked Hawk Weed
- Monotropsis odorata*, Sweet Pinesap
- Osmunda regalis spectabilis*, Royal Fern
- Oxypolis rigidior*, Cowbane

- Parnassia asarifolia*, Grass of Parnassus
- Philadelphus inodorus*, Mock Orange
- Platanthera clavellata*, Small Woodland Orchid
- Platanthera integrilabia*, Monkey-face Orchid
- Pogonia ophioglossoides*, Rose Pogonia
- Polygala paucifolia*, Fringed Polygala
- Rosa palustris*, Swamp Rose
- Saxifraga michauxii*, Michaux's Saxifrage
- Toxicodendron vernix*, Poison Sumac
- Trillium persistens*, Persistent Trillium
- Utricularia subulata*, Slender Bladderwort

Chauga River





Chauga River maps page 3, 63

The Chauga River from Land Bridge Road downstream to Cobb Bridge Road, about 14.8 river miles, is all within the National Forest. Downstream of Cobb Bridge Road the Chauga flows through populated and mostly private properties and isn't covered in this guide. When hiking in this watershed you are almost always confronted with steep sided ridges and coves. The coves have thickets of Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel while the ridge tops are often open mixed forest or pine. Old abandoned logging roads can be found throughout. This does not mean they are easily hiked. Trout are released into the Chauga on certain days or dates and it's not unusual to find fishermen at any of the more accessible points along the river. Kayakers run the Chauga especially at high water levels. They have names for many of the rapids and other features. The **Brevard Zone** has played a big role in the Chauga watershed. This is an ancient fault or subduction zone that parallels the Chauga River from the Blue Ridge escarpment southward then follows the Brasstown valley and lower Panther Creek to the piedmont. Geologists have shown that the Chauga River at one time flowed into the Tugalo River along the course now known as Brasstown Creek. In some areas the fault has exposed the underlying sedimentary rock. This calcium rich rock and the resulting alkaline soil supports a flora unique to our area. Many botanical studies have been conducted in the Chauga River gorge. Some of the study areas have such outstanding collections of plants that their exact location has been kept secret out of fear that visitors would damage or remove plants from these locations.

Land Bridge Falls maps page 3 C3, 63, & above ↑

The Chauga River enters the National Forest just above Land Bridge. This is a very popular fishing spot. The old bridge was replaced in 2015 and a short strip of road is now paved with pull-offs on both sides of the river. From Highway 28 in Mountain Rest turn onto Whetstone Road. Drive 0.9 miles and bear right onto Land Bridge Road, easy to miss. The pavement ends at about 1.3 miles. Cross the bridge to find a trailhead on the left. A fishermen's trail goes along a remnant of an old logging road then left to the river. It's about 0.3 miles to a scenic waterfall area. Although a short hike the plethora of fishermen's trails can be confusing. There is a small falls or cataract upstream of the one shown on the map. You'll see it

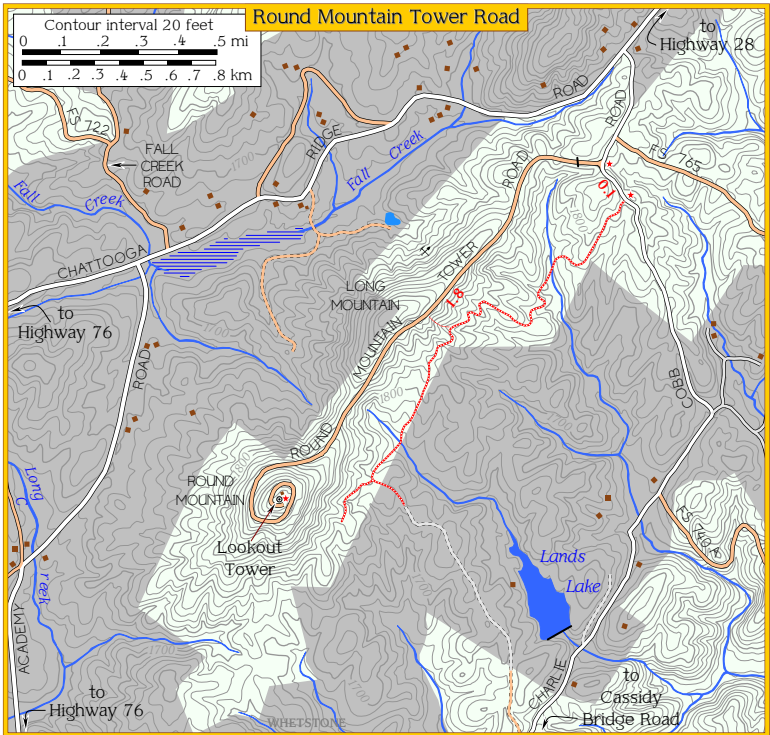
as you hike in. There's a small beach, depending on water level, at the main waterfall and picnickers do swim here. Fish are regularly stocked at the bridge and there are sometimes busy fishing days. Beware of fishermen's litter like fishing line and hooks in this area. Some people have decided not to take their children or pets here because of this fishermen's litter. There are Blue Flag Iris, *Iris virginica*, growing in the pool at the falls, elevation about 1,440 feet. It is native, well established and seems to do well in this fast moving water. Blue Flag can easily go unnoticed even when blooming. This find in flowing water means Blue Flag could occur anywhere in the Chauga River or at least the lower portion of the Chattooga River.

Chauga Narrows maps page 3 C3, 31, 63 & above ↑

There are several spots on the Chauga River known as "The Narrows". This Chauga Narrows is about 0.6 miles downstream of the Blackwell Bridge on Whetstone Road. At the Narrows the river drops over a small ledge, six feet or so, then goes left down a narrow crack or chute along a river left cliff face down to a pool in a left bend of the river. The total drop is about 25 feet, the crack about 60 feet long. There's a small picturesque rock island in the pool at the bottom. More smaller falls are downstream. From the Highway 76 bridge go east 2.1 miles and turn left onto Chattooga Ridge Road (SC 196). Go about 6.3 miles to the Whetstone intersection, a four way stop, and turn right onto Whetstone Road. Go 1.1 miles to the Chauga River Bridge (Blackwell Bridge) and a pull-off on the right just before you cross the bridge. This is a rough pull-off. The concrete ends abruptly and could damage some cars trying to pull off here. You can pull into a small parking area on the left upstream side of the road which is less threatening. The trail goes alongside the river all the way downstream to the Narrows, about 0.6 miles. The trail starts as an old road with puddles and rutted out places. It soon becomes a riverside trail with numerous little drop-down fishermen side trails to the river bank. The trail suffers from frequent windfalls, isn't well maintained and does become somewhat obscure as it approaches the Narrows. You'll be able to see the falls at the top of the Narrows. Continue on looking for a place to go down the steep bank to the river. At low water some people do hike upstream from a popular camping area known as Grapevine, *next page*. This is quite a hike, about 0.8 miles, people who do it are fishermen wading in the river.

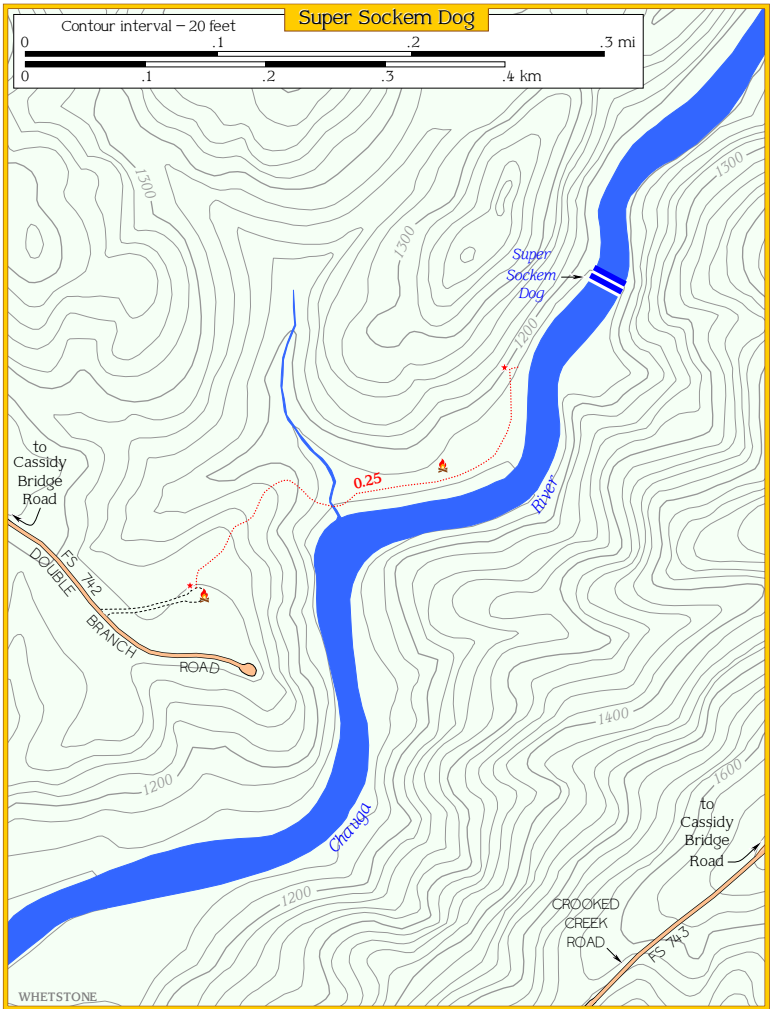
Round Mountain Tower Road *map page 63 & right* →

The Long Creek fire tower is atop a small but very prominent mountain, Round Mountain, 2,140 feet elevation. It is visible from numerous points in the Long Creek area. At one time it offered the best view of the surrounding area. The tower is no longer in use except for telephone antennas and the view is now largely blocked by surrounding trees that have grown unchecked over the years. It isn't clear if visitors are permitted up the tower but at this time there are no signs or barriers of any kind. You can easily go up the stairs but there are no child-proofing handrails or guards – could be very dangerous for small kids and pets. Joggers and bicyclists still enjoy the 1.8 miles trek to the top of the mountain. The road goes along a ridge or saddle formed by Long Mountain and Round Mountain. This ridge is a watershed divide with the Chauga River drainage going east and the Chattooga River drainage going west. The entire road is good for wildflowers and is, oddly enough, one of the best places to find damselflies, dragonflies and butterflies in the spring and summer. A trail parallels the road. Some maintenance was done on this trail in May 2016 but there are still many windfalls. The trailhead is virtually non-existent but observant hikers can usually find it. It is almost exactly 0.1 mile south of the tower road. At about 1.3 miles the trail does go onto private property and it is uncertain if hikers are welcome there. At one point along the trail you will see a large fenced field on the left. Here you can back up a little ways and go upward to the road for a loop hike (fine red-dotted line). From the Highway 76 bridge go east 2.1 miles and turn left onto Chattooga Ridge Road. Drive 3.5 miles and turn right onto Charlie Cobb Road then 0.3 miles to the first dirt road on the right, Round Mountain Tower Road, FS 740. Park at the gate but do not block the road. Forest Service employees and telephone company maintenance personnel occasionally drive the road to the lookout tower.



Super Sockem Dog *map page 63 & right* →

Boaters are responsible for the name of this waterfall. It's about a 10 foot drop during periods of high water. This is a scenic spot, good for wildflowers, damselflies and dragonflies. A large rock just downstream of the falls provides a good spot for photos. The rock is, however, mostly covered in Poison Ivy. From the Highway 76 bridge travel east 2.8 miles and turn left onto Raines Road. Drive 1.8 miles to Academy Road. A large white building, Wildwater Ltd. Rafting, is on the left; turn left. After only 0.3 miles turn right onto Cassidy Bridge Road. Drive 0.7 miles and turn right onto a dirt road, Double Branch Road. This is a public Forest Service road, FS 742, but because there is a mailbox has the appearance of a private drive. Go to the end of the road, about 1.6 miles. You may have noticed a pull-off on the left about 100 yards or less from the end of the road. Turn around or back up and pull in here or park along the main road and walk the short distance up to the trailhead. This little road may or may not be suitable for a regular vehicle. You'll find a campsite and a trailhead on the left. Hike down the ridge trail to the river then upstream to Super Sockem Dog, a total hiking distance of only 0.3 miles. A bend in the river where the trail comes down to the river is known as Eel Hole. In the past, fishermen commonly caught eels here. Dams have now blocked migrations of the eel so they are no longer found in the Chauga River or, for that matter, in any of the streams in our area. At least one other place is also known as "Eel Hole"



Grapevine *map page 63*

This well used campground is known locally simply as Grapevine. It is a very popular camping, picnicking and fishing area on the Chauga River. Forest Service facilities include waste cans, toilet, camping and parking areas. Although the Chauga is a fairly small stream it is regularly stocked with trout making it popular with fly-fishermen. The camping area is quite large with space for parking at each campsite. It can be busy almost anytime of the year. A riverside trail goes downstream for some distance from the camping area. Another ill defined trail goes upstream and with some diligence and difficulty you can hike the 0.8 miles up to the

Narrows, *page 61*. From the Highway 76 bridge go east 2.1 miles and turn left onto Chattooga Ridge Road. Drive 5.2 miles and turn right onto Grapevine Branch Road, FS 764. The Grapevine road sign is often missing from this intersection. Just before you reach the intersection you will pass a mobile home on the right then a large open field in a sweeping right turn. Grapevine Branch Road is a long and winding dirt road, about 2.5 miles long. You can park at the end of the road or turn right to drive into the campground area.

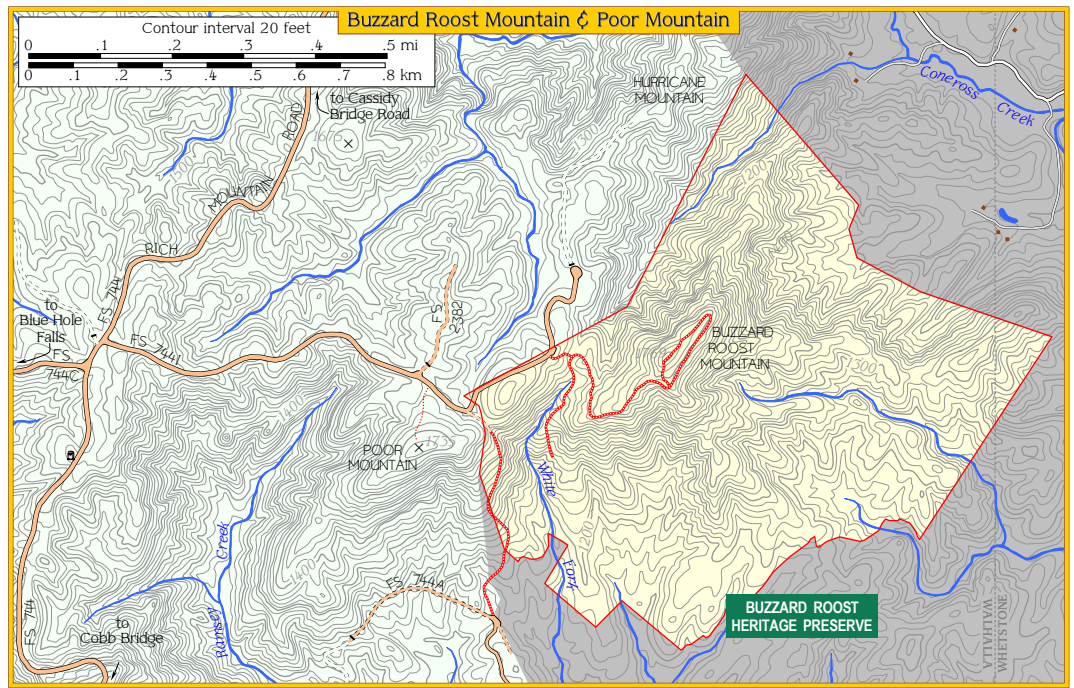
Rich Mountain Road FS 744

maps page 63, 68 This is a dirt road that follows the eastern rim of the Chauga River drainage. It goes from Cassidy Bridge Road south to Cobb Bridge Road. It is well traveled, about 7.6 miles long. From Cassidy Bridge go 4.3 miles east and turn right onto Rich Mountain Road. The street sign is usually missing but there is a Carsonite sign, 744, on the right. This dirt road is quite wide where it meets Cassidy Bridge Road.

Buzzard Roost Mountain

Poor Mountain* maps pg 63, 68 ↗

These two mountains are just outside our area but are a very worthwhile visit for wildflower enthusiasts. The area is associated with the *Brevard Zone* and has degraded marble outcroppings and very interesting flora. From Cassidy Bridge Road turn onto Rich Mountain Road, drive about 3.2 miles and turn left onto FS 744I. There's a Heritage Preserve sign on the right at about 1 mile. The trailhead to **Buzzard Roost Mountain** is another 100 yards or so at a small pull-off on the right. A short distance down this trail you will find signs and a map of the area. The trail is less than 1.5 miles total, well maintained and has round embossed aluminum markers. The hike to **Poor Mountain** is a short bushwhack. Park at FS 2382 and bushwhack south only 0.2 miles to the summit and a marble cliff area, shown as a red dotted line. If you walk down the road from where you parked you'll find an old logging road that takes you to a trail down the western edge of the Preserve.



A few of the plants.

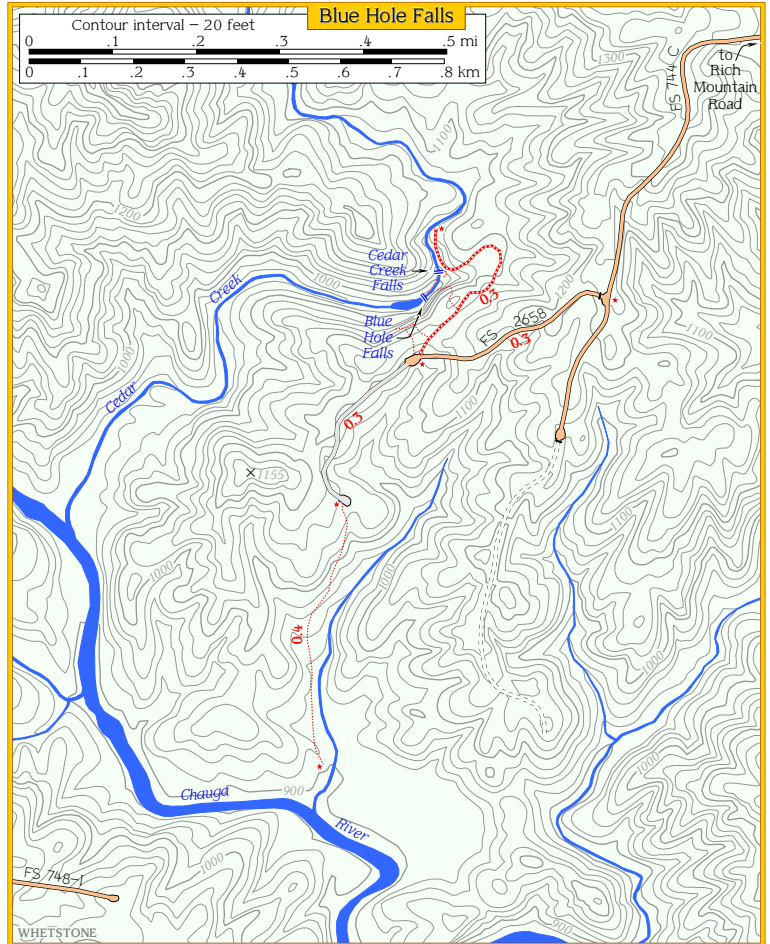
- Aletris farinosa*, Colic Root
- Asplenium montanum*, Mountain Spleenwort
- Asplenium resiliens*, Black-stemmed Spleenwort
- Cheilanthes tomentosa*, Woolly Lip Fern
- Collinsonia verticillata*, Whorled Horse Balm
- Manfreda virginica*, Virginia Agave
- Eryngium yuccifolium*, Rattlesnake Master
- Echinacea laevigata*, Smooth Cone Flower
- Pellaea atropurpurea*, Purple Cliff Brake
- Tetragonotheca helianthoides*, Squarehead



Buzzard Roost trail marker

Blue Hole Falls maps page 63, 68 ↗ right ↗

This waterfall on Cedar Creek drops about 40 feet into a pool. The drop isn't vertical but more of a drop-slide-chute. Steep rock faces border both sides of the pool. River left of the pool is a vertical cliff about 60 feet high. There's a plethora of little trails in this area. Best to just pay attention to where you are going. From Cassidy Bridge go 4.3 miles east and turn right onto Rich Mountain Road FS 744. Drive 3.2 miles and turn right onto FS 744C. At 2.6 miles park or turn right onto FS 2658. This road has a gate that may be closed. The gate is usually open and the road is usually suitable for regular cars. It's 0.3 miles to a clearing; FS 2659 on the right. This old road is lacking a sign and is now blocked with large rocks and a mound of dirt followed by a small water filled pit. While walking this road you will hear the falls to your left. Because of the very high cliffs, accessing the falls on this side of the stream is impossible. There is a spur trail near the boulders that goes to the top of this cliff area. A short walk down the old road will take you to Cedar Creek. Before you come to the creek you will notice at least two trails on the left going down to the creek. They lead to a flat area just upstream of the falls and just downstream of a minor falls known as **Cedar Creek Falls**. You will need to cross Cedar Creek here and go downstream to view Blue Hole Falls. Crossing the creek below Cedar Creek Falls will take you to a downstream trail that is precipitously close to the steep stream bank. At low water you can usually cross Cedar Creek and get down



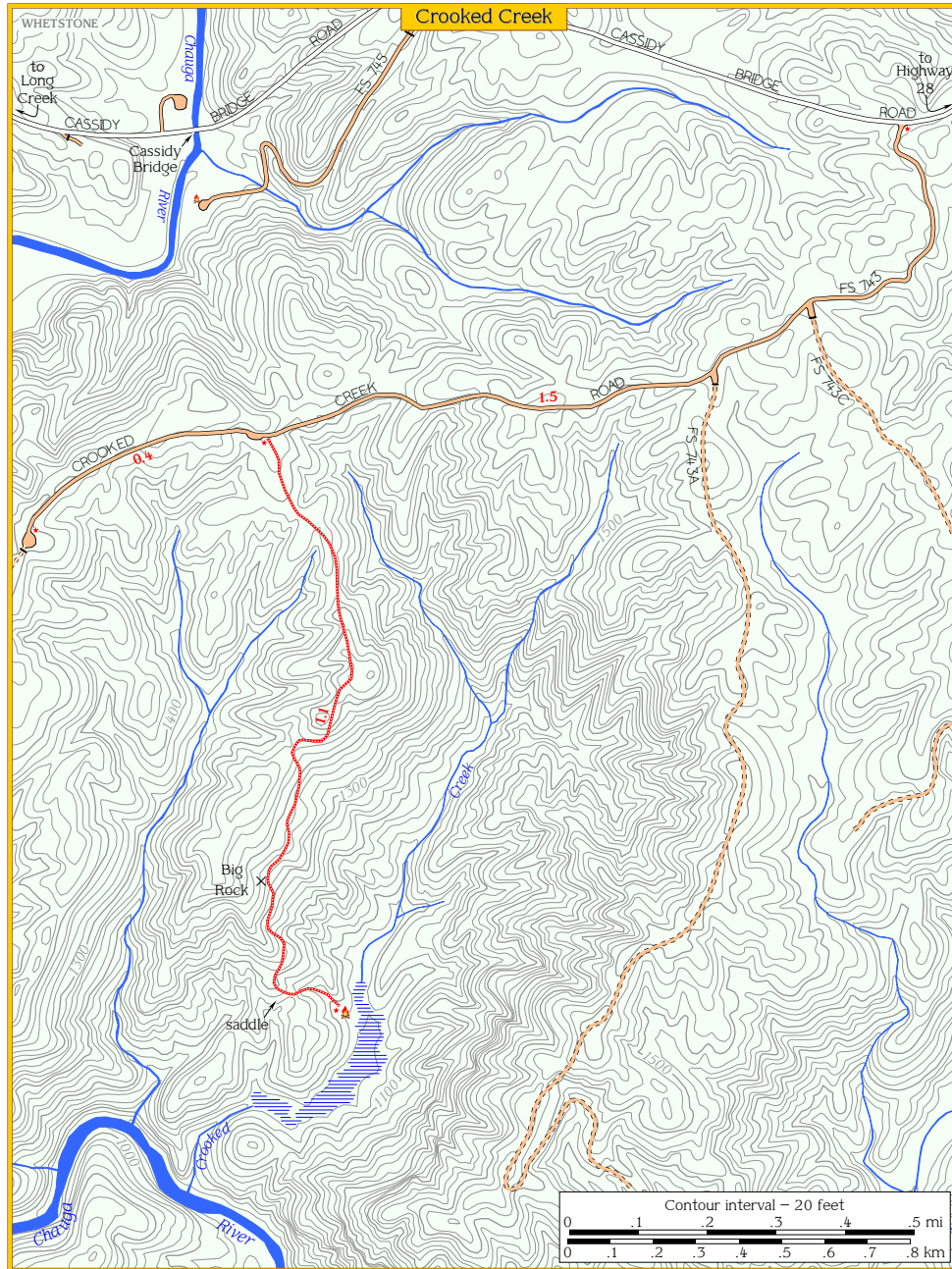
to the large pool without getting wet. From the parking area at the blocked trailhead the Forest Service road 2658 continues on toward the river as a four wheel drive road for 0.3 miles. From here a trail on the right leads down to the Chauga River, about 0.3 miles. The hike from the main road, FS 744C, to the Blue Hole Falls is about 0.6 miles, to the river about 1 mile. This entire area is within the Brevard Zone and is a haven for a number of rare plants. A vine with neat flowers, *Matelea carolinensis*, Carolina Angle Pod, also known as Milkweed Vine, is quite common in this area, blooms in May. Its large leaves are usually easy to spot even from a car. Rich Mountain Road, the roads to Buzzard Roost and Blue Hole falls are heavily traveled in the hunting season. Remember, no hunting on Sundays.

Crooked Creek* maps page 63 & right →

This creek is in a very rich cove and is one of our best wildflower locations, especially good hike in early May. Crooked Creek enters the Chauga River about 3.9 river miles downstream of Cassidy Bridge. There is a series of beaver ponds at the bottom of the cove just before the creek's confluence with the river. From the Highway 76 bridge travel east 2.8 miles and turn left onto Raines Road. Drive 1.8 miles to Academy Road. A large white building, Wildwater Rafting, is on the left, turn left. After only 0.3 miles at a 3-way stop intersection turn right onto Cassidy Bridge Road. Cassidy Bridge is 2.4 miles. Drive 1.2 miles beyond the bridge and turn right onto Crooked Creek Road FS 743. A well defined trail now goes to the beaver ponds on the lower part of Crooked Creek. The trailhead is a little tricky to find. From Cassidy Bridge Road drive FS 743 for about 1.5 miles. In a right turn you will see a small pull-off on the left. This pull-off is nothing more than a slightly widened place on the left side of the right turn. Park here and walk just a few yards back down the road to find a well developed trail. It might be easier to find the trailhead by driving to the end of the road then drive back 0.4 miles. The beginning of the trail has the remains of an old tank trap and is in pine with lots of small scraggly trees. The trail, still well defined, goes along a ridge top then the left side of the ridge into nice open hardwoods. You will pass a really big rock on the right side of the trail. At 0.2 miles beyond the rock the trail seems to disappear at a small saddle. Go left down an old skidder ravine to the beaver ponds.

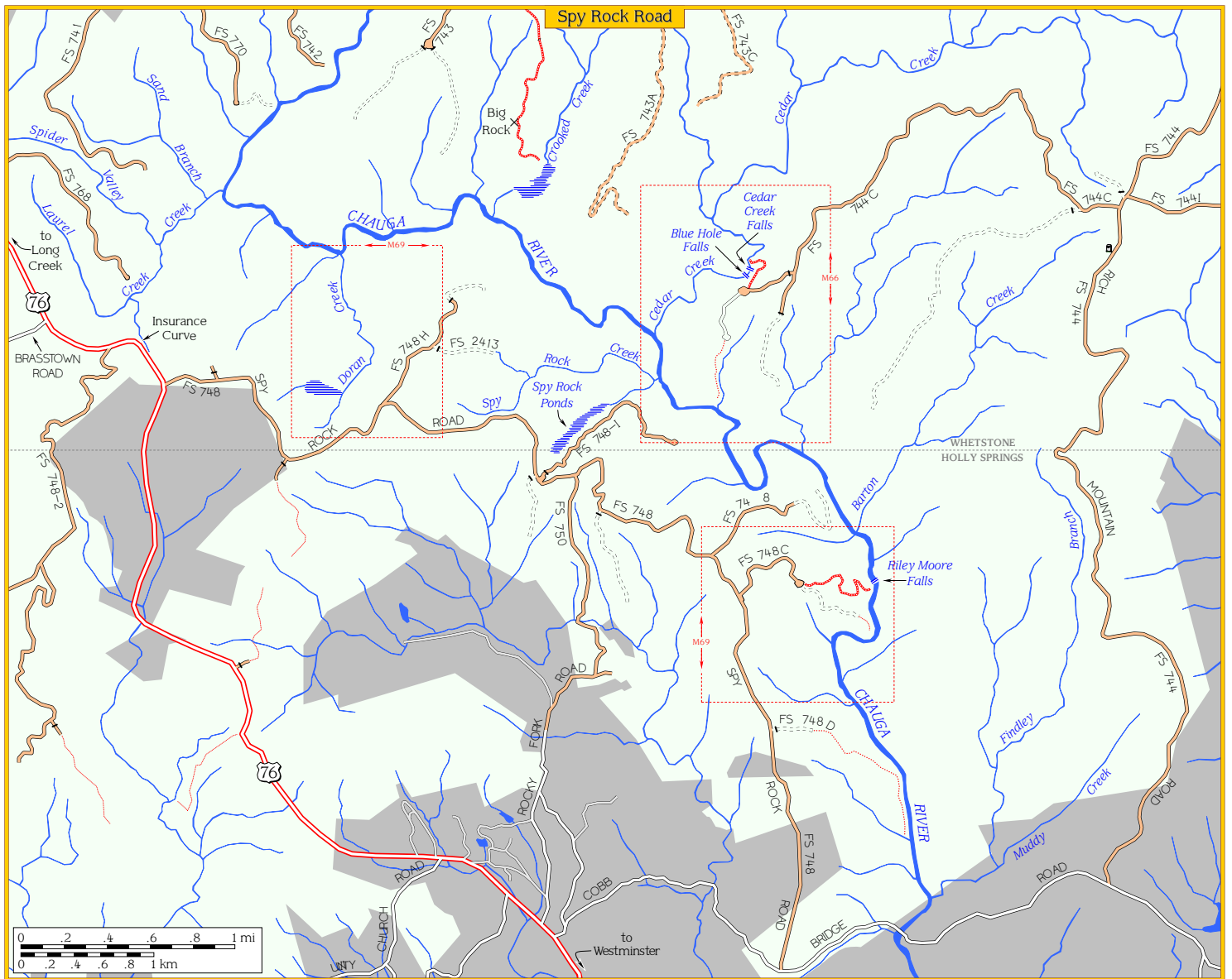
Some plants recorded at Crooked Creek.

- Adiantum pedatum pedatum*, Maidenhair Fern
- Aesculus flava*, Sweet Buckeye
- Amphicarpa bracteata*, Hog Peanut
- Anemone thalictroides*, Rue Anemone
- Aplectrum hyemale*, Putty Root Orchid
- Aralia spinosa*, Devil's Walkingstick
- Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack in the Pulpit
- Bignonia capreolata*, Cross Vine
- Botrychium virginianum*, Rattlesnake Fern
- Calycanthus floridus*, Sweet Shrub
- Cardamine concatenata*, Cut-leaf Toothwort
- Caulophyllum thalictroides*, Blue Cohosh
- Cercis canadensis*, Redbud
- Chamaelirium luteum*, Devil's Bit
- Chimaphila maculata*, Spotted Wintergreen
- Chrysogonum virginianum australe*, Green and gold
- Cimicifuga racemosa*, Black Cohosh
- Collinsonia verticellata*, Whorled Horse Balm
- Conopholis americana*, Squaw Root
- Coreopsis major rigida*, Stiff-leaved Coreopsis
- Cornus florida*, Flowering Dogwood
- Cynoglossum virginianum*, Wild Comphry
- Cypripedium calceolus*, Yellow Lady's Slippers
- Deparia acrostichoides*, Silvery Glade Fern
- Erigeron pulchellus*, Robin Plantain
- Erythronium umbilicatum umbilicatum*, Trout Lily
- Euonymus americanus*, Hearts-a-bustin'
- Galax aphylla*, Galax
- Galearis spectabilis*, Showy Orchis



- Geranium maculatum*, Wild Geranium
- Goodyera pubescens*, Rattlesnake Plantain
- Hepatica acutiloba*, Liverwort
- Hexastylus arifolia*, Heart Leaf
- Hieracium venosum*, Rattlesnake Weed
- Huperzia lucidula*, Shining Club Moss
- Hydrangea arborescens*, Wild Hydrangea
- Hypoxis hirsuta*, Star Grass
- Iris cristata*, Crested Dwarf Iris
- Iris verna smalliana*, Dwarf Iris
- Juncus effusus*, Soft Rush
- Kalmia latifolia*, Mountain Laurel
- Liriodendron tulipifera*, Tulip Tree
- Magnolia fraseri*, Fraser Magnolia
- Maianthemum racemosum*, False Solomon's Seal
- Medeola virginiana*, Indian Cucumber Root
- Melanthium parviflorum*, Appalachian Bunch Flower
- Mitchella repens*, Partridge Berry
- Monarda punctata*, Spotted Horsemint
- Obolaria virginica*, Pennywort
- Panax quinquefolium*, Ginseng
- Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, Virginia Creeper
- Pedicularis canadensis canadensis*, Lousewort

- Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, Broad Beech Fern
- Phlox amoena*, Downy Phlox
- Podophyllum peltatum*, May Apple
- Prosartes lanuginosa*, Yellow Mandarin
- Rhododendron maximum*, Rosebay
- Rhododendron periclymenoides*, Pinxter Flower
- Rhus radicans*, Poison Ivy
- Salvia lyrata*, Lyre-leaved Sage
- Sanguinaria canadensis*, Bloodroot
- Sanicula canadensis*, Snake Root
- Sparganium americanum*, Bur Reed
- Spigelia marilandica*, Indian Pink
- Styrax grandifolia*, Bigleaf Snowbell
- Tiarella cordifolia*, Foam Flower
- Trillium catesbaei*, Catesby's Trillium
- Trillium cuneatum*, Toadshade
- Trillium discolor*, Faded Trillium
- Trillium vaseyi*, Vasey's Trillium
- Typha latifolia*, Common Cattail
- Uvularia perfoliata*, Perfoliate Bellwort
- Viola hastata*, Halberd-leaf Violet
- Viola macloskeyi pallens*, Northern White Violet
- Viola tripartita tripartita*, Three-part-leaved Violet
- Viola walteri*, Prostrate Blue Violet



Spy Rock Road maps page 63 & above ↑

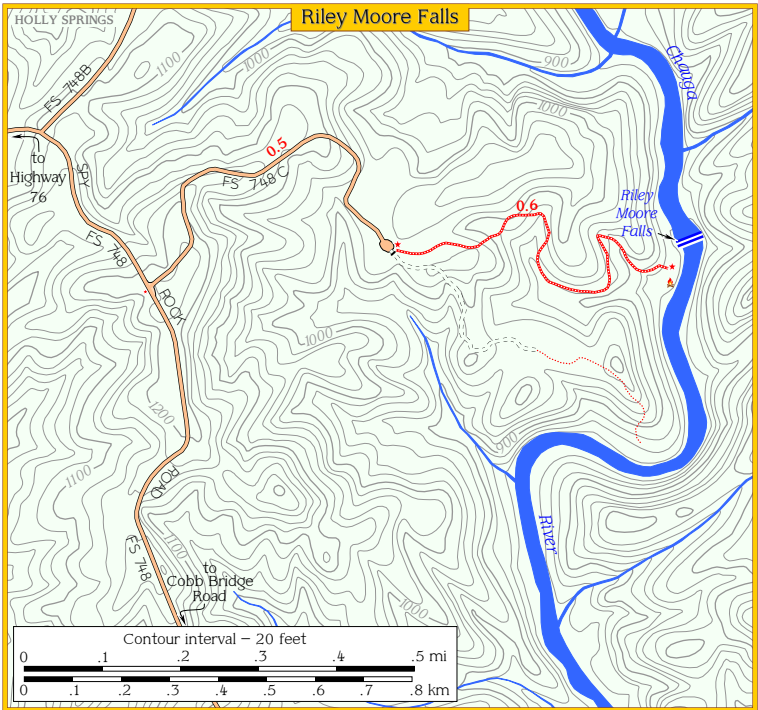
Spy Rock Road FS 748 is a dirt road, about 6 miles long, goes from Highway 76 to Cobb Bridge Road. It roughly parallels the Chauga River and provides access to a large wilderness area. Many of the coves and ridges here are very steep and thickly vegetated making off trail hikes quite difficult. Several camping areas along this stretch of river are favorite spots for local families, fishermen and hunters. Boaters run this section of the river at certain water levels. Many botanists, geologists and other researchers have long studied the natural wonders of this section of the Chauga River. The Brevard Fault Zone in this area is of interest to geologists and frequent classroom field trips are conducted here. At upper left on the *map above* notice that the Chauga River, flowing southwest, makes a sharp left turn to the southeast. The river once flowed straight here and went down what is now the Brasstown Creek Valley. The Brevard Fault, approximately along Highway 76, uplifted and changed the river's course. This uplift exposed rocks of limestone or degraded marble. Unlike the acidic Chattooga River soil, the soil here is more alkaline. A number of plant species are endemic to this zone. Geologists continue to debate the nature of this fault and botanists regularly visit the area to study the plants. In order to protect this unusual flora some researchers have published botanical papers without revealing the exact location of the study. From the Highway 76 bridge go east about 6.6 miles and turn left onto Spy Rock Road FS 748. After passing Brasstown Road, Spy Rock Road is on the left at the top of a hill after you pass through a tight right hand curve known locally as Insurance Curve. Look carefully for the road at the top of the hill, it isn't in a good place to turn left.

Spy Rock Ponds* maps page 63 & above ↑

This is a series of well constructed beaver ponds along a tiny tributary of Spy Rock Creek. The ponds cover a section of the stream for about 0.3 miles. They are easily accessed from FS 748-I. There is ample parking at the wide intersection, Carsonite sign and metal barrier. To get to the upper beginning of the pond complex hike down the road and go down the ridge on your left as soon as you see the ponds in the cove below. To get to the lower ponds hike on the road until it drops down to pond level and go left through the woods. There are places where you can cross the stream unless recent rains have been heavy. The ponds are most easily hiked along the opposite shore (river left). The woods on this side are on a slope and quite open. The area river right is flat and full of brambles. This is a great area for the naturalist. The Spotted Salamander, *Ambystoma maculatum*, breeds here in numbers in the winter. The Wood Frog, *Rana sylvatica*, hasn't been recorded here. They often breed in pools used by the Spotted Salamander and Wood Frogs do use pools near the main road, Spy Rock Road. There are Wood Duck boxes and other species of ducks have been seen here. The Mud Turtle, *Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum*, has been recorded here. The Northern Cricket Frog, *Acris crepitans*, is very common along the shorelines. There's been no attempt (by me) to record the plants but the area would probably be of interest to botanists. An unexpected damselfly, the Great Spreadwing, *Archilestes grandis*, was very common here in November 2010. The Shadow Darter, *Aeshna umbrosa*, and the Autumn Meadowhawk, *Sympetrum vicinum* were photographed here that same month. From Highway 76 turn onto Spy Rock Road and drive 2.4 miles to FS 748-I.

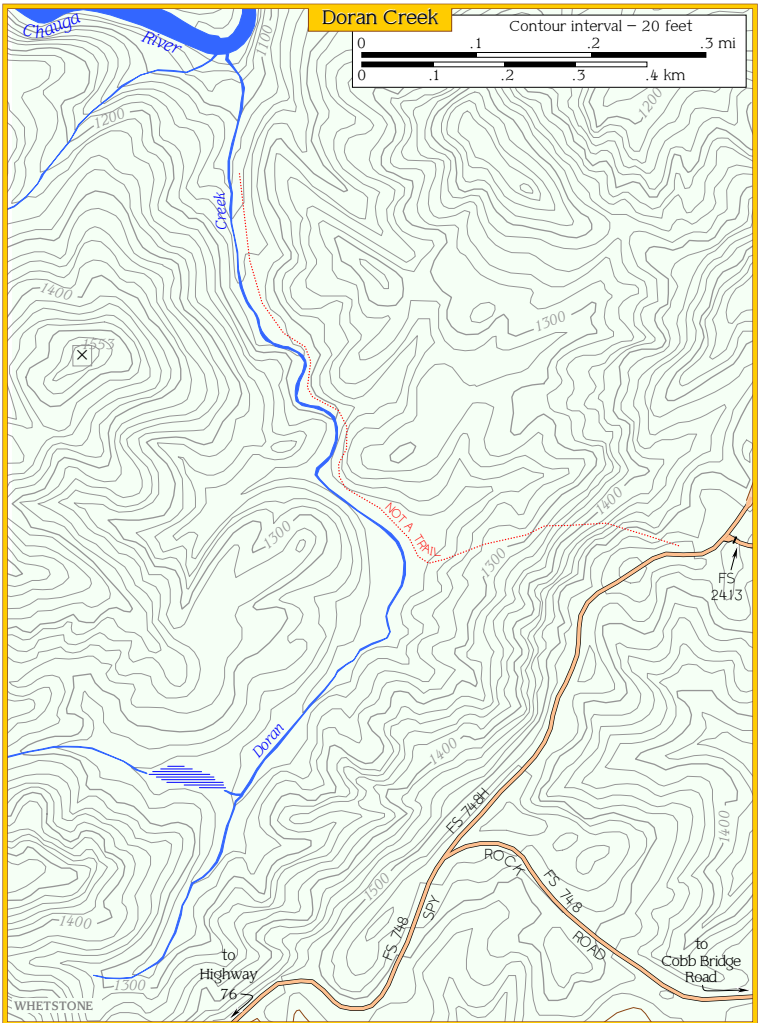
Riley Moore Falls maps page 63, 68, ↗

This is one of the most beautiful waterfalls on the Chauga River, about 12 feet high and 100 feet wide, the site of an old mill. Kayakers run the falls at high water levels. From Highway 76 turn onto Spy Rock Road. Drive about 4 miles and turn left onto FS 748C. A Carsonite sign marks this intersection. The road is about 0.5 miles long and can be difficult to drive in a low clearance car. There is plenty of parking space if you decide not to drive the road. At the end of the road you'll find a small barren clay parking area. The road, gated here, does continue on to large game openings. As you start down this road look left for the trailhead. The Forest Service has a sign at the trailhead — says 0.6 miles to the falls. This is a first class trail similar to a nature trail you might find in a big city park. Hikers often swim in the pool and climb on the rocks at the base of the falls. There are many campsites along the river and fishermen's trails parallel much of the river in this area. Great for the wildflower enthusiast. From the waterfall go downstream a few yards and you'll find campsites and a very large and healthy population of our native *Yucca*, *Yucca filamentosa*.



Doran Creek* maps page 63, 68 ↙ lower right

This small tributary of the Chauga River is one of our best areas for wildflowers. Easy to reach by bushwhacking north off Spy Rock Road FS 748 or Chauga Road FS 748H. From Highway 76 turn onto Spy Rock Road FS 748. Drive 1.4 miles and turn left onto FS 748H. The Doran Creek drainage is off to the left for the length of this road. Drive about 0.6 miles to a pull-off on the right at the blocked FS 2413. Park here. Walk back toward Spy Rock Road looking off to the right to find openings in the Rhododendron thicket. The slopes are rather steep but, except for a band of Rhododendron, the woods are fairly open, easy walking. At the bottom of the slope the creek flows through a fairly flat place very rich in wildflowers. The red dotted line on the map to the right is an estimation of the route taken on trips to this area. This is an easy bushwhack, steep only on the initial descent. The lower section near the confluence with the Chauga River is steep, has thick vegetation forcing you up onto the slope. Grottos and exposed rocks are more numerous closer to the river. On one trip to the area a large Tulip Tree, diameter 57 inches DBH, was recorded on the slope near FS 748H. This is a great spring wildflower hike around the last week of April through the third week of May. The Yellow Lady Slippers here have quite large flowers. Walking Fern can be found on some of the rocks that are exposed on the slopes.



Just a few of the plants found along Doran Creek –

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>Asplenium rhizophyllum</i> , Walking Fern | <i>Obolaria virginica</i> , Pennywort |
| <i>Astilbe bitemata</i> , False Goat's Beard | <i>Orchis spectabilis</i> , Showy Orchis |
| <i>Botrychium virginiana</i> , Rattlesnake Fern | <i>Orobanche uniflora</i> , |
| <i>Carex plantaginea</i> , Plantain Sedge | One-flowered Cancer Root |
| <i>Carex radfordii</i> , Radford's Sedge | <i>Panax quinquefolium</i> , Ginseng |
| <i>Collinsonia verticillata</i> , Whorled Horse Balm | <i>Podophyllum peltatum</i> , May Apple |
| <i>Cynoglossum virginianum</i> , Wild Comfrey | <i>Prosartes lanuginosa</i> , Yellow Mandarin |
| <i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> , | <i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> , Blood Root |
| Yellow Lady's Slipper | <i>Trichomanes boschianum</i> , Bristle Fern |
| <i>Deparia acrostichoides</i> , Silvery Glade Fern | <i>Trichomanes intricatum</i> , Grotto Felt |
| <i>Epifagus virginiana</i> , Beech Drops | <i>Trichomanes petersii</i> , Dwarf Filmy Fern |
| <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> , Rattlesnake Master | <i>Trillium catesbaei</i> , Catesby's Trillium |
| <i>Erythronium umbilicatum</i> , Trout lily | <i>Trillium cuneatum</i> , Toadshade |
| <i>Geranium maculatum</i> , Wild Geranium | <i>Trillium discolor</i> , Faded Trillium |
| <i>Hepatica acutiloba</i> , Sharp-lobed Hepatica | <i>Trillium vaseyi</i> , Vasey's Trillium |
| <i>Huperzia lucidula</i> , Shining Club Moss | <i>Veratrum viride</i> , White Hellebore |
| <i>Laportea canadensis</i> , Wood Nettle | <i>Viola tripartita tripartita</i> , |
| <i>Magnolia acuminata</i> , Cucumber Tree | Three-parted Violet |

Brasstown Creek maps page 52, 70

This is a major stream in our area. The falls area is a very popular place for campers and fishermen and can get littered at times. From the Highway 76 bridge travel east (through Long Creek), about 5.6 miles and turn right onto Brasstown Road. This road parallels and then crosses Brasstown Creek at about 4 miles (dirt for the last 1.5 miles). Just before crossing the creek, at a small cement bridge, turn right onto FS 751. Go 0.5 miles to the end of the road and park. A trail goes beneath the power lines to a creek side camping and picnic area, 100 yards or so. This is a large flat area with numerous campsites. **Little Brasstown Creek** joins

Brasstown Creek on the opposite bank. To get to Little Brasstown Creek Falls you will have to cross Brasstown Creek and follow Little Brasstown Creek a few yards upstream to the falls. You can see the falls through the woods without crossing Brasstown Creek if the vegetation isn't too thick. The wade isn't bad at normal water levels. Brasstown Creek Falls is immediately downstream of the campsite area. A narrow winding and sometimes precipitous trails lead downstream to the falls area. The falls can be divided into three

separate falls, all very impressive. The upper falls is a series of small falls or steps that drop to a short flat section just before the middle falls; a vertical 30 foot drop that spans the full width of the stream. The lower falls is a narrow chute that goes along a river-left cliff and falls into a pool. The part of Brasstown Creek referred to in the plant list includes only the creek area downstream of the Brasstown Road bridge. In the plant list Brasstown Creek refers to the area from the bridge to the falls. Lower Brasstown Creek refers to the area downstream of the falls to its confluence with the Tugaloo River. To bushwhack into lower Brasstown Creek go downstream from the falls. The hike from the falls downstream to the flat floodplain is strenuous and usually requires you ford the stream one or more times. This area is a paradise for the wildflower enthusiast and is almost devoid of human traffic. The lower portion can also be reached by bushwhacking from Damascus Church Road. Perhaps the best map for this hike is the Forest Service Tugaloo Lake quadrangle. There are a number of ridge-top trails that lead from Damascus Church Road down to Brasstown Creek, most less than 0.6 miles. On Damascus Church Road drive beyond Bull Sluice Road until the road becomes a small dirt road. New homes have been built in the area so you will have to be aware of private property. Look for Forest Service Roads on the left. These will lead to the ridge-top trails. A hike upstream from Cooper Road is the easiest way to get to lower Brasstown Creek. Access has now been blocked by a gate across the road so you will have to park at the gate and walk the road to Brasstown Creek, about 1.2 miles. Continue to next account.

Brasstown Creek Heritage Preserve *map right →*

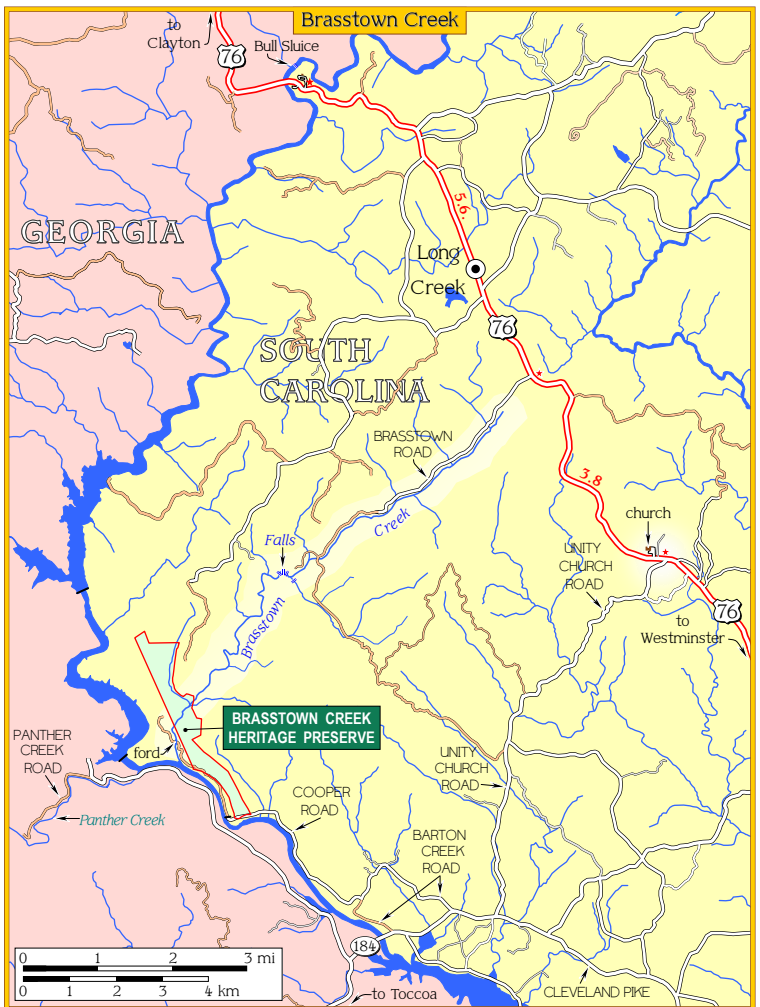
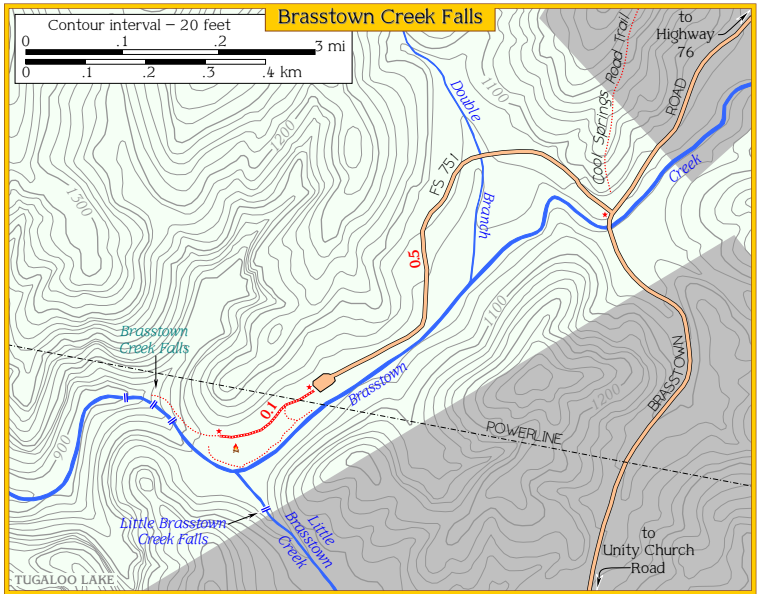
Heritage Trust has now acquired and protected 461 acres of the lower Brasstown Creek area. Walk-in visitors are welcome during daylight hours. From the Highway 76 bridge travel east 9.4 miles (3.8 miles beyond Brasstown Road) and turn right onto Unity Church Road. This road is near the end of a long stretch of flat, straight road, easy to miss the turn. There's a church on the left just before Unity Church Road on the right. After 5.3 miles and numerous suicide curves, Unity Church Road tees into Cleveland Pike. Turn right and go about 0.6 miles to Barton Creek Road, an intersection well marked with several signs. This paved road becomes Cooper Road at about 1.8 miles. Another 2.6 miles to a parking area at the end. Beyond the gate a dirt road continues alongside the Tugaloo River up to Brasstown Creek. You will have to ford the creek, shallow sandy bottom at normal water levels. Hiking further north on the road you will soon encounter private property signs but notice that a trail bears to the right and takes you into the Heritage Preserve property. You will find more signage but keep in mind that all the land along Brasstown Creek southward from the falls to the Heritage Preserve is within the National Forest.

Some of the Lower Brasstown Creek plants –

- Actaea pachypoda*, Doll's Eyes
- Amsonia tabernaemontana*, Blue Dogbane
- Arisaema dracontium*, Green Dragon
- Asclepias variegata*, White Milk Weed
- Asimina triloba*, Tall Pawpaw
- Asplenium trichomanes*, Maidenhair Spleenwort
- Athyrium asplenoides*, Southern Lady Fern
- Cardamine flagellifera*, Blue Ridge Bitter Cress
- Carex scabrata*, Rough Sedge
- Carya pallida*, Pale Hickory
- Cercis canadensis*, Redbud
- Claytonia virginica*, Virginia Spring Beauty
- Cleistes bifaria*, Spreading Pogonia
- Cornus alternifolia*, Alternate-leaved Dogwood
- Cornus amomum*, Silky Dogwood
- Diplazium pycnocarpon*, Glade Fern
- Dierca palustris*, Leatherwood
- Eupatorium cordigerum*, Round-leaved Thoroughwort
- Heuchera americana*, American Alum Root
- Matelea carolinensis*, Carolina Angle Pod
- Monotropsis odorata*, Sweet Pinesap
- Onoclea sensibilis*, Sensitive Fern
- Osmunda regalis spectabilis*, Royal Fern



- Ostrya virginiana*, Hop Hornbeam
- Oxalis violacea*, Violet Wood Sorrel
- Passiflora lutea*, Yellow-flowered Maypop
- Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, Broad Beech Fern
- Pinus pungens*, Table Mountain Pine
- Pinus rigida*, Pitch Pine
- Polygala paucifolia*, Gay Wings
- Spigelia marilandica*, Indian Pink
- Trichomanes petersii*, Dwarf Filmy Fern
- Trillium catesbaei*, Catesby's Trillium
- Trillium discolor*, Faded Trillium
- Trillium rugelii*, Southern Nodding Trillium
- Ulmus rubra*, Slippery Elm
- Waldsteinia lobata*, Southern Barren Strawberry
- Xerophyllum asphodeloides*, Turkey Beard



Chau Ram County Park *map page 3 C5*

This little park gets its name from the confluence of Ramsey Creek and the Chauga River. It is way outside our area but is a popular spot for waterfall enthusiasts. Ramsey Falls can be viewed right from the parking area. There are restrooms, picnic facilities, nature trails, and an event building that can be used for gatherings. There's a children's playground a nature trail that goes downstream along the river. A \$2.00 parking fee needs to be placed in an envelope at the gated entrance. The park is off Highway 76 about 3 miles west of Westminster. Look for a sign on the left near the bottom of a long straight downhill section of highway. The drive from Long Creek is about 12 miles. Look for the sign on the right about a mile after crossing the Chauga River.

Stumphouse Tunnel, Isaqueena Falls maps page 3 C4 & right →

Stumphouse Tunnel is the remains of an unfinished railroad tunnel. Started in 1852, the railroad was going to connect Charleston, South Carolina with Knoxville, Tennessee then go northward. It was halted before the Civil War. This is part of the same railroad bed that can be seen at Warwoman Dell. Isaqueena Falls is within easy walking distance at the same park. It is about 200 feet high and a trail leads to the bottom. The falls is named for an Indian maiden who faked a suicide by hiding behind the falls to escape pursuing Indians. Many say this is only a myth created just because there is a hiding spot behind the falls. Similar myths have been applied to several waterfalls in the southern Appalachians. From downtown Walhalla drive north on Highway 28 about 5.4 miles and look for a large sign at the entrance to Stumphouse Tunnel and Isaqueena Falls. The rare orchid, *Isotria verticellata*, Large Whorled Pogonia is said to occur t here.

Yellow Branch Falls maps page 3 C4, 63, both maps right →

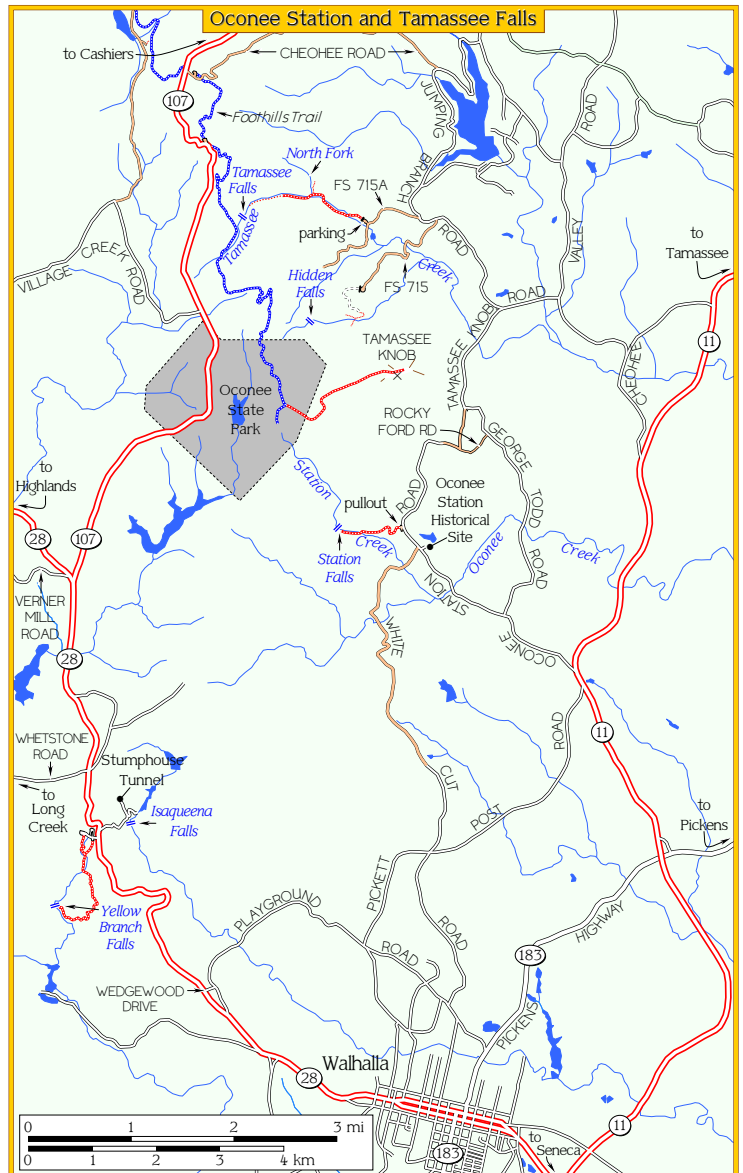
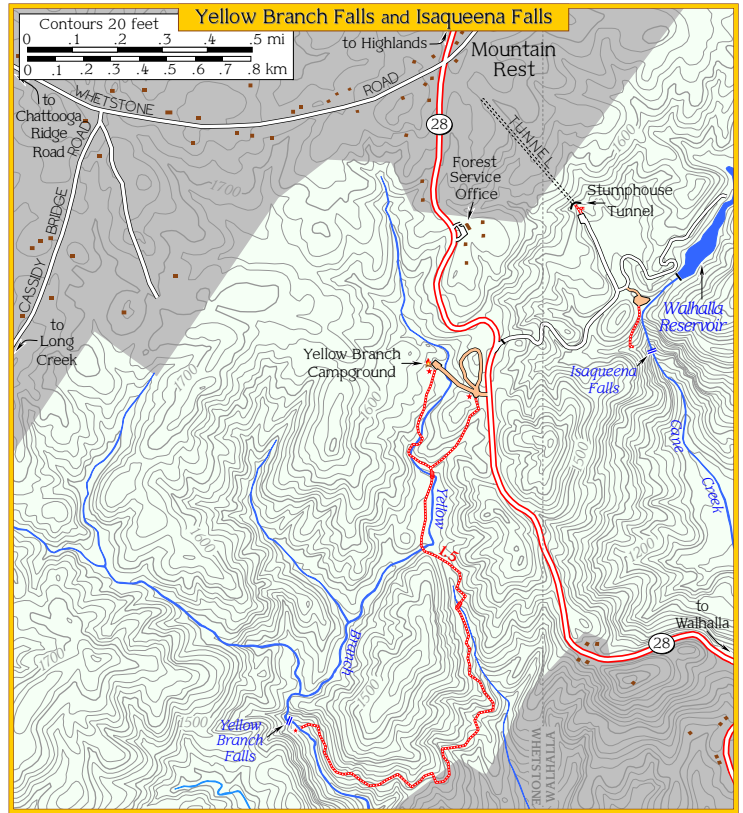
This is a very popular and scenic waterfall, about 60 feet high, broken up into numerous tiny falls. There are two trailheads. The first is immediately on your left as you turn onto Yellow Branch Road. The other at the end of the road. Both trails join after only 0.2 miles. Taking the first trailhead lets you avoid three rock hops. There is usually room enough to park near the first trailhead. It is about 1.5 miles to the falls. The trail is easy walking, mostly level or only slightly inclined with a total elevation difference of about 260 feet. From downtown Walhalla drive about 5.4 miles north on Highway 28 and turn left onto Yellow Branch Road. There is a street sign. Going south from Mountain Rest, Yellow Branch Road is about 0.5 miles south of the Andrew Pickens Forest Service Office.

Oconee Station, Station Falls maps page 3 D3, 71 & right →

These falls are in a park well outside our area but listed here because many of our rare plant species can be found here. From downtown Walhalla go 3.7 miles north on Highway 183 and turn left onto Highway 11. Go north 2.0 miles and turn left onto Oconee Station Road. A sign, 'Historical Oconee Station', marks the intersection. The Oconee Station park entrance is about 2.1 miles on the right. To get to the falls do not turn into the park but keep going another 0.2 miles to a small pull-off on the left. The trail is easy walking, virtually level with an information board and good signage, about 0.8 miles to the falls.

Tamassee Falls map page 3 D3 & right →

Also known as **Lee Falls**. This is not in our area but a number of plant species that are rare in our area are common here. It is one of the richest wildflower locations in the Blue Ridge area. It is also billed by some as the most scenic of the waterfalls in Oconee County. It is quite scenic, about 80 feet high, and lush with vegetation but many would agree it isn't as easily photographed as some of our other waterfalls. Several separate streams drop straight down from a very irregular cliff. Very hard to get an overall picture of the falls. From downtown Walhalla go 3.7 miles north on Highway 183 and turn left onto Highway 11. Go north about 4 miles and take the left fork onto Cheohee Valley Road. This road also has signs, "County Road 375", after 1.3 miles. Go another mile and turn left onto Tamassee Knob Road. After 0.5 miles bear right onto Jumping Branch Road and drive 1.5 miles to FS 715A (not FS 715) on the left. Drive about 0.6 miles to a large parking area on the right. From here hike upstream along an old road for about a mile. This trail goes through wildlife openings and crosses Tamassee Creek twice. As you near the North Fork a trail goes off to the right, go straight and cross the North Fork. Follow the South Fork on up to the falls. A very easy one hour walk, about 1.5 miles one way. The stream and falls area has several ferns not commonly seen in our area. *Asplenium resiliens*, Black-stem Spleenwort grows on the cliffs and rocks around the falls. *Asplenium rhizophyllum*, Walking Fern and *Cystopteris bulbifera*, Bulblet Fern, can be found on rocks in and around the stream well before you get up near the falls. Other ferns include *Deparia acrostichoides*, Silvery Glade Fern; *Dryopteris goldiana*, Goldie's Wood Fern; *Dryopteris intermedia*, Fancy Fern; *Dryopteris marginalis*, Marginal Shield Fern; *Polypodium virginiana*, Rock Cap Fern; *Adiantum pedatum*, Maiden-hair Fern.



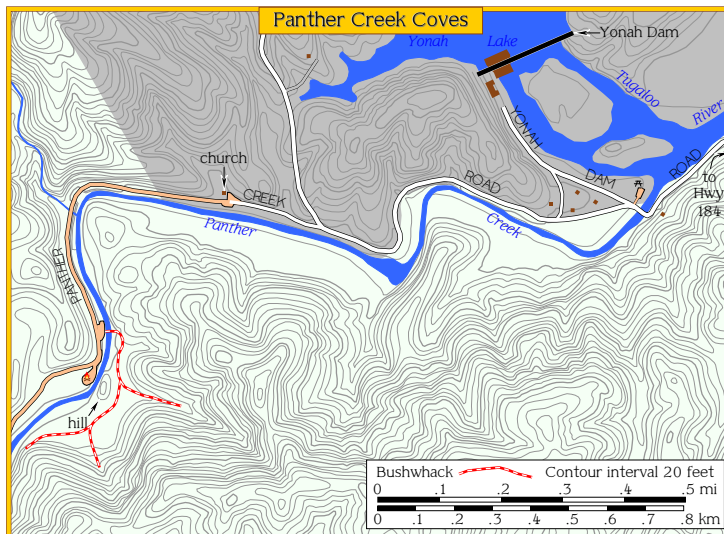
Lower Panther Creek Coves* map page 3 A5, 70 ☿ right ↗

A great hike for hard core wildflower enthusiasts; best in mid to late April, early May. Lower Panther Creek is just south of our area but many of our rare plant species are very common here. This lower creek area lies along the Brevard fault line where there are exposed rock outcrops of low grade marble.

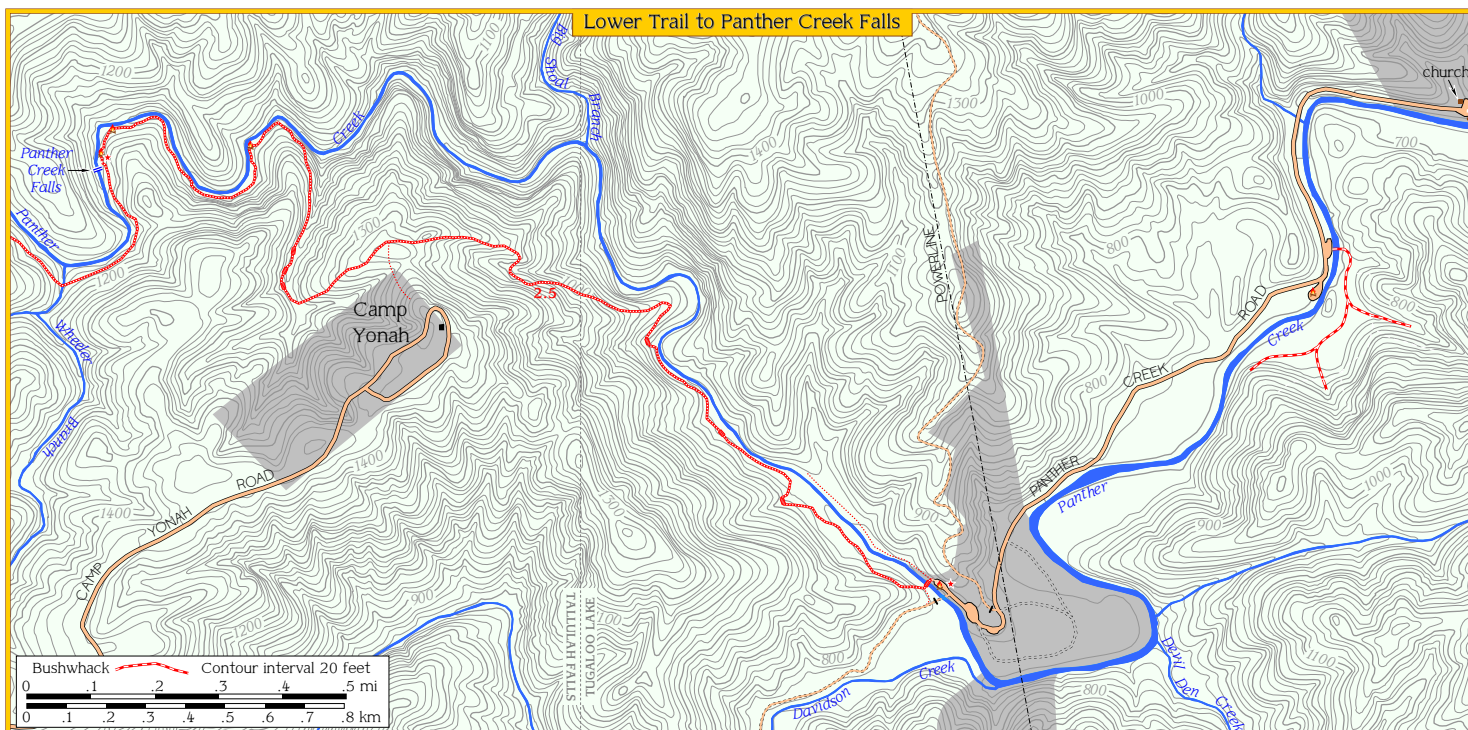
Use the map on page 70. From the Highway 76 bridge travel east about 9.4 miles and turn right onto Unity Church Road. Easy to miss this turn. It's in a straight and level stretch of Highway 76, a church on the left just before you get to Unity Church Road on the right. Unity Church Road has very sharp curves and has proven to be very dangerous, drive carefully. After 6.4 miles Unity Church Road tees into Cleveland Pike, turn right. At about 2 miles you will cross the Tugaloo River into Georgia and come to Highway 184, Yonah Dam Road. Turn right and drive about 4.3 miles. Here you will find a small concrete bridge crossing Panther Creek. You'll see Yonah Dam in the distance and a picnic area on the right. Bearing left drive another 0.6 miles and turn left onto a dirt road, Panther Creek Road. Drive pass the church and at about 0.7 miles along this dirt road you will find two large pull-offs with fire rings on the left. At this parking/campsite area notice the knob or small but prominent hill on the other side of the creek. You'll need to wade across Panther Creek. The bushwhack lines on the map indicate the best route to the bluff and cove areas. Be very careful when exploring the coves, the soil here is extremely fragile. Although the area along the road is frequently heavily littered the cove area on the opposite side of the stream is mostly untouched.

Panther Creek Falls map page 3 A5, 70 ☿ below ↘

This is another excellent wildflower hike you can take from the lower Panther Creek area. Drive to the end of Panther Creek road. Here you'll find a footbridge that crosses the stream. After crossing the stream you'll see a trail angling to the right and going upward along a ridge. Panther Creek upstream of this area is little traveled,



quite beautiful and great for wildflowers. The hike to the falls is about 2.5 miles, mostly uphill. The trail often goes along the ridge overlooking Panther Creek with numerous opportunities to drop down and explore rock and sand beaches along the creek. There are problem areas with precipitous slippery slopes that could be dangerous for toddlers. At one place the trail goes down to the creek. Walking upstream look carefully to find where the trail resumes. Most visitors to the falls hike down from the Panther Creek Picnic Area, on Historic Highway 441 (not covered in this guide). Drive south from Tallulah Falls and at about 3.5 miles take Historic 441 to the right. The Panther Creek Picnic Area is another mile on the right. Hike is bout 3.5 miles one way to the falls. Most hikers say this trail is easier although longer than the hike up from lower Panther Creek. The upper trail is also great for wildflowers.



A few of the plant species found in the Panther Creek area.

Aquilegia canadensis, Columbine
Asplenium rhizophyllum, Walking Fern
Cardamine concatenata, Cut-leaved Toothwort
Cardamine diphylla, Two-leaved Toothwort
Cardamine flagellifera, Blue Ridge Bitter Cress
Carex plantaginea, Plantain Sedge
Carex radfordii, Radford's Sedge
Caulophyllum thalictroides, Blue Cohosh
Celtis laevigata, Sugar Berry
Cladrasia kentukea, Yellow Wood

Corallorrhiza wisteriana, Spring Coral Root
Cystopteris protrusa, Spreading Bladder Fern
Diplazium pycnocarpon, Glade Fern
Dryopteris goldiana, Goldie's Wood Fern
Galearis spectabilis, Showy Orchis
Hepatica acutiloba, Sharp-lobed Liverwort
Hybanthus concolor, Green Violet
Juglans cinerea, Butter Nut
Mitella diphylla, Miterwort
Osmorhiza claytonii, Sweet Cicely

Oxalis violacea, Violet Wood Sorrel
Pedicularis canadensis, Lousewort
Phacelia bipinnatifida, Loose-flowered Phacelia
Phacelia dubia dubia, Small-flowered Phacelia
Sanguinaria canadensis, Bloodroot
Silene virginica, Fire Pink
Trillium cuneatum, Little Sweet Betsy
Trillium rugelii, Southern Nodding Trillium
Trillium vaseyi, Vasey's Trillium
Valerianella radiata, Corn Salad

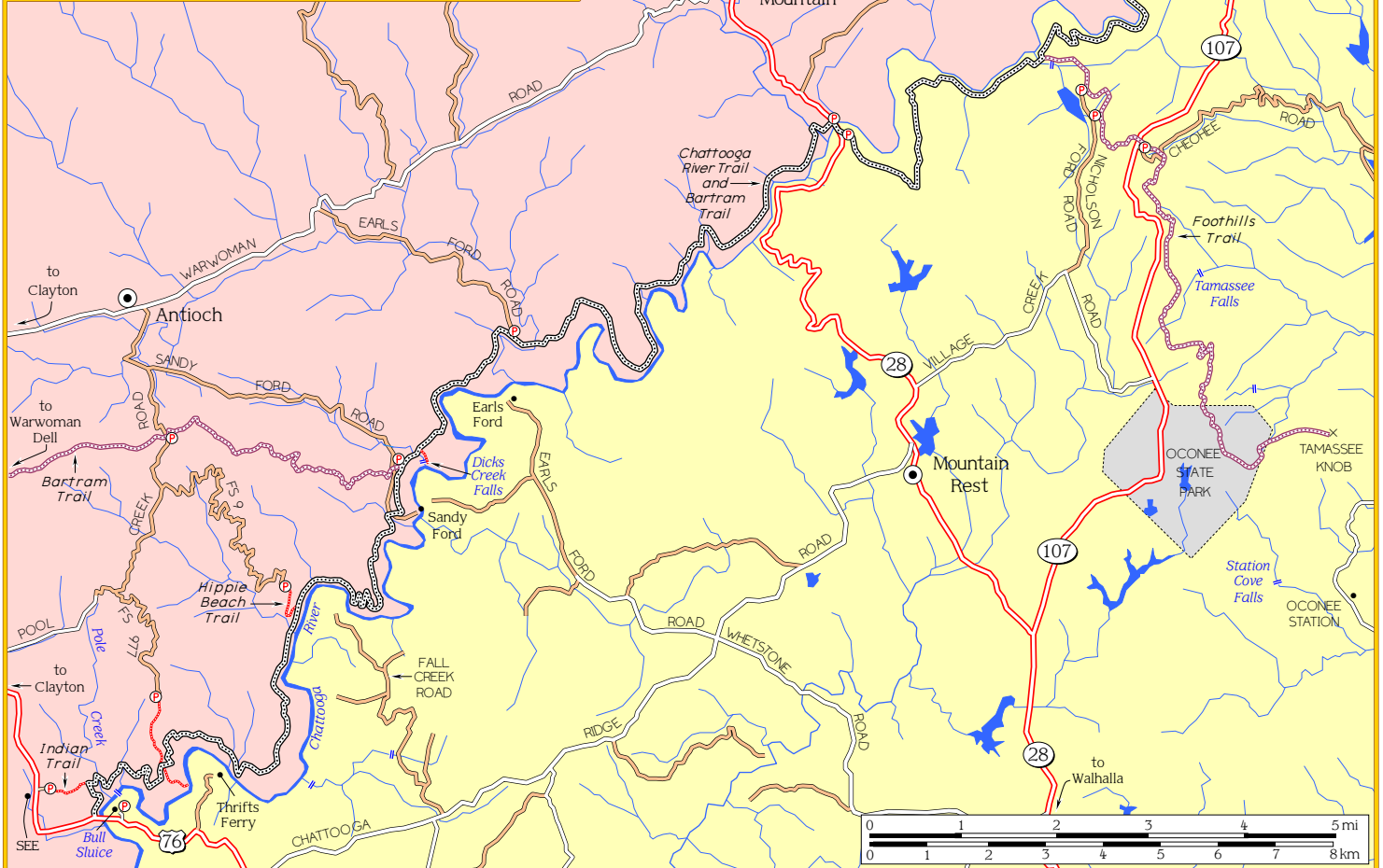
Our Long Trails

Our Area has three long trails referred to as “Nationally Recognized Trails in some publications: The Bartram Trail, Chattooga River Trail and Foothills Trail. The Chattooga River Trail is totally within the Chattooga River watershed. It shares 12.9 miles of trail with the Bartram Trail and 6.9 miles with the Foothills Trail. The Bartram Trail has 31.9 miles in our area before it becomes contiguous with the Chattooga River Trail. Of all our public trails these three are the best maintained and have footbridges over most streams. The trail map on this and the next page have a tiny symbol (P) for trailhead parking. For detailed lists of trail mileages, waypoints and GPS coordinates for these trails see the “Index of GPS Coordinates”, a downloadable CNPS PDF.

Chattooga River Trail *map right →*

The Chattooga River Trail is well named. It parallels the Chattooga River from The Highway 76 bridge northeast to Ellicott Rock, about 35.6 miles. Another disjunct section parallels the Chattooga River Section 00 for 5.4 miles from Bull Pen Road up to Whiteside Cove Road. Presently the total length of the Chattooga Trail is 40.9 miles. Mileages listed below are rounded to tenth of a mile. Beginning at the Highway 76 parking lot the trail goes north for 19.0 miles on the Georgia side of the river then crosses the Highway 28 bridge to the South Carolina side for the remaining 15.8 miles to Ellicott Rock. While the total length of this section of the Chattooga River Trail is 34.8 miles it ends in a wilderness area at Ellicott Rock. This means that you must hike out from that point. The shortest hike out is 3.2 miles on the Bad Creek Trail making the total hiking distance at least 39.5 miles. The entire trail is kept in good repair. Steep places usually have switchbacks so that virtually all of the trail is gently sloping, level or easy walking up and down. I have met hikers that hike the 19.0 miles south of the Highway 28 bridge in one day. This isn't difficult but is much too speedy for my style of hiking. It leaves little time for nature appreciation, photography or rest stops of more than a few minutes. I recommend a total distance of 8 to 10 miles for a regular day hike. Longer daylight hours and good weather conditions can allow for longer day hikes.

Chattooga River Trail mileage	
Highway 76 Bridge to Sandy Ford Road (GA)	10.0
Sandy Ford Road (GA) to Earls Ford Road (GA).....	3.4
Earls Ford Road (GA) to Highway 28 Bridge	5.6
Highway 28 Bridge to Lick Log Creek.....	4.5
Lick Log Creek Falls to Burrells Ford parking.....	7.5
Burrells Ford to Ellicott Rock.....	3.8
Bull Pen Road Bridge to Whiteside Cove Road	5.4



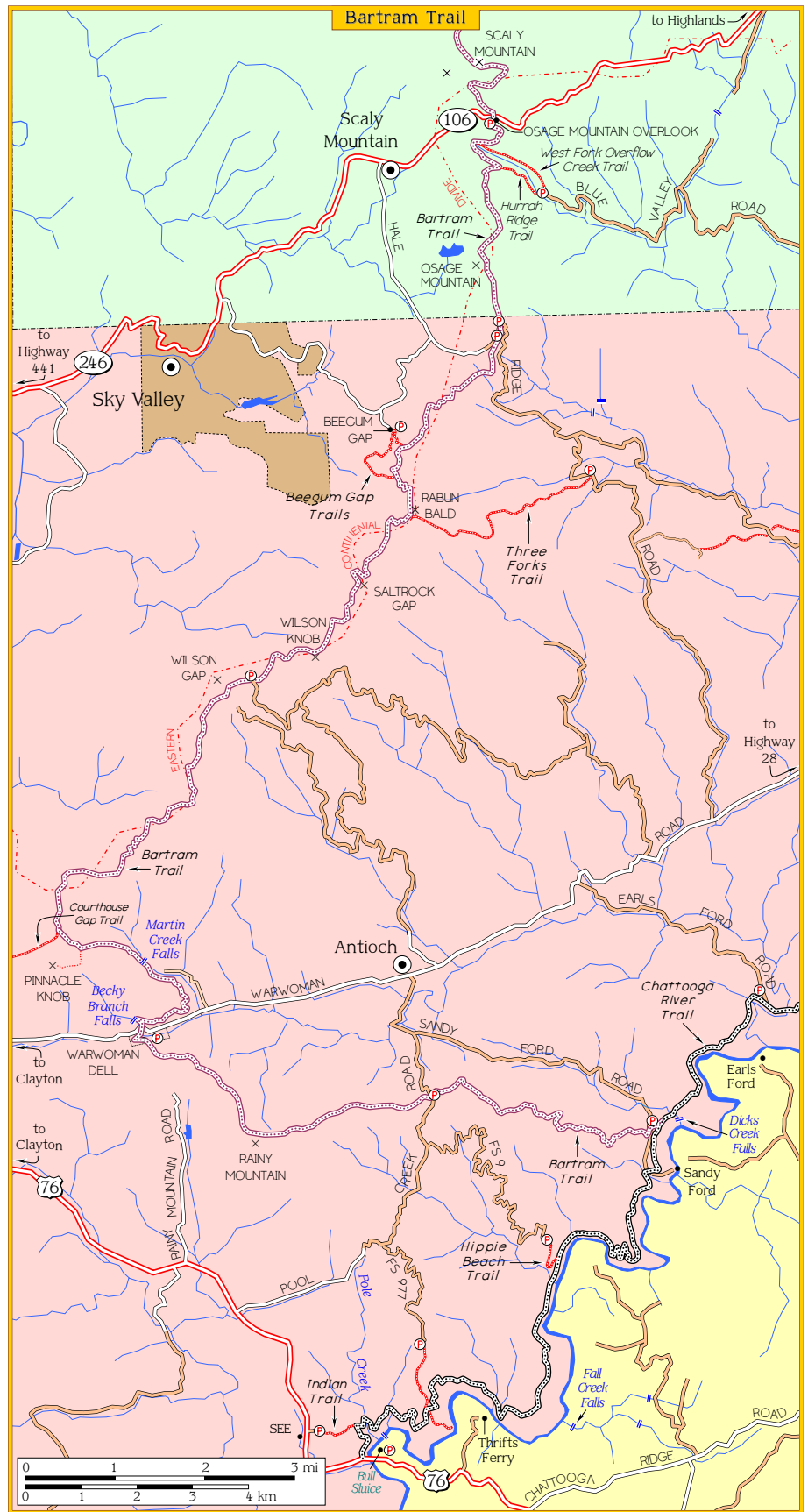
The Chattooga River Trail does not continue downstream of the Highway 76 bridge and no riverside trails continue upstream from the northern end of the trail at Ellicott Rock. A trail, Bad Creek Trail, does continue northward beyond Ellicott Rock but it veers away from the river to the east then north to Bull Pen Road, *see Bad Creek Trail page 11*. A disjunct section of the Chattooga River Trail, river right, goes upstream along the river from the Bull Pen Road Iron Bridge. It is referred to in this document as the Section 00 (double zero) Trail although it does now have signage saying Chattooga River Trail. *See Section 00 Trail page 10*. The southern section of the Chattooga River Trail comes to an abrupt end at the Highway 76 Bridge. You have to cross the bridge to get to the parking lot. It is interesting to note that there is no riverside trail along the remainder of the river downstream of the Highway 76 Bridge. However it is possible to hike along a very vague and often disjunct trail that goes from the bridge down to Screaming Left Turn on the South Carolina side of the river, *see Screaming Left Turn, page 48*. On the Georgia side there is a short riverside section of trail that goes upstream from Camp Creek to Little Woodall Rapid. It is a well used, well maintained trail.

Bartram Trail *map right →*

The Bartram Trail is internationally known and is named for the famous American naturalist William Bartram (1739–1823). Even after reading much about Bartram and some of his writings I had always thought he was a European. Don't know where I got that. He was born in Kingsessing, Pennsylvania a suburb of Philadelphia. For many years Bartram explored much of the southeastern United States. No one knows exactly where he traveled but the many miles of foot trails and canoe trails named after him are supposed to loosely replicate his travels. The Bartram Trail enters our area from the northwest at the summit of Scaly Mountain. Here the Eastern Continental Divide separates the Tennessee River watershed from the Chattooga River watershed. Going south from Scaly Mountain, the Bartram Trail crosses Rabun Bald, continues on to Warwoman Dell then eastward where it joins the Chattooga River Trail after crossing Sandy Ford Road. Both trails are then contiguous all the way to the Highway 28 Chattooga River Bridge. At Ridley Fields (SC) there is some confusion but it does continue beyond this point. It is congruent with the Chattooga River Trail until it joins the Foothills Trail at the Lick Log Falls area and continues on to Oconee State Park.

Foothills Trail *maps page 17, 73*

The Foothills Trail is over 80 miles long, begins at Ceasars Head State Park near Greenville and ends at Tamassee Knob after passing through Oconee State Park. Only 17 miles of this trail is within our area. After leaving the Whitewater Falls area, the Foothills Trail enters our area at the Sloan Bridge parking area on Highway 107. It then parallels the East Fork Chattooga River southward 3.3 miles to Fish Hatchery Road. From here it crosses Medlin Mountain and at 3.3 miles there's a spur trail going right down to the Chattooga River Trail. Some hikers take this spur in order to visit Spoon Auger Falls. Continuing on the Foothills Trail it's 0.5 miles down to the parking area at Burrells Ford Road. After crossing Kings Creek, still within the Burrells Ford Campground, the Foothills Trail joins and becomes contiguous with the Chattooga River Trail. After 2.2 miles on the main trail there's a



junction with a trail that come down from the end of Big Bend Road. You'll soon see or hear Big Bend Falls then cross a ridge back down to a scenic hike along the river. Another spur trail from Big Bend Road near Crack in the Rock Hole in the Wall and it's 2.8 miles on to Lick Log Falls. Some minor confusion. At the falls the Foothills Trail goes left, leaving the Chattooga River Trail, 0.7 miles to the Nicholson Ford Road parking area. From here it's only 1.5 miles to Highway 107 near Cheohee Road. Here the Foothills Trail leaves the Chattooga River watershed and continues on to Oconee State Park.

Bartram Trail Mileage

Scaly Mountain	0.0
Osage Mountain Overlook	1.7 1.7
West Fork Overflow Creek Trail junction	0.6 2.3
Hurrah Ridge Trail junction	0.5 2.8
Hale Ridge Road.....	2.9 5.7
Beegum Gap Trail junction.....	2.7 8.4
Beegum Gap 4WD Trail junction	0.7 9.1
Rabun Bald summit	0.7 9.8
Big Ridge Trail junction.....	0.2 10.0
Flint Gap and Trail junction.....	0.4 10.4
Wilson Gap Road	3.4 13.8
Wilson Gap.....	0.7 14.5
Courthouse Gap Trail junction	4.8 19.3
Pinnacle Knob Trail.....	0.3 19.6
Martin Creek Falls.....	1.4 21.0
Becky Branch Falls	2.0 23.0
Warwoman Dell.....	0.3 23.4
Pool Creek Road	5.2 28.6
Chattooga River Trail near Sandy Ford Rd	3.3 31.9

Chattooga River Trail Mileage

Highway 76 Bridge trailhead.....	0.0
Indian Trail junction	0.7 0.7
Eight Ball Trail junction.....	2.0 2.7
Thrifts Ferry.....	1.7 4.4
Lick Log Creek (GA).....	2.6 6.9
Hippie Beach Trail junction	0.3 7.2
Rock Creek.....	2.8 10.0
Sandy Ford Road (20 yards).....	0.0 10.0
Bartram Trail junction	0.7 10.7
Dicks Creek bridge	0.3 11.0
Earls Ford Road	2.4 13.4
Warwoman Creek bridge	0.2 13.6
West Fork bridge	5.8 19.4
Highway 28 bridge.....	0.2 19.6
Ridley Fields trailhead.....	0.4 20.0
Lower Trail junction	2.9 22.9
Ira Branch.....	0.4 23.3
Nicholson Ford.....	0.2 23.5
Lick Log Creek (SC).....	0.8 24.3
Crack in Rock Hole in Wall	2.7 27.0
Trail up to Big Bend Road	0.0 27.0
Big Bend Falls	1.7 28.7
Big Bend Road Trail junction.....	0.5 29.2
Burrells Ford parking	2.6 31.8
Burrells Ford Road trailhead	0.3 32.1
Foothills Trail junction	0.6 32.7
East Fork and East Fork Trail.....	1.0 33.7
Bad Creek.....	0.7 34.4
Ellicott Rock.....	1.2 35.6

Disjunct Section 00

Bull Pen Road bridge	0.0
Cane Creek.....	1.8 1.8
County Line Trail junction	0.4 2.2
Norton Mill Creek	0.6 2.8
Whiteside Cove Road trailhead	2.6 5.4

Foothills Trail Mileage

Sloan Bridge parking.....	0.0
Fish Hatchery Road.....	3.3 3.3
Junction spur to Chattooga River Trail.....	3.3 6.6
Burrells Ford parking	0.5 7.1
King Creek.....	0.4 7.5
Big Bend Road Trail junction.....	2.3 9.8
Big Bend Falls	0.6 10.4
Crack in Rock Hole in Wall	1.6 12.0
Lick Log Creek Falls	2.8 14.8
Nicholson Ford parking	0.7 15.5
Cheohee Road at Highway 107	1.5 17.0

It has become obvious that street signs, Forest Service signs and other directional signs are being removed from numerous places in our area. It is believed by many that the Forest Service is continually updating Forest Service signs so some signs may be only temporarily missing. These include the large brown and yellow signs and trailhead signs. For reasons not exactly clear, vandals often remove street signs, trail signs and other markers. This could actually result in a fatality should a rescue vehicle be delayed because a sign was missing. Volunteers and others interested in hiking often put up their own signs and these, many of which are accurate quality signs, are sometimes removed by people dedicated to maintaining certain trails. Businesses in our area are constantly getting visitors asking for directions to our waterfalls and other scenic spots. Following these directions they then discover that the signs they were told to follow are missing.

I regularly meet hikers that need directions, are on the wrong trail or are unable to find the correct trail. The Chattooga River attracts visitors year round and is one of our most important resources. Good signage will help. Our National Forests were established to protect and preserve our natural wonders and make them available for all of us to enjoy. When following directions in this booklet remember that any of the signs mentioned may at any given time be missing.

Politicians seeking to improve tourism have contracted agencies to install signs advertizing or directing visitors to places of interest. The signs do little to help visitors find a trailhead. This often creates confusion and causes visitors to take fruitless detours in an effort to see the advertized attraction. Many people that follow these signs believe the waterfall or attraction will be visible from their car.

Trail maintenance. Hikers can often account for the bulk of trail maintenance by simply removing small limbs, forest litter and human litter from our trails. Windfalls can be the most troublesome. Rerouting the trail around windfalls usually isn't a good option. It can increase the length of the trail or make for a very circuitous route. In September 2017 hurricane Irma did an unprecedented amount of damage to our trails. Many of our largest hardwoods were felled throughout the Chattooga and Chauga watersheds. Major trails like the Chattooga River Trail, Foothills Trail and Bartram Trail have for the most part been fully restored. Other less traveled trails, i.e. Fork Mountain Trail, are still in need of major repair. This guide makes virtually no mention of trail blazes. I grew up without blazes, have always ignored them and have depended on learning and paying attention to the "lay of the land". Most of my hikes in the past have been short bushwhacks that follow land features like ridges, drainages or streams in search of wildflowers or wildlife. In recent years I've come to realize that many hikers do depend on blazes. I must admit that when hiking a trail it can sometimes be very easy to veer off onto the wrong trail. Anyway, many of our trails are now getting blazes. I applaud the volunteers doing this work. I know little about blazes but have been told that blue blazes usually indicate a spur trail. I also have a personal opinion about blazes. The metal or plastic blazes that are nailed to trees look nice, look like they will last forever and are easy to spot. This said, I like the old fashion painted-on blazes better – just don't like nailing stuff to trees. Animals try to eat the signs or the paint off the sign – not good. Some signs have misspelled words, including "official" signs.

With the new (2017) federal government administration there has been greatly increased pressure to "harvest" resources from public lands. Converting our area's National Forests to Pine farms is happening at an accelerating pace. Contracts allowing clear cuts are now routine in our area. The clear cut area is then burned, sometimes twice, treated with herbicides and planted with alien Pine. Pine farms are not forests: they replace our native hardwood forest and are of little use to our native wildlife. A recent clear cut in Long Creek was titled "Pine Tree Removal Project". All the trees were removed, the land burned, treated with herbicides and replanted with Pine. Unnecessary so called "prescribed burns" destroy our native fauna and flora. We can expect these deceptive practices to increase. The Forest Service is fully aware that their published plan doesn't have to match their actions.

The Hiker's Guide to the Chattooga River is free to share with others. It is available only on CD, DVD, flash drive or other computer media and is online as a free downloadable PDF. It has no advertisements, viruses or malicious content and is updated monthly. The PDF can be viewed online but must be downloaded for the features to work properly. For a link email wslesan@gmail.com. A DVD with the guide, printable maps, additional Chattooga related documents and pictures is available free by U.S. Mail. Write or Email your address to the Chattooga Native Plant Society. Your address will not be used for any other purpose.

CNPS documents are compiled from data collected by the Chattooga Native Plant Society and other amateur researchers. The sole purpose is to catalog the plants, animals and scenic locations in the Chattooga River area. Some data may conflict with data of other researchers. All drawings, charts, maps, fonts and photographs are the property of the –



Chattooga Native Plant Society
191 Daffodil Hill Road
Mountain Rest, SC 29664
wslesan@gmail.com

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