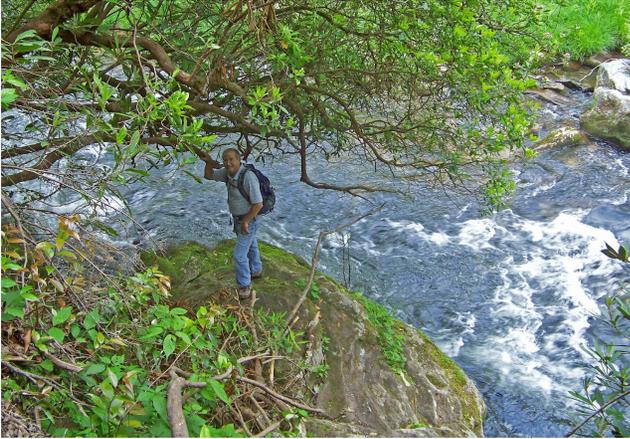


EAST FORK to ELLICOTT ROCK from FISH HATCHERY



DESCRIPTION: In 1811, Andrew Ellicott surveyed the then disputed GA/NC boundary. He engraved a rock on the east side of the Chattooga with "N-G" for NC-GA. The still visible marking is the destination for four hikes via: 1) Fowler/Bad Creek trails from Bull Pen Road in NC; 2) the northern terminus of Chattooga River Trail from Burrells Ford in SC; 3) East Fork Trail and Chattooga River from Walhalla Fish Hatchery, also in SC; and 4) Ellicott Rock Trail also from Bull Pen Road, in GA. A more precise marker, now called Commissioner's Rock, was inscribed in 1813. Its location is still disputed...500ft upstream or 10ft down. Neither are correct. The 35th parallel official border is 230ft downstream.

While the history is interesting, it is the beauty of the rolling forest paths and multi stream encounters ...especially with the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River...that attract us to the Ellicott Rock Wilderness. Lunch on a scenic beach by the river just downstream of the Rock is an added delight.

All four hikes involve only a few hundred feet of elevation gain with multiple ups and downs ie, easy to moderate. The first NC hike, is shortest at about 6 miles and includes several small stream crossings. The GA trail is about the same, but needs re-exploration after years of disuse. The route from Burrells Ford, is about 7 miles and includes Spoonauger Falls in route. The hike along the East Fork and the Chattooga affords the most riverside views and totals about 8 miles. Most of these trails are adequately marked or readily tracked.

DIRECTIONS to Fish Hatchery(GPS: 34.986189, -83.070756)
Meet, pool, and depart as usual from KKEPA at 830AM and/or Walhalla at 9A. Head NW on SC28 then SC107 11.7 miles to FishHatchery Road. Go left on Hatcheryfor 1.6 miles to the parking lot. There are facilities and no fees
Expect to return by 3PM. UPDATED Jun 2017

