

# LOWER WHITEWATER LOWER WHITEWATER FALLS from BAD CREEK



DESCRIPTION: Lower Whitewater Falls, 200 ft tall, though half the height of the better known upper falls, is also a dramatic, picture postcard landmark complete with viewing platform. It is accessed via a moderate four mile hike, in and out from the Duke Power Bad Creek facility. From the parking area we head out and up behind the kiosk, first through open field, then into steeper, rolling forest which includes stairways and two iron bridges where we often have lunch on returning from the falls. An easier, less scenic return option to the parking area is available via a forest service road. However, before or after the falls, we usually also hike Coon Branch along its mile of flat (easy) streamside pathways through verdant forest. That trail ends at a centuries old hemlock, still standing but killed by blight. The hike thus totals about 6 miles and its multiple climbs total perhaps 800ft.

## DIRECTIONS (GPS: 35.012014, -82.999672)

Gather, pool and depart at 8:45A from KKEPA. Reassemble at the Bad Creek parking area, which is 2 miles past Duke's automatic gate (located 10 miles north of SC11 on SC130). There are no fees and there are porta-potties at the trailhead. Some hikers go direct to Bad Creek in time for a 9:30A hike start from there. Expect to return by 230P.

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