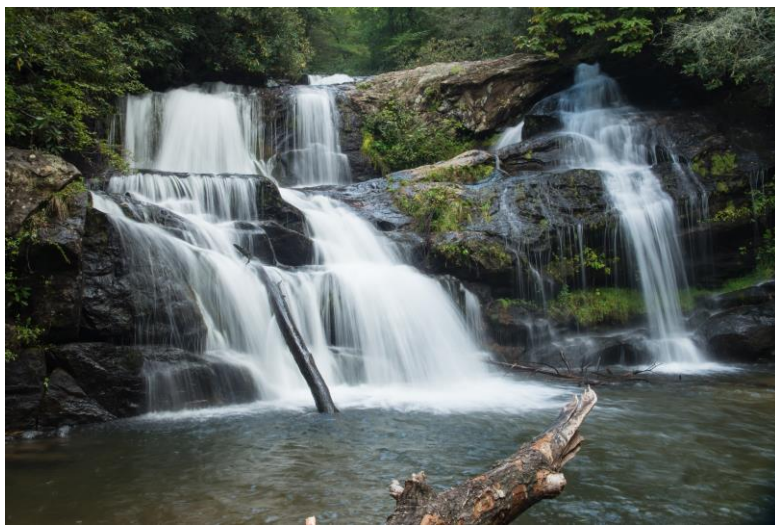


Hemlock Falls on Moccasin Creek



It's an easy hike along the bed of a long-ago abandoned logging railroad to Hemlock Falls. Along the one-mile trail you are never far from cascades and pools. Part way along (opposite a bench on your left) you will see a tiny free-falling feather of a small stream dropping down into Moccasin Creek. Arriving at the main falls site there is ample room for picnicking and, for the brave, a dip in the ice-cold swimming hole.



For the extra hardy, you can reach what the locals call "the upper falls" or "the unnamed falls" shown in this second photo. Go around the right side of Hemlock Falls, cross the creek and head uphill until you reach a trail paralleling the creek. (This may even be a continuation of the old logging railroad bed.) Anyhow, it isn't marked and isn't maintained. After approximately one-half mile you will hear the falls down below a steep bank.

Notes for the photographer:
Back on the main trail, just upstream from the little footbridge you will reach a place where the stream widens and flows over smooth, time worn boulders. I've been here often to make photographs of rushing mountain water.



Directions: From the square in Clarkesville, drive west on State 197. At 20.7 miles turn left onto Andersonville Lane. It's a single lane gravel roadway. Drive one-half mile to the parking area at the end of the roadway.

From Helen drive north on State 75. At Robertstown (about one mile) turn right on State 356. Drive eleven miles through Unicoi State Park, etc., and make a left onto State 197. At 7.7 miles turn left onto Andersonville Lane. It's a single lane gravel roadway. Drive one-half mile to the parking area at the end of the roadway.

GPS of the parking area: 34°50'50.9"N 83°35'48.1"W

Interesting fact: Logging railroads were all over the mountains. They were often built for just a cutting season or two and then pulled up and re-assembled in another location. All seemed to have disappeared by the early twentieth century.