

Cherokee Hiking Club 2016 Hike and Event Schedule (Tentative)

January

- 1/10, Sunday – Annual Hike Planning Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Family Resource Center. Host: James Anderson.
- 1/16, Saturday - Graysville Mtn Section of the Cumberland Trail; this is a new section. Leader Randy Morris, 8 miles round trip, moderate, along Roaring Creek. Rescheduled from 11/7/2015, when it got rained out.
- 1/16-17, Saturday-Sunday – Sandhill Crane Festival, sponsored by TWRA (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) and corporate sponsor Olin Chlor-Alkali Products. At Hiwassee Refuge and Birchwood community Center. See <https://www.tn.gov/twra/article/sandhill-crane-festival>.
- 1/28-31 - SEFTC- see CHC January newsletter for details.

February

- 2/6, Saturday – Big Creek Trail/Grassy Gap Trail/ Yellowstand Lead Trail hike on the bottom slopes of Big Frog Mountain, leader Jack Callahan. 6.5 mile loop, moderate, 1000 feet elevation gain, a possible stream crossing. Limited to 10 hikers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Thunder Rock Campground parking lot. To reserve a slot, you must contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 or jackn1945@bellsouth.net.
- 2/6, Saturday – Thunder Rock Hike, leader Clayton Pannell. 3.5 miles with car shuttle, easy. Optional additional mileage for those who would like to attempt it, on the nearby connecting trails. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Thunder Rock Campground parking lot.
- 2/11, Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the Monterrey Restaurant in Cleveland. Ann Gray has reserved this.
- 2/13, Saturday – Flats Mountain Hike, leader Rick Harris. 6.2 miles, moderately strenuous, around 500 feet elevation gain, near Indian Boundary Campground. Possible ice formation. Meet at Cherochala Skyway Visitor's Center in Tellico Plains at 9:00 a.m. See old CHC writeup for this hike at <http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org/Flats%20Mtn%20Trail.pdf>. (**Note:** ignore the driving directions on this site, as we will be carpooling from Tellico Plains)
- 2/20, Saturday – Rock Creek Trail Hike in the Little Frog Wilderness Area, leader Randy Morris. We will start on U.S. Highway 64 and end on the BMT. 7.5 miles with car shuttle, moderately strenuous (uphill before the creek). There is a stream crossing of Rock Creek which will probably not be amenable to being rock-hopped, so please prepare.
- 2/27, Saturday - Pickett State Park overnight trip with hikes, including views of up to 9 natural arches, leader Ann Gray. As mentioned in an article in the November/December 2013 Tennessee Conservationist, Tennessee has over 280 arches, with fewer than 25 on trails accessible to the general public. Pickett State Park itself has nine arches, making it the highest concentration of arches in the state. The trails to the arches there have an elevation gain of less than 100 feet with the total mileage less than six miles. The cabins, some of which were built by the CCC, have a two-night minimum (\$60 per night), but we've been told that in the winter we could probably walk up and obtain a one-night cabin if they are not

already booked. If not, there is Jordan's Motel, 20 miles away. We would be arriving Saturday morning and spend Saturday night there. Also to explore is Pogue Creek Canyon nearby, with a 1.5 mile loop trail (rated moderate) to the scenic overlook of the canyon. There is a very good German restaurant (the Bacaras Family Restaurant) in the area, as also emphasized by Michael Friedman.

March

- 3/5, Saturday – Boyd Gap to White Water Center, leader Clayton Pannell. 3.5 miles with car shuttle, easy, mostly downhill. Meet at the WWC at 9:00 a.m. to set up the car shuttle.
- 3/10, Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6:00 p.m., location TBA.
- 3/12, Saturday – Sandy Gap to Unicoi Gap/BMT Hike, leader Jack Callahan. 8 miles round trip, 1000 feet elevation gain, moderate. Good trail with a little water, but no stream crossings. This is a thru hike from Sandy Gap south to Unicoi Gap; it will require shuttling of vehicles. Limited to 10 hikers. Anyone wishing to join must contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 or jackn1945@bellsouth.net to reserve a slot. Meet at the Coker Creek Welcome Center in Coker Creek TN at the intersection of Joe Brown Highway and U.S. Highway 68, at 9:00 a.m. to carpool.
- 3/19, Saturday – Bear Creek Loop Hike at Cloudland Canyon, leader Buddy Arnold. 9 miles, strenuous. About 9 miles total. I could not find elevation information, but looks like 1000 or so. There is a stream crossing that can cause the trail to be closed in wet weather. Rocky in some areas.
- 3/26, Saturday – Pocket Wilderness Hike/Rock Town Hike at Pigeon Mountain near Lafayette GA, leader Ann Gray. This event will consist of 2 hikes, 4.5 miles total, easy. The first will take place in the Pocket Wilderness of Pigeon Mountain, which is one of the finest areas for wildflowers in Georgia. This 2.5 mile loop trail contains nearly a quarter mile of boardwalk to prevent people from overrunning the wildflowers. There is a walk (not really a hike) up past the boardwalk with scenery to explore, including Pocket Creek Falls. See http://www.georgiatrains.com/gt/Pocket_Trail for a map and more info. For the second hike, we'll drive to the Rock Town trailhead for a 2 mile, easy roundtrip hike to the tallest spot on Pigeon Mountain. There is little change in elevation to the numerous sandstone “hoodoos”, one of which is called the Champagne Flute Hoodoo. See http://www.georgiatrains.com/gt/rocktown_trail for more info and a map for the Rock Town trail.

April

- 4/2, Saturday – Bald River Trail, leader Rick Harris. 9 miles round trip, moderate, from Tellico River Road to Bald River Road. Meet at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor’s Center in Tellico Plains at 9:00 a.m. See an old CHC writeup of this trail at <http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org/Bald%20River%20Trail.pdf>.
- 4/9, Saturday – John Muir Trail Cleanup, leader Clayton Pannell. 6 miles round trip or 3 miles with car shuttle, easy. Bring cleanup tools and work gloves. Meet at Childers Creek Parking area in Reliance TN at 9:00 a.m., or optional car pool at 8:30 a.m. at parking lot beside Hiwassee Corner Market on the corner of Route 30 and U.S. Highway 411 near Benton.

- 4/14 -Thursday - Monthly Meeting, 6:00 p.m., location TBA.
- 4/15 Friday - 4/17 Sunday - Trails and Trilliums Weekend with Hikes, South Cumberland State Park, sponsored by the Friends of the South Cumberland. See www.trailsandtrilliums.org for more info.
- 4/19 Tuesday - 4/23 Saturday - GSMNP Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Gatlinburg. CHC President Leon Bates will be leading several hikes. Registration will be at the Gatlinburg Convention Center and online. See www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org.
- 4/30, Saturday – Shakerag Hollow/Perimeter Trail/Beckwith’s Point Trail Wildflower Hike at Sewanee University of the South, leader Leon Bates. 4.2 miles, moderate-strenuous.

May

- 5/7 Saturday – Cleveland State Community College Trail Cleanup, leader Rebecca Levings. 3+ miles of looping trails, easy. Bring cleanup tools and work gloves. Meet in the parking lot between the gym and the tennis courts at Cleveland State CC at 9:00 a.m.
- 5/9-13, Monday-Friday, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Campout, leader Jack Callahan. Various hikes and things to see, such as Pinnacle Overlook, Hensley Settlement. Campsites \$20 per night, with senior rate \$10/night. No reservations required. Electrical connection, flush toilets, warm showers provided. No shelter, so use tent camping or adjoining RV/camper camp sites. See <http://www.nps.gov/cuga/index.htm>.
- 5/12 Thursday – Monthly Meeting, 6:00 p.m., location TBA.
- 5/15, Sunday – Tellico River Canoe Trip, leader Rick Harris. Trip to run on the lower Tellico River, from Tellico Plains to Tellico Lake. Meet with canoes behind the Cherohala Skyway Visitor’s Center at 9:00 a.m.
- 5/18, Wednesday – 5/22, Sunday, Wilderness Wildlife Week. See <http://www.pigeonforge.com/have-fun/smoky-mountains/wilderness-wildlife-week/> for more information.
- 5/21 Saturday – Rough Creek/BMT Hike, leader James Anderson. 6.5 miles round trip, moderate, stream crossing. Hikes to Chimneytop or Big Frog can be included if desired. We will park at the parking area on Forest Road 221.

June

- 6/4, Saturday - Whigg Meadow Hike, leader Jack Callahan. 3.2 miles round trip, easy-moderate rocky trail, elevation gain ~500 ft. Bring lunch. Blueberries will not be in season at that time, so no blueberry picking will be done. Limited to 12 hikers. Meet at the Cherohala Visitor’s Center in Tellico Plains. Anyone wishing to join must contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 or jackn1945@bellsouth.net to reserve a slot.
- 6/5, Sunday – Scenic Spur Trail, leader Clayton Pannell. 4 miles round trip, easy but with rocks and a big creek crossing (bring water shoes if desired). Meet at the Ocoee Hardee’s at 2:00 p.m. to carpool.
- 6/9, Thursday – June/July Monthly Meeting at 6:00 at the Charleston Park in Charleston TN. We also will hold the first-time Phil and Lettie Burress Courage Hike on the handicapped accessible trail around the park.
- 6/11, Saturday – Gahuti Trail Hike, leader Michael Friedman. This is a trail on Fort Mountain in Georgia. 10 miles, strenuous. Meet at Fort Mountain State Park between Elijah

and Chatsworth, Georgia. For those living near Cleveland or points north, a carpool can be arranged at the Ocoee Hardee's. See the map at http://www.gastateparks.org/content/Georgia/parks/trail_maps/FortMountain.pdf for a view of the trails at Fort Mountain State Park.

- 6/16-17, Thursday-Friday, Gregory Bald Hike near Townsend TN, leader Buddy Arnold. There are two options. The Gregory Ridge Trail is about 12 miles total with elevation gain of about 3000 feet. The other option is easier at 9 miles total and an elevation gain of about 2100 feet, but it is harder to get to, due to a 1-way road. Will decide on option later. Randy and Rick had some ideas on the best way to do this. This will be a day hike done on Friday, but hikers could come on Thursday to spend the night camping or staying in an available cabin or motel near Townsend. The native azaleas will be blooming at this time, and visible from the trail. See http://www.hikinginthesmokys.com/gregory_bald_trail.htm for more information on this trail.

July

- 7/9, Saturday – Sequatchie Canoe Trip, Chris Swain. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one close by for around \$50. Swimming will also be available.
- 7/14, Thursday – no Monthly Meeting this month since it was combined with the June meeting.
- 7/16, Saturday – Hiwassee Canoe Trip, Clayton Pannell. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one.
- 7/17, Sunday – Gee Creek Falls/Lowry Falls Hikes, Al Rymer. 2 hikes in one, totaling less than 3 miles. Gee Creek Falls trail – easy, 2 miles or less round trip, Lowry Falls trail – moderate/strenuous, .4 miles round trip. Meet at 2:00 p.m. Possible dinner afterwards at Stadium BBQ.

August

- 8/11, Thursday – Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m., location TBA.
- 8/13, Saturday – Arbutus Trail, leader Leon Bates. This is one of the trails in the Chilhowee Recreation Area. It is a 4.5 mile loop around Benton Falls. Rated easy. See map of the Chilhowee Rec Area at http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5275546.pdf.
- 8/21, Sunday – Hiwassee Float Trip to Patty Bridge, using car shuttle, leader Clayton Pannell. Meet at 2:00 p.m.

September

- 9/8, Thursday – Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m., location TBA.
- 9/17, Saturday – Ruth's Aster Hike, leader Ruth Pannell. The new trail reroute is done. If it is not too difficult, we will take that trail to the Narrows where the rare Ruth's Aster is blooming at this time. Otherwise we will take the old trail as we did in September 2015. 4-5 miles, moderate. Meet at the parking lot beside the Hiwassee Corner Market on the corner of Highway 30 and U.S. Highway 411 near Benton, to carpool.

- 9/20-22, Tuesday-Thursday – Backpack on the Appalachian Trail, leader Buddy Arnold. 17 miles total, strenuous, over 2000 feet elevation gain. It will start at Carvers Gap, and continue north to US 19 East, near Roan Mountain.
- 9/26-28, Monday-Wednesday – Beech Gap to Hangover to Bob Bald Backpack, leader Jack Callahan. 13 miles round trip, strenuous, 1000 feet elevation gain. Overnight trip for 2 nights: first at Bob Bald, second at Saddletree Gap. Limited to 6 hikers. See http://www.everytrail.com/view_trip.php?trip_id=2401600 for topographical map and other info. Anyone wishing to join must contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 or jackn1945@bellsouth.net to reserve a slot.

October

- 10/13, Thursday – Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m., location TBA.
- 10/15, Saturday – John Muir Trail Cleanup, leader Clayton Pannell. 6 miles round trip or 3 miles with car shuttle, easy. Bring cleanup tools and work gloves. Meet at Childer's Creek Parking area in Reliance TN at 9:00 a.m., or optional car pool at 8:30 a.m. at parking lot beside Hiwassee Corner Market on the corner of Route 30 and U.S. Highway 411 near Benton.
- 10/21-27, Friday-Thursday – Big South Fork Campground Camping Trip at Bandy Creek Group Camp, leader Clayton Pannell.

November

- 11/5, Saturday – Cleveland State Community College Trail Cleanup, leader Rebecca Levings. 3+ miles of looping trails, easy. Bring cleanup tools and work gloves. Meet in the parking lot between the gym and the tennis courts at Cleveland State CC at 9:00 a.m.
- 11/6, Sunday – Backpack at the Grand Canyon, leader Buddy Arnold.
- 11/10, Thursday – Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m., location TBA
- 11/19, Saturday – Starr Mountain Hike, leader James Anderson. Starts at Gee Creek. 6-7 miles, moderate. See <http://www.tellico-plains.com/files/StarrMtTrailsChart.pdf> for a map of the Starr Mountain Horse and Hiking Trails.
- 11/26, Saturday – Linda Davis Memorial Hike on the Cleveland Greenway, leader Randy Morris. This is our annual “walk off the Thanksgiving fat” hike. Easy, 8+ miles.

December

- 12/10, Saturday – annual Christmas Party/December meeting. This year James and Phyllis Anderson will be hosting it in their new home in Cleveland.