

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TO ATTEND ANY EVENT, YOU MUST CONTACT THE EVENT LEADER AS THERE ARE TIMES DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER CONDITIONS WHERE A HIKE IS CANCELED OR RESCHEDULED. THE EVENT LEADER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU IF YOU DO NOT GET ON THE ATTENDEE LIST.

Just to remind everyone, the Cherokee Hiking Club is considered the official maintainer of the Childers Creek Section of the Benton MacKaye Trail. This is a beautiful section that meanders along the Hiwassee River just upstream from Reliance. In order to keep it in good shape, as it is heavily used, then we need at least two trail maintenance days each year. We will publish the selected dates as they become available and send out reminders of the workday, what work we expect to do, and where to meet. The maintenance leader is James Anderson 423-715-8824.

JANUARY

Thursday, January 15, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Friday, January 16, 2026 - Hooper Bald / Huckleberry Knob Hike

Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Location: Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. Departure Time: 10 a.m. Return Time: 3 p.m. Hike Difficulty is Moderate. What to Bring: Cold weather gear; lunch; water. Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. We are hoping for snow to make this a memorable hike. The round trip to Hooper Bald (5440' high) is 2 miles, and the round trip to Huckleberry Knob (5540' high) is 1.8 miles. Afterwards, when we return to Tellico Plains, we can gather for supper and beverages at one of the local restaurants, perhaps the Peach Street Grill and the Tellico Brewing Company for some great cuisine and a local brew. If the weather is the wrong type of nasty (cold rain instead of snow), our rain date will be Friday, Jan 23. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Saturday, January 24, 2026 - Dry Pond Lead

Hike Leader: Randy Morris. Location: Meet at Thunder Rock Campground. Departure Time: 9:00 a.m. Return Time: 2 p.m. Hike Difficulty is Strenuous. What to Bring: Food, water, appropriate clothing. Brief Description: Be prepared for a 1700-foot gain as the first half of this hike *In and Out* hike is uphill. Bring appropriate clothing, food, and water. We should conclude this hike around 2:00 p.m. For additional information contact Randy Morris at 423-650-0485 or randytaylormorris@gmail.com.

Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 - Dutch Settlement

Hike Leader: Clair Sullivan. Location: Dutch Settlement. Departure Time: 9:00 a.m., Return Time: Afternoon. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Lunch, water, rain gear. Brief Description: Meet at TVA Sugar Loaf picnic area at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to Pace Gap to begin hike. Hike is 3 miles total. Contact: Cell phone: 404-849-0872.

Saturday, February 7, 2026 - Lowary Top

Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll. Location: Start at Quinn Springs, Cherokee National Forest, Hwy 30. Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 1 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous. Bring: Water & snacks. Brief Description: Hike up from Quinn Springs toward Oswald Dome. Near the top, cut off-trail and bushwhack 200 feet to an unimproved roadway. Follow the roadway to the end then bushwhack to a great view overlooking the Hiwassee River. There is significant (>1000 ft) elevation gain. Contact: jennifergeologist@gmail.com; Cell phone: 423-284-1256.

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 - Candies Creek Greenway and Wetlands

Hike Leader: James Anderson. Location: Parking lot on left side of Candies Lane just before it crosses Candies Creek if heading west. Departure Time: 1:00 p.m. Return Time: 2:30-3 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Water. Brief Description: We have seen various birds and even a fox on this walk. It is beautiful and not nearly as crowded as the Mouse Creek Greenway. Contact: Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to text or call James Anderson, the event leader at 423-715-8824 so you will be aware of any event changes or cancellations.

Thursday, February 12, 2026 - Monthly Club Meeting

We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck supper and a presentation by Jennifer Schroll on the *Cherokee Club Utah Hiking Trip*.

Thursday, February 19, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Friday, February 20, 2026 - Bald River Falls in the Winter

Hike Leaders - Brenda & Rick Harris (and Nahme, our dog) will be 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Location: Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. Departure Time: 10 a.m. Return Time: 3 p.m. Hike Difficulty is rated Moderate. What to Bring (food, water, etc.): Cold Weather Gear, lunch, water, your dog on leash. Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. We are hoping for a frozen waterfall or lots of water crashing over the several falls. This 4.5-mile loop hike will start at the Baby Falls Picnic Area. We will go up the road to the Cow Camp Trailhead, then up the ridge on this trail then downhill to the Bald River Trail. We will then turn left (upstream) and go to the Pawpaw Branch Crossing. From there, we will return downstream along the Bald River Trail to River Road past several incredible waterfalls, ending, of course, at the iconic Bald River Falls by the road. We will then walk along to road upstream to Baby Falls and our vehicles. Afterwards, we can dine at a local Tellico Plains restaurant, maybe Mexican food at one of the two Mexican restaurants, enjoying marguerites and authentic Mexican food. If the weather is terrible on Feb 20, we will reschedule the hike to Feb 27. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - Loop Hike Section 13D BMT

Hike Leader: Anne Anderson & Mary Alton. Location: Towee Creek Boat Launch. Departure Time: 9:30 a.m. Return Time: unknown. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Bring: Water, lunch, hiking shoes or boots, poles optional. \$3 daily parking fee. Pit toilet. Hike is a 5 mile "almost loop" with short shuttle. Moderate rating only because old John Muir is not maintained and requires at least one scramble over rocks and can be very muddy. There is a swinging bridge, small waterfall at Wildcat Creek, walk along Rock Island Creek, views of Hiwassee River and down into Towee Creek drainage. This is a joint hike with BMT association. Contact: Email: ahander@aol.com; Cell Phone: 423-284-7032.

Thursday, March 12, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck supper and a presentation by Judy Norton on the *History of Whitewater on the Ocoee River: The First Female Guide's Reflections*.

Thursday, March 19, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Friday, March 20, 2025 - Exploratory Hike to Upper Lost Creek Falls

Hike Leaders - Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Location: Webb Brothers Store in Reliance. Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 3 p.m. Hike Difficulty is Moderately Strenuous. Bring lunch, water, your dog on leash. Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This series of waterfalls have been lost to the outside world for decades, ever since the USFS quit maintaining the trail from the Lost Creek Campground upstream to the falls. We know people who have bushwhacked on the old trail. The falls are spectacular, but it is currently very difficult to get to them. We will meet at the Webb Bros store in Reliance, then carpool to the Lost Creek Campground. Then, with hand saws and loppers, we will work our way for two miles up the old trail to the waterfalls. As we go, we will leave flagging tape on the trees to mark the route. We are hoping the USFS will allow us to open this trail back up. Once we reach the falls, we will eat lunch, then return to our vehicles. This trail, we understand, crosses the creek several times, so you must be prepared for these water crossings. This is likely to be a difficult trip, so do not decide to go until you are sure you are up to the challenge. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Saturday, March 21, 2026 - Chickamauga Battlefield

Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll. Location: Meet at Battlefield Visitors lower parking lot. Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 1 p.m. Hike Difficulty is rated Easy. What to Bring: Water and snacks. Brief Description: Hike a 5 to 6-mile route in the Battlefield. See cannons and monuments; possibly climb the Wilder Brigade tower for great views. Meet at the Park N Ride in Cleveland at 9 a.m. to carpool or met us at the Visitors Center at 10 a.m. Contact: jennifergeologist@gmail.com; Cell phone: 423-284-1256.

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 - Johnston Woods

Hike Leader: James Anderson. Location: Meet in the trailhead parking area at Johnston Woods off Hwy 11 just south of Cleveland. Meet time: 10:00 a.m. Bring: Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water to drink. Hikers have the option of walking the 1.2-mile loop and then the 2.9-mile loop for a total of 4.2 miles or just one of the loops. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact: Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to text or call James Anderson, the event leader at 423-715-8824 so you will be aware of any event changes or cancellations.

Friday, March 27, 2026 - Rock Gorge Segment of the Cumberland Trail

Hike Leader: Randy Morris. Location: Near Sale Creek, Tennessee. Departure Time:

8:30 a.m. Return Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Bring: Food, water, sturdy hiking shoes. Brief Description: We will hike part of the Rock Creek George Segment of the Cumberland Trail with a total hike distance estimated at 5 - 7 miles. The Leggett Point Overlook Trail, with a beautiful view of the gorge, will be included. The trail lives up to its name as it is very rocky so hiking boots with ankle support are recommended. Please text or email if interested in attending no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, March 26. Contact Email: randytaylormorris@gmail.com Cell Phone: 423-650-0485.

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 - *Black Mountain, Cumberland Trail*

Hike Leader: Sue Robinson. Location: Crab Orchard. Meet at Spring City McDonalds at 9:30 a.m. eastern time to carpool. Departure Time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time: 3:00 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous. Bring: Lunch, water, good hiking shoes. Brief Description: In/out hike about 8-9 miles total with 1,643 elevation gain. Trail is a fairly gentle climb up to the top. A short side trip to Windless Cave an option on way up. At top there are amazing rock formations, old foundations and a spring house. We will eat our lunch at scenic view at top. Possible stop in Spring City for food/drink. Contact: cell phone: 423-519-9751 (please text and not call).

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 - *Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway*

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Friday, April 3, 2026 - *BMT along Hiwassee River from Childers Creek to the Powerhouse*

Hike Leaders - Brenda & Rick Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Location: Childers Creek Trailhead, John Muir/BMT Trail near Reliance. Departure Time: 10 a.m. Return Time: 3 p.m. Hike Difficulty is rated Easy. What to Bring: Lunch, water, your dog on leash. Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. For this ~ 5-mile hike, we will meet at the Childers Creek Trailhead, then position some vehicles up at the Appalachia Powerhouse. Then we will return to the Childers Creek Trailhead and hike upstream along this incredibly beautiful river along the John Muir Trail to the Towee Creek parking area. From there, we will follow the old JMT route or the road to the powerhouse. When we return to the parking lot at Childers Creek, we can fire up a stove and have hot chocolate and snacks, provided by Rick & Brenda. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - *Shakerag Hollow*

Hike Leader - Lucia Case. Location: The University of the South, Sewanee, TN. Meet at the University Gates parking lot. Departure time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time: Late

Afternoon. Rating: Easy. What to Bring: Money for lunch at the university dining hall, boots that can handle mud, roots, and rocks. Brief Description: Expect to see a profusion of spring wildflowers. After lunch we will go on a very short hike to the Natural Bridge. Contact Email: luciaclarkcase@gmail.com; Cell phone: 404-210-9634.

Thursday, April 9, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck supper and a presentation by Tom Darden on *A New Perspective for Forestry and Wildlife Conservation in India: Saving Tigers Through Partnerships*.

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - Ijams Nature Center

Hike Leaders - Margaret & Jack Callahan. Location: 2915 Island Home Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37290. Meet at the Nature Center. Departure time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time 2:00 p.m. Rating: Easy. What to Bring: Lunch and rain gear. Brief Description: There is a \$5.00 charge to park. The gardens are free. Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - Thursday, April 16, 2026 - Silver Comet + Chief Ladiga Trail

Led by Janet & Rob Coombs. Meeting Point: Parking Lot behind Wigs Wheels at 1229 Noble St in downtown Anniston, AL. Departure time: 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 14, 2026; Return Time 5:00 p.m., Thursday, April 16. What to Bring: Bicycle gear needed for a 3-day trip. Go to <https://bikesilvercomet.com> for further information. Brief Description: The Silver Comet and Chief Ladiga Trails are non-motorized paved rail-trails running 94.5 miles long between Smyrna, GA and Anniston, AL. Day 1 we will bicycle for 43 miles from Anniston, AL to stay overnight in Cedartown, GA. Day 2 we will bicycle for 30 miles from Cedartown, GA and spend the night in Dallas, GA. Day 3 we will bicycle for 22 miles from Dallas, GA to Smyrna, GA, where the bike shuttle service will pick us up to return to Anniston, Alabama. The elevation gain is around 700-1000 feet total. AllTrails highly rates this trail: "It's amazing how much is packed into this trail as it wanders through forests, wetlands, hills, a university campus, and Alabama towns. Very few other trails jam so much diversity into such a short distance. And it is so easy to take it all in." Lodging choices include B&B's, hotels, or camping. Bring: rain gear, spare tube, water, and snacks. Shuttle cost from Smyrna to Anniston is \$37. Contact: DrRCoombs@aol.com. Cell phone: 423-400-8008.

Thursday, April 16, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Friday, April 24, 2026 - BMT – Whigg Meadow to Beech Gap

Hike Leaders - Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Location: Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 3 p.m. Rating: Moderately Strenuous. What to Bring (food, water, etc.): Lunch, water, your dog on leash. Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 4.8-mile section of the BMT will start at Whigg Meadow (~5000' elevation) with its expansive views and will follow the BMT north to Mud Gap then along the state line ridge all the way to Beech Gap. With minimal tree foliage, the views should be fantastic, and the majority of the winter should be behind us. There is quite a bit of ups and downs, so expect to get a good workout. After the hike, we will have to retrieve vehicles up on the Whigg, then we can go to Tellico Plains for dinner possibly at the Ironworks Grille right on the edge of the Tellico River. They have outside seating where well-behaved dogs are allowed. Contact: Email: 513-260-1184.

Saturday, April 25, 2026 - Walls of Jericho

Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll. Location: Meet at the state line south of Winchester, TN. Departure Time: 8 a.m. Return Time: 5 p.m. Hike Difficulty is rated Easy. What to Bring: Water and lunch. Brief Description: After a short car shuttle, we will descend from the TN trailhead, some sections are steep. Hopefully we will see lots of wildflowers. At the bottom, we will cross two streams via foot bridges and travel ½ along a rugged section of trail, then ford a shallow, wide creek to reach the “walls” area. A fantastic geological area, like a cave above ground and maybe a waterfall. Then we will backtrack on the rugged trail and ascend 1300+ feet to the AL trailhead. 6 miles round trip. Contact: jennifergeologist@gmail.com; Cell phone: 423-284-1256.

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - Big Creek Trail

Hike Leader - Jack Callahan. Location: Big Frog Wilderness; Big Creek Trail. Departure time: 9:00 a.m. Return Time 5:00 p.m. Rating: Moderate. What to Bring: Lunch, water, shoes, and rain gear. Brief Description: A leisurely one-way walk about 2 miles. Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Friday, May 1, 2026 - Flats Mountain Hike

Brenda & Rick Harris (and Nahme, our dog) will lead this hike. Location: Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 3 p.m. Hike Difficulty:

Moderate. Bring: Lunch, water, your leashed dog. Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 6.2-mile hike takes us along the crest of the mountain which sits above the lake at Indian Boundary. The trail for the most part is downhill (~2000' drop), and most of this downhill trek is in the last 2 miles. We will leave cars at the bottom along Citico Creek Road, then travel to the trailhead at the top of the Cherohala Skyway at mile 19. We will first climb a couple hundred feet to two balds, then start our downhill trek, partly in and partly out of the Citico Creek Wilderness. So, we will be limited to 12 hikers. The middle two miles is often quite brushy unless we have been up there to clear the brush on a Thursday work trip before our hike, so long pants and long sleeve shirts are recommended. We will eat lunch at a gap about halfway down the trail. Afterwards, we can congregate at the Tellicafe for supper.

Monday - Friday, May 4 - 8, 2026 - Linville Gorge, NC, Backpack

Hike Leader - Buddy Arnold. Location: Linville Falls, RV Park and Cabins. This is about 4.5-hour drive from Cleveland. The plan is to stay at this private campground that has a choice of tent camping, RV sites, and cabins. A quick review shows the rates to be reasonable and with good facilities including showers and a camp store. The is more information at <https://share.google/i6Cm8SCEuliKdRLtt>. Hike Difficulty: There are many hikes in the area of varying difficulty. Information on day hikes can be found at <https://share.google/drGTy9CHN4xfQ6ZoQ>. Bring: Normal hiking gear. This time of the year temperatures can vary a lot so plan for layers and possible need for cold weather clothes. It is always smart to have rain gear. All hikers are responsible for their own meals. If folks are interested, we can plan to have evening meals together. Brief Description of the Hike: The plan is to select several hikes of varying degrees of difficulty that hikers can choose from. More information on day hikes can be found at <https://share.google/drGTy0CHN4xfQ6zOq>. No specific limit on number of hikers. If you are interested, let me know by April 1, 2026. We can possibly reserve adjacent camp sites and share tent sites. Contact: email we_arnold@outlook.com; Cell phone: 601-415-3551.

Friday - May 8, 2026 - Brush Creek Trail

Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Location: Brush Creek Trail. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. 7 miles. Almost all gently downhill. Short shuttle. Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Sunday - Thursday, May 10 - 14, 2026 - Stone Mountain, North Carolina

Hike Leader - Jack Callahan. Location: Stone Mountain State Park, North Carolina. Departure time: Arrive at your convenience. Return Time: On your own schedule. Rating: Easy. What to Bring: Camping equipment and food for days planned to stay. Brief Description: There will be two-day hikes and one driving event. Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

Thursday, May 14, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

Our Group Camp at Stone Mountain, North Carolina will replace our regularly scheduled club meeting.

Monday, May 18, 2026 - Scenic Spur

Hike Leader: Anne Anderson. Location: Rock Creek Gorge Scenic Area, Clemmer trailhead on Hwy 30. Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: Unknown. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Bring water and snacks. pole or poles for crossing Rock Creek, water shoes if desired. Brief Description: Hike is in/out. Total 3.2 miles with 403' elevation gain. There are two creek crossings that usually vary from ankle to calf deep. Rainbow Falls is at the end of the designated trail. If there is interest and it is not too muddy, there is an option to bushwhack to Chestnut Mountain Falls about 1/4 mile further. This is a joint hike with BMT association. Contact: Email: ahander@aol.com; Cell Phone: 423-284-7032.

Thursday, May 21, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Saturday, May 30, 2026 - Thursday, June 4, 2026 - Cumberland Wilderness

Hike Leader: Jerry Schneider. Location: Campground: Wilderness Road, group site, or one of 43 RV/tent sites with electricity. Departure Time: TBA. Return Time: TBA. Hike Difficulty: What to Bring: Camping & Hiking Supplies. There are also numerous public accommodations in the area. Amenities: Hot showers, dump station, electricity in shower house, Wi-Fi. Brief Description: Daily activities include driving through the tunnel under the gap to the Pinnacle overlook with views of three states, seeing Civil War gun emplacements, visiting the NP museum and gift shop, watching a movie about the Gap's history, and talking with rangers at the visitor center. Day 2: Hike to Sand Cave overhang and to White Rocks cliff top for spectacular views. This is a long out-and-back uphill hike, rated strenuous due to the elevation gain. Day 3: Hike, or take 4wd drive Park bus, to Hensley Settlement, where numerous pioneer buildings stand. Day 4 Hike the 3.5-mile wilderness Road trail leading past Cujo's Cave and crossing through the gap. A park tour of the cave can be scheduled. Return to the town of Cumberland Gap for a restaurant meal. The park has over 80 miles of trails with overnight and multi-day backpacking loops. Contact: Email: jschneider@fioptics.com; Cell Phone: 513-324-4564

Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Thursday, June 11, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah at 6:00 p.m. for a pot luck supper and a presentation by Steve Biatowas on *Riding Horseback Across America*.

Friday, June 12, 2026 - Turtletown Creek Falls

Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Location: Turtletown Creek Falls Trail. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. 5 miles. Turtletown Creek plus two of the most beautiful falls you'll ever see on a short hike. Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 - Huckleberry Knob

Hike Leaders - Margaret & Jack Callahan. Location: About 43 miles past North Carolina state line on the Tellico Plains. Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center at 10 a.m. to carpool. Departure time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time 4:00 p.m. Rating: Moderate. What to Bring: Lunch, warm clothing, rain gear, and a lightweight chair or blanket. Brief Description: This is a 2.5-mile round trip hike on a good trail. We will spend about 2 hours on the bald. Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

Thursday, June 18, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Thursday, June 18, 2026 - Boyd's Gap to Brush Creek

Hike Leader: Doug Lynch. Location: Meet at Boyd's Gap, Polk County Tennessee. Departure Time: 9:00 a.m. Return Time: 1:30 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: A very easy downhill hike of 7 miles. Very good trail. Contact Email: dhiker10@gmail.com; Cell Phone: 865-850-7243.

Saturday, June 20, 2026 - Gregory Bald

Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll. Location: Off Cades Cove in Smoky Mtn National Park. Departure Time: 7 a.m. Return Time: 10 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Strenuous. Bring: Water and lunch. Brief Description of the Hike: We will hike about 10 miles round trip starting from the Parsons Road Trailhead. There is significant elevation gain, but it will all be worth it if the Flame Azaleas are blooming. We will likely stop for dinner on the way home. Meet at the Cleveland Home Depot parking lot at 7 a.m. Contact: jennifergeologist@gmail.com; Cell phone: 423-284-1256.

Monday, June 22, 2026 - BMT

Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Location: From Thunder Rock Campground, up Thunder Rock Express Trail, across Chestnut Trail, and down BMT. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. 5.2 miles. Loop hike. Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - Club Workday on Childers Creek Trail Maintenance

Hike Leader: James Anderson. This event is to carry out trail maintenance on a beautiful 3-mile section of the Benton MacKaye Trail that runs along the Hiwassee River just upstream and east of Reliance TN. The Cherokee Hiking Club has officially voted to help maintain this section. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Big Bend Parking lot on the Hiwassee River which is at the easternmost end of this section. A typical maintenance day may involve using loppers to cut branches, pruning saws, brush cutters, or painting trail blazes on trees. No experience is required. Dress in long pants, long sleeves, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and snacks or lunch. Return time will be mid to late afternoon. Further information will be released as the day of the event draws closer. Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to text or call Event difficulty is Easy to *Strenuous* depending upon what activity you choose to do that day James Anderson, the event leader, at 423-715-8824 so you will be aware of any event changes or cancellations.

Friday, June 26, 2026 - The Hangover Cherohala Skyway

Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Location: Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 4 p.m. Hike Difficulty: *Strenuous*. Bring (food, water, etc.): Lunch, water, your dog on leash. Brief Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 7.0 mile fairly difficult iconic hike takes us from the Wolf-Laurel Trailhead up 500' or so on the Stratton Ridge Trail to the BMT, then right on the BMT to Naked Ground (down 500'), then Haoe (up 500'), then on to the Hangover (down and up 200' or so). This is a must-do if you have never done it before and if you are healthy and strong enough to hike it. This is not an easy hike. In places the trail is quite steep and rocky and there may be significant brambles to hike through. We will eat lunch at the Hangover, which is about a mile high rocky overhang with great views into the Smokies, Santeetlah Lake, Tellico Lake and the Tennessee River, the Cumberland Plateau, and the ridgelines we just hiked. We will return the way we came. Afterwards, we can eat supper at one of the two Mexican Restaurants in Tellico Plains. This hike is in the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness therefore we must limit it to 12 hikers. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Wednesdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is

sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Monday, July 6, 2026 - BMT Lost Creek Section

Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Location: BMT Lost Creek Section. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. 5.2 miles. Beautiful walk along Big Lost Creek. One stream crossing will probably get your feet a little wet so come prepared. Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Thursday, July 9, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck supper and a presentation by Jack Callahan on Wildflowers.

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 - Candies Creek Greenway

Hike Leader: James Anderson. Location: Parking lot on left side of Candies Lane just before it crosses Candies Creek if heading west. Departure Time: 8:00 a.m. Return Time: 9:30 a.m. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Water. Brief Description: We have seen various birds and even a fox on this walk. It is beautiful and not nearly as crowded as the Mouse Creek Greenway. Contact: Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to text or call James Anderson, the event leader, at 423-715-8824 so you will be aware of any event changes or cancellations.

Thursday, July 2, 2026 - July 12, 2026 - Lake Superior Circle Tour

Hike Leader: Jerry Schneider. Location: 1300-mile tour of Lake Superior, beginning at Canadian border in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Departure Time: 9:00 a.m. Return Time: 4 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. What to Bring: Car, tent, RV, travel gear, passport for re-entry. Brief Description: This will be a scenic 1,300-mile loop around the largest freshwater lake on Earth. The route is known for stunning natural beauty, including cliffs, beaches, and waterfalls. We will complete the drive in five days or longer if desired exploring the varied landscapes, the Provincial and National Parks, traveling through Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario. Start and end dates are malleable. Contact: Email: jschneider@fLOPTICS.com; Cell Phone: 513-324-4564

Thursday, July 16, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Friday, July 17, 2026 - Bob Bald

Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Meet at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. Departure Time: 9 a.m.; Return Time: 4 p.m. Hike difficulty:

Moderately Strenuous. Bring: lunch, water, your dog on leash. Description of the Hike: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 7.0 mile somewhat difficult iconic hike takes us from Beech Gap at the State Line on the Cherohala Skyway up 900' to the summit of Bob Bald, with its iconic views mostly to the south and east. In the distance we can see the Skyway wind its way toward Robbinsville. We will eat lunch at the top, then return the way we came. We can plan to eat supper at one of the restaurants in Tellico Plains or maybe just get ice cream at the Tellico Beach Drive-In. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com Cellphone: 513-260-1184.

Sunday, July 18, 2026 - Saturday, July 25, 2026 - Mt Katahdin, Mt Washington, NY backpack

Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll. Location: Maine to New York Adirondacks. Departure Time: unknown. Return Time: unknown. Hike Difficulty: Strenuous. Bring: backpack gear. Brief Description: I plan to fly into Bangor, Maine, rent a car and drive to Baxter State Park or a nearby campground. Car camp for 3 nights, giving us 2 possible days to hike Katahdin. I plan to summit using the AT/Hunt trail from Katahdin Stream. It is a 5-mile rugged, rocky ascent up a stream channel and then exposed alpine ~ 10+ hours. On the 4th day drive across NH and VT and stay 1 night at a hotel. Maybe make quick stops at Mount Washington and/or Ben & Jerry's Ice Creamery. Next stop, a trailhead into the high peaks area of the Adirondacks probably starts near Adirondack Loj (near Lake Placid). Backpack 4 days and 2 nights. 8th night at a hotel and fly back from a NY airport on the 9th day. More detailed planning will be conducted with those interested. Contact: jennifergeologist@gmail.com; Cell phone: 423-284-1256.

Friday, July 31, 2026 - Conasauga River Trail with swimming and spider lilies

Hike Leader: Anne Anderson. Location: Conasauga Blue Hole. We will try to meet and carpool depending on who is coming. TBA. Departure Time: TBA Return Time: TBA. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Bring water, snacks, and/or lunch, swimsuit and towel if you want to swim or you can always wade, snorkel and mask if you want to look for fish, need shoes for wading, Chacos or similar and adequate for this trail. Brief Description: Plan to walk along Conasauga River on flat, easy trail searching for spectacular spider lilies. Swim along the trail and/or back at the Blue Hole. Probably will hike less than 3 miles. This is a joint hike with BMT association. Contact: Email: ahander@aol.com; Cell Phone: 423-284-7032.

Wednesdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Thursday, August 20, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Friday, August 21, 2026 - Rhododendron Trail

Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. 3.6 miles. Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Friday, August 21, 2026 - Warriors Passage

Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. Departure Time: 9 a.m.; Return Time: 4 p.m. Hike Difficulty: *Moderately Strenuous*. Bring lunch, water, wading shoes, and your dog on leash. Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 6.1-mile National Recreation Trail is mostly (but not all) downhill with over a 2000' drop in elevation. We will leave cars at the bottom on Old Furnace Rd, then drive to the top of Waucheesi Bald. From there, we will hike 0.9 miles down the road to where the trail leaves the road and begins a steady and at times steep descent to Mule Pen Gap, then cross Toby Creek, Bald River Rd, Wildcat Rd, and downhill to a crossing of Wildcat Creek, which we must wade. Sometimes we also have to wade Toby Creek. We will probably eat lunch at the Toby Creek crossing. Afterwards, we will retrieve our cars from the bald and maybe eat supper somewhere in Tellico Plains. The road up to Waucheesi Bald is in pretty bad shape, so if you plan to drive to the top, bring a 4WD high clearance vehicle. This trail is an old Cherokee Indian route over the mountains and was constructed by Boy Scout Troops out of Knoxville over 50 years ago. Those who hike it will receive a free 50-year commemorative patch. Check out the website for the trail at www.warriorspassage.org. The Scouts did extensive research to locate the route of the old Indian path, and it is all documented on the website. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com. Cell phone: 513-260-1184

Wednesdays, August 5, 12, 19, 26 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Thursday, September 10, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah at 6:00 p.m. for a pot luck supper and a presentation. Presenter for the evening will be listed when available.

Friday, September 11, 2026 - Boyd Gap to Old Copper Road Trail

Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Location: Boyd Gap to Old Copper Road Trail to Thunder Rock Campground. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Bring: Lunch. Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. ~ 5 miles. Beautiful walk along Big Lost Creek. One stream crossing will probably get your feet a little wet so come prepared. Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Saturday, September 12, 2026 - Papaw Hike

Hike Leader: Clayton Pannell. Hike details will be provided at a later date.

Thursday, September 17, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Thursday, September 18, 2026 - Rocky Flats Trail

Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 4 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderately *Strenuous*. Bring lunch, water, your dog on leash. Description of the Hike (include any plans for after the hike): THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 5.0 mile fairly difficult hike takes us to the old Hollinghead place at Rocky Flats with still standing chimneys. This is a mile into the hike off Doublecamp Creek Road bordering Citico Creek Wilderness. Then the trail courses up and down around various ridges and ends up at Warden Fields. Afterwards, we will retrieve our vehicles at the starting trailhead and drive back to Tellico Plains for possible supper somewhere. This hike is in the Citico Creek Wilderness thus we must limit the hike to 12 folks. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com; Cell phone 513-260-1184.

Monday, September 21, 2026 - Friday, September 25, 2026 - John Wheeler State Park

Hike Leaders: Margaret & Jack Callahan. Location: 4401 McLean Drive, Rogersville, Alabama 35625. Departure time: Arrive at your convenience. Return Time: On your own schedule. Rating: Easy. What to Bring: Camping equipment and food for days planned to stay. There is a lodge and cabins available for those who desire not to camp. Brief Description: Visit the Dismals Canyon, walk the historic district in Florence, guided tour of Mooresville, guided tour of Joe Wheeler home and grounds, guided tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright home, Rosenbaum in Florence, tour Heller Keller home and grounds, Florence Indian Mound and Museum. Possible day hikes in the Sipsey River Wilderness. Details to be worked out depending on interest in each event. Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

Wednesdays, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 - Fort Loudoun State Park

Hike Leader: Leslie Auriemmo. Location: Fort Loudoun State Park. Departure Time: 9:30 a.m. Return Time: Noon. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Water. Brief Description: 5-mile hike through Fort Loudoun State Park over easy undulating terrain. Nice views of the Fort and lake. For those interested, after the hike, you may tour the fort and visitor center. Admission to both are free. Contact: Lauriemmo@yahoo.com. Cell Phone: 423-331-8967.

Thursday, October 8, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

Join us at the home of Janet and Rob Coombs for hamburgers, games, and fellowship. Bring an appetizer or dessert. Hamburgers and drinks will be provided.

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 - Brady Mountain, Cumberland Trail

Hike Leader: Sue Robinson. Location: Crab Orchard. Meet at Spring City McDonalds at 9:30 a.m. eastern time to carpool. Departure Time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time: 3:00 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous. Elevation gain is about 1,100 feet. Bring: Food, Water. Brief Description: In/Out 5 - 6 mile hike with significant elevation gain at start of hike. We will hike up 2.5 miles to scenic overlook of grassy gap and enjoy view. We can continue hiking along ridge line to see an arch. May stop at American Grill in Spring City after for food/ lunch. Contact: cell phone: 423-519-9751 (please text, not call).

Thursday, October 15, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Friday, October 16, 2026 - BMT Tellico River to Campsite 11 on Bald River Road

Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center Departure Time: 9 a.m.; Return Time: 4 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderately *Strenuous*. Bring lunch, water, wading shoes, and your dog on leash. Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 7-mile hike begins at the Fish Hatchery on Tellico River Rd above Green Cove on the BMT, climbs up Sugar Mtn then down the south side into the valley of the Upper Bald River Wilderness. Once it crosses Brookshire Creek above a small waterfall, we

will leave the BMT and continue to follow the Brookshire Creek Trail downstream to come out onto Bald River Rd at Campsite 11. There are 6 stream crossings, so either wear shoes you don't mind getting wet or plan on changing into water shoes at each stream crossing. Since this trail is partly in Wilderness, it will be limited to 12 hikers. Afterwards, we will retrieve our shuttle vehicles and perhaps eat supper in Tellico Plains. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com; Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Saturday, October 24, 2026 - Mt LeConte

Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll. Location: Smoky Mountain National Park. Departure Time: 7 a.m. Return Time: unknown. Hike Difficulty: Strenuous. Bring: water and lunch. Brief Description: Leave early from Cleveland. Meet at Home Depot at 7am (maybe earlier). Drive to trailhead or shuttle spot. Hike up the steep Alum Cave Bluff Trail 3000 ft elevation gain. 11 miles round-trip. Stop for supper on the way home. Contact: jennifergeologist@gmail.com; Cell phone: 423-284-1256.

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 - Piney River

Hike Leader: Doug Lynch. Location: Spring City, Tennessee. Departure Time: 9:30 a.m. Return Time: 3:30 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: Meet at McDonald's in Spring City, TN at 9:30 a.m. Moderate hike of 8 miles. Beautiful hike along a creek. Contact Email: dhiker10@gmail.com; Cell Phone: 865-850-7243.

Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 27 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Monday - Friday, November 2 - 6, 2026 - Lakeshore Trail Smokies, Backpack

Hike Leader: Buddy Arnold. Location: Smokies Mountain National Park, about 3 hours from Cleveland, TN; near Fontana Dam. Meet at the Fontana Dam. Meet time is 7:00 a.m. on November 2. Departure time is the afternoon of November 6. Hike Difficulty: Rated strenuous due to length (about 35 miles) and some elevation change. What to Bring: I planned this hike last year in November but did not do the whole hike due to illness. So, this is a redo of the entire hike. The shuttle is about \$35 per hiker. There is also a \$10 charge per night per hiker at the campsites (totaling \$40 each) so the total cost will be \$75 per person. There is a limit of 6 hikers due to the limits at the campsites. I will have to make reservations by mid-September to secure campsite reservations. The hike does have some elevations change and goes up and down a lot across drainage divides along the shore of Lake Fontana. There are nice views of the lake along the way and a lot of historical aspects. Description of the Hike: Day 1: Drive to Fontana Dam and arrive about 9:30 a.m. Take the shuttle to Bryson City, Lakeshore Drive and

trailhead at Road to Nowhere. Hike to Campsite 98, about 9.5 miles via the tunnel. (An option would be to camp at the Fontana Dam campground, Sunday, November 1 and start the hike early on Monday, November 2.) Day 2: Hike 7.0 miles to Campsite 77. Day 3: Hike 7.5 miles to Campsite 86. Day 4: Hike 5.5 miles to Fontana Dam and drive home. Contact: email we_arnold@outlook.com; Cell phone: 601-415-3551.

Thursday, November 5, 2026 - Saturday, November 7, 2026 - BMTA Hike Fest

Events for the BMTA Hike Fest are not released until May 2026. There will be 3 - 5 hikes daily for hikers to choose from. Contact Clair Sullivan for further information. Cell phone: 404-849-0872.

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 - Sycamore Creek Trail

Hike Leader: Leslie Auriemmo. Location: Meet at trail at Tellico Fish Hatchery. Departure Time: 9:00 a.m. Return Time: 1:00 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous. Bring: Water. Brief Description: We will do approximately 7 miles around trip. The first 2 miles are relatively flat and follows Sycamore Creek. Then the trail gradually winds uphill in a zig sag fashion. This is an up and back hike. For those interested, we will have lunch at the Tellico Bakery. Contact: Lauriemmo@yahoo.com. Cell Phone: 423-331-8967.

Thursday, November 12, 2026 - Monthly Club Meeting

We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck supper and a presentation. Presenter for the evening will be listed when available.

Thursday, November 19, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Friday, November 20, 2026 -Unicoi Turnpike National Historical Trail

Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Meet at Coker Creek Welcome Departure Time: 10 a.m.; Return Time: 4 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Bring: lunch, water, your dog on leash. Description of the Hike: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This ~3-mile hike is mostly downhill and is full of history. This is an easy hike, and it will be fun to explore what is left of the CCC Rolling Stones Camp. We will meet at the Coker Creek Welcome Center, leave some vehicles at the bottom of the trail along Joe Brown Highway (a gravel USFS road), then drive to the top of the ridge at Unicoi Gap. We will follow the BMT southbound a quarter mile, then head down the Unicoi Turnpike Trail. This trail is a deep wagon rut which was used extensively first by the Cherokee Indians, then by militia during the War of 1812, then by settlers and gold seekers, and finally by us. The trail was the route to bring the Cherokee out of the NC mountains on the Trail of Tears as well.

The Cherokee were kept at nearby Fort Armistead in Coker Creek, then transported to Charleston and down the Hiwassee River to Chattanooga (then called Ross's Landing). From there, the Cherokee walked or went by boat across Tennessee on out to Oklahoma. The deeply entrenched roadbed is sometimes over our head. About halfway down the trail, we enter the area of the old Rolling Stones CCC camp. Much of the campsite area is still easy to explore with lots of stone and cement structures. Once we get off the trail, we will retrieve our vehicles, then probably eat supper at the Blue Line Grill (a partner to the BMTA), a short distance south on TN-68. For information on the Unicoi Turnpike, Google it and also check out the www.warriorspassage.org website. There also is a nice brochure on the turnpike available the Coker Creek Welcome Center. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com. Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Saturday, November 28, 2026 - Linda Davis Memorial Hike on Cleveland Greenway

Hike Leader: Randy Morris. Location: Meet at the pavilion on the Cleveland Bradley Greenway off Raider Drive. Departure Time: 9:00 a.m. Return Time: 11:00 - 12:00 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Dress for the weather. Brief Description: Participants can walk as much or as little as they like given this is a public greenway. This hike is named in honor of long-time member Linda Davis who began the Saturday after Thanksgiving walks. Contact Email: randytaylormorris@gmail.com Cell Phone: 423-650-0485.

Wednesdays, November 4, 11, 18, 25 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out at the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

Tuesday, December 1, 2026 - Bear Paw River View Loop

Hike Leader: James Anderson. Location: Park at location of former Whitewater Center on Ocoee River highway 64. Departure Time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time: 2 p.m. or a bit later. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Bring: Water and lunch. Brief Description: The hike begins where the Whitewater Center previously stood and crosses the Ocoee via the iron bridge. It provides some views of the Ocoee River as it weaves in and up the ridges surrounding that area. Even though the hike will probably be around 6 miles, I rated it as moderate due to some elevation gain as it is not a flat or level hike. Contact: Cell phone: 423-715-8824.

Sunday, December 6, 2026 - Annual Hike Club Planning Meeting

This meeting will take place at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, Etowah TN. The church is located on the corner of Ohio Avenue and 10th Street. Please enter through the 10th street entrance. Club will provide soft drinks. Members may want to bring a simple dessert for the break. "Hiking Request Forms" will be available at the meeting. If you cannot attend, you may email the information to cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 12, 2026 - Annual Club Christmas Party

Meet at the Etowah Senior Center for lunch with a sit-down time of 12:30 p.m. Arrive around 12:00 noon to claim your seat and get settled in for a great catered Christmas Dinner. After the meal, the 2026 officers will be inducted and then the always entertaining “unwashed Santa “gift exchange will be held.

Thursday, December 17, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Thursday, December 18, 2026 - Indian Boundary Lake Loop Trail

Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. Departure Time:10 a.m.; Return Time:3 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Easy. Lunch, water, your dog on leash. Description of the Hike: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 3.1-mile easy hike around the lake at Indian Boundary Recreation Area is indeed a beautiful hike. The lake will be low, but the views will be panoramic with Flats Mountain in the background. This is a well-groomed trail with 13 bridges over small creeks feeding the lake. It is a busy bike trail by kids during the summer while camping there. But in December, there will probably be no other hikers or bikers. The campground will be closed except for the Overflow Campground. Afterwards, we can eat supper at one of the restaurants in Tellico Plains. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com. Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated Easy. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.