

Cherokee Hiking Club 2021 Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY - Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75 mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway. Walkers meet at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant. Meeting time is currently 4:30 pm but that time is typically changed when daylight savings time goes into effect. A reminder note is sent out on Messenger at the beginning of each week. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the weekly reminder messages.

THURSDAY THIRD WEEK OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST AT OLD FORT RESTAURANT - (Please note no meeting is being held in February due to Covid. Hopefully this meeting will resume in March.) You may contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 to confirm whether or not it is happening. You can join us at 8:30am for breakfast at the Old Fort restaurant on 25th street.

February

February 5 Laurel Falls in Laurel-Snow SNA - Approximately 6.5 miles round trip and rated moderately strenuous. Bring a lunch and water. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. We will start on the Cumberland Trail and hike through a former mining area to the foot of Laurel Falls. Meet at Richland Creek Trailhead (N35 31.566W85 01.310) at 10 am. If you plan to attend you MUST contact the Hike Leader Judy Price at jprice.bird@yahoo.com for a spot on the roster and to arrange a caravan from Cleveland or Dayton if applicable. Hiker numbers are limited due to COVID-19 and social distancing is observed. More information about this area can be found at [Laurel-Snow SNA Section-Cumberland Trails Conference](#).

February 12 Eureka Trail in Englewood, TN -Easy Rails to Trails walkway with flat, wide and good surface. New section of the trail starts off Hwy 39 or New Englewood Hwy heading into Englewood from Hwy 30 (White Street in Athens). Meet in the parking area where the current Eureka Trail ends and the new section crosses Hwy 39. We will hike the new section that is 1 mile and then head up the older section that is 4 miles. Each person can decide however far he/she wishes to walk. We will meet at the parking area at 10 am weather permitting. Hike leader is Ruth Pannell 423-506-9623 or 263-9730 or email crpannell@comcast.net.

February 15 Chickamauga Battlefield Hike -Hike is a 7-8 mile loop on the Red Trail with a lunch stop at Wilder Tower. Lots of options to shorten the hike if you want to. Meet at the Cleveland Park N Ride near intersection of I-75/Hwy 60 at 8:15 am or at the Battlefield Visitor Center at 9:00 am. Afterward we can spend a little time touring the great rifle collection if it is open. Jennifer Schroll is the hike leader. She can be contacted at 423-284-1256.

February 22 Thunder Rock Loop Hike -Hike is a loop of about 6 miles and begins at the Thunder Rock Campground parking area which is near the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Meet at 9:30 am. It will include parts of the BMT, West Fork, 1330 By-pass, Chestnut Mtn. Loop, Bear Paw, and Rhododendron Trails before returning to the Parking lot. The hike leader is Clare Sullivan. You may contact her at clare7982@gmail.com should you need to.

March

March 7 Bushwhack From Kimsey Hwy to Hwy 64 Via Goforth Creek drainage - Before the hike begins we will visit the Jenkins grave site along Kimsey Highway. The hike will require a volunteer to take the hikers up Kimsey Hwy and drop them off after visiting the grave site. Hikers will leave a vehicle at the mouth of Goforth Creek on Hwy 64. Hike is approximately 7 miles with several miles of bushwhacking through the woods with no trail. Hike is almost all downhill but is considered strenuous. Meet at 8 am at Thunder Rock trailhead just below Powerhouse #3 to organize vehicle shuttle. Hike leader is Jack Callahan and all hikers **MUST** contact Jack prior to the hike as numbers will be limited. Jack can be contacted at jackn1945@bellsouth.net.

March 15 Hike up Mount LeConte and back -The hike is about 10.6 miles with nearly 3,000 feet of elevation gain so it is considered very strenuous. The hike will begin at the Alum Cave trailhead which is on Newfound Gap Rd. 8.7 miles south of the Sugarlands Visitor Center near Gatlinburg. Hikers should meet at 8:30 am in the parking lot at Alum Cave Trailhead. Views will include Arch Rock, Inspiration Point, Little Duck Hawk Ridge and the Eye of the Needle, as well as Myrtle Point, and the Mt. LeConte Lodge. This one is weather permitting. It is possible that Yaktrax or spikes may be needed due to the possibility of ice on the trail. Bring water, snack, and lunch. The hike leader is Al Johnson. His contact info is phone 845-283-2666 or aj13hhi@gmail.com.

March 17 Caney Creek Village Hike -The hike is approximately 7.5 miles and is moderately strenuous. There will be two creek crossings. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and lunch. We will have lunch at the historic Caney Creek Village site beside the Ocoee River. The town of Caney Creek was constructed for workers who built the Ocoee flume, powerhouse, and dam. The town was dismantled in the early 1940s after TVA took over the power production. The trail was recently maintained by the Scouts as an Eagle Scout Project. Meet at the Thunder Rock Campground trailhead parking area at 9:00 am to caravan to the trailhead. Hike leaders are Clare Sullivan and Judy Price. If you plan to attend you **MUST** contact Clare at 404-849-0872 or clare7982@gmail.com for a spot on the roster. Hike sizes are limited due to COVID-19 and social distancing is observed.

March 23 Oswald Dome/Lowery Top Hike and Bushwhacking Trip -The hike is about 8 miles and is considered strenuous with over 2000 feet in elevation gain. It requires some bushwhacking with lots of green briars. Bring water and lunch. The group will have lunch at Lowery Top. Meet at Quinn Springs Picnic area off Hwy 30 near Reliance at 9:00 am. Hikers **MUST** contact the hike leader Jack Callahan before the hike to reserve a spot. The hike leader is Jack Callahan and his contact is jackn1945@bellsouth.net.

March 25 Scenic Spur and Clemmer Spur Hike -The hike can be around 4 miles in length but a person can hike less if he/she wants to. It is considered easy to moderate. The trailhead is on Hwy 30 headed toward Reliance just off Hwy 64. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at 9:30 am. This hike is focused upon viewing wildflowers as this is typically a good time and place for that. This hike will not have any stream

crossings but will have some elevation gain. Hike leaders are Ruth and Clayton Pannell. Their contact info is 423-506-9623 or 435-1848 or crpannell@comcast.net. Bring water, insect repellent, lunch, and Field Guides on Wildflowers if you have them. Clayton and Ruth will be camping nearby at the Parksville Lake Campground that week.

April

April 2 Clemmer Trail to Benton Falls and Back Hike -The hike is 8.6 miles in length and is considered strenuous due to elevation gain. Meet at the Clemmer Trailhead which is on Hwy 30 headed toward Reliance and just off Hwy 64. Jennifer Schroll is the hiker leader. Her contact number is 423-284-1256.

April 3 Estelle Mine Trail and Pocket Wildflower Area in North Georgia -The hike is 5 miles and with a car shuttle. The hike begins at the Hwy 193 trailhead. The trail has some optional short mine tunnels that we can go through or bypass if preferred. The end of the trail is at the pocket wildflower area with a short boardwalk trail where we may see some early spring flowers. Meet at the Park N Ride near the intersection of I-75/Hwy 60 in Cleveland at 9 am. The hike leader is Jennifer Schroll. Her contact number is 423-284-1256.

April 6 Chestnut Mountain Hike -It is approximately 8 miles on the Chestnut Mountain Trail from Iron Gap to Lost Corral Parking lot. It is mostly downhill with some rough tread so it is considered moderate to strenuous. One option is to have a volunteer drive the hikers up to Iron Gap and drop them off so no shuttle will be required. Meet at the Gee Creek Ranger Station parking lot at 8 am to shuttle to trailhead. The hike leader is Jack Callahan and anyone interested in going **MUST** contact Jack prior to the hike. His contact info is jackn1945@bellsouth.net.

April 10 Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park Hike in the Jim Adams Wilderness -The hike is 4 miles and is considered easy. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water. If the virus allows we will eat lunch at the Home Folks Buffet in Soddy Daisy. To carpool meet at the Home Depot parking lot in Cleveland on the nursery side of the building at 8:30 am. Hike leaders are Jim and Lettie Whisman at Lettiej@gmail.com or Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885. Please contact one of them if you plan to participate.

April 13 Black Mountain in Crab Orchard TN toward Crossville -The hike is about 9-10 miles and is considered strenuous with over 1600 feet in elevation gain. On the hike see a cave, interesting rock formations, wild flowers, great views, and an old springhouse. Sue Robinson is the hike leader. Please contact her prior to the hike as it is limited to 12. Please text Sue at 423-519-9751 with your name and number in case of cancellation. Meet at the McDonald's restaurant in Spring City, TN at 9 am eastern time to consolidate and/or caravan to the trailhead as there is limited parking at the trailhead.

April 17 a Guided Tour of the Interpretive Center at the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston A maximum group size is 10 and masks are required. This will include an easy guided walk outside of the adjoining outdoor National Historic Trail Experience. This will also possibly include a guided tour of some other historic sites in Charleston and Calhoun. Charleston was the location of the Federal Indian Agency and eventually Fort Cass, which was the military headquarters for the entire Trail of Tears Cherokee Removal. Across the river is Calhoun where notable Cherokees helped lay out the town of

Calhoun. There is a suggested donation of \$5 or you can purchase a one year membership for \$10. Yvonne Rittenhouse is the event leader. Her contact info is yvonne.rittenhouse@gmail.com or 423-284-3818. Please meet at the parking lot beside the pavilion at 10 am.

April 18 Hike to Mushroom Rock on Signal Mountain -This will be an easy 2.5 mile afternoon stroll to see a very interesting rock formation on Signal Mountain. The trail is fairly flat and it is considered easy. We will meet at the Home Depot parking lot in Cleveland-directly behind Outback restaurant-at 1:30 pm to caravan to Signal Mountain. If you are interested in going please contact the hike leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824 prior to the hike. At the meeting location he will provide written directions to the trailhead. If the weather is bad the hike will be cancelled.

April 22 Flat Rock Cedar Glades Barrens Class II Natural Scientific State Natural Area Tour -Tour the Barrens area with a guided tour by Dr. Sadler of MTSU. Expect to see wildflowers and lichens. Walk is approximately 3 miles max with very little grade. Meet at the Park N Ride at the I-75/Hwy 60 intersection at 8:30 am to carpool to the site. Located very near Murfreesboro, TN, the drive is approximately 2.5 hours. Hike leaders Marrie Lasater and Jack Callahan. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend. Depending upon the virus situation at the time we will carry a lunch or eat in a local restaurant. Coordinates for the Cedar Barrens Parking lot are 35deg 51min 30sec N, 86deg 17min 44sec W. We will meet at that parking lot at 10 am CST.

May

May 8 John Muir Trail cleanup -Clayton and Ruth Pannell will be the leaders. More details will be provided at a later date.

May 11-15 Backpack in the Smokies -This will include parts of the Balsam Mountain, AT, and Kephart Trails. The total distance hiked will be around 30 miles and is considered moderate to strenuous. There is a limit of 6 hikers and Buddy Arnold is the hike leader. His contact info is 601-415-3551 or email at we_arnold@bellsouth.net. The backpack will go from Pin Oak Gap to Laurel Gap Shelter, from Tri Corner Shelter to Pecks Corner Shelter, to Kephart Shelter and then out via the Kephart Trail. Some of the specifics may vary as Buddy talks with those interested in going as there are some other options. Also, since the number is limited, it is highly recommended that anyone interested contact Buddy sooner rather than later to discuss other costs and considerations. These include a nightly fee to camp in the Park and whether or not a shuttle will be involved that costs and what that amount may be.

May 17-23 Car Camp at Watoga State Park in West Virginia -See Watoga.com for more info. It is located on the Greenbrier River near Marlinton, WVA. We are camping in the Riverside Campground near the upper Bath House around the loop. (www.wvdnr.gov/Parks/Maps/RiversideMap.pdf) A tentative schedule of activities during the week is as follows: Monday travel approximately 6.5 hours from Cleveland. Tuesday bike ride on the Greenway 20-30 miles. Wednesday visit the Cranberry Glades and museum with short hikes to see waterfalls in the immediate area. Thursday drive to Cass State Park (about an hour) and ride the Shay steam engine to the top of the mountain, eat lunch, and return. Cost of the steam engine ride is approximately \$62 pp based upon 2020 rates. Friday drive to Spruce Knob

which is highest point in WVA and visit Seneca Rocks nearby. Saturday is rest day. Sunday pack up and return home. For those not interested in the activities planned, there are lots of other things to do which include visiting the New River Gorge or fishing. Everyone is responsible for their own reservations for the campsite and for the train ride. Event leader is Jack Callahan and his contact info is 423-284-7885 if you have any questions.

May 27 Old Copper Road from Boyd Gap to Ocoee Whitewater Center -This is an easy 3.5 mile hike. The hike leaders are Ruth and Clayton Pannell. Their contact info is 423-506-9623 or 435-1848 or crpannell@comcast.net.

June

June 5 Coke Ovens Museum and Tour -Tour this complex near Dunlap, TN which includes a reproduction of the original country store and short walks to the 100 year old coke ovens in the Coke Ovens Park. Bring a lunch or we will possibly eat in a local restaurant depending upon the virus situation. Drive time from Cleveland is approximate 1.25 hours. Meet at the Park N Ride at the intersection of I-75/Hwy 60 in Cleveland at 8:45 am to carpool to the park. Event leader is Jack Callahan 423-284-7885.

June 8-10 Backpacking in the Smokies -This hike will include parts of the AT, Dry Sluice Gap, Grass Branch, and Kephart Prong Trails. The rating is moderate with about 11.5 miles being covered by the hike. The hike will start at New Found Gap to Ice Water Springs, then to Kephart Shelter and out the Kephart Prong Trail. There is a limit of 6 hikers. The hike leader is Buddy Arnold and his contact info is 601-415-3551 or email we_arnold@bellsouth.net. The hike will include a cost to camp in the Park. There will be several stream crossings involving a foot log or bridge. Anyone who isn't comfortable doing that could bring water shoes and wade the streams. Since there is a limit on the number of spots available anyone interested should contact Buddy as soon as possible.

June 22 Mud Gap to Whigg Meadow Hike -This is an easy to moderate hike off the Cherohala Skyway covering about 4 miles. Anyone interested should contact Sue Robinson to sign up. It is limited to 12 hikers. Her contact info is 423-519-9751. She asks that you text and leave your name and contact info. Those attending will meet at the Tellico Welcome Center at 9:00 am to carpool and/or caravan to the trailhead as parking is limited.

June 27-29 Car Campout at Elkmont Campground in the Smokies -This will include hiking the Sugarland Mountain Trail, to Rough Creek Trail, to Little River Trail which is 12 miles. The hike begins on Clingman's Dome road near Mt. Collins shelter and terminates at Elkmont Campground. Those participating would drive to the campground on the 27th and camp two nights with the hike being on June 28. If there is interest, possibly another night of camping and hiking other trails or doing a bike ride in Cades Cove could be added. If you are interested in attending contact Jack Callahan the hike leader at jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Individuals are responsible for their own campground reservations. The hike is long and will require an early start on the 28th to get to the trailhead.

July

July 13 Falls Branch Falls Hike off the Cherohala Skyway -This is a 3 mile hike with an option to add the Jeffrey Hell Trail which would bump the distance up to about 7 miles. It would be considered moderate to strenuous due to steep terrain and poor footing. Trekking poles are definitely recommended. On this hike will be an 80 foot waterfall and wildflowers. Sue Robinson is the hike leader. Her contact info is 423-519-9751. She asks that anyone interested text her to sign up as the hike is limited to 12. Hikers will meet at the trailhead at 9:30 am.

August—No hikes currently scheduled

September

September 18 Little River Trail in Elkmont area of Smokies -This is an easy trail that parallels the picturesque Little River. The trail is 5.1 miles and is an out and back so hikers can turn around at any point. There are a variety of other trails that could be tacked on or done instead. These include the Cucumber Trail, Jakes Creek Trail, or Huskey Gap Trail. If anyone wants to carpool or follow the hike leaders then meet at 8:30 am in Etowah at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church one block off Hwy 411 and with the side entrance on 10th street. The hike leaders are Ruth and Clayton Pannell. Their contact info is 423-506-9623 or 263-9730 or crpannell@comcast.net. The drive time is approximately 2 hours and they recommend bringing rain gear, water, snacks, and lunch. Possibly they will eat an early dinner or late lunch in Townsend on the way home.

September 26-27 Hike up Mount LeConte and stay in the LeConte Shelter -This is a difficult hike with an elevation gain around 3,000 feet and a distance of over 5 miles each day. The hike leader is Jack Callahan. Anyone interested should text Jack at 423-284-7885. It is very limited in the number who can participate and there is a cost to stay in the Park.

October

October 9 John Muir Trail Worktrip and Cleanup -Clayton Pannell will be leading this. Additional details will be released later.

October 19-24 Big South Fork Annual Club Campout -This is located at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. It is located a few miles east of Oneida, TN and is about a 3 hour drive from Cleveland. We will again be camping at the Bandy Creek Campground in group site E-1. There are 18 campsites available on a first come basis. There is a large covered and screened shelter with picnic tables, electricity, cooking space and a large stone fireplace. A nice restroom and bathhouse is also nearby that is heated and has hot/cold water as well as a place to wash dishes. The individual campsites are paved but do not have electricity. Around September we will be asking folks to let us know who all is planning to attend. There is a group reservation in place and paid for so there is no need to make an individual reservation. The actual cost will vary depending upon how many people end up attending. Besides the cost of the campsite, we also typically split the cost of the wood to keep the fire going in the

group pavilion. Typically the cost ends up being somewhere in the ballpark of \$8 per person per night. This is a great opportunity to fellowship in a beautiful place. We always have a lot of different hikes and activities available to folks of all hiking levels and anywhere from a slow stroll to a difficult all day hike. The event leader this year is James Anderson. You may call or text 423-715-8824 or email jeandersonishere@gmail.com for more info.

November

November 12-14 Big Frog Area Backpack -The specific details will be released later and will depend upon trail cleanup efforts that will have taken place by then. It will be a 2 night backpack and will cover probably around 12-18 miles. The hike leader is James Anderson. His contact info is 423-715-8824 or jeandersonishere@gmail.com.

November 18-21 Smokey Mountains Backpack Trip -This trip will begin at Big Creek Campground and hike 5.7 miles to Walnut Bottoms campsite #37. Day 2 will be a 6.0 mile hike up Gunter Fork and Balsam Mtn trails to Laurel Gap Shelter. Day 3 will be a 6.0 mile hike along Mt. Sterling Ridge Trail to Mt. Sterling campsite #38. Day 4 hike down Baxter Creek trail about 6.1 miles to Big Creek Campground where the hike started. It is approximately 24 and will be a strenuous hike. There will be a dry campsite at Mt. Sterling. Anyone participating needs to be in good condition and have the appropriate gear for cold temps and frozen precipitation, as well as for ice on the trail. Final dates may change based upon long range weather forecasts and permit availability. Attendance is limited to 6 with a maximum of 8. The hike leader is Jack Callahan. You can text him at 423-284-7885.

November 27 Linda Davis Memorial Greenway Hike -This is a walk on the Cleveland Greenway of up to 8 miles. It is typically arranged so participants may walk less of a distance if they so desire. The hike leader is Randy Morris and his contact number is 423-650-0485.

December

December 11 Annual Club Christmas Party -With God and government permitting, we hope to be able to return to having an annual Christmas Party this year!!!!