



• 2024 DUES ARE DUE! \$15 PER FAMILY •

• NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all!

The year is quickly coming to an end. We have had many fun-filled events, campouts, excellent speakers at club meetings, wonderful potluck meals, and a rainy float trip. My thanks to everyone who led events, prepared meals, and gave presentations. And to our steadfast members who always attend meetings and support our club. Everyone makes the club a special group of people.

This year also saw many members dealing with surgeries and other illnesses. So glad they are all on the mend. We look forward to seeing you folks on the trail again soon.

We have numerous great events between now and the new year. I hope everyone will join in on as many as fit their schedules. Janet Coombs will give a presentation on field first aid at our November club meeting. Our December 9 Christmas Party will be catered by Jennifer Schroll, which will be a noon event at Etowah Senior Center to allow everyone to drive home in the daylight. If you would like to volunteer to help Jennifer on a task, please contact her.

January will be our Annual Planning Meeting, so be thinking of events you might like to lead. If you have ideas you would like to discuss, do not hesitate to give me a call or send me an email or text and let's discuss them.

Dues are due. They are still \$15 per family for the year. Please pay by check, as it makes bookkeeping much easier.

Please be safe and I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Jack Callahan, Club President

- PAST EVENTS

CHILDERS CREEK SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

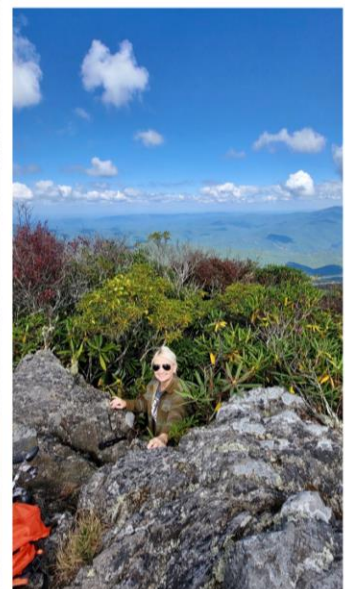
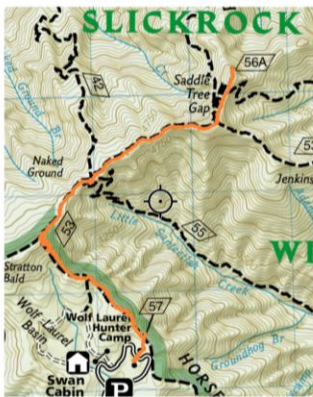
- James Anderson

THE HANGOVER SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Nine folks went on this fairly difficult 6.6-mile hike with incredible rewards once we reached the Hangover itself, offering views into the Smokies, the Tennessee River Valley, and Cumberland Plateau. From the Hangover, it was possible to see Gregory Bald, Rocky Top, Clingmans Dome and Mount LeConte, as well as Lake Santeetlah and Fontana Lake.



The hike started with a steady climb from the Wolf Laurel Trailhead up the Stratton Bald Trail to the mile high ridge crest, then steeply downhill to Naked Ground (no longer naked), then steeply up to Haeo, then down and out to the Hangover for lunch while soaking in the sunshine and taking lots of pictures.



Then we returned the way we came. The trail is challenging, to say the least. One of the hardest segments was the climb from Naked Ground through the burned over area from the fires there at the time of the Gatlinburg fire. This segment was steep, rocky, and very overgrown due to all the sunlight that now reaches to ground level. Up high, the leaves are already turning. Fall comes early a mile up.



On this hike we're nine brave souls, all of us successful. - Rick Harris

BIRDING AT ATHENS REGIONAL PARK OCTOBER 2, 2023



Six birding enthusiasts met at the Athens Regional Park and enjoyed a great event hosted by Kelly Ducham. Kelly is amazingly knowledgeable of birds and can identify so many just by their call. She pointed out several juncos, which are quite small and move around very fast. We saw hawks and many of the regular birds in our area which we are beginning to learn about, thanks to Kelly. It was a great morning to be out, and to continue to educate ourselves with the art of birding. Attendees included Clayton, Ruth, and Otis Pannell, Carin Taber, Jack Callahan, and Event Leader Kelly Ducham. - Jack Callahan



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2023

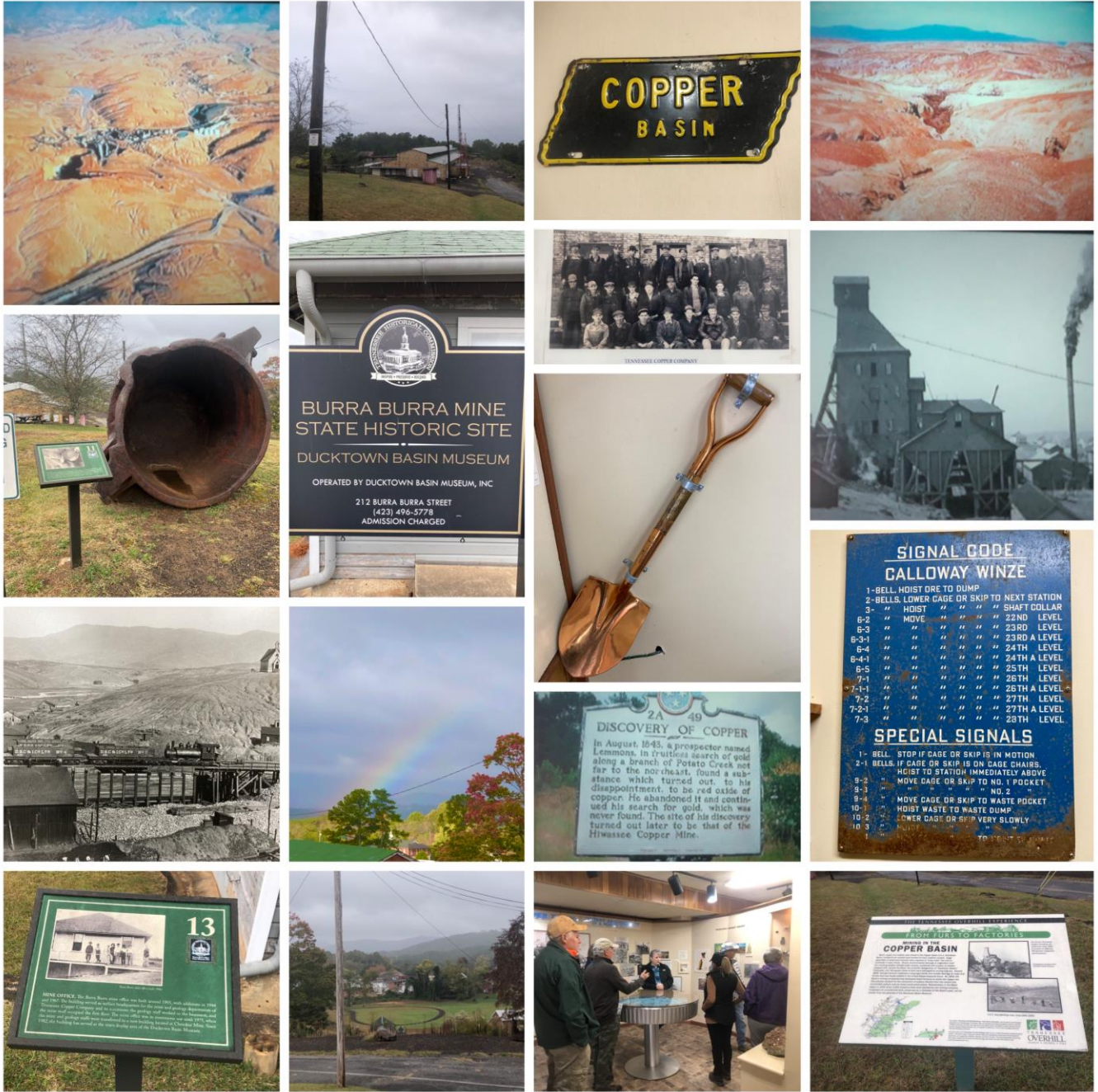




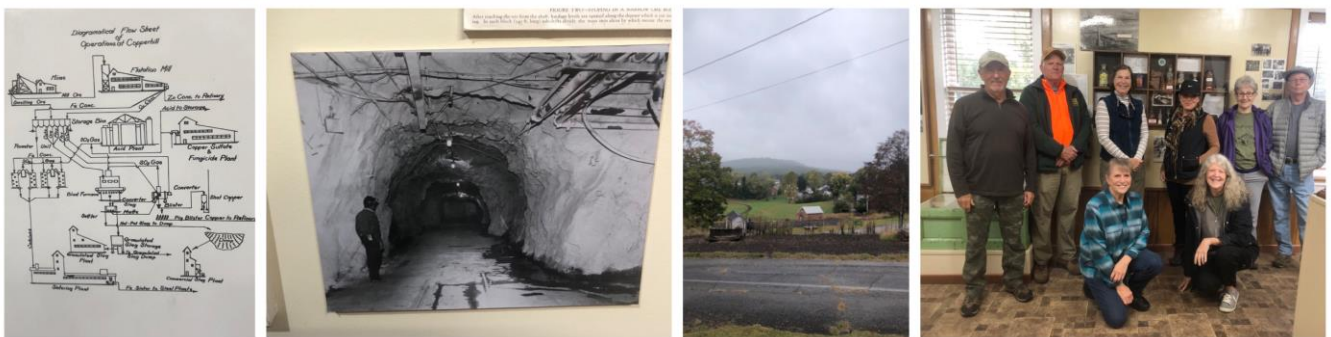
See the minutes below. - Jack Callahan



DUCKTOWN BASIN MUSEUM OCTOBER 16, 2023



Seven adventurous hikers set out on a misty morning to tour the Ducktown Basin Museum. We enjoyed a film explaining a century and a half of copper mining in southeast Tennessee. There were a lot of artifacts and fascinating information on everyday life in this historic area. The museum building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.





Following the tour, the hikers enjoyed a lovely three-fourths mile trail on the property that once was a railroad trail for the mines. At the end of the trail is a large kiosk explaining the purification of the water from the mining area. Participants were Margaret and Jack Callahan, Judy Price, Phyllis and James Anderson, Ed Sullivan, and Event Leader Clare Sullivan. - Clare Sullivan



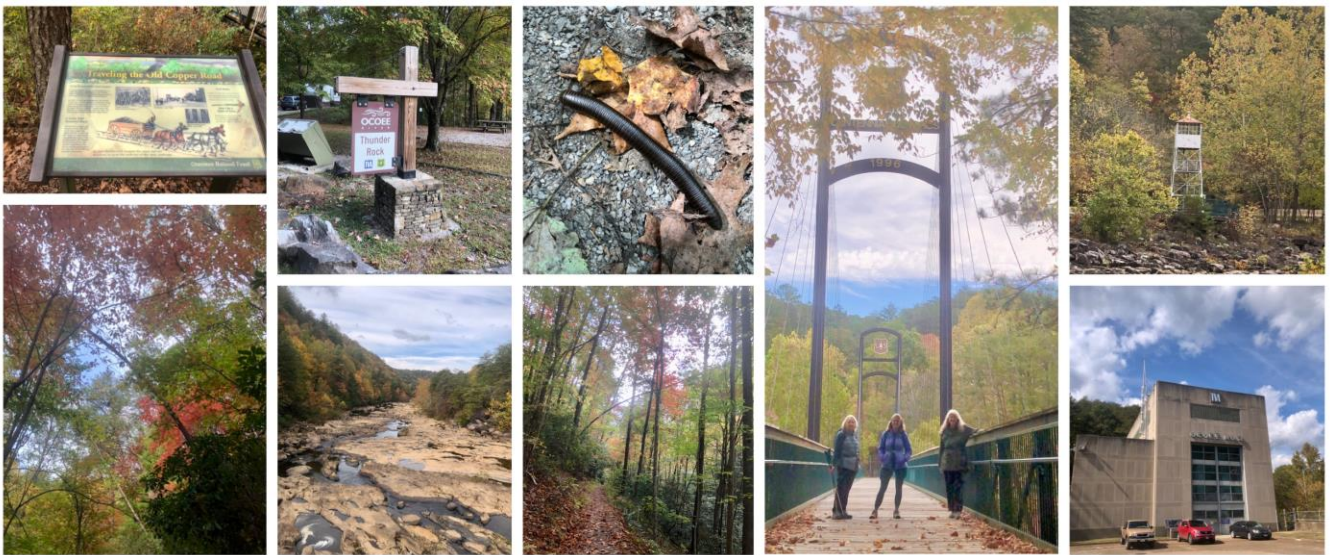
RHODODENDRON TRAIL AND BEAR PAW LOOP OCTOBER 19, 2023



Three hikers met at Thunder Rock Trailhead for an autumn leaves hike. We passed the Ocoee No. 3 powerhouse and headed up the 1.25-mile Rhododendron Trail along the beautiful Ocoee River. The leaves had just started to change and the dappled sunlight shone through them. The river was not running and the little waterfalls along the trail were only slightly dripping. When we got to the end of the trail, we walked across the bridge by the trailhead to check out the river.



We continued past the remains of the Ocoee Whitewater Center, reached the trailhead of the 1.8-mile Bear Paw Loop Trail, and started uphill on the "lollipop stick," still along the river. Eventually, we reached the loop and continued our gradual ascent in a southerly direction. (You can choose which direction to do the loop at this point. The trail is well-marked.) The loop turns in a northerly direction at the junction of Chestnut Mountain Trail. At the top of the loop, we could see Little Frog Wilderness through the trees. We headed back downhill to the trailhead and crossed the impressive Olympic Bridge over the Ocoee. We walked a short way to read the sign at the historic Old Copper Road trailhead. Finally, we recrossed the bridge and went back the Rhododendron Trail to our cars at Thunder Rock. It was a perfect autumn day and a fun approximately five-and-a-half-mile hike! Hikers were Kelly Ducham, Sandra Fenton, and Hike Leader Judy Price. - Judy Price



TRAIL CREW WORK TRIP ON UNICOI TURNPIKE TRAIL OCTOBER 26, 2023



Thirteen volunteers came together from four organizations to log and brush out this long-neglected historic trail. Members from the Tellico/Ocoee Trail Crew, the Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen, the Cherokee Hiking Club, and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association joined together in this effort.



Since this trail is in the Trail of Tears corridor, we had to first obtain permission from the various Indian tribes. This was accomplished by our Tellico Ranger District Trails Tech Robert Alwood. Once we received permission, we set a date and advertised the work trip.



We all met at the Coker Creek Welcome Center at 8:30 am and, after the plans were outlined for the day, we divided into four saw crews, two brushing crews, and one blaze-painting crew. The saw crews removed 63 trees off the trail and the brushing crews cleared the entire corridor with gas-powered brush cutters and loppers. The blaze-painting crew refreshed all the blazes along the trail.



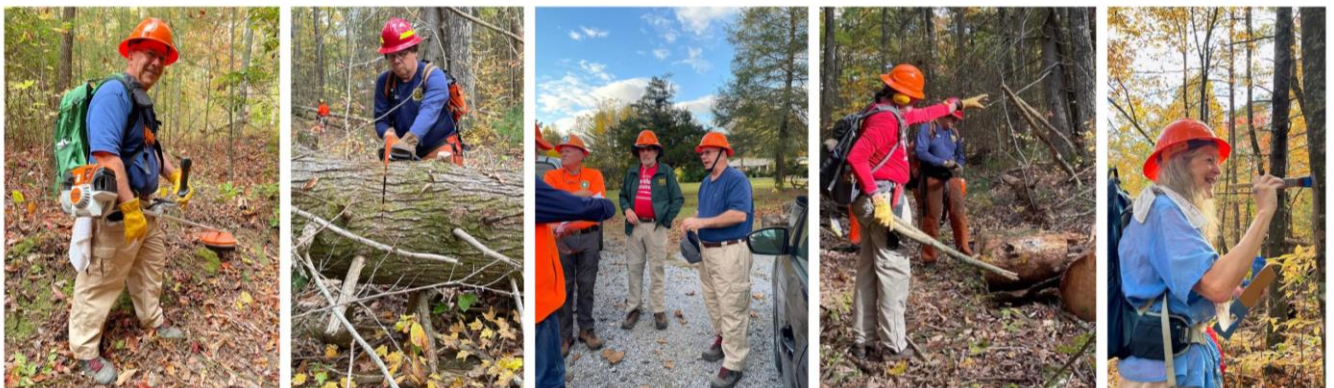
The trail is now completely logged and brushed out with fresh blazes as well, thanks to the efforts of all 13 trail workers, all volunteers. At the upcoming Benton MacKaye Trail Association Annual Meeting in Tellico Plains November 2-5, there will be a hike on this trail, which is open to members and non-members alike. Go to www.bmta.org to sign up for this hike or any of the other several hikes offered over the four days.



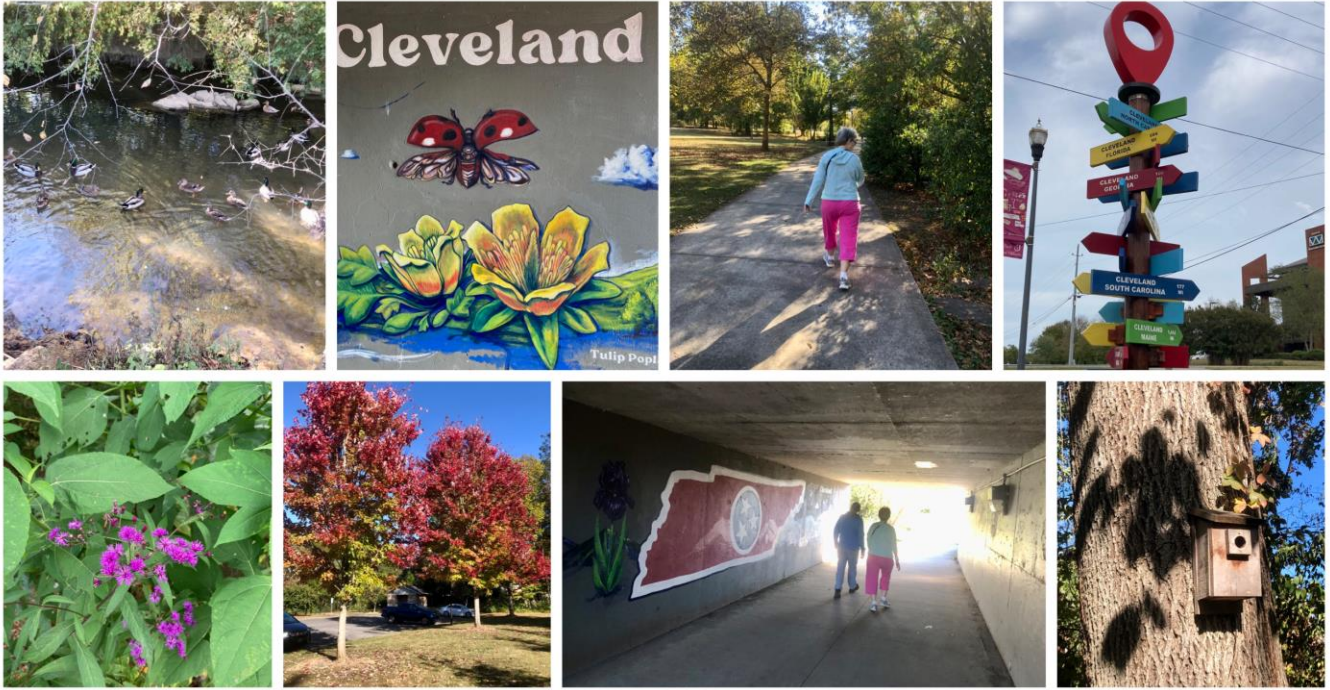
The Unicoi Turnpike Trail has a long history. It was first a Cherokee Indian route over the mountains through one of the lowest gaps in the Appalachian Mountain chain. Later, in 1756, this became a route for military forces to cross the mountains to build Fort Loudoun at the junction of the Tellico and Little Tennessee Rivers. Heavy cannons were dragged over the Turnpike. Settlers to the Tennessee River Valley used this route to cross the mountains, then to take their cows, pigs, chickens, and produce to markets along the East Coast. There was a Turnpike Toll House at Unicoi Gap where travelers had to pay for every person, wagon, chicken, turkey, deer hide, pig, and cow crossing the gap. The monies were used to maintain the roadway. During the Trail of Tears, Cherokee families were brought from the east across the gap to Fort Armistead at Coker Creek. From there, they were taken to Fort Cass on the Hiwassee River and on to Chattanooga and hence west to Oklahoma. Of the thousands brought across the Unicoi Turnpike, about a quarter of them died before reaching Oklahoma. Fort Armistead was also used as a fort during the Civil War. Today, a more modern Forest Service road crosses the gap: Joe Brown Highway. The original route is now the trail and in places is ten feet below the level of the surrounding land due to thousands of Indians, carts, horses, livestock, and soldiers who travelled this road. The trail also goes by a gold mine from the days of the Coker Creek Gold Rush as well as the gravesite of a soldier from the Civil War killed by Bushwhackers. There was a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp about half way along the trail, Camp Rolling Stone.



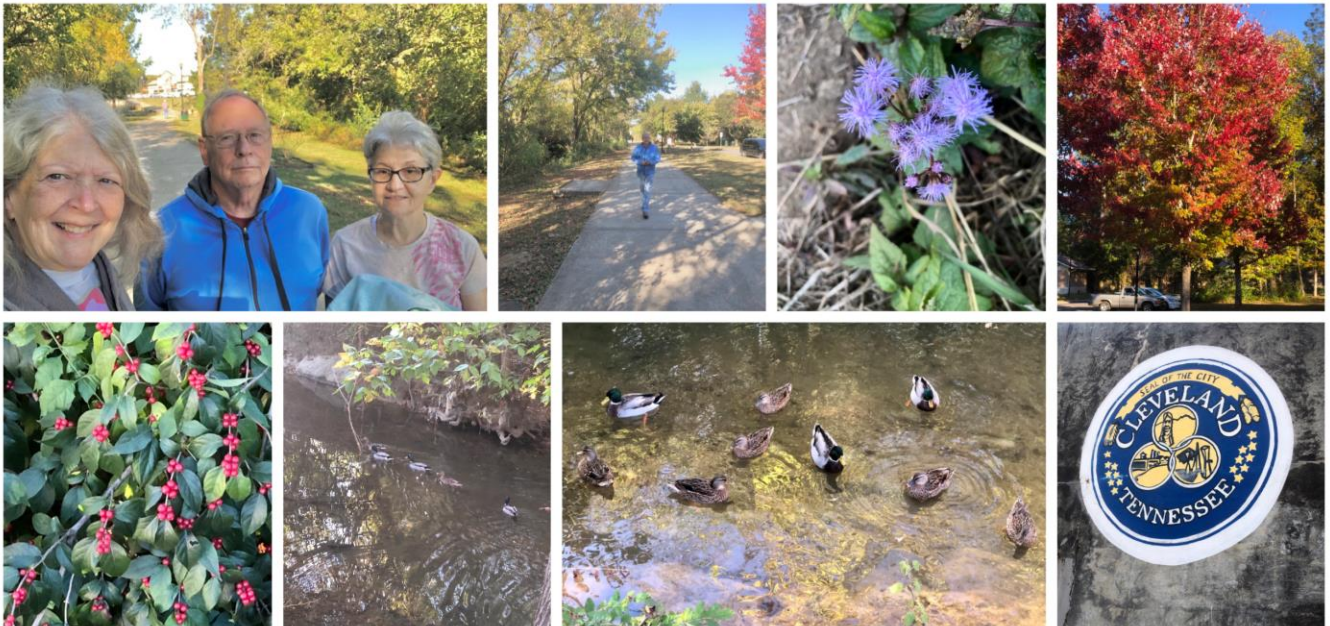
The United States Forest Service (USFS), in cooperation with the tribal leaders and the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, are in the process of deciding on plans for the Fort Armistead area, now on USFS property. - Rick Harris



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 pm. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages. • Jack Callahan



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST



Nice turnout at breakfast. Great to see everyone. Lots of interesting conversation. Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 am at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885. • Jack Callahan

- UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: Event schedule subject to change according to guidance from governmental agencies and offices regarding health and safety, weather, or other conditions.

BACKPACKING AND HIKING TRIP IN NORTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 7 - 10, 2023 TUESDAY - FRIDAY

The hike is near Franklin, NC. Begin the event by driving to Standing Indian Campground near Franklin. Will leave vehicles at the Backcountry Info Center there. The hike is rated as strenuous, due to elevation gains, but much of the hike is moderate. There are numerous scenic overlooks along the trail. Total distance is approximately 25 miles. There are shelters along the trail, but most are small capacity, so you will need to bring your tents. The hike is limited to eight.

- Day One: Drive to Murphy, then to Standing Indian Campground. Meet at the Backcountry Info Center at noon. From there, we will hike three miles to Long Branch shelter via Blackwell Gap Trail and the AT.
- Day Two: Hike 8.9 miles to Carter Gap shelter on the AT.
- Day Three: Hike 7.6 miles to the Standing Indian shelter
- Day Four: Hike 4.5 miles to Backcountry Info Center via AT and Kimsey Creek Trail. Return to home base.

Contact Event Leader Buddy Arnold at 601-414-3551 or we_arnold@outlook.com.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2023 THURSDAY 6 PM ETOWAH TN SENIOR CENTER

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The club will furnish drinks, cups, and eating utensils. The program is **First Aid Kits for Hiking and Backpacking** by Janet Coombs.

CLEAR CREEK

NOVEMBER 11, 2023 SATURDAY

Approximately six miles, rated strenuous. We will shuttle from Hwy 30 trailhead to Chilhowee Recreation Area and hike to the beginning of the Clear Creek Trail. This is a very picturesque and scenic trail with views of Big Frog Mountain and Parksville Lake. There are two creek crossings near the end of the trail. Bring water, food, and water shoes. If the weather is not optimal, we will reschedule the hike. Contact Hike Leaders Clare Sullivan and Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

PROJECT CHIMPS

NOVEMBER 13, 2023 MONDAY

Travel to the site approximately ten miles east of Blue Ridge GA, arriving at 10 am. Visit the interpretive site and walk several trails in the area, for a total of about four miles. Return to Blue Ridge for a late lunch in a local restaurant. As we get closer to the date, a meeting location and time will be developed to carpool from Cleveland. Drive time is approximately 1.5 hours. Contact Event Leader Clare Sullivan at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

A WALK IN THE WOODS

NOVEMBER 17, 2023 FRIDAY 10 AM JOHNSTON WOODS MCDONALD TN

This is a walk using the two loops at the Johnston Woods Retreat off Highway 11 just south of Cleveland. Meet at the trailhead at 10 am. The first loop is 1.2 miles and the second is 2.9 miles for a total of 4.2 miles if you walk both. It is considered easy with little elevation change. It passes through both pine and hardwood forests and provides a pleasant hike close to town. Contact Hike Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824 if you want to be advised of any changes and/or hike cancellation. If that isn't an issue for you, then you can just show up at the trailhead parking area at the designated time:

- February 3 at 10 am
- May 5 at 9 am
- July 16 at 8 am
- November 17 at 10 am

LINDA DAVIS MEMORIAL GREENWAY WALK

NOVEMBER 25, 2023 SATURDAY 9 AM CLEVELAND/BRADLEY COUNTY GREENWAY

Come join us and walk off some of your Thanksgiving Day Feast! We will meet at the pavilion off Raider Drive at Greenway Park in Cleveland and walk a portion of the Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway. The length of our walk will be determined by the weather and the interests of those participating. Considering it is a greenway, feel free to determine your own length of walk (hike) as participants can always head back to their vehicles when they get the urge. This walk is an annual event on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and is in memory of former club member Linda Davis. There is no need to call—just show up at 9 am for some good exercise and conversation. Hike Leader: Randy Morris.

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 pm. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

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- NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW

Check the Facebook page for future work days.

BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND HIKE FEST

NOVEMBER 2 - 5, 2023 THURSDAY - SUNDAY TELLICO PLAINS TN

- [2023 Annual Meeting & Hike and Non-hiking Event Sign Ups](#)
- [Annual Meeting Accommodations](#)

Several Cherokee Hiking Club members will be leading hikes and events. There will be multiple hikes daily ranging from Easy to Difficult and other non-hiking events. Folks can attend the hikes even if they are unable to attend the Annual Meeting and dinner. You must sign up at the above link. (You do not have to be an association member to attend Hike Fest.) There will be a dinner at the Iron Works Grille on Thursday, November 2. There will be a Build Your Own Tacos/Nachos Bar at Tellico Plains High School Alumni Center on Friday, November 3, after the hikes. On Saturday, November 4, there will be the BMTA Annual Meeting and banquet with a guest speaker who promises to be intriguing.

FOOTHILLS TRAIL CONSERVANCY ANNUAL FALL GATHERING

NOVEMBER 3 - 5, 2023 FRIDAY

WOMEN'S WEEKEND BEGINNER'S BACKPACKING TRIP

NOVEMBER 11 - 12, 2023 SATURDAY - SUNDAY FROZEN HEAD STATE PARK

"Learn the essentials of backpacking and experience Frozen Head's backcountry beauty at night." Register by November 6, 2023.

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING HIKES

NOVEMBER 24, 2023 FRIDAY

"Get Outside with Tennessee State Parks."

BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

See the calendar for upcoming events and trail maintenance dates.

As always, go to the specific sponsor web page for more information on these events if you plan on attending.

· MINUTES

Monthly Club Meeting

October 12, 2023 6 pm

James and Phyllis Anderson's home

The club met for the October meeting at James and Phyllis Anderson's home. A special thanks to the Andersons for hosting the meeting. We had a great turnout of 28 including four visitors. After a brief introduction and blessing by James, the group proceeded to enjoy a delicious potluck supper. The meal was finished with the cutting of the 40-year anniversary cake to celebrate the continuing strong commitment to the club and its events and fellowship. There was also a scrumptious apple pie and vanilla ice cream in nice portions.

After supper, the group met around a roaring campfire in the backyard provided by James. There was a brief business meeting by Jack, bringing attention to the upcoming Hiwassee train ride and the club campout at Tallulah Gorge State Park, which will include several guided tours of Camp Toccoa and the museum in the Town of Toccoa; as well as next month's club meeting. Buddy Arnold discussed his planned events to North Carolina and Big Bend National Park. Clare Sullivan discussed her upcoming events at Project Chimps and the Ducktown Basin Museum. Judy Price discussed the upcoming Benton MacKaye Trail Association Hike Fest, during which several hiking club members will lead hikes; and the upcoming Clear Creek hike. The minutes of the past club meeting were approved. There was no Treasurer's Report as Jennifer Schroll was on a mountaintop in Maryland.

The group then enjoyed the nice fire and the views of the ridgelines in the east in the glow of the setting sun. The meeting concluded around 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary