



The Cherokee Hiker

APRIL 2020 Volume 37, Issue IV

Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. •198 Crews Drive Benton TN 37307
www.cherokeehikingclub.org

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the growing concern of Coronavirus (COVID-19), many state and federal parks are closed or have all facilities shut down. Most notable in our area are the Cherokee National Forest and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. The Smokies have closed down completely. The Cherokee has not as yet closed the general forest area but all facilities are closed. Sections of the Benton MacKaye Trail are closed, and camping on the Cumberland Trail is prohibited.

With all that is going on, and to be in compliance with federal and state direction, all of our events have been canceled until further notice. Small groups may be able to use open trails, and, if you choose to do so, please exercise the separation rule and use recommended protocols. Always check the individual website for specific areas if you plan to visit as things are changing daily.

If you have a question about a specific club event please call the individual hike leader. Stay safe and we look forward to getting together again as soon as this has passed.

Jack N. Callahan

EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 26-27, 2020 LEN FOOTE HIKE INN

Members of the Cherokee Hiking Club joined the Benton MacKaye Trail Association as they stayed at Len Foote Hike Inn and hiked in north Georgia.

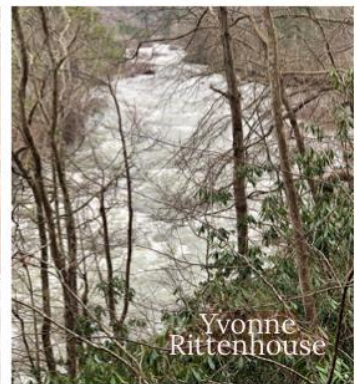


MARCH 2, 2020 CANEY CREEK SETTLEMENT WORK TRIP

Rescheduled to April 20, 2020. See Non-club Opportunities below.

MARCH 5, 2020 BRUSH CREEK AND BRUSH CREEK SPUR

Four hikers and a canine met at Hardee's in Ocoee to carpool to Boyd Gap and hike on Brush Creek Trail. With cloudy skies and a forecast for rain, we started our hike in the drizzle. The rain stopped and we had an overcast sky with a good view of the Ocoee No. 3 Lake. We made the loop and returned to Boyd Gap. Hikers wanted to continue to hike, so we carpoled to the parking lot at Ocoee No. 3 Powerhouse at Thunder Rock. Our next hike was on the Rhododendron Trail. We hiked from trailhead parking to the bridge that goes around the cliff over the water. Good hike with questionable weather. Hikers were Bob Dornfeld and Smoke, Yvonne Rittenhouse and Hike Leaders Ruth and Clayton Pannell.



MARCH 6, 2020 FALL CREEK FALLS STATE PARK

Hike Leader Larry Van Dyke was joined by a BMTA member for hikes in Fall Creek Falls State Park.

MARCH 12, 2020 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Club members and three guests enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner as we discussed past and upcoming hikes and events, including this year's Christmas party, and other business. Thanks to all for attending and bringing such scrumptious dishes!



MARCH 14 AND 15, 2020 BIG FROG BACKPACKING

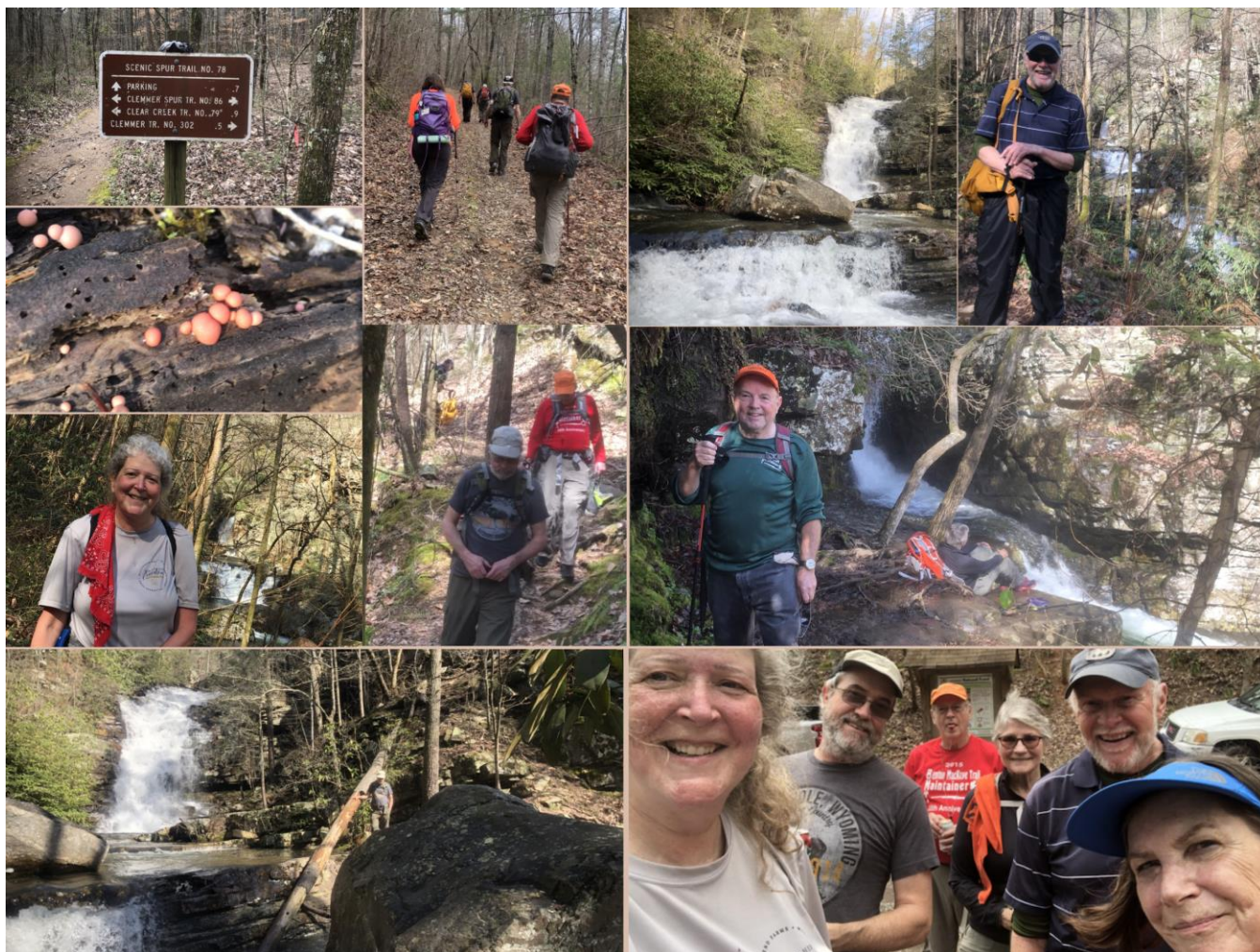
Canceled due to weather.

MARCH 19, 2020 BUSHWHACKING FOR WATERFALLS ABOVE RAINBOW FALLS

Eight hearty hikers, including Hike Leaders Clare Sullivan and Jack Callahan, and a canine made the trek to Rainbow Falls, with two stream crossings which were knee-deep in places due to the recent rainfall. Following the walk down Scenic Spur Trail to Rainbow Falls, the group began a difficult climb around the falls upstream to the next set of falls, Rattlesnake Falls. This is a spectacular waterfall, with an estimated height of over thirty feet and a stair-stepping effect. The high volume of water made the falls that much more impressive. The climb to access the falls is difficult and care should be taken. Also, as the temperature warms, it is a great location for copperheads.



Returning to the intersection with the Clemmer Spur Trail, several of the group began the hike up Clemmer Trail towards Benton Falls to see if access was possible to the falls between Benton and Rattlesnake Falls. After about a mile it became obvious that the round trip to that location would require more time than was available, and the group returned to Clemmer Trailhead. It was a great day with all sorts of wildflowers and fungi beginning to emerge. Thanks to Clare Sullivan for her suggestion to make this hike.



MARCH 21, 2020 ROCK CREEK GORGE SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

Canceled.

MARCH 23, 2020 IJAMS NATURE CENTER

Canceled.

MARCH 24, 2020 HIWASSEE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER GUIDED TOURS

Canceled.

MARCH 28, 2020 SHAKERAG HOLLOW TRAIL

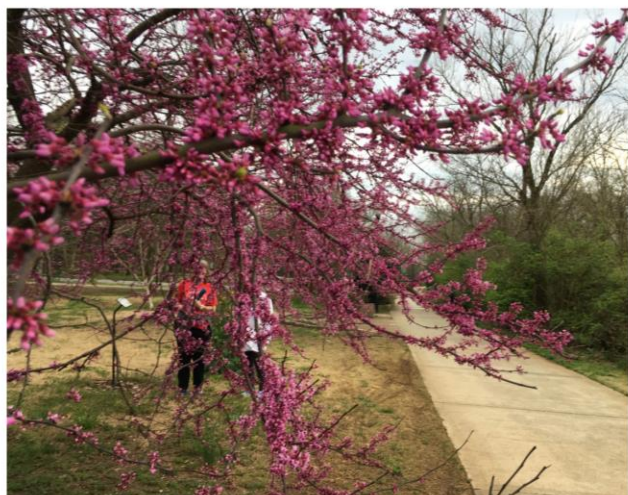
Canceled.

MARCH 30, 2020 EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL

Canceled.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75 mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway.



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST
Canceled.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: Event schedule subject to change according to guidance from governmental agencies and offices regarding [COVID-19](#). An email will be sent to members if an event is canceled.

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 6:00 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

Canceled.

APRIL 2-5, 2020 THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY RED RIVER GORGE GEOLOGICAL AREA

Canceled.

APRIL 4, 2020 SATURDAY JOHN MUIR NRT WORK TRIP

Canceled.

APRIL 7- 8, 2020 TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY CAMPOVER AT AL JOHNSON'S HOME

Canceled.

APRIL 9, 2020 or APRIL 16, 2020 THURSDAY CLUB MEETING

Canceled.

APRIL 10, 2020 FRIDAY BLACK MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

Canceled.

APRIL 13, 2020 MONDAY EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL

Canceled.

APRIL 18, 2020 SATURDAY OSWALD DOME

Canceled.

APRIL 22-25, 2020 WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Canceled. See the [website](#) for more information.

APRIL 23, 2020 THURSDAY STINGING FORK FALLS SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

Canceled.

APRIL 25, 2020 SATURDAY OCOEE DAYS

Canceled.

APRIL 27, 2020 MONDAY EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL SINK CREEK AND LOTTERDALE SECTION

Canceled.

APRIL 28, 2020 TUESDAY BIG SODDY CREEK GULF PARK IN THE JIM ADAMS WILDERNESS

Canceled.

APRIL 30, 2020 THURSDAY LITTLE RIVER TRAIL, GSMNP

Canceled.

NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL 14, 2020 TUESDAY [MUSHROOM FORAGE AND OPTIONAL MEAL](#) AFTERWARD TAPOCO LODGE ROBBINSVILLE, NC

The Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) is organizing the following event and our club is invited to attend: Meet with BMTA members Jim Kronstadt (botanist) and Kim Hainge (entomologist and naturalist) at the Tapoco Lodge to learn about foraging for wild mushrooms along the BMTA. Route will head up Yellowhammer Gap, then along Ike Branch, and return on the Slickrock Trail back to the lodge. After the hike you may choose to join in a gourmet meal prepared by Chief Shea Blalock from the Willow Tree Restaurant in Robbinsville, a five-course meal with each course containing one species of choice edible mushrooms. Seating for the meal will begin at 6:30 pm. There are 40 seats available for the meal at a cost of \$40 per person not including gratuity. The dinner will be moderated by Kim Hainge. Call 828-260-8158 for reservations. The restaurant is the Willow Tree Catering, Baking and & Restaurant, 302 Ford Street, Robbinsville, NC 28771.

[TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW](#)

The Thursday Tellico/Ocoee work trips continue with social distancing and no shuttles.

APRIL 20, 2020 MONDAY 830 AM TO 3 PM [CANEY CREEK SETTLEMENT WORK TRIP](#)

We are once again trying to get this work trip done. On March 1, we could not get in the Pace Gap gate due to non-USFS locks. We are moving the meeting location to the Big Creek Take-Out right across the river/Ocoee Lake from the Caney Creek Settlement. That way, when we finish the trip, folks will have their cars right there and can head home without the need of a shuttle. Trail #74 is about 3 miles long but we can cut off the first half mile by driving down the gated logging road. It is south of the Ocoee River off Falls Branch Road which comes off FS 221 at the base of Big Frog. This trail leads to the historic ruins of Caney Creek Village which was an old Tennessee Power Company town along the banks of the Ocoee River. The people who lived there built and maintained the flume. The trail is in bad shape and needs to be logged and brushed out as well as new blazes painted. We have obtained permission from the Ocoee Ranger District to enter the locked forest service gates for this work trip. The gates are usually locked in the winter to protect the wildlife. We will meet at the parking lot at Thunder Rock Campground at 8:30 and carpool to the trail. From there with chainsaws, brushcutters, paint brushes, loppers and swingblades we will reopen this trail and reblaze the trail. When the Cherokee Hiking Club hiked this trail recently, they got lost 3 times due to poor trail maintenance and nearly nonexistent blazing. On the Cherokee Hiking Club Facebook page, you can view pictures and videos from their hike. We will exit by canoe or fishing boat across the Ocoee River via the Big Creek Boat Launch. Folks from the Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen have volunteered to canoe us and our equipment back across the river, saving us the long arduous trip back up the mountain to our vehicles. We also hope to have a fishing boat available to help shuttle folks and gear. Please feel welcome to join us in restoring access to this very historic site. Contact Richard Harris at HarrisRi@aol.com or 423-253-6358 to sign up for this trip. Or sign up on Facebook (linked in heading). Be sure to click "Going," not just "Interested." We provide the tools, helmets, eyewear, and gloves. Newbies are welcome. We will teach you what to do.

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

Cherokee Hiking Club
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
March 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jack Callahan. The treasurer's report was given by the President. On February 5th, the club balance was \$2095.57 and on March 5th, the balance was \$2017.00. Jack reported on the expenses for the month and income from dues. The treasurer's report was approved by the members present. The minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting were also approved by the members present.

Unfinished Business--Sympathy cards were passed around for Bill Gray and Randy Morris. Three visitors were introduced and new member, Doug Lynch, was welcomed.

Jack discussed the upcoming Ocoee Days event that will be held at the Sugarloaf Park on the Ocoee River near Ocoee Number 1 Dam. The hiking club will not have a booth at the event this year.

Jack reported that there is interest in a trip to the Old Dutch Settlement on the west side of Big Frog mountain. A trip will be scheduled in the fall when cooler weather arrives.

A delicious pot luck dinner was enjoyed by all.

New Business--There have been some questions from members about the privacy of the club membership list on the club website. Some members want to limit access to that list to members only. This issue will be discussed at a future club meeting.

Christmas Party--The party will be held the second weekend in December. Jack will arrange to reserve the Benton Station Baptist Church for this event.

Nominating Committee--The president will start contacting club members about participation on the nominating committee for next year.

A review of hikes completed since our last meeting was discussed by Jack and he previewed hikes scheduled before the next club meeting.

The next club meeting will be held on either April 9th or April 16th. A guest speaker will present a program on the Benton MacKay Trail and her availability will determine the date of the club meeting. A notice will be sent out to all club members when the date is finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Jim Passmore
Club Secretary