



The Cherokee Hiker

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

www.cherokeehikingclub.org

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is a gradual easing of restrictions due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), as most are aware. The state parks are open again, with some possible restrictions at specific parks. National parks are still mostly closed at this time. The Cherokee National Forest continues to keep closed the recreation areas and restroom facilities, but the general forest area is open. The Cherokee NF will be reevaluating the current closure order on May 15. When in doubt, check the specific park/national forest for the most up-to-date restrictions as they change almost daily.

With all this in mind, I suggest club hikes begin again starting May 1, with the following considerations: The Hike Leader makes the final determination whether to go forward with their respective hikes or not; Hikers wishing to attend **MUST** contact the Hike Leader to determine if the hike will be made and to get on the attendee list to regulate the number of hikers the leader feels comfortable with; Social distancing, group limit of ten hikers, and other recommendations supplied by the state and local governing bodies will be adhered to.

The monthly club meeting and third Thursday breakfast for May will not be held. In keeping with the guidelines of keeping groups under ten, and the minimum separation guidelines, a meeting would be impractical. Hopefully by June we will be able to get back together.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Jack N. Callahan

EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2-5, 2020 RED RIVER GORGE GEOLOGICAL AREA

Canceled.

APRIL 4, 2020 JOHN MUIR NRT WORK TRIP

Canceled.

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

Canceled.

APRIL 9, 2020 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Canceled.

APRIL 10, 2020 BLACK MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

Canceled.

APRIL 13, 2020 EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL

Canceled.

APRIL 14, 2020 MUSHROOM FORAGE AND OPTIONAL MEAL WITH BMTA

Canceled.

APRIL 18, 2020 OSWALD DOME

Canceled.

APRIL 20, 2020 CANEY CREEK VILLAGE WORK TRIP

Canceled.

APRIL 22-25, 2020 SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE GSMNP

Canceled.

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

Canceled.

APRIL 25, 2020 OCOEE DAYS

Canceled.

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

Canceled.

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

Canceled.

APRIL 30, 2020 LITTLE RIVER TRAIL GSMNP

Canceled.

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

Canceled.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75 mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway (while social distancing).



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.

MAY 2, 2020 SATURDAY BALD RIVER AND COW CAMP TRAILS

Because of COVID-19, the parking lot at Bald River Falls is closed and barricaded off. So, we are changing our original plans. We will meet at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center at 10 AM, then drive in our own cars (no carpooling) to the Cow Camp Trailhead. From there, we will hike up the Cow Camp Trail to its intersection with the Bald River Trail, then will go up the river a-ways, then will go down the Bald River Trail to the Tellico River Road, passing many incredible waterfalls. When we hit the road, we will walk up the road past Baby Falls on the Tellico River and several other lesser falls back to our cars. Total length of the hike will be about 5 or 6 miles. This is a gorgeous hike, not to be missed by waterfall or wildflower enthusiasts. We can only have 10 folks on this hike, so you **MUST PREREGISTER** with me, Rick Harris, by contacting me by email HarrisRi@aol.com or phone 423-253-6358. Once we register 10 folks, that will be it. You will be out of luck. This hike is dog friendly, but dogs must be on leash. Rated moderate. No major stream crossings, however we may go above Pawpaw Creek. Crossing this creek may be hairy, so bring water shoes and a small towel, just in case the water is up.

MAY 7, 2020 THURSDAY FALLS BRANCH FALLS AND JEFFREY HELL TRAILS

3 miles with an option to do 7 miles. Hike to the falls is difficult with a steep section. Trekking poles suggested. Wear good hiking shoes and bring water and lunch. There is a water crossing that most times can be rock-hopped across. Meet at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center in Tellico Plains at 10 am to carpool to the trailhead. Hike Leader Sue Robinson, text 423-519-9751 or keyster162@gmail.com.

MAY 9, 2020 SATURDAY FIERY GIZZARD/GRUNDY FOREST DAY LOOP

4-mile moderate hike with a side trip to Fiery Gizzard falls/cascades. Bring lunch, water and wear good hiking boots. We will pass through a former CCC camp with the possibility of seeing many, many pink lady's slippers in bloom. The trail through the camp is well-signed with photos of the former active camp. Trailhead originates at the Grundy Forest State Natural Area picnic shelter in Tracy City. After the hike we will stop by the historic Dutch Maid Bakery. Drive time from Cleveland is 1.5 hours. To carpool from Cleveland, meet at the Park and Ride at I-75 exit 25 next to the Mapco gas station on Hwy 60 at 9 am. Hike Leader Jack Callahan 423-284-7885 or jackn1945@bellsouth.net.

MAY 14, 2020 THURSDAY MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Canceled.

MAY 15-17, 2020 FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT SECTION HIKE CARVERS GAP TO HWY 19E

Approximately 16 miles with numerous steep sections, rated difficult. About 75 percent of the hike is at around 5000-foot elevation. Plans are to spend first night on Grassy Ridge, and second night at Bradley Gap. We will meet at Mountain Harbor B&B Friday afternoon at 1:00 pm to shuttle to the trailhead. Cost for parking at B&B is \$2/night, and the shuttle is \$10 per person. This hike is limited to 14 backpackers (two groups of seven backpackers each to stay within the maximum number of ten person grouping guidelines), and is currently full. If you would like to be on the alternate list, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 or Jackn1945@bellsouth.net.

MAY 18, 2020 MONDAY EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL JACKSON BEND SECTION

5.1 miles, easy, dog friendly. Wear good hiking shoes and bring a lunch. Meet at Sloans in Vonore, TN, at the intersection of Hwy 411 and Hwy 360 at 9 am to drive to trailhead. Hike leaders, Rick and Brenda Harris. Contact Rick at 513-260-1184.

MAY 30, 2020 SATURDAY GEE CREEK FALLS

Approximately 2.5 miles, moderate. Trailhead is the parking area for Gee Creek (191) and Starr Mountain (190) trails. Follows old road bed past early mining activities to the falls. Trail is rocky and has steep pitches in sections. Wear good hiking boots; bring water and snacks. Meet at Hardee's in Etowah at 9 am to carpool to the trailhead, or at the trailhead at 9:45 am. Hike Leader Clayton Pannell, crpannell@comcast.net or 423-506-9623.

NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

[TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW](#)

Check the Facebook page for future work days.

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