



The Cherokee Hiker

DECEMBER 2020 Volume 37, Issue XII

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

www.cherokeehikingclub.org

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Covid-19 continues to create a hazard for indoor gatherings. Between the reluctance of building owners to allow gatherings and concern from many of our club members, the Christmas Party for this year was cancelled.

As a result, the regular officer induction was moved to the November club meeting at Charleston City Park. The new slate of officers are eager to begin their tour and the club thanks them for stepping up and volunteering to continue the duties necessary to keep the club a great organization. I encourage all members to help out with leading hikes and other events and help the officers to make their tour easy.

Dues are due, so please send your [membership forms](#) and checks to Randy Morris at 198 Crews Drive, Benton, Tennessee 37307. The dues are \$15 per individual or family for 2021, and recent members who joined in the last four months are paid up for the year 2021. Send a check to make the job of treasurer easier and so you will have a record of your payment.

Last, but certainly not least, congratulations to Rick Harris on being named [Volunteer of the Year](#) for the Benton MacKaye Trail Association!

I want to again thank all the officers who shared duties this past year and made my job easy. Thanks to all the great members who made the effort to attend club meetings, lead hikes and events, share in carpooling and planning of trips, and all the other things that made this another great year in spite of the difficulties with the virus. I have greatly enjoyed my tour and I look forward to the planning meeting in January as we develop another great year of fun events and hikes.

Jack Callahan

CLEVELAND DAILY BANNER



CHEROKEE HIKING CLUB officers for 2021 were installed Nov. 12 at Charleston Park. From left are James Anderson, president; Jennifer Schroll, vice president; Ruth Pannell, Ssecretary; Randy Morris, treasurer (represented by Will Dostie); Judy Price, Newsletter editor; Rick Harris, webmaster (represented by Keith Passmore); and Margaret Callahan, publicist. Annual club membership is \$15 per family and members receive a monthly email newsletter. The club plans both long and short hikes, as well as canoeing, backpacking and camping trips. For more information, check out the website at www.cherokeehikingclub.org or contact Margaret Callahan, publicist at (423) 284-6998. Outgoing President Jack Callahan was thanked for his four great years of leadership.

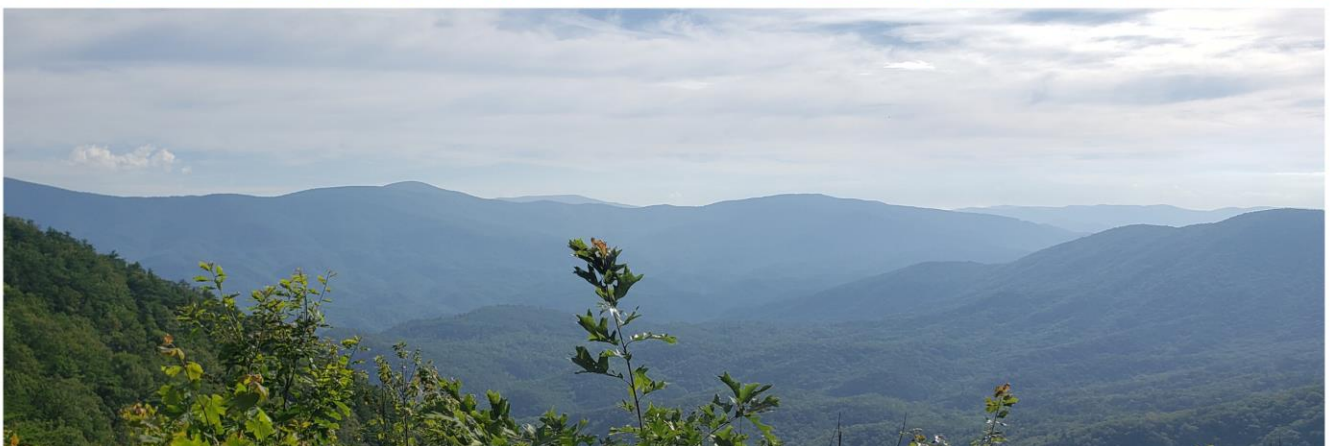
Posted Wednesday, November 18, 2020 3:26 pm

EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

JULY 6, 2020 GAHUTI TRAIL AT FORT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



Rick and Brenda camped at Fort Mountain State Park a few days in advance of the hike. Only Tom Sewell joined us for the hike. The three of us hiked the entire 8+ miles of the loop trail. It was a beautiful clear warm day and a great hike. Too bad others did not join us for the hike. Maybe next year others will come join us.



OCTOBER 25-30, 2020 ANNUAL CLUB CAMPOUT AT BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA

Over the course of the week some 25 club members made the trip to Big South Fork to enjoy the nice facilities at Bandy Creek Campground and join in numerous day hikes and other events. Sunday began with unloading a half cord of firewood that Otis Pannell had already picked up near Oneida. Once the fire was started, it never went out the whole time we were there.



Monday, there were three hikes with Rick Harris, Larry Van Dyke and Jack Callahan as Hike Leaders. These included Honey Creek Loop, Devil's Cave, and a hike along the river. We enjoyed nice weather.





Tuesday, there were more day hikes, including another hike to Maude's Crack and an old home place as a side trip.

Wednesday, the weather was non-cooperative, so there were trips to Pall Mall to visit Sgt. York's homeplace and the old town of Rugby. An addition to the York homeplace is a reproduction of a World War I trench to give visitors a feel of how trench life may have been during the war. The town of Rugby had a home fire before the visitors there made it and witnessed the smoldering ruins of one of the old homes.



Thursday, several folks made the trip to Stearns, Kentucky, and rode the excursion train down into the Big South Fork river gorge and toured a coal mine. The mine was inactive, but gave a great idea of how difficult the work was, with miners having to lay on their stomachs and dig the two-foot-thick seam of coal. The total height of the shaft was three feet. A typical miner could load 12-15 tons a day, and made about \$0.10 a ton.

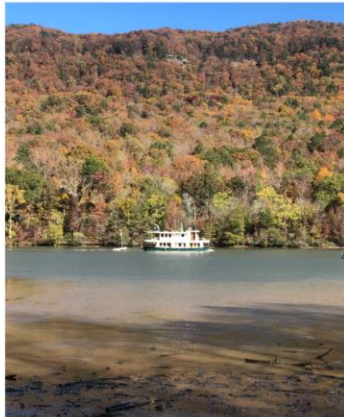
Friday, the remaining campers did their best to burn the rest of the firewood, and headed home. It was a great trip, and the turnout was very good. James Anderson has reserved the same site again for next year.

NOVEMBER 8, 2020 POT POINT NATURE TRAIL



Eight hikers and a canine headed to Chattanooga on a beautiful autumnal day to take in the sights around Pot Point. We began at the Pot Point/Ritchie Hollow trailhead, and headed up up up 1000 feet, all the while keeping an eye out for bald eagles. Along the way, we followed the interpretive guide, picking out now-forested areas that were once farmland, remnants of stone walls, or the site of a moonshine still. Passing Azalea Point, we reached the highest part of the trail and saw boulders and rock bluffs. With nowhere to go but down, we descended on a former logging road to the street we drove in on.

Crossing it, we were soon walking beside the Tennessee River. We went across a boardwalk and eventually arrived at the campsite, where we ate lunch and watched boats and a barge heading downriver. After a short road walk, we reached a monarch butterfly waystation meadow. The trail soon led to the historic Pot Point Cabin, and we were back at the trailhead after a four-plus-mile loop. It was a fun hike with a great group! Hikers included Jack Callahan, Jane Chastain, Kristin and Tommy Coates, Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Karen Kocher, Jennifer Schroll and Hike Leader Judy Price.



NOVEMBER 12, 2020 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING



The club met and brown-bagged it again to reduce the chance of virus spread. The business meeting concluded, current president Jack Callahan recognized the past officers with small gifts for the great job they did throughout the year. Jack then introduced the new club officers for 2021: James Anderson, President; Jennifer Schroll, Vice President; Margaret Callahan, Publicist; Ruth Pannell, Acting Secretary. Randy Morris, Treasurer; Rick Harris, Webmaster; and Judy Price, Newsletter, continued their roles the same as 2020. The club appreciates members volunteering to hold offices and/or continue in their current positions. Jack used the Candy Routine to induct the officers and it was said he followed the script exactly.

Keith Passmore brought four blowup photos of the Honey Creek hike that several members did at Big South Fork. We appreciate Keith sharing his excellent work with the club. The next club meeting will be the planning meeting in January. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring proposals for hikes and events to fill the 2021 calendar. Please bring the write-ups with details of the event, time and place to meet, and other necessary data, each on a separate sheet of paper to aid in the assembling of the calendar. Jack gave his final comments as president and thanked all the members for their support through the year.



NOVEMBER 15, 2020 OSWALD DOME



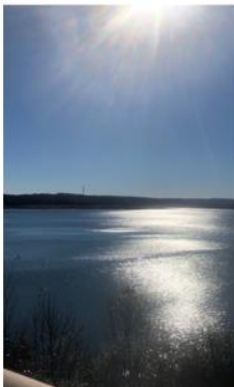
Five hearty hikers met at Quinn Springs Recreation Area parking lot and three headed out at a fast pace in training for the upcoming Grand Canyon backpacking trip. Two others took a more leisurely pace and hiked up to the nice overlook about 1.5 miles up the trail. The three others pushed to a point about three miles up the trail, then bushwhacked another mile to Lowry Top. Lowry Top is a prominent point which overlooks the Hiwassee River and provides a great view of Reliance and the area around the restaurant Flip-Flops. This overlook is a nice diversion to hiking to the communication towers on top of Oswald Dome. A GPS helps find the location and for the view it must be done during leaf off. The hike started in rain and fog and gusty winds, but by noon the skies began to clear, which made the hike back down to the parking lot much more enjoyable. Hikers included Letha Kelly, Mary Alton, Jennifer Schroll, Darrell Morgan, and Hike Leader Jack Callahan.



NOVEMBER 16, 2020 RACCOON MOUNTAIN TRAIL SYSTEM



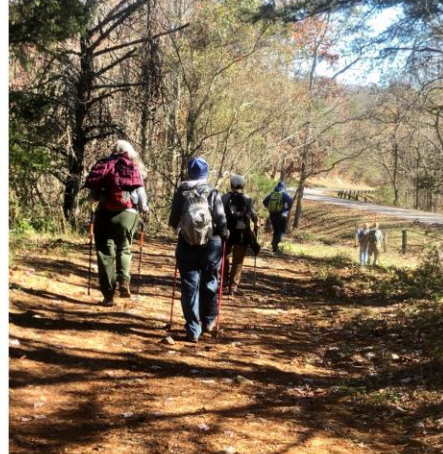
Seven club members and a canine made the one-hour drive from Cleveland to Raccoon Mountain and first stopped at the East Overlook, which gives a great view of downtown Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain. The weather was great and visibility allowed us to pick out Gregory Bald in the Smokies, some 90 miles away.



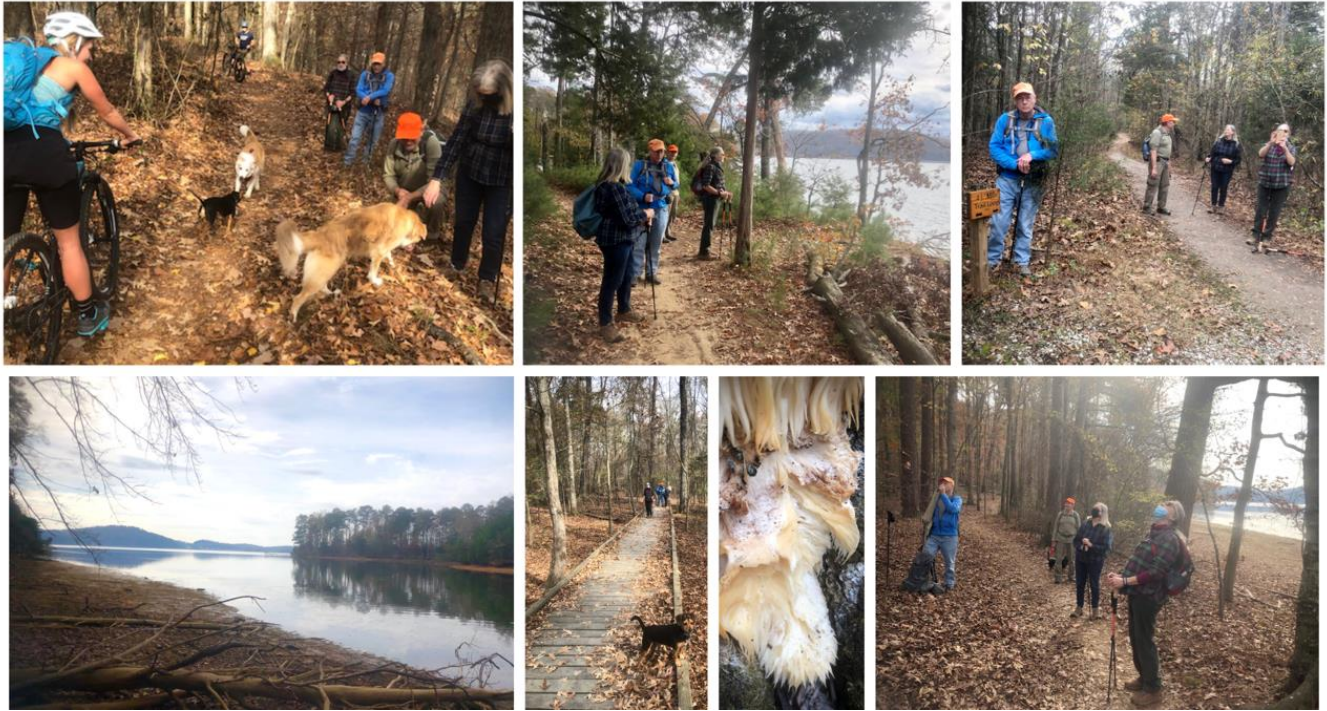
We then drove to the intake/outlet structure, a 250-foot high concrete drain where the water enters and exits the 350-acre lake. The Visitor Center was closed, but there is a great overlook on the backside with breathtaking views of the Tennessee River Gorge some 1000 feet below.



We then hiked the 1.5-mile trail somewhat along the river and some made the loop back to the vehicles for a 2.5-mile hike. Afterwards, all but one hiker enjoyed a late lunch at Clyde's on Main in downtown Chattanooga. There are thirty miles of trail, and this site will be visited again in the future. Hike Leader, Jack Callahan.



NOVEMBER 22, 2020 BAY POINT LOOP AT HARRISON BAY STATE PARK



Five hikers and one canine met at the Bay Point Loop trailhead at Harrison Bay State Park on an overcast day for a 4.5-mile shoreline trail hike. Before we'd reached the trailhead, however, we were treated to the sight of several deer eating by the banks of the marina. Soon after starting the trail, the bay came into view and we had water views for most of our hike. Herons were flying and standing on the shore and kingfishers were calling. We shared the trail with other hikers, cyclists, trail runners, and every breed of dog! Lunch was eaten by a cove with a fishing boat. We stopped often to take in the stunning scenery. As we left, a few of us stopped at the Interpretive Center to see the birds of prey. Such a relaxing day! Hikers were Jack Callahan, Jane Chastain, Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Yvonne Rittenhouse, and Hike Leader Judy Price.



WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY



The faithful have made every walk so far in November, rain or shine. One Wednesday it was definitely a heavy rainstorm, a great day to test rain gear and waterproof footwear. Daylight is slipping away, but we always finish before dark. It is a fun time to be able to walk, and not have to pay attention to where you walk, looking for rocks under leaves, roots, and other typical woods walks. We average three miles an hour which is easily done on the paved surface. (Unfortunately, one of the duck sculptures has been vandalized.)



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

Eight club members met and enjoyed nice conversation and a good hot breakfast including biscuits and apple butter. This is always a relaxed get together and good food and lots of hot coffee makes for a great time. We meet at 8:30 am and look forward to members nearby joining us at this get together.



NON-CLUB EVENTS

NOVEMBER 21, 2020 CANEY CREEK SETTLEMENT TRAIL REHAB EAGLE SERVICE PROJECT

A year ago, the Cherokee Hiking Club attempted to hike the trail to the Caney Creek Settlement along the Ocoee River. We made it all the way but the trail was in horrible condition and poorly marked and we got temporarily discombobulated (off-track) twice. It is an amazing place. The village housed the families of Tennessee Power Company employees who built and maintained the flume and powerhouse. It was a little town with no vehicles, but with a water system, electricity, a hotel, school and church house, tennis courts, flower gardens and fish ponds, and a train track in their front yards. The only way out was across a swinging bridge or by boat. Eventually the Tennessee Power Company, which provided the first electric power to Cleveland and Chattanooga, was bought out by TVA and the village was abandoned.

Move forward several months. I was approached by Kevin Fryar, a Boy Scout in Troop 44 in Cleveland, asking about possibilities for an Eagle Scout Project in the national forest. Kevin is a member of the Scout Troop in which club member Jennifer Schroll volunteers as an adult leader. Kevin and I thought of several possibilities but settled on rehabbing the Caney Creek Trail #74. After obtaining the necessary approvals from the USFS and the Cherokee BSA Council, we made definitive plans. To begin with, I and Debbie Moore (club member, president of the TN Trail of Tears Assn. and local historian on the village) attended a troop meeting in early November. I showed the various tools we would use clear the trail and discussed the project and Debbie gave a slide presentation on the history of the village.



The work trip came to fruition on a beautiful somewhat warm Saturday in November. Six members of our Thursday Tellico/Ocoee Trail Crew (myself, Brenda Harris, Bobby Mitchell, Barb Childress, Will Dostie, and Tom Smith) joined with 19 Scouts and Leaders from Troop 44 and 444 to make it happen. The Wednesday before, Clare Sullivan and I reblazed the trail to assure none of the trail crew and future hikers would get lost while working on or hiking the trail. On the day of the work trip, we first had a tailgate safety meeting, then broke into three crews. One crew used chainsaws (Tom Smith and myself) and hand saws (led by Brenda Harris and Bobby Mitchell) to clear about 70 trees off the trail. The second crew (led by Barb Childress) used loppers and swingblades to clear all the vegetation from the trail corridor. The third crew (led by Will Dostie and Jennifer Schroll and other adult leaders from the Scout Troop) used digging tools to repair several hundred feet of tread.



We finished the work by 2 PM. We all then crossed Big Creek and explored the remnants of the old Caney Creek Village. We then recrossed the creek and returned to our vehicles by about 5 pm. It was a great work trip and Eagle Scout Project. The work done by the Scouts was exemplary. Everyone worked hard and had a lot of fun doing it. I hope to attend Kevin's Eagle Ceremony, whenever it is held. Marci Spencer, club member and author of books on local national forests, may include a chapter on this project in her book she is writing on the Cherokee National Forest.



The trail is now open for hiking with a clear well-marked corridor, though hikers and hiking groups need to be aware of the dates of closure of the Pace Gap gate. The gate is CLOSED June 1 to August 30 and January 1 to March 14. for protection of the wildlife. During hunting season in the fall, be sure to wear orange and nothing white. You don't want to be mistaken for a deer.

by Richard Harris

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.

DECEMBER 3, 2020 THURSDAY JOHNSTON WOODS

Approximate three mile easy-to-moderate loop with an option to do an additional approximate 1.5 easy miles on biking trails. Some sections have short uphill. Bring snacks and water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Meet at Johnston Woods (298 Brymer Creek Road, McDonald, TN 37353) trailhead gravel parking lot at 9 am. (Take the driveway at the green Johnston Woods sign. Pass a Scouts sign on the left. The gravel parking lot is farther down on the right. There is a kiosk in the parking lot.) If you plan to attend, you must contact Hike Leader Judy Price jprice.bird@yahoo.com for a spot on the roster. Hike sizes are limited due to COVID-19. Social distancing is observed. More information: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/tennessee/johnston-woods-trail>

DECEMBER 6, 2020 SUNDAY THUNDER ROCK "LOOP"

Approximately five miles, moderately difficult hike. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Thunder Rock Trailhead parking behind Ocoee Powerhouse No. 3 at 9 am. If you plan to attend, you must contact Hike Leader Judy Price jprice.bird@yahoo.com for a spot on the roster. Hike sizes are limited due to COVID-19. Social distancing is observed.

DECEMBER 10, 2020 THURSDAY OUTER LOOP AT BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATE PARK

Five mile easy to moderate hiking/biking loop trail. There are some short uphill. Bring lunch and water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Trail is alongside water so it may be wet in places. If you plan to attend, you must contact Hike Leader Judy Price jprice.bird@yahoo.com for a spot on the roster. Hike sizes are limited due to COVID-19. Social distancing is observed. More information: <https://tnstateparks.com/parks/booker-t-washington>

DECEMBER 12, 2020 SATURDAY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Canceled.

DECEMBER 13, 2020 SUNDAY MCGILL CREEK SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

Moderate, five miles out and back, with possible blowdowns and water drainage across trail. Pack a lunch, water, and wear sturdy shoes. Bring water shoes if you do not have waterproof boots. Meet at the park n ride adjacent to the Mapco on Hwy 60 near I-75 exit 25 in Cleveland at 9 am to arrange caravan/carpool. Alternatively, meet at the Roaring Creek Trailhead in Graysville, TN, (Pikeville Avenue/Brayton Road, N35 deg 27 min 28.51 sec, W85 deg 06min 20.49 sec., look for the yellow gate) at 10 am. If you plan to attend, you must contact Hike Leader Judy Price jprice.bird@yahoo.com for a spot on the roster. Hike sizes are limited due to COVID-19. Social distancing is observed. Additional information: <https://www.cumberlandtrail.org/trail-segments/laurel-snow-segment/mcgill-creek-section/>

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway while social distancing, 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

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.

NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

DECEMBER 16, 2020 WEDNESDAY BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION JOHN MUIR TRAIL TO THE NARROWS

Five miles, moderate. We'll start with a beautiful view from the swinging bridge that crosses the Hiwassee River at the Apalachia Powerhouse. The hike will be to a treasure, The Narrows, a deep narrow gorge through which the old riverbed flows. It's full of fascinating rock formations. You'll want to drop your pack and explore! Be prepared for water crossings. Hiking sticks recommended. Bring snack/lunch and water. Hike Leaders: Clare Sullivan and Judy Price. For more information, contact hikeleader@bmtamail.org.

[TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW](#)

Check the Facebook page for future work days.

[BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION](#)

See the calendar for upcoming events.

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
November 12, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jack Callahan.

Jack welcomed guests and announced two new members since our last meeting. In Randy's absence Jack presented the Treasurer's report. As of October 5, the club balance was \$2130. With the addition of \$30 in new member dues, the club balance is now \$2160. The Treasurer's report was approved by the membership. The October meeting minutes were approved as presented in the club newsletter.

Unfinished Business--The club Christmas Party was cancelled due to the lack of a facility to hold the party. Due to Covid-19 concerns Benton Station Baptist Church has decided to not let groups use their facilities at this time.

Old Business--None

New Business--The club officers for 2021 were introduced and installed into office. The officers are as follows:

President--James Anderson

Vice-President--Jennifer Schroll

Treasurer--Randy Morris

Web Master--Rick Harris

Newsletter--Judy Price

Secretary--Ruth Pannell (Acting)

Publicist--Margaret Callahan

The club approved the slate of officers for 2021. New officers will assume their duties on December 12, 2020. Until then current officers will remain active.

Jack expressed appreciation to the officers who assisted him during this year.

New Business

The January Planning meeting will be held on January 24th 2021. The location will be announced in the newsletter. Proposed hikes and events should be submitted on a single sheet of paper. Photos for hikes should be submitted via email along with the hike or event report. The calendar for 2021 will be developed at that meeting.

Jack reviewed hikes and events held since the last meeting. There were a total of 25 people who attended all or part of the Big South Fork campout.

Upcoming hikes and events for the remainder of November were previewed. Reports for hikes for the remainder of November should be submitted to Judy at least 5 days before the end of the month so they can be included in the December newsletter.

There will be a club campout May 17-21, 2021 at Watoga State Park in West Virginia. Some members have already reserved their camp site. Anyone wanting to attend this campout should reserve their own campsite.

The meeting was adjourned by the president.

Jim Passmore
Club Secretary