

The Cherokee Hiker

APRIL 2021 Volume 38, Issue IV

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

www.cherokeehikingclub.org

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Cherokee Hiking Club Members.

We had a great meeting last month and it was definitely well attended. So, we are going back to the Western Sizzlin in Athens for our April 8 meeting. The meeting room will be open to us beginning at 5:30 pm if you want to come early and go ahead and order and visit a bit with others. The meeting will begin at the usual 6 pm. We certainly hope you will plan on attending.

James Anderson Club President

MARCH 11, 2021 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING WESTERN SIZZLIN ATHENS, TN



EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

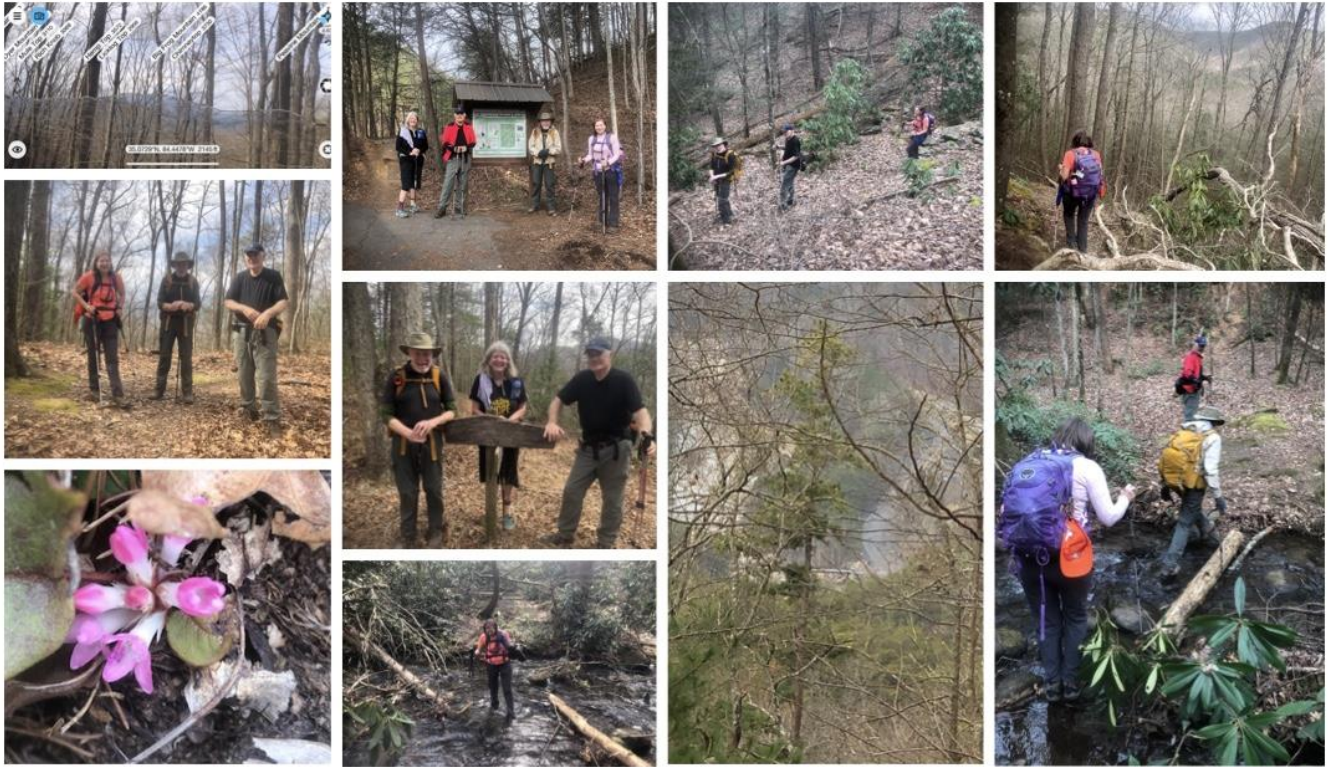
MARCH 7, 2021 BUSHWHACK FROM KIMSEY HWY TO HWY 64 VIA GOFORTH CREEK DRAINAGE



Seven club members made the hike from Kimsey Highway to the mouth of Goforth Creek. It was a crisp cool day, just right for this type of hike which included starting out on a gated FS road, with a side trip to an individual gravesite, then continuing on to the end of the open portion of the road. The grave was that of a Mister John Headen, who lived from 1812 to 1905 and owned a large tract of land there. Then we traveled down a well overgrown skid trail, with trees of 12-inch diameter or more growing in the roadbed. There was a lot of wild hog evidence, and there were large sections of the ground well-tilled as the animals looked for food. At the end of this section of the hike, we took off bushwhacking down the slope to intersect with Goforth Creek, which we found in about 1/8 of a mile. There was evidence of the former railroad bed from many years ago, which we followed downstream, sometimes in the stream, until we reached the upper end of the maintained section of Goforth Trail. From there, we hiked down along the maintained trail to the mouth of the stream. Total distance hiked was close to 8 miles, and all in all it was a fairly easy hike with the exception of several blowdowns. Hikers were Mary Alton, James Anderson, Judy Norton, Judy Price, Clare and Ed Sullivan, and Hike Leader Jack Callahan.



MARCH 12, 2021 ROCK CREEK/DRY POND LEAD (BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL)



Four hikers met at Thunder Rock trailhead parking on what may have been the first warm day of the year to hike Rock Creek Trail and Dry Pond Lead Trail (Benton MacKaye Trail) back to Thunder Rock. We shuttled up to Rock Creek trailhead and began hiking in the Little Frog Wilderness. There were several stream crossings before we began to head steadily uphill. Along the way, we saw views of Big Frog Mountain and the Olympic Bridge at the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Eventually, we hiked downhill to the creek. Trail maintainers did a great job clearing blowdowns on this section. After crossing Rock Creek, we sat and ate lunch while watching the water cascade. We hiked along the creek until the trail headed back uphill to the junction of Dry Pond Lead Trail (BMT), which we followed back to Thunder Rock, stopping occasionally to look at newly-emerged spring wildflowers. Hikers were Buddy Arnold, Doug Lynch, Clare Sullivan, and Hike Leader Judy Price.

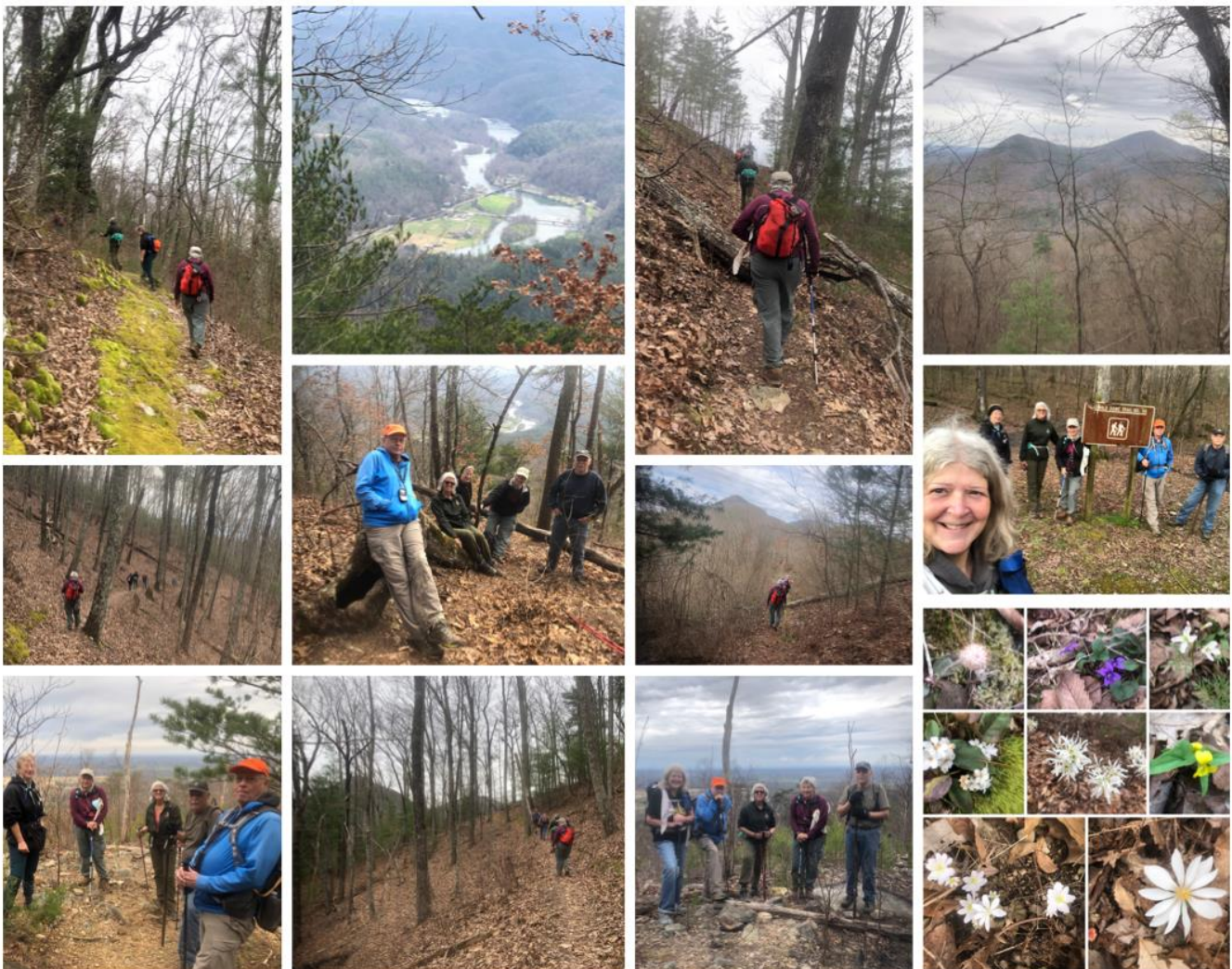


MARCH 19, 2021 DUTCH SETTLEMENT
Postponed due to weather and will be rescheduled

MARCH 23, 2021 OSWALD DOME/LOWRY TOP HIKE AND BUSHWHACKING TRIP



The Acinoyx jubatus Six made the assault on Lowry Top, an 8-mile round trip with a total elevation gain of 1900 feet, using the Oswald Dome Trail beginning at Quinn Springs picnic area for several miles, then some bushwhacking and steady walking to the lunch spot overlooking the city of Reliance. Weather was a bit overcast and the views had some haze, but, overall, it was a nice day out. On a clear day from the lunch spot Gregory Bald is visible, some 44 miles away. The bloodroot is beginning to bloom in abundance, Trillium, rue anemone, violets, and many others are beginning to bloom at the lower elevations. We also saw several varieties of antennaria plantaginifolia. (We will all remember the name next hike.) Higher up, the leaves have not begun to emerge. The hike took about 6 hours and generated some tight calf muscles a day later, but it was a great hike and a great happy group. Hikers were Mary Alton; Teresa Greene; Judy Price; Sue Robinson; a visitor, Ed Tarver; and Hike Leader Jack Callahan.



MARCH 25, 2021 SCENIC SPUR AND CLEMMER SPUR
Postponed due to weather and will be rescheduled.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Walk was made every Wednesday at 4:30 pm, and a total of 3.75 miles each walk. Had some difficult weather on the 17th, but it was good to get the miles in. Each week we have had different walkers join in. As weather improves, hope to see more club members out. Walk Leader Jack Callahan.



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST



The third Thursday breakfast at Old Fort Restaurant in Cleveland is going strong as we gradually get folks vaccinated for the virus. This Thursday we had seven folks out to enjoy conversation and hot food over lots of coffee. Joining in this month were Jennifer Schroll, Ann and Bill Gray, Edmond and Gail Gray, Jimmy Drennan, and Jack Callahan.

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.

APRIL 2, 2021 FRIDAY CLEMMER TRAIL TO BENTON FALLS AND BACK

The hike is 8.6 miles in length and is considered strenuous due to elevation gain. Meet at Clemmer Trailhead on Hwy 30 headed toward Reliance and just off Hwy 64. Contact Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256.

APRIL 3, 2021 SATURDAY 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. Contact Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256.

APRIL 5, 2021 MONDAY MOUNT LECONTE (RESCHEDULED DATE)

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 Road 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. Contact Hike Leader Al Johnson at 845-283-2666 or aj13hhi@gmail.com. His contact info is phone.

APRIL 6 – 9, 2021 TUESDAY – FRIDAY AT/SMOKIES BACKPACKING TRIP

Backpacking trip on the AT. Leave a vehicle at Elkmont Campground and drive to Newfound Gap on April 6. Hike to Mt. Collins Shelter day 1, Silers Bald Shelter day 2, Campsite 26 on Miry Ridge day 3, and back to Elkmont Campground day 4. Hike Leader Buddy Arnold 601-415-3551.

APRIL 6, 2021 TUESDAY CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN

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. Anyone interested in going **MUST** contact Hike Leader Jack Callahan prior to the hike at jackn1945@bellsouth.net.

APRIL 8, 2021 THURSDAY 6:00 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING WESTERN SIZZLIN ATHENS, TN

The meeting room will be open to us beginning at 5:30 pm if you want to come early and go ahead and order and visit a bit with others. The meeting will begin at the usual 6 pm.

APRIL 10, 2021 SATURDAY 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. Anyone interested in going **MUST** contact Hike Leaders Jim and Lettie Whisman at Lettiejik@gmail.com or Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

APRIL 12, 2021 MONDAY CANEY CREEK VILLAGE (RESCHEDULED DATE)

With Benton MacKaye Trail Association. 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 1940's 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.

APRIL 13, 2021 TUESDAY BLACK MOUNTAIN IN CRAB ORCHARD, TN

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, wildflowers, great views, and an old springhouse. 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. Hike is limited to 12. Anyone interested in going **MUST** text Hike Leader Sue Robinson prior to the hike at 423-519-9751 with your name and number in case of cancellation.

APRIL 17, 2021 SATURDAY GUIDED TOUR OF THE INTERPRETIVE CENTER AT THE HIWASSEE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER IN CHARLESTON, TN

The 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. Please meet at the parking lot beside the pavilion at 10 am. There is a suggested donation of \$5 or you can purchase a one-year membership for \$10. 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 Cherokee people helped lay out the town of Calhoun. Contact Event Leader Yvonne Rittenhouse at yvonne.rittenhouse@gmail.com or 423-284-3818.

APRIL 18, 2021 SUNDAY 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, 2021 THURSDAY FLAT ROCK CEDAR GLADES BARRENS CLASS II NATURAL SCIENTIFIC STATE NATURAL AREA

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. 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. Depending upon the virus situation at the time we will carry a lunch or eat in a local restaurant. Hike Leaders Marrie Lasater and Jack Callahan. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

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

MAY 8 – 16, 2021 [VIRTUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE \(GSMNP AND BEYOND!\)](#)

“LET’S HOLD ANOTHER ONLINE EVENT! It is hard not to really miss the fellowship with each other and with nature that our annual spring pilgrimage gives us! With the uncertainty of COVID-19 still an issue, we’ve decided to make the Spring event virtual this year. This version of our event will once again be held through the iNaturalist app. We will not limit this year’s event to the confines of the GSMNP, nor is it ever limited to just wildflowers as the 70-year-old name suggests, but instead we will expand it throughout the entire country, Canada, and anywhere else our pilgrims happen to be. So, no matter where you live or what organisms you have in your backyards, neighborhoods, parks or outdoor areas you may safely visit, you can share them with all of us!”

[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.

MINUTES OF CHEROKEE HIKING CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

MARCH 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order by president, James Anderson, and held at the Western Sizzlin', Athens, TN. A motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting, held on January 23, 2021, was approved.

As there were several new folks attending James had everyone introduce him/herself and tell something interesting about yourself.

Reports from recent hikes: Ruth reported that six people participated in the Eureka Trail hike which was two miles in and out. Jack reported that four attended the Battlefield hike which was eight miles and somewhat wet. Claire was not present to report on the recent Thunder Rock Loop hike.

Jack also reported on a recent hike, Kimsey Highway, where the John Hedden Graveside was visited. Hikers followed a skid trail to Goforth Creek, eight miles, seven people.

Treasurers Report: Randy was not present. James gave the report Randy submitted. The balance of March 10 was \$1895.50. Mark made a motion to accept the report and Jack seconded. Motion passed.

There was no reported old business.

Under new business: A question was asked about what dues are spent on. James and several members of the club responded that they are used, in part, for the club Christmas Party, advanced payments on campsite rental, etc., flowers for deaths, national dues, pavilion rentals for club meetings, and gift cards to thank officers for their service to the club.

James also added that the club is open to looking into ideas such as using part of the dues to welcome new club members, i.e., hats, shirts, etc.

Clayton thanked Margaret for putting together an article advertising the club in a local newspaper.

James received information via email from a company in California called TSX Challenge which presented an overview of services they offer. Rick said he gets lots of these inquiries and responds that we are not interested. Jack suggested putting together a class on backpacking in lieu of partnering with an outside company if there is enough interest.

Upcoming Hikes: Refer to Hiking Club Calendar.

Rick inquired about when or if the club should start posting hikes on Facebook. Jack said he preferred not to do that due to problems he has encountered in the past. After some discussion, James said he did not feel the need to further publicize hikes at this time. However, we can revisit this topic at a later date. Most hikes are posted on the club website.

Location of next meeting: James suggested meeting here for one more month as it might still be chilly outside for the April 8 meeting.

Jack announced an "impromptu" hike to the Dutch Settlement on March 19. He also said he would have Judy put an announcement out that if anyone is interested in participating in the train ride in West Virginia as part of the Greenbriar Hike on Saturday, May 22, they need to make reservations.

James adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Anderson, Substitute Secretary



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