

The Cherokee Hiker

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

www.cherokeehikingclub.org

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Cherokee Hiking Club Members.

As the weather is improving, I am pleased to share with you that we will be having our May 13th Club meeting outside and at the Pavilion at the park in Charleston, TN. (If you need directions to it please text or email me and I will be happy to share those with you.) So please bring your food or sandwich for yourself as we are not returning to the potluck all-share approach quite yet. In the meantime, be sure to get out and enjoy as much of nature as you can. Be well and we hope to see you in Charleston at the meeting or on the trail on a hike. Also remember if you have not paid your dues yet, please send them to Randy our Treasurer or you can give them to me at the meeting.

Safe journeys,

James



Follow the Cherokee Hiking Club on Instagram @cherokee_hiking_club!

CHEROKEE_HIKING_CLUB

EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2, 2021 CLEMMER TRAIL TO BENTON FALLS AND BACK



On a cold Friday morning of Easter Weekend, five hikers made the journey to Benton Falls via the Clemmer Trail. We saw peaks of several waterfalls in Rattlesnake Hollow. Benton Falls was really flowing with water from earlier rains. On the way back we looped over to the Clemmer Spur Trail to look for mushrooms. Alas, no mushrooms were found. Hikers were Jack Callahan, Judy Price, Buddy Arnold, Randy Morris, and Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll.



APRIL 3, 2021 ESTELLE MINE TRAIL AND POCKET WILDFLOWER AREA IN NORTH GEORGIA



On a beautiful Saturday of Easter Weekend, eight hikers made the hike. After a quick car shuttle, we set off from the Estelle Mine Trailhead along an unimproved roadway and then to the old mine railbed. We traveled through 4 of the 6 old railway tunnels – very exciting. It was easier to hike thorough than go UP and around. Several places along this section of trail had washouts. There used to be more railbed elevated crossings. We ended the hike at the Pocket Wilderness area, ate lunch, and explored the beautiful boardwalk among wildflowers. Most people traveled up from the boardwalk to a gorgeous waterfall. Hikers were Judy Price, Jack Callahan, Margaret Callahan, Mary Alton, Fritz Kocher, Karen Kocher, Doug Lynch, and Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll.



APRIL 6 – 9, 2021 AT/SMOKIES BACKPACKING TRIP

After the hike up LeConte on April 6, Buddy Arnold and Bruce Lee joined club member Darrell Morgan and guest Stuart Johnson for an AT backpack hike. We started at Newfound Gap after leaving a vehicle at Elkmont. The first afternoon we hiked about 6 miles to the Mount Collins Shelter and were joined by a number of thru-hikers and others there. The next day we made the strenuous hike up Clingmans Dome and on over to the Silers Bald Shelter, about 9 miles total. There were a large number of thru-hikers and others either staying in the shelter or camping, probably around 30 altogether. We learned that hiking during a spring break weekend and when the early part of the AT thru-hiker starts, you can probably expect a crowded AT.



We continued on the AT going south for about 3 miles and took the Miry Ridge Trail toward Elkmont about three more miles and spent the night at Campsite 26, a very nice site in a large grove of hemlocks. There was some rain and wind during the night, but the next morning was clear and warm. We completed the hike to Elkmont on the Jakes Creek Trail (about five miles) and were treated to beautiful spring wildflowers.

APRIL 6, 2021 CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN



Hiking club members met at the Hiwassee/Ocoee Rivers State Park parking and carpoled to the trailhead at Iron Gap. This was an 8-mile hike, with the first three miles on a nice grade with good tread. At three miles, we arrived at a really nice overlook with great views to the east and a view of the Hiwassee River just south of Reliance. There is a decent location with water (possibly year-round) just beyond the lookout. The next five miles of the trail becomes more difficult as the tread has a lot of cobbles. There are not many good views in this later section. We finished the hike back at the state park and Doug Lynch shuttled us back to Iron Gap. We had great weather and enjoyed the hike. Hikers included Doug Lynch, Judy Price, Margaret Callahan, Anne Anderson, Mary Alton, Jennifer Schroll, and Hike Leader Jack Callahan.



APRIL 8, 2021 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING WESTERN SIZZLIN



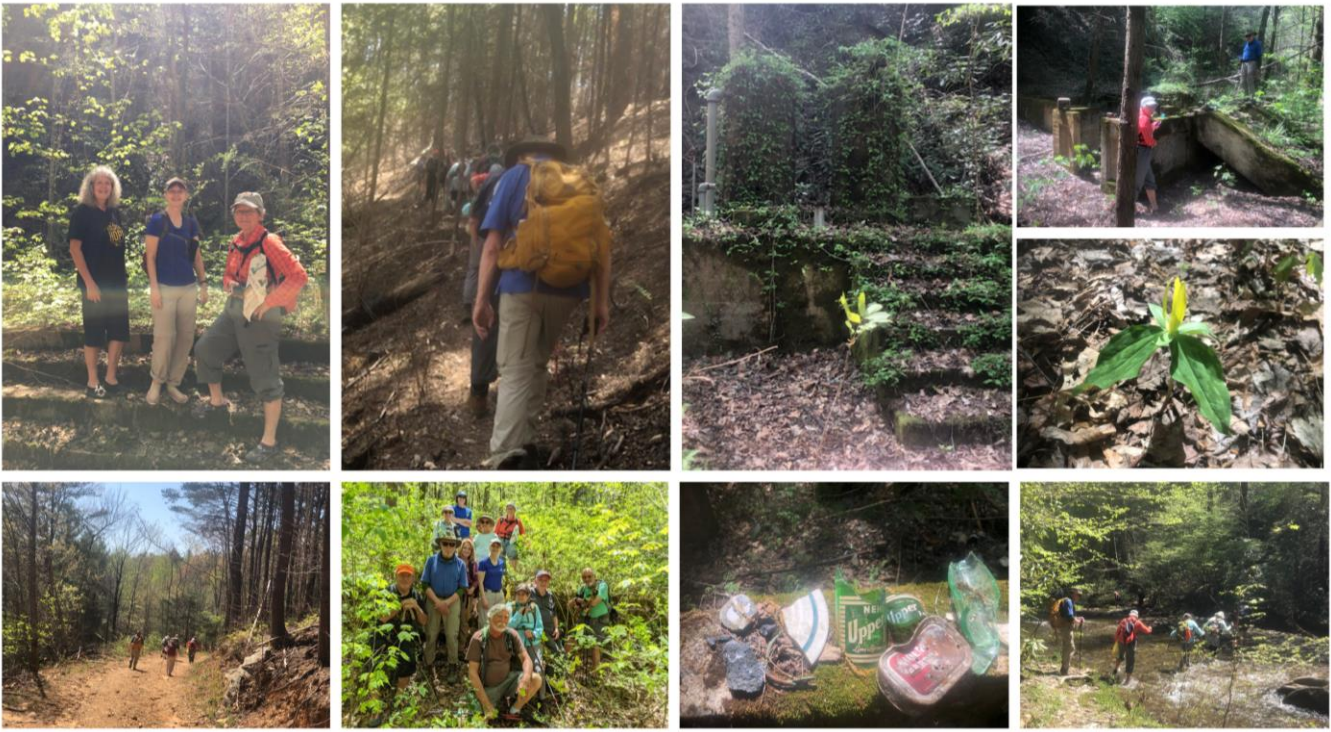
APRIL 10, 2021 BIG SODDY CREEK GULF PARK HIKE IN THE JIM ADAMS WILDERNESS

Canceled due to weather.

APRIL 12, 2021 CANEY CREEK VILLAGE



The hike to the unique little village of Caney Creek sparked lots of interest. Thus, Clare Sullivan led three hikes (including April 12 co-led by Judy Price) in conjunction with the Benton MacKaye Trail Association to explore the artifacts. A total of 29 hikers had an exciting time walking through a recently controlled burn area down a steep descent into a community that ended in 1941. The village was built by the Eastern Tennessee Power Company in 1918 for the employees who built the flume between Dam No. 2 and Power House No. 2 on Highway 64 along the Ocoee River. The only way in and out of the community was by boat or by a 150' suspended bridge. The village was featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not for being the only village in the United States that had never had an automobile or horse-drawn vehicle. Being very modern for its day, the community had concrete sidewalks, electric street lights, telephones, fire hydrants, city water, and a lighted tennis court. Concrete used in the construction was the same grade as the concrete for the dam. Residents used the "Toonerville Trolley" to travel to work. The trolley ran on storage batteries. More information about Caney Creek can be found online and at the Ducktown Basin Museum. The forest service road to the trailhead is only open March 15-31 and September 1 – December 31.



APRIL 15, 2021 BLACK MOUNTAIN

Four hikers made the rescheduled Black Mountain hike in beautiful Grassy Cove near Crab Orchard. It was a perfect day to see wildflowers, a cave, breathtaking views, and massive, unusual rock formations, along with remnants of a researcher's home and springhouse at the top. A fantastic day!



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



Walking in the Footsteps of Ancestors. On Saturday morning, April 17, ten of us met in Charleston (TN, of course) for what was to be a fine day of shoes-on-the-ground walking, listening, learning, and deepening our understanding of significant historical events, people, and places in our own back yard. Beginning at the Hiwassee River Heritage Center, a certified interpretive site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, our guide Darlene brought the past alive as she wove a captivating narrative which showcased both Native American history and the Civil War period. We visited 13 sites in Charleston before moving across the river for a picnic at Calhoun's Meadowlands Park. Then we were oriented to the second part of our tour, led and taught by Calhoun/Charleston Historical Society guides Laura and Joe. Calhoun is the oldest town in McMinn County, the first county seat, the site of 1838's Removal Route of North Carolina Cherokees, and one of the places occupied and partially destroyed in the Civil War. Prior to township status in 1819, the area was known as Walker's Ferry Trading Post. From our three excellent guides' combined trove of knowledge, experience, and dedicated hard work, we received gifts of time, generosity, hospitality, and inspiration. Each of us was also given two written and pictorial booklets to carry home, ponder, and appreciate. Oh, and we walked about 4.5 miles!



APRIL 18, 2021 MUSHROOM ROCK ON SIGNAL MOUNTAIN



It was a wonderful Sunday afternoon for six hikers to visit Mushroom Rock atop Signal Mountain. The six were Lettie and Jim Whisman, Karen and Fritz Kocher, and Phyllis and James Anderson (Hike Leader). (Apparently it was a couples hike!) It was a great afternoon for a stroll with the flowers blooming, the birds singing and the sun shining. Lots of laughs and conversation were had by all. Also, I must report that Phyllis was able to try out her new iPhone mini-tripod which she purchased at 5 Below and was able to take the official photos with her actually being in the picture too. What progress!!!



APRIL 22, 2021 FLAT ROCK CEDAR GLADES BARRENS CLASS II NATURAL SCIENTIFIC STATE NATURAL AREA



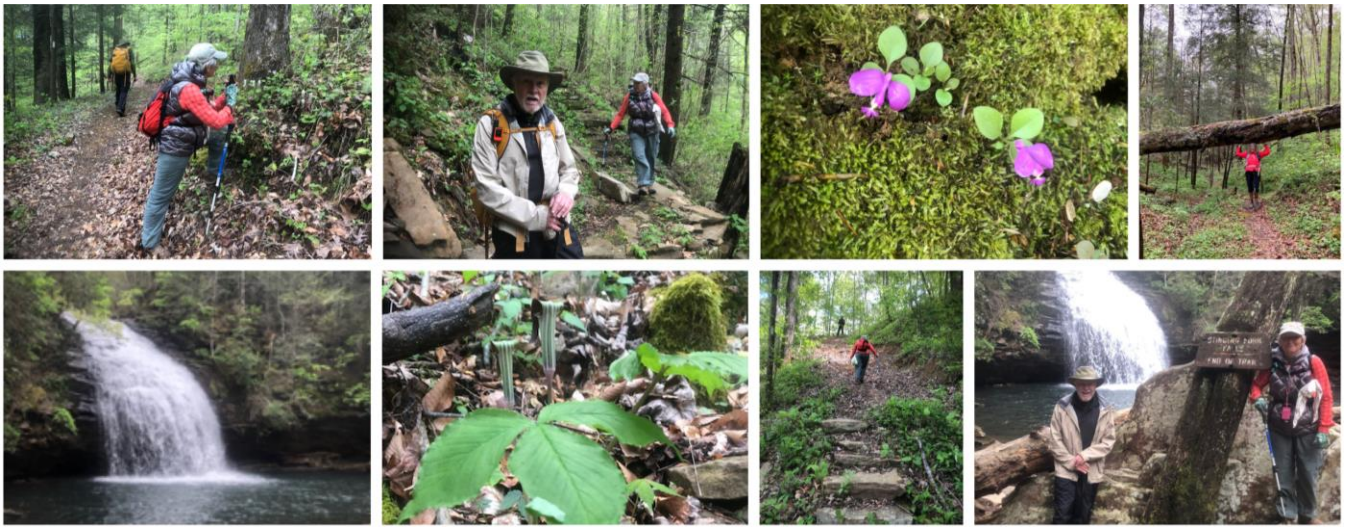
Four club members met in Cleveland and drove to the trailhead to meet up with the rest of our group at 10 am. After a brief discussion on the area, we began our walk which was led by Dr. Kim Sadler of MTSU. Dr. Sadler and Marrie Lasater had pre-walked the section of trail and had pre-identified the rare and unusual plants we were going to see. They had nice handouts and plant lists and were very well organized. We saw many plants that are only found in barrens, and a few which are specific to this area only. These included Pyne's ground plum, Tennessee milk vetch, and Nashville breadroot to name a few. It was a very informative walk and both Marrie and Dr. Sadler are very familiar with the area and made excellent guides. After a two-plus-mile walk, we stopped by the geographic center of Tennessee, then on to Stones River National Historic Site for lunch on the grounds. We had beautiful weather and saw some amazing plant life. A special thanks to Dr. Sadler and Marrie for their organization and to Clare Sullivan, Karen Kocher, Anne Anderson, and Margaret Callahan for attending. Hike Leader Jack Callahan would like to do this event again in the fall and camp at Cedars of Lebanon State Park for two nights to do the full four-plus-mile walk in the glades.



APRIL 24, 2021 STINGING FORK FALLS SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

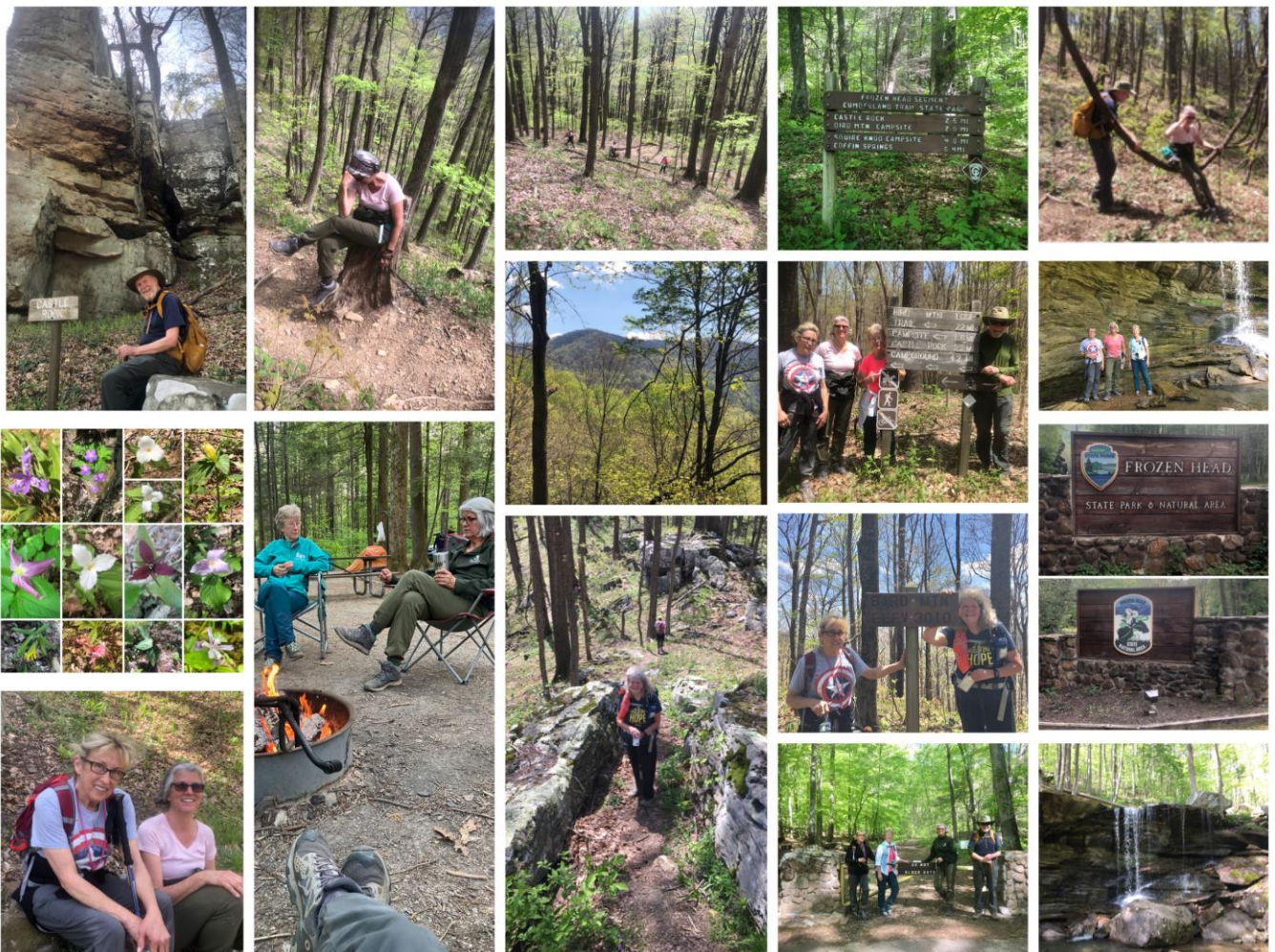


Three hikers started off on an overcast and chilly morning at Stinging Fork Falls trailhead after shuttling from Piney River trailhead north of Spring City. The first thing we noticed was that the forest next to the kiosk had been felled. It was shocking, but did open up the views. We took Stinging Fork Falls Trail down rocky, slick-from-the-rain switchbacks and were excited to get glimpses of the falls on the way. Finally, the magnificent falls appeared before us. We made plans to come back in the future before heading back to the junction and hiking Soak Creek Trail. The creek was recently named a Scenic River. This is where our hike slowed down as we stopped to admire all the blooming wildflowers, not only right along the trail, but covering every inch of the forest: jack-in-the-pulpit; almost every color of trillium, dwarf crested iris and violet; phlox; chickweed; fire pink; lady's slipper; mayapple; geranium; partridgeberry; gaywings; fairybell; waterleaf; and many more. We also had to marvel at the beautiful creek cascades and drainage streams and dripping, mossy rock bluffs and rockhouses as the trail led us next to the creek one moment, then up and down the mountain, and back to the creek over and over. The sun came out by the end and we were warmed up as we ended our hike road-walking past the confluence of Soak Creek and Piney River to trailhead parking. Mary Alton, Doug Lynch, and Hike Leader Judy Price made the eight-and-a-half-mile hike. Thanks to Mary for carrying out two bags of trash she picked up along the way!



APRIL 26 – 28, 2021 FROZEN HEAD STATE PARK

Five hikers met at Frozen Head State Park to camp for two nights at Big Cove Campground group site and hike. Monday, the group hiked Emory Gap Trail to see Emory Falls. Tuesday, we hiked Bird Mountain Loop, a difficult 8.8 miles comprising Lookout Tower Trail, Cumberland Trail and Bird Mountain Trail. We had great weather, beautiful views, and the trail was lined with several different wildflowers, mostly different-colored trillium. The group got to see the famous Castle Rock! Good food and great fun were had at the campsite. The hikers: Teresa Greene, Sue Robinson, Teresa Wyatt, Judy Price and Hike Leader Doug Lynch.



WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY



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

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST



A good time was had by all at Old Fort Restaurant.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MAY 3, 2021 MONDAY 9 AM BALD RIVER FALLS TRAIL OUT AND BACK

With Benton MacKaye Trail Association. 9.8 miles round trip – moderate. We will meet behind the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center in Tellico Plains at 9 am and go to the Bald River Falls parking area on Tellico River Road. We will hike this incredibly beautiful trail to the last waterfall a short distance from Bald River Road and eat lunch there, then return to our vehicles. There are numerous impressive waterfalls in the first two miles of the trail, then the trail flattens out somewhat with some great campsites and swimming holes. This trip is listed as moderate due to its length and the rockiness of the trail. Contact Rick Harris at HarrisRi@aol.com or 423-253-6358 to sign up. You must pre-sign up since this is Wilderness with restrictions on the number of hikers allowed in a group. If you are not signed up, you cannot go.

MAY 8, 2021 SATURDAY JOHN MUIR NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The Cherokee Hiking Club is responsible for maintaining the Childers Creek to Big Bend section of the JMNRT. Clayton and Ruth Pannell will be the Leaders. More details will be provided at a later date.

MAY 10, 2021 MONDAY 9 AM NAKED GROUND, HAOE, AND THE HANGOVER VIA THE BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL AND BACK WITH POSSIBLE SIDE TRIP TO BOB BALD

With Benton MacKaye Trail Association. Seven to nine miles. Difficult. We will meet at 9 am behind the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center then drive to the Wolf Laurel Trailhead, about an hour's drive. We will hike up the Stratton Ridge Trail two miles to the intersection with the BMT, then to north to Naked Ground, Haoe, and The Hangover with its 360-degree views of the Smokies and the surrounding mountains in TN and NC national forests. After eating lunch at The Hangover, we will return with a possible two-mile side round trip to Bob Bald. Contact Rick Harris at HarrisRi@aol.com or 423-253-6358 to sign up. You must pre-sign up since this is Wilderness with restrictions on the number of hikers allowed in a group. If you are not signed up, you cannot go.

MAY 11 – 15, 2021 THURSDAY - SATURDAY BACKPACK IN THE SMOKIES

Please see the attached document for schedule of events and more information. This will include parts of the Balsam Mountain, AT, and Kephart Trails. The total distance hiked will be around 30 miles and is considered moderate to strenuous. There is a limit of 6 hikers. The backpack will go from Pin Oak Gap to Laurel Gap Shelter, from Tri Corner Shelter to Pecks Corner Shelter, to Kephart Shelter and then out via the Kephart Trail. Some of the specifics may vary as Buddy talks with those interested in going as there are some other options. Also, since the number is limited, it is highly recommended that anyone interested contact Buddy sooner rather than later to discuss other costs and considerations. These include a nightly fee to camp in the Park and whether or not a shuttle will be involved that costs and what that amount may be. Contact Hike Leader Buddy Arnold at 601-415-3551 or we_arnold@outlook.com.

MAY 13, 2021 THURSDAY 6 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING CHARLESTON CITY PAVILION

Due to current precautions, we will not have a potluck dinner. Bring your own meal to the Charleston (TN) City Pavilion in Hoyt Berry Municipal Park.

MAY 17 – 23, 2021 MONDAY - SUNDAY CAR CAMP AT [WATOGA STATE PARK](#) IN WEST VIRGINIA

It is located on the Greenbrier River near Marlinton, WV. We are camping in the [Riverside Campground](#) near the upper Bath House around the loop. *Please see the attached spreadsheet for schedule of events and more information.* For those not interested in the activities planned, there are lots of other things to do which include visiting the New River Gorge or fishing. Everyone is responsible for their own reservations for the campsite and for the train ride. Contact Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you have any questions.

MAY 27, 2021 THURSDAY OLD COPPER ROAD FROM BOYD GAP TO OCOEE WHITEWATER CENTER

This is an easy 3.5-mile hike. Contact Hike Leaders Ruth and Clayton Pannell at 423-506-9623, 435-1848, or crpannell@comcast.net.

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/OCOE 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.