

- PAST EVENTS

SHAKERAG HOLLOW APRIL 30, 2022



Eight wildflower hikers, including Hike Leader Jack Callahan, made the drive to Sewanee and hiked the Shakerag Hollow Trail for about four miles round trip. A short unplanned detour at the beginning of trail yielded a beautiful pink lady's slipper, so all was not lost. We were just past the peak of a lot of flowers, but we still found many along the way. Cucumber root, mayflower, various trilliums, hairy waterleaf, wild ginger, and Jack in the Pulpit, to name a few, were in abundance. At our lunch stop, Mary Alton's bird ID app identified a scarlet tanager, which, after searching the highest tops of trees, we spotted—a brilliant red. The several small waterfalls along the trail were flowing full. It was a great day to be out and thanks to everyone for joining. - Jack Callahan



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING MAY 12, 2022



Club meeting was held at the Etowah Senior Center with a potluck supper. The speaker was Dr. Stacy Clark, a US Forest Service employee working for the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Dr. Clark has an extensive background in oak management and the restoration of the American Chestnut. She began her presentation with a history of the chestnut in the southeast, with excellent slides of scenes in the early 1900s. The introduction of the chestnut blight in the 1930s began the decline of the chestnut and shortly all the trees were dead or dying. Dr. Clark gave the background on the research for a blight-resistant tree which was almost 100% chestnut and the work that has gone on in the development. This involves the planting of hundreds of saplings in different locations and monitoring these plantings. While there have been great advances in this research, it appears we are a long way off from ever seeing the robust forests of chestnut in the southern Appalachians. Dr. Clark is an excellent speaker and we were very fortunate to be able to have her speak to us. She hikes in the Smokies, and we look forward to having her join us when the club has a hike near Knoxville.

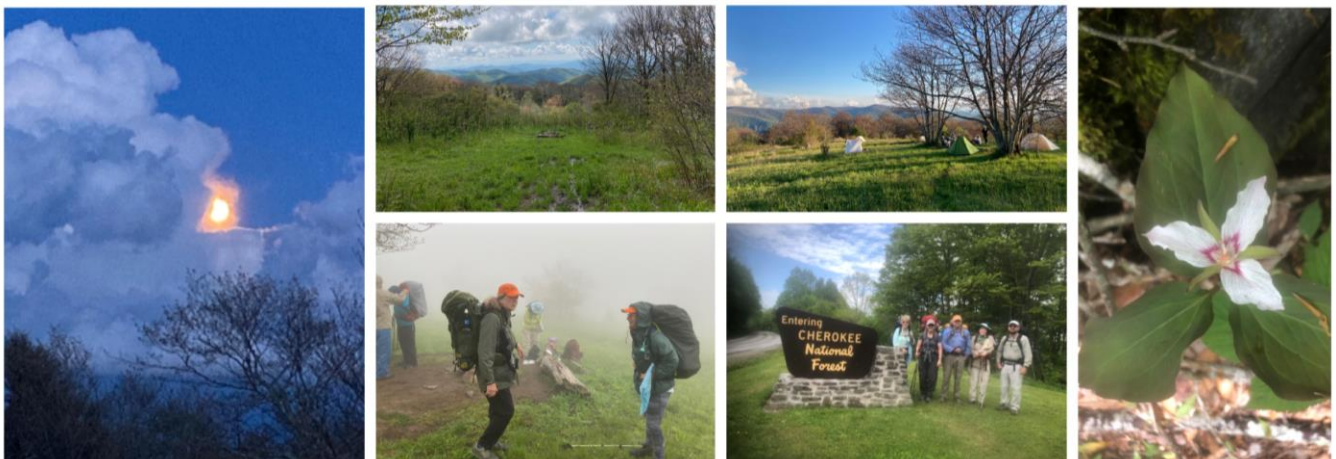
- Jack Callahan



BOB BALD BACKPACKING TRIP MAY 15 - 16, 2022



Sunday afternoon, our group met up and traveled the short distance to Beech Gap to begin our hike. The weather was nice and clear with mild temperatures, which cooled even more as we gained elevation to the top of Bob Bald. We were treated to a completely empty camping area, not a person around, giving us many choice locations to pitch our tents. The spring on top was running well, so we had no problems with water. After setting up, gathering water, and preparing our bear-hanging cordage, everyone prepared their suppers. I tried pancakes for the first time which turned out quite well. After supper, as the sun began to set and temperatures began to fall, jackets came out and we waited for the Super Moon to rise. Low cloud cover over the Robbinsville area delayed the full moon for a bit. Then the wait began for the lunar eclipse. A big of haze took away the clear sky, but the eclipse was still very obvious, as was the red moon at full eclipse. The next morning, we awoke to dense fog and the threat of rain. After a hasty breakfast, we packed up and headed back to Beech Gap and our vehicle. The total round trip is eight miles with about 1000-foot elevation gain. Everyone did great and gained a bit more experience in backpacking. Hikers included Brenda Harris, Judy Price, Karen Kocher, Sue Robinson, Darrell Morgan, and Hike Leader Jack Callahan. - Jack Callahan



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST MAY 19, 2022

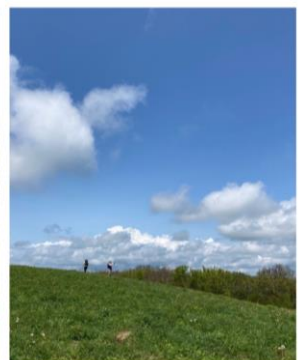


A great time was had with a good turnout of club members including Jennifer Schroll, Carol Guhne, Carin Taber, Gail and Edmond Gray, Ann and Bill Gray, and Jack Callahan. We had some great conversation and a great breakfast as usual. - Jack Callahan

HUCKLEBERRY KNOB/HOOPER BALD WITH PICNIC MAY 21, 2022



The group collected up and made the drive to the trailhead at Hooper Bald. Dense fog greeted us as we began the half-mile walk to the bald, but as we made the loop on the top, the fog began to clear. The wild azaleas were not in bloom yet but were covered in buds. By the time we had driven the short distance to the Huckleberry Knob Trailhead, we had beautiful blue skies. We made the mile-plus walk to the top of the bald and found a nice location for lunch. The temperature was in the mid-70s with a slight breeze, perfect weather to eat a leisure meal and enjoy the views. With the help of Peakfinder, we were able to locate Gregory Bald and Rocky Top in the Smokies. We had the bald almost completely to ourselves, but met a group as we left, on their way to the top. It was a beautiful day to be out and enjoy the sights. Hikers included Hike Leader Jack Callahan, Karen Kocher, Leslie Auriemmo, Judy Price, and Margaret Callahan. - Jack Callahan



MONTE SANO STATE PARK MAY 27 - 29, 2022



Club members began to arrive in midafternoon at the campground. Several had rented cabins and arrived a day early. One couple stayed at a B&B just outside the park. Later in the evening, a good campfire brought everyone together to talk and discuss the next day's events. A couple of chefs cooked their meals using pie irons over the coals, including pizza pockets, cherry pie, and tacos.



Saturday morning, we met at 10 am at the entrance to the Huntsville Botanical Gardens and began our tour. The gardens are really spectacular and well-designed. The weather was excellent with a clear blue sky and moderate temperatures. There were so many things to see, from artwork to ponds to trees and flowers. One highlight was the butterfly house. A special find was the green dragon plant, which occurs naturally but is rare to find in the wild. You can easily spend the entire day at the gardens to see it all.



After over three hours, we broke up and headed back to the campsite with lunch stops along the way. After supper, we convened at the Von Braun planetarium for their weekend presentation and there were about a dozen of their members who had telescopes set up for the attendees to see different celestial objects. Afterwards, we had another great campfire to enjoy. The elevation of the campground is only about 1600 feet, but it was easily 10 degrees cooler than down in Huntsville.



The next morning, most of the group hiked what is reported to be the most difficult trail in the park. All of our club members did great. We made a large loop of about six miles with a total loss and gain of 600 feet. The first $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the trail definitely did require care in hiking, as it was steep and very rocky. That evening we enjoyed another campfire with some meals cooked in the pie irons. - Jack Callahan



CHILDERS CREEK SECTION OF BMT/JOHN MUIR NRT JUNE 6, 2022



Seven of us hiked the Childers Creek section of the Benton MacKaye Trail. It was a cool, relatively speaking, morning and we had a nice breeze as the day progressed. The water level in the river was quite low that day. We certainly enjoyed the hike, some flowers along the way, and lunch on a bluff overlooking the river. - James Anderson



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING JUNE 9, 2022



The club met at the Gee Creek Campground at Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park at the outdoor amphitheater for sack lunches, and then had a program presented by two park employees, Mason Robinson and Brad Hamby. They shared with us three of the raptors which are in the care of the park. This night, we were introduced to their owls: a barred owl, a great horned owl, and a screech owl. These owls have all been injured or raised in such a way by others that they are unable to be released back into the wild. It was obvious that each owl had its very own personality, and were receiving great treatment by their handlers. We got a great discussion on their feeding habits and the high maintenance that they require. We are honored to have this facility near us and that the park has taken the extra effort to be granted certification to adopt injured raptors. A special thanks to the park employees for giving us such a great presentation. - Jack Callahan

ROCK CREEK/BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL JUNE 10, 2022



With some last-minute cancellations, five hikers still braved the high temperatures to hike eight miles up the recently logged-out Rock Creek Trail and down the Benton MacKaye Trail to the Ocoee River at the Thunder Rock Campground. The trails were in excellent shape except for the mile or so along Rock Creek itself, which is quite overgrown. We all met at 9 am at the Thunder Rock Campground and carpoled to the Rock Creek Trailhead along US 64.



There is a steady uphill for over three miles, but none of it is very steep; then the trail headed down into the Rock Creek Gorge. We ate lunch just after crossing Rock Creek. The trail follows the creek downstream for about one mile, then climbs once again up to the BMT/Dry Pone Lead Trail. We then hiked out the BMT to our vehicles parked at Thunder Rock.



Attending the hike were Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, Karen Kocher, Lucia Case, and Doug Lynch. Overall, the Rock Creek Trail is well-constructed and now in good shape except for the heavy shrubbery along the creek. We encourage others to check out this very scenic trail. Because of the steepness of the BMT going north out of the Ocoee Gorge, the best way to hike this trail is up the Rock Creek Trail, then down the BMT. - Rick Harris

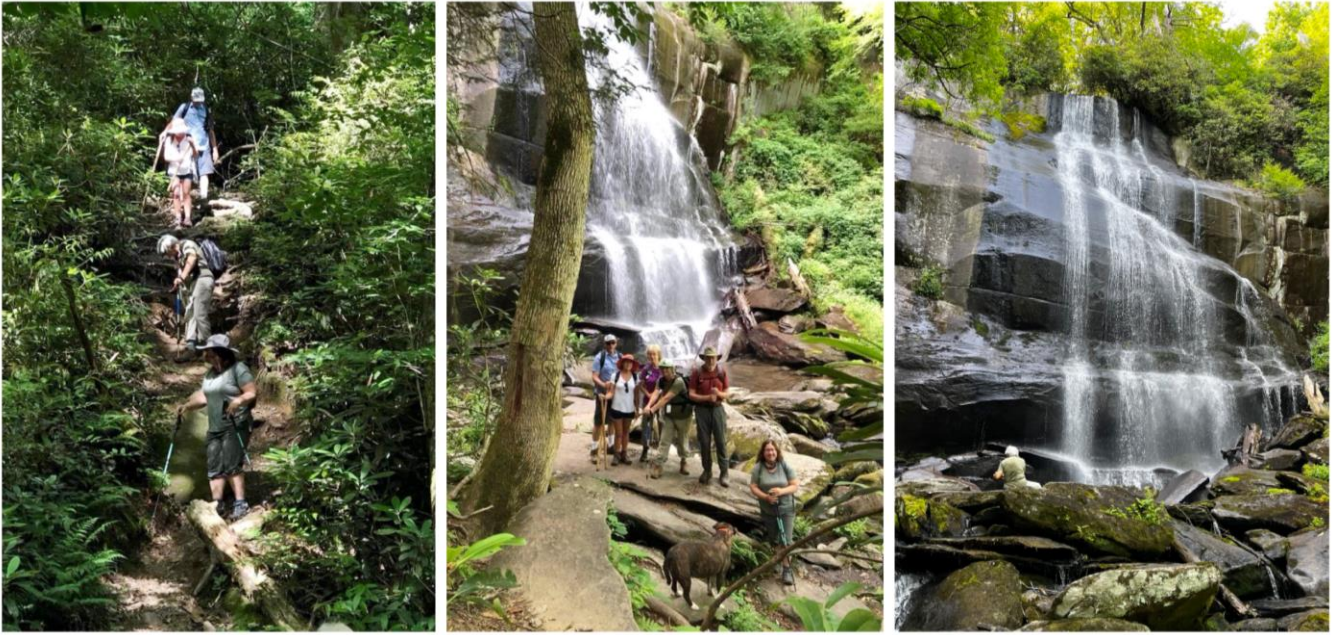


THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST JUNE 16, 2022



Three steady attendees and one straggler made breakfast today. Jennifer Schroll, Ann Gray, and Edmond Gray saved a chair for the straggler and some nice conversation was had about the status of landfills in the area. The things you learn at these get-togethers. - Jack Callahan

FALLS BRANCH FALLS JUNE 21, 2022



Such a fun day with old and new friends at Falls Branch Falls! Mary Alton, Teresa Greene, Doug Lynch, Lucia Case, and new friends Harry and Cindy joined Hike Leader Sue Robinson and Zoe (and Minnie Moose, too). The flowers were not blooming yet, but the weather was perfect and the water was flowing in the waterfall. And since we didn't get enough, we all made a trek to Huckleberry Knob and then Tellico Grains and Bakery. - Sue Robinson



WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY



Every Wednesday the group meets at the end of the trail bridge at the lower end of the parking lot below Perkits. At exactly 4:30 pm the group moves out in a brisk walk to the end of the greenway and back, a total of 3.75 miles. The speed is adjusted based on the group, but typically it is about three mph. There are always great discussions about upcoming trips and planning details for same. Before you know it you are back at the parking lot, and sometimes the hike is extended into Perkits for something frosty. Everyone is always invited to join in.
- Jack Callahan



- 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.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

JULY 14, 2022 THURSDAY 6 PM WESLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH ETOWAH TN

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The Club will be furnishing drinks, cups, and plastic eating utensils. The program is Florida Trail by Rick and Brenda Harris.

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 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**

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

May 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at the Etowah Senior Citizens Center by the President, James Anderson. Visitors were welcomed and introduced.

A Treasurer's report was presented by Jennifer which indicated we had a checking account balance of \$1575.31 after some minor income and expenses. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and passed.

The business meeting was purposefully brief as there was going to be a presentation by Dr. Stacy Clark from the University of TN on the American Chestnut and their restoration efforts.

She made the presentation and a variety of questions were asked.

The meeting was adjourned afterward.

Respectfully submitted,

James Anderson-President/Secretary

June 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at the Gee Creek amphitheater by President James Anderson. Visitors were welcomed and introduced. Since the minutes from the May meeting had not been distributed there were no minutes to approve.

Recent and upcoming hikes and activities were discussed.

Treasurer Jennifer gave the report which indicated after minor income and expenses we now have a checking account balance of \$1532.33. A motion was made and seconded and passed to accept the report.

After the business meeting a program was given by Mason Robinson and another ranger at the State Park that showed some of the raptors they have on display there.

Afterward the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

James Anderson President/Secretary