



## **• NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello Cherokee Hiking Club Members!

Looking forward to March as the wildflowers are beginning to emerge. There are numerous hikes this month, so hopefully folks can get out and enjoy the early spring weather. Please remember to contact the Hike/Event Leader if you plan to attend an event so you will get all necessary updates of the specific event. We have a great Club Meeting planned for March with Ms. Savana Keeton of Cumberland Trails Conference as speaker. She will give us an update on the Cumberland Trail and answer questions from the group. Let's have a good turnout to show our appreciation!

March is the last month to pay your dues for this calendar year. The rolls will be updated at the end of the month.

As always, be safe while hiking and traveling to and from events.

Jack Callahan, Club President

# - PAST EVENTS

## WESTMORE OUTDOORS EXPO JANUARY 27, 2023



Nine club members attended the event and everyone helped with the Club display table, talking to persons interested in the Cherokee Hiking Club. There was a lot of interest and we possibly picked up a few new members. From there, we attended the Wild Game supper, which included alligator, wild board, beef, and several other types of wild game. Following the meal, most of us joined in the prize raffle drawing. There were some great prizes including mountain bikes, kayaks, tents, coolers, fishing gear, shotguns, and first aid kits. Unfortunately, none of us won anything, but it was a fun evening! - Jack Callahan



## CHILDERS CREEK SECTION TRAIL MAINTENANCE JANUARY 28, 2023



There was an amazing turnout of 32 volunteers who came to help with maintenance on the Club's section of the Benton MacKaye Trail/John Muir NRT known as the Childers Creek section. Of these volunteers, at least 11 were members of our own Cherokee Hiking Club. Thanks to all, we were able to rehab a section of the trail midway of the bluff area and saw out several large trees that had recently blown down. At this point, we can certainly say the trail is in great shape and hopefully will not need any significant attention until spring. In addition to these volunteers, we encountered a group of Scouts and their leaders who were hiking this section and picking up any litter they found. Much appreciation to Nelson, who is the new TN/NC Maintenance Director, for arranging this work day and for Chef Patty who prepared us a trailside lunch that was waiting on us when we finished. Also, a special thanks to our Club members in no special order: Jennifer, Doug, Leslie, Janet, Rob, Harry, Anne, Mary, Clare, Ed, and James. My apologies if I missed anyone. - James Anderson



## MONTHLY CLUB MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2023



See the Minutes below to find out what happened at the meeting! - Jack Callahan



**HARRISON BAY STATE PARK ORIENTEERING COURSE FEBRUARY 11, 2023**



Jack Callahan, Anne Anderson, and Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll completed the orienteering course at Harrison Bay State Park. Club member Judy Price, trying out her new hip, and her friend, Cindy, were at the starting point to send us on our way. The course has 12 control points that you locate by orienting and then finding landmarks on your map. Control Point #3 marker is missing, but we found all the control points. Jack turned on his GPS at control point #6 and estimated that we walked over three miles. A little cold, but a great day. We stopped for a yummy BBQ lunch on the way home. • Jennifer Schroll



## ROCK CREEK TRAIL IN LITTLE FROG WILDERNESS FEBRUARY 18, 2023



After a close-up view of the Ocoee River (which was still raging from recent rainfall) at Thunder Rock Campground, we decided to swap the planned Rock Creek hike (with what would have been a deep, and potentially dangerous, creek crossing) for a hike up Section 11e of the Benton MacKaye Trail. We trekked up to the BMT to the beginning of the West Fork/Rough Creek Trail and then explored other bike/hiking trails in the area, including Thunder Rock Express and Rhododendron Trails, on our way back to the vehicles. We briefly spoke with a group just returning from a three-day adventure on Big Frog where they had braved the rainstorm, which later turned to ice, and a chilly 19-degree morning at their campsite. We were glad we had not slept on the mountain and were instead enjoying a brilliant winter hiking day with beautiful clear blue skies and crisp temperatures. Enjoying the time outdoors were James Anderson and Hike Leader Randy Morris. • Randy Morris

## WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY



Every Wednesday, Jack Callahan and Jennifer Schroll lead a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway. The walks begin at 4:30 pm sharp unless otherwise noted. The meeting location is at the end of the footbridge where the greenway joins the parking lot across from Perkits and Gondolier on Keith Street. Walks are conducted rain or shine. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 for more information. • Jack Callahan

## THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST



The third Thursday of each month, the club meets for breakfast at the Old Fort Restaurant in Cleveland on 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Breakfast begins at 8:30 am and is open to everyone. Gail and Edmond Gray always arrive early to save us a table. Always great food and conversation. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 for additional information. • Jack Callahan

# - UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: Event schedule subject to change according to guidance from governmental agencies and offices regarding health and safety, weather, or other conditions. An email or text from the Hike or Event Leader will be sent to those who signed up if an event is changed or canceled.

## **LULA LAKE LAND TRUST**

### **MARCH 5, 2023 SUNDAY**

Depart from Cleveland Park and Ride commuter parking next to Mapco at I-75 and Hwy 60 at 9 am. **There is a maximum of 12 spots for this hike and we must carpool in three vehicles.** This hike is 4.5 miles, rated easy to moderate. About 700-foot elevation change; or rest near the lake, about two miles all flat. We will hike the classic loop, which includes Lula Lake, Lula Falls, and a bluff overview of the Chattanooga Valley. Bring snacks and water. Lunch stop in Chattanooga after the hike. Contact Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256 or [jennifergeologist@gmail.com](mailto:jennifergeologist@gmail.com).

## **BLACK MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL**

### **MARCH 7, 2023 TUESDAY**

Meet at Spring City, TN, McDonald's at 9 am EST to carpool to the trailhead. See a cave, great rock formations, an old springhouse, and building foundations of a former residence. Approximately nine miles with about 1600-foot elevation gain. Text Hike Leader Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend.

## **MONTHLY CLUB MEETING**

### **MARCH 9, 2023 THURSDAY 6 PM ETOWAH TN SENIOR CENTER**

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The club will furnish drinks, cups, and eating utensils. The program is **Cumberland Trail** by Savana Keeton, Operations Coordinator, Cumberland Trails Conference.

## **CANEY CREEK TRAIL**

### **MARCH 20, 2023 MONDAY**

Rating: Moderate/Difficult Length: 6 miles. See the remains of the historically popular village of Caney Creek. The village was built by Eastern TN Power Co in 1918 for employees. Being very modern for 1918 – 1944, the village enjoyed public sidewalks, city water, fire hydrants, telephones, a lighted tennis court, plus public transportation via a trolley. Located on the Ocoee River, Hwy 64, Polk County. Contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan at 404-849-0872 or [clare7982@gmail.com](mailto:clare7982@gmail.com).

## **BACKPACK ON THE BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL**

### **MARCH 27 - 30, 2023 MONDAY - THURSDAY**

Backpack from the Blue Ridge, GA, area to the Thunder Rock Campground on Highway 64. This trip crosses many of the ridges that can be seen from the Cleveland area. With the leaves still off the trees we should have some nice views toward both the west and east of the ridgelines. The trip is considered strenuous and will cover approximately 38-40 miles. More details will be released later in regard to proposed daily hike lengths and other logistical information related to shuttles, etc. If you are interested, please contact Hike Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824 so you can be included in any of those discussions. As we get closer to the anticipated hike dates, if the weather is forecast to be especially rainy or cold, then we will decide whether or not to cancel the trip.

## **WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY**

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan and Jennifer Schroll lead 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**

## **TENNESSEE STATE PARKS SPRING HIKES**

**MARCH 18, 2023 SATURDAY**

“Longer days, warmer weather and the emerging spring wildflowers are sure signs that spring is here. Join us on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> to welcome the new season.”

## **SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE**

**APRIL 26 - 29, 2023 WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY GSMNP**

“The SWFP is an annual nonprofit event [that] features professionally-guided walks, exhibits, and other learning opportunities to explore the region's rich natural and cultural resources. Pilgrims from more than 40 states and several countries make the pilgrimage each year to learn more about fungi, ferns, wildflowers, trees and shrubs, medicinal plants, insects (terrestrial and aquatic), salamanders and snakes, birds, mammals (bats to bears), journaling, art and photography, and park history.”

## **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

Club met at 6:00 pm at the Etowah Senior Center, and after a potluck supper, Jack Callahan awarded the door prize to James Drummond. Jennifer Schroll gave the Treasurer's Report, and the final balance as of the club meeting was \$2374.69. The report was approved by the members. The past events in January were discussed, and the upcoming events until the next club meeting were covered. Then Jack Callahan and Jennifer Schroll led a presentation/discussion on the way the earth is gridded with latitude and longitude and how to use this information with a USGS topo map to traverse or to locate your position with a base plate compass. There will be a follow-up presentation in a few months by Rick Harris on the use of GPS software on a personal phone.

The next club meeting will be held at the Etowah Senior Center with a presentation by Ms. Savana Keeton of the Cumberland Trails Conference. Let's have a good attendance to show our appreciation for her donating her time to speak with us.

Final call for dues.....If you have not paid your dues by the end of March, you will be dropped from the rolls, and will no longer receive a newsletter.

Submitted by Jack Callahan, President and Secretary