



- NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Cherokee Hiking Club Members!

Wildflower season is beginning in earnest. If you like wildflowers, consider some of the hikes scheduled the next couple of months. There are several hikes that will be short, with lots of stops to look and photograph and learn the common names of different plants and flowers. There may even be a few mushrooms beginning to emerge.

The April club meeting will be held at Charleston City Park pavilion. Potluck supper, followed by a presentation by Rob Coombs on hiking as we age. It is a great subject that we can all learn from.

If you plan to join in on any of the several camping events, be sure to make your reservations with the individual state parks as soon as possible. Many of the campgrounds are filling up quickly.

Remember the Cleveland Greenway walk every Wednesday, and the third Thursday breakfast. We had a great turnout this past breakfast with eleven members joining in.

If you plan to attend a hike, always contact the Hike Leader in advance to let them know you plan to attend. That way you will get any change in the schedule due to inclement weather or other unexpected situations.

As always, be safe on all the events!

Jack Callahan, Club President

- PAST EVENTS

A WALK IN THE WOODS FEBRUARY 3, 2023

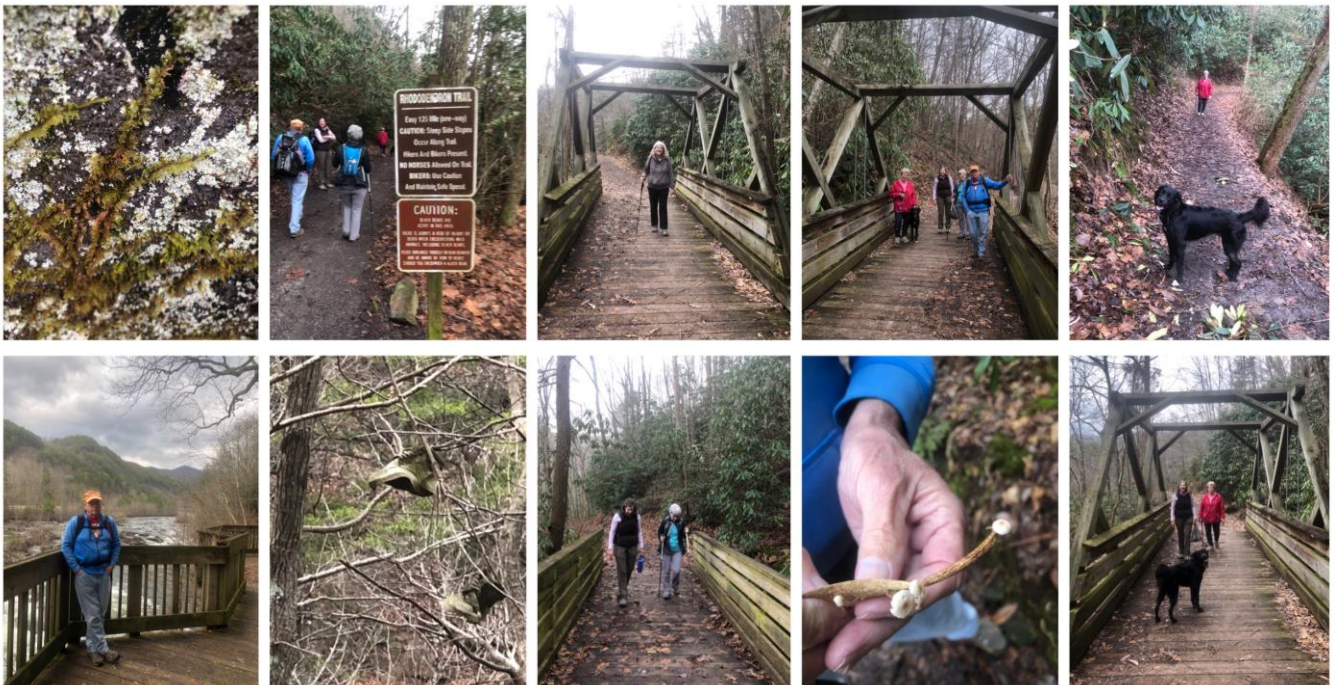


A walk at Johnston Woods! • James Anderson

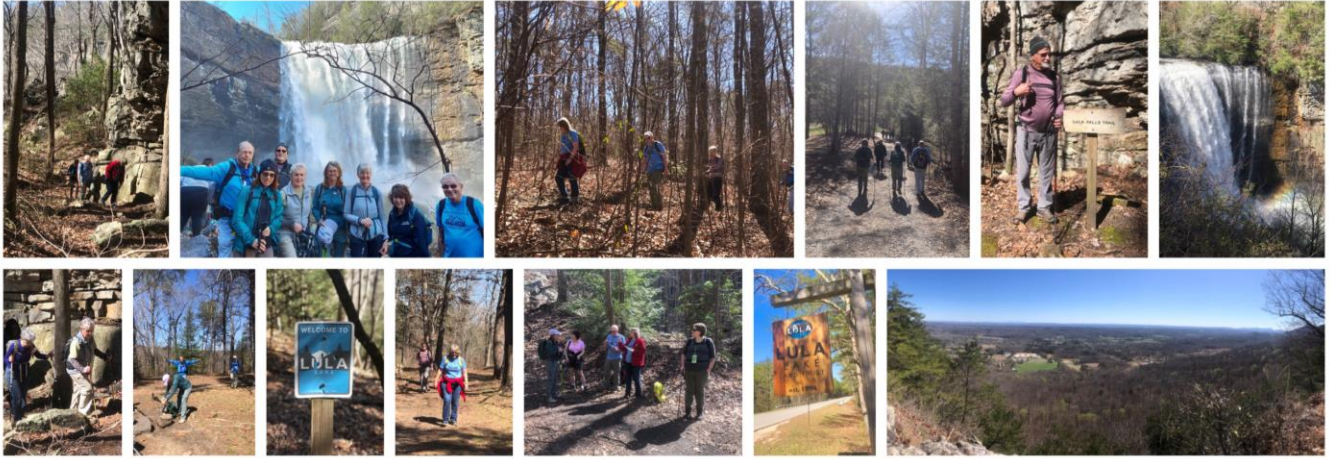
RHODODENDRON TRAIL FEBRUARY 27, 2023



Maryl Elliott, Judy Price, and Jack and Margaret Callahan, led by Hike Leader Clare Sullivan, enjoyed a stroll down the Rhododendron Trail at the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Along the way we searched for early signs of Spring. There were earthstars, puffballs, fiddleheads, and teeny-tiny mushrooms. We also found the American climbing fern, a threatened species in several states. The most unusual sight was a pair of shoes high up in a tree! Maryl brought along her ten-month-old dog, "Dolly Parton!" It was Dolly Parton's first time to explore a trail. She was delighted and so happy. For her first time since hip replacement surgery in January, Judy walked more than two miles. She's a trooper! A fun time, on a cloudy day, was had by all. • Clare Sullivan



LULA LAKE LAND TRUST MARCH 5, 2023



On a beautiful Sunday, a baker's dozen came out to hike at Lula Lake. Attending were Jack and Margaret Callahan, Judy Price, Janet and Rob Coombs, Meryl Elliot, Carol Guhne, Barbie Willis, Randy Morris, Kelly Ducham, Leslie Auriermo, Ginger Pippenger, and Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll. We started from the parking lot at the entrance and hiked down into the valley along Rock Creek on the old railroad bed. We crossed over a nice bridge that gave us good views of the creek and a peek at Lula Lake. The trail follows on a high ridge above the lake on the old railroad bed. Great views of the lake and falls. Most of us took the steep trail, but not the cable trail, down to the base of Lula Falls. We returned to the railroad bed and then continued up to the ridge line on the Bluff Trail. We had a snack and enjoyed the great view of Chattanooga Valley and many mountain ranges in the distance. Then we followed the Middle Trail (should have been all downhill, but it was not) back to the picnic area where we regrouped and hiked back up the road to the parking lot. We stopped at Mike's Smokehouse on South Broad Street for fantastic BBQ and sides. Unfortunately, they were out of egg rolls and banana pudding but they did have their amazing mac & cheese. • Jennifer Schroll



BLACK MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL MARCH 7, 2023



It was perfect weather for ten of us to hike to the top of Black Mountain. Water was flowing nicely through the bat cave, and the giant boulders never cease to amaze one when reaching the top. The sky was clear for lunchtime mountaintop views! - Sue Robinson

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING MARCH 9, 2023



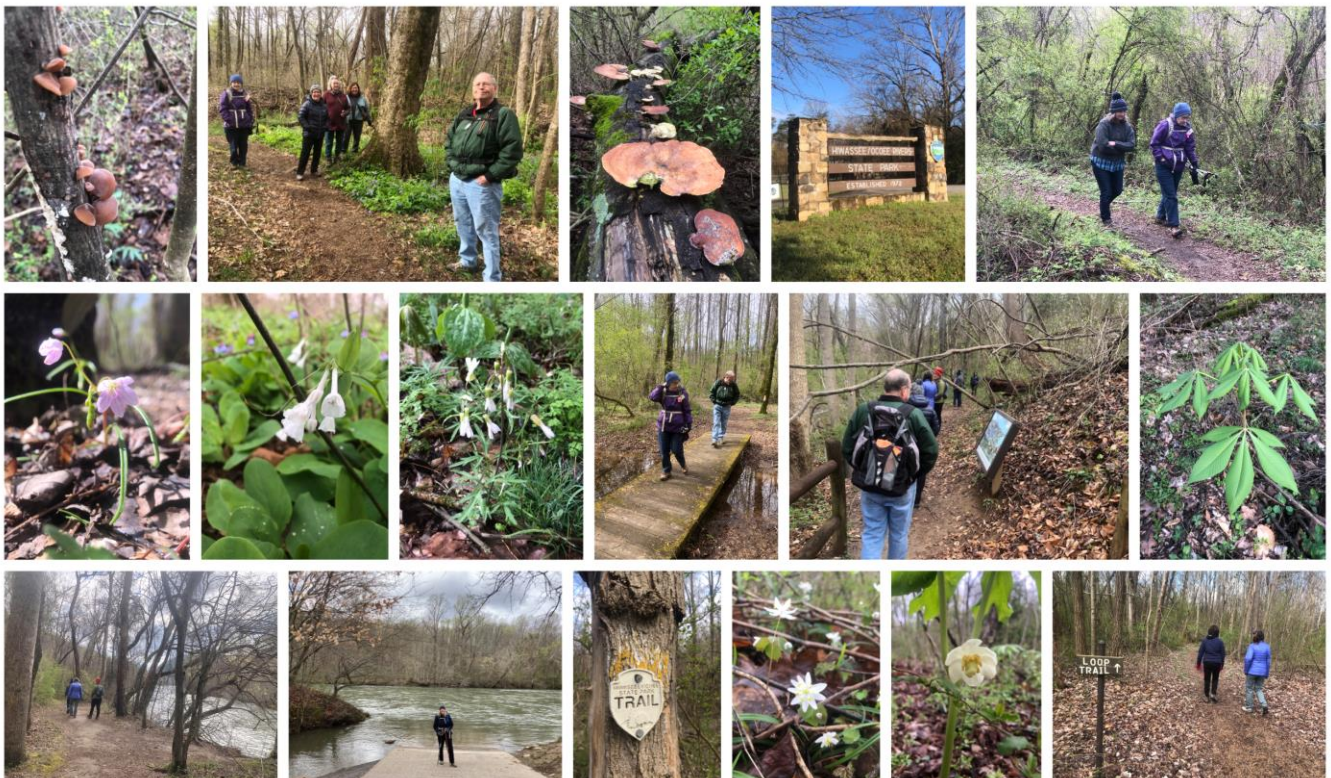
After a delicious potluck dinner and business meeting (see minutes below), Savana Keeton, Executive Director of the Cumberland Trails Conference, gave a very informative presentation on the history, current trail building, and future of the Cumberland Trail. We appreciate her sharing her extensive knowledge with us. - Judy Price



HIWASSEE/OCOEE RIVERS STATE PARK LOOP TRAIL MARCH 13, 2023



Ten hikers—members Leslie Auriemmo, Jack and Margaret Callahan, Lucia Case, Jane Chastain, Kelly Ducham, and Hike Leader Judy Price, along with guests Mary Hendershot, Ellen Kimball, and Beth Mercer—met at Hiwassee/Ocoee Rivers State Park Visitor Center to hike the 1.4-mile Loop Trail around Gee Creek Campground. We were greeted immediately by a multitude of different wildflowers! Virginia bluebell (including white ones!), star chickweed, spring beauty, trillium, mayapple, trout lily, rue anemone, cut-leaved toothwort, wild geranium, and on and on. We crossed the road and picked up the trail next to the Hiwassee River, passing by the historic weir at the put-in (which was not visible due to the strong current). We went over the bridge to the interpretive trail and walked by the river until the trail looped back around the campground to the start. We finished by perusing the Gift Shop! Despite the chilly and mostly cloudy weather, we had a wonderful day! - Judy Price



CANEY CREEK TRAIL (CCC CAMP CLEOGA) MARCH 20, 2023



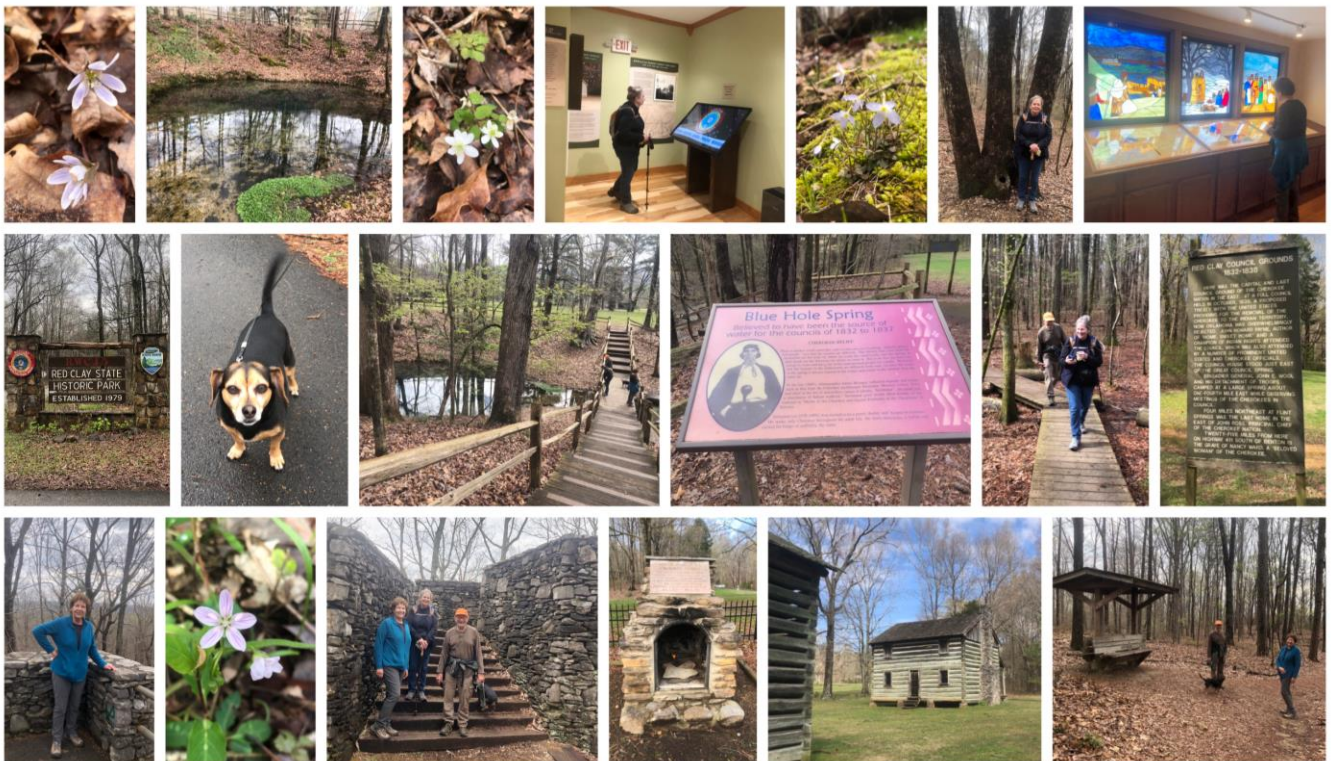
Finding Artifacts. Kelly Ducham, Jack Callahan, and Hike Leader Clare Sullivan were supposed to be looking for artifacts from Caney Creek. To our surprise, the gate at Pace Gap was not open as it was supposed to be! We decided to explore the old CCC Camp Cleoga, near Sylco Campground in the Cherokee National Forest. We did discover some artifacts! The earthen dam over Sylco Creek that once formed the swimming pool was located. Other concrete foundations were also found but their purpose couldn't be determined. A piece of china, a metal pipe across a stream, and two large square holes were located. If anyone might know the purpose of the holes or the foundations, we'd love to know. - Clare Sullivan



RED CLAY STATE HISTORIC PARK MARCH 23, 2023



It was a perfect day to hike at this park with so much history. The weather was initially a little chilly and cloudy, but we were soon shedding layers as the sun appeared. (We were just plain hot by the end.) We started on the 1.7-mile Council of Trees Trail and hiked to the Overlook Tower. (There is a bit of a view in winter.) We saw many wildflowers: bluets, wood sorrel, violets, and hepatica. We also saw mushrooms such as witch's butter. We then hiked downhill and took the Connector Trail to the Blue Hole Trail, walking on a boardwalk through a wet area with bald cypress. (If you continue the Council of Trees loop you'll arrive at the amphitheater.) There, we visited the beautiful Blue Hole Spring. Along the pristine stream from the spring, we saw yellow and red trillium, spring beauty, and rue anemone; watercress was growing in the stream. We backtracked and walked the Interpretive Trail past the replica Cherokee Homestead and Council Grounds. Lastly, we visited the Eternal Flame which commemorates the people who suffered and died on the Trail of Tears and the reunion of the Eastern and Western Cherokee Nations at Red Clay. Before leaving, we stopped at the Visitor Center which has exhibits on Cherokee Nation, the Trail of Tears (ᏍᏈ ᏩᏁᏲᏱ ᏅᏍᏓᏴᏱ), and archaeological findings. Five hikers (including a doggo!) joined in—members Judy Cate, Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Carin Taber, and Hike Leader Judy Price. • Judy Price



BACKPACK ON THE BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL MARCH 27 - 30, 2023

Rescheduled to April 27 - 30, 2023 Thursday - Sunday. See below.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY



Watch the seasons change with us! 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. - Jack Callahan

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST



We had a great crowd this month! 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. - Jack Callahan

· UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: Event schedule subject to change according to guidance from governmental and other 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.

WALLS OF JERICHO

APRIL 1, 2023 SATURDAY

Depart from Cleveland Park and Ride commuter parking next to Mapco at I-75 and Hwy 60 at 8:30 am. This is an eight-plus-mile hike, rated moderate to strenuous due to the elevation and an area of poor trail tread. After the trip to the area, we will do a short car shuttle to the TN Hiker Trailhead and descend approximately 1500 feet into Mill Creek gorge. We will cross over Mill Creek and Turkey Creek, passing through a campsite and old graveyard, and make our way along a difficult section of trail to the Walls of Jericho. The walls are a unique karst feature of appearing and disappearing streams and a natural amphitheater in the streambed made of limestone with numerous fossils. Picturesque water features abound. On our return, we will take the trail to the Alabama trailhead, approximately 2.5 miles of steep incline, Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Return time is 5 to 6 pm, or stop for supper on the way home. Contact Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256 or Jennifergeologist@gmail.com.

CLEVELAND STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NATURE TRAIL

APRIL 2, 2023 SUNDAY

We will leisurely hike the moderate less than two-mile Nature Trail. There are restrooms at the baseball fields that may be open. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

WOLFTEVER CREEK/COLLEGEDALE GREENWAY

APRIL 4, 2023 TUESDAY

We will leisurely hike the easy approximately two-mile section of this picturesque greenway out-and-back for a total of approximately four miles. We will visit the Veterans Memorial Park. There are restrooms near the Dog Park by Nature Nook and at Imagination Station that may be open. Bring water and snacks. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK

APRIL 11, 2023 TUESDAY

Rescheduled to April 17, 2023 Monday. See below.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

APRIL 13, 2023 THURSDAY 6 PM CHARLESTON TN CITY PARK PAVILION

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The club will furnish drinks, cups, and eating utensils. The program is **To Hike or Not to Hike (Making the Most of Hiking in Our Senior Years)** by Rob Coombs.

FLETCHER PARK

APRIL 14, 2023 FRIDAY CLEVELAND TN

We will walk this easy less than 1.5-mile loop and have the option of hiking it back a slightly different way for a longer walk. At the end of the first loop, we will be at the parking lot for anyone who would like to leave or wait. We will see many unique features as we hike by Candies Creek. There are restrooms that may or may not be open. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

MCKAMY LAKE TRAIL

APRIL 17, 2023 MONDAY

Rescheduled to May 22, 2023 Monday. Contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan at 404-849-0872 or clare7982@gmail.com for information on meeting time and location.

CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK

APRIL 17, 2023 MONDAY

Meet at the Cleveland Park and Ride next to Mapco at I-74 and Hwy 60 at 9 am and drive to Cloudland Canyon. We will need two vehicles for the shuttle when we arrive. Hike will include the trail along the West Rim with two very impressive waterfalls, then out to the Sitton's Gulch Trail. Total distance of hike is approximately nine miles and is rated strenuous due to the distance and a long series of steps required to access the waterfalls. Contact Hike Leader Buddy Arnold at 601-415-3551 or we_arnold@outlook.com.

OLD STONE FORT ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK

APRIL 21 - 24, 2023 FRIDAY - MONDAY

We will car camp at the park campground. On Saturday, we will hike the Shakerag Hollow Trail on the campus of University of the South. Hike is about five miles rated difficult due to the elevation change and tread. This trail is an excellent walk with numerous wildflowers, rock outcrops, and small waterfalls. Lunch and water required. On Sunday, we will have a guided tour of the Old Stone Fort site by one of the park's interpretive specialists. This will be an easy walk within a short distance of our campsite. We will have a campfire every night and possibly some Pie Iron cookoffs. There are several trail options at the park and at the University property, so we can add more if individuals choose to. Everyone is responsible for making their own campsite reservation, and I recommend doing so quickly if you plan to attend. (Jack Callahan has site 19.) Do not forget to utilize the veteran or senior discount. If you just want to make a day trip and not camp, you will need to contact Hike Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 to confirm the meeting time and location for the day's activities. Hike Leaders Lucia Case and Jack Callahan.

BACKPACK ON THE BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL

APRIL 27 - 30, 2023 THURSDAY - SUNDAY

Backpack from Bushy Head Gap to Thunder Rock Campground on Highway 64. This trip crosses many of the ridges that can be seen from the Cleveland area. The trip is considered strenuous and will cover approximately 36 miles. More details will be released with regards to proposed daily hike lengths and other logistical information related to shuttles, etc., to those who contact Hike Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824. 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 to cancel the trip.

A WALK IN THE WOODS

APRIL 28, 2023 FRIDAY 9 AM JOHNSTON WOODS MCDONALD TN

Rescheduled to May 5, 2023 Friday at 9 am. Contact Hike Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824.

GRUNDY FOREST/FIERY GIZZARD

APRIL 29, 2023 SATURDAY

Meet at the Cleveland Park and Ride commuter parking next to Mapco at I-75 and Hwy 60 at 8 am ET to carpool to the trailhead in Tracy City. Approximate drive time is 1.75 hours. Hike to Sycamore Falls on the Fiery Gizzard Trail, then return via the Grundy Forest Loop Trail through the former CCC Camp Interpretative Trail where there are many pink lady's slippers if the timing is right. Approximately six miles, moderate, with mostly good tread and moderate grades. After the hike, we will stop by the Dutch Maid Bakery for some treats to consume on the way home. Contact Hike Leaders Marrie Lasater and Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

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THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

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· NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

RAMP TRAMP FESTIVAL

APRIL 21 - 22, 2023 FRIDAY – SATURDAY CAMP MCCROY RELIANCE TN

“The Ramp Tramp Festival will celebrate its 65th year [...] at Camp McCroy 4-H Camp located at 1058 Hwy 30 in Reliance Tennessee.”

TRAILS AND TRILLIUMS FESTIVAL

APRIL 21 - 23, 2023 FRIDAY – SUNDAY BEERSHEBA SPRINGS TN

“19th Annual Naturalist Rally sponsored by the Friends of South Cumberland State Park with proceeds benefiting South Cumberland and Savage Gulf State Parks.”

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.”

INTRO TO BACKPACKING TRIP

MAY 6 - 7, 2023 SATURDAY – SUNDAY FROZEN HEAD STATE PARK AND NATURAL AREA

“Join us for a fun spring backpacking trip at Frozen Head State Park! Learn the essentials of backpacking and experience Frozen Head's backcountry beauty at night.”

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 online page for more information on these events if you plan on attending.

· MINUTES

March 9, 2023 Club Meeting

Meeting began with an introduction by Jack Callahan of Mrs. Savana Keeton, the guest speaker, and new member Mr. Danny Yarberry. The group then enjoyed a great assortment of potluck dishes and many wonderful desserts furnished by the club members. After the meal, Jack led a short business meeting. Jennifer Schroll gave the Treasurer's Report, with a current balance of \$2409.69. The report was agreed to with a voice vote by all the members. Then the Hike Leaders gave a brief summary of the past and upcoming hikes for the month.

- Jennifer reported on the Harrison Bay Orienteering Course.
- Randy Morris discussed the Little Frog Wilderness event.
- Jennifer gave a report on the hike at Lula Lake and following lunch in Chattanooga.
- Sue Robinson covered the great hike at Black Mountain.
- James Anderson gave a discussion on the upcoming Benton MacKaye backpacking hike scheduled for March 27-30.
- Jennifer discussed the upcoming Walls of Jericho hike planned for April 1.
- Buddy Arnold's hike at Cloudland Canyon on April 11 was discussed.
- Judy Price discussed upcoming hikes at Hiwassee/Ocoee Rivers and Red Clay State Parks, Cleveland State Nature Trail, and Wolftever/Collegedale Greenway.
- Rob Coombs discussed his upcoming presentation at the April 13th Club Meeting, which will cover hiking as we age. The April club meeting will be held at the Charleston City Park pavilion, at 6:00 pm. Bring your favorite potluck dish and learn from Rob's presentation.

Jack then introduced Mrs. Keeton, the Executive Director for the Cumberland Trails Conference, in more detail and turned the program over to her. She gave a very informative and detailed presentation of the Cumberland Trail, the current situation of the trail, and the Five-Year Plan for completion of the trail. Mrs. Keeton is very knowledgeable of the trail and has been involved in the construction of over 50 miles of trail. She then took numerous questions about future thoughts on trail maps, trail shelters, location and many others. The club was grateful for her participation and presented her with a Locking blade Case pocketknife and a year's membership to the club. We look forward to her joining us on some future hikes when she is available.

The meeting ended around 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Callahan, President/Secretary