



- NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Cherokee Hiking Club Members!

The year is flying by. We have had many great events so far this year, and the fall will include more great hikes and several group campouts. If you have not yet made your reservations, you should consider doing so as these locations fill fast. Several members are already beginning to think about events for 2024. If you have ideas and would like to discuss them, please do not hesitate to share your ideas with members and begin to consider dates.

Several members have had surgeries in the past few months, but we can be thankful that everyone seems to be recovering nicely. We look forward to seeing them all again soon.

Final arrangements for the annual Christmas party have been made. We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center at noon, December 9, for Christmas dinner with our own Jennifer Schroll catering the meal. We will be looking for some volunteers to assist in some of the chores as the date gets close so I hope several folks will step up to help out.

There will be NO club meeting in August. The September club meeting will be held at Charleston City Park at 6 pm with a potluck supper. Hope to see everyone there.

As we get in our last-minute travels this summer, please drive safely.

Jack Callahan, Club President

- TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK

CABIN AVAILABLE FOR HIKE WEEK! Larry and Candy Van Dyke and Cody, the puppy, have rented a cabin during our Hike Week at Tallulah Gorge, October 29 – November 2, 2023. The cabin has two bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths. If you need a place to stay, one of those bedrooms is available for \$621 for four nights. There is also a sofa bed in the living room available for \$200 for four nights. The property is just steps from the Panther Creek Trailhead and 4.3 miles/6 minutes from Tallulah Gorge State Park. To view the cabin, check out [Blueberry Patch – The Chapel](#). If you are interested, contact Larry at Larry.VanDykeTN@gmail.com.

- BALD RIVER FALLS CONSTRUCTION

[See the full news release.](#)

Bald River Falls construction update

Release Date: Jul 20, 2023

Contact(s): [Andrea Baquerizo, Public Affairs Specialist, \(423\) 715-2461](mailto:andrea.baquerizo@usda.gov)



CLEVELAND, Tenn., July 20, 2023 — Staff at the Cherokee National Forest plan to close a portion of Tellico River Road (NFSR 210) for the replacement of Bald River Falls Bridge on the Tellico Ranger District beginning August 21. Traffic will be rerouted around the closure until bridge work is completed.

Constructed in 1933, Bald River Falls Bridge is deteriorating and doesn't meet the demands of pedestrian safety and modern vehicular traffic.

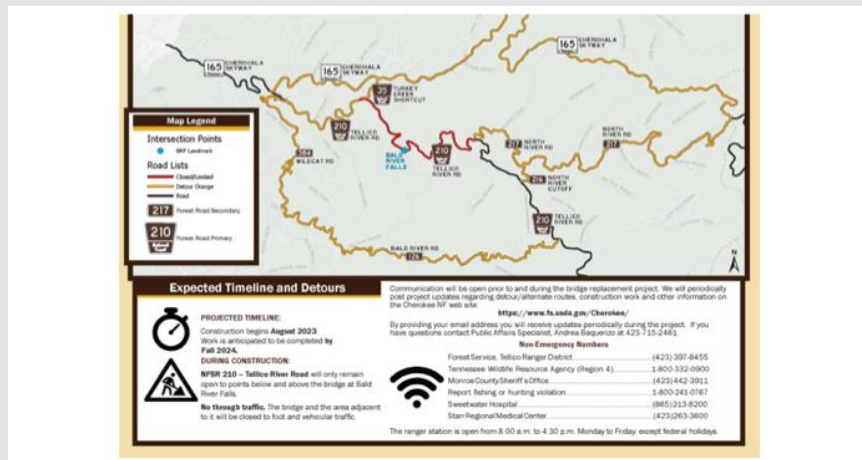
Forest Service crews are now completing improvements to the detour route that will direct traffic to Turkey Creek Shortcut (NFSR 35), Cherohala Skyway and North River Road (NRSR 217). Repair work on Turkey Creek Shortcut (NFSR 35) is still ongoing and is scheduled to reopen mid-August. When construction work begins on the bridge, Tellico River Road will only remain open to points below and above the bridge at Bald River Falls. The closure will only proceed after the detour route improvements are complete. The bridge and the area adjacent to it will be closed to foot and vehicular traffic. Signs with project information and detour routes will be displayed around the project area.

North River Road (NFSR 217) will remain accessible through the Cherohala Skyway. Turkey Creek Shortcut will be a detour route. Detour routes will have size restrictions. Vehicles longer than 40-feet combined (vehicle or vehicle and trailer) are not allowed on the detour.

The project will improve structural stability, pedestrian safety, and create enhanced recreation experiences. In addition to two vehicle traffic lanes, the new bridge will offer separation of pedestrian traffic with an observation deck allowing pedestrians to safely use the bridge and view the falls.

Replacement of the bridge is expected to be completed by Fall 2024.

For additional information please contact Andrea Baquerizo, Public Affairs Specialist, at (423) 715-2461, or andrea.baquerizoneumane@usda.gov



- PAST EVENTS

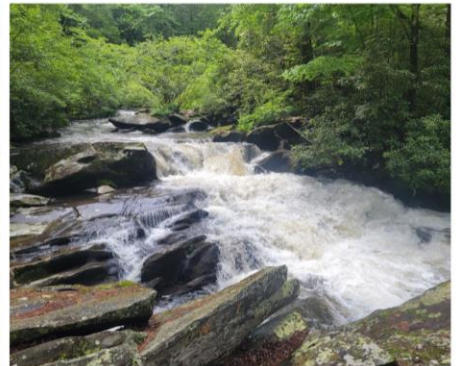
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS BACKPACKING TRIP MAY 23 - 26, 2023

- Buddy Arnold

BALD RIVER FALLS JUNE 26, 2023



We originally had nine folks signed up but various issues dropped our group down to four (Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, Clare Sullivan, and Brittany Alvarez). It had looked like it was going to be a stormy wet day, but we woke up to sunshine. It turned into a beautiful day. And with all the recent rain, the falls were spectacular. We feared we would not be able to cross Papaw Creek, so we changed our itinerary. We started at the Cow Camp Trailhead and hiked up over the ridge and back down to the Bald River Trail, then turned south to Papaw Creek. The water was low enough we were able to cross. So, we did and hiked up to the last falls along the trail just before reaching Bald River Road. There, we ate lunch with the roar of the falls for our musical entertainment. We then turned around and hiked back out the trail to the Bald River Falls, passing the several spectacular waterfalls along the way. Then we hiked up the Tellico River Road passing Baby Falls and five smaller ledge falls back to our vehicle. A kayaker was going over Baby Falls as we passed by. Total distance was 10.2 miles. What a great hike. Sorry more did not go on this hike, for they missed out on a splendid day. - Rick Harris



INDIAN BOUNDARY JUNE 27, 2023

After many days of rain, we had a great sunny day at the lake. We had a good turnout of 13 people. Some hiked the trail around the lake, some went swimming, and some kayaked the lake. A fun and relaxing day with beautiful mountain views. - Sue Robinson

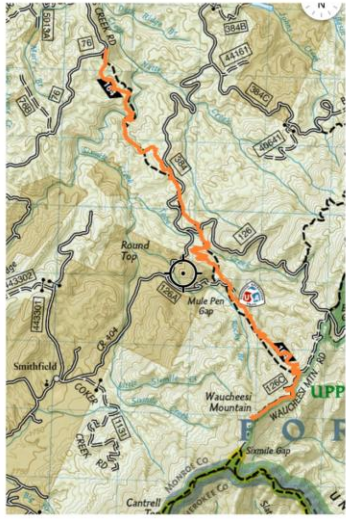
CANDIES CREEK GREENWAY JULY 2, 2023



The Judys—Judy Cate and Hike Leader Judy Price—met in Cleveland to walk Candies Creek Greenway. The greenway is still being built but a lot of this section is complete. The highlight is the Dobbs Ford Bridge (1877) which spans Candies Creek. From the Library of Congress: “The Dobbs Ford Bridge is the oldest metal truss bridge built for vehicular traffic in the State. It is an early Pratt pony truss bridge.... Also, it is only one of two bridges inventoried in Tennessee that are known to have been built by the significant Wrought Iron Bridge Company.” We walked to where the path currently ends at the interstate, with the potential to connect to Fletcher Park. On our return, we picked up the Back Nine Trail (formerly part of Rolling Hills Golf Course, hence the name) and walked the loop around the now wetlands area. The frogs were active—this section is full of wildlife and wildflowers. Buttonbush, swamp milkweed, and Joe Pye weed were blooming. We snacked on a couple of ripe blackberries. We concluded our walk just as it was starting to get hot! Perfect timing! - Judy Price



WARRIORS PASSAGE JULY 10, 2023



Nine folks hiked the Warriors Passage Trail. It was a pretty day and not too hot. We met at the Cherokee Skyway Visitor Center, carpooled to the bottom end of the trail on Old Furnace Road, then drove up to the top of Waucheesi Bald. From there, we started our hike down the road to where the trail leaves the road and starts heading down the mountain through a series of well-built switchbacks.



We ate lunch at the Tobe Creek crossing, then hiked through the old burned-out section between Bald River Road and Wildcat Road, on down to the wading crossing of Wildcat Creek. From there, we climbed up to Old Furnace Road. Then, we retrieved our cars on the top of Waucheesi Bald. The trail is 6.2 miles long with a drop of about 2600' in elevation. Over all, the trail was in excellent shape.



Going on the hike were Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, Mila Harris (granddaughter), Sue Robinson, Lynne McPhail, Don Van Hook, Kerry Clair, Doug Lynch, Anne Anderson, and one dog Zeke. We were going to eat dinner at Iron Works Grille, but it was closed for repairs. - Rick Harris



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING JULY 13, 2023

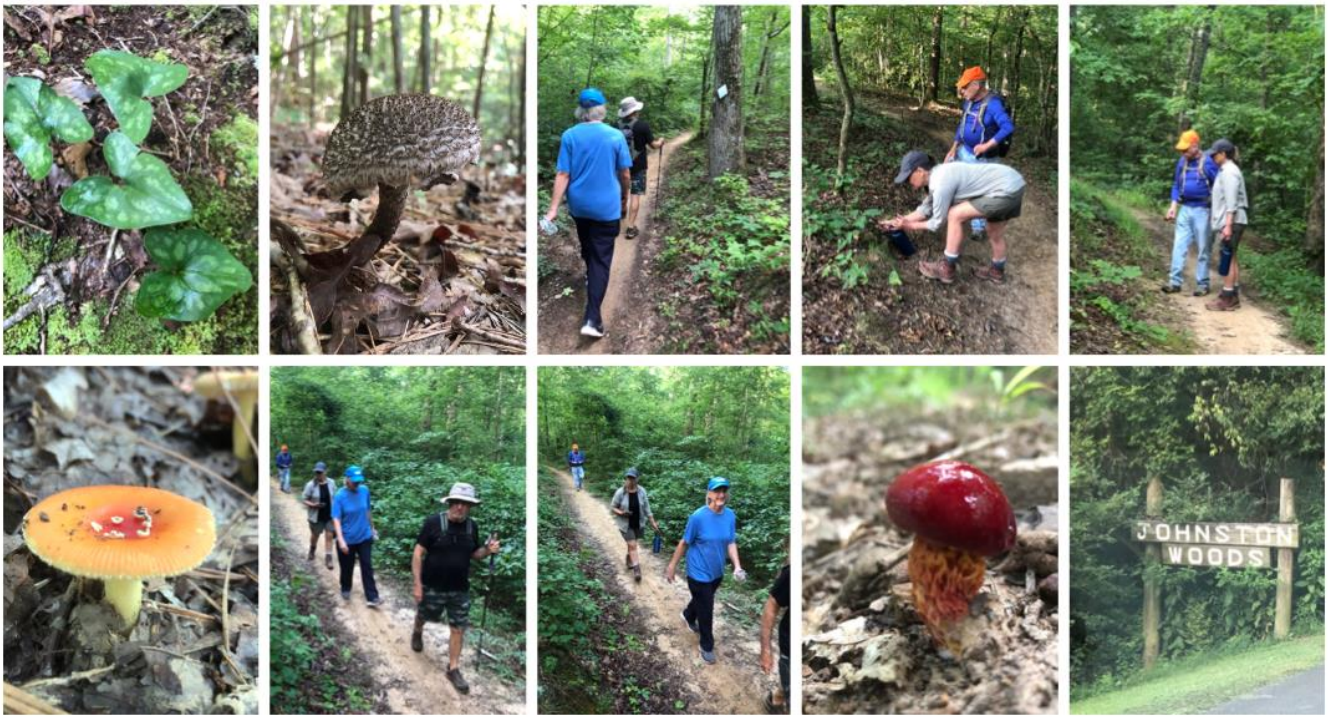


The club met at the lakeside cabin of Maryl Elliot on Parksville Lake. Many people arrived early to take advantage of the paddleboards, kayaks, or just to swim in the lake. Around 6 pm, Jack and Otis Pannell returned with fresh hot pizzas from the Gondolier Restaurant on US 64. Members brought salads and wonderful desserts to complement the meal. After supper, Jack had a brief business meeting (see minutes below). A big thank you again to Maryl for opening up her property to the club and providing us a wonderful location to meet! • Jack Callahan



A WALK IN THE WOODS JULY 14, 2023





It was a fun day viewing the plentiful and varied fungi along the trail. Many thanks to Jack Callahan and his extensive fungi knowledge and to Judy Price for taking many pictures of what we saw. Those walking the woods were: Jack, Kathy Thelen, Judy, Deborah Burroughs, and Hike Leader James Anderson. • James Anderson





BRASSTOWN BALD JULY 22, 2023

Due to Track Rock Gap Petroglyph Site being temporarily closed, the Brasstown Bald/Arkaquah Trail hike was postponed and will be rescheduled once the site reopens. • Jennifer Schroll

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. • Jack Callahan



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. • 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 will be sent to members if an event is canceled.

THERE IS NO CLUB MEETING IN AUGUST.

PICNIC AT SUGARLOAF

AUGUST 10, 2023 THURSDAY

Canceled. • Ruth Pannell

ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

AUGUST 11 - 19, 2023 FRIDAY – SATURDAY MICHIGAN

Trip members will meet in Houghton, Michigan, on August 13 to travel to [Isle Royale NP](#). There are two ways to get to the island: by sea plane or by ferry. Both modes of transportation are available in Houghton. Sea plane is \$250 per person; the ferry is \$80. These are one-way fares. You can backpack on the island or stay in the Rock Harbor Lodge or their cabins. A lodge room or cabin are about \$330 per day. Several of us have rented cabins for three days. We are flying over and taking the ferry back. We will be on the island August 13, 14, and 15; returning to Houghton on August 16. From there, there are many ways back home, sightseeing along the way. If you are interested and want more specific information, contact Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

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- 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 and trail maintenance dates.

SHELTOWEE TRACE NRT INTRO TO BACKPACKING #1

AUGUST 4 - 6, 2023 BIG SOUTH FORK NRRA

“Are you looking to get into some overnight backpacking but don’t have much experience? [...]

The Intro to Backpacking adventure is just for you.”

CUMBERLAND TRAILS CONFERENCE VOLUNTEER EVENT

AUGUST 18 AND 19, 2023 9 AM

“Come help build new trail on the Upper Piney River Segment!”

As always, go to the specific sponsor web page for more information on these events if you plan on attending.

· MINUTES

Monthly Club Meeting
July 13, 2023 6 pm
Parksville Lake

We met at club member Maryl Elliot's family cabin. Attendees were able to paddleboard, kayak, and swim before the pizza dinner and business meeting.

- The meeting was called to order and Jennifer Schroll presented the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$2434.69. A motion was made to approve the report and the motion passed.
- The month's past and future hikes and events were discussed.
- There will be no club meeting in August.
- The September 14, 2023, club meeting will be held at Charleston, TN, City Park Pavilion at 6 pm. This will be a potluck supper.

We will hold a vote on the June minutes in September.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary